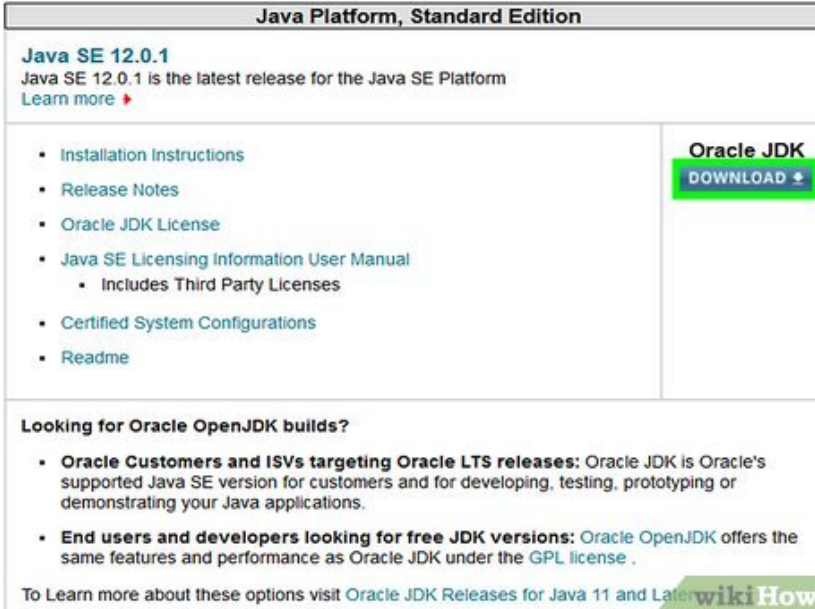


# How to Edit APK Files

This wikiHow teaches you how to edit the contents of an APK file. To edit the files inside, you'll need to decompile (and then recompile) the package using APKtool on a computer. Editing APK files requires knowledge of Java, as well as the...

Part 1 of 3:

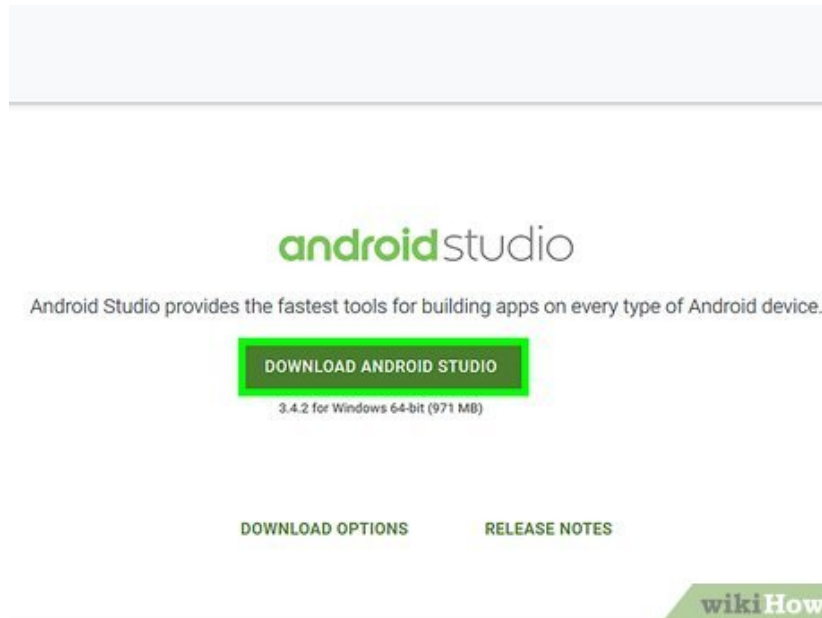
## Installing APKTool



The screenshot shows the Oracle Java Platform, Standard Edition download page for Java SE 12.0.1. The page title is "Java Platform, Standard Edition". Below the title, it says "Java SE 12.0.1" and "Java SE 12.0.1 is the latest release for the Java SE Platform". There is a "Learn more" link with a right-pointing arrow. A list of links is provided: "Installation Instructions", "Release Notes", "Oracle JDK License", "Java SE Licensing Information User Manual" (which includes "Includes Third Party Licenses"), "Certified System Configurations", and "Readme". To the right of this list is a green "Oracle JDK DOWNLOAD" button with a right-pointing arrow. Below the list, there is a section titled "Looking for Oracle OpenJDK builds?" with two bullet points: "Oracle Customers and ISVs targeting Oracle LTS releases: Oracle JDK is Oracle's supported Java SE version for customers and for developing, testing, prototyping or demonstrating your Java applications." and "End users and developers looking for free JDK versions: Oracle OpenJDK offers the same features and performance as Oracle JDK under the GPL license .". At the bottom, there is a link to "Oracle JDK Releases for Java 11 and Later" and a "wikiHow" logo.

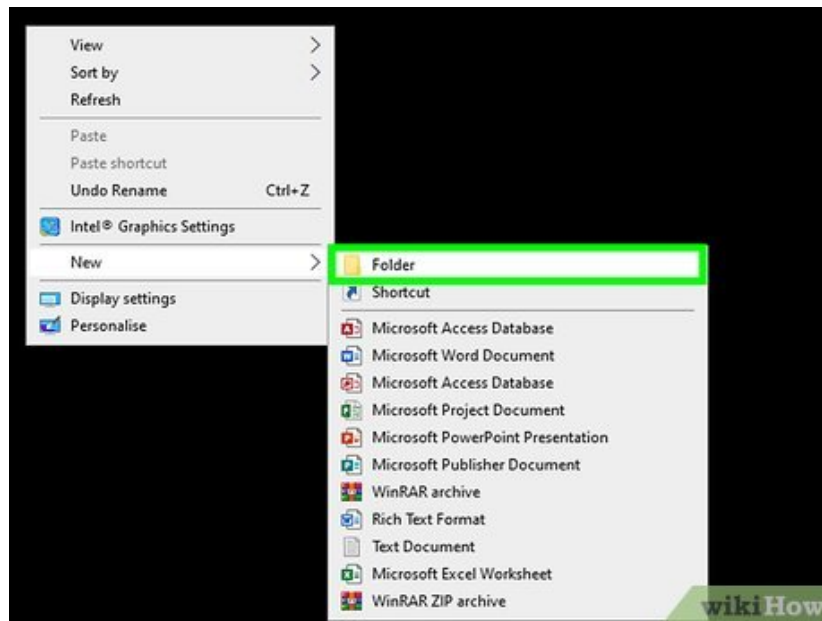
1.

**Install Java Development kit.** It is available for download at <https://www.oracle.com/technetwork/java/javase/downloads/index.html>.



2.

**Install Android SDK.** You also need to install Android Software Development Kit (SDK) to decompile and recompile APK files. The easiest way to install Android SDK is to download and install Android Studio from here.

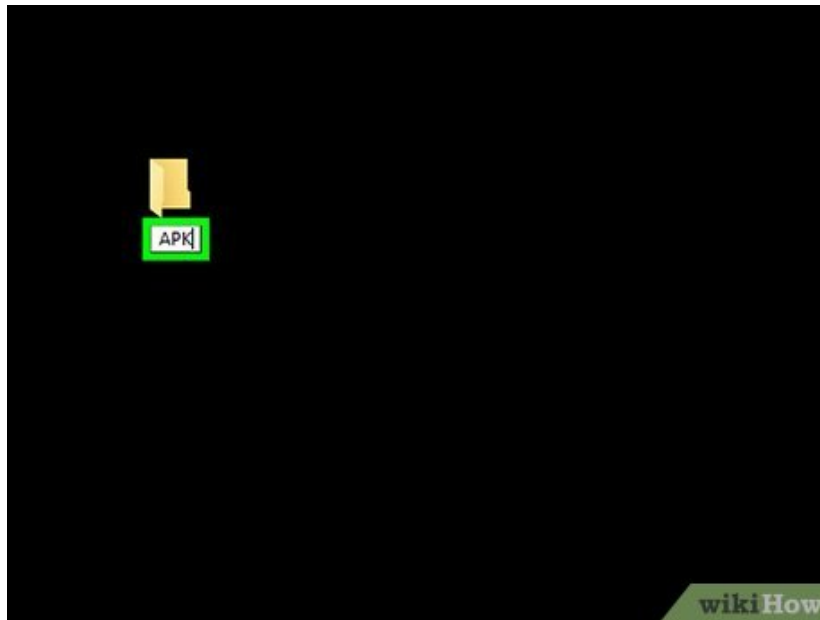


3.

**Create a new folder on your desktop.** This is the folder you will save the APKTool and your APK files to. Use the following steps to create a new folder.

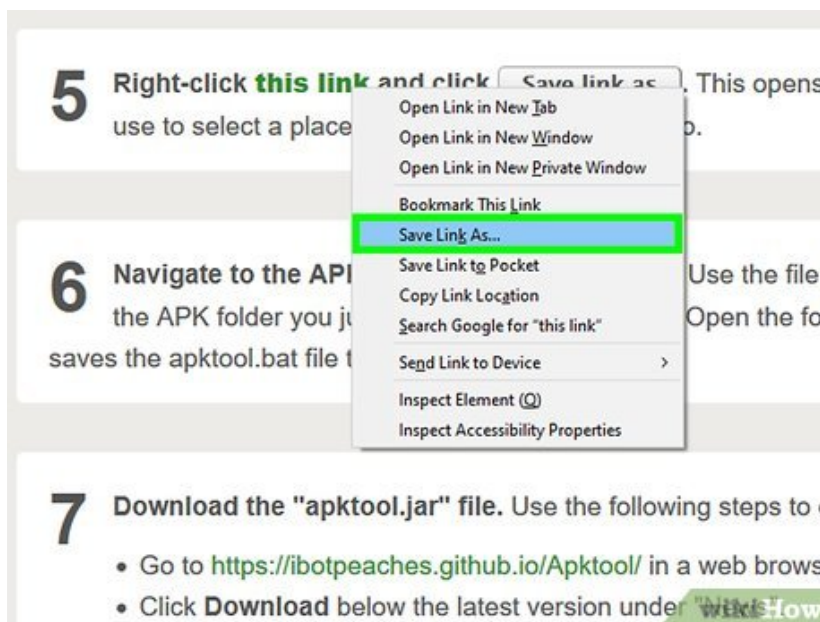
1. Right-click a black space on your desktop.
2. Select **New' and then Folder'.**

4.

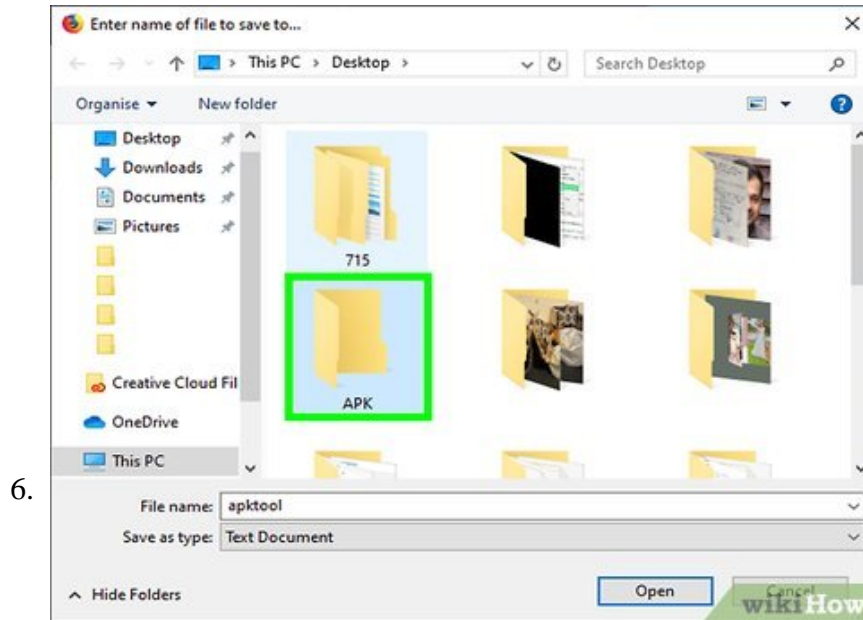


**Rename the folder "APK".** To rename a folder, right-click on the folder and click **Rename**. Then type APK to rename the folder.

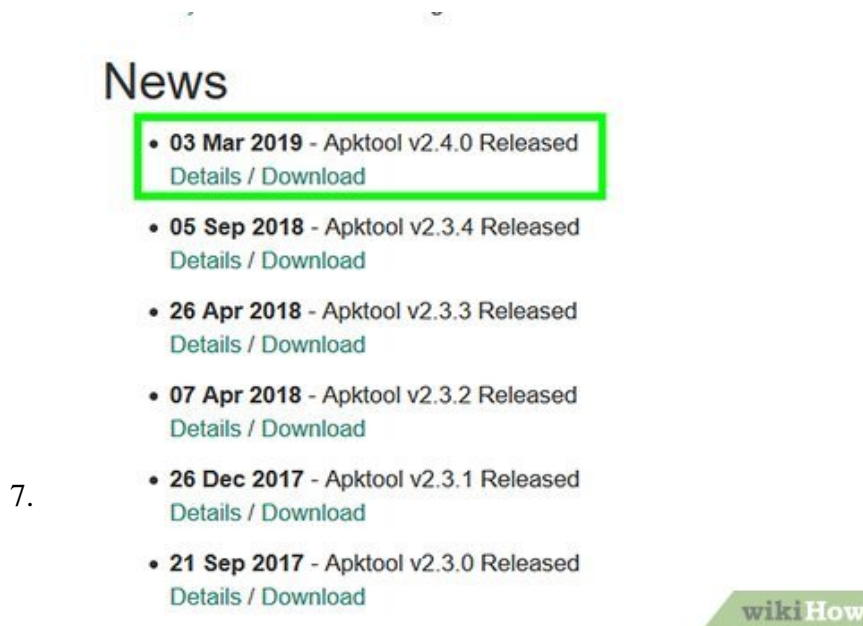
5.



**Right-click this link and click **Save link as****. This opens a file browser you can use to select a place to save the apktool.bat file to.

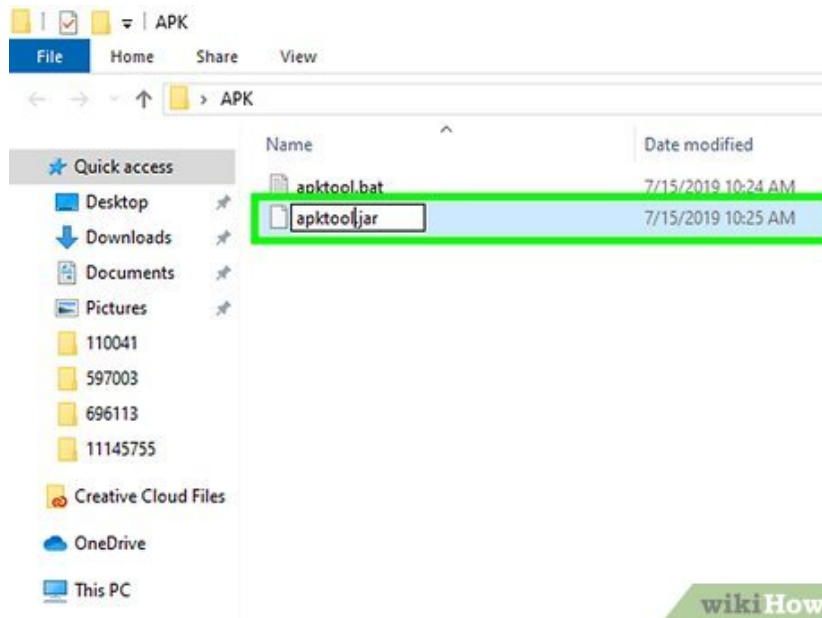


Navigate to the **APK** folder and click **Save**. Use the file browser to navigate to the APK folder you just created on your desktop. Open the folder and click **Save**. This saves the apktool.bat file to the APK folder.



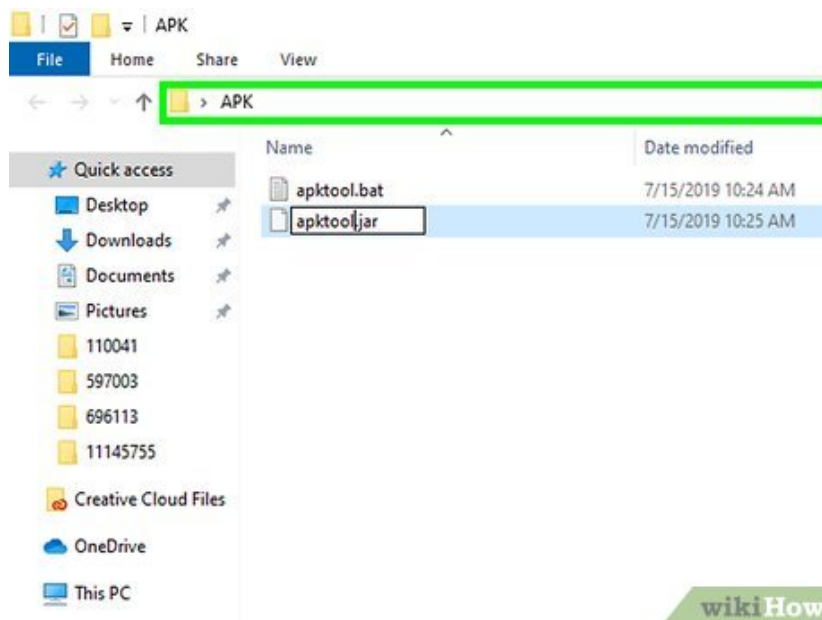
**Download the "apktool.jar" file.** Use the following steps to download apktool.jar:

1. Go to <https://ibotpeaches.github.io/Apktool/> in a web browser.
2. Click **Download** below the latest version under "News".



8.

**Rename the file "apktool.jar".** The file you download likely has the version number in the file name. You can remove that by right-click the file and clicking **Rename**. Then simply type apktool as the file name. The full file name should be "apktool.jar". By default, your downloaded files can be found in your "Downloads" folder.

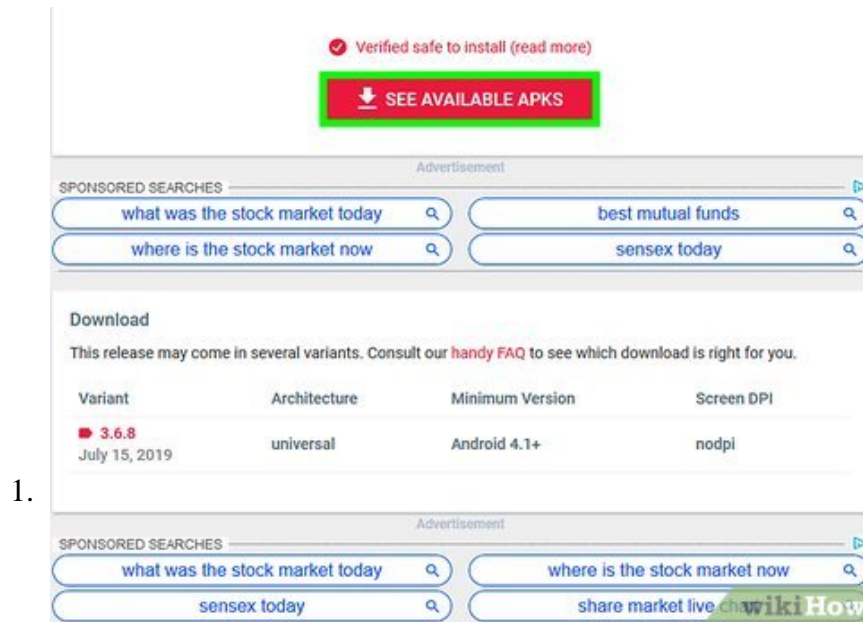


9.

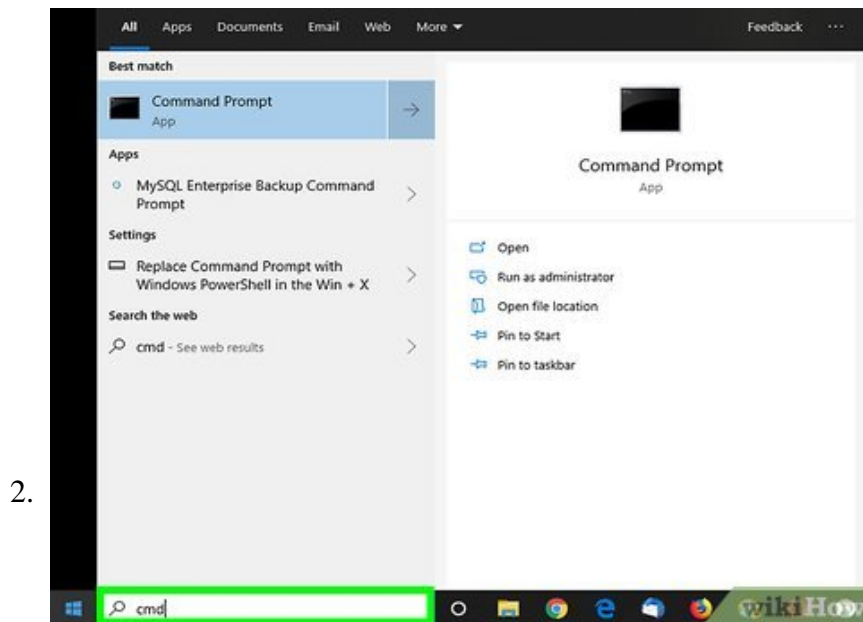
**Copy apktool.jar to the APK folder.** After you finished renaming the file, right-click it and click **Copy** or **Cut**. Then open the APK folder you created on your desktop and right-click inside. Click **Paste**. This will paste the "apktool.jar" file inside the APK folder.<sup>[1]</sup>

Part 2 of 3:

## Decompile the APK

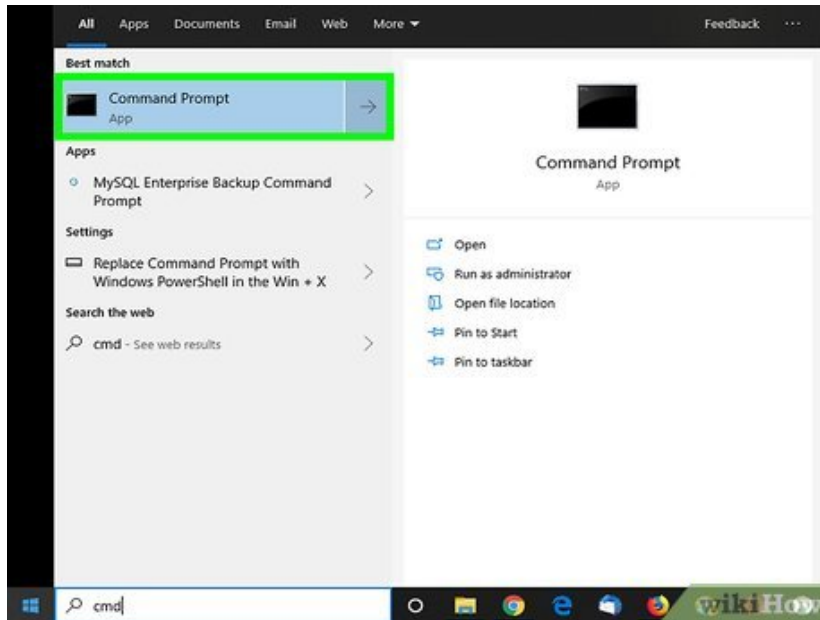


**Copy the APK file to your APK folder.** APK files are available to download from various websites. You can also retrieve an APK from your Android device by connecting it to your computer using a charging cable and unlocking the device. Navigate to the **Downloads** folder on the device and copy and paste an APK file into the APK folder on your Windows Desktop.



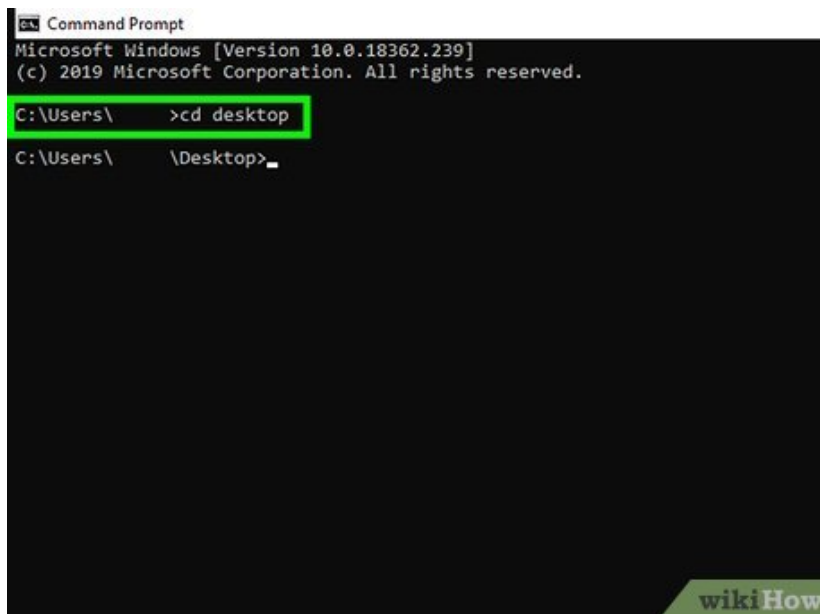
**Open the Windows search bar and type `cmd`.** The search bar is usually located to the right of the Start menu.

3.



**Command Prompt** in the search results. It has an icon that resembles a black screen with a white cursor on it.

4.



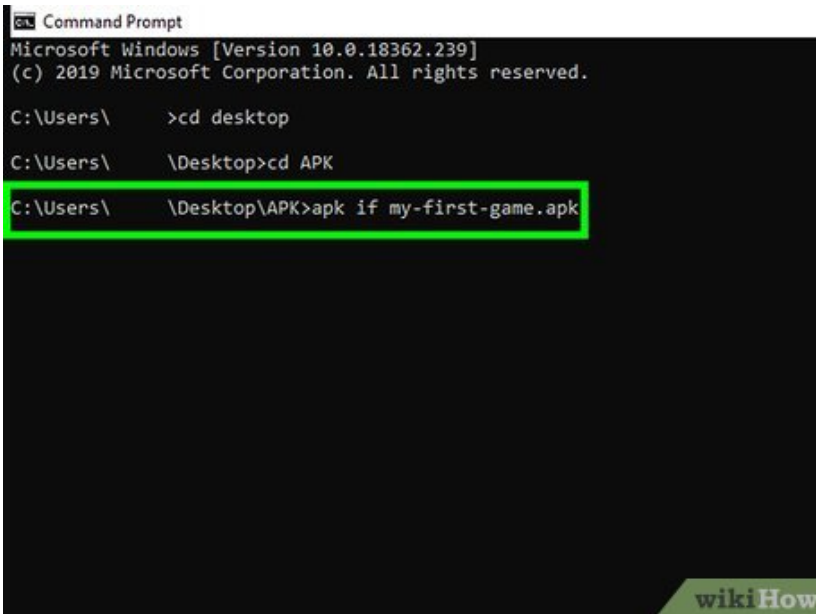
**Navigate to the APK folder at the command prompt.** You can open a folder inside of the command prompt by typing `cd` followed by the name of the folder. For example, if you are in the default "C:UsersUsername>" when you open the command prompt, you can open your desktop by typing `cd desktop`. If you copied the APK folder to your desktop, you can then open the APK folder by typing `cd apk`. It should say "C:usersusernamedesktopapk>" next to the prompt.

1. If your APK folder is saved to another location, type `cd` next to the command prompt to return to the root "C:" drive. Then type `cd` followed by the full path of the APK folder.

```
Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.18362.239]
(c) 2019 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\ >cd desktop
C:\Users\ \Desktop>cd APK
C:\Users\ \Desktop\APK>apk if my-first-game.apk
```

5.




Type `apktool if` followed by the APK file name. This installs the framework for the app.

1. For example, if the name of your APK file is "my-first-game.apk" you would type `apk if my-first-game.apk` in the command prompt.

```
C:\Users\ \Desktop\APK>apktool d my-first-game.apk
```

6.

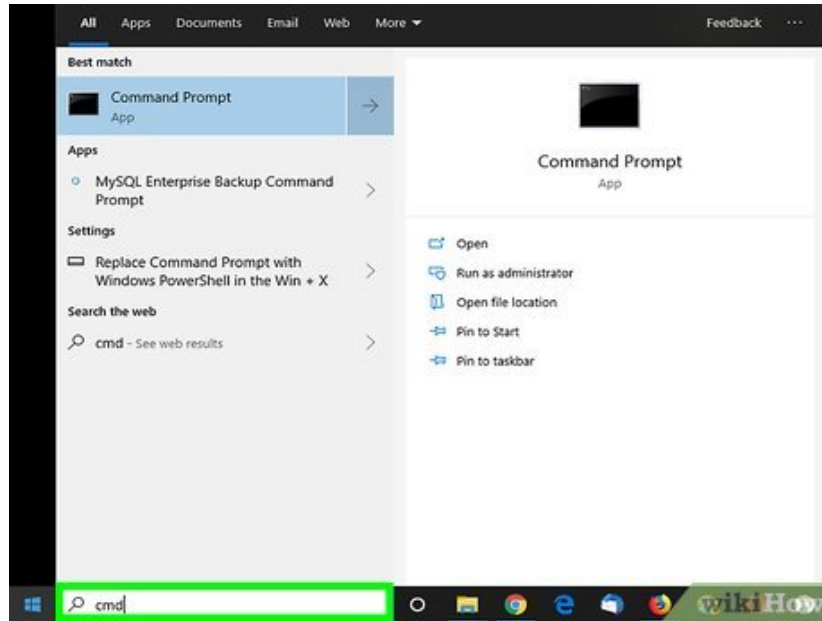


Type `apktool d` followed by the APK filename. This decompiles the APK file. The contents of the APK file will be placed in a separate folder of the same name as the APK file in the APK folder. You can now edit the decompiled APK files. You may need some coding skills to edit certain files within the folder.

1. Following the same example above, you would type `apktool d my-first-game.apk` in the command prompt.

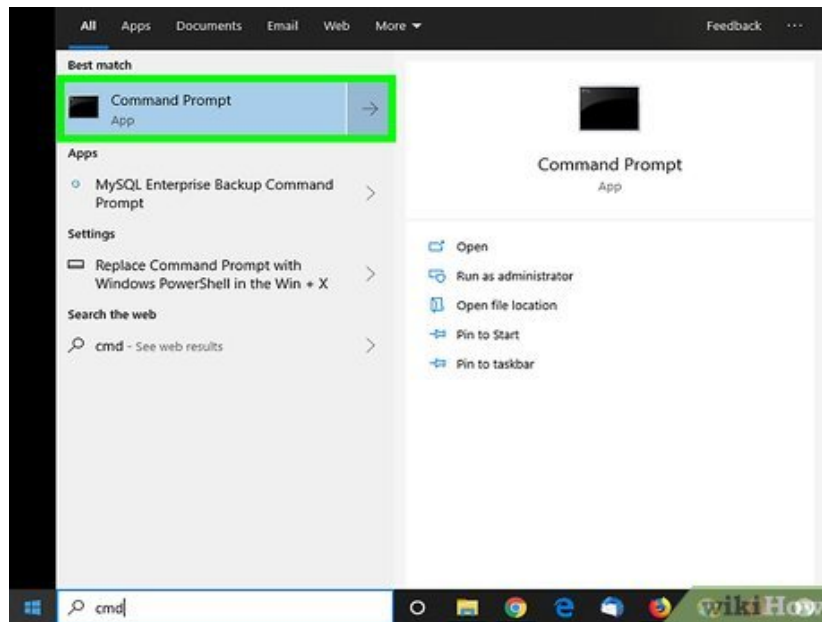
# Recompile the APK

1.



**Open the Windows search bar and type `cmd`**. The search bar is usually located to the right of the Start menu. After you finish editing the files within the APK file folder, you will need to recompile the folder back into an APK file.

2.

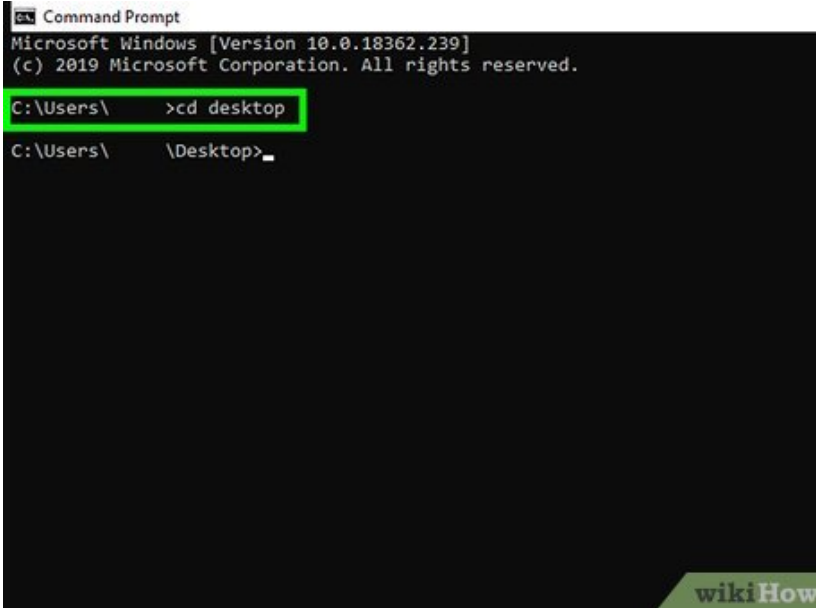


**Command Prompt** in the search results. It has an icon that resembles a black screen with a white cursor on it.

```
Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.18362.239]
(c) 2019 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\ >cd desktop
C:\Users\ \Desktop>
```

3.

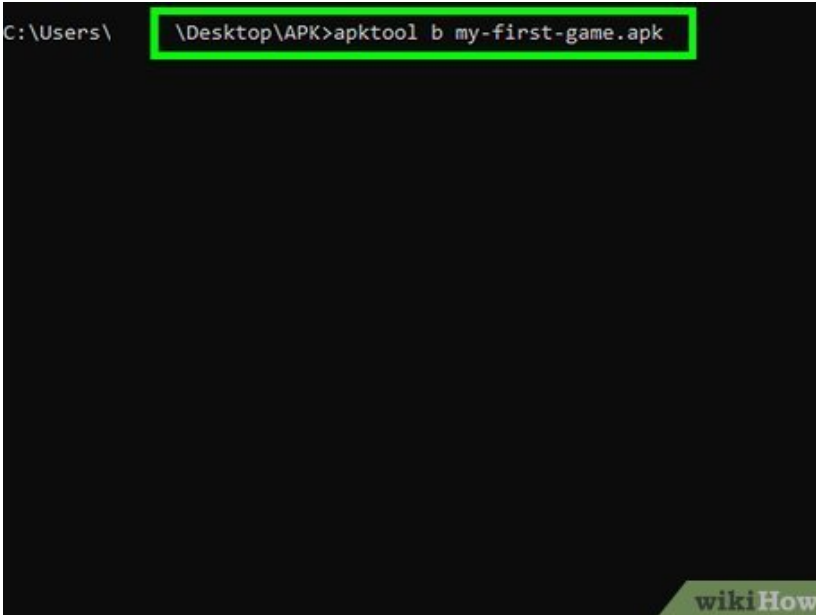


**Navigate to the APK folder at the command prompt.** You can open a folder inside of the command prompt by typing `cd` followed by the name of the folder. For example, if you are in the default "C:UsersUsername>" when you open the command prompt, you can open your desktop by typing `cd desktop`. If you copied the APK folder to your desktop, you can then open the APK folder by typing `cd apk`. It should say "C:usersusernamedesktopapk>" next to the prompt.

1. If your APK folder is saved to another location, type `cd` next to the command prompt to return to the root "C:" drive. Then type `cd` followed by the full path of the APK folder.

```
C:\Users\ \Desktop\APK>apktool b my-first-game.apk
```

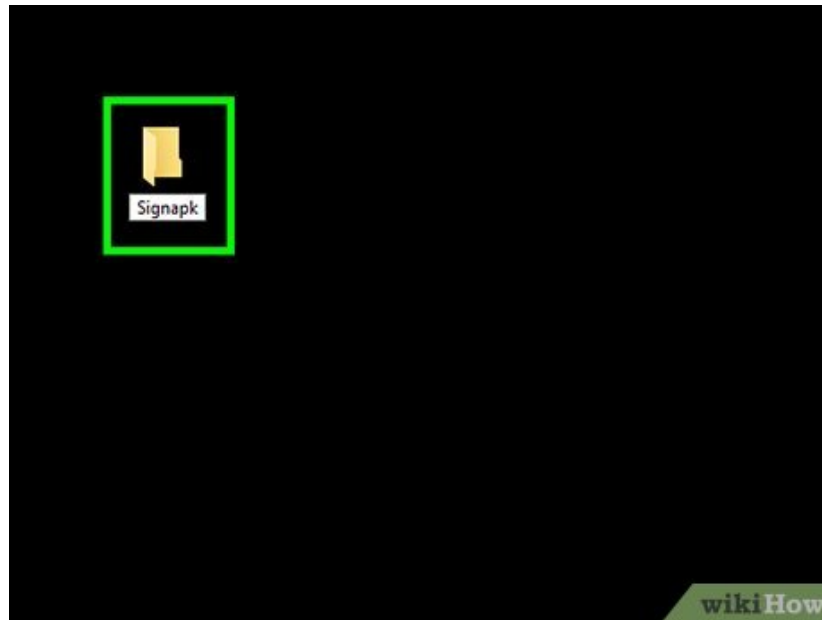
4.



**Type `apktool b` followed by the folder name of the APK you want to recompile.** This recompiles the folder into an APK file. The newly compiled APK file can be found in the "dist" folder inside the decompiled APK folder that Apktool created.

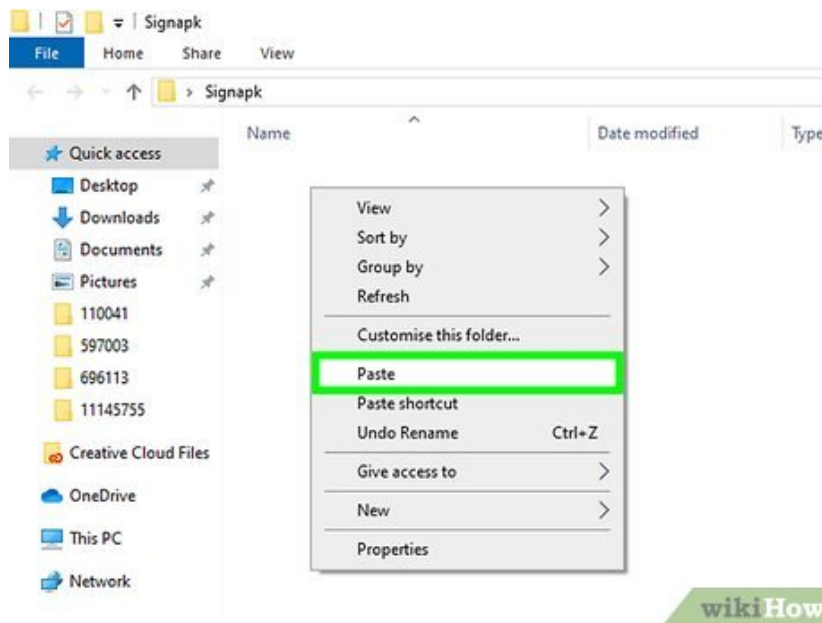
1. For example, if the app you are working on is called "my-first-game.apk", you would type `apktool b my-first-game.apk` in the command prompt.

5.

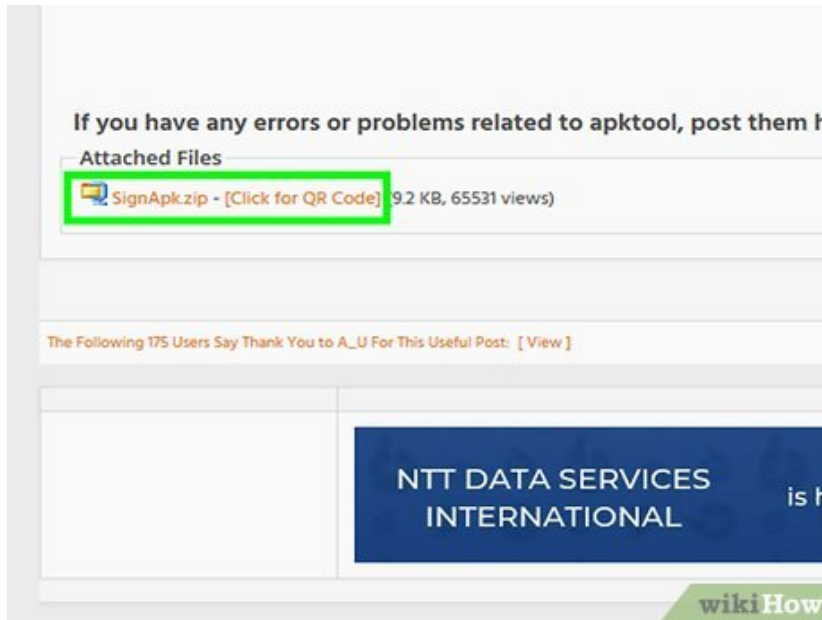


**Create a new folder called "Signapk" on your desktop.** To create a new folder on your desktop, right-click anywhere on your desktop and click **New**. Then click **Folder**. Right-click the new folder and click **Rename**. Then type "Signapk" as the new folder name.

6.

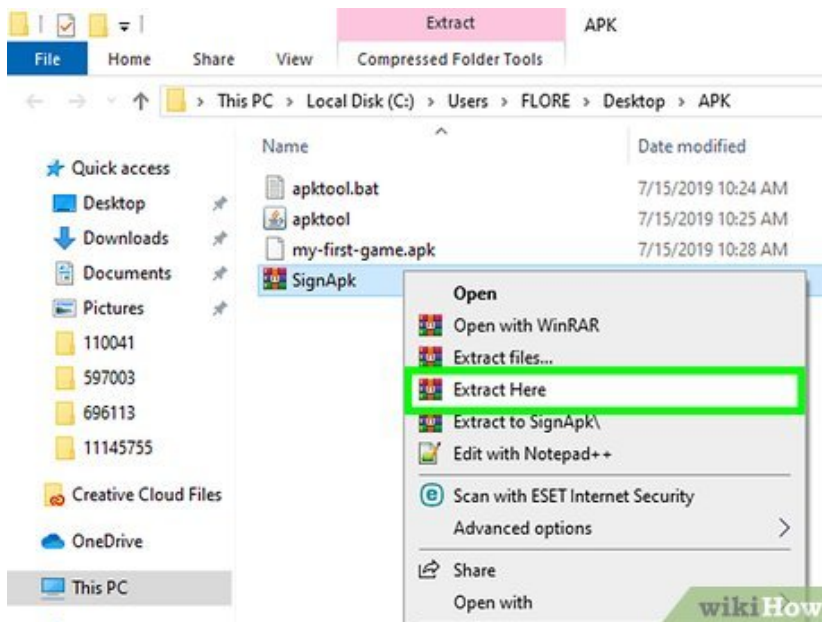


**Copy the newly compiled APK into the "Signapk" folder.** The newly compiled APK can be found in the "dist" folder of the uncompiled APK folder in "Apktool" folder. Right-click the APK and click **Copy**. Then, navigate back to the "Signapk" folder and paste the APK file inside the folder.



7.

Click here to download SignApk.zip. This downloads the SignApk file that is needed to sign an apk file.



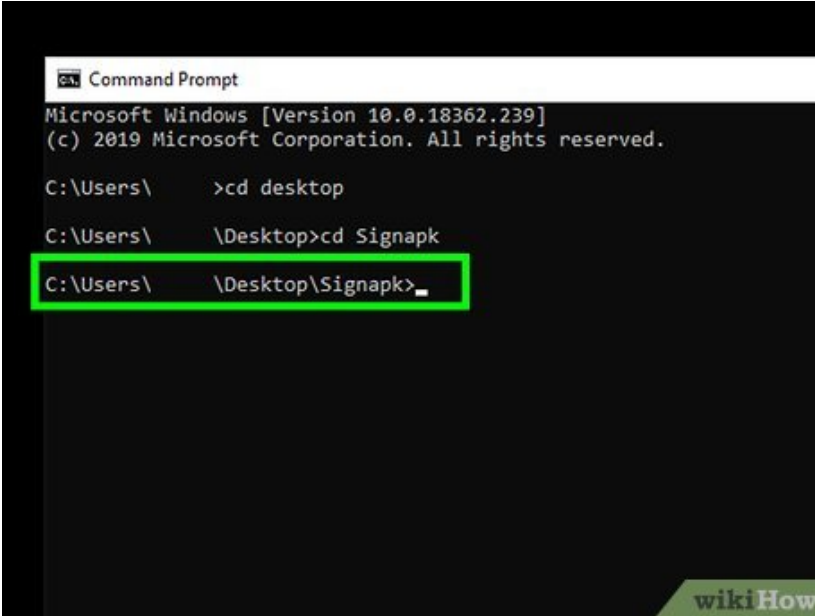
8.

Extract the contents of SignApk.zip into the Signapk folder. This extracts the "certificate.pem" file, the "key.pk8" file, and the "signapk.jar" into the "Signapk" folder.

```
Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.18362.239]
(c) 2019 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\      >cd desktop

C:\Users\      \Desktop>cd Signapk
C:\Users\      \Desktop\Signapk>_
```



9.

**Navigate to the "Signapk" folder in the command prompt.** To navigate to the Signapk folder in the command prompt, type `cd` to return to the root directory. Then type `cd` followed by the full path of the Signapk folder directory.

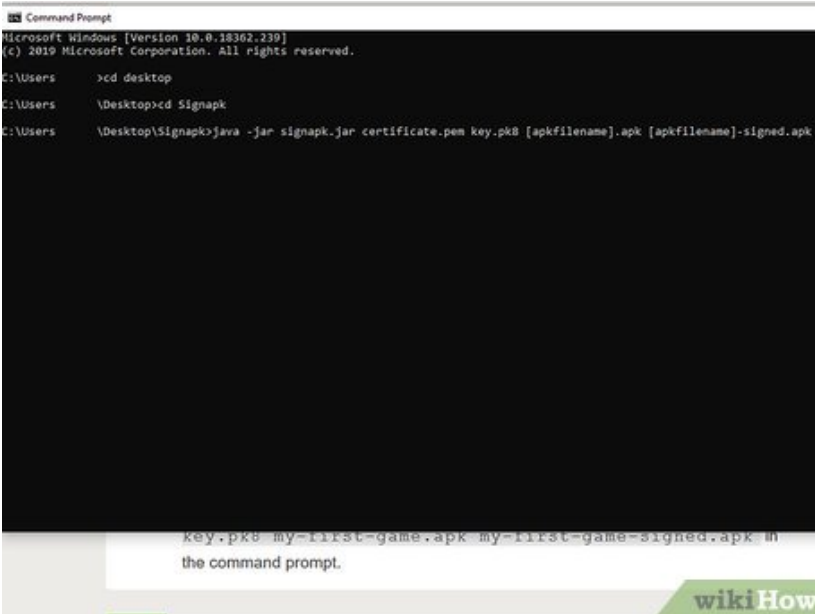
1. If you created the Signapk folder on your desktop, the full path is most likely "C:usersusername\Desktop\Signapk>"

```
Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.18362.239]
(c) 2019 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users      >cd desktop

C:\Users      \Desktop>cd Signapk

C:\Users      \Desktop\Signapk>java -jar signapk.jar certificate.pem key.pk8 [apkfilename].apk [apkfilename]-signed.apk
```



10.

**Type `java -jar signapk.jar certificate.pem key.pk8 [apkfilename].apk [apkfilename]-signed.apk` in the command prompt.**

Replace "[apkfilename]" with the actual name of the apk file you want to sign. This creates a new signed APK file in the Signapk folder. Use this file to install the software on your Android system.<sup>[2]</sup>

1. For example, if the app you are working on is called "my-first-game.apk", you would type `ava -jar signapk.jar certificate.pem key.pk8 my-first-game.apk my-first-game-signed.apk` in the command prompt.

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