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## Mobile device security for Android (2.\*) devices

Article #2193

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### Mobile device security for Android (2.\*) devices

Smartphones and tablets need to meet the same security standards as any computer. Otherwise they become unprotected access points to private and sensitive data, which can expose you to identity theft, or worse. If you own or use a smartphone or other mobile device, it's a good idea to protect it with a personal identification number (PIN) or password. The following images were taken from an HTC Android device running HTC's Sense UI. Your Android device may look slightly different.

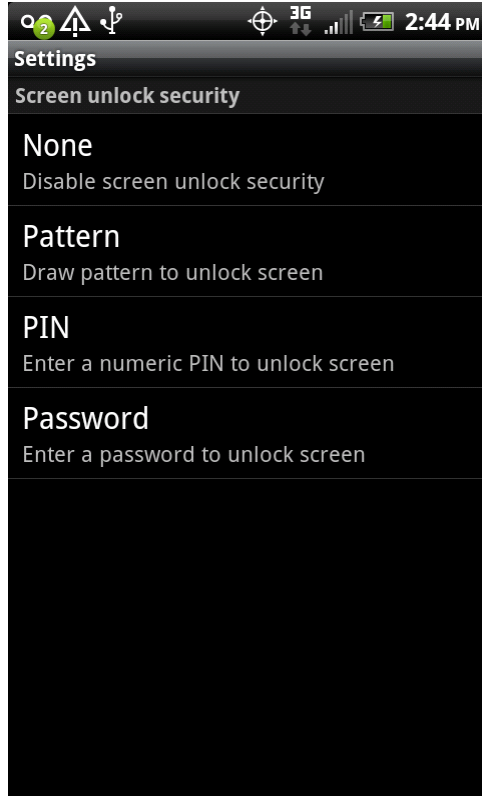
**Important:** Before beginning we advise that you ensure your Android device has been backed up in case it is lost, stolen, or you forget your passcode, and has the latest updates. If you can not remember your passcode you will need to wipe the data from your phone and restore it to factory settings.

You can read how to back up and wipe and restore your Android device [here](#).

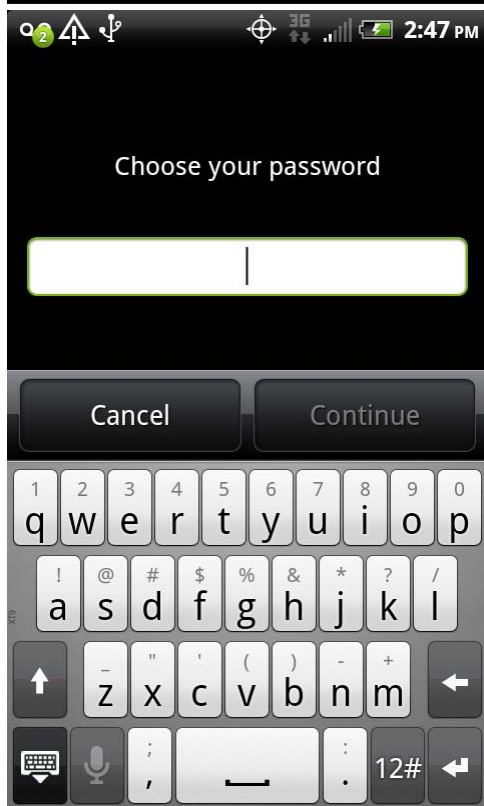
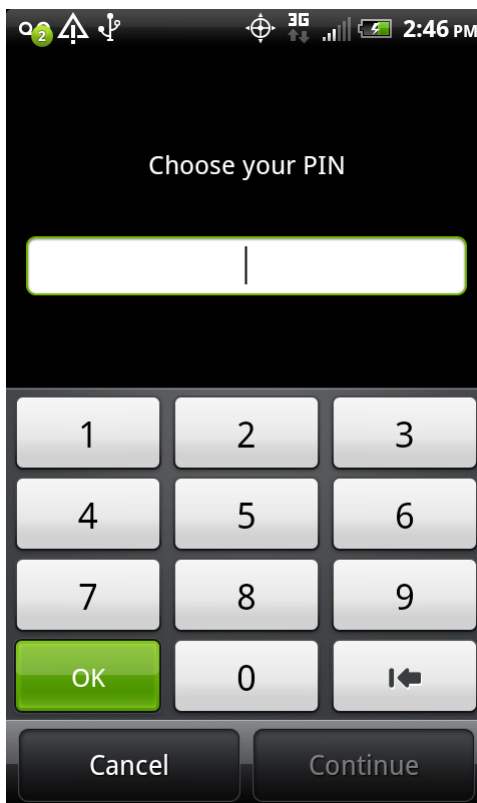
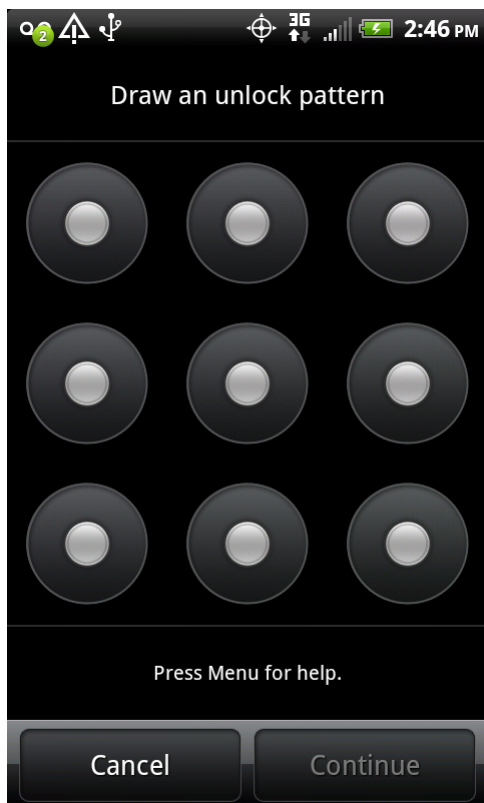
1. To set a passcode navigate to your devices settings and select **Security > Set up screen lock**. Getting to the device settings usually requires that you press the external settings button from the home screen but can vary from device to device.



2. You will be able to choose between a **Pattern**, **PIN**, or **Password**.



- 3. Depending on which option you chose, you will see one of the following three screens:



- If you return to the **Security settings** you will be able to designate various lockout times. This feature locks your phone after it has been inactive for the length of time you choose. 20 minutes or less is a common standard, but shorter lockout times are more secure.



Article last modified 2013-06-05 11:06:22

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