



Modded Nintendo 2DS/3DS Quick Start Guide

Modded 2DS/3DS Quick Start Guide

Getting Acquainted with Your New Console

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Introduction

I don't want to take up a lot of your time with a long introduction.

I just wanted to offer up a quick "thank you" and wish you hours of enjoyment from your Nintendo 2DS/3DS.

In addition to absorbing the risks of modding, I put a lot of time into the modding process and include upgrades like the SD card in an effort to provide you with a top-notch device.

I also source the majority of my consoles from Nintendo themselves. These are certified refurbished from the manufacturer when I receive them including a 30-day warranty. That warranty becomes void once I perform the mods, but you still receive a device that is in pristine condition.

In light of COVID-19, I have been purchasing consoles from other sources. Some of them are still certified refurbished by Nintendo, and some of them are from users like yourself. I make it a point to only purchase devices in above average condition. The images, pricing, and description I provide in my listings will reflect those differences.

About the Modifications

Below are the specific mods installed on your device and what they are for.

Accessible from Your Home Screen

FBI

This allows you to install .cia files which are game ROMS. There are tons of places to get them. I have a whole section with some links further along in this guide.

Luma Updater

Just keeps Luma updated. All you do is launch and press **A**.

FTPD

Allows you to transfer files to your SD card from your computer without removing the SD card from your Nintendo device. You need an FTP client on your computer. I recommend FileZilla - <https://filezilla-project.org/> It's free. Here's a video that shows you how to use it - <https://youtu.be/LfZSqJnHQFQ>

NOTE: This method of moving files is super slow, so I'd recommend following the

instructions below on how to install games using your computer.

Homebrew Launcher

This lets you install 3rd party games, apps, and more. Here's some stuff -

https://www.3dbrew.org/wiki/Homebrew_Applications and more -

https://wiki.gbatemp.net/wiki/List_of_3DS_homebrew

Checkpoint

This is an easy-to-use save manager. You can also load cheats too. Once you've installed and played some games, when you open this, your game saves and cheats will be accessible.

Here's more about that -

<https://projectpokemon.org/tutorials/save-editing/managing-3ds-saves/using-checkpoint-r25/>

There's a section further along in this guide that will show you how to load game cheats using Checkpoint.

Checkpoint works with both game cartridges and downloaded games.

Anemone

Get custom themes and splash screens - here's info on that -

<https://gbatemp.net/threads/release-anemone3ds-a-complete-theme-and-splash-manager-for-your-3ds.482804/>

TWiLight Menu++

TWiLight Menu++ provides reliable Nintendo emulators as well as Sega Genesis and GameGear emulators for your 2DS/3DS device. It allows you to play games (ROMs) for:

- NES
- SNES
- Gameboy (Color and Advance)
- Nintendo DS
- Nintendo DSi
- Sega Genesis
- Sega Mega Drive
- Sega GameGear

TWiLight Menu++ Updater

Simply keeps the Twilight Menus++ updated.

RetroArch (LibRetro)*

RetroArch supplies many emulators and game engines for multiple modded platforms including 2DS/3DS. Here's the documentation for RetroArch - <https://www.retroarch.com/> Keep in mind, that fine-tuning your emulators will ensure they run smoothly, but it can be daunting.

See the section on installing and updating Cores.

I encourage you to further explore the links I've shared here as some of them have communities and tons of information about your new device.

Overall, remember that Google and YouTube are your friends! There is A LOT to know about owning a modded device, and I could never cover it all here.

*In my experience, this doesn't run as well on the 2DS. I get a lot of errors and things when I try to load and update cores. Just FYI. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. Welcome to 3rd party development!

Accessible from Boot

Luma

Luma is the custom firmware installed on your device. See more about what you can do with custom firmware below.

Launch Luma by holding **Select** during boot.

Luma is basically the framework that allows everything else to run. That being said, there are some options you can take advantage of. Find those on the Luma wiki here - <https://github.com/AuroraWright/Luma3DS/wiki>.

I wouldn't really mess with this unless you know what you're doing. It doesn't really affect your ability to install and play games.

What Can You Do with Custom Firmware

- Play all game cards and eShop games, regardless of region
- Customize your HOME Menu with user-created themes and splash screens
- Use "ROM hacks" for games that you own
- Take gameplay and application screenshots
- Backup, edit, and restore saves for many games
- Play games for older systems with various emulators, using RetroArch or other

- standalone emulators. (Works best with a New Nintendo 3DS)
- Install homebrew titles to your system, and have them appear on your HOME Menu
- Dump your game cards to a format you can install, and play them without needing the card
- New 3DS or New 2DS only: stream live gameplay to your PC wirelessly with NTR CFW
- Run many old Nintendo DS flash carts that were blocked long ago or never worked on Nintendo 3DS
- Safely update to the latest system version without fear of losing access to homebrew

Godmode9

Launch Godmode9 by holding **Start** during boot. Follow this usage guide to learn more about what you can do with Godmode9 - <https://3ds.hacks.guide/godmode9-usage>.

Here are a couple of actions from the guide I use the most:

Dumping (Ripping) a Game Cartridge

Insert the game cartridge you intend to dump into your device.

- 3DS game cartridges will be dumped to an installable .cia format
 - NDS game cartridges will be dumped to a non-installable .nds format compatible with flashcarts and emulators
1. Launch GodMode9 by holding **Start** during boot
 2. Navigate to [C:] GAMECARD
 3. Follow the steps applicable to your game cartridge:

3DS Game Cartridge: Press **A** on **[TitleID].trim.3ds** to select it, then select **NCSD image options...**, then select **Build CIA from file**.

NDS Game Cartridge: Press **A** on **[TitleID].trim.nds** to select it, then select **Copy to 0:/gm9/out**

Your installable .cia or non-installable .nds formatted file will be outputted to the **/gm9/out/** folder on your SD card

Converting a .3DS to a .CIA

For organizational purposes, copy each .3ds file you wish to convert to the **/cias/** folder on your SD card.

Note that if you wish to convert a .3ds file that is already on a flashcart, you should follow the instructions above for Dumping a Game Cartridge.

1. Launch GodMode9 by holding **Start** during boot
2. Navigate to **[0:] SDCARD -> cias**
3. Press **A** on your .3ds file to select it, then select **NCSD image options...**, then select **Build CIA from file**
4. Your installable .cia formatted file will be outputted to the **/gm9/out/** folder on your SD card

LibRetro - Loading Cores (Emulators) and Content (Games)

This section is under construction.

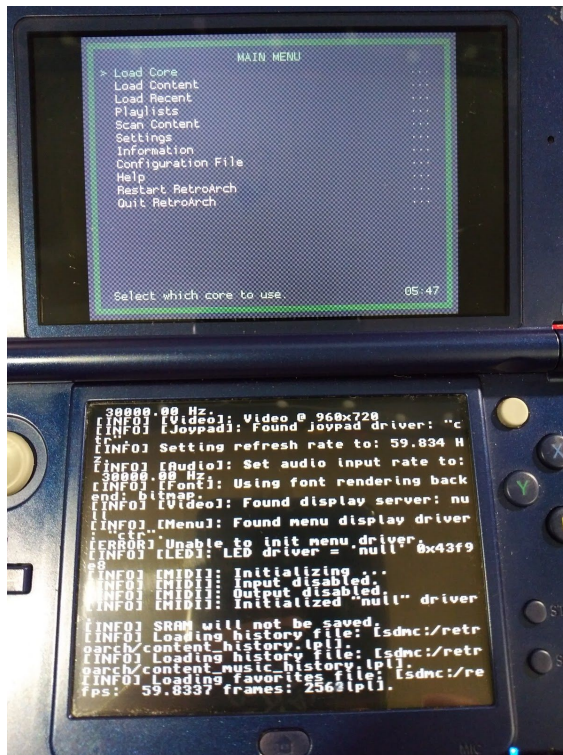
Here is a comprehensive list of the Cores and Game Engines that are available through LibRetro (RetroArch) - <https://emulation.gametechwiki.com/index.php/Libretro>

Follow these instructions to load and update the Cores that interest you.

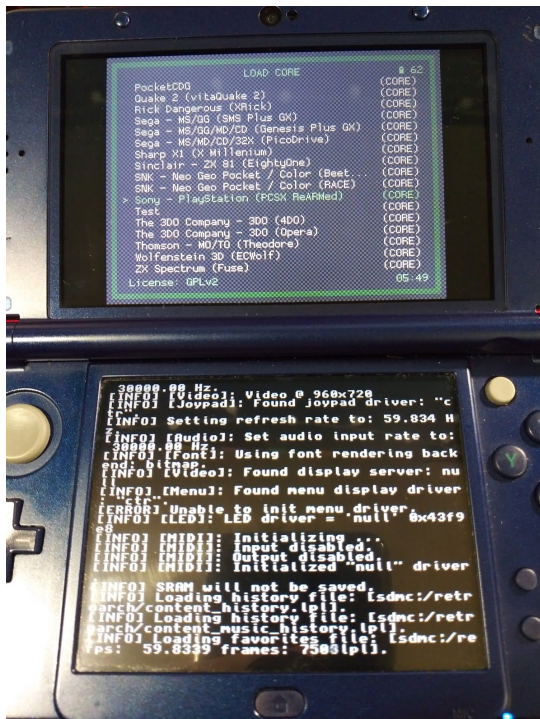
1. Open LibRetro on your device. Be patient, this can take a minute the first time.



2. Press **A** on Load Core.



3. Use the **D-Pad** to navigate to the emulator you want to load and press **A** to select it.



Wait for LibRetro to return to the main menu. This will add a shortcut to that emulator on your **Home** screen.

4. Use the **D-Pad** to navigate to **Load Content** and press **A** to select it.
5. Use the **D-Pad** to navigate to your SD Card (sdhc:/) and press **A** to select it.



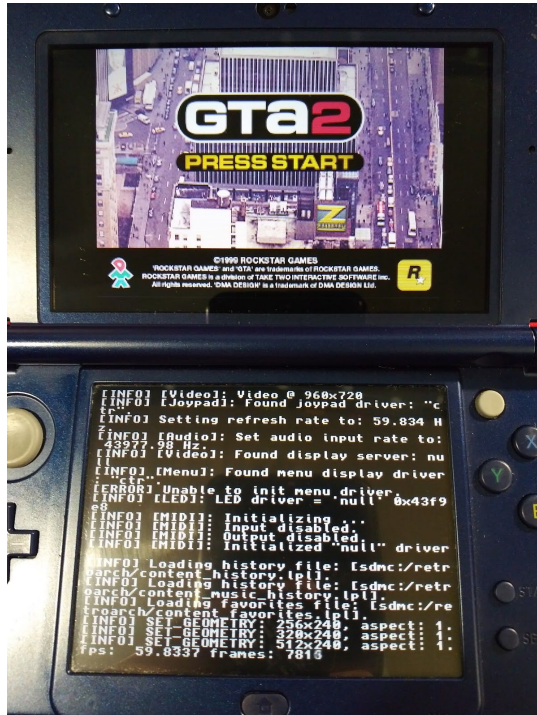
6. Use the **D-Pad** to navigate to the game you want to play and press **A** to select and load it. I have my games stored in a **roms** folder I created inside the **retroarch** folder on my SD card.



- LibRetro will suggest some cores to use with that game. Use the **D-Pad** and **A** to select the emulator you want to use.



LibRetro will load your game.



Where to Get Games

Disclaimer: *Download from these sites at your own risk. I don't own any of them. If they appear here or in my bookmarks on Diigo, I have downloaded ROMs from them without any problem. In most cases, I have scanned downloaded files with Windows Defender before unzipping them.*

Ripped games are called ROMs, and a Google search for that term will pull up numerous websites; however, they are not all credible.

So, I have a few sites where you can find ROMs as well as some online communities where you can get new links to credible sources on occasion.

I keep bookmarks to credible sites here, and I'll keep this updated as I come across more sites - <https://www.diigo.com/user/prowebwriter/?query=%23Roms>

This is, by far, the best one - <https://the-eye.eu/alvro/Nintendo/>

Here's another - <http://www.3ds cia.to/>

For some of those files, you'll need to use [the instructions above about how to convert .3ds to .cia under Godmode9](#).

NOTE: Due to the nature of the sites that host ROMs, they do experience higher

than average downtime. If you visit a site and it's down, try it again later. I've seen the-eye.eu be down for days. Their server maintenance is insane! They always come back.

<https://www.reddit.com/r/Roms/>
<https://www.reddit.com/r/3dscia/>
<https://www.reddit.com/r/3dshacks/>
<https://www.reddit.com/r/3dspiracy/>

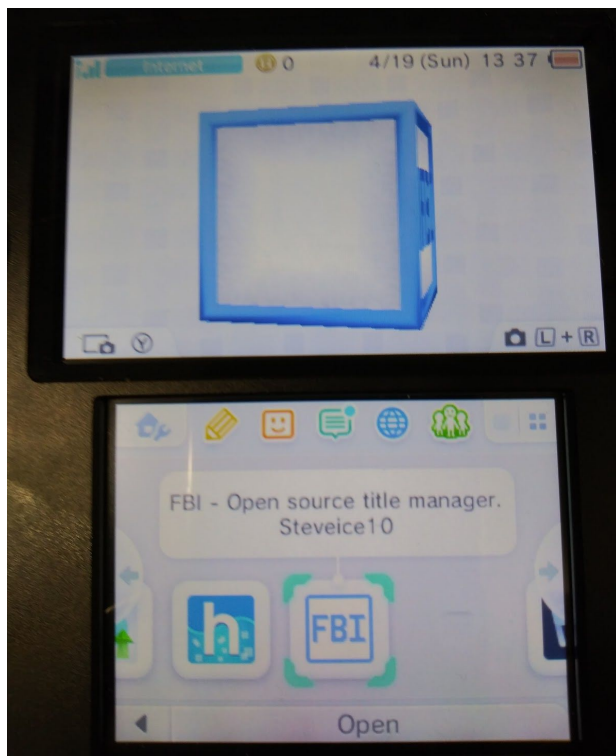
Installing .cia Games on your 2DS/3DS

The best way to install games is by using a computer with an SD card reader.

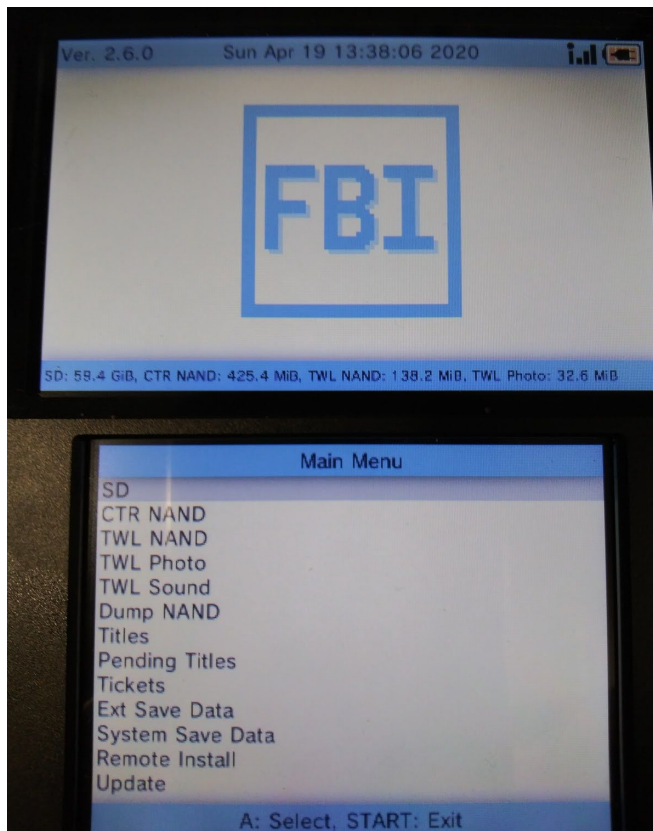
Use your computer to visit the links above and download ROMs.

Once you have several to install, you can do so by following these steps:

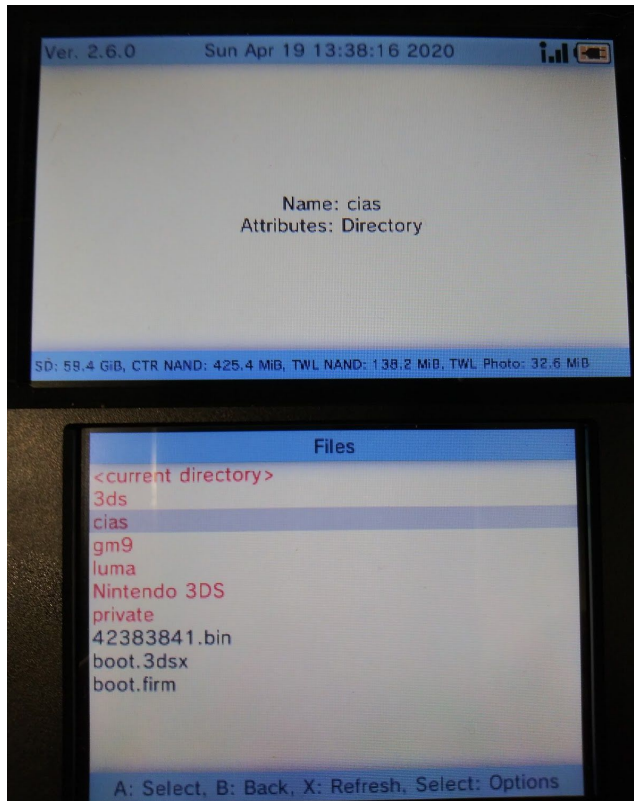
1. Power off your device.
2. Remove the SD card and insert it into your computer or SD card reader.
3. Transfer the .cia files to the **cias** folder on your SD card.
4. Remove the SD card from your computer and reinsert it into your device.
5. Power on your device.
6. Open FBI.



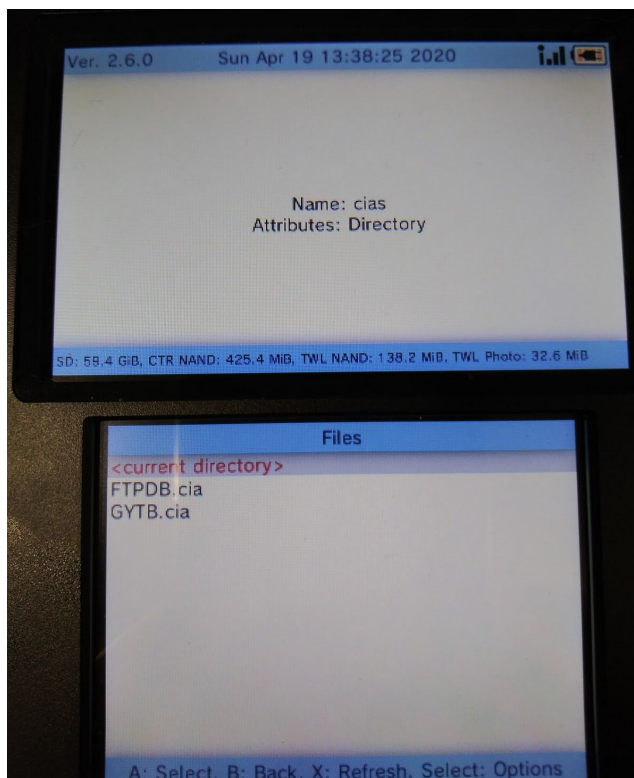
7. Navigate to your SD card.



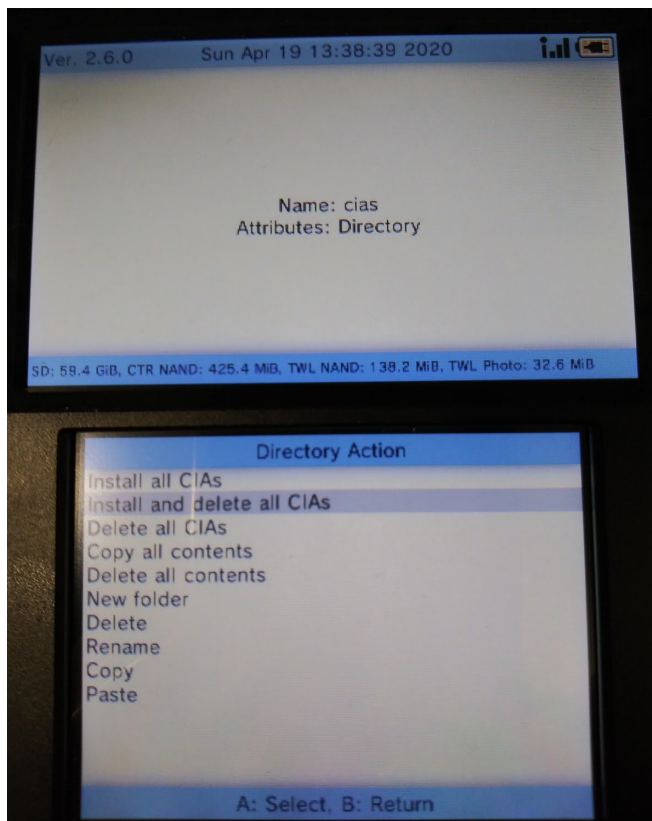
8. Select the **cias** folder and press **A**.



9. Select the **[current directory]** and press **A**.



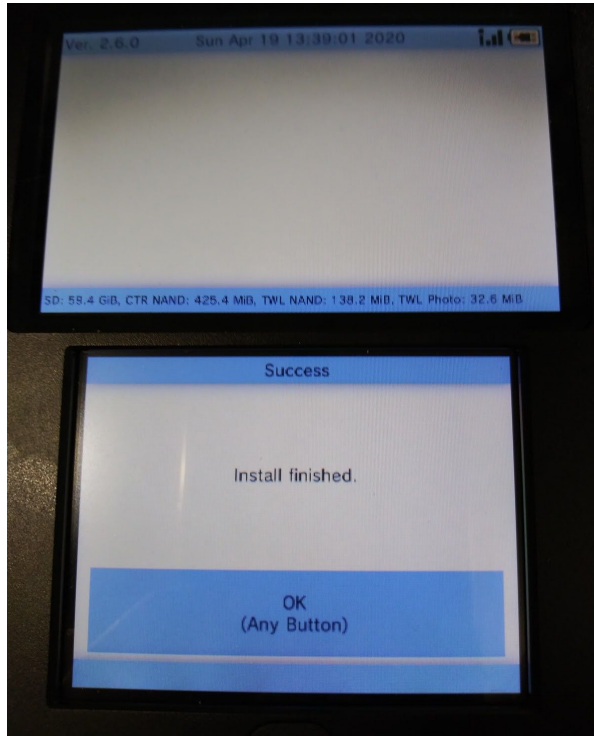
10. Select **Install and delete all cias** and press **A**.



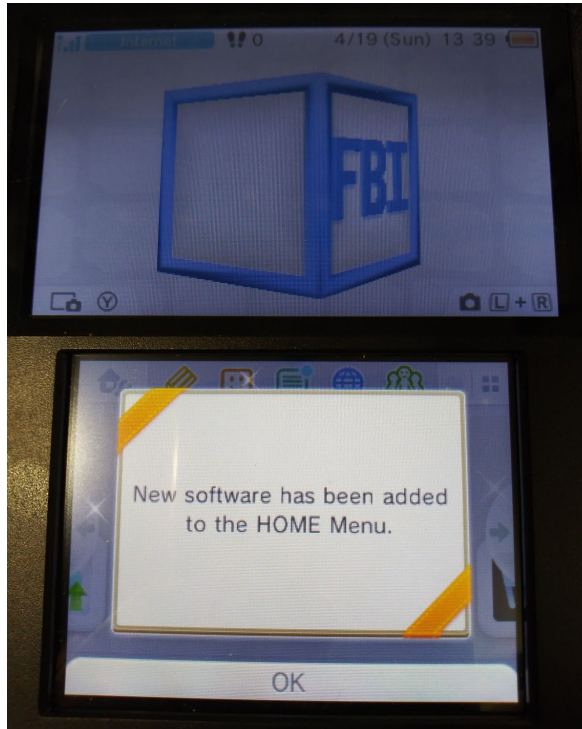
11. Press **A** to continue.

Your device will install all the files and delete the cia files from the directory. Depending upon the number of files you have to install, this may take several minutes.

12. Press any button to acknowledge completed installs.



13. Unwrap your new games on your home screen.



Moving Game Files to 2DS/3DS Without Removing Your SD Card

If you have a 3DS XL, you can do this [using microSD Management](#) on your device.

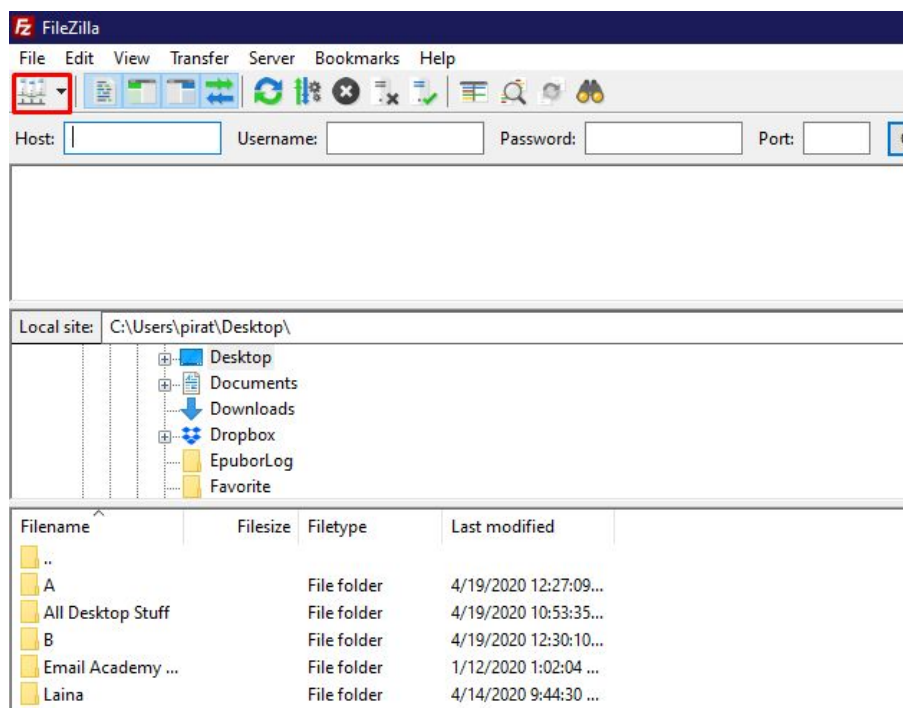
Otherwise, you can use FTPD to move files to your device without removing your SD card using FileZilla on your computer. FileZilla is a free FTP client available for Windows, Mac, and Linux. Get it here -

https://filezilla-project.org/download.php?show_all=1

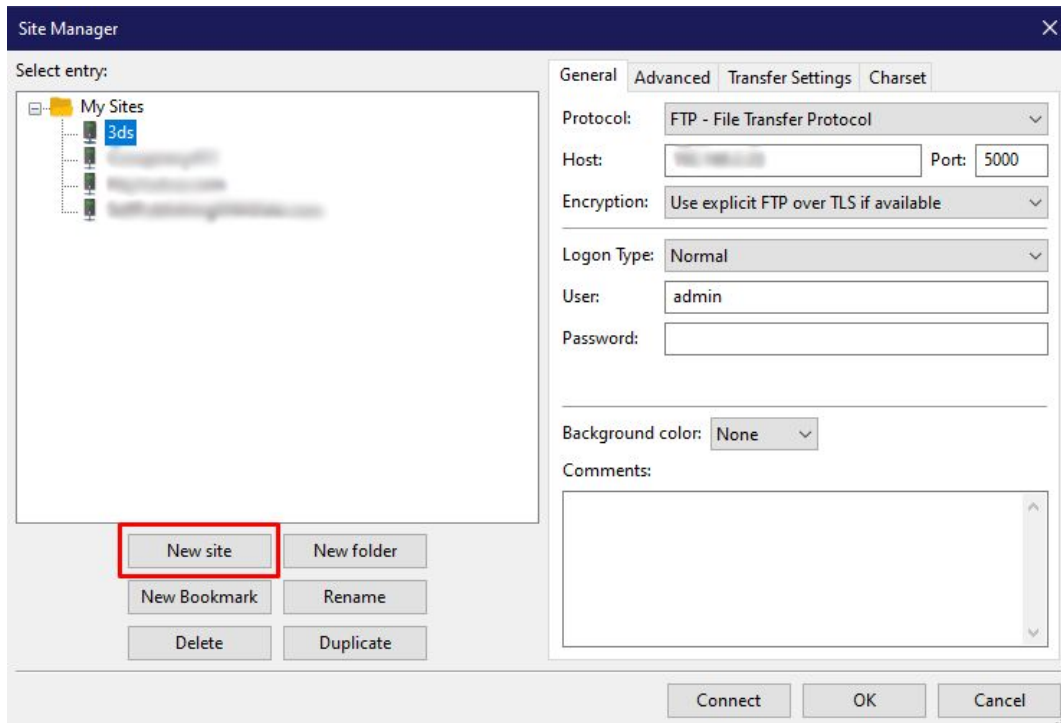
Your computer and your 2DS/3DS must be on the same wifi network.

Configuring FileZilla

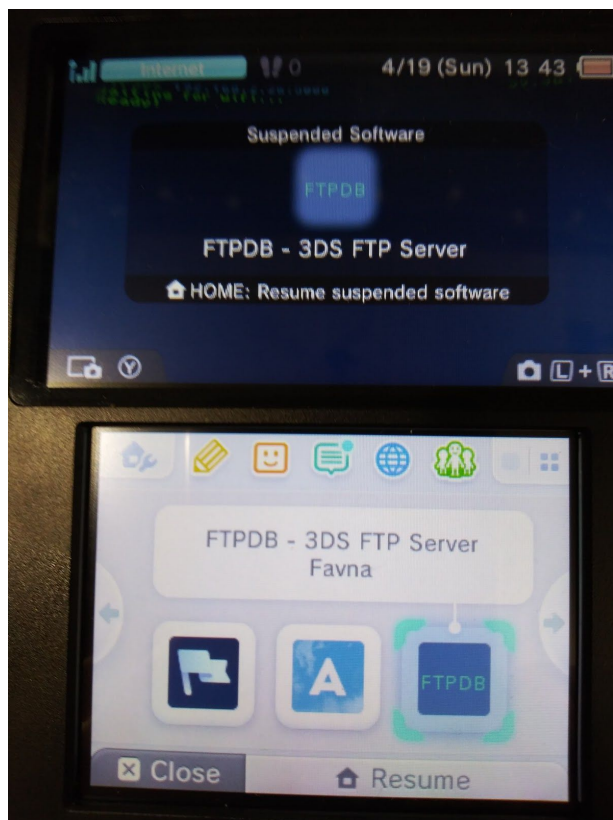
1. Open FileZilla on your computer.
2. Open the Site Manager by clicking this icon:



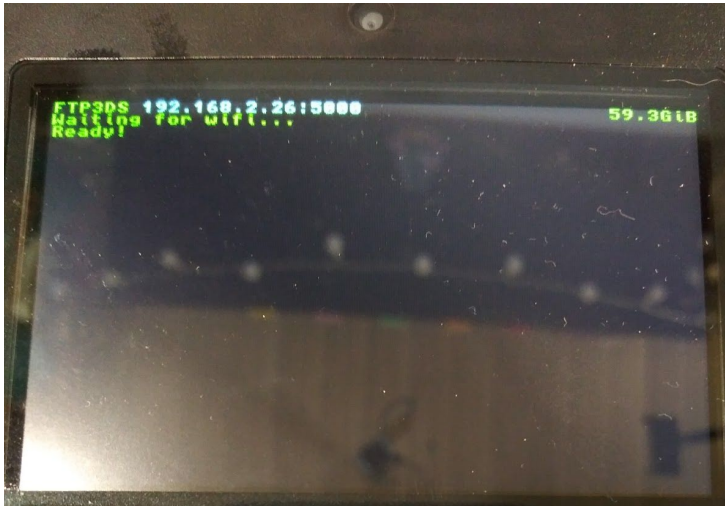
3. Click the **New Site** button and type 2ds or 3ds or whatever will help you remember this connection is for your device.



4. Open FTPD on your device.



5. Use the information on the top screen of your device to fill out the other side of the Site Manager as follows:



Host: Type your IP address from the top screen. That's the number in light blue in this format: 111.111.1.11

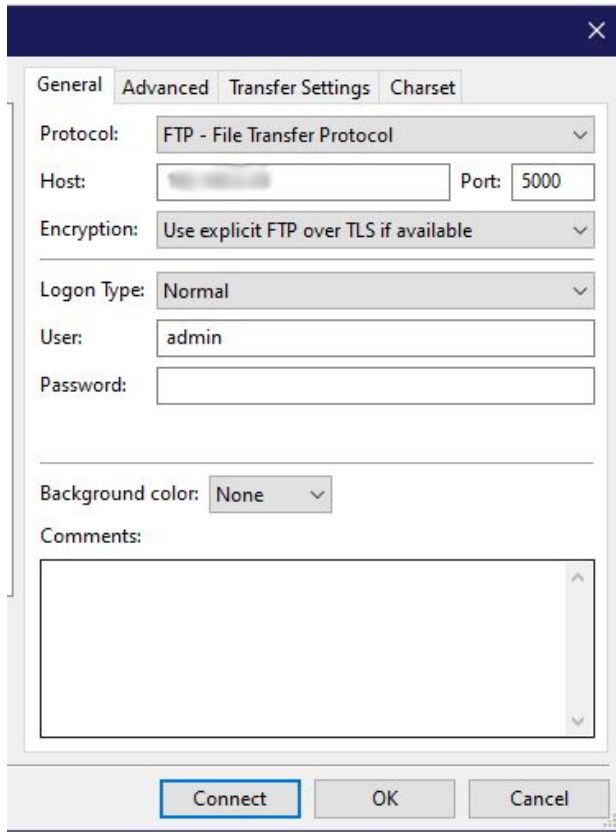
Do NOT put in the :5000. This is your port number and goes in the next field.

Port: Type the number after the colon.

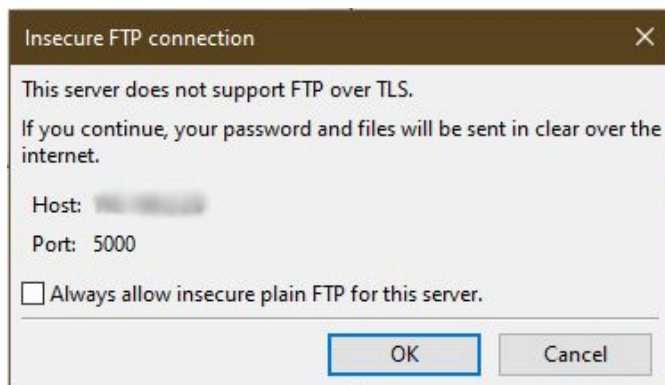
Logon Type: Normal

User: admin

Click **Connect**.



6. You'll get an insecure connection warning. Click **OK**.



If your device fails to connect, ensure that everything in FileZilla matches the Site Manager screenshot above and try again.

You can edit the fields by simply opening the Site Manager in FileZilla again.

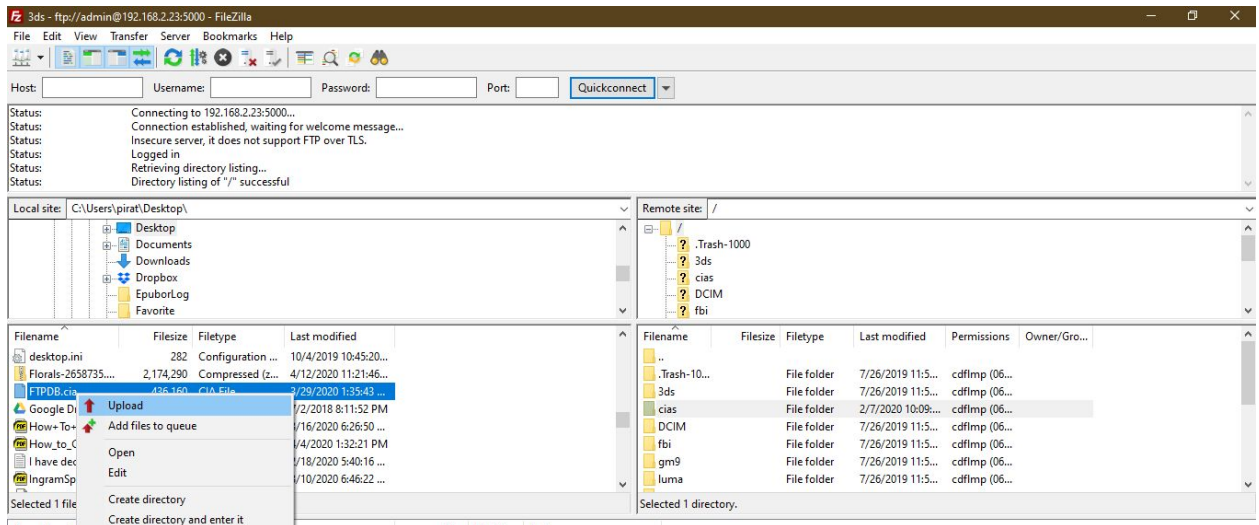
7. Once you're connected, you can move files between your computer and your 2DS/3DS.

Notice that FileZilla has 2 sides. The left is your computer and the right is your

device.

Navigate to the cia files you want to move on the left side. Select your cias folder on your device on the right.

Right-click and click **Upload** from the menu.



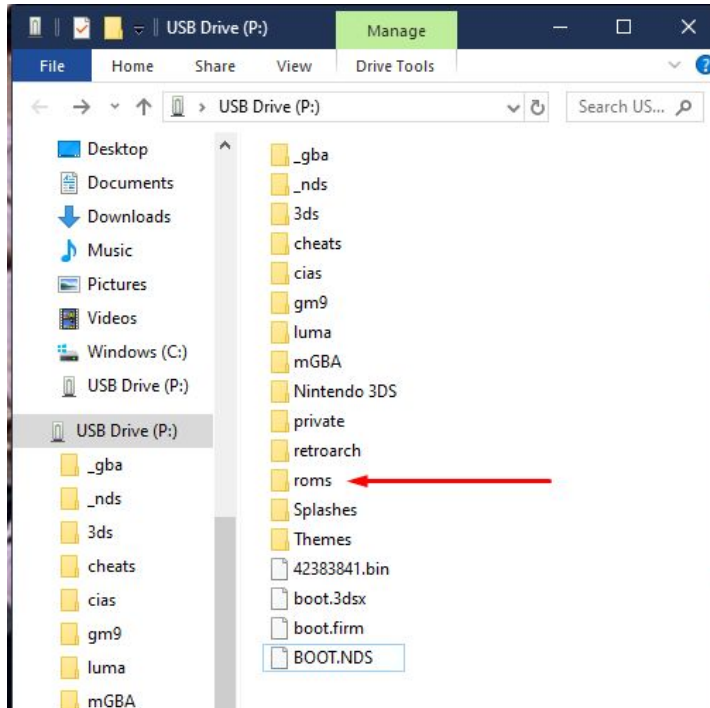
FileZilla will upload the files to the cias folder on your device.

NOTE: It's much quicker to just pop your SD card in your computer and move files that way, but if you can't do that for some reason, this will work.

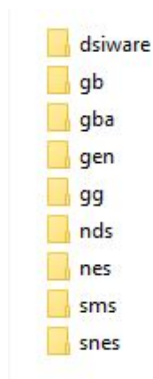
Installing ROMs for Use with TWiLight Menu++

If you have Nintendo and Sega ROMs, you'll need to copy them to the proper folder on your SD card so you can play them through the TWiLight Menu++.

1. Power off your device, remove the SD card, and insert it in your computer.
2. Open the **roms** folder from the root of your SD card.



3. Drag and drop your ROMs into the appropriate folder.



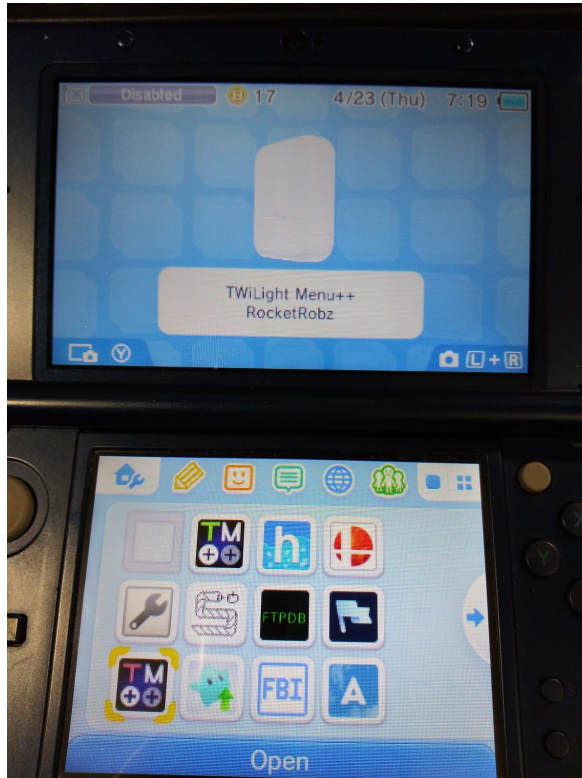
dsiware - self-explanatory
gb - Gameboy
gba - Gameboy Advance
gen - Sega Genesis and Mega Drive
gg - Sega GameGear
nds - Nintendo DS
nes - Original Nintendo Entertainment System
sms - Master System Games
snes - Super Nintendo

4. Reinsert your SD card into your device.

Launching Games from TWiLight Menu++

Once you have copied some games over to the corresponding folders on your SD card, you can launch them using the TWiLight Menu++.

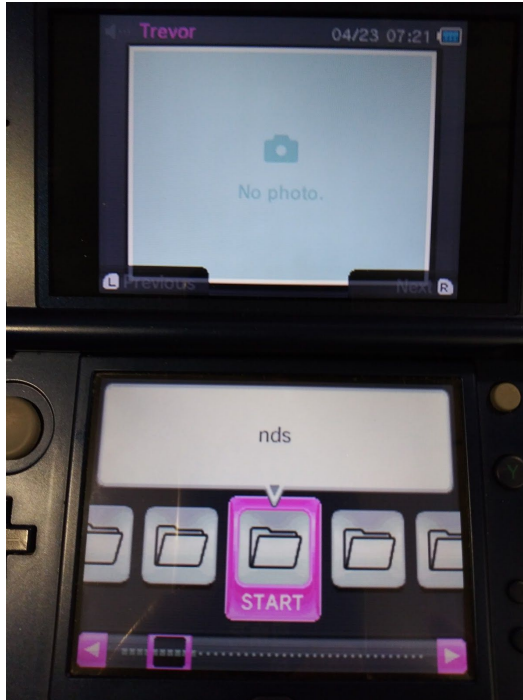
1. Open the TWiLight Menu++ on your device.



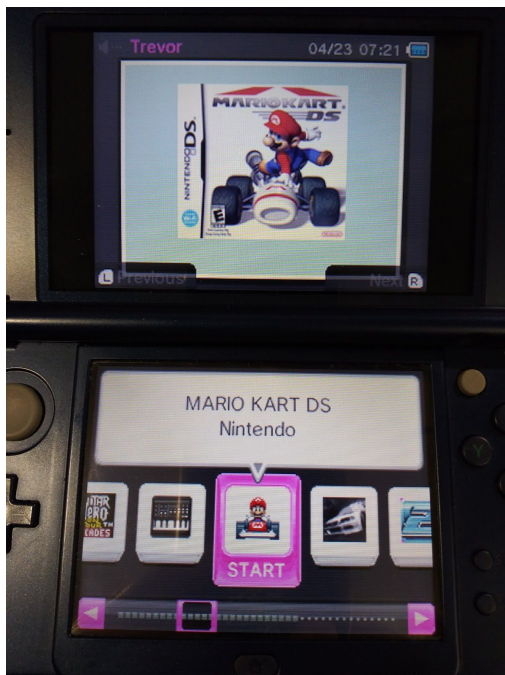
2. Use the **D-Pad** to navigate to the **roms** folder and press **A** to select it.



3. Use the **D-Pad** to navigate to the platform where the game you want to play is, and press **A** to select it.



4. Use the **D-Pad** to navigate to the game you want to play and press **A** to select it.

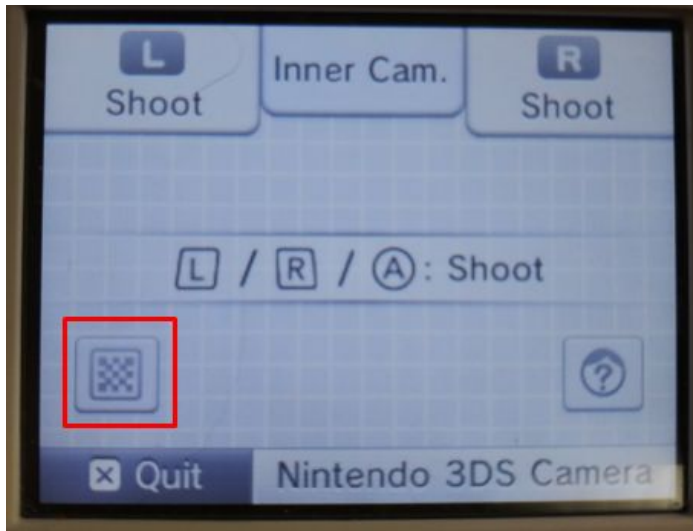


5. Enjoy!

How to Scan QR Codes with Your 2DS/3DS

Press the L and R buttons at the same time to activate the camera.

Tap the QR code readers icon on the lower screen.



This will open the QR scanner. Point your device at the QR code you want to scan.

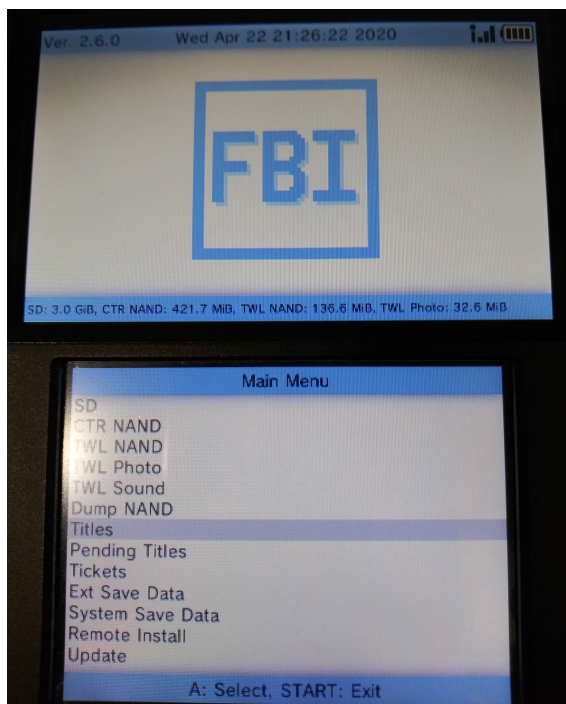
Delete Games and Apps Using FBI

If you want to clean up your home screen, you can delete apps and games you no longer want with FBI.

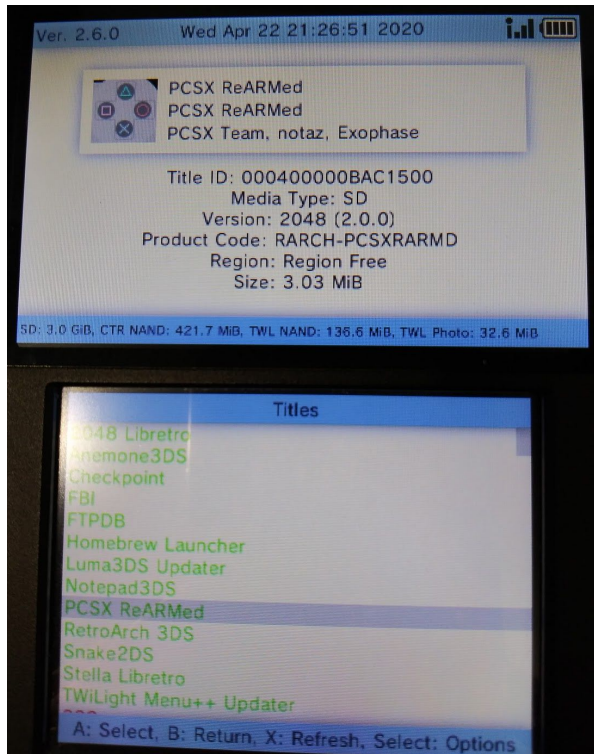
1. Open FBI on your device.



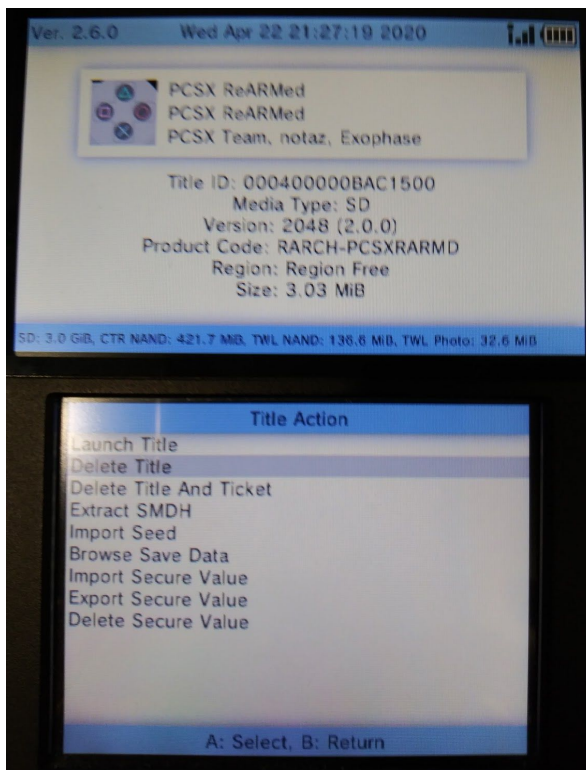
2. Use the **D-Pad** to scroll down to **Titles** and press **A** to select it.



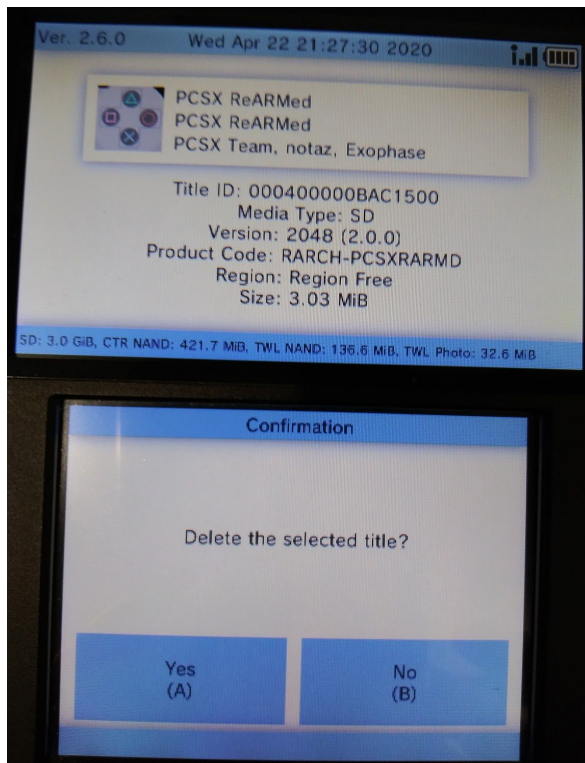
3. Use the **D-Pad** to navigate to the title or app you want to delete, and press **A** to select it.



4. Use the **D-Pad** to navigate to **Delete Title** and press **A** to select that option.



5. Press **A**.



Press any key to continue. You can delete additional titles or exit FBI.

Backups and Moving to a New SD Card

It's probably not a bad idea to copy your SD card to your computer for backup and safe keeping.

If for any reason, you need to get a new SD card, simply copy and paste all of the files from your current card to the new one. It's also a good idea to keep a backup of what's on your SD card.

You can't use modded SD cards in a new device. It will not work.

Also worthy of note: On their website, Nintendo states that the largest SD cards you can use with their 2DS/3DS devices is 32GB. I have used both 64 and 128GB cards without an issue. In fact, all of my modded devices include an SD card upgrade.

They also state that SDXC cards are not compatible, but I've also used these without any issues.

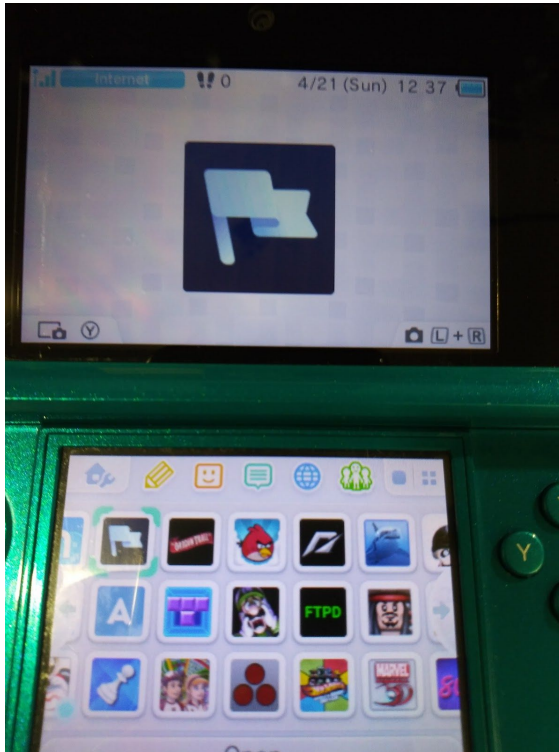
Source -

https://en-americas-support.nintendo.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/274/~/_what-sd-cards-

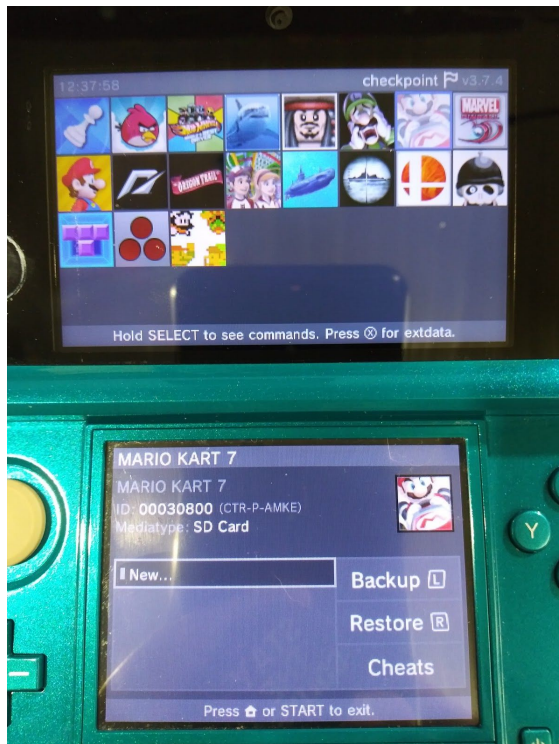
[and-microsd-cards-are-compatible%3F](#)

Loading Game Cheats with Checkpoint

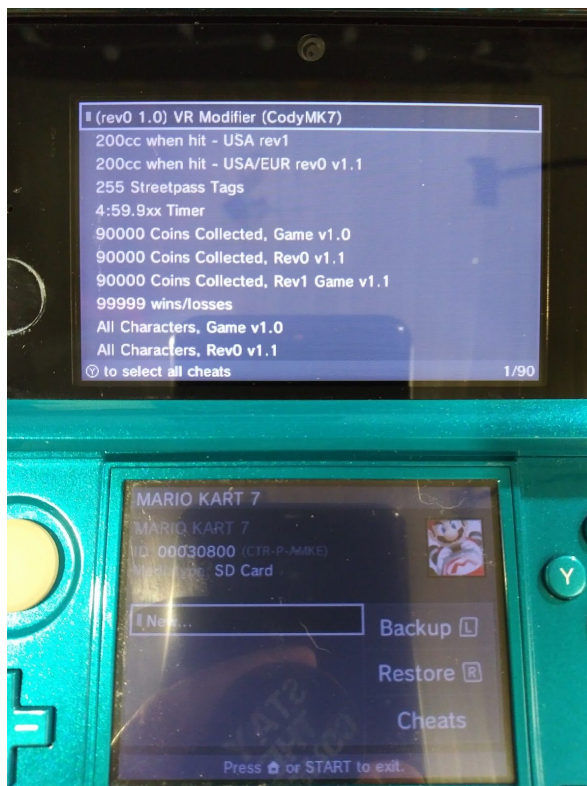
1. Open Checkpoint.



2. Use the **D-Pad** to select your game. **NOTE: Your game must have a save file to appear in Checkpoint.**

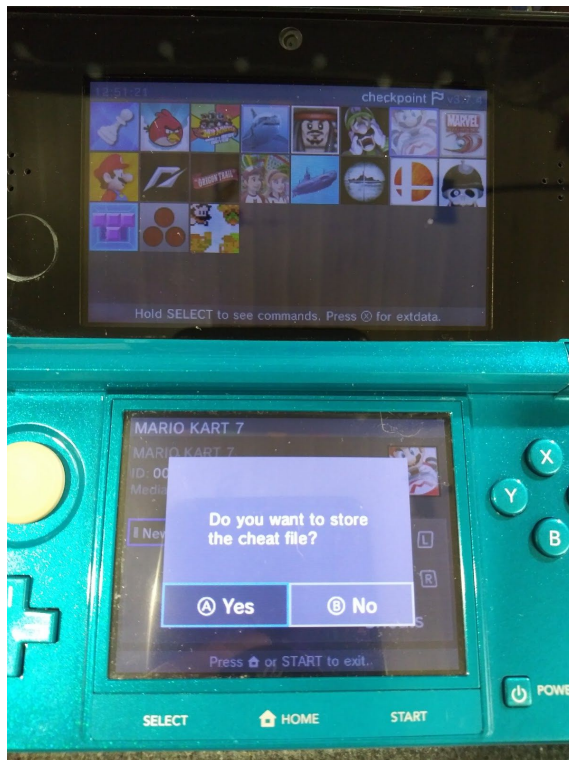


3. Touch **Cheats** to pull up the available cheats.



Select the cheats you want to apply using the **D-Pad** and **A** or press **Y** to select all cheats.

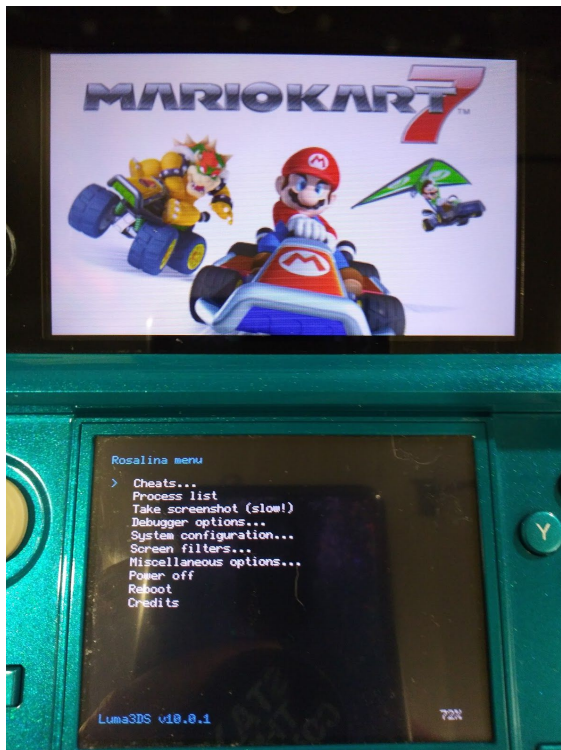
4. Press **B** to exit the Cheats list and **A** to save.



5. Press **HOME** and exit Checkpoint.
6. Launch your game.



7. Press **L + Down + SELECT** to open the Rosalina menu. Select **Cheats...**



8. Use the **D-Pad** and **A** to select the cheats you want to activate.



9. Press **B** to exit the Rosalina Menu.

Your cheats should now be activated in-game.

Troubleshooting

For troubleshooting and help, visit - <https://3ds.hacks.guide/troubleshooting>. These mods are created by people who are a lot smarter than I am and they have resources available to help you should your device go haywire which is possible any time you are using a modified console.

Updates to This Guide

This guide is a work in progress. It was last updated on May 10, 2020.

As I learn more, I will continue to update the guide with new information and the latest information as it becomes available.

Future updates will be uploaded in place of this guide and you can check for and get those updates at this link - <https://candidcashflow.com/modded>.

If I ever move this guide to a new location, a redirect will be put in place.

Updating Your Mods

Some of these will require that you remove your SD card from your device and insert it in your computer to copy files. Alternatively, you can [move them from your computer to your device using FTPD](#).

Checkpoint

Simply [visit GitHub and download the latest .cia file](#). Remove the SD card from your device and insert it in your computer. Copy the .cia file into the **cias** folder on your SD card. Reinsert the SD card in your device and install the cia via FBI. The new updated file will automatically replace the old one.

Luma3DS

Open the Luma Updater and press **A**.

GodMode9

[Grab the latest version of GodMode9](#). Unzip it. Power off your device, remove your SD card, and insert it in your computer. Copy the **GodMode9.firm** file to **/luma/payloads** on your SD card. If prompted, click yes to replace the file. Copy the **gm9** folder to the root of your SD card. Same deal, replace the existing file. Reinsert your SD card into your device.