

# An OPCUG Product Review



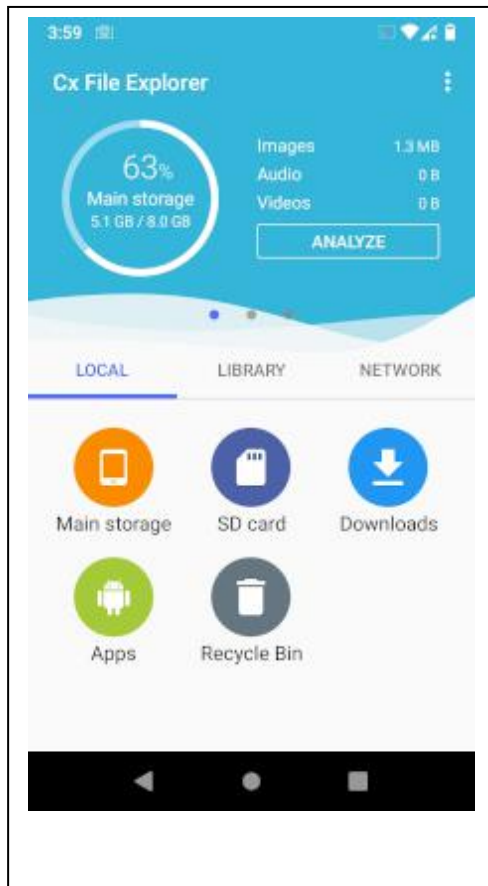
## Another File Explorer for Android

By Alan German

For some time my preferred file management app for Android was Asus File Manager; however, for some reason this app has been dropped from Google's Play Store and, in addition, seems to be no longer listed by ASUS Computer Inc, the app's developer. While an APK (installation) file for this program can be downloaded from a number of third-party web sites, I'm not sure that I have complete trust in such sources.

The X-Plore File Manager functioned well for exploring and managing files on my rooted phone but I missed the simple interface of the Asus utility. Looking through various on-line reviews and the file managers currently available in the Play Store led me to Cx File Explorer.

The good news is that this is a free app and does not display advertisements. It gets good reviews from a number of on-line sources, including Android Authority and Lifewire, and has a high rating (4.8/5 based on more than 140,000 reviews) in the Play Store. The (somewhat) bad news is that the developer chooses to remain anonymous, with no web site, and just a Gmail address for support.



The likely upsides were enough for me to give the app a try and I have to say that I am very impressed by the quality and functionality of the software. In particular, the user interface is very reminiscent of Asus File Manager.

The screenshot shows the program's main window which, by default, displays information on the usage of the phone's internal storage (in the blue panel at the top of the screen), and a set of icons (in the lower portion of the screen) that can be used to navigate to show the contents of the main storage, external micro-SD card, Downloads folder, etc.

Note the three-horizontal dots in the centre of the display window. These indicate that additional pages are available for the top portion of the display such that, for example, swiping to the left on top of the screen brings up the information for the micro-SD card.

The LIBRARY tab features a set of icons to access documents, images, audio files, videos, and new files stored on the system. The NETWORK tab provides access to web-based services such as Dropbox and Google Drive, a local network, or FTP connections.

Clicking on the ANALYZE button for one of the storage devices produces a breakdown of the disk usage in categories such as images and documents; a list of apps that are using the greatest amounts of storage, and the space taken by cache files. A control button can be used to clear the cache.

The program has a number of settings that include specifying when a notification should indicate that the storage is nearly full, and the option to use the Recycle Bin when deleting files. A *Built-in apps* section

shows that image, music and video players, and a text editor, are included in the app and all of these are enabled by default. I was pleased to discover that the built-in Image Viewer has very similar features to the Simple Gallery app that I normally use, which suggests that the latter may actually be redundant.

I need to make further use of Cx File Explorer before I commit to making this my daily-driver file manager but first impressions are very positive. So, if you could use a simple yet powerful file manager for your Android device, it may well be worth giving this app a try. You won't beat the price!

#### Bottom Line

---

Cx File Explorer (Freeware)

Version 1.5.8

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.cxinventor.fileexplorer>



Copyright © Ottawa PC Users' Group (OPCUG) <https://opcug.ca/copyright-and-usage/>