

Scan qr android camera

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Some months ago, I went to a local TEDx event. It was an opportunity to absorb wisdom, to learn from the experiences of others and... to participate in one of the sponsors' wishes. The latter could win me a trip to two to an exotic destination, but for a chance to grab the prize, I had to take a quiz at the sponsor's website. I saw a poster with a huge QR code on it linking to the page. Then it occurred to me that I didn't have an app to scan the code with. "Why can't smartphone cameras scan these automatically?," I asked myself. Well, it turns out that some already can. With iOS 11, Apple is bringing the ability to scan a QR code by simply pointing your iPhone's camera at one. The link it leads to does not open automatically. Instead, you get a notification saying that a QR code has been detected. Then you tap to open it or slide down to preview the content without leaving the camera app. If the code links to a web page, it will be opened in Safari, but links to apps and games will open in the App Store instead. Curiously, the iPhone is not the first phone that can automatically detect QR codes with its stock camera app. The feature has been present for some time on phones by the Chinese brand Xiaomi and it works in a similar fashion. And Meizu – another Chinese smartphone maker – has a non-automatic QR code scanning mode in its own camera app. While QR codes never became a hit in western markets, they're quite popular in China, which is why it comes as no surprise to see scanning software built into these two brands' phones out of the box. The ability to scan QR codes will come to iPhone and iPad users later this year with the release of iOS 11. Those who are feeling adventurous can try that, along with many other cool new features, by downloading the public iOS 11 beta on their compatible device. By Melly Parker i Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images News/Getty Images A QR code may look like blocks of black and white, but it quickly directs you to a website. The built-in camera on the iPad can be used with an app to scan QR codes and display information. Different features are available in QR code readers, depending on what app you download. Many apps available in iTunes can be downloaded to the iPad. Not all of them are optimized for the larger screen and other features of the iPad, however. Look at the requirements listed on each app to see what hardware it will run on and whether it is optimized for the iPad. Quick Scan by iHandy Inc. is a free QR code reading app that can also scan business cards. To use QuickScan, launch the app and position the code in the box on the scanning screen. When the scan is complete, other actions like storing contact information or visiting a site can be done within the app; you don't have to close it. Quick Scan has four-and-a-half stars out of five with many ratings. It's optimized for the iPhone 5, but will work on an iPad as long as you're running iOS 4.3 or later. QR Reader for iPhone by Tap Media Ltd. can scan QR Codes, barcodes and URLs; to scan, start the app and line the code up with the line on the center of the screen. The app can also create PDF files from items it scans. In addition to its scanning capabilities, QR Reader can export and share data about the items you scan. While the app itself is free, you can upgrade it and remove ads for 99 cents or add a cloud feature for 99 cents. QR Reader for iPhone is optimized for the iPhone 5 and requires iOS 5.0 or a later version of iOS. Scan by QR Code City scans a code when you position the code in the center of the scanning screen after opening the app. It displays text from a QR code, launches the site from the QR code or prompts you to use another app to display the information, depending on what the QR Code contains. Scan includes a kiosk mode that locks the scanner when you use it as a display at an event. Scan is free in the App Store and has a rating of four-and-a-half stars out of five. It requires iOS 5 or a later version of iOS to work on your iPad. Consider the price, reviews and extra features of the QR Code scanner when you decide which app to download -- there are a lot to choose from in the App Store. Reviews may address whether the app works well on the iPad, when compared to the iPhone and iPod. Free apps can be tried without risk but, on the other hand, apps with a cost may include additional features. Read the app description and check out the screenshots before downloading it to your iPad. QR codes may not be as prolific as they once were, but they're still highly useful for quickly sharing information. The thing is, it's not always clear how to scan one. If you're an Android user, here's the skinny. The Easiest Way: Use Google Lens in the Assistant You may not realize this, but if your phone has Google Assistant, you have a fast, easy, and native way to scan QR codes baked right into your handset. First, long-press the home button to bring up Assistant. Depending on which version of Assistant you have, you might have the Lens button right there as Assistant pops up. Most likely, however, you need to tap on it to stop it from listening for a voice command. Just tap on the colored dots. Once it stops listening, new options become available: Lens to the left of the mic, keyboard to the right. Tap on the "Lens" button. If this is the first time you've used Lens, you'll need to activate it. Just follow the prompts and then grant it camera access. On the first run, it'll give you a quick rundown of things you can do with Lens. Just swipe that away and move the QR into the camera's view. Within seconds, it will show you what the QR is—just tap on it to execute. So, in our test case, tapping the QR navigates to howtogeek.com. Easy peasy. Option Two: Use the Google Lens App Some may argue that this is actually easier than option one, and to that, I say...maybe. The only reason I consider the first option to be easier is that your phone already has it—pretty much all modern Android handsets come with Assistant, so there's no need to install another app. But if you're all about installing other apps, then here you go. First, fire up the Google Play Store and hit up the Google Lens page. Install that bad boy. Once installed, you'll need to give it permissions and whatnot (assuming you haven't already done so within Assistant). From there, just scan your QR code. Done and done. Now, whenever you need to scan a QR, fire up Lens and get it done. So fast. At one time, QR codes were considered the cool, up-and-coming way to connect brands with consumers online. Unfortunately, the tech didn't quite explode the way some people had hoped. While QR codes have proved useful and are still around, they are hardly ubiquitous. Nonetheless, scanning a QR code is often the fastest and most convenient way to access a web page, and brands often use these codes on their product packaging or promotional materials to guide consumers to product information or special offers. Both iOS and Android devices have built-in QR code reader capabilities. Apple's Camera app and Wallet app have embedded QR code readers, and Android's Google Assistant can help you connect to a QR code via Google Assistant or Google Lens. If these built-in solutions are too obscure or not robust enough for your taste, there are abundant third-party QR code scanner apps out there for both platforms. We've selected the best apps available for Android and iOS. In the meantime, please see our guide on how to scan a QR code with your iPhone or Android device. QR Code Reader + QR Scanner This app is an extensive scanning device that can handle QR codes as well as barcodes, so you can conduct your research while you shop. The app automatically creates a new contact in your phone using the QR codes, including contact information. It can do the same thing with Wi-Fi networks, calendar events, product data, SMS messages, and other connecting features, making the data management process quicker and more straightforward. Android iOS Kaspersky QR Scanner Kaspersky QR Scanner is one of the best free third-party scanning apps for iOS and Android. Developed by the cybersecurity experts at Kaspersky, it does what you'd expect a QR scanning app from a cybersecurity company to do: scan for unsafe and malicious QR codes. It's as easy to use as your smartphone's native Camera app. It quickly checks the security of every QR code you scan with it, providing a warning whenever it encounters a dodgy link. It also brings the added benefit of a History tab, so you can quickly return to the websites associated with past QR codes. Android iOS Free QR Scanner The Android-only app from Simple Design is one of the most popular QR code scanner apps. It's free to use and lets you save QR codes to your phone or easily share them with friends. The QR code reader supports scanning Diksha and ePathshala QR codes in textbooks quickly and easily. You can quickly toggle on your flashlight from within the app to scan codes in a dark environment, create QR codes, and view your scan history. Unlike some apps, this scanner doesn't ask for a bunch of permissions, just access to your camera. Android QR Reader for iPhone QR Reader for iPhone can scan anything, including QR codes, barcodes, documents, puzzles, business cards, and PDF documents. A database scanner can send your barcodes to a server. The app's auto-detect lets you simply point and hold to scan automatically and share via email, messenger, Facebook, or Twitter. Or you can create your own QR codes and export them as PNG or SVG files. iOS NeoReader QR & Barcode Scanner Unlike your mobile native Camera app, NeoReader QR & Barcode Scanner can scan barcodes as well as QR codes. So in addition to scanning a QR code and bringing up a link, you can also use it to scan a product's barcode and search for the product on the web. This is very handy when you find an item while shopping in the store that you'd prefer to order online. The Android-only app is easy to use, and lets you go back through your history of scanned QR codes and barcodes. It's free to download but comes with an option to pay a small fee to remove pop-up ads. Android QR Code Reader & QR Scanner QR Code Reader & QR Scanner is available only for iPhone. It can scan a wide variety of 1D and 2D code types, including QR codes, barcodes, and EAN-13 codes. It scans quickly and saves a history of your scans, so you can go back to a previous QR code quickly. An internet connection is not required for scanning. One nice touch is that it supports flashlight use while the app is working, so you can scan QR codes in the dark. QR Code Reader & QR Scanner is free to download, although you can pay a small fee to remove the ads. iOS Editors' Recommendations