HOW (AND WHY) TO TURN OFF GOOGLE PLAY AUTOMATIC UPDATES ON A3
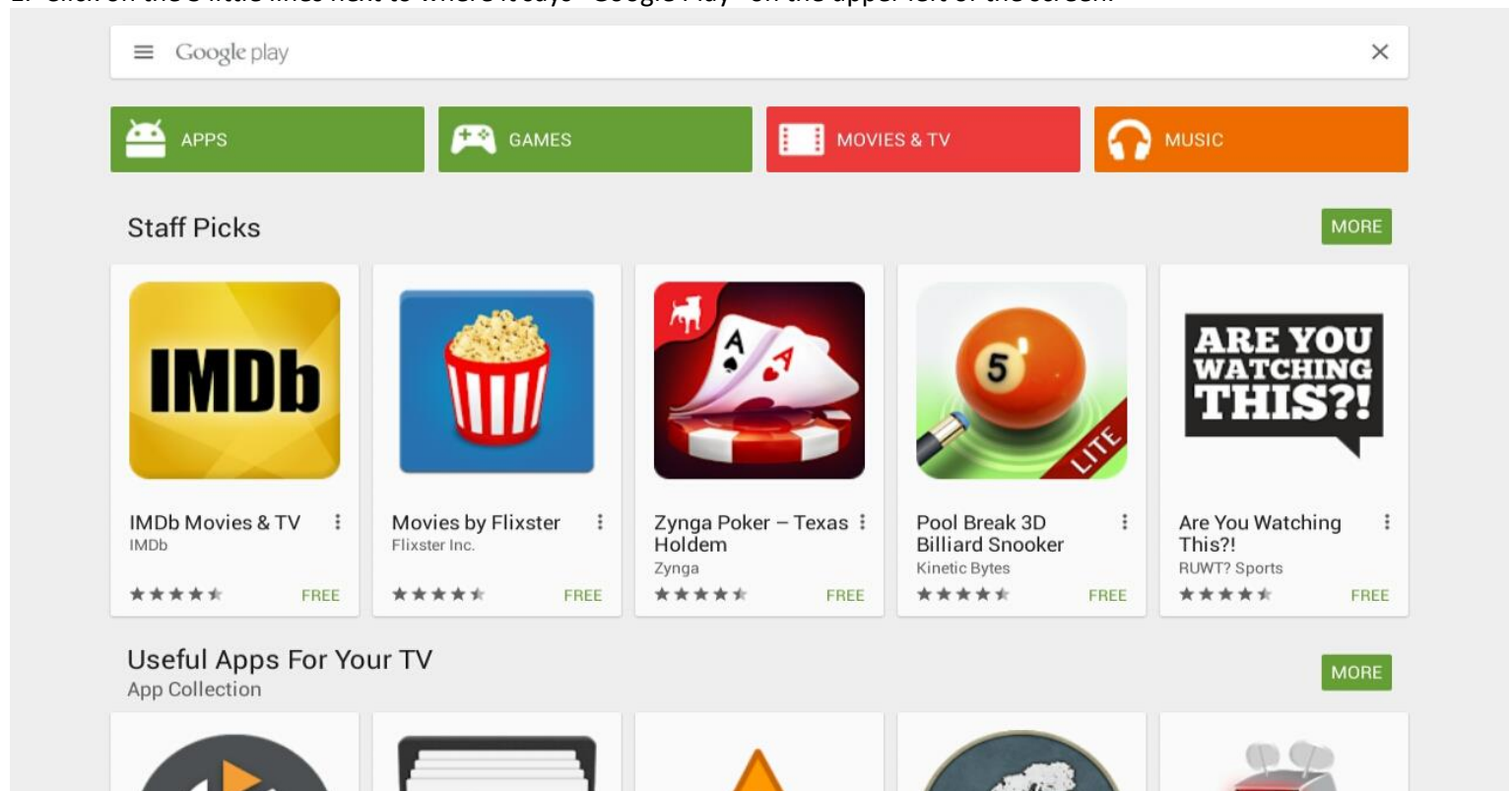
When you setup a new Android device on Google Play, automatic app updates are enabled by default. This is a good idea in theory but in practice it doesn't always work out. Let's start with why you probably don't want automatic app updates on A3 or other Android devices.

The other day I was testing a new A3 configuration and noticed the "Youtube for TV" icon had changed. Not only was the icon different, the App was different. The latest version is similar, if not identical to Youtube mobile app for your phone or tablet. When I investigated I found that Google has basically dropped the TV friendly GUI from the App. Fortunately we have the good TV version in our Appstore so I was able to revert it.

There are many other examples on all sorts of Android devices where a new app doesn't work, doesn't work right, breaks something or the "new" interface just sucks. If you don't have a backup of the old version (and it isn't in our appstore) you can't revert and are stuck with the problem. This is another good reason why you should backup your A3 Apps and any apps you like on your other Android devices.
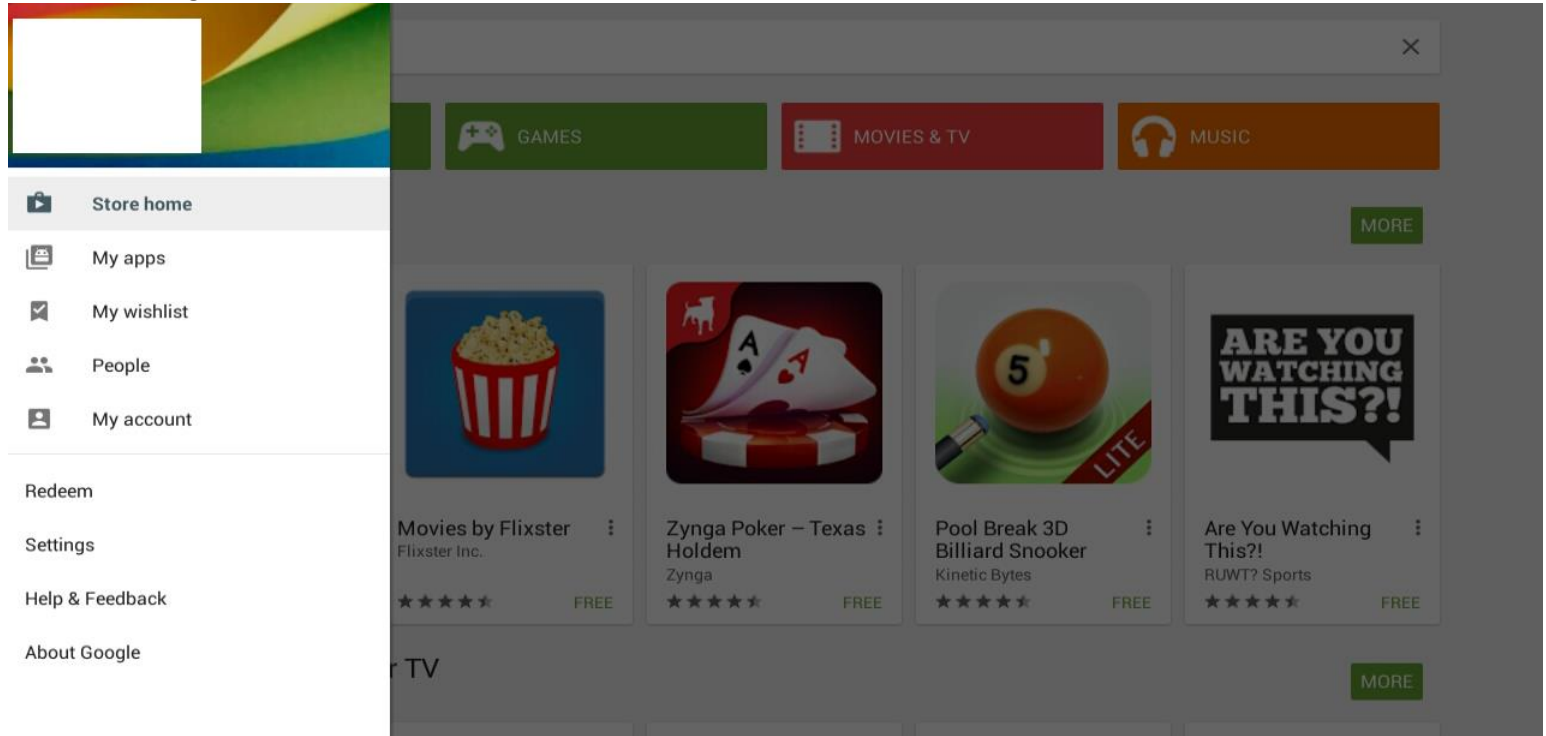
Shortly after you log into Google Play it will go through and attempt to update your Apps. To disable this, do the following in the Google Play App.

1. Click on the 3 little lines next to where it says "Google Play" on the upper left of the screen.
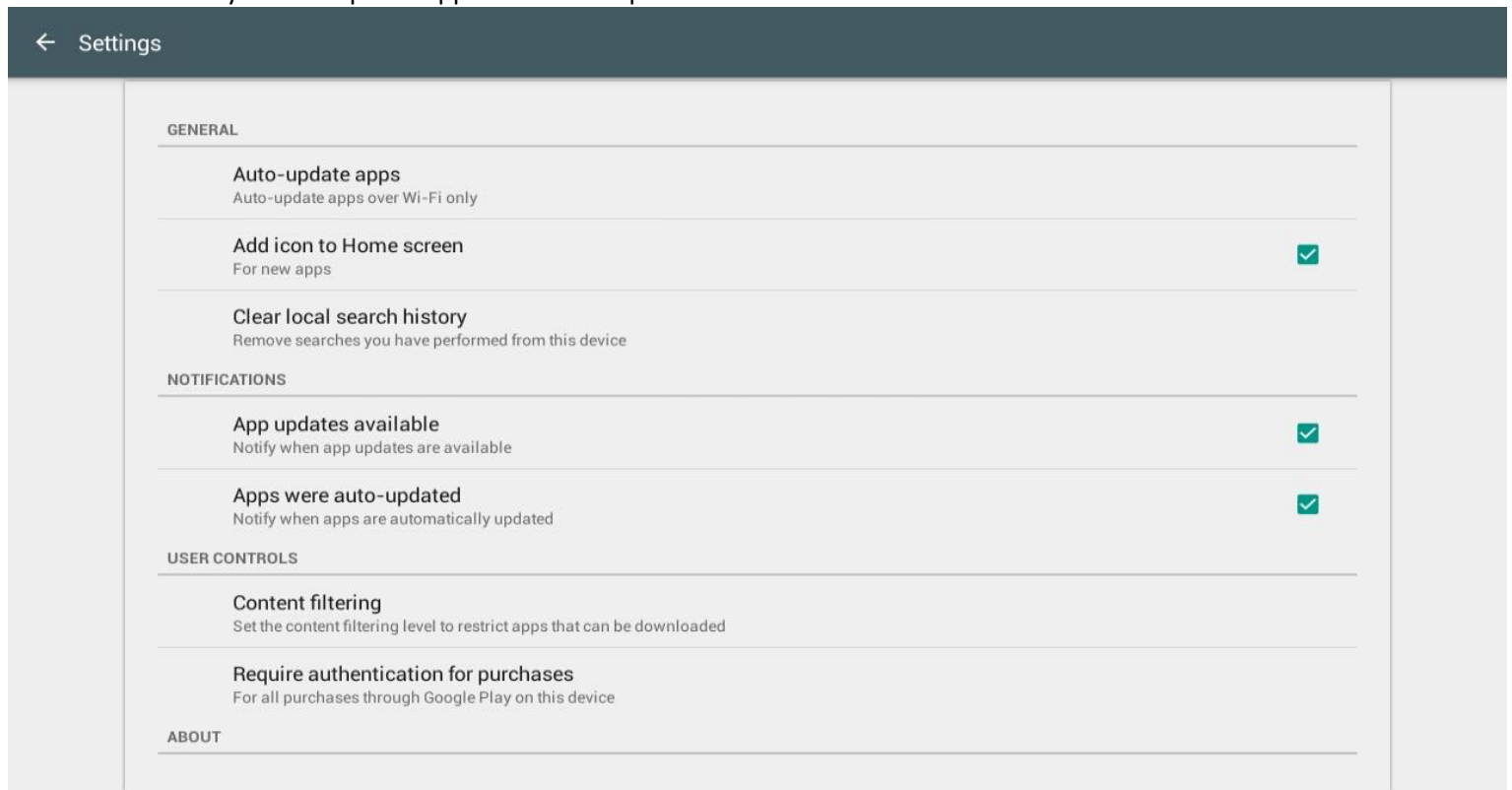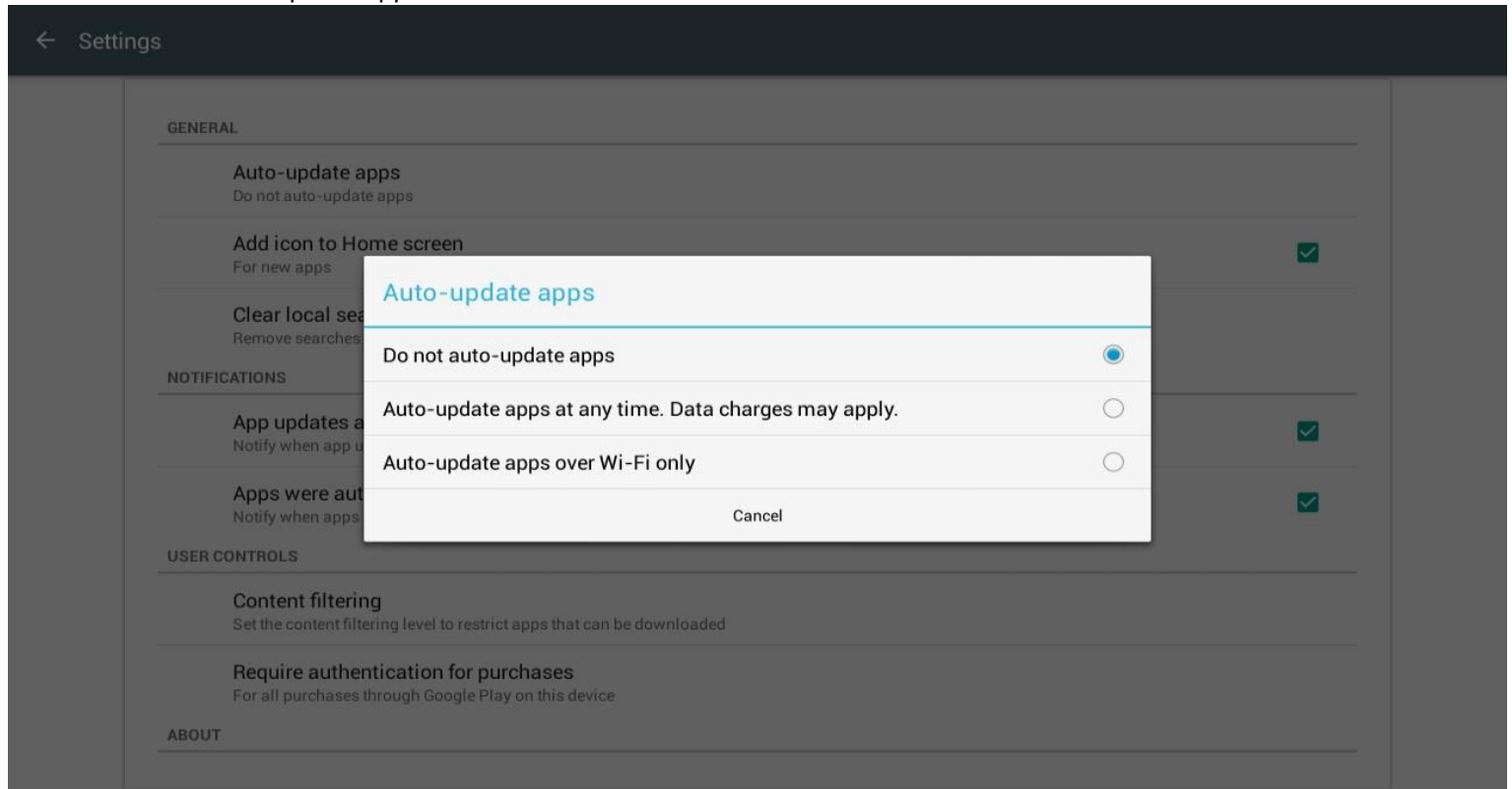
2. Click "Settings" from the side menu.

3. Click where it says "Auto-update apps" near the top.

4. Select "Do not auto-update apps".

If you want to update one or more apps manually, click "My Apps" from the sidebar shown in step #2 above. You can then see which apps have updates and click them individually to see what the changes are and update them if you want. Be aware that nt all Apps will have good descriptions covering changes. It is always a good idea to have backups of your "must have" apps in case something goes wrong.