How to Backup Your MLP Save Data

Edit: As of **Dec. 23, 2014** the old version of the game linked in this guide installs and runs with a little prodding on my unrooted S4 device running Android 4.4.2, but--as I've warned below--the hack/trainer app doesn't work unrooted, and the save data file name has changed as well, so the trainer may not back up newer save data files in light of the change.

Also, updating to the newest version of the game from the 2012 version will reset your progress entirely. Basically, that version of the game appears to be useless now (e.g. for use with the hack) except to play *without any updates*--or maybe I had bad luck.

DISCLAIMERS:
Use this guide at your own risk. I did this instead of waiting for Gameloft's support, but if you're not very tech savvy you might want to wait for them. It is recommended that you read this whole guide first (and the linked guide in Method 2 for setting up the Android SDK) before starting.

If your game won't work after following these instructions it may be due to a corrupted save file or something else beyond the scope of this guide.

Both methods have been tested successfully on my SGS2 with all versions of the game through **April 7, 2013**, though the trainer method of backing up your save data may require rooting if your version of Android is 4.0 or higher. I also added a few details about using the MLP hacker/trainer app. Disclaimer always applies...

Exchanging save data between your Android devices is not practical unless you have *real* L337 haxor skills (in which case this guide is probably beneath you), since, as of the game's release, save files are encrypted using your phone's ID, or, in the case of Android tablets, using your Android ID. I've heard that iOS devices allow the data to exchange between devices so maybe Android will be or has been allowed to do the same since the game was first released.

I don't know under what conditions a tablet's Android ID might change, if at all, but if it does change you could be stuck with an incompatible save file.. just a head's up.

Method 1 - Trainer method

**(Only tested for old versions of the game.
Requires rooting in Android 4.0 or higher)**

SETTING UP:
First enable the installation of non-store apps on your device then navigate to the download link
through the link below using your android browser. After download is complete, your device
should ask whether to install the downloaded .apk file.
http://www.reddit.com/r/MLPIOS/comments/14i10i/android_trainer_40_and_below_or_rooted_only/

^ *This app no longer works for hacking* unless you reinstall the older version of the game in
which case you'll lose all progress.

BACKING UP YOUR MLP SAVE DATA:
- Open the trainer app.
>It will give you a warning message if your game version is incompatible. That's OK.
- Enter any value in one of the fields (bits, gems, etc) then tap "Save New Values."
>It will automatically save a backup of your data before trying to hack it, then (unless
>you've started a new game in the original version of the game), it will say it was
>unsuccessful.
- You can check whether your data was saved successfully by closing and re-opening the trainer
app and selecting "Restore Save-File Backup" at the bottom. The save data should be named
according to the date and time you ran the hack.
>If no backup file is listed for your most recent run of the hack then your save data may
>have been corrupted or you've just installed the game fresh without playing to a
>permitted save-point so there is no save data for the trainer app to back up and attempt
>to hack.

OPTIONAL MLP REINSTALL:
(For those whose game doesn't work or who wish to reinstall MLP for any other reason)
Next, uninstall the MLP game, reinstall it, and open the game to let it download data. Once it
finishes, play through the first part of a new game from the beginning until it lets you exit the
game. (Funa-fun fuuun!)

TO RESTORE YOUR GAME:
Run the Trainer app again and select "Restore Save-File Backup," tap the dated backup to
select it and restore the save data.
Run your game again and enjoy.

For those who don't wish to install a 3rd party app or who have Android 4.0 + and don't wish to
root their phone, there's still the following tried and tested option...

Method 2 - No rooting, no 3rd party apps

SETTING UP:
The first thing you need to do is set up Android's SDK and ADB. The link below will guide you through the process.
http://oldwiki.cyanogenmod.org/wiki/Howto:_Install_the_Android_SDK/Windows
(alt) http://www.android.gs/install-android-sdk-adb-windows/

Important notes:
- This method and these notes were written based on the old (now defunct) guide linked above. I haven't tried the alt/newer guide linked above, but it shouldn't be too different, hopefully.

- The guide and my instructions below do NOT require you to root your device or install any extra stuff on your phone.

- Use the links provided in the guide above to download the Android SDK and android_winusb.inf file to your personal computer.

- For me, the SDK Manager it mentions was actually in C:\adt-bundle-windows-x86\sdk\tools and is called "android.bat"

- I replaced all instances of "C:\android-sdk-windows\" in the guide with "C:\adt-bundle-windows-x86\sdk\" because that's the directory that my version of Android's SDK uses instead.

- When installing the drivers on my PC the process went a little differently than described. After rebooting with my android device still attached to my PC and set to allow USB debugging, popups appeared asking me to allow Windows to search for drivers for my phone. I told the wizard to search for drivers including the directory where I stored the android_winusb.inf file that the guide told me to download.

BACKING UP YOUR MLP SAVE DATA:
After I successfully finished the guide, I clicked Start > Run and typed "cmd" (in Windows XP) and clicked OK to open up a terminal/prompt window in order to use ADB (the part of the Android SDK that lets you access and modify files in your device's root directory) to pull my save data using the following command:

adb pull /data/data/com.gameloft.android.ANMP.GloftPOHM/files/mlp_save_prime.dat C:\mlp_prime_save.dat

Note: Old versions of the game use the file name "mlp_save.dat" instead of "mlp_save_prime.dat"

If you've done all this, your save file is now backed up to your PC's C:\ directory. You can move this, but in order to use the command below to restore your save data later you'll have to change the command's first directory or move the save file back to C:\.

OPTIONAL MLP REINSTALL (same as Method 1):
(For those whose game doesn't work or who wish to reinstall MLP for any other reason.)
Next, I uninstalled the MLP game, reinstalled it, and opened the game to let it download data. Once it finished I played through the first part of the game like it was new until it let me exit the normal way. (Funa-fun fuuun!)

TO RESTORE YOUR GAME:
Finally, with my save data in my C:\ directory, in the terminal/prompt window I used the command:

adb push C:\mlp_save.dat /data/data/com.gameloft.android.ANMP.GloftPOHMr/files/mlp_save.dat

Note: Remember that old versions of the game use the file name "mlp_save.dat" if you're using a very outdated version.

Voila! I started the game and it worked like my old game had never been lost.

Useful Links

A hack for use with version 2.10
Tested and works, Dec 25, 2014. Requires no 3rd party Android apps:
http://arzaroth.github.io/CelestiaSunrise/
Reddit thread:
http://www.reddit.com/r/MLPIOS/comments/2qcnp6/android_mlp_savegame_editor/

Gameloft tech support forums (not for use in conjunction with this guide):
http://forum.gameloft.com/index.php/board,1.0.html

Technical Android MLP hacking info (only works for the original version of the game):
http://roundcube3.blogspot.com/2012/11/reverse-engineering-with-ponies.html

Old, pre-winter 2012 version of the MLP app
Compatible with 3rd party trainer hack app prior to Android 4.0:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/127554897397895/permalink/142635442556507/

Lists of MLP players' GL user names to add for friends from EQD:
http://www.mediafire.com/view/?rgqmci3vue7qjza

List of GL user names to add from MLP app Facebook group:
http://www.facebook.com/groups/127554897397895/doc/129474357205949/

Outdated Guides

Another alternative to backing up save data without rooting on Android 4.x:
https://pay.reddit.com/r/MLPIOS/comments/1c5ruz/modify_your_savegame_on_android_4x_without_root/

Easy gems Android and iOS cheating/hacking guide:
http://www.reddit.com/r/MLPIOS/comments/1349n8/hardcore_cheating_for_tons_of_coins_and_gems/