

ChromeOS Flex Operating System - why Google has acquired and launched it

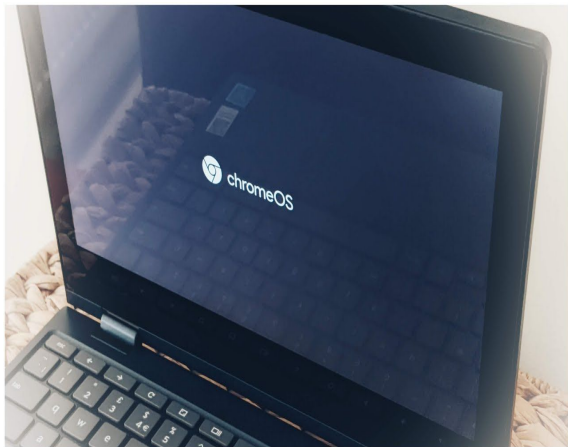
Previously licensed as CloudReady, now owned and run by Google from this year. A basic version of Chrome OS.

Offered **free** to targetted users: schools and businesses wanting to share data. Personal users are not excluded, but scope for gaming, video or image editing, very limited.

Pointers: renaming Google Mail as Google Workspace, providing many apps to facilitate video conferencing, making presentations and visually appealing lectures/lessons. These, latter files can only be shared amongst Chrome users.

The alternative, non - Flex, regular Chrome operating system allows access to apps from Google Playstore - so more creative and leisure activities, but certain business/teaching apps only offered to “enrolled” Chrome users.

Alternative apps to all MS Office software, frequently with additional speech-to-text options, are usually pre-loaded.



How it works

A USB drive is all you need to experience ChromeOS Flex on your PC or Mac. It only takes a few minutes to get set up, and we'll walk you through it.



STEP 1

Create a bootable ChromeOS Flex USB drive to try ChromeOS Flex prior to installing it.



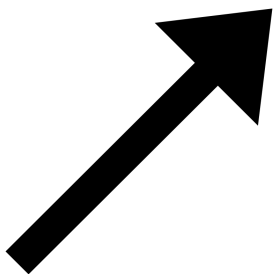
STEP 2

When you're ready, install ChromeOS Flex on your PC or Mac to replace your operating system.



STEP 3

Deploy ChromeOS Flex to more devices in your organisation via a USB drive or network deployment.



Switch to a Chromebook

Find out how to get started using your new Chromebook with this guide. Along the way, you'll see links to resources where you can find more information.

1. Prepare to switch

On your old computer:

[Get a Google Account](#)

[Back up your bookmarks, apps and extensions](#)

[Back up your files](#)

2. Set up your new Chromebook

On your new Chromebook:

[Sign in to your Chromebook](#)

[Find your files](#)

[Set up your printer](#)

3. Get the most out of your Chromebook

[Find apps for common tasks](#)

[Customise your Chromebook](#)

[Work offline](#)

Your target device
ie old PC, should
not be so old that it
doesn't have a
reasonable
processor etc. But
try it anyway!

- **USB drive**

- 8 GB or more.
- From time to time, Sandisk or other USB drives might not work as installers. Find out more in [Known issues](#).



All contents on the USB drive will be erased.

- **Windows, Mac, or Linux device to install Chrome OS Flex on—your target device**

- Google only guarantees Chrome OS Flex functionality on certified models.
- Variants of certified models might have unexpected issues.
- Chrome OS Flex might work on non-certified devices but performance, functionality, and stability are not guaranteed.
- Minimum device requirements:
 - Architecture: Intel or AMD x86-64-bit compatible device
 - RAM: 4 GB
 - Internal storage: 16 GB
 - Bootable from USB drive
 - BIOS: Full administrator access. You'll need to boot from the Chrome OS Flex USB installer and make some adjustments in the BIOS if you run into issues.
 - Processor and graphics: Components made before 2010 might result in a poor experience.
Note: Intel GMA 500, 600, 3600, and 3650 graphics hardware do not meet Chrome OS Flex performance standards.

Related topics

- [Certified models list](#)







[Next page](#)

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Chrome OS Flex installation guide

-  Prepare for installation
-  1: Create the USB installer
-  2: Boot device using the USB installer
-  3: Start using Chrome OS Flex
-  4: Set up and enroll Chrome OS Flex devices
-  Get help with Chrome OS Flex

After creating (on a Chromebook) a copy of the OS on a 32Gb memory stick, then boot it on the target device ie your ancient desktop PC.

Chrome OS Flex installation guide

2: Boot device using the USB installer



Use the USB installer that you just created to boot the device you want to run Chrome OS Flex on.

Before you begin: Read the notes and installation instructions specific to your device. See [Certified models list](#).

1. Turn off the device you want to run Chrome OS Flex on.
Note: Make sure the target device is completely powered off, and not asleep or idle.
2. Insert the Chrome OS Flex USB installer.
3. Boot the device from the USB drive. If you're unsure which key to use, see [Boot keys](#) below.
 - a. Press the power button.
 - b. Immediately begin repeatedly pressing your device's boot key.
4. Select your USB installer as the boot device using:
 - a. **One-time boot menu**—If your interrupt triggers a one-time boot menu, you'll see a list of boot options on your screen. You can use arrow keys, or mouse in some cases, to select your USB installer.
 - b. **BIOS or UEFI menu**—If your interrupt opens the full BIOS or UEFI setup menu, you'll need to find settings related to Boot or Startup. Then, follow the on-screen instructions to set your USB installer as the first, primary, or preferred boot device.
 - c. **Other menu**—If you see other options on screen, navigate to an option that matches one of the menus described above. Then proceed as described in those steps.



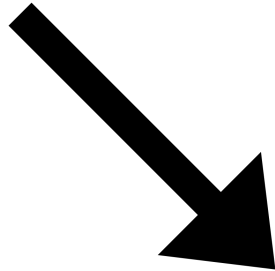
Boot device names can be difficult to read. If you're struggling to identify your particular USB installer, look for brand names or storage sizes that you recognize.

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You override the PC's default boot from its own hard drive, usually by pressing one particular key repeatedly as soon as the power key is pressed.

If that doesn't work, boot into Windows on the PC. Go to /Settings/Recovery/Advanced Startup, then, with the USB Stick in place, click "Restart Now"



Recovery

Reset this PC

If your PC isn't running well, resetting it might help. This lets you choose to keep your personal files or remove them, and then reinstalls Windows.

Get started

Go back to the previous version of Windows 10

This option is no longer available because your PC was updated more than 10 days ago.

Get started

[Learn more](#)

Advanced startup

Start up from a device or disc (such as a USB drive or DVD), change Windows startup settings, or restore Windows from a system image. This will restart your PC.

Restart now

On first booting up, you will be asked to sign into your Google account, to accept syncing and “essential” data collection, and prompted to review security.

MAKE SURE YOU OPT FOR TRIAL USE, NOT PERMANENT INSTALLATION OF THE OS

Then the Welcome pages will guide you.


Welcome to your Chrome device

Unlock all the amazing capabilities of your Chrome device.




Get started

Set up your Chrome device with these tips and tricks




Prepare to switch

✓ Done [Learn more](#)




Manage your files

[Learn more](#)




Find & organize apps

[Learn more](#)




Lock or unlock your screen

[Learn more](#)



Change background wallpaper

[Learn more](#)

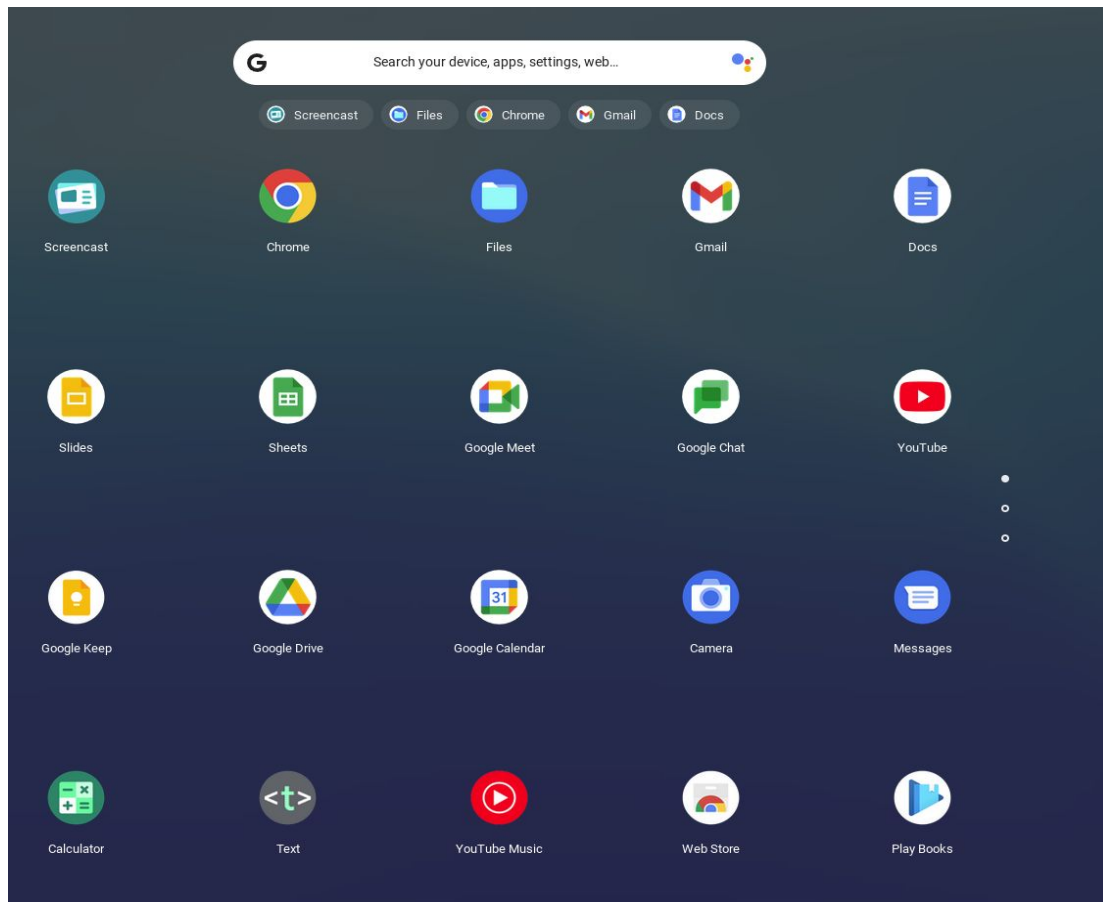


Explore accessibility features

[Learn more](#)


[View all](#)

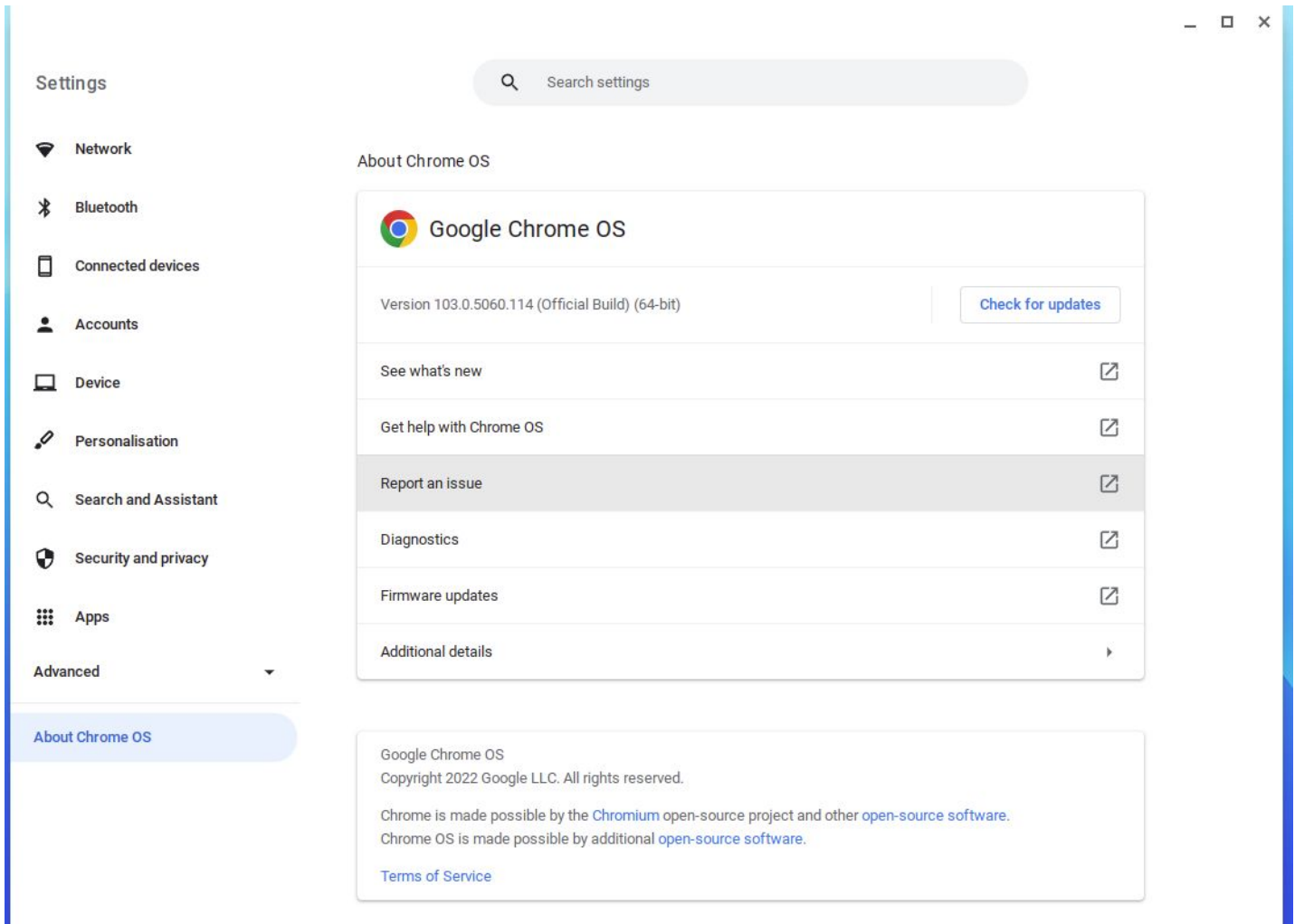
Clicking the Launcher
(bottom left of homepage)
reveals the pre-loaded
apps



Chrome Flex will only accept apps from the Chrome Webstore (not Google Play)



In Settings, found on the bottom RHS of homepage as  /About Chrome OS, general help issues and diagnostics are to be found.



The screenshot shows the Chrome OS Settings application. On the left is a vertical sidebar with various settings categories: Network, Bluetooth, Connected devices, Accounts, Device, Personalisation, Search and Assistant, Security and privacy, Apps, and Advanced. The 'Advanced' category is expanded, and 'About Chrome OS' is selected, highlighted in light blue. The main content area displays the 'About Chrome OS' page. At the top, there is a search bar labeled 'Search settings'. Below it, the title 'About Chrome OS' is shown. The main content is enclosed in a white box with rounded corners. It features the Google Chrome OS logo and the text 'Google Chrome OS'. Below this, the version information 'Version 103.0.5060.114 (Official Build) (64-bit)' is displayed, along with a 'Check for updates' button. A list of links follows: 'See what's new', 'Get help with Chrome OS', 'Report an issue' (which is highlighted in grey), 'Diagnostics', 'Firmware updates', and 'Additional details'. At the bottom of the page, there is a section with copyright information: 'Google Chrome OS Copyright 2022 Google LLC. All rights reserved.' and a paragraph stating 'Chrome is made possible by the Chromium open-source project and other open-source software. Chrome OS is made possible by additional open-source software.' A link for 'Terms of Service' is also present.

Settings

Search settings

Network

Bluetooth

Connected devices

Accounts

Device

Personalisation

Search and Assistant

Security and privacy

Apps

Advanced

About Chrome OS

About Chrome OS

Google Chrome OS

Version 103.0.5060.114 (Official Build) (64-bit)

Check for updates

See what's new

Get help with Chrome OS

Report an issue

Diagnostics

Firmware updates

Additional details

Google Chrome OS
Copyright 2022 Google LLC. All rights reserved.

Chrome is made possible by the [Chromium](#) open-source project and other [open-source software](#).
Chrome OS is made possible by additional [open-source software](#).

[Terms of Service](#)

Diagnostics

System

Connectivity

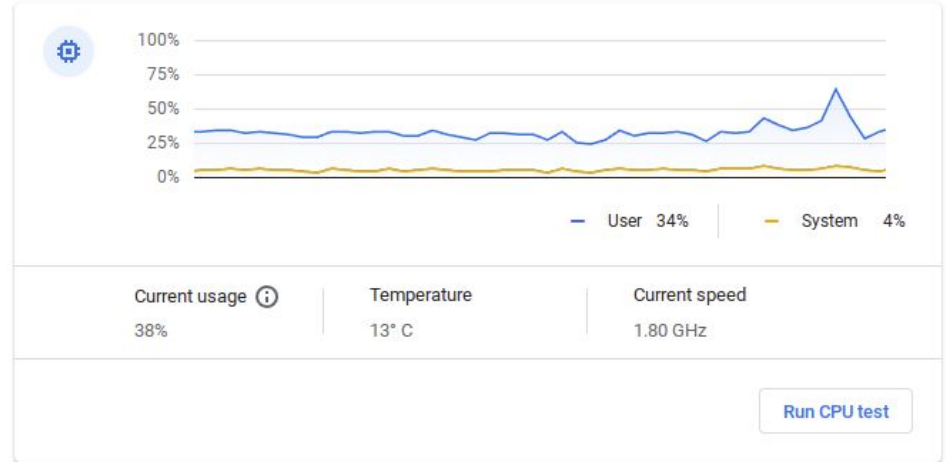
In Diagnostics, check how much extra memory you now have available, even when the old MS OS is still on the hard drive!

1Gb is ample as files are saved largely in the cloud.

revent, version 103.14816.0

CPU

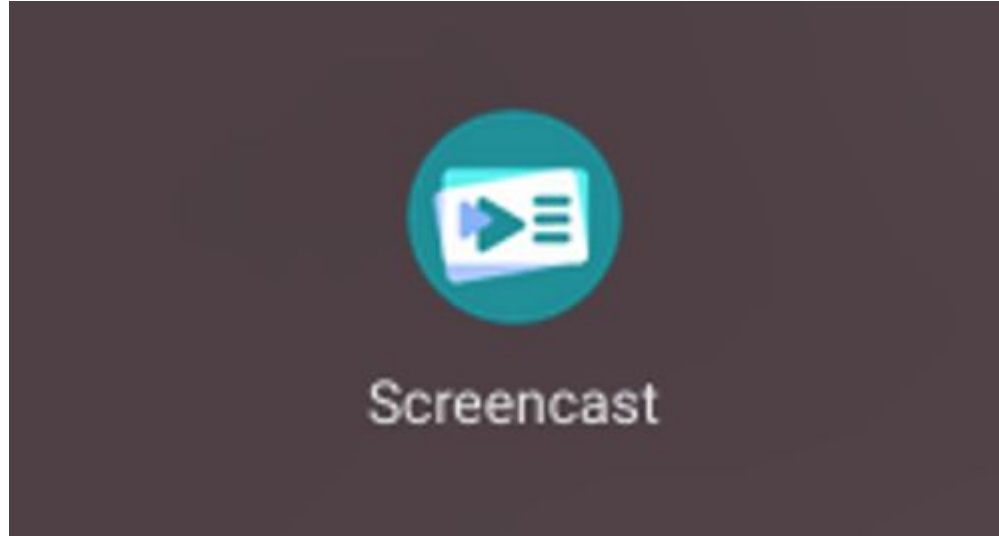
AMD A6-6400K APU with Radeon(tm) HD Graphics (2 threads, 3.90GHz)



Memory



Final thought: Tempting for U3A subject presenters??



Make a presentation from live video, images, sound, straight from your computer screen (if you wish) or saved images/ slides. Add titles and text, which are searchable, with voice-to-text.

(Can only be shared via Google Drive, and played on devices running recent Chrome release.)