

The IT leader's guide to cloud-based VDI

Five tips to help your organization
embrace a cloud-first future





The future of work is anywhere, any time, on any device.

Forward-thinking enterprises are implementing flexible and secure virtualized desktop infrastructure (VDI) and Desktop-as-a-Service (DaaS) solutions, enabling proactive IT leaders to meet today's challenges of remote and hybrid teams, legacy application support, and security.

Cloud-based VDI helps organizations realize the benefits of virtualization while delivering even greater flexibility and security, improved performance and end-user experience, and a lower total cost of ownership.

To harness the power of cloud-based VDI, enterprises need a cloud-first OS and devices built for modern ways of working. VDI on ChromeOS allows innovative IT leaders to streamline IT deployment and management, minimize costs, and provide access to all kinds of applications, including Windows and legacy apps.

ChromeOS also maximizes the return on investment of your tech infrastructure. Across an organization, VDI on ChromeOS empowers your employees and teams to do their best work in the cloud while securing every layer of the IT stack, from the hardware to the OS, browsers, apps, and data. With VDI on ChromeOS, your enterprise can embrace cloud-based computing with confidence.

Follow these tips on cloud-based VDI and learn how adopting VDI on ChromeOS can help your enterprise realize a true, cloud-first future.



1

Remember – your data is only as secure as each level of your IT stack.

Modern enterprises require IT solutions that protect both business and customer data. With data breaches recently increasing by more than 68%,¹ organizations need to deploy more robust security solutions across their IT stack.

While storing data in the cloud instead of locally can help mitigate risk, even the most secure virtualization solutions are ineffective if they run on compromised devices – compromised hardware means susceptible VDI, apps, and data.

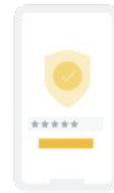
ChromeOS has multiple layers of built-in security that protect every level of your IT infrastructure.

ChromeOS has had zero reported ransomware attacks.

To further safeguard data, ChromeOS device management provides additional advanced security controls via the Google Admin console. The console acts as a command center for your IT team, with more than 600 policies that allow administrators to restrict access to specific apps and extensions, block external storage devices such as USBs, set devices to automatically erase all data and settings after a user logs out, and remotely disable and powerwash devices.

ChromeOS partners with leading virtualization providers, including Citrix and VMware, that have additional layers of security integrated into their VDI platforms. Deploying VDI on ChromeOS helps ensure your users and endpoints are not compromised by any component of your IT infrastructure.

Protect every level of your IT stack from phishing, malware, and ransomware attacks:



Hardware

All ChromeOS devices include a Titan C security chip and are built to meet Google-approved specifications for quality, performance, and security. Hardware-backed security powered by the Titan C chip ensures built-in user protection and system integrity.



Operating System

A verified boot every time ChromeOS starts up ensures the firmware and operating system have not been tampered with or corrupted in any way since your last session. Regular and automatic security updates also keep the device secure while limiting employee downtime.



Applications

While threats often hide in executables, ChromeOS blocks all external executable files so they never have the chance to corrupt your data. ChromeOS also blocks apps that are not from the Google Play Store from running.



Browser

Sandboxing and Site Isolation limits the spread of security threats, restricting them to a single application or browser tab. Google Safe Browsing also warns users if they attempt to navigate to dangerous sites or download malicious files.



2


Keep your end user top of mind.

Enabling remote work is the primary reason enterprises adopt VDI solutions, with nearly 60% of the US workforce currently working remotely either full or part time.² When your workforce is dispersed, a seamless end-user experience is crucial to ensuring productivity and employee retention.

Some organizations have adopted traditional thin clients to support their virtualization needs, yet these solutions are not delivering a satisfactory experience for end users. Unfamiliar interfaces and a lack of flexibility hinders workers and inhibits productivity.

Given that nearly half of workers say they would quit their job due to frustrations with technology,³ it is critical to consider end-user experience when evaluating virtualization solutions.

A recent study shows that IT leaders agree. 58% of surveyed leaders already prioritize an intuitive user experience and interface during their operating system evaluation process, while 60% of organizations use employee satisfaction to measure the benefits of their traditional thin client operating systems.²



49% of US workers would leave their job due to frustrations with technology.³

VDI on ChromeOS delivers seamless, familiar, and secure end-user experiences while enabling the way your employees expect to work today: anywhere, Any time, with access to their desktop, files, and apps via the cloud.

Your organization has a wide range of premium ChromeOS devices to choose from, and our device selectors help you find the device that best meets your business needs. You can even utilize old PCs or Macs using ChromeOS Flex.

In addition, ChromeOS has a variety of peripherals that have been verified to work effectively on ChromeOS through the Works with Chromebook program.

A better user experience also helps improve performance and productivity. Deploying ChromeOS can save up to 45 minutes per deployed device⁴ from updates that happen in the background, devices that don't slow down overtime, and the cloud-first approach to collaboration and work. The intuitive, error-free user experience means employees can onboard quickly and have a clutter-free desktop, so they can focus on doing their best work.

Employees expect modern, intuitive IT experiences, while business leaders know that easy-to-use solutions ultimately benefit the bottom line. VDI on ChromeOS keeps your end users working and your business moving.

3

Account for both your long-term and upfront costs.

The total cost of ownership (TCO) is important to consider when evaluating any IT solution. The TCO metric refers to the initial costs associated with purchasing and implementing a solution as well as the operational costs that accrue over time.


While many organizations deploy traditional thin clients to reduce upfront costs, research shows that

adoption hurdles, especially at scale, can ultimately lead to a higher TCO. Thirty percent of organizations with a traditional thin OS had a longer and more expensive deployment than expected.²

VDI on ChromeOS offers more predictable costs. With less IT overhead, security cost avoidance, and endpoint devices that last longer and cost less to redeploy, you can optimize your cost-to-serve and reduce TCO.

You can also reduce the TCO of your existing hardware with ChromeOS Flex. The free upgrade allows you to install ChromeOS on old PCs and Macs via USB or network deployment. It's an easy and sustainable way to secure and modernize your existing device fleet while increasing its ROI.

As an end-to-end offering, VDI on ChromeOS streamlines purchasing by simplifying the technical design and buying process, increasing scalability, and improving time-to-value.



**ChromeOS deploys
63% faster than other
operating systems
saving more than 45
minutes per employee
device.⁴**

4

Ensure access to all of your applications, workloads, and workflows.

As enterprises have rapidly adopted hybrid and remote work, secure access to non-cloud-based applications has become more difficult. This is despite the fact that the vast majority of organizations still employ on-premises workloads.²

Modern businesses need their workflows – whether universal tasks or industry-specific applications – to connect across native, cloud, and virtualized environments. VDI on ChromeOS offers a seamless, cloud-based experience that simplifies employee workflows and preserves access to applications across all environments, from native to browser to virtualized Windows and legacy applications.

ChromeOS integrates seamlessly with industry leading VDI providers including Citrix and VMware. Through their intuitive and easy-to-use virtualization platforms, your employees can access the apps they need from anywhere on their ChromeOS device.

ChromeOS Flex is also available to support VDI for employees that choose to work on a PC or Mac rather than a Chromebook.

Try cloud-first computing with [ChromeOS Flex](#) – a free upgrade that allows you to install ChromeOS on aging PCs and Macs.



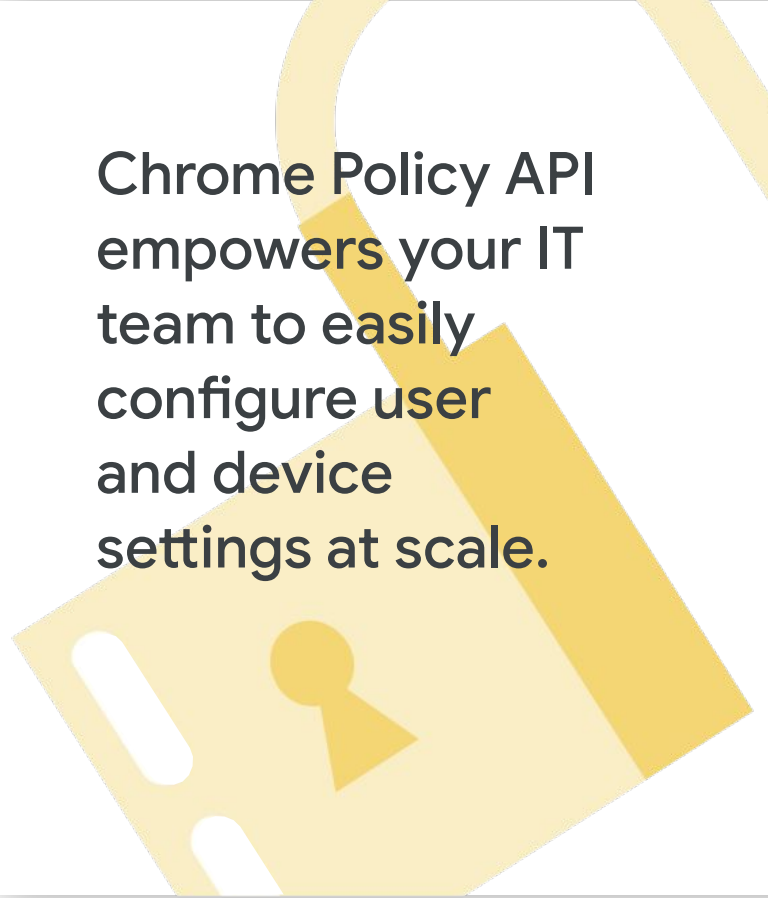
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Make less work for your IT team, not more.

While the majority of IT leaders cite scalability and manageability as a primary reason for purchasing a virtualization solution,² many organizations still struggle to deploy and manage their VDI solutions. This may stem from the limitations of traditional thin clients.

With VDI on ChromeOS, your IT teams can simplify device configuration and employee onboarding to meet your organizational needs for scalability and manageability.

ChromeOS devices can be drop-shipped directly to employees and, as cloud-first devices, do not require imaging. Instead, zero-touch enrollment means no device configuration. The device ships already set up and ready to be logged into by an employee. Their apps, settings, and policies are downloaded automatically to the device from the cloud.



Chrome Policy API empowers your IT team to easily configure user and device settings at scale.

Once deployed, organizations with Chrome Enterprise Upgrade can easily manage devices using the cloud-based Google Admin console. The platform enables IT administrators to remotely manage your entire device fleet. More than 600 policies allow IT to set up specific ChromeOS features and force or restrict access to specific apps, extensions, and internal networks, among other controls.

The Chrome Policy API is another feature of ChromeOS that empowers IT administrators to programmatically view, manage, and gather insights about your organization's device and browser use. The API also enables administrators to automate settings across multiple units and import or export policies from a backup file.

These configurations mean that ChromeOS devices deploy up to 63% faster than other devices, and the amount of time spent on device management could improve by 36%.⁴

Deploying VDI on ChromeOS, therefore, means less time spent managing devices and more time using them.



Next Steps

IT leaders interested in moving forward with VDI on ChromeOS can get started with the following steps:

- 1** [Try ChromeOS Flex for free](#)
A sustainable way to modernize your existing hardware and realize the benefits of a cloud-first OS.
- 2** [Sign up for a Chrome Enterprise Upgrade trial](#)
Deploy, manage, and secure your ChromeOS devices through the Google Admin console.
- 3** [Contact us](#)
The ChromeOS team can answer your questions, connect you to a partner, or help you get started.

TL;DR

Here are 5 reasons why VDI on ChromeOS can help your enterprise become a more efficient, cloud-first organization:

- ChromeOS features multiple layers of security measures that protect your users and data at every level of your IT infrastructure.
- The end-user experience of VDI on ChromeOS boosts employee satisfaction and productivity by enabling them to access the apps they need, anywhere, any time.
- Deploying VDI on ChromeOS is more cost effective than a traditional thin client due to lower overheads, minimized security costs, and longer-lasting hardware.
- VDI on ChromeOS provides seamless and streamlined access to workflows, workloads, and applications across native, cloud, and virtualized environments.
- ChromeOS simplifies device configuration and employee onboarding, so your organization can easily scale and manage its IT infrastructure.

Sources:

1. [Identity Theft Resource Center's 2021 Annual Data Breach Report Sets New Record for Number of Compromises, 2022](#)
2. [2021 Deloitte and ChromeOS End-User Compute \(EUC\) Study](#)
3. [Nearly Half of Workers Will Quit Their Job if Their Workplace Technology is Not up to Scratch, 2021](#)
4. [IDC Business Value Paper, sponsored by Google, The Business Value of ChromeOS, doc #49920522, March 2023](#)

