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You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Installing and running Linux Apps on your Chromebook expands its capabilities with more productivity tools. This tutorial will explain how to install and run Linux apps as well as offer some suggestions on which to use. If you don't already know, the latest version of Chrome OS allow you to install apps without having to create a separate partition. The default distro that gets installed is Debian. There are currently a few other distros like Ubuntu and Fedora. To install Linux apps on Chrome OS, you must be running Chrome OS 69 or later. Check which version you are running by: Clicking your profile picture (lower right-hand corner)Navigating to SettingsClicking on the Hamburger icon (upper left corner)Choosing About Chrome OS If you are not running the latest version, you will see Check for updates. Download the latest version and restart your Chromebook. Start by navigating to Settings. Scroll down the page until you see Linux (Beta).Click the Turn on button. If you don't see this option, it means that your device isn't supported. You will need to upgrade to a newer model to use Linux apps. Turning on Linux (Beta) launches the installation. Click the Install button. The time the process takes will depend upon the computing resources of your Chromebook and your Internet speed.When the installation is complete, a terminal window will open. Once you have access to the terminal window, initiate your first set of update commands. Linux terminal commands are an easy way to get going. Start by typing the following commands in the Terminal and then hit Enter: sudo apt-get update sudo apt -y upgrade When on the desktop, Linux requires you to type in your password when using the sudo command. There is no need to do so on your Chromebook. You are now ready to install Linux apps with the following command: sudo apt install [app name] After hitting Enter, the installation will begin. When prompted to confirm the installation, click y and then Enter. During the installation, you will see a lot of text scrolling across the screen as the components are downloaded, unpacked, and installed. When the install is complete, the terminal returns to the green command prompt. To close it, type exit into the prompt and then enter.To see your newly installed apps, look in your Chrome OS launcher. Installed Linux apps are located inside the Chrome OS Launcher along with web apps, Android apps, and everything else you have on your device. Not sure which apps to try? Below are some of the best app solutions for tasks that are not sufficiently filled by Android and web apps. Although the easiest way to edit documents on a Chromebook are Microsoft Office Online and Google Docs, these platforms are not able to open all file formats. LibreOffice is an alternative open-source office suite that supports a vast number of file formats and works on a variety of platforms. LibreOffice includes 7 Word processor (Write)Spreadsheet (Calc)Vector graphic editor (Draw)Presentation editor (Impress)Formula editing (Math) To install LibreOffice on your Chromebook, use the following command from Terminal: sudo apt install -y libreoffice libreoffice-gtk3 This command will install two packages. The first is LibreOffice itself. The second is the plugin that enables it to fit in with the Chrome OS Linux theme. GIMP is a powerful photo editor. Users can perform several tasks, including drawing with various brushes, using multiple image layers, and blurring parts of an image. With GIMP, users can open and save many different file types, including BMP, JPEG, PNG, and PSD. The best version of GIMP to install is the Flatpak release. If you don't have Flatpak, use the following command in the Terminal to set it up. sudo apt install -y flatpak To install GIMP, run the following command: sudo flatpak install -y Once downloaded, GIMP will be in the Chrome OS app drawer. To access it and other downloaded apps, navigate to File > Open and then click the folder with your Google account name on it. Visual Studio Code is a code editor with many features including debugging, support for Git, and auto-complete for popular languages. To install Visual Studio Code, go to the download page and click on the .deb button. When the download is complete, go to the Downloads folder in the Chrome Files app. To install it, double-click on the .deb file. For those who want a stand-alone email and calendar program, Evolution is an app you will want to download. It puts your contacts, emails, calendar, memos, and tasks into a single easy to use interface. Evolution works well with any standard IMAP-enabled or POP accounts as well as Gmail. To install it, open the Terminal app in the Chrome OS launcher, type the following command, and then press Enter: sudo add-apt-repository ppa:gnome3-team/gnome3-staging When asked to confirm the installation, press Enter again. Next, type in the command below and hit Enter: sudo apt-get update To complete the installation, type this command: sudo apt-get install evolution When prompted to confirm the installation, click y. In an alternative LibreOffice, LibreOffice includes a word processor, a spreadsheet program, and a presentation tool, among other things. Install it withudo apt install libreoffice-gtk3 -qDdtdtorrent. This is a free Torrent client that allows you to download and upload files easily. Install it withsudo apt-get install qbittorrent -yfileZilla: If you want to move files from your device to a remote server, an app like FileZilla makes the process faster. Install it withsudo apt-get install filezilla -yEvolution: If you want to use a desktop email client instead of a web-based one, the Evolution Linux app is for you. Install it withsudo apt-get install evolution -yAudacity: This advanced audio editor and recorder can come in handy when playing around with various audio files. Install it withsudo apt-get install audacity -yHow to play Linux games on a Chromebook?If you're looking to play Linux games on your Chrome OS device, you may be left disappointed as its not a very straightforward process and even after that, things may not work as expected. This holds true even if you own a powerful device as Chrome OS wasn't built with gaming in mind. That said, here are a few methods you can try to play (Linux) games on your Chromebook:Install the official Steam for Chrome OS app. Keep in mind that this is a beta and only select Chromebooks qualify.Stream Xbox Game Pass games via a web browser.Enable the Linux environment as outlined in the above sections. Then, install Steam as you normally would within any other Debian system. Follow the instructions outlined in the Debian wiki.Most Chrome OS devices dont include powerful graphics hardware, so start with less demanding titles. In my experience, 2D games like Terraria work without a hitch on Intel Core and AMD Ryzen processors. However, you will notice slowdowns in more demanding 3D titles even from half a decade ago. FAQsHow do I enable Linux apps on Chrome OS?To enable Linux apps, open Settings > Advanced > Developers and tap Turn on next to the Linux developer environment tab.Can a Chromebook run Linux apps?Yes, most modern Chromebooks can run Linux apps. You, a Chrome OS user, have to do this manually. Higher-end Chrome OS devices have Linux support built into the OS. However, you must manually enable Linux support on a Chromebook. You first need to enable the Linux subsystem. Then, either download an app package or use the apt-get command to install Linux apps as described in this article.How do I uninstall Linux apps on a Chromebook?ChromebooksGoogle Chrome OSLinuxLaptop or tablet computer running ChromeOSChromebookProduct typeLaptop, desktop, tablet and all-in-one platformOSGoogleProduced byabout 60 manufacturers including GoogleCountryUnited StatesIntroducedJune 15, 2011(2011-06-15)Websitewww.google.com/chromebook/Chromebook (sometimes stylized in lowercase as chromebook) is a line of laptops, desktops, tablets and all-in-one computers that run Chrome OS, a proprietary operating system developed by Google. Chromebooks are optimised for web access. They also run Android apps, Linux applications, and Progressive web apps which do not require an Internet connection.[1] They are manufactured and offered by various OEMs.[2]The first Chromebooks shipped on June 15, 2011. As of 2020, Chromebook's market share is 10.8%, placing it above the Mac platform; it has mainly found success in education markets.[3]Since 2021, all Chromebooks receive 10 years of regular automatic updates with security patches from Google, previously it was 8 years.[4][5] Chromebooks can be repurposed with other operating systems and/or used for other purposes if required.[6]The first Chromebooks for sale, by Acer Inc. and Samsung, were announced at the Google I/O conference on May 11, 2011 and began shipping on June 15, 2011.[7] Lenovo, Hewlett-Packard (now HP Inc.) and Google itself entered the market in early 2013. In December 2013, Samsung launched a Samsung Chromebook specifically for the Indian market that employed the company's Exynos 5 Dual core processor.[8]Critical reaction to the device was initially skeptical, with some reviewers, such as then New York Times technology columnist David Pogue,[9] unfavorably comparing the value proposition of Chromebooks with that of more fully featured laptops running the Microsoft Windows operating system. That complaint dissipated later in reviews of machines from Acer and Samsung that were priced lower.[10]In February 2013, Google announced it began shipping the Chromebook Pixel, a higher-spec machine with a high-end retail price.[11]In January 2015, Acer reintroduced the first big screen Chromebook, the Acer Chromebook 15 with an FHD 15.6-inch display.[12]By March 2016, Chromebooks made up 60% of computers purchased in the United States. In October 2012, Simon Phipps, writing in InfoWorld, said, "The Chromebook line is probably the most successful Linux desktop/laptop computer we've seen to date".[13]On October 9, 2023, Google announced Chromebook Plus, a new category of Chromebook that requires minimum hardware specifications, such as CPU (Intel Core i3 12th Gen or the AMD Ryzen 3 7000 series), at least 8GB of RAM, 128GB of local storage, 1080p IPS or better display and a 1080p+ web camera. The Plus supports video-editing with LumaFusion and web versions of Google Photos Magic Eraser and Adobe Photoshop.[14] In May 2016, Google announced it would make Android apps available on Chromebooks via the Google Play application distribution platform. At the time, Google Play access was scheduled for the ASUS Chromebook Flip, the Acer Chromebook R 11 and the most recent Chromebook Pixel, with other Chromebooks slated over time.[15][16][17] Partnering with Google, Samsung released the Chromebook Plus and Chromebook Pro in early 2017, the first Chromebooks to come with the Play Store pre-installed.[18] A February 2017 review in The Verge reported that the Plus with its ARM processor handled Android apps "much better" than the Intel-based Pro, but said that "Android apps on Chrome OS are still in beta" and are "very much [an] unfinished experience".[19] The number of ChromeOS systems supporting Android apps in either the stable or beta channel is increasing.[20][21] In the 2021 Android 11 launch, it was announced that Android apps would be moved to a new virtual machine called ArcVM, to improve Androids environment isolation for better security and maintainability.[22]In May 2018, Google announced it would make Linux desktop applications available on Chromebooks via a virtual machine code-named "Crosstini". ChromeOS, which runs on Chromebooks, is already based on the Linux kernel, but it does not provide default support for applications that expect a GNU-based system generation, the Pixelbook excludes an option for LTE. Instead, it implements Google's "instant tethering", which automatically tethers a Pixelbook to a Pixel phone's mobile connection.[13][7]Main article: Pixelbook Google announced in October 2019, the Pixelbook Go announced in October 2019, the Pixelbook Go was released as a budget version of the Pixelbook, notable for its comparatively low price of \$649 and light weight of 2.1 pounds.[138] A version with a 4K display and Intel Core i7 processor followed in December.[139]Samsung Series 5Reviewing the Samsung Series 5 specifications, Scott Stein of CNET was unimpressed with a machine with a 12-inch screen and just 16GB of onboard storage. "Chrome OS might be lighter than Windows XP, but we'd still prefer more media storage space. At this price, you could also get an 11.6-inch (290mm) Wi-Fi AMD E-350-powered ultraportable running Windows 7."[66] On the other hand, Mieg Sieglar of TechCrunch wrote a largely favorable review, praising the improvements in speed and touchpad sensitivity over the Cr-48 prototype, as well as the long battery life and the fact that all models are priced below the iPad.[140]In June 2011, iFixit dismantled a Samsung Series 5 and concluded that it was essentially an improved Cr-48. They rated it as 6/10 for reparability, predominantly because the case has to be opened to change the battery and because the RAM chip is soldered to the motherboard. iFixit noted that the "mostly-plastic construction" felt "a little cheap". On the plus side they stated that the screen was easy to remove and most of the components, including the solid-state drive, would be easy to replace. iFixit's Kyle Wiens wrote that the Series 5 "fixes the major shortfalls of the Cr-48 and adds the polish necessary to strike lust into the heart of a broad consumer base: sleek looks, 8+ hours of battery life, and optimized performance."[141]In May 2012, Samsung introduced the Chromebook Series 5 550, with a Wi-Fi model and more expensive 3G model.[142]Reviews generally questioned the device proposition. Dana Wallman of Engadget wrote that the Chromebook's keyboard "put thousand-dollar Ultrabooks to shame" and offered better display quality than on many laptops selling for twice as much. But the price "seems to exist in a vacuum place where tablet apps aren't growing more sophisticated, where Transformer-like Win8 tablets aren't on the way and where there aren't any solid budget alternatives to choose from."[143]The Wall of Beta News wrote that "price to performance and how it compares to other choices" is where Chromebook crumbles for many potential buyers. "He noted that the new models sell for more than their predecessors, and while the price-performance ratio is quite favorable compared to the MacBook Air," by the specs, there are plenty of lower-cost options."[144]Samsung Series 3 ChromebookIn October 2012, the Series 3 Chromebook was introduced at a San Francisco event with the Samsung Chromebook XE303. The device was cheaper, thinner and lighter than the Chromebook 550. Google marketed the Series 3 as the computer for everyone, due to its simple operating system (ChromeOS) and affordable price. Target markets included students and first-time computer users, as well as housewives looking for an extra computer.[145][146]The lower price proved a watershed for some reviewers. New York Times technology columnist David Pogue reversed his earlier thumbs-down verdict on the Chromebook, writing that "\$250 changes everything." The price is half that of an iPad, even less than an iPod Touch. And you're getting a laptop." He wrote that the Chromebook does many of the things people use computers and laptops for: playing flash videos, and opening Microsoft Office documents. "In other words, Google is correct when it asserts that the Chromebook is perfect for schools, second computers in homes and businesses who deploy hundreds of machines."[19][10]CNET's review of the Series 3 Chromebook was even more favorable, saying the machine largely delivered as a computer for students and as an additional computer for a householdespecially for users who are already using Google Web applications like Google Docs, Google Drive, and Gmail. "It's got workable if not standout hardware, its battery life is good, it switches on quickly, and the \$249 price tag means it's not as much of a commitment as the \$550 Samsung Series 5 550 that arrived in May." The review subtracted points for performance. "It's fine for many tasks, but power users accustomed to having more than a couple dozen browser tabs open might steer clear."[145]The Chromebook 3 is distinct from and distinguished from the similarly named Samsung Series 3 in several respects: newer (released 2016), different architecture (Intel Celeron N3050 instead of Exynos 5), a 15" Upson, Linux, Pichai, Sundar (May 11, 2011). "A New Kind Of Computer". The Official Google Blog. Retrieved May 12, 2011. "Samsung Chromebook launched in India for Rs.26990". Gadget Cluster. December 5, 2013. Archived from the original on December 20, 2013. Retrieved December 9, 2013. ^ a b Efrati, Amir; Sherr, Ian (May 11, 2011). "Google Sets Laptop Foray". The Wall Street Journal. New York. Retrieved May 11, 2011. ^ Walter, Derek (February 16, 2017). "How to set up your new Chromebook the right way". PCWorld. Retrieved December 5, 2017. ^ "What is the Chrome Web Store?". Google Inc. Archived from the original on October 9, 2014. 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