

# ChromeOS 133 Enterprise and Education release notes

For administrators who manage Chrome devices for a business or school.

These release notes were published on February 11, 2025, last updated on February 12, 2025.

See the latest version of these release notes online at <a href="https://g.co/help/ChromeEnterpriseReleaseNotes">https://g.co/help/ChromeEnterpriseReleaseNotes</a>

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## **ChromeOS 133 release summary**

Current ChromeOS changes	Security/ Privacy	User productivity/ Apps	Management
Enhanced integration with Microsoft 365 on ChromeOS		1	<b>/</b>
Make cloud storage the only data storage option on ChromeOS devices	1		<b>✓</b>
Bounce Keys on ChromeOS		1	
Enhanced Welcome Tour		1	
Screencast language update		<b>✓</b>	
New toggle for Bluetooth mic super resolution		✓	
ChromeOS LTS 132 release candidate			<b>✓</b>
Kiosk health monitoring			✓
Upcoming ChromeOS changes	Security/ Privacy	User productivity/ Apps	Management
Kiosk Heartbeat change			✓
Isolated Web Apps in ChromeOS kiosk mode		1	
ChromeOS policy for battery longevity			<b>✓</b>
ChromeOS policy for keyboard languages		✓	<b>✓</b>
Slow Keys		1	<b>√</b>
GIFs with Quick Insert		1	
Al wallpapers and backgrounds		✓	
Deprecating Chrome Apps support on ChromeOS		1	<b>/</b>

The enterprise release notes are available in 9 languages. You can read about ChromeOS updates in English, German, French, Dutch, Spanish, Portuguese, Korean, Indonesian, and Japanese. Allow 1 to 2 weeks for translation for some languages.

## **Current ChromeOS changes**

#### **Enhanced Office file handling for managed users**

Starting from ChromeOS 133, managed users can now seamlessly open and edit their Microsoft Office files (Word, PowerPoint, Excel), regardless of whether they use Office for the web in Microsoft 365 or Google Workspace.

Organizations using Office for the Web benefit from OneDrive integration into the **Files** app, Microsoft 365 PWA system integrations for a desktop-like experience, SSO for all required applications, and advanced policy controls for preconfiguration.

For Google Workspace customers, the transition of local files to Google Workspace is optimized.

More information can be found in the Chrome Enterprise and Education Help Center article, **Set up Office file handling for managed users** (published February 18, 2025).

New policies for Microsoft Office file handling include:

- MicrosoftOneDriveMount
- MicrosoftOneDriveAccountRestrictions
- MicrosoftOfficeCloudUpload
- GoogleWorkspaceCloudUpload
- QuickOfficeForceFileDownloadEnabled

#### Make cloud storage the only data storage option on ChromeOS devices

ChromeOS 133 introduces a true cloud-first experience, allowing admins to ensure that all files are stored on either Google Workspace or Microsoft OneDrive by blocking local storage. This feature prevents data loss, reduces security risks, supports legal hold requirements, and

is particularly beneficial for shared devices.

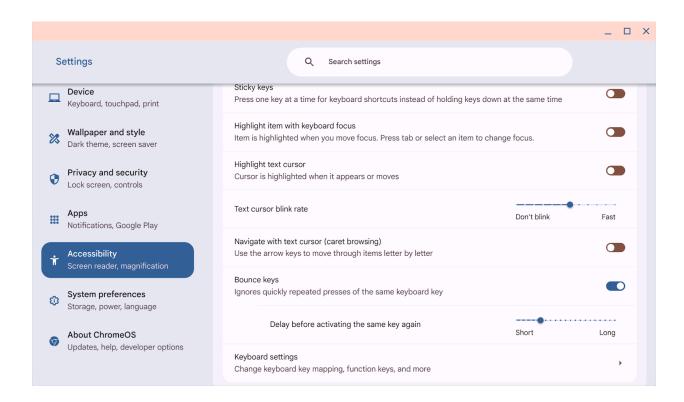
More information can be found in the Chrome Enterprise and Education Help Center article, **Use cloud storage as sole storage option on ChromeOS devices** (published February 18, 2025).

New policies for cloud storage include:

- LocalUserFilesAllowed
- <u>LocalUserFilesMigrationDestination</u>
- <u>DownloadDirectory</u> (OneDrive support)
- ScreenCaptureLocation

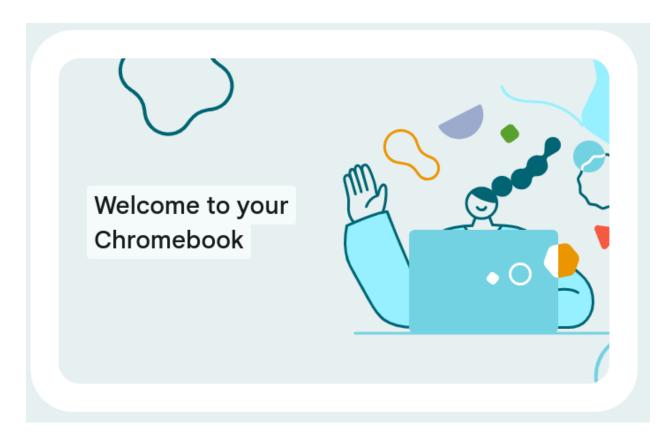
#### **Bounce Keys on ChromeOS**

Bounce Keys is an accessibility feature designed to make computer use easier for individuals with limited dexterity or tremors. It works by ignoring repeated keystrokes within a short time interval, which you can customize to fit your needs. This prevents unintended characters being entered due to unintentional key presses.



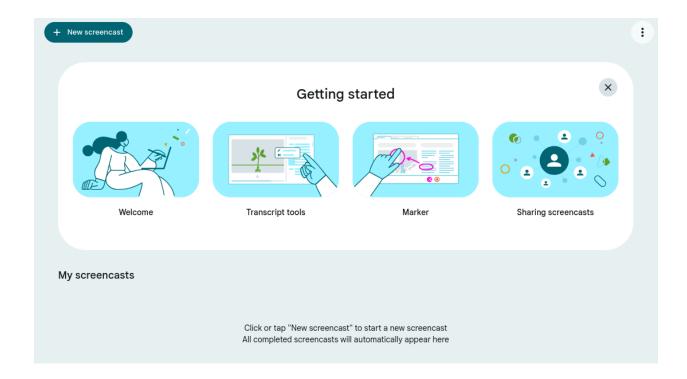
#### **Enhanced Welcome Tour**

New ChromeOS users are now greeted with a Welcome Tour immediately after device setup. Welcome Tour provides an interactive way for users to learn the basics and to get up and running on their new Chromebook quickly.



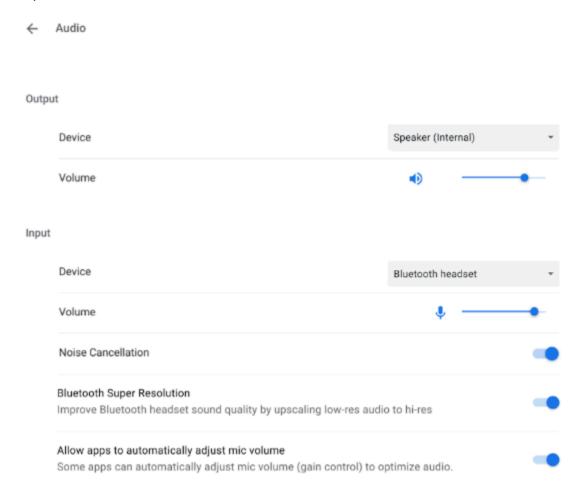
### Screencast language update

Screencast now supports over 50 languages. To use Screencast, press the **Launcher** icon and search for *Screencast*. You can find the list of languages in the Help Center article: <u>Use the Screencast app to record and share on your ChromeOS devices</u>.



#### New toggle for Bluetooth mic Super Resolution

ChromeOS 133 adds a toggle to control <u>Bluetooth mic Super Resolution</u>. The toggle is added in the audio setting page and is only visible when the feature is supported and the selected input device is a Bluetooth headset.



#### **ChromeOS LTS 132**

ChromeOS LTS 132 release candidate is now available. For details, see <a href="ChromeOS Long-term">ChromeOS Long-term</a> <a href="Support">Support (LTS) release notes</a>.

#### Health monitoring for Kiosk devices

ChromeOS 133 improves status update latency for Kiosk health monitoring. Under ideal conditions, status updates for Kiosk devices are now reported in about a minute. Offline status should now be sent or updated within 11 minutes. For more information, see <a href="Monitor">Monitor</a> kiosk health in the Chrome Enterprise and Education Help Center.

## **Upcoming ChromeOS changes**

#### **Kiosk Heartbeat change**

Last summer, we sent out an MSA to inform the customer about a migration of the Kiosk Heartbeat API that ultimately needs an update to ChromeOS 126.

If your organization is running a version older than ChromeOS 126, you need to update your device fleet. This kiosk heartbeat change requires an update to ChromeOS 126 or ChromeOS LTS 126 or to update to the current stable ChromeOS release.

#### • What do you need to do?

Please ensure you have activated (value: 0) DeviceChromeVariation for your organization until all devices have been updated to LTS132.

Once all devices are on LTS132. DeviceChromeVariation is not needed anymous.

Once all devices are on LTS132, DeviceChromeVariation is not needed anymore and can be changed to any value.

#### What happens when DeviceChromeVariation is deactivated?

Devices on LTS versions older than LTS132 will keep using the old Kiosk Heartbeat infrastructure until April 7th, 2025.

Starting April 8th, 2025, all devices on LTS versions older than ChromeOS LTS 132 will stop sending device heartbeats.

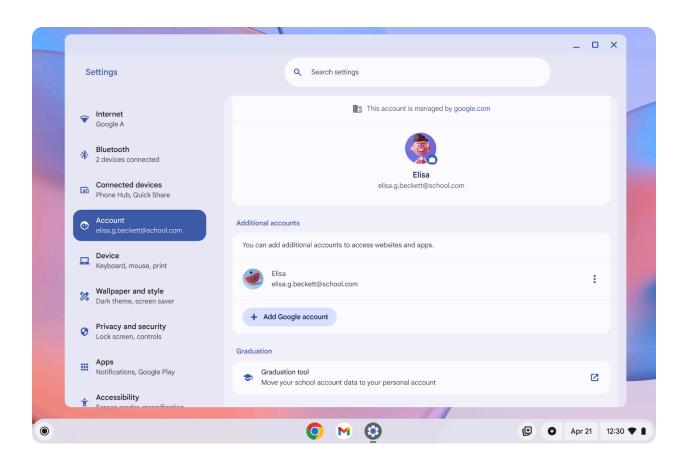
#### Isolated Web Apps in ChromeOS kiosk mode

In ChromeOS 134, ChromeOS kiosk mode will support <u>Isolated Web Apps</u>, a more secure and versatile app solution with access to deep system integrations and powerful capabilities. Administrators will be able to configure IWAs for kiosk and digital signage deployments on <u>Chrome Enterprise</u> managed devices through the <u>Admin console</u>.

#### Migrate data for graduating students

As early as March 2025, the new content transfer tool will guide graduating students or other EDU-managed users who want to migrate their data through the updated <u>Google Takeout</u> transfer process. This will allow them to take their Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Gmail content to a Gmail account of their choice.

This new application allows school administrators to pin an icon to the shelf, notify students and faculty on their Chromebooks, and set dates to trigger these nudges to encourage them to use content transfer.



#### ChromeOS policy for battery longevity

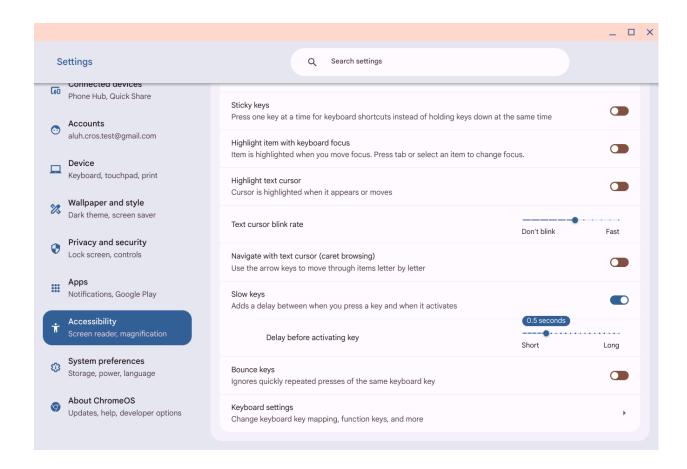
In ChromeOS 134, we will introduce a new battery charge limit policy that will offer more optimization options, which will help extend the lifespan of Chromebooks. Administrators will still be able to set a maximum charge limit, with 100% as the default, to minimize battery degradation and improve long-term reliability. This new policy will benefit both administrators managing fleets of devices, such as in educational settings, and individual users seeking to maximize their Chromebook's longevity. This policy will automatically apply and will require no user interaction.

#### **ChromeOS policy for keyboard languages**

As early as ChromeOS 134, a new <u>AllowedInputMethodsEnforced</u> policy will allow administrators to automatically install keyboard languages previously set by <u>AllowedInputMethods</u>. The user will not be able to add new or remove selected keyboard languages when the policy is set.

#### Slow Keys

Slow Keys is an accessibility feature designed to assist individuals with limited dexterity in typing more accurately. This feature is particularly helpful for those who have conditions such as tremors, arthritis, or numbness in their fingertips, which can make it difficult to press keys with precision. Slow Keys will work by introducing a delay, requiring keys to be held down for a set amount of time before they are registered. This will prevent unintended keystrokes from being pressed.



#### **GIFs with Quick Insert**

Quick Insert will soon support direct GIF insertion! Quickly add GIFs to your messages and documents without leaving the Quick Insert menu. For more details, see <u>Use Quick Insert to add & create content</u>.

#### Al wallpapers and backgrounds

As early as ChromeOS 135, we plan to introduce high-resolution, generative AI wallpapers and video call backgrounds on ChromeOS. With this feature, you can unleash your creativity and turn your Chromebook into a canvas of personal expression. Choose from a diverse collection of templates and, in just a few clicks, infuse your Chromebook with your unique personality, mood, or interest.

Two new policies will be available to control these features; **GenAlVcBackgroundSettings** and **GenAlWallpaperSettings**. This feature will be available on <u>Chromebook Plus devices</u> only.

#### **Deprecating Chrome Apps support on ChromeOS**

In 2016, we announced the deprecation of Chrome Apps in favor of web apps, and in 2021, we announced on the Chromium Blog that support for Chrome Apps for ChromeOS Enterprise and Education customers and developers on ChromeOS would be extended until at least January 2025. With the majority of our customers having migrated off of Chrome Apps (including Legacy (v1) packaged apps and Hosted apps), we can confirm the following updates about Chrome Apps discontinuation dates.

- July 2025: End of support for user-installed Chrome Apps (scheduled for ChromeOS M138).
  - Chrome Apps that are force-installed through the admin console will continue to be supported.
- July 2026: Last ChromeOS release with support for Chrome Apps in Kiosk Mode (scheduled for ChromeOS M150).
  - Devices on the LTS channel with Chrome Apps in Kiosk Mode will receive support until April 2027.
- February 2028: Last ChromeOS release with support for Chrome Apps (scheduled for ChromeOS M168), marking the end of life for all Chrome Apps.
  - Devices on the LTS channel can continue to use Chrome Apps until October 2028.
  - No exceptions will be granted.

These deprecation timelines also apply to self-hosted Chrome Apps.

While no new Chrome Apps can be added to the Chrome Web Store, existing Chrome Apps can continue to be updated through October 2028 when they will reach end of life on ChromeOS. After this date, Chrome Apps will be removed from the Chrome Web Store. If your organization has developed in-house Chrome Apps and you need assistance, please refer to <a href="Transition from Chrome Apps">Transition from Chrome Apps</a> guide. You can also join us in the <a href="ChromeOS developer community on Discord">Chrome Apps</a> guide to us through the form at

<u>https://chromeos.dev/work-with-us</u>. Refer to the <u>ChromeOS release schedule</u> for release dates and updates.

In the coming weeks, additional detailed information will be sent to all remaining Chrome App developers and all ChromeOS Administrators.

## Additional resources

- For emails about future releases, sign up here.
- To try out new features before they're released, sign up for the trusted tester program.
- Connect with other Chrome Enterprise IT admins through the Chrome Enterprise Customer Forum.
- How Chrome releases work—Chrome Release Cycle
- Chrome Browser downloads and Chrome Enterprise product overviews—Chrome Browser for enterprise
- Chrome version status and timelines—Chrome Platform Status | Google Update Server
   Viewer
- Announcements: Chrome Releases Blog | Chromium Blog
- Developers: Learn about changes to the web platform.

## Still need help?

- Google Workspace, Cloud Identity customers (authorized access only)—Contact support
- Chrome Browser Enterprise Support—Sign up to <u>contact a specialist</u>
- Chrome Administrators Forum
- Chrome Enterprise Help Center

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