



## Achieve a smooth transition and avoid costly workarounds by migrating employee PCs to Windows 10

### Migrating to Chromebooks could lead to an unnecessary company-wide adjustment period

When your company makes a big change, you'll do everything in your power to make sure that transition goes smoothly. For a company with Microsoft® Windows® 7 PCs looking to migrate to a newer operating system, Windows 10 can provide a much smoother transition than adopting and adapting to Chromebooks™.

At Principled Technologies, we researched publicly available information to determine how a site-wide operating system migration could affect a company. We found that at every turn, a Chromebook migration could complicate issues that Windows 10 could simplify, leading to lost time and productivity for your entire staff. That productivity loss and prolonged adjustment period is something no business can justify. We also found that purchasing Chromebooks for your company can be more costly than simply upgrading to Windows 10.

With Windows 10, you get to enjoy all the new features the latest operating system provides, and you can keep all the familiar programs and mission-critical workflows your company relies on for success. You also don't have to worry over whether new software will be compatible with the Chrome environment.

Read on to dive into how your choice of migration affects the way your business works.



Save \$159 per user



Work in Office 365  
online or offline



Keep the software  
you depend on

by migrating to Windows 10 instead of Chrome OS



*For employees who regularly use resource-intensive applications, trying to get these apps to function well on Chromebooks could prove extremely frustrating.*

## Maintain your workflow with Windows 10

Migrating your company to Chrome OS™ can introduce unexpected consequences for the way your employees work. These unwelcome deviations from the way you do business can make the transition period needlessly difficult for everyone involved.

### Your users

Chromebooks generally have lower processing power and less RAM than enterprise-level Windows laptops, so they may not be as powerful as the systems your employees are used to. For employees who regularly use resource-intensive applications, trying to get these apps to function well on Chromebooks could prove extremely frustrating.

Using G Suite instead of Office 365® may restrict organizations that rely on advanced Excel and Word features that have no equivalent in Google Sheets™ or Docs™. Furthermore, most professional specialty applications will not run natively on Chromebooks, including (but not limited to):

- Graphic design tools such as Adobe® PhotoShop®, Adobe Illustrator®, Adobe InDesign®, and Adobe Publisher®
- Video editing and motion graphics tools such as Adobe Premiere® and Adobe After Effects®
- Architecture software such as Autodesk® AutoCAD®
- 3D modeling/rendering software such as Autodesk 3ds Max®, and Autodesk Maya®
- Productivity apps such as Microsoft® Office 365® and Adobe Acrobat®
- Professional audio editing applications such as Avid® Pro Tools® and Ableton™ Live
- Specialized or custom Windows applications built for a particular business or industry

It is possible to use virtual Windows desktops with Chromebooks to give your employees access to their Windows programs. However, virtual desktops are expensive, especially compared to migrating from Windows 7 to Windows 10. In addition to the cost associated with purchasing, implementing, and managing virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI), you'll have to buy brand new Windows 10 licenses instead of lower-priced upgrade licenses from Microsoft. VDI also requires extra hardware and software. Your company will have to foot the bill for new server infrastructure, VDI licensing, thin client costs, and other software licensing.

Furthermore, VDI also significantly increases the management burden on your IT administrators; they will have to learn how to manage Windows 10 virtual desktops in addition to training staff on how to use Chromebooks and manage Chrome OS. VDI has a key restriction that's also common to many Chrome OS features: you need an internet connection to use it. This makes it far from ideal for users who work on the road, in the air, or anywhere else an internet connection is hard to come by.

## Your IT staff

Switching from Office 365 to G Suite would require abandoning the Windows and Office 365 management processes your staff knows well. You'll have to spend extra effort recreating all of those management processes in the Google ecosystem—a major and time-consuming adjustment for both end users and IT administrators alike.

As a native application set for Windows 10, Office 365 holds many advantages over the G Suite productivity tools in Chrome OS. These advantages are strong enough that many enterprise functions would be difficult if not impossible to reproduce in Chrome OS. For example, according to a PCWorld review from September 2015, the Microsoft Excel feature set vastly exceeds that of Google Sheets. Excel can also better handle large volumes of data.<sup>1</sup>



## Work online and off

Offline support for Chromebook applications is limited, which can be inconvenient for remote staff who need to work on the go, or onsite staff who need to keep business going during a network outage.<sup>2</sup> There are offline versions of Gmail, Google Docs, Google Sheets, and Google Slides—but many applications in the Chrome™ Web Store require an internet connection. For example, you cannot use the browser-based Microsoft Office Online applications or any of the Office Online applications available from the Chrome Web Store without an internet connection.

For businesses that use Microsoft Office 365, there are no native Microsoft Office applications for Chromebooks—only Office Online, which requires an internet connection. Google productivity apps, such as Google Docs, have some offline functionality, but these programs also have a much smaller feature set compared to Office 365.

## A cost-effective migration

The Acer Chromebook R 11 costs \$299.99 through Google. Factoring in the yearly \$50 device management license and yearly \$120 per-user price of G Suite for Business, a company switching to Chromebooks spends \$299.99 upfront, plus a recurring cost of \$170 per year (\$470 per user). The device management license is restricted to devices of the same model. So if you cannot find a direct replacement for a malfunctioning Chromebook, your company will have to purchase a new license in addition to a new device. The R 11 supports Google Android™ applications at no additional cost.

The per-license cost to upgrade Windows 7 to Windows 10 Enterprise is \$311 per license. Compared to switching to Chromebooks, a company could save \$159 per user by migrating from Windows 7 to Windows 10.

	Migrate to Windows 10 Enterprise	Migrate to ChromeOS
Hardware	n/a	\$299.99
Management	n/a	\$50/year
Software	\$311	\$120/year
Totals	\$311	\$469.99
Savings	\$158.99	



### Take full control with Windows 10

Because Windows 10 is a fully-featured operating system, its IT management software allows administrators to have more granular control over user groups and programs. Chrome OS has significantly fewer features than Windows 10, and so has fewer management options to offer. By migrating from Windows to Chrome OS, you lose the depth of control your administrators are used to, potentially putting your compliance with policies and procedures at risk.

## Conclusion

Your employees are used to their own Windows 7 workflows. Disrupt them, and it can harm productivity and throw your employees into disarray as you scramble to find a fix or workaround. In our research, we found that migrating from Windows 7 to Chromebooks can cause unnecessary interruptions in day-to-day operations. Your employees will have to figure out new ways of doing everyday tasks, leading to lost productivity. Furthermore, the solutions to these problems often involve additional complexity and expense, such as creating a system of virtual desktops just so your company can use common Windows programs. For the sake of your business operations, a migration from Windows 7 to Windows 10 could allow your employees to handle a company-wide transition with ease.

1 <http://www.pcworld.com/article/2986973/software-productivity/microsoft-excel-vs-google-sheets-the-5-ways-excel-beats-sheets.html>

2 <https://support.google.com/chromebook/answer/3214688?hl=en>



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