

Hilton Head Island Computer Club



Members Helping Members Learn Technology Since 1989

If you are using the iMac or Windows Zoom app, please be sure to check for updates on a regular basis.

The most recent version is now up to 5.16.10.

Zoom continues to improve and update the apps.

For those coming in on the iPhone, iPad, Android phone or tablet or the browser Zoom PWA, check your App Store and Play Store regularly for updates.

Zoom Protocols

- **Please mute yourself and keep muted during presentation.**
- **Please be sure to let us know who you are if your name isn't listed. We like to check everyone in.**
- **Please type any questions you have in the Chat window. Zoom controls at the bottom of your screen or on a tablet or phone, tap the screen first to get the menu to pop-up. Then click or press Chat and type your question.**
- **“Raise your Hand” under the reactions button at the bottom.**

Should I Buy a Chromebook for Christmas?

with Jolyn Bowler

November 27th, 2023

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The History of the Chromebook

Overall, Chromebooks have come a long way since their introduction in 2011.

They have evolved from niche devices into mainstream computers that are used by millions of people around the world.

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Key Milestones in Chromebook History:

- 2009: Google announces the Chromium OS project.**
- 2011: The first two commercial Chromebooks are released.**
- 2014: Chromebooks capture over 20% of the K-12 education market in the US.**
- 2015: Google introduces the Chromebook Pixel, a high-end Chromebook with a premium design.**
- 2016: Chromebooks begin to support Android apps.**
- 2017: Chromebooks surpass 1 million shipments in a single quarter for the first time.**
- 2020: Chromebooks reach a global market share of over 10%.**

What is a Chromebook?

- A type of laptop that runs Chrome OS, a lightweight operating system developed by Google.
- Chromebooks are designed to be simple, secure, and easy to use.
- They are typically less expensive than traditional laptops and are a good option for users who spend most of their time online.

Key features of Chromebooks:

- **Cloud-based software:** Chromebooks rely heavily on cloud-based software, such as Google Docs, Google Sheets, and Google Slides. This means that users can access their files from any device with an internet connection.
- **Automatic updates:** Chromebooks automatically update themselves, so users don't have to worry about installing updates manually.
- **Security:** Chromebooks are designed to be secure from malware and viruses. They also have built-in security features, such as Verified Boot and sandboxing.

Benefits of using a Chromebook:

- **Affordability:** Chromebooks are typically less expensive than traditional laptops.
- **Simplicity:** Chromebooks are easy to use and learn.
- **Security:** Chromebooks are designed to be secure from malware and viruses.
- **Portability:** Chromebooks are typically lightweight and portable.
- **Battery life:** Chromebooks typically have long battery life.

Who should use a Chromebook?

Chromebooks are a good option for users who:

- Spend most of their time online
- Use cloud-based software
- Don't need to install traditional software
- Are looking for a secure and easy-to-use laptop
- Are on a budget

**You will need a
Google Account
a Gmail Address**

To log in and use the device.

Should I buy a Chromebook?

If you fit the parameters shared above and if the Chromebook fits you, it's worth it.

The most recent change to the Chromebook is now the
Chromebook Plus

These are newer models
(although some earlier Chromebook versions can be considered a Plus with the proper hardware configuration)

A Chromebook Plus is a premium Chromebook that is certified by Google to meet a set of minimum requirements.

These requirements include:

- An Intel Core (i3 or higher) or AMD Ryzen 7000 CPU
- An IPS panel with at least 1080p resolution (the monitor)
- A 1080p webcam
- 8GB of RAM
- 128GB of storage

Chromebook Plus devices also have access to a few exclusive AI-powered features, including:

- A magic eraser tool in Google Photos (which can automatically remove background elements)
- Improvements to lighting and noise cancelation in video conferencing
- Offline File Sync (which automatically downloads files from Drive onto your device)

The Chromebook Plus certification program was created by Google to make it easier for consumers to find high-quality Chromebooks. When a Chromebook is certified as a Chromebook Plus, it means that it meets Google's high standards for performance, security, and battery life.

AUTO UPDATE EXPIRATION

One thing to be aware of is that Chromebooks have an “End of Life” or AUE, the Auto Update Expiration. This is the date after which a Chromebook will no longer receive automatic updates from Google. This includes security updates, bug fixes, and new features. After a Chromebook's AUE date, it will still be able to be used, but it will be more vulnerable to security risks and may not be compatible with the latest web apps and extensions.

Chromebooks typically receive 10 years of automatic updates from their release date. However, there have been some exceptions to this rule example, some Chromebooks released in 2020 will receive updates until June 2030. . They have recently RESET the AUE for most Chromebooks to 2021.

You can check the AUE date for your Chromebook by going to Settings > About Chrome OS > Additional details. The AUE date will be listed under the "Update schedule" section. <https://support.google.com/chrome/a/answer/6220366?hl=en>

As I recommend for anyone shopping for a new device, go to your store of choice (Staples, Sam's, Walmart, Best Buy, etc.)

Leave you wallet in the car and go inside and touch and feel and lift and try out (type on it and use the touchpad) your device of choice.

This will give you and idea of the feel and help you decide how larger or small your Chromebook will be. You can then choose to purchase from the store, from the manufacturer's website or Amazon, etc.

I also VERY much like a touch screen and recommend it for anyone getting a Chromebook. You can get the Clamshell Style or a 360° Convertible laptop/tablet style.

There are a variety of models and manufactures to choose from.

Here is a list of companies that offer Chromebook Plus devices:

Acer

ASUS

HP

Lenovo

Samsung

Entry-level Chromebook Plus:

Price range: \$269.99 - \$349.99

Mid-range Chromebook Plus:

Price range: \$349.99 - \$449.99

High-end Chromebook Plus:

Price range: \$399.99 - \$599.99

Premium Chromebook Plus:

Price range: \$599.99 and above

Here are some specifics on models and pricing.

Lenovo IdeaPad Chromebook Plus 14

~ \$349.99 - \$549.99

Samsung Chromebook Plus V2

~ \$269.99 - \$382.91

HP - 2-in-1 14" Wide Ultra XGA Touch-Screen Chromebook Plus Laptop -
Intel Core i3 - 8GB Memory - 256GB SSD - Mineral Silver

~ \$379.00 - \$699.00

Samsung Chromebook 4+ (15)

~ \$349.99 - \$382.91

I plan on continuing our Chromebook Workshops. Our first one was earlier today. Perhaps three or four times a year.

Your input, if you have a Chromebook is welcome and appreciated.

I am proud to continue as our “Head Chromie” so we can continue the work that Jack Wilfore and Harvey Beeferman started for HHICC

Thank you.

Q & A

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**At the Resource Center
Monday's 10 am to 1 pm**

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