



Simplify and centralise managing **Chrome Browser** in the cloud

Introduction

As organisations' employees spend more and more time working in the browser, it becomes increasingly important for IT to manage and secure the browsing experience. Balancing a mix of devices, operating systems and security and compliance requirements with users' needs for fast, reliable, 24/7 access to web apps can be a complex challenge.

In this white paper, you'll discover how Chrome Browser Cloud Management enables you to centralise management for Chrome Browser across major desktop operating systems.

First, let's review some of the browser management challenges that you might encounter.

Many enterprises **have not standardised on one browser** and instead employ a mix of legacy and modern browsers. This makes it difficult to ensure that every browser is up to date with the proper policies in place.

Because legacy and modern browsers often implement policies differently based on which OS they're running on, they usually require you to manage **each browser on each OS separately**. This increases complexity and takes additional time.

Users may install browser extensions or plug-ins without IT's knowledge. Unsanctioned extensions and plug-ins can become out of date and/or fail to meet internal security and compliance requirements, making it difficult for IT to mitigate risks. In addition, **the lack of visibility**

into the number of browsers in use, the version of each browser and which machines the browsers are running on can lead to security and compliance risks.

Managing Chrome Browser centrally across operating systems not only gives you a single place to easily set and apply policies, but it also offers the information and insights that you need to stay secure and make better decisions.

Unified browser management with Chrome Browser

Chrome Browser Cloud Management is a centralised, cloud-based console that offers a unified approach to managing multiple versions and instances of Chrome Browser across Windows¹, Mac² and Linux systems. Accessible from the Google Admin console – which is also used to manage Chrome OS and G Suite – Chrome Browser Cloud Management eliminates the need to use different management tools for different OSes when managing Chrome Browser across your enterprise.

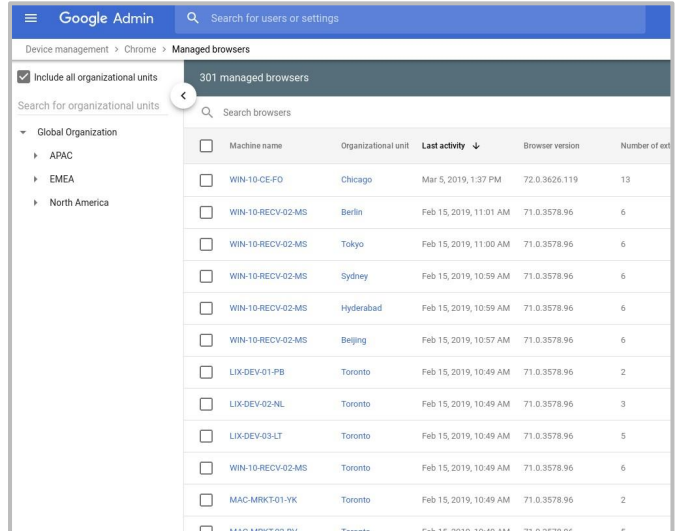
The Chrome Browser Cloud Management console captures detailed information about the Chrome Browser inventory installed across your enterprise. By analysing and acting upon the information, you can increase security, better support compliance efforts and enhance IT decision making.

At a glance, you can view critical data points such as which versions of Chrome are installed, how many instances of each version there are, the types of devices and OSes Chrome is running on, which extensions are installed and which policies are in place and being enforced for each instance. With a few mouse clicks, you can manage extension whitelists and blacklists and allow or disallow extensions based on business rules. With role-based access control, administrators can control which users have access to specific features or apply them to certain organisational units (OUs). Because the cloud interface is easy to use, IT can delegate browser management to appropriate members of the IT team. Chrome Browser Cloud Management works with major identity providers such as Microsoft Active Directory, Microsoft Azure Directory, Google Cloud Identity and any other SSO that provides a SAML 2.0 interface.

¹ Microsoft®, Windows® and Internet Explorer® are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries.

² Mac and macOS are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the US and other countries.

If you are already a G Suite customer, you will appreciate that Chrome Browser Cloud Management does not require users to sign in to the browser with their Google Accounts.



| <input type="checkbox"/> | Machine name | Organizational unit | Last activity | Browser version | Number of ext |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WIN-10-CE-FD | Chicago | Mar 5, 2019, 1:37 PM | 72.0.3626.119 | 13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WIN-10-RECV-02-MS | Berlin | Feb 15, 2019, 11:01 AM | 71.0.3578.96 | 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WIN-10-RECV-02-MS | Tokyo | Feb 15, 2019, 11:00 AM | 71.0.3578.96 | 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WIN-10-RECV-02-MS | Sydney | Feb 15, 2019, 10:59 AM | 71.0.3578.96 | 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WIN-10-RECV-02-MS | Hyderabad | Feb 15, 2019, 10:59 AM | 71.0.3578.96 | 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WIN-10-RECV-02-MS | Beijing | Feb 15, 2019, 10:57 AM | 71.0.3578.96 | 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | LIX-DEV-01-PB | Toronto | Feb 15, 2019, 10:49 AM | 71.0.3578.96 | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | LIX-DEV-02-NL | Toronto | Feb 15, 2019, 10:49 AM | 71.0.3578.96 | 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | LIX-DEV-03-LT | Toronto | Feb 15, 2019, 10:49 AM | 71.0.3578.96 | 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | WIN-10-RECV-02-MS | Toronto | Feb 15, 2019, 10:49 AM | 71.0.3578.96 | 6 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | MAC-MBKT01-YK | Toronto | Feb 15, 2019, 10:49 AM | 71.0.3578.96 | 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | MAC-MBKT02-PU | Toronto | Feb 15, 2019, 10:49 AM | 71.0.3578.96 | 6 |

Figure 1: The Chrome Browser Cloud Management home page

What you can see and do with Chrome Browser Cloud Management

Chrome Browser Cloud Management provides insights into the following four areas: browsers, user settings, app settings and the browser extensions list. Once browsers are enrolled, IT teams can start making use of information that they may not have had visibility into before.

Administrators can group devices by domain (e.g. example.com). If you're already a G Suite, Chrome Browser Enterprise Support, Chrome Enterprise Upgrade or Cloud Identity customer, or if you already manage Chrome devices, you can simply use your existing domain to manage Chrome Browser.

If you don't have G Suite management subscriptions or Chrome Enterprise Upgrade, you can easily [set up a provided domain](#) – where you'll be given a Google-owned domain to use. This option makes it easy to give Chrome Browser Cloud Management a try. (Please note that if you select the option to use a Google-owned domain, you must be running Chrome 73 or later on the devices that you're going to manage. Dev, Beta and Stable channels are supported, but not Canary.)

User settings and policy and extension management

Many organisations don't realise that they can select from hundreds of policies to configure Chrome Browser to meet their organisation's browsing and security needs. With Chrome Browser Cloud Management, it's easy to set and apply policies at the user level with just a few clicks. This includes managing app and extension whitelists and blacklists, applying security settings, such as whether users can or cannot use Chrome's password manager, and specifying if and how users can access specific types of content (for example, you can allow/block 3D content).

The user settings section simplifies management of multiple Chrome Browser users because you can apply settings from the individual user level up to the organisational unit (OU) level, or even across every user in the enterprise – all with just a few mouse clicks. Chrome Browser Cloud Management supports multiple levels of policy management, so it's important to evaluate the different policy types and follow a policy model that works best for you. You can view the applied browser policies, where they are being applied from (local machine or cloud policy), their status and the applied value to the policy.

Device policies are applied first, then the OS user policy, then the cloud policy and then the Chrome profile.

| Extension name | Version | Install type | Installed ↓ | Disabled | Forced | Permissions |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|----------|--------|-------------|
| SecureConnect Reporting | | unknown | 192 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Slides | 0.1 | unknown | 168 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Google Docs Offline | 1.7 | multiple | 157 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Sheets | 1.2 | multiple | 157 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Google Play Music | 1.396.0 | unknown | 156 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Docs | 0.1 | unknown | 144 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Google Voice Search Hotword | 0.1.1 | unknown | 132 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Policy Notifier | 1.1.4 | unknown | 108 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Password Alert | 1.26 | unknown | 96 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Chrome Remote Desktop | 70.0.3538.21 | unknown | 96 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Password Alert | 1.27 | unknown | 72 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Chrome Remote Desktop | | unknown | 60 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Figure 2: Example of Chrome extensions view in browser extensions list

Block Extensions by Permission
Locally applied

Permissions and URLs

Block extensions by permissions and URLs. [Learn more](#)

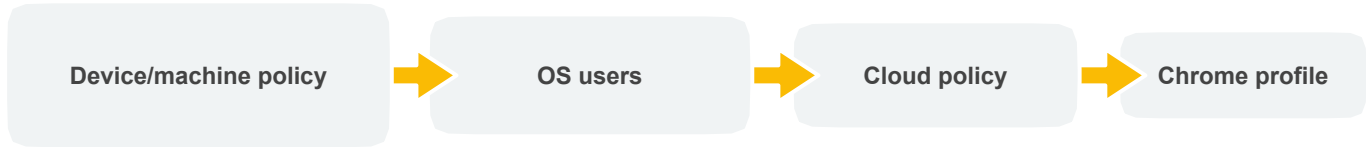
If the extension uses one of the selected permissions, block

- Alarms
- Audio Capture
- Certificate Provider
- Clipboard Read
- Clipboard Write
- Context Menus
- Desktop Capture
- Document Scan
- Enterprise Device Attributes
- Experimental APIs
- Fullscreen Apps
- File Browser Handler
- File System
- File System Provider
- HID
- Override Fullscreen
- Detect Idle
- Identity
- Google Cloud Messaging
- Escape Geo Location
- Media Galleries
- Native Messaging
- Captive Portal
- Power
- Notifications
- Printers
- Authenticator Serial
- Set Proxy
- Platform Keys
- Storage
- Sync File System
- CPU Metadata
- Memory Metadata
- Network Metadata
- Display Metadata
- Storage Metadata
- 2-Factor Devices
- Text to Speech
- Unlimited Storage
- USB
- Video Capture
- VPN Provider
- Web Requests
- Block Web Requests

Blocked URLs

Allowed URLs

Figure 3: Example of block extensions by permission in User settings



Policies applied in the top level OU will also apply to the managed Chrome Browsers in the child OU's. However, you can overwrite them through the various options in the console for different OU configurations.

Chrome Browser Cloud Management also provides an overview of the status of extensions

within your enterprise. This gives you visibility into every extension installed across the organisation and on each device enabling you to review extension details, including permissions. With a single click, you can force install, allow or remove extensions from your environment.

Browsers insights and reporting

Many enterprises know very little about their organisation's browser deployments. With Chrome Browser Cloud Management, you can view a list of machines that currently have managed Chrome Browser instances and drill down to more detailed information about each instance. For example, you can view a managed machine's name, OS version, user details,

architecture (32 or 64 bit) and enrolment date. You can also see every instance and version of Chrome Browser installed on the machine, which release channel (Stable, Dev, Beta or Canary) the version is on, which profiles the install is linked to and which Chrome Browser policies are applied to the instance.

| Machine info | | |
|--|--|--|
| Machine name WIN-10-CE-FO | OS version Windows 10 (10.0.17763.316) | Enrollment date Feb 26, 2019 |
| Machine user ALPHAHQ\adminalpha | Architecture x86_64 | Machine Policies 12 |
| Serial Number 6525-8116-0713-4454-6709-9753-41 | Device ID a86edd53-a04b-4602-ba12-ee1cf1033cf5 | |

Figure 4: Example of machine information that can be included in report

Getting started

If you're a G Suite, Chrome Browser Enterprise Support, Chrome Enterprise Upgrade or Cloud Identity customer, you already have access to Chrome Browser Cloud Management right in the console. You'll find it within the Device management section. All other administrators can try out Chrome Browser Cloud Management by [creating an account](#). Since you'll be managing the browser at the machine level, your users will not need their own accounts. With Chrome Browser Cloud Management, users do not need a Google account to enrol because devices can be managed through enrolment tokens. Used only during the enrolment process, enrolment tokens have globally unique identifiers (GUIDs) that are randomly generated by admins via the Chrome Browser Cloud Management console. They can be used for mass-provisioning or to provision a single device.

Conclusion

Chrome Browser Cloud Management simplifies how you manage Chrome Browser in your enterprise environment. Its unified interface provides insights into your organisation's browsers and enables you to improve web security and compliance for your employees. There's no need to separately manage browser policies for Windows, Mac, Linux or Chrome OS users anymore.

You can set and control hundreds of policies and manage all instances of Chrome Browser in one central cloud-native portal, regardless of which platform your users are on.

Follow these three steps to get started with Chrome Browser Cloud Management today:

- 1 [Sign up](#) to start enrolling browsers
- 2 Check out the [documentation](#) for more specific steps
- 3 Engage with our [Chrome Enterprise browser specialists](#)

Finally, to deepen your understanding of Chrome Browser Cloud Management, **consider the following resources:**

Explore [Chrome Browser Cloud Management options](#)

Read about [how to implement Chrome Browser Cloud Management](#)

Downloads for your enterprise [Chrome Browser](#) Learn more about [Chrome Browser Enterprise support](#)

Explore the [Chrome Browser policy list](#)
Read the latest [Chrome Browser Enterprise release notes](#)

Stay up-to-date on the latest Chrome Browser release updates via the [Chrome releases blog](#)

Visit the [Chrome Browser Enterprise Help Centre](#) and [Chrome Browser Help forum](#)

Review the [Chrome Browser public bug tracker](#)