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What's the difference between CloudReady and Chromebooks?

How are CloudReady and Chromebooks related?

Both have the same open-source code as a foundation: Chromium OS. This allows them to share the same foundational technologies like:

- **Fast**, familiar browsing
- **Industry-best security** architecture
- **G Suite integration** and management for users
- **Chrome Enterprise integration** and management for devices
- **Seamless updates** delivered regularly, in the background

How is CloudReady different from Chrome OS?

While Chrome OS is intended for specific hardware, CloudReady is built to offer the same benefits, but on *any* hardware, new or old. This allows for benefits like:

- **Savings** from using existing devices for longer
- **Flexibility** to change OS without waiting for a hardware refresh
- **Availability** in geographies with little or no Chromebook availability
- **Freedom** to use rugged, high performance, or specialized hardware not otherwise available
- **Long-term support** for devices, up to 13 years from OEM release

For most users, only colors and logos will distinguish CloudReady from Chrome OS. However, there are a few key differences worth noting for specific use cases, management, and security purposes that are highlighted below.

Differences of note

User experience

Google Play Store & Android Apps: CloudReady does not offer compatibility with Android apps through the Google Play Store. Read more.

Translation: Automatic web page translation is not supported on CloudReady, though https://translate.google.com and other web services will still work. Admins may choose to use the Google Admin console to install the Google Translate extension for all CloudReady users, which offers a workaround for page translation.

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Differences of note

User experience, cont.

Geolocation: CloudReady does not support geolocation services. Web pages, including Google Maps, cannot automatically determine the location of a CloudReady device, and automatic timezone setting is not supported for individual devices or via the Google Admin console.

Speech-to-Text Input: CloudReady does not support native voice-input on Google websites (search, Drive, Docs, etc). Text-to-Speech (ChromeVox) is still fully supported via accessibility settings.

Management

Automatic Updates: CloudReady uses the same automated update architecture as Chrome OS, however, CloudReady updates are tested and delivered by Neverware and arrive several weeks later than their Chrome OS counterparts to ensure stability and reliability. CloudReady typically provides stable updates for even-numbered release versions, and only ships odd-numbered updates for optional, unstable testing.

Data Removal & Forced Re-Enrollment: CloudReady does not support Powerwashing or other methods used by Chromebooks to wipe device data. Instead, reinstallation from USB is recommended and can be used to reset a device in the same amount of time. As a result, the Forced Re-Enrollment policy for Chrome OS is not applicable to CloudReady.

Security

TPM Usage: All Chromebooks contain a special piece of hardware called a TPM that's used for encryption. These devices are present and supported in some, but not all, PCs. When missing or unsupported, CloudReady uses software encryption instead. Read more about TPM on CloudReady.

Verified Boot: Chrome OS uses a process to establish a fixed chain of trust between hardware, firmware, and operating system. Because CloudReady allows customers the freedom to install on any hardware, this fixed relationship is not possible in the same way.

CloudReady provides a chain of trust between the firmware and the OS by combining root file system verification with Secure Boot, but it is also necessary to lock down your devices' BIOS/UEFI controls to protect from firmware tampering.

For more information

For a complete list of all known issues with CloudReady or differences from Chrome OS, please see our Guide.