



Simplify and centralize managing Chrome Browser in the cloud

Introduction

As organizations' 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' need for fast, reliable, 24/7 access to web apps can be a complex challenge.

In this whitepaper, you'll discover how Chrome Browser Cloud Management enables you to

centralize management for Chrome Browser across major desktop operating systems.

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

Many enterprises **have not standardized on one browser** and instead, employ a mix of legacy and modern browsers. This makes it difficult to ensure 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 plugins without IT's knowledge. Unsanctioned extensions and plugins can become out of date and/or fail to meet internal security and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 information and insights you need to stay secure and make better decisions.

Unified browser management with Chrome Browser

Chrome Browser Cloud Management is a centralized, 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 analyzing 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 Organizational 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. 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.

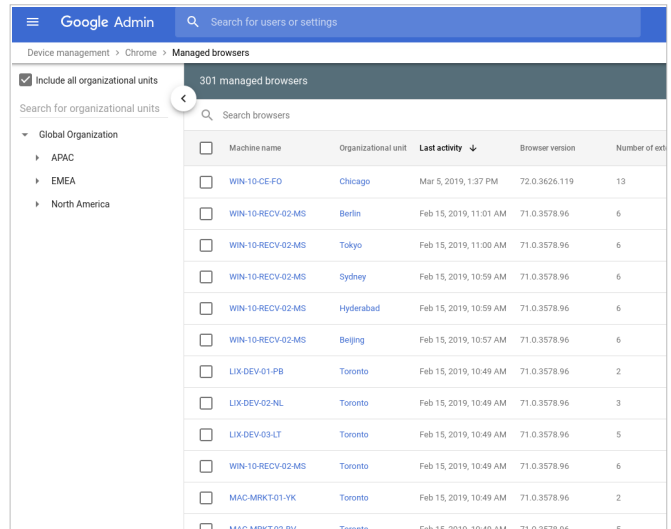


Figure 1: The Chrome Browser Cloud Management home page

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 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 or Chrome management licenses, 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 71 or later on the devices you're going to manage. Dev, Beta, and Stable channels are supported, but not Canary.)

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

User settings and policy and extension management

Many organizations don't realize they can select from hundreds of policies to configure Chrome Browser to meet their organization'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).

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

The user settings section simplifies management of multiple Chrome Browser users because you can apply settings from the individual user level, up to the Organizational 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.

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 ⓘ

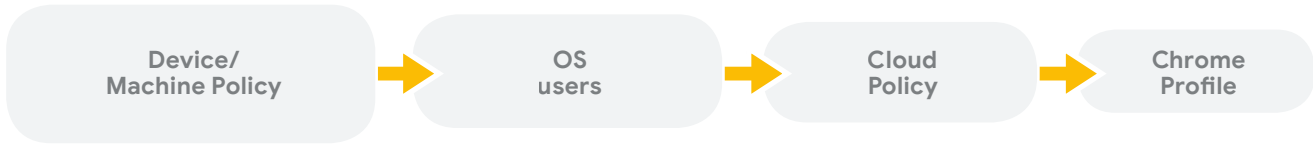
<input type="checkbox"/> Alarms	<input type="checkbox"/> Audio Capture	<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate Provider	<input type="checkbox"/> Clipboard Read
<input type="checkbox"/> Clipboard Write	<input type="checkbox"/> Context Menus	<input type="checkbox"/> Desktop Capture	<input type="checkbox"/>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

Blocked URLs

Allowed URLs

Figure 3: Example of Block Extensions by Permission in User Settings

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



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 organization 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 organization'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 enrollment 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-F0	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

Managing Chrome Browser from the cloud isn't an entirely new capability, but in the past users had to sign into a Google account for the policies to be applied. With Chrome Browser Cloud Management, admins and users do not need a Google account to enroll because devices can be managed through enrollment tokens. Used only during the enrollment process, enrollment 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 organization'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 Center](#) and [Chrome Browser Help Forum](#)

Review the [Chrome Browser Public Bug Tracker](#)