

Google services, including Chromebooks

Many CCB folks use Google products. Here's some of what ChemIT knows of some of those services, as an FYI.

- [Backing up your Google-related stuff](#)
- [Chromebooks and the like](#)
 - [Printing to a group printer within ChromeOS](#)
 - [Install software to allow you to use OWA as if using an Exchange-approved browser, such as FireFox, instead of Chrome \(which is your only option on a Chromebook\).](#)
 - [Remote control of Chromebook, useful for support](#)
 - [Hardware options and considerations](#)
 - [Devices: Laptops and desktops](#)
 - [Google makes a high-end \(and pricy!\) laptop that is gorgeous to use](#)
 - [In addition to typical laptops, there appears to be a desktop ChromeOS device \(ChromeBox\):](#)
 - [Samsung laptops](#)
 - [Other hardware considerations](#)
 - [Ethernet connections](#)

Backing up your Google-related stuff

Consider doing this since your items at Google can disappear at any time, usually through the account being hacked.

- See ChemIT's [Backing up Google services](#) write-up.

Chromebooks and the like

Oliver has some personal familiarity with these devices. Some tips/ tricks:

Printing to a group printer within ChromeOS

Currently not possible (as of Jan. 2017). For work-arounds (options) and other details, please see:

- [ChromeOS can't print to group printers](#)

Install software to allow you to use OWA as if using an Exchange-approved browser, such as FireFox, instead of Chrome (which is your only option on a Chromebook).

This gets you the full-function interface, not the dumbed-down one.

The linked page below tells you how to get your Chromebook's Chrome browser to access the full web-based Outlook.com (Outlook Web Access; OWA). This includes getting access to week-long and month-long views in the calendar, not just a day's view. Wonderful!

<http://www.pocketables.com/2013/03/how-to-use-the-full-version-of-the-outlook-web-app-on-your-chromebook.html>

Summary:

- 1) Downloaded "User-Agent Switcher for Chrome".
- 2) Selected Firefox 15. (**NOT** IE or it will not work and it pesters you do download ActiveX!)

It will be nice once MS recognizes Chrome as capable of full access from within Exchange. :-)

Oliver set it up so the browser is seen as "Chrome" usually, but when it hits "[outlook.com](#)" it masquerades as Firefox automatically. I did that through the Switcher's settings.

N.B. Knowing about this tool may come in handy on Mac and Windows systems for accessing or browser testing "picky" web sites, too.

Remote control of Chromebook, useful for support

This technique will work from/ to Mac or Windows, not just Chromebooks. One (of others?) option:

<https://chrome.google.com/remotedesktop>

Hardware options and considerations

Devices: Laptops and desktops

Google makes a high-end (and pricy!) laptop that is gorgeous to use

http://www.google.com/intl/en_us/chrome/devices/chromebook-pixel/

- Oliver has one, so feel free to ask him about it.

In addition to typical laptops, there appears to be a desktop ChromeOS device (ChromeBox):

<http://www.google.com/intl/en/chrome/devices/chromebox.html#specs>

- It's a "bring your own monitor, mouse, and keyboard" device.
- A bit pricier than most Chromebooks, but comes with 100 GB Google Drive Cloud Storage for 2 years.
- People seem to love it, but...hard to find (as of 9/3/13) so wondering if Google is/ will continue investing in it. (Originally designed for businesses, I gather.) Some reviews:
 - <http://www.amazon.com/Samsung-XE300M22-B01US-Chromebox/dp/B00B3R4W62/>
- It has an ethernet port, which might be nice in many circumstances where you want a desktop system.

Samsung laptops

These seem the best value and no fan (one less thing to break), BUT, look up reviews re: broken screens. They seem more susceptible to broken screens than most laptops, and that can cost ~\$70 to get a replacement screen (3rd party?) if you "do it yourself" (using a YouTube video, presumably). Ouch!

Other hardware considerations

Ethernet connections

Some (not all!) Chromebooks have ethernet ports. At least one of the HP Chromebooks "Sleekbooks" (HP Pavilion 14 Chromebook 14-c010us) has an ethernet port (Network card: 10/100BASE-T Ethernet LAN (RJ-45 connector)). Odd that this feature does not show up in the specs on the Amazon web page; it was buried in the PDF of the specs:

http://g-ecx.images-amazon.com/images/G/01/electronics/detail-page/hp/14-c010us_r6_tg_22515_02-1-13.pdf

Or, one could use a USB-to-ethernet device if it only has a USB port, (which they all do, presumably) but not as good as a direct ethernet port. People who got this one (\$14) seemed to love it:

<http://www.amazon.com/Plugable-Ethernet-Network-Chromebook-Specific/dp/B00484IEJS/>