A sustainable solution to the Windows 10 EOL problem

Some tech seems to go end-of-life before its time. The buttons still work and the screen isn't broken, but over time, it's become slower to turn on or do anything when it is on; then it hangs on updates when you want to turn it off. For years, we've been in the habit of discarding technology when it gets to that point (if not before), but when facing shrinking budgets and growing sustainability goals may find a costly IT refresh hard to justify.

To make matters worse, on 15th October 2025, Microsoft will sunset Windows 10, rendering *43% of devices obsolete and unable to be upgraded to Windows 11*, forcing organisations with otherwise perfectly serviceable hardware to buy from new. For those who could quite easily sweat those ageing assets a while longer, whatever the reason, *ChromeOS Flex* needs your consideration.
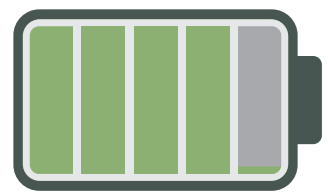
43% of Win10 devices can't upgrade to Windows 11[1]

Moving 1,000 devices to ChromeOS Flex saves almost 100,000 miles of fossil fuel emissions[2]

Flexed devices use 19% less energy on average[2]

Source 1. Is Your Business Ready for Windows 11? Lansweeper, May 2023. **Source 2.** Tackling the E-waste Crisis Through Circularity, Google, April 2023.

Many institutions have strict policies against donating obsolete and surplus equipment to staff, students, charities and other external organisations, so when your old hardware has finally reached the end of its serviceable life, WEEE-compliant disposal is the typical next step, **contributing to the 10% of global e-waste** already made up by laptops and similar devices.

ChromeOS Flex allows any organisation to revitalise Windows and MacOS laptops they already have with a secure, cloud-first, easy-to-manage and fast operating system that has been tried and tested throughout Education around the world. In under 5 minutes, "Flexed" devices benefit from boosted load speeds that start fast and stay fast while **using 19% less energy** on average. Better still, the cybersecurity threats faced by the soon-to-be unsupported Windows 10 operating system are almost eliminated, even without additional antivirus software.

Google for Education

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When managed with the Chrome Education Upgrade, ChromeOS Flex devices are ideal in settings where the user experience needs strict control without hindering opportunities for students to perform at their best. Kiosk mode and managed guest sessions give IT administrators two simple ways to efficiently tailor resources for exam environments and other everyday use cases for temporary devices in Education.

Kiosk mode

Present only the information you want users to access and remove distractions during exams.

- Manage individual to large-scale standardised testing in a few clicks
- Move students taking an assessment into an organisational unit
- Choose the app or webpage you want to launch automatically and lock on-screen
- Ensure local user data retention for the duration of the assessment

Managed guest sessions

Admins can control the experience users have on a managed ChromeOS device without needing to log in.

- Control which Wi-Fi networks and printers users can access
- Set a specific webpage or application to open on startup
- Manage session lengths and contextual access
- Improve user experience while maintaining your Zero Trust security posture

Other use cases

Library computers

Users can access their cloud-based files and collaborate on assignments and coursework with the peace of mind that, when they sign out, their user data will not remain on the shared device.
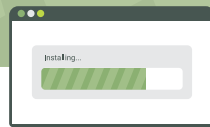
Visitor and loaner devices

Create a low-maintenance bank of loaner laptops available for visitors and users who need access to a temporary unit following theft, loss or accidental damage of their primary device.

Digital signage and kiosks

ChromeOS Flex isn't just for laptops. Convert the hardware powering your digital signage and interactive kiosks to ChromeOS to unlock cloud management, remote diagnostics, reports and more.

Create the USB installer

Scan or click the QR code below for a free ChromeOS Flex USB stick from Google

Test ChromeOS on the device

Try running ChromeOS Flex from the USB stick before overwriting your OS

Install ChromeOS Flex

Back up local data you want to keep to the cloud or a separate drive

Enrol and manage device

Turn on the newly Flexed device and press Ctrl+Alt+E to begin enrollment✽

Deploy and enjoy

Make the devices available for use and manage all aspects in the Admin console

As Google's leading Premier Partner in Education serving schools, colleges and universities for over 30 years, Getech is well placed to guide you through the setup, training and management needed to maximise one of the most sustainable IT projects you'll undertake this decade.

✽ Requires Chrome Education Upgrade to enrol and manage ChromeOS devices.

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