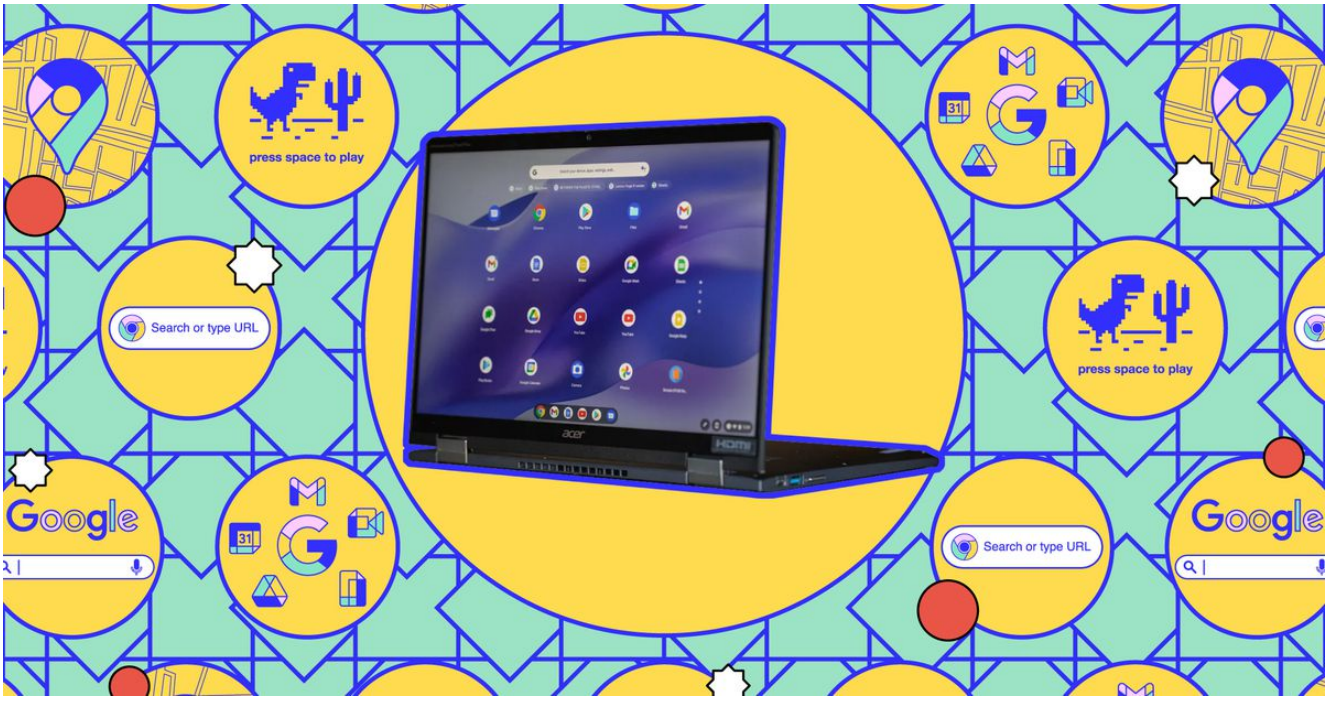
How to run games on a Chromebook



Chromebooks were originally synonymous with lightweight, online-only, relatively inexpensive computing. Over time, however, they've become more and more capable, not only as useful day-to-day systems but as gaming machines, too.

In fact, there are actually more gaming options on ChromeOS than many people may realize. So we're going to take you through the options.

To begin with, as well as giving you access to web games that run in a browser, ChromeOS supports Android games as well. Add in the Steam client for Chromebooks, plus the possibilities offered by cloud gaming services, and you're really spoilt for choice.

You can pick some or all of these options, depending on your gaming needs and your budget.

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Not every Android game is built to run on ChromeOS, but a lot of them are: any games that aren’t compatible simply won’t show up in the Play Store. And if your favorite Android games are there, you can then take advantage of all that extra screen space to enjoy your games even more. (Having a physical keyboard comes in handy as well.)

Don’t ignore browser-based games, either. As browser technology has evolved and internet speeds have increased, so the sophistication of web games has grown as well. A lot of the games you’ll come across are free to play and load pretty much instantly, and they cover a host of

different gaming genres, too.

We don’t have the space here for a full guide to the best browser-based games on the web, but some fine examples out there include the addictive word game *Wordle*, the fast-paced *Line Rider*, the turn-based strategy epic *Freeciv*, *OGC Open* for golf fans, the open-world RPG *Fallen London*, and *Sonic the Hedgehog* for the retro gaming enthusiasts.

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underline-gray-63″>*You’ll need to switch to the beta channel to run Steam on ChromeOS.*

You’ll need to switch to the beta channel of ChromeOS to find the Steam client if you’re not already on it. If a switch is required, make sure all the local files on your Chromebook are backed up somewhere safe.

·Open Settings, then the

About Chrome OS tab.

- Click Additional details > Change channel.
- Select Beta, then click Change channel.

Once ChromeOS has downloaded the beta version of the operating system, you'll see a Restart button on the About Chrome OS tab. After that's done, you need to enable a flag.

- Type "chrome://flags" in the Chrome address bar

and hit Enter.

- Look for the “#borealis-enabled” flag via the search box at the top, click the drop-down menu to the right of its entry, and change it to Enabled.
- Click Restart at the bottom of the flags list.

When you’re back in ChromeOS, click the Launcher button to find the Steam client. You’ll then be able to log in using

your normal credentials and see which games in your library can be run on your Chromebook.

There is another Steam option, which works on any Chromebook with Android app support. If you install the app from the Play Store, you can stream gameplay from another computer on the same Wi-Fi network. Games can be controlled using a keyboard and mouse or a Steam-compatible

controller connected via Bluetooth or USB.

a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin dark:[&>a:hover]:shadow-highlight-franklin [&>a]:shadow-underline-black dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-white”>Cloud gaming options

Chromebooks are built for the cloud, so it makes a lot of sense to use them for cloud gaming too. (Though Google’s own Stadia

service is, of course, **now shuttered**.) All the major cloud gaming services will work on Chromebooks, and the system requirements aren't prohibitive. Assuming you've got a fast enough connection, you simply log in inside a browser tab, and you're ready to go.

- **Amazon Luna has supported Chromebooks** since back in 2021: you'll need the latest version of

ChromeOS and an internet speed of 10 Mbps or more. Games can be controlled through a keyboard and mouse, through an Xbox or PlayStation controller (connected via USB or Bluetooth), or through a Luna controller (which connects directly to your Wi-Fi). A limited number of games are available to Prime members for no extra fee, while a subscription to Luna Plus costs $9.99 a month.