

Samsung Chromebook

What is a Chromebook? How can I use this in my teaching?

A Chromebook is a small laptop that functions on Chrome OS—the same operating system as the Google Chrome web browser. The main function of a Chromebook is fast and easy web browsing, along with sharing and creating quick documents. Microsoft Office is not compatible with the Chromebook, however, documents can be created using Google Drive (Docs, Slides, and Sheets). If you already have a Google account (Gmail), the Chromebook may be a smart accessory.

Jason B. Jones, the Director of Educational Technology at Trinity College, discusses some positive and negative aspects of a Samsung Chromebook [in his article](#) posted in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. He mentions that while it is convenient to be able to work offline in Google Drive, it may be hard to get used to working “with a browser and absolutely nothing else”.

The Chromebook Google Support website includes a [FAQ section](#) that may be of interest if you are considering a Chromebook. Answers include the difference between the Chromebook and other computers, how to print, and a discussion of software that is comparable to what you might be used to.

Okay, so can I try one out?

The Instructional and Information Technology Group has a Chromebook to lend to instructors. Please see the Assistant Director for more information on how to borrow it.

How do I set up a Chromebook?

Simple set-up instructions are located on [this page](#) on the Google Support website.

How do I put apps on my Chromebook? How do I take them off?

Apps are downloaded through the Chrome Web Store. [This page](#) explains how to install and uninstall apps on your Chromebook.

How do I protect my data when I'm done?

How to perform a factory reset:

The best way to clear your data is to reset the Chromebook. Follow [these instructions](#) on the Support site.

Note that the IITG has a Samsung Chromebook. To reset from sign-in, hold down *Escape*, *Refresh symbol*, and the Power button.

Okay, I have a Chromebook. Now what?

Suggested apps to get you started:

Free:

- **Google Drive:** Google Drive is how to store your files on a Chromebook. You can also share and collaborate live on these documents and access them from other computers with your Gmail account. You receive 5GB free.
- **Dropbox:** Dropbox is like an online flash drive—you can save any documents, photos, and videos to Dropbox and then access them anywhere. With the app, you will automatically be able to save documents to Dropbox and access any previously uploaded documents on your Chromebook. You can also share documents with students through Dropbox as long as they have an account.
- **Gmail:** When you sign in with your Google account, you also have a gmail account. This is your email.
- **Quick Note:** This is a desktop note app. It appears as a notepad and you can create fast notes or lists. Also can sync it to Google Cloud and access the notes from anywhere.
- **Kindle Cloud Reader:** If you have a Kindle, you can read your Kindle books from your browser. If you would like to search books but do not have a kindle, you may consider **Google Play Books**.

[This page](#) from the Chromebook help site has many more suggestions to might be of interest to you.