IT foundations for success in a cloud-first era

To accelerate a modern workforce, IT leaders use cloud-first solutions on devices designed for secure work from anywhere.

Organizations in every industry are moving to a virtual landscape to remain competitive. From academia to healthcare, the financial sector to nonprofits and associations, implementing flexible work arrangements and dissolving boundaries around where, when, and how work gets done is an urgent imperative.

80% of companies now consider accelerating their digital transformation a strategic necessity.[1]

But the challenges that legacy endpoints create are amplified by remote work, from slow device deployment and disrupted user experiences to costly procurements and a proliferation of apps.

When these endpoints can't support or secure new ways of working and doing business, where should IT teams look for answers? Perhaps "up" — to devices designed specifically for secure, cloud-centric workflows.

In response to the pandemic, when nearly nine in 10 organizations mandated that employees work remotely,[2] cloud-based data backup and storage was the leading business continuity strategy for businesses of all sizes.[3] Cloud storage solved for data volume increases as well as the surge of remote workers who needed to access files offsite.

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IT leaders are augmenting their post-pandemic tech stack with Chromebooks due to ease of use and management.

Market research firm IDC predicts cloud-centric devices like Chromebooks will continue broad IT adoption. In the second quarter of 2021, Chromebook shipments were up 68.6% over the same period the year before.[4]

Organizations that had already significantly or completely evolved their cloud-based end-user computing were

1.5x

more prepared to support employee mobility in response to the pandemic.[5]

These priorities — security, increasing productivity, and adopting a cloud-based workflow — remain top strategies for enterprise businesses worldwide trying to keep up with rapid change. Cloud-first endpoints are becoming a strategic solution IT admins choose to help keep segments of their workforce, customers, and students productive and protected.

01. Leverage a cloud-based platform to advance security, manageability, and shareability.

Employees in every industry need tools and solutions that foster collaboration and protect against security vulnerabilities. IT leaders need modern device management tools built to deploy devices quickly, sync customizations and policies, enable remote management, and minimize costs.

That's a tall order. But IT modernization and digital transformation can be achieved on a cloud-based platform with business-grade devices built for enterprise organizations.

Secure business-focused solutions for the modern workplace. Google Chrome OS for the enterprise is the business-focused solution for Chrome devices, the Chrome browser, and Chrome OS. Chrome OS for the enterprise offers cloud-first tools, integrations with third-party products, and 24/7 support for IT administrators. The ease of

management, efficiency, and value of cloud-first Chrome OS and the secure, trusted connection of the world's leading browser can improve business outputs.

Lenovo's ThinkShield solutions and services deliver a secure foundation to keep your business safe. Combined with Chrome OS for the enterprise's seamless updates, employees are protected against even the most sophisticated cyberthreats.

An enterprise Chromebook with optimal security and manageability. Lenovo's ThinkPad® C13 Yoga delivers a suite of built-in physical and biometric security features. From the webcam privacy shutter and proprietary Google H1 TPM chip to an optional touch fingerprint reader and a Kensington lock slot, this 2-in-1 Chromebook Enterprise PC delivers optimal security and manageability.

Lenovo's Chromebooks run Chrome OS, significantly limiting the amount of data stored on the device that is susceptible to ransomware. All user data is backed up to the cloud. If ransomware bypasses Chrome OS security measures, user data and files can be easily restored almost instantly.

In fact, there have been no reported ransomware attacks on any Chrome OS device — ever.

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02. Consider a solution that improves the experience for employees and IT.

Pivoting to remote work and remote learning fundamentally changed how we engage with technology. Optimizing a user's experience with technology has become a digital transformation necessity.

Cloud-dominant workers are a growing segment of the workforce, from knowledge workers to the frontlines of healthcare. They are mobile, seek collaboration and fluidity of information, and have high expectations for the way technology should integrate with their workflows.

Employees (and customers) expect frictionless, always-ready, always-on technology experiences.

Lenovo's business-ready ThinkPad C13 Yoga Chromebook Enterprise runs Chrome OS, a mobile and versatile cloud-first operating system that is secure, easy to use and manage, and provides fast access to cloud apps regardless of Chrome device or location. With an AMD Ryzen™ processor and integrated AMD Radeon™ graphics, the ThinkPad C13 Yoga Chromebook Enterprise also has

numerous performance innovations engineered to keep up with cloud-dominant employees — a sleek and durable aluminum chassis, a lightweight form factor designed for desk-free employees, and all-day battery life.

Cloud-ready, MIL-SPEC tested. From the Arctic wilderness to desert dust storms, the C13 Yoga Chromebook Enterprise laptop has been military-grade tested to withstand work from anywhere and look good doing it. Aesthetics matter to the modern workforce, and employee retention affects the bottom line.

A solution like Chrome OS for the enterprise with Lenovo has major IT appeal, too. Enabling a modern workforce is a complex task. A 2020 survey about the technology impact of COVID-19 found that 64% of IT decision-makers say enterprise IT is more complex compared to two years before.[6] These teams need support to simplify and automate IT while staying secure.

Always ready, always secure. The ThinkPad C13 Yoga Chromebook Enterprise running Chrome OS provides a secure, fast, reliable computing experience with regular updates in the background. Bootup takes seconds and once an employee logs in, the device becomes unique to that user. The

cloud-based Google Admin console allows IT to configure more than 500 policies, control updates, and install or manage apps from anywhere. Even with robust controls, it's still easy to get started with the pre-set default policies recommended by Google.

In short, lower total cost of ownership (TCO), multiple layers of security, and ease of management free IT to have greater impact on larger enterprise goals.

Nearly

60%
of ITDMs surveyed have seen more than

10%
improvement in their employee experience scores by focusing on improving employees' satisfaction with technology.[7]
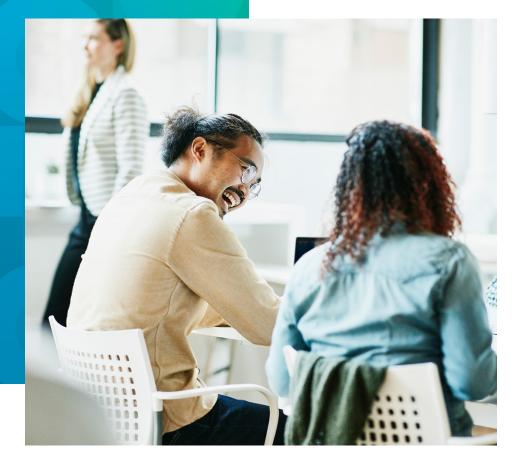
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65%

of executives believe the office is "very important" to increasing employee productivity, while over half also consider the office very important for employee collaboration, providing spaces to meet with clients, and enabling the company culture.[8]

03. Choose a platform that integrates with existing systems and solutions.

Successful management of a hybrid workforce requires a certain level of consistency in processes and programs. It's no longer about where we work, but how.

The office isn't going anywhere — it just looks different. Enabling both on- and offsite employees to work together with tools they trust for effective collaboration is a key digital transformation strategy and critical to tech adoption.

Engineered to rise to the occasion.
Chromebooks are well known for making content creation and collaboration easy, and the ThinkPad C13 Yoga Chromebook Enterprise is no exception. Its FHD IPS touchscreen, 360-degree hinge, and optional USI pen and 5MP world-facing camera are built for creating, editing, and sharing content collaboratively.

Narrow bezels frame the display, providing a larger screen-to-bezel ratio that's important for running a conference call with colleagues or streaming a video to clients. Speedy Wi-Fi 6 lets employees securely jump on crowded public platforms fast, and four USB ports ensure there's plenty of room for peripherals.

When used with Google's Chrome browser, employees have the flexibility to access data and apps they use on the web from any device.

This includes a wide range of productivity apps like Google Workspace, Office 365, Zoom, and Windows apps through virtualized solutions like Citrix, VMware, or Cameyo.

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Chromebook Enterprise devices combine the end-user benefits of Chromebooks with the business capabilities of Chrome OS for IT to deploy, orchestrate, and power the cloud workforce to work securely and effectively from anywhere. They can be deployed fast with no imaging required because devices automatically download users' apps, settings, and bookmarks stored in a cloud profile.

It doesn't get easier than zero-touch. Zero-touch enrollments from Lenovo and Google also allow remote deployment and auto-enrollment of these Chromebooks with hardware-backed attestation to prevent spoofing attacks (a valid device license with Google is required for zero-touch enrollment).

Lenovo pre-registers the Chromebook to enroll automatically in a company's domain, rendering the system unusable in the event of a lost device.

The devices ship directly to employees and the current settings, policies, applications, and certificates set by your company are automatically downloaded to the end user's system while they are logging in. This way, any changes an IT department has implemented after the order has been placed will be updated during the deployment.

Sources

1 Boston Consulting Group, "Digital Strategy Roadmap," 2020

2 Gartner, 2020

3 Lenovo, "The Future of Work and Digital Transformation" report, 2021

4 The Journal, "Chromebooks Continue Massive Surge in Adoption," August 2021

5 Forrester Consulting study commissioned by Google, "Being cloud-ready is being crisis-ready," 2020

6 ESG Master Survey, "Technology Impact of COVID-19: ITDM View," May 2020

7 Forrester, "Invest In Employee Experience (EX), Drive Your Bottom Line Growth, Empower Your Employees With The Right Technology," October 2020

8 PwC US Remote Work Survey, 2021

Plan (smarter) for the future of work

The world of work is changing. Enterprise organizations need to evolve to stay relevant to their employees, customers, and industry. Lenovo can support your digital transformation and help your organization adapt to enterprise in the cloud era.

Contact your Lenovo representative today and explore ThinkPad C13 Yoga Chromebook Enterprise devices at **www.lenovo.com/Google-For-Enterprise**.

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Best practices to enable a remote workforce with Google Chrome OS for the enterprise

Lenovo helps IT pros simplify IT management without interruption. Our ThinkPad C13 Yoga Chromebook and Chrome OS for the enterprise's fast deployment and simple management accelerate a modern workplace. Here's how to get the most out of this solution for your remote workforce.

☐ **Configure network settings to allow for remote access.** Make sure devices have the right policies for Wi-Fi, Ethernet, and virtual private network (VPN) access, as well as network certificates so employees can access the data they need.

☐ **Check Google Safe Browsing settings.** Users are warned of malicious sites before they navigate to them, deterring negligent behavior. IT admins configure this setting from the Google Admin console.

☐ **Disable devices remotely if needed.** Disable a lost or stolen Chrome device directly from the Google Admin console and post a message to let the finder know where to return the device.

☐ **Resolve technical issues with Chrome Remote Desktop.** Chromebooks are easy to use and have the familiar Chrome browser. However, if users are having issues, IT administrators can provide remote support with Chrome Remote Desktop.

☐ **Check forced reenrollment.** To ensure a device remains managed and settings are enforced on the device, you can enable forced reenrollment.

☐ **Make sure remote workers have access to apps they need.** Use the Google Admin console to install apps or extensions. You can pin it to users' taskbars or block an app from being installed. Employees can also use VDI solutions to access apps if needed.

☐ **Check screen lock and idle settings.** Prevent someone using a device when the employee is away by setting the screen to lock after being idle for a period of time. Lenovo's ThinkPad C13 Yoga Chromebook makes this easy with built-in physical and biometric security features like an optional touch fingerprint reader.

☐ **Determine the best way to update.** Enable automatic updates to keep remote workers on the latest build. Employees can download and install automatically and seamlessly in the background.

☐ **Use managed bookmark settings.** Curate a list of bookmarks for remote workers so they have easy access to resources like internal intranet pages and HR. You can push a list of bookmarks for the convenience of users using the Admin console.

☐ **Manage Chrome browser across platforms.** You can use the Google Admin console to manage Chrome browser across Windows, Mac, iOS, and Android. Chrome has built-in protections to safeguard your organization.

Keep ahead in the cloud

Find more strategies for accelerating a modern workplace, enabling a flexible workforce, and ensuring business continuity with Lenovo and Chrome OS for the enterprise at **www.lenovo.com/Google-For-Enterprise**.

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