Top Five Risks Facing Students (& Schools) on Chromebooks

The latest global forecasts show Chromebooks shipments in 2Q20 reached up to 11.6 million units. This marks the first time ever for Chromebooks to occupy 25 percent of the total quarterly notebook shipment.



And with the ongoing fears around the pandemic, these numbers will continue to increase as school districts arm their students with Chromebooks - whether at home or in the schools.





Unfortunately, like other platforms that have achieved widespread adoption, Chromebooks now have the attention of attackers and present significant cybersecurity risk.

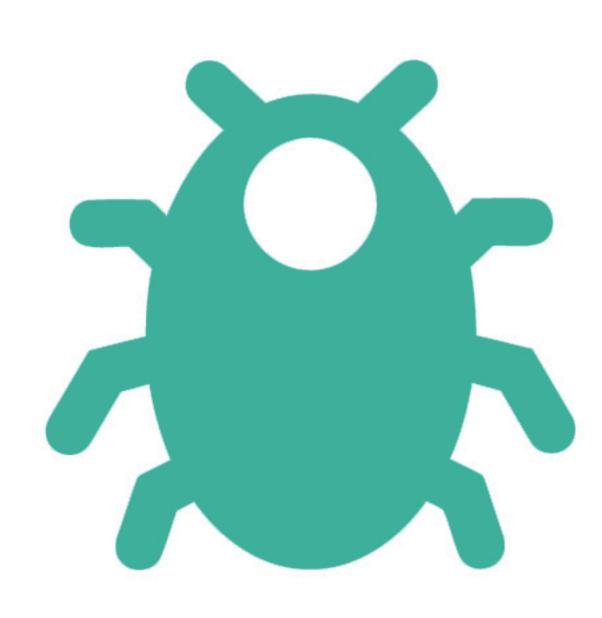


So, what are the Top 5 threats that students and schools must address on Chromebooks?



1 Inappropriate Sites

This risk will not surprise anyone. For as long as schools have been using Chromebooks for on-campus and remote learning, there has been a need to protect students from themselves... from accessing all forms of inappropriate sites. As a result, content filtering preventing students from going to inappropriate sites is now mandated for most schools.



Malware

Unfortunately for Chromebook users, malware is not just for traditional endpoints anymore. In fact, Chromebooks are susceptible to most Android malware. And when malware hits, students and schools are exposed to adware, privacy invasions, credential theft ransomwar and even device compromises (see #5).



3 Phishing

We've all heard about phishing attacks. Well, since the pandemic, these attacks are on the rise and don't look to be going away anytime soon. For students who fall for a phishing attack, it means their credentials can be stolen. Credentials for social media accounts, banking accounts, school accounts, etc.



Network

Network attacks are a real concern. Students may find themselves doing homework at a neighborhood coffee shop or someplace other than home, where their Chromebook may inadvertently connect with bad Wi-Fi. That connection can easily lead to a hacker gaining access to personal information, photos, grades, etc.



5 Device

Operating System (OS) and other Chromebook exploits are scary. Plain and simple. Once achieved, an attacker can do everything the user can do... and more. An attacker can remotely turn on the camera or microphone, take any files, send emails, post as the user and more.