

# 18 terminal commands on Chromebook you should know

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Do you know that Chromebooks have an integrated terminal? Chrome OS Developer Shell or Crosh for short allows you to access the command line interface, which can be used for debugging, test runs, etc.

Today, TipsMake.com will join readers to review some terminal commands on Chromebooks that every user should know to improve productivity and troubleshoot.

## The terminal commands needed for Chromebooks

The following are the most useful terminal commands for Chromebook users. Details for each command will be in the following section:

1. Open Crosh: **Ctrl + Alt + T**
2. Ping: **ping [domain]**
3. Check memory: **memory\_test**
4. Change mouse settings: **xset m**
5. Change keyboard settings: **inputcontrol**
6. Configure modem: **help modem**
7. Rollback (backward manipulation of the database to the old state) Chrome OS: **rollback**
8. Stop a process in Crosh: **Ctrl + C**
9. Open Task Manager: **top**
10. Battery Manager: **pin\_test [seconds]**
11. Developer Mode commands: **shell, systrace, pack\_capture**
12. Information about user and uptime (uptime): **uptime**
13. Set time: **set\_time**
14. Network diagnostics: **network\_diag**
15. Record audio: **record [seconds]**
16. Network monitoring: **tracpath**
17. Help: **help, help\_advanced**
18. Exit Crosh: **exit**

### 1. Open Crosh

Launching the application is the first thing to do. You will not find the Chrome OS Developer Shell in the list of common applications in the Chromebook application tray, need to press **Ctrl + Alt + T** to open the terminal

window and start.

**Note :** There is no need to activate Chromebook Developer Mode to access Crosh.

## 2. Run the Ping test

```
crosh> ping google.com
PING google.com (172.217.5.206) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from lax28s10-in-f206.1e100.net (172.217.5.206): icmp_seq=1 ttl=54 time=45.0 ms
64 bytes from lax28s10-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.5.206): icmp_seq=2 ttl=54 time=55.1 ms
64 bytes from lax28s10-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.5.206): icmp_seq=3 ttl=54 time=46.1 ms
64 bytes from lax28s10-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.5.206): icmp_seq=4 ttl=54 time=68.4 ms
64 bytes from lax28s10-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.5.206): icmp_seq=5 ttl=54 time=63.6 ms
64 bytes from lax28s10-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.5.206): icmp_seq=6 ttl=54 time=58.3 ms
64 bytes from lax28s10-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.5.206): icmp_seq=7 ttl=54 time=60.3 ms
^C
--- google.com ping statistics ---
7 packets transmitted, 7 received, 0% packet loss, time 6008ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 45.070/56.725/68.454/8.035 ms
crosh> ping bing.com
PING bing.com (204.79.197.200) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from a-0001.a-msedge.net (204.79.197.200): icmp_seq=1 ttl=119 time=72.2 ms
64 bytes from a-0001.a-msedge.net (204.79.197.200): icmp_seq=2 ttl=119 time=53.4 ms
64 bytes from a-0001.a-msedge.net (204.79.197.200): icmp_seq=3 ttl=119 time=65.8 ms
64 bytes from a-0001.a-msedge.net (204.79.197.200): icmp_seq=4 ttl=119 time=64.2 ms
^C
--- bing.com ping statistics ---
4 packets transmitted, 4 received, 0% packet loss, time 3005ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 53.434/63.947/72.259/6.775 ms
```

Enter **ping [domain]** to run ping tests on Chromebooks.

If you're not sure, ping tests are an essential tool for diagnosing network problems, showing how fast traffic moves between your computer and web server.

## 3. Check memory

Although Chromebook memory information can be viewed using third-party plugins, this information may not be enough for some users. If you want more detailed information, use Crosh. Just type **memory\_test** and press **Enter**.

## 4. Change mouse speed

You can manage the mouse's basic speed using the **Settings** menu on Chrome OS. Go to **Settings> Device> Mouse and Touchpad> Mouse> Mouse Speed** to make changes.

However, if you want more detailed control, go to Crosh. If you enter **xset m**, you can change the mouse speed when it starts to move.

## 5. Change the Repeat Rate of the keyboard

In the same way, you can also change the speed of a repeating letter on the screen when holding a single button on the keyboard. Enter **xset r** and follow the on-screen instructions to get started.

**Note:** The **xset** commands may not work on new machines. If the **xset** command does not work in your case, try **inputcontrol** instead.

## 6. Configure modem

Another important part while troubleshooting the network is to make sure that the modem is configured correctly.

If you enter the **help modem** in the Chromebook's terminal, you will have access to a variety of options, including settings to activate the modem, connect the modem, change the modem's firmware, reset the modem's original settings and more. That's it.

## 7. Reinstall the previous version of Chrome OS

If the recent Chrome OS update has caused problems for your computer, you can easily undo the changes and return to the previous version of the operating system.

The command to use is **rollback**.

## 8. Stop all processes in Crosh

If you want to pause any process running in any background (such as ping checking) in Crosh, just press **Ctrl + C**.

## 9. Better task manager

```
top - 10:33:57 up 15:07, 0 users, load average: 0.44, 0.31, 0.24
Tasks: 182 total, 1 running, 181 sleeping, 0 stopped, 0 zombie
%Cpu(s): 3.7 us, 2.0 sy, 0.0 ni, 94.2 id, 0.0 wa, 0.0 hi, 0.0 si, 0.0 st
MiB Mem : 3892.0 total, 2006.5 free, 752.3 used, 1133.2 buff/cache
MiB Swap: 5701.2 total, 5701.2 free, 0.0 used, 2675.6 avail Mem

  PID USER      PR  NI   VIRT   RES   SHR  S  %CPU  %MEM     TIME+  COMMAND
  947 chronos  12   -8 957704 285396 103336 S   5.6   7.2   1:37.44 chrome
 1181 chronos  12   -8 395792  80540  28040 S   2.0   2.0   0:31.90 chrome
 4130 chronos  20    0 623060  91088  29044 S   2.0   2.3   0:22.94 chrome
   54 root     -51    0      0      0      0 S   1.0   0.0   0:01.43 irq/37-cyapa
  795 power   20    0 101828   5848   4824 S   0.3   0.1   0:00.85 powerd
 6599 chronos  20    0 633120 116896  30544 S   0.3   2.9   0:03.99 chrome
 6604 chronos  20    0 551248  53460   7296 S   0.3   1.3   0:00.07 chrome
 7916 root     20    0      0      0      0 S   0.3   0.0   0:00.14 kworker/1:0
    1 root     20    0  12044   2524   1336 S   0.0   0.1   0:00.42 init
    2 root     20    0      0      0      0 S   0.0   0.0   0:00.00 kthreadd
    3 root     20    0      0      0      0 S   0.0   0.0   0:00.04 ksoftirqd/0
    5 root     0  -20      0      0      0 S   0.0   0.0   0:00.00 kworker/0:0H
    7 root     0  -20      0      0      0 S   0.0   0.0   0:00.00 kworker/u:0H
    8 root     rt    0      0      0      0 S   0.0   0.0   0:00.07 migration/0
    9 root     20    0      0      0      0 S   0.0   0.0   0:00.00 rcu_bh
   10 root     20    0      0      0      0 S   0.0   0.0   0:01.02 rcu_sched
   11 root     rt    0      0      0      0 S   0.0   0.0   0:00.03 watchdog/0
   12 root     rt    0      0      0      0 S   0.0   0.0   0:00.03 watchdog/1
   13 root     20    0      0      0      0 S   0.0   0.0   0:00.04 ksoftirqd/1
```

Very few people know that Chrome OS (and Chrome browser on other operating systems) has its own task manager. It shows which processes are consuming CPU and memory. You can find this task manager by opening Chrome and going to **More** (three vertical dots) > **More Tools**> **Task Manager** .

In addition, Chrome OS has a side task manager hidden in Crosh. You can use it to find out about low-level processes that are not displayed in the main task management application.

Please enter the **top** to get started.

## 10. Manage battery

```
crosh> battery_test 10
Battery is discharging (92.07% left)
Battery health: 85.24%
Please wait...
Battery discharged 0.03% in 10 second(s).
```

You can view battery data by looking at the bottom right corner of the Chromebook screen. However, if you want more information, enter **pin\_test [seconds]** into Crosh (replace **[seconds]** with a number, eg **pin\_test 10** ).

Crosh will give you the exact amount of battery life used in a given time frame, as well as feedback on the remaining battery life and overall battery 'health'.

## 11. Developer Mode commands

Although you don't need to be a developer to use Crosh, if you enable Developer Mode, there will be three new commands:

1. **shell**: Open a full bash shell.
2. **systrace**: Start tracking system.
3. **pack\_capture**: Capture and log data packets.

## 12. Information about users and Uptime

When was the last time you turned off your Chromebook? The answer may be a few days or even weeks ago.

To see how long the computer has been running since the last shutdown, enter **uptime**. The result will also provide information about the user currently logged in.

## 13. Change time

Do you have any problems with the time displayed on the machine? Perhaps you live in the contiguous zone of time zones or have an internet connection with frequently changing IP addresses.

Enter **set\_time** in Crosh and you can override the time setting on the operating system's graphical interface.

## 14. Other network diagnostics

```
crosh> network diag
Saving output to Downloads under: network_diagnostics_2019-02-08.10-34-09.txt
Trying to contact https://clients3.google.com ... (waiting up to 10 seconds)
PASS: Loaded clients3.google.com via HTTPS
Entering diag date clients3.google.com
Local time of day: Fri Feb 8 10:34:10 MST 2019
PASS: Time appears to be correct
PASS: Current LinkMonitor latency for /device/wlan0 is 1ms
```

If you have run a ping test and tried to configure the modem but still have problems, you can enter **network\_diag** to run more tests on your network.

The output is saved as a TXT file in the **Files** application of Chromebook.

## 15. Recording

Chromebooks do not come with the original recording tool. Of course, there are many applications in Chrome Web Store that provide this functionality, but they are not necessary.

In Crosh, enter the **sound record [seconds]** (again, replace **[seconds]** with a number) to record audio through the microphone on the Chromebook.

Enter **sound\_play** to listen to what you have recorded or find new audio files created in the **Files** application .

## 16. Follow the network

The last Crosh command on the list today is about network, **tracpath**, which allows routing packets on the computer over the network.

## 17. Help

```
crosh> help
exit
  Exit crosh.

help [command]
  Display general help, or details for a specific command.

help advanced
  Display the help for more advanced commands, mainly used for debugging.

ping [-4] [-6] [-c count] [-i interval] [-n] [-s packetsize] [-W waittime] <destination>
  Send ICMP ECHO_REQUEST packets to a network host. If <destination> is "gw"
  then the next hop gateway for the default route is used.
  Default is to use IPv4 [-4] rather than IPv6 [-6] addresses.

top
  Run top.
```

If the article does not include the command you need, enter **help** or **help\_advanced** to see a full list of all available Crosh commands.

## 18. Exit Crosh

When you are done exploring, type **exit** and Crosh will exit. Just as simple as that.

## Create backup before starting

It should be noted that if you change the settings in Chrome OS Developer Shell without being sure what you are doing, you can make the system unusable.

Fortunately, Chromebooks are easy to recover, but you will lose all locally saved data. So make sure you have created a backup before trying the above commands.

If the Crosh commands that the article discussed exceed your technical qualification, don't worry. Readers can refer to other articles such as the new Chromebook Setup Guide or 10 tips and tools for new Chromebook users.

Good luck!

You finished reading the article "**18 terminal commands on Chromebook you should know**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.

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