A Second Life For Old Laptops

Escape from...

- Slow performance
- Progressive system corruption
- Constant updates
- Complicated data backups

Options

- Attempt to root out bottlenecks
- Reinstall Windows 10
- Upgrade the hardware (additional RAM and SSD)
- Install Linux operating system

Functionality

- Surf the Web
- Email (including attachments)
- Word Processing
- Spreadsheets
- Presentations (e.g., PowerPoint)
- YouTube
- Multimedia
- Photo editing
- Compatibility with MS Office
- Zoom

Familiar Components

- Start button
- Start menu
- File manager

And the solution is ...

ChromeOS Flex

Minimum Requirements

- Flash drive: 16GB
- Computer RAM: 4GB
- 64-bit CPU

Steps

- Must use Google Chrome browser
- Must have Google account (Gmail account is fine)
- Insert extension: **Chromebook Recovery Utility**
- The utility will prompt you through creation of ChromeOS Flex on the flash drive
    - Make sure you know how to boot from flash drive
- Make sure you can boot to the flash drive
    - Best to set BIOS to always boot from flash drive it flash drive is present

Pros

Simple to set up and run

Can run from flash drive or install on internal hard drive

Runs well either way

Tested on 10-year-old Dell Latitude E6330

- 4GB RAM
- Magnetic platter hard drive

Pros (cont.)

Fast: makes maximum use of resources on old computers

No maintenance required

Stable

Backups are automatic: Files stored automatically on Google drive

Cloud storage permits ready access from any computer

Uses Google cloud-based office suite (Google Docs, Sheets, Slides)

Simple to reset (“Powerwash”)

Cons (and they are minor!)

Cannot disable trackpad from within OS

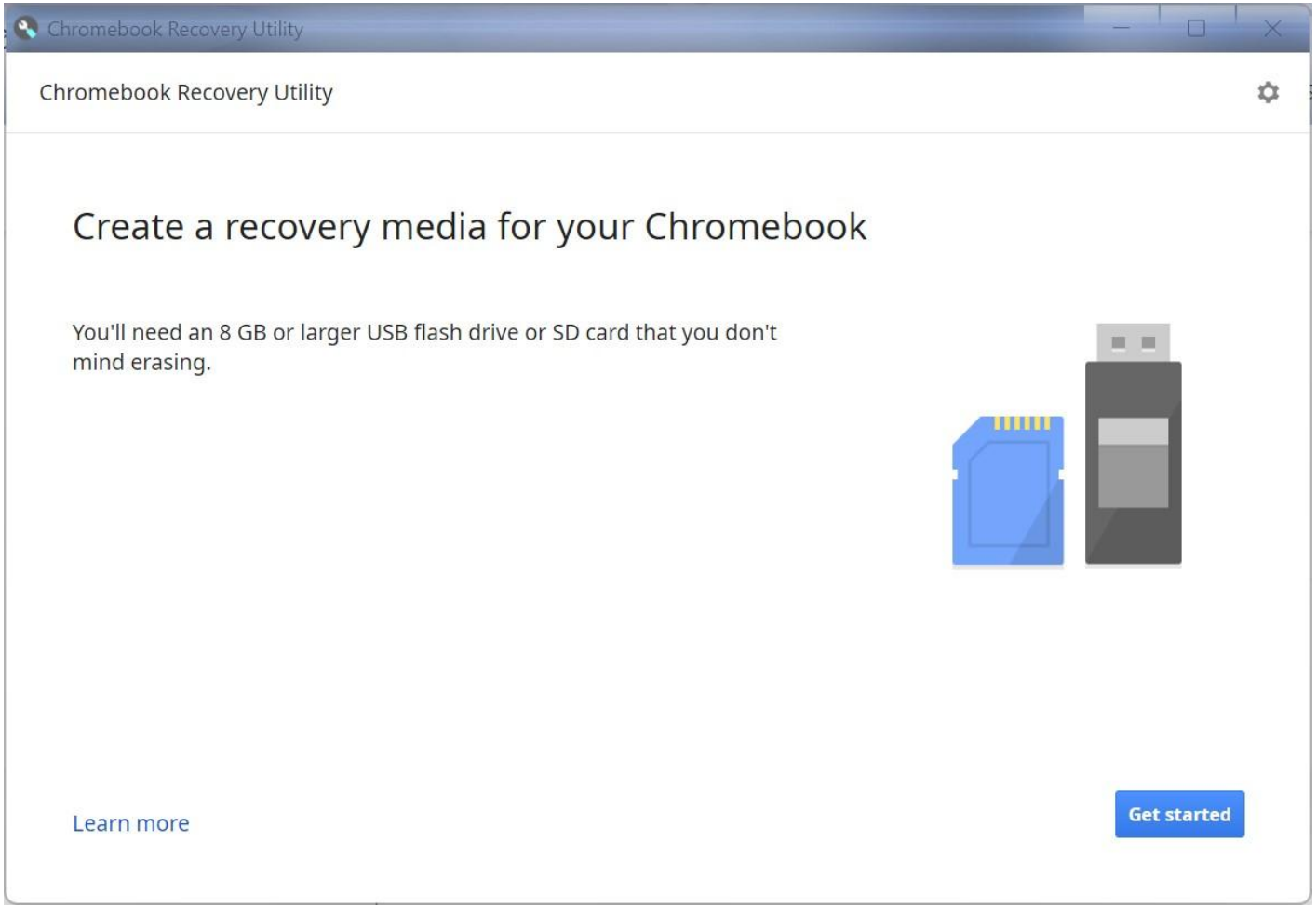
Cannot run Android apps

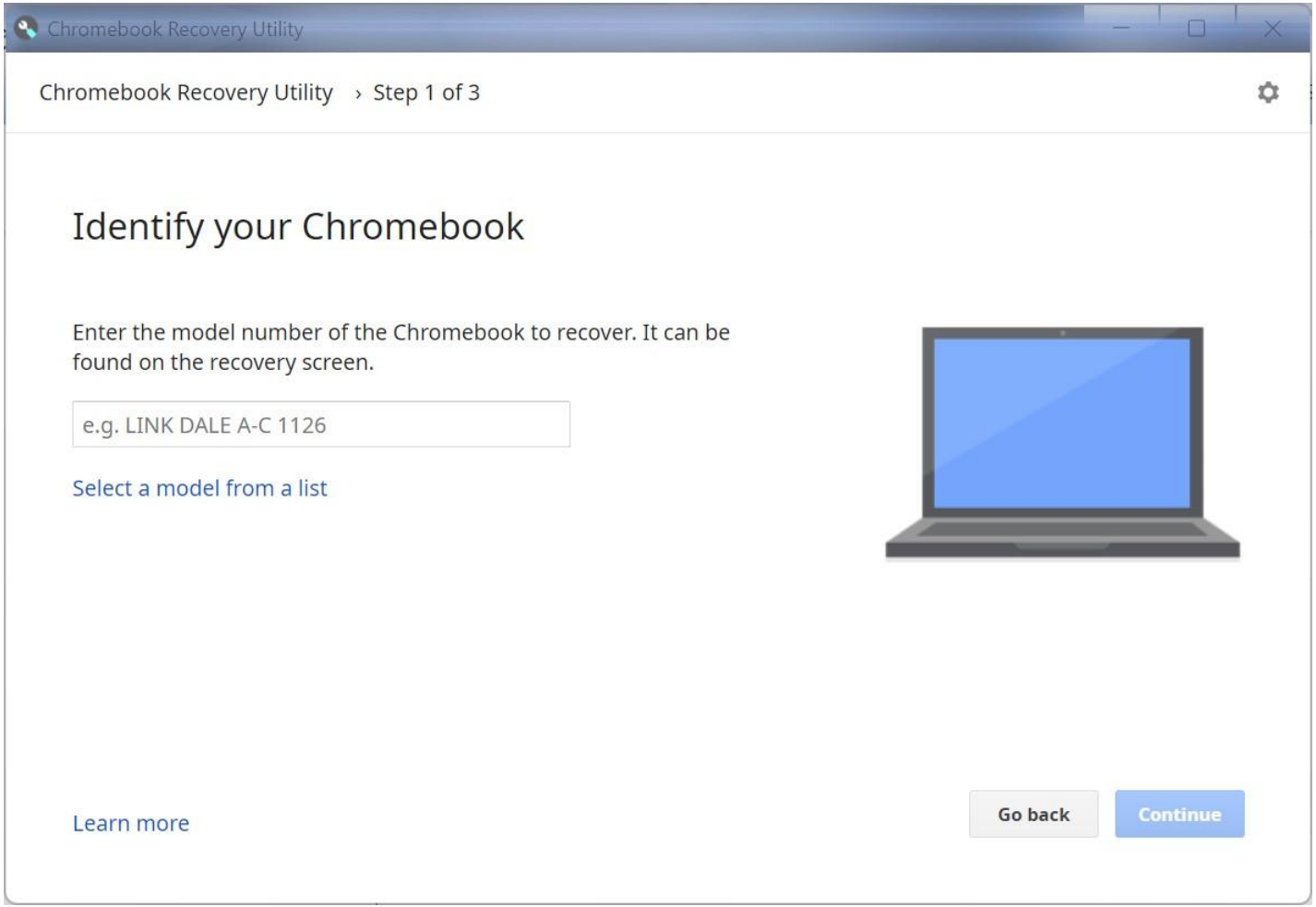
When starting, must click through two screens and set to max brightness

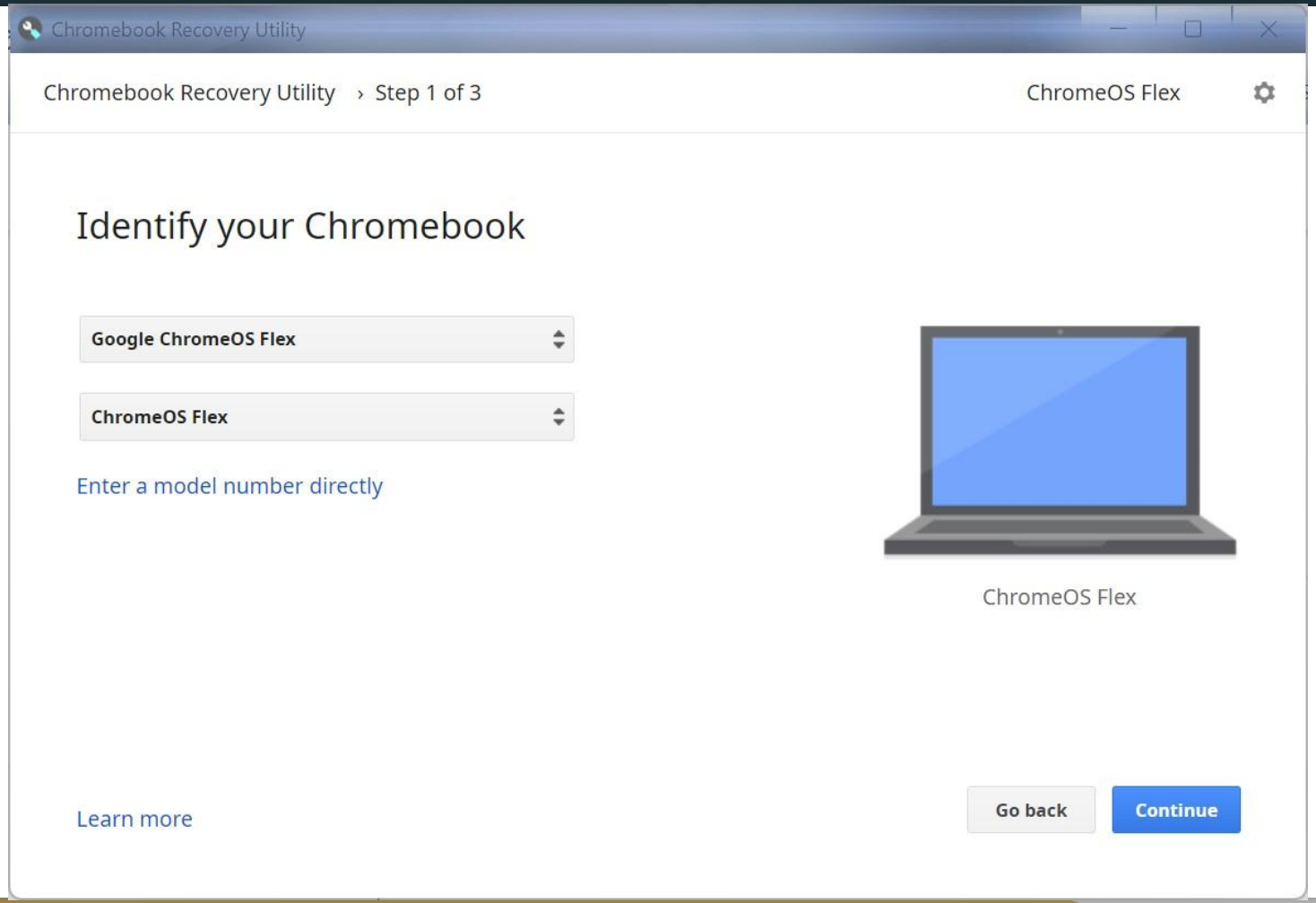
Creates many partitions on disk drive. Not a factor unless user wants to revert to earlier operating system

Confined to Google apps

- Chrome browser, Docs, Sheets, Slides


Chromebook Recovery Utility
Chromebook Recovery Utility
Create a recovery media for your Chromebook
You'll need an 8 GB or larger USB flash drive or SD card that you don't mind erasing.
Learn more
Get started


Chromebook Recovery Utility
Chromebook Recovery Utility › Step 1 of 3
Identify your Chromebook
Enter the model number of the Chromebook to recover. It can be found on the recovery screen.
e.g. LINK DALE A-C 1126
Select a model from a list
Learn more
Go back
Continue


Chromebook Recovery Utility
Chromebook Recovery Utility › Step 1 of 3
ChromeOS Flex
Identify your Chromebook
Google ChromeOS Flex
ChromeOS Flex
Enter a model number directly
ChromeOS Flex
Learn more
Go back
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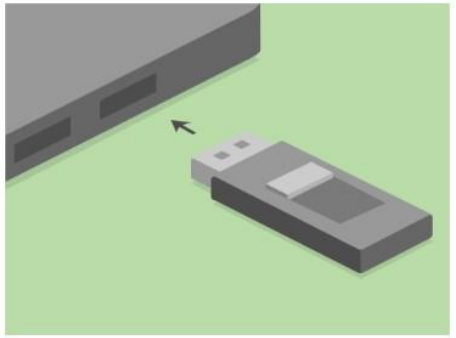
Chromebook Recovery Utility

Chromebook Recovery Utility › Step 2 of 3 ChromeOS Flex

Insert your USB flash drive or SD card

Select the media you'd like to use.

Select



Learn more

Go back Continue

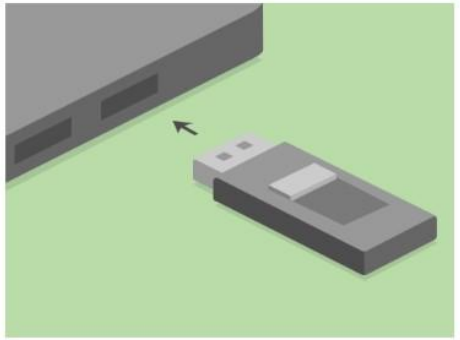
Chromebook Recovery Utility

Chromebook Recovery Utility › Step 2 of 3 ChromeOS Flex

Insert your USB flash drive or SD card

Select the media you'd like to use.

PNY USB 2.0 FD - 15.0 GB



Learn more

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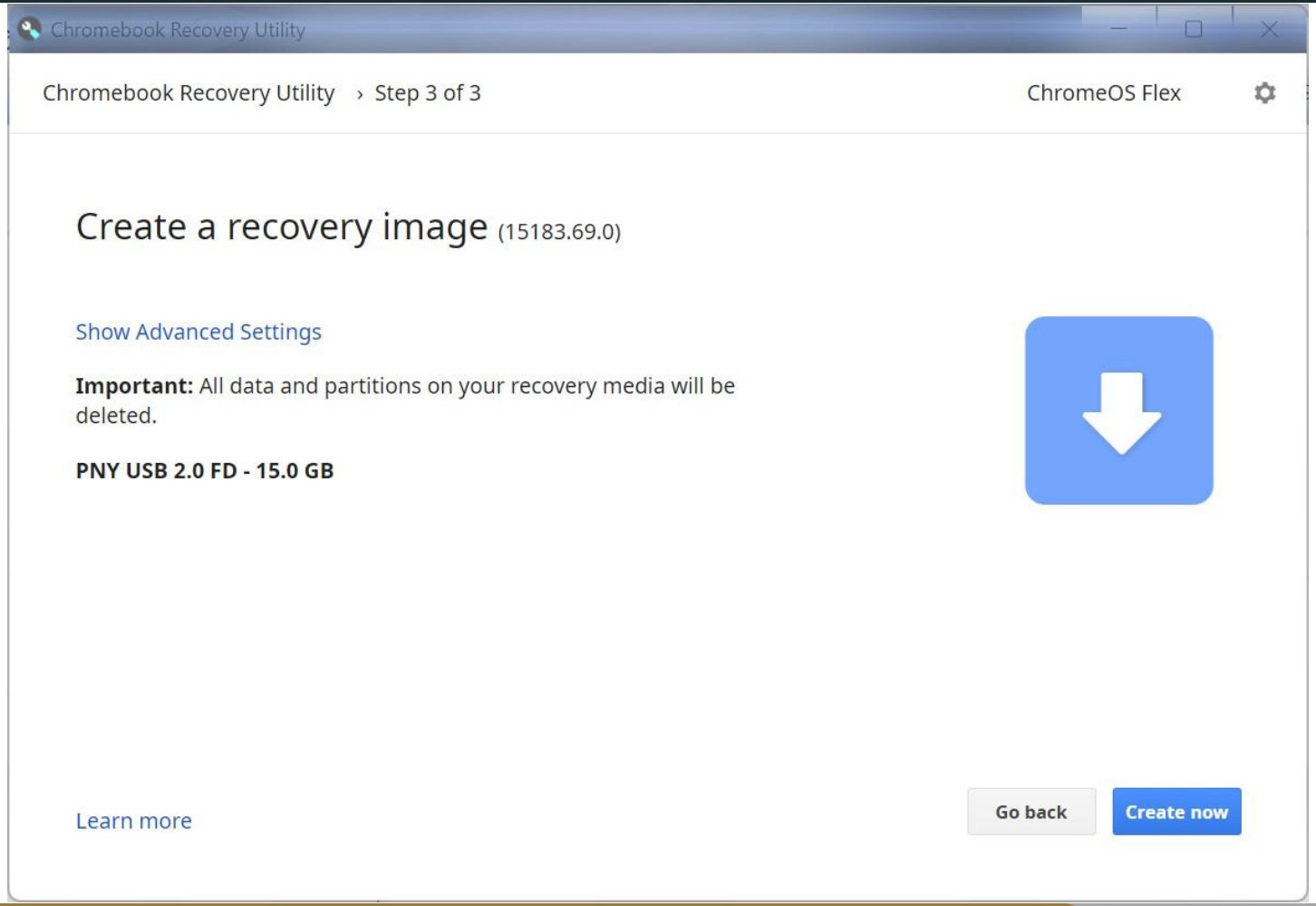
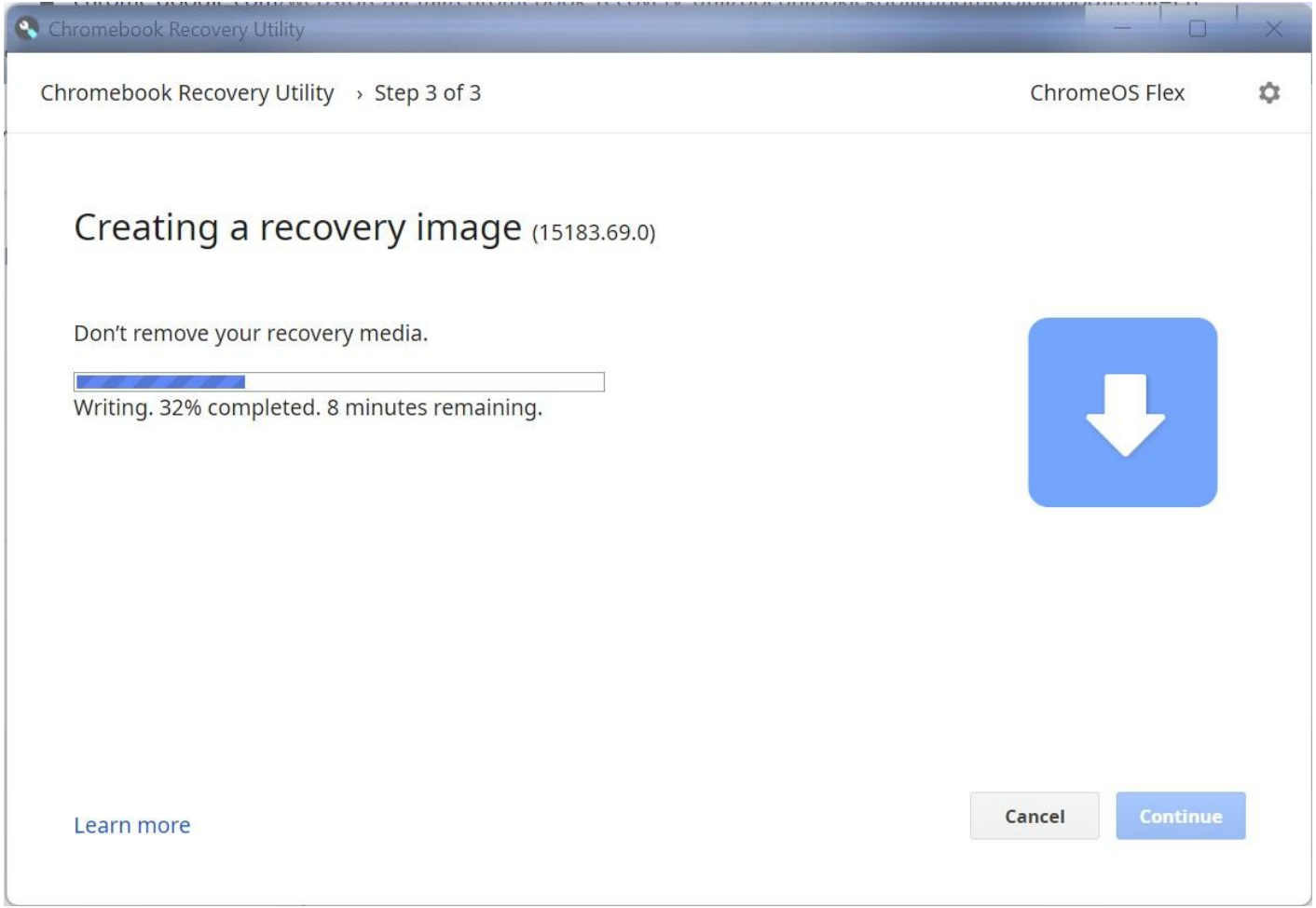
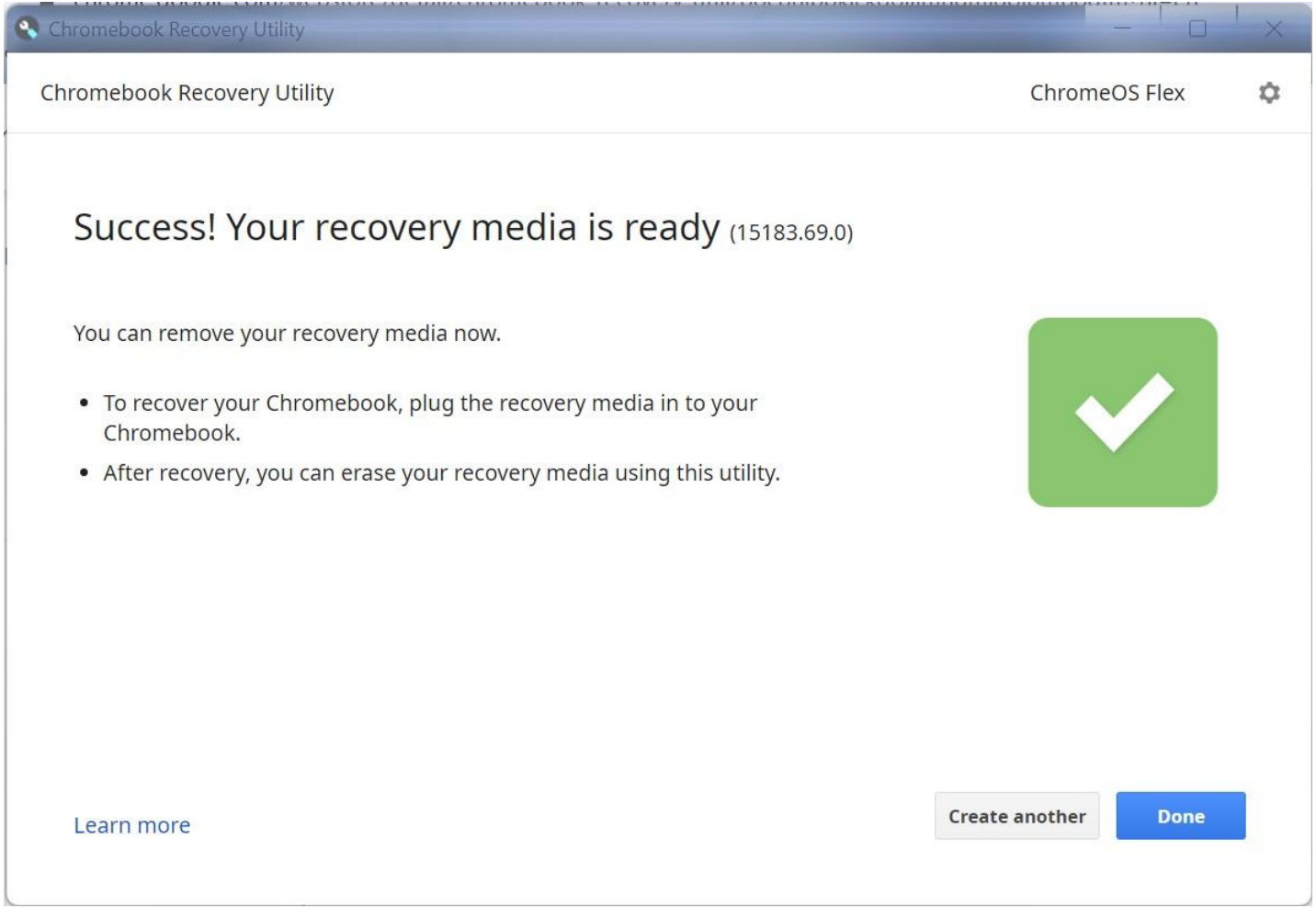

Chromebook Recovery Utility
Chromebook Recovery Utility › Step 3 of 3
ChromeOS Flex
Create a recovery image (15183.69.0)
Show Advanced Settings
Important: All data and partitions on your recovery media will be deleted.
PNY USB 2.0 FD - 15.0 GB
Learn more
Go back
Create now


Chromebook Recovery Utility
Chromebook Recovery Utility › Step 3 of 3
ChromeOS Flex
Creating a recovery image (15183.69.0)
Don’t remove your recovery media.
Writing. 32% completed. 8 minutes remaining.
Learn more
Cancel
Continue


Chromebook Recovery Utility
Chromebook Recovery Utility
ChromeOS Flex
Success! Your recovery media is ready (15183.69.0)
You can remove your recovery media now.
To recover your Chromebook, plug the recovery media in to your Chromebook.
After recovery, you can erase your recovery media using this utility.
Learn more
Create another
Done