Deploying
Mac

Five best practices

Deploying Mac

Today more than ever, IT teams are looking to support Mac users at work. These five best practices—used by medium and large organizations like yours—will help your team integrate OS X quickly and efficiently. Whether you're managing a large fleet of Mac systems or just getting started with OS X, these tips will save you time and effort.

For in-depth information on deploying OS X, please access the "OS X Deployment Reference" in the Additional Resources section of this guide. And for additional information, including details on how to set up a customized Mac pilot, feel free to contact your Authorized Apple Reseller or account representative.

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① Start with a Mac pilot.

Most questions concerning Mac security, management, and deployment can be answered during a Mac pilot or evaluation. Two key components of an evaluation are an employee workflow analysis and OS X application compatibility analysis. Information from these findings help determine which employee roles are best suited to use Mac. Documenting your network environment, systems of record, and device lifecycle management strategy are also essential to completing an OS X evaluation. Your internal IT team, an Authorized Apple Reseller, or account team can plan and implement a Mac evaluation for your organization.

Q How can I manage moving our legacy applications to OS X?

A Legacy applications are often tied to specific versions of Microsoft Windows and Internet Explorer. Deployment teams can move these to standards-based web solutions, which also support today's mobile devices. For those applications that aren't supported yet, employees can use Boot Camp from Apple or third-party remote desktop or virtualization solutions.[1]

(2) Manage OS X like iOS.

Mac systems are as easy to manage as iPad and iPhone. With a few simple settings, your IT staff can configure OS X to give employees secure access to organizational resources, such as email, calendars, contacts, WiFi, and Virtual Private Networks (VPN). Mac also fits easily in Active Directory (AD) environments—from the simplest to the most complex integration scenarios.

Q What capabilities are available to manage Mac?

A Configuration profiles, built into every Mac, provide IT with powerful configuration technology. With mobile device management (MDM), configuration profiles empower IT teams to manage user accounts, configure system settings, enforce restrictions, set password policies and more.

③ Streamline deployment.

The Device Enrollment Program (DEP) makes over-the-air deployment a reality for IT teams. With DEP, large-scale deployments are seamless—providing fast, streamlined activation for corporate-owned Mac and iOS devices. DEP also automates mobile device management enrollment, allowing employees to get started right out of the box. With less need for staging services or for deployment teams to touch every Mac, DEP can save IT teams time and resources.

Q Can I enforce encryption on Mac?

And can IT recover data on an encrypted Mac without a user password?

A Yes and yes. FileVault, the powerful encryption technology in OS X, is enabled in every new Mac. With the Device Enrollment Program and mobile device management, IT can manage FileVault policy and recovery options. And with MDM, FileVault can be provisioned with an institutional and/or personal recovery key that IT can escrow for data recovery.

(4) Leverage built-in security.

When it comes to security, Mac has a multilayered system of defenses that work to protect data, applications, and services. FileVault encrypts the entire drive on Mac, protecting data with XTS-AES 128 encryption. Gatekeeper makes it safer to download apps by protecting employees from inadvertently installing malicious software. Advanced security features such as System Integrity Protection, the App Sandbox, and Address Space Layout Randomization are included in OS X. And Mac also offers an easy-to-use application-based firewall to help protect against network threats.

5 Take advantage of support and resources.

A variety of enterprise resources and support are available to help IT teams deploy Mac. Mac evaluation resources, flexible leasing and trade-in options, onsite consultations, technical documentation, and training and certification programs are just some of the tools available to your organization. AppleCare provides organizations with a variety of solutions such as 24/7 live chat employee support and hardware coverage including next-day onsite service.[2] AppleCare also offers IT department-level support for complex deployment and integration scenarios. And IT can get backup help and training for help desk and support teams through AppleCare.

Trade In
High trade-in value makes Mac a great investment.

Leasing
Delivers the latest technology with minimal upfront costs.

AppleCare
One-stop service and support from Apple experts.

Q How can my IT team get support as we integrate OS X into our cross-platform environment?

A With an AppleCare OS Support Agreement, your IT department has a direct line to Apple experts for support as they integrate Apple technology into your existing infrastructure.

Additional Resources

For more information on deploying, managing, and securing Mac, see the "OS X Deployment Reference" below and contact your Apple Authorized Reseller or account representative.

OS X Deployment Reference

OS X Deployment Reference

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English (U.S.)

Read the real-world stories of medium and large organizations like yours that are boosting productivity with Mac. And discover how these IT teams have successfully integrated OS X into their environments.

BiblioTech Mac Customer Profile

CareerBuilder Mac Customer Profile

The CDM Group Mac Customer Profile

Cisco Systems Mac Customer Profile

Kelly Services Mac Customer Profile