



Patch Notes & Pizza

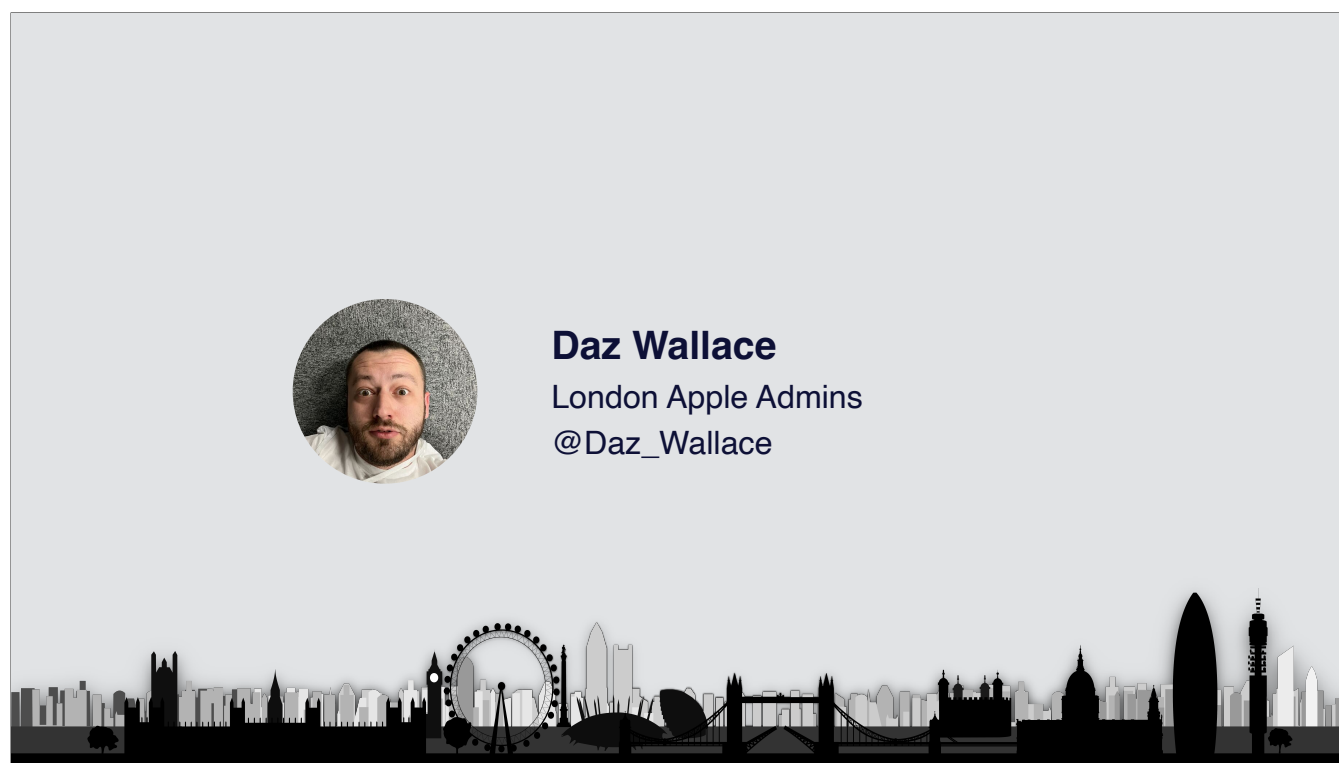
WWDC 2026 Roundup



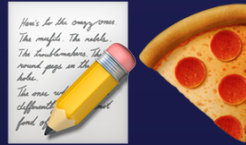
Daz Wallace
Solutions Engineer
iru 🧑

My name is Darren “Daz” Wallace and I’m a Solutions Engineer at Iru.

I’ve been working with Apple devices for over 20 years now, including at MSPs, Consultancies and in-house IT - and now at a Vendor - Iru!



I'm also one of the organisers for the London Apple Admins meet up group
You can find me on Slack, and most other things as daz_wallace



WWDC 2026 Roundup

And today I'm here to talk about what aspects of WWDC 2026 may affect us as Apple admins.

Pulled from “What’s new for IT at WWDC26”

Pre-release info - Subject to change

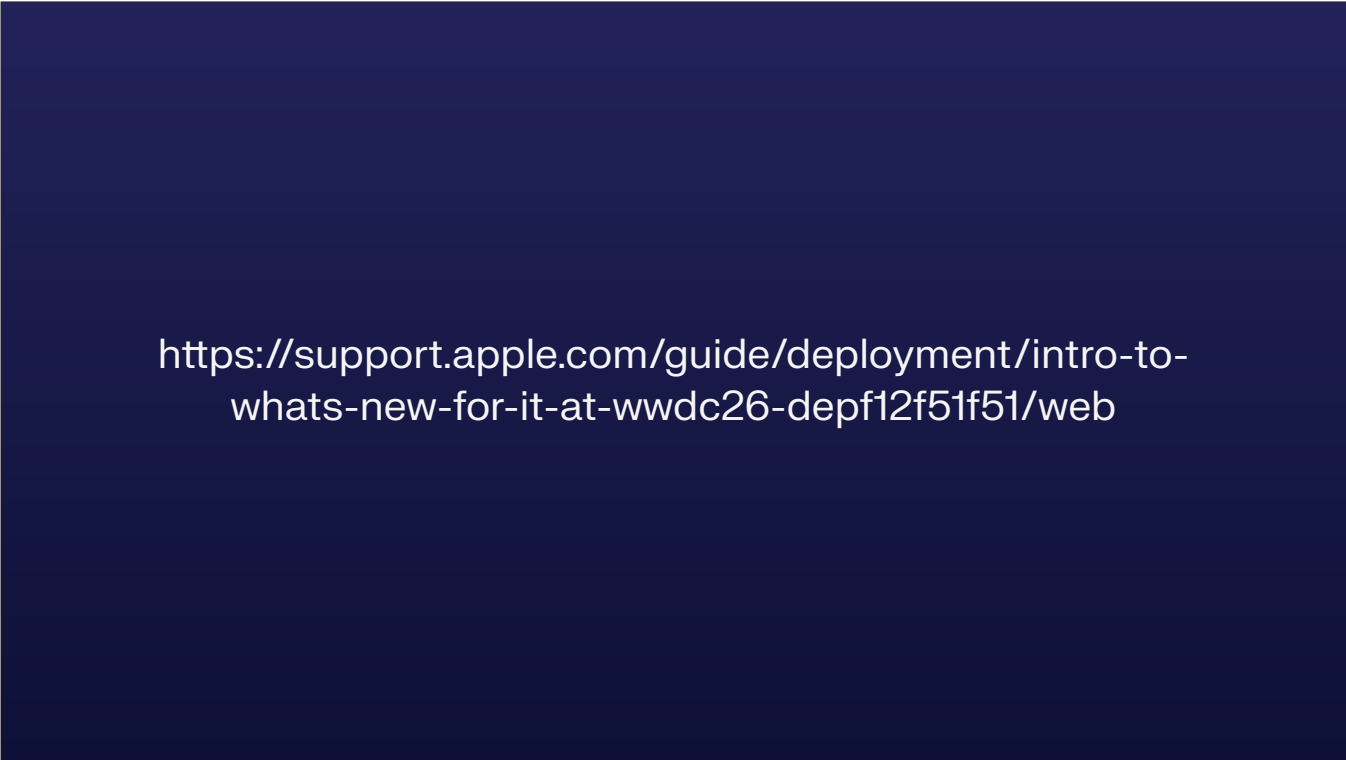
Slides and links will be available

A few details around the things I’ll be covering:

- All information has been predominantly pulled from the official Apple “What’s new for IT at WWDC 26” document
- This is all pre-release information and subject to change
- I’ll have links on each topic as we go, but I’ll also link to a blog post at the end which will have a copy of the slides and the links shown.

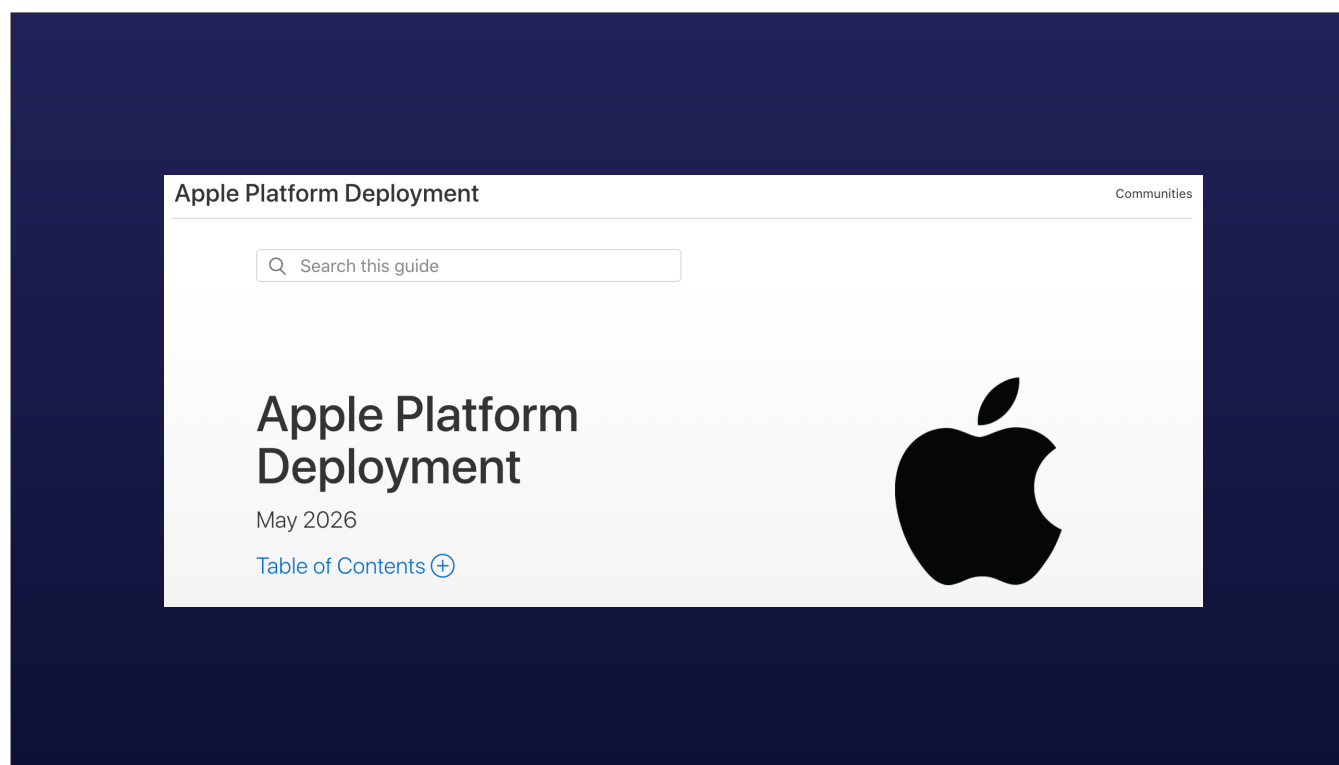
“What’s new for IT at WWDC26” ?

A quick Segway almost immediately! How do you get access to the “What’s new for IT at WWDC26” document?

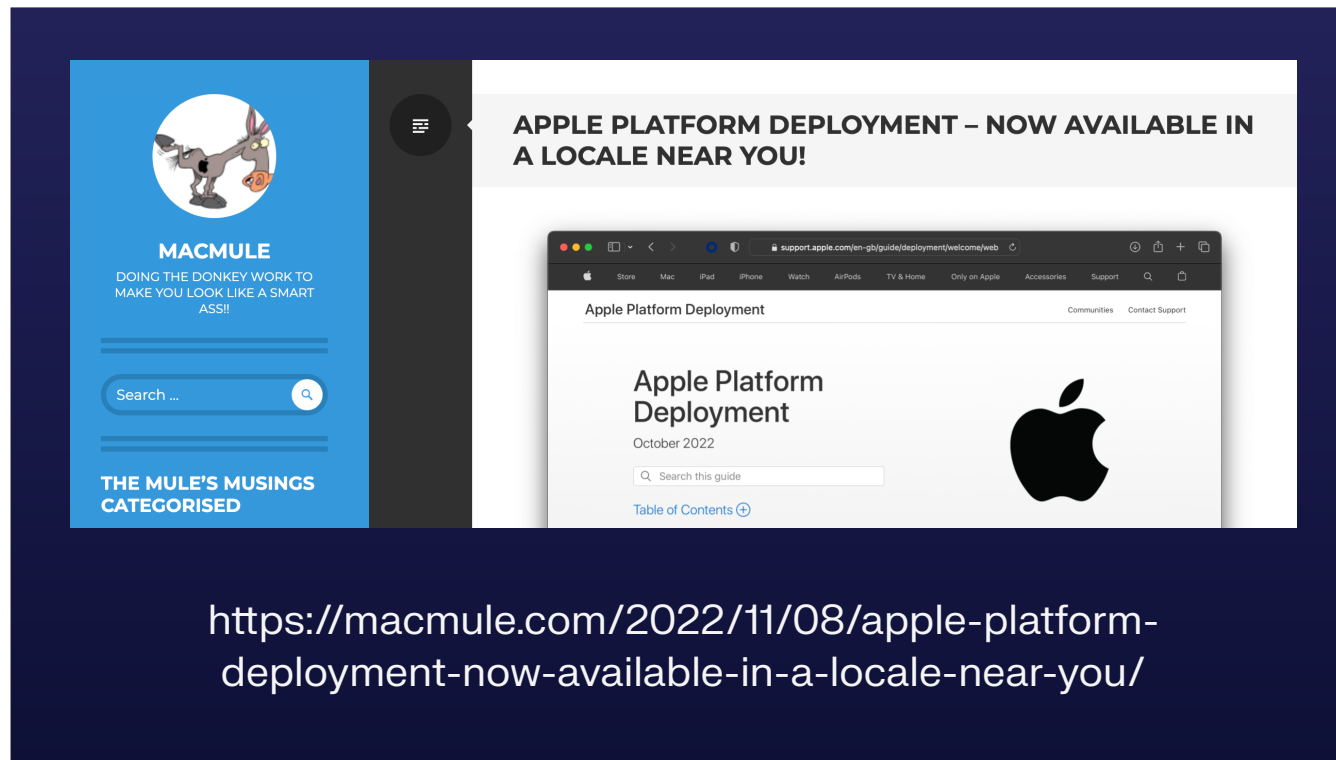


<https://support.apple.com/guide/deployment/intro-to-whats-new-for-it-at-wwdc26-depf12f51f51/web>

If you pop the name into a search engine, this is typically the URL you'll see.



However (at least in the UK), that URL will redirect you to this page...



Turns out, Mac Mule has us covered with this blog post from 2022 (!!)

<https://support.apple.com/guide/deployment/intro-to-whats-new-for-it-at-wwdc26-depf12f51f51/web>



<https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/intro-to-whats-new-for-it-at-wwdc26-depf12f51f51/web>

Simply tweak the URL to force it to go to the Canadian English site and the page should load as expected
Right, back to the content!



Totally shocking everyone - we have new OS announcements!

iOS 27, iPadOS 27, macOS 27, tvOS 27, visionOS 27 and watchOS 27

We also have the marketing name for macOS 27, macOS Golden Gate

Apple Business

<https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/dep5a7629d2f/web>

Next up, although not actually WWDC news, but related - changes to Apple Business Manager.

Firstly - renamed to just “Apple Business”. A shame as it loses a nice acronym and a clear way to differentiate the service. We’ve taken to using “Apple Biz” for now!

Apple School Manager currently remains as-is.

As part of this, we also had a unification of Apple-related business tools under the same portal, namely Apple Business Essentials (the ‘free’ 1st-party Device Management solution), and Apple Business Connect (the portal to manage business profiles in Apple Maps, Messages, Wallet etc).

Additionally, Apple has made Apple Biz live in over 200+ countries, including their Device Management Service features in the UK.

Source: Apple services updates - <https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/dep5a7629d2f/web>

Subscriptions in Apps and Books

<https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/dep5a7629d2f/web>

New for Apps and Books (or VPP for the older admins out there) - App subscriptions are being added to volume purchasing!

This will allow us to both purchase and manage App subscriptions in ASM / Apple Biz for users.

- This only works for App subscriptions that auto-renew, and not those that are a one-time, in-app purchase
- The subscriptions are assigned to users (Managed Apple Accounts) and not devices
- Release is marked as “later this year”

One more thing: Free Apps managed through the Apps and Books programs will no longer require you to “buy” licenses for deployment. This is another change coming later this year, and any free App added after the switch will use this new behaviour.

Source: Apple services updates - <https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/dep5a7629d2f/web>

Apple Business API Improvements

<https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/dep5a7629d2f/web>

And the last slide on ASM / Apple Biz related items - new device information available via the API, namely:

- MAC addresses for Wi-Fi and Bluetooth
- EID / IMEI and MEID numbers
- If the device is a replacement device, and if so, the serial number of both the original and replacement devices, along with a timestamp of when the replacement occurred.

Related, if folks aren't aware of it, Neil has a terraform project to easily interact with the ASM / Apple Biz APIs that may be of interest!

Source: Apple services updates - <https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/dep5a7629d2f/web>

Networking DDM

<https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/dep5a7629d2f/web>

Onto more device-specific updates

Apple have added a whole bunch of new networking configurations as declarations delivered through DDM. These include:

- VPN configurations
- DNS proxy settings
- Network relay configurations

One big change is that you'll be able to provide a credential as a declarative asset for authentication in these services - meaning you don't need to bundle it in each profile and instead can reference it from the other configurations that require it.

Source: Device management updates - <https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/depd638aa061/web>

TLS 1.2 minimum

<https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/depd638aa061/web>

<https://support.apple.com/126655>

This is one we've had a heads up for a little while now, but with the release of the the various OS 27s, the devices will enforce stricter TLS requirements.

This change will affect a number of things relating to managing devices, including:

- Device Management commands
- Automated Device Enrolment
- Profile and App installation
- Software updates

Services providing these features will need to support TLS 1.2 at a minimum, and using cipher suites and certificates that meet the new App Transport Security (ATS) requirements

Apple have a specific support page that covers this, and I have the link above.

This will more likely impact you if you're using older versions of on-prem Device Management solutions, or perhaps you've "rolled your own" Device Management or software deployment solutions.

Sources:

Device management updates - <https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/depd638aa061/web>

Apple's network prep article - <https://support.apple.com/126655>

Wrapping legacy profiles

<https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/depd638aa061/web>

<https://support.apple.com/en-gb/guide/deployment/dep51696d58e/1/web/1.0>

This one took me a while to unpick and to be honest I'm still not 100% confident I understand it fully.

On devices running the various OS 27s, you will be able to deliver legacy profiles through the DDM system.

What does this mean? Well Apple are specifying a 'legacy profile' as one that contains payloads that are not 'declarative configurations'.

It seems like this is a feature to allow admins, MDM vendors and Apple to bridge the transition from the current non-DDM profile configurations, to DDM replacements at some point in the future.

NOTES:

Device management updates - <https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/depd638aa061/web>

Legacy interactive profile declarative configuration for Apple devices - <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/guide/deployment/dep51696d58e/1/web/1.0>

Status reporting

<https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/depd638aa061/web>

We have some new status information that Device Management services can subscribe to from the device. These include:

- The enrolment type (Supervised, device enrolment, or user enrolment)
- If the device is at the Setup Assistant awaiting configuration
- If the device is configured for Return To Service, as well as if it's configured as a Shared iPad (capital "S")
- For iPhone and iPad we also get general health information of the hardware, as well as validation checks on if the device's components are genuine - Great if a user decides to use a shady repair store to fix their work device.
- We also gain the option to know when a device has been put into Lockdown mode
- And lastly on the status side of things, we can trigger (remotely) log collection for AppleCare cases.

Source: Device management updates - <https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/depd638aa061/web>

Return to Service (RTS)

<https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/depd638aa061/web>

As for Return to Service (or RTS), we get a few new options:

- Enforce an automatic retry if the device fails to re-enrol if an Erase device command is issued to an RTS device
- We can push out configuration to set the Language and Region - great if you're outside the US and / or in a non-English speaking location
- Users on-device will be able to trigger an RTS action from the Control Center. The device will check in with the Device Management service first to check the configuration before triggering this
- We can now include Software Update enforcement during enrolment for RTS devices, using the same "403" method with non-RTS devices. The device should automatically carry out the update or upgrade as required, then proceed with the enrolment.

Device management updates - <https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/depd638aa061/web>

Legacy SUS is dead 🪦

<https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/depd638aa061/web>

Another one I feel I need to highlight - legacy methods and techniques for managing Software Updates are being removed for the 27-line of OS releases.

This includes:

- Software update commands
- Software update queries
- Recommended cadence settings
- Software Update restrictions such as deferrals or background security updates

Going forward, anything relating to Software Update will need to be delivered from your device management service and using DDM

Device management updates - <https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/depd638aa061/web>

Santa killer? 🧑🏻‍🎅

<https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/depd567c9ffa/web>

On macOS 27 we're getting a new configuration that will utilise the Endpoint Security Framework to provide better controls for managing which binaries are allowed to run.

These can be binaries within an Application bundle, or standalone binaries, and will show a message to the end user if a binary is blocked.

There will be options to automatically allow any application deployed as "Managed" and if you (presumably accidentally) add the binary to both the allow and block lists, it will be blocked.

You can manage or populate these lists using a variety of matching criteria such as Team ID, Signing ID, path of binary, hash of binary and "CD Hash" - which I had to look up. It's a hash of the "binary's signed code directory".

These features should very familiar to an awesome open source tool, previously maintained by Google...

One last thing, Apple are also announcing the deprecation of the current "com.apple.applicationaccess.new" profile to manage application blocking. Great choice in naming I guess?

App management updates - <https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/depd567c9ffa/web>

Grouped PPC prompts

<https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/depd567c9ffa/web>

AKA “One consent prompt to rule them all”

With the next round of OS releases we’ll have the ability to group an Application’s PPC prompts into a single message to the end user, with management supplied defaults. This allows the user to ‘one-click’ accept the required PPC options. If a user selects the “not now” option, then they’ll see the usual per-option prompts appear.

As a result, the current profile-based PPC options are deprecated as per OS 27.

One thing worth mentioning, this new option is delivered via the ‘user-channel’ instead of the device channel. This may cause issues if your device management service doesn’t support user-channel, and may also cause issues if your end users aren’t set as the ‘MDM capable’ user for their device.

Apple have also added similar PPC-style support for managing those same prompts for webpages, including the new grouping option.

Source:

App management updates - <https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/depd567c9ffa/web>

Bye bye Intel

<https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/depd567c9ffa/web>

Time to ring the bell. macOS 26 is the last OS with full Intel support.

Apple have committed to 3 years of security updates for Intel devices - but don't forget, we've almost had a year of that already.

Now it's really time to work on getting rid of any Intel devices in your fleets.

For Apple Silicon devices already on macOS 26.4 or newer, your users should also start seeing messages about Rosetta deprecation whenever they launch an Intel-only App (or an App with Intel-only components).

Other than that, Rosetta will actually still be kept as a 'general-purpose compatibility tool' in macOS 27, and Apple specifically call out "older unmaintained gaming titles"

Source:

App management updates - <https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/depd567c9ffa/web>

PSSO continues onwards

<https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/dep956785e70/web>

A new OS means new Platform SSO features! And Apple are launch some really cool new options, such as:

- Web-based authentication to IdPs - allowing the use of more phishing-resistant and modern authentication mechanisms. Passkey support anyone?
- This will also work at the login window, the Lock Screen _and_ FileVault!
- It'll support various multi-step and multi-factor flows, as well as the use of a QR code to authenticate a user
- You will also be able to force the use of TouchID or Apple Watch unlock as an additional factor during macOS authentication - providing phishing-resistant biometric multi-factor authentication (MFA) without additional infrastructure

Source:

Identity integration updates - <https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/dep956785e70/web>

Secured Shared Devices

<https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/dep956785e70/web>

As we're talking about PSSO and authentication, there are some updates for shared usage devices.

For macOS 27, we will now have the ability for users to log into a local Guest account, created on demand, by authenticating to the IdP at the FileVault screen!

- Could this be the removal of the need for Active Directory binding to use Mac devices in labs and other shared-usage environments?

- Plus it working with FileVault disk encryption is a huge bonus

We also have Authenticated Guest Mode coming to Shared iPad later this year. This should allow users to authenticate with a Managed Apple Account and have a temporary session created on the iPad without needing to specify user storage quotas. Not just that, but it'll also provide SSO for any installed Apps on the device, ensuring the user is up and running quicker than before.

Source:

Identity integration updates - <https://support.apple.com/en-ca/guide/deployment/dep956785e70/web>

Wrap up

And that's a whirlwind tour of some of the things coming from WWDC 26 and Apple's OS 27 releases. Two key takeaways I would give you all as homework is:

1. Verify that all of the tools you use for device management meet the new TLS and App Transport Security requirements
2. Whichever solution you're using for software update configuration and enforcement, confirm that this is using DDM before the new OSs drop.

Further resources?

So on the next slide I will have a link to a blog post. This will contain a copy of the slides, eventually a link to the recording, as well as a full list of any pages or KBs used in this talk.

As far as further resources go, I'd strongly suggest listening to the recent Mac Admins Podcast episodes - and especially episode 472 which goes over some of these items in more detail

As always, I'd also suggest checking out the Mac Admins Slack. And if you've signed up to the Apple Betas, then check out the #appleseed public channel for access to a private channel where beta discussions can be had.

Thanks!

Q & A



<https://dazwallace.wordpress.com/?p=2155>

And that's it! Enough rambling from me.

Please see the link above for a freshly released blog post containing a copy of these slides, and links to the items mentioned.

Thanks again for listening to me, any questions?