



Mac in the Enterprise Evaluation and Deployment Project Overview



This document provides a framework for the testing and deployment of Mac® computers within your organization. Use this document as a guide for ensuring the key steps of a successful Mac deployment are reviewed and integrated into a project plan for your organization. These steps are: (1) Project Planning and Coordination, (2) Network and Infrastructure Considerations, (3) Application Compatibility, and (4) Lifecycle Management.

1. Project Planning and Coordination

Clearly state the project objective and success metrics in a written document. Identify the stakeholders, determine the timeline, and come to consensus on scope. Project scope should be broadly stated and then iterated into detailed requirements. Each of the areas below should be considered when defining your project scope.

2. Network and Infrastructure Considerations

The Mac easily integrates with most corporate infrastructure tools and services that have been deployed or upgraded since 2007.

Check with your vendor to determine which versions of OS X® they support, and consider the following architecture components:

- Device preparation and deployment tools.
- Directory services integration.
- Collaboration tools such as Microsoft® Exchange Server, SharePoint®, and Lync®.
- VPN / Proxy / Gateway.
- Wireless networking.
- PKI / Certificate Authority.
- Full disk encryption (FDE) and anti-virus protection.
- DFS and compatibility with NAS or SAN.

3. Application Compatibility

Many organizations have legacy software tied to specific versions of Microsoft Windows® and Internet Explorer® that are incompatible with OS X. In many cases, these organizations have already moved their legacy apps to a web-based solution that will work on Apple® devices.

In other cases, organizations are temporarily using a virtualization solution (such as Citrix® XenServer®, VMware® ESX Server®, and so on), which make Mac deployment easier.

Consider the following application compatibility factors:

- Mail, Calendar, and Contacts require EWS, available on Exchange 2007 or newer.
- Active X alternatives such as HTML 5.
- Mac equivalents for common off-the-shelf (COTS) Windows applications.
- Capability with, or desire to port, Windows-only applications to web-based or Mac applications.
- Windows-only applications and delivery via virtualization solution or Terminal services.
- Client management systems.

4. Lifecycle Management

Decide how to configure, enforce policy for, and manage your Mac systems. There are a variety of management options to choose from, ranging from unmanaged to advanced remote management and configuration—combining the setup of multiple services and the deployment of applications.

Consider the following areas of lifecycle management:

- Purchase, delivery, and asset ingestion.
- Preparation, deployment, management, and support.
- Configuration profiles and security policies.
- Product transitions and EOL availability.
(Discuss with your Apple Authorized Reseller.)
- Break/fix, ongoing updates, and system retirements.
- Reporting and dashboards.
- Trade-in process—for getting the most value from your old Mac systems to put toward the cost of future system refreshes.
- Leasing options through Apple Financial Services leasing program.