

Apple MDM Command History

What

Any Apple devices that are MDM enrolled should receive MDM Requests. Each Client Info lists the requests for that device.

Why

MDM Command History exists to display all requests queued and sent to devices, along with the result of those requests; additionally showing if the request was designed for the User of the device or the System

i When referring to Users and MDM, Apple allow for any amount of directory users to be managed, but only one local user is considered to be managed. This is the first local user to log into the device after enrolment. System requests impact all users.

The Request Types include:

- Inventory
- Profile installs and uninstalls
- VPP App installs and uninstalls
- Commands, e.g. erasing a device, renaming the device, etc.

Information

Opening the Client Info for an Apple MDM enrolled device and selecting the Command History tab should show something similar to the below image:

Request Type	Status	User	Creation Date	Response Date	Profile Id
DeviceInformation	not sent		2024-10-17T23:07:15		
SecurityInfo	not sent		2024-10-17T23:07:15		
DeclarativeManagement	not sent		2024-10-17T23:07:15		
ProfileList	not sent		2024-10-17T23:07:15		
InstalledApplicationList	not sent		2024-10-17T23:07:15		
ManagedApplicationList	not sent		2024-10-17T23:07:15		
ManagedApplicationConfiguration	not sent		2024-10-17T23:07:15		
ManagedApplicationConfiguration	acknowledged		2024-10-17T22:24:00	2024-10-17T22:24:00	
ActivationLockBypassCode	command error		2024-10-17T22:24:00	2024-10-17T22:24:00	
ManagedApplicationList	acknowledged		2024-10-17T22:23:57	2024-10-17T22:24:00	
InstalledApplicationList	acknowledged		2024-10-17T22:23:53	2024-10-17T22:23:57	
ProfileList	acknowledged		2024-10-17T22:23:52	2024-10-17T22:23:53	
DeclarativeManagement	acknowledged		2024-10-17T22:23:52	2024-10-17T22:23:52	
SecurityInfo	acknowledged		2024-10-17T22:23:51	2024-10-17T22:23:52	
DeviceInformation	acknowledged		2024-10-17T22:23:49	2024-10-17T22:23:51	

Request Types are defined by Apple and details may be viewed on the [Apple Development Pages](#)

Status and Error messages are those reported by Apple, with the exception of 'not sent'. The possible values are:

Status	Details	Apple Request Response
not sent	The command is queued and awaiting for the device to reply to the APNs request	-
acknowledged	Device has processed the request	Acknowledged
not now	Device has received the request, but is unable to	NotNow

	process the request at this time	
command error	An error has occurred	Error or CommandFormatError

✔ As of FileWave 15.5, the status of Command Queue requests are now accessible from within standard Inventory Queries

'not sent'

Before any requests may be sent to a device, the FileWave Server sends an Apple Push Notification (APN) request to Apple. Apple queue these APNs requests and only after the device checks in with Apple and pulls the APNs request, will the device then check-in with the defined server.

❗ APNs request is nothing more that a notification for the device to check-in with the defined server.

Whilst waiting for the device to receive the APNs request and check-in, the Command History will display 'not sent'

✔ Where requests are 'not sent' or 'not now', new requests will not be added to the queue for the same Request Types, since there is already a queued request waiting. The 'Creation Date' displays the time and day the request was added to the queue.

Response Commands

Once the APNs request has been received by the device, on check-in, queued requests may then be sent to the device.

'acknowledged'

The request has been received by the device, processed and reported back to the FileWave Server as completed.

'not now'

Some requests will not be accepted, until the device is in a certain state. For example, a user may need to be logged into the device to process the provided request.

Hence, the request has been received and the device has responded, but the request is awaiting the desired state before it will finish processing the request and report back as much.

'command error'

In some instances, the request may not be able to complete, due to an error. Apple have two defined error status values:

- 'Error' - An error occurred (the device will report error details in the response to the request)
- 'CommandFormatError' - The request protocol was incorrect, e.g. a malformed request

❗ The 'Error Msg' column shown in the Command History view reports information provided by the device back to FileWave Server and contains information as set out by Apple.

Apple's developer page demonstrates greater depth on MDM requests:

[Sending MDM Commands to a Device](#)

User vs System

The user column contains the channel used for the request. Where the user column is blank, this implies the request is a System Channel request. Otherwise the name of any managed users existing on the device will be displayed for those requests.

Some Request Types are required for both User and System, e.g.

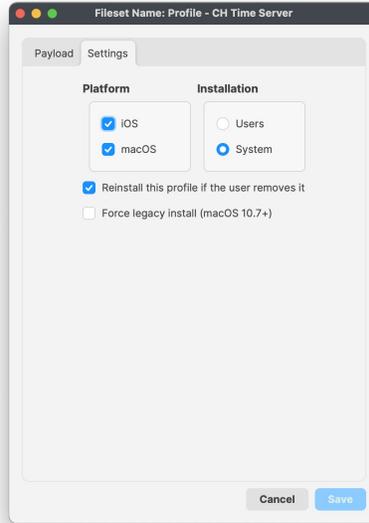
Filesets Status			Device Details			Command History			Managed		
Request Type	Status	User									
DeviceInformation	acknowledged										
DeviceInformation	acknowledged	sholden									

DeviceInformation may report inventory regarding the System and the User. As such there are multiple requests, one per Managed

User and one for System.

Profile Installation

Profile Settings defines whether a Profile should be Installed for the System or User:



As with other Request Types, if the Profile is configured for System Installation, the User channel column should be blank, whilst those set as User should show a Request Type of 'InstallProfile' per managed user.

The below image shows installation of two differing Profiles, one set as System and the other set as User:

Request Type	Status	User	Creation Date	Settings Items	Response Date	Profile Id
InstallProfile	acknowledged		2024-10-17T23:55:25		2024-10-17T23:55:26	fw1063.home.22e28158-118c-4956-8640-1f4119f...
InstallProfile	acknowledged	sholden	2024-10-09T22:14:08		2024-10-09T22:14:08	ml1063.local.9645a261-8941-4827-b0b8-21b97a...

There was a period of time where all Profiles could be set as either User or System regardless. Apple enforced 'correct' Installation channels several major versions back. As such, if Profiles were delivered before such change, it may be possible that the User column may show a User despite the Profile being set as System. This should no longer be the case for newly delivered requests

Although altered values in a Profile Payload will just cause the Profile to be updated on a device, changing the Installation channel from User to System or vice versa, will cause the Profile to be uninstalled and then re-installed using the newly defined Installation channel.

Only some Profile Payloads may be defined as either User or System. If one option is greyed out, the Profile Setting cannot be changed.

Commands

Some requests are commands designed to action an event, e.g. rename a device, erase a device, etc. If the request is altering a setting, the Request Type reported is 'Settings' and the 'Settings Items' column will display details regarding the setting to be altered.

The below image shows a request to alter the name of the device:

Request Type	Status	User	Creation Date	Settings Items
Settings	not sent		2024-09-17T21:00:59	[{"Item": "DeviceName", "DeviceName": "macOS12VM"}]

✔ An Update Model will be required before the Setting request is added to the device's request queue.

Further details regarding 'Command Policy' Fileset Payloads can be viewed in the following KB:

[Profile Editor Command Policy](#)

Troubleshooting

Some typical items to consider when reviewing Command History:

- The Command History tab will not be present if the device is not MDM enrolled (i.e. a macOS device with only the FileWave Client installed)
- A profile does not show on the device, yet command is acknowledged. This is typically seen where a Profile is set as User, but the currently logged in user is a local user, but not the local managed user. Compare the Command History User column with the currently logged in user.
- Where possible, it only might be prudent to set Profiles as System rather than user, if all local users require management (Note: this may also impact Administrators logging into systems, when attempting to fix a user's issue)
- Where an error has occurred, review the 'Error Msg' column. If the error message does not appear clear, consider raising a ticket with the FileWave Support team.
- As noted above, a change of Profile Setting causes a Profile to be removed, before being delivered on the newly defined Installation channel (User or System). If the Profile in question is required for network connection (for example), there is no way for the device to receive the newly set Profile, since the device will no longer have a working network connection.

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