

Nudge for macOS Software Updates

What

Nudge is a tool designed for macOS Big Sur 11 and later. It is a multi-linguistic application offering custom user deferrals, strongly encouraging users to self update macOS.

This macOS application helps users stay up-to-date with software updates and security patches. It is a lightweight and simple background task which periodically checks for updates. Based upon a pre-defined, minimum update configuration, on detection, the user is notified, requesting they update.

Nudge can be downloaded from the following link, however this KB includes a Fileset to handle the installation of Nudge:

[GitHub - macadmins/nudge: A tool for encouraging the installation of macOS security updates.](#)

When/Why

Keeping software up-to-date is essential for any system's security and smooth functioning. However, it can be a daunting task to manually track software updates, especially when multiple software packages are installed on the device. That's where Nudge comes into the picture. It combines the automation of software update checking with manual user intervention to ensure devices remain up-to-date.

With OS versions being kept current, Nudge helps avoid security vulnerabilities and malicious, unauthorised activity all whilst improving the system's overall performance, with OS features and bug fixes. All of which should maintain a better user experience with greater productivity.



Note, for major software updates, an Administrator password may be required. In this case, an alternate approach to upgrade devices could be considered, as highlighted in the KB: [macOS Upgrades or Erasing](#)



Prior to macOS 11, Software Updates could be installed either through Apple's legacy Software Update catalogues or using MDM. Consider using the legacy updates for these devices; Nudge should not be required in this instance.

How

Nudge has two main components for installation;

- Installation PKG
- Configuration file

In this example, configuration will be defined using a JSON file.

The provided Fileset includes:

- Example Configuration
- Scripted method of installation
- Scripted removal when disassociated

[Nudge Notifications.fileset.zip](#)

Name	Size	Access	User	Group	Verification
▼ Library		rwxr-xr-t	root	admin	
▼ Preferences		rwxrwxr-x	root	wheel	
com.github.macadmins.Nudge.json	7.7 kB	rw-r--r--	root	wheel	Self Healing
▼ usr		rwxr-xr-x	root	wheel	
▼ local		rwxr-xr-x	root	wheel	
▼ etc		rwxr-xr-x	root	wheel	
▼ Nudge		rwxrwxr-x	root	wheel	
logo.png	61.2 kB	rw-r--r--	root	wheel	Self Healing
▼ var		rwxr-xr-x	root	wheel	
▼ scripts		rwxrwxr-x	root	wheel	
▼ 736453		rwxrwxr-x	root	wheel	
install_nudge.sh	600 B	r-x-----	root	wheel	Self Healing
uninstall_nudge.sh	1.3 kB	r-x-----	root	wheel	Self Healing

Scripts

This example Fileset does not contain the installer. Instead, a script pulls the latest version from GitHub and installs that version. If a new version exists, the Fileset could be re-triggered with a reinstall Fileset, causing the software to update.

The uninstaller contains the necessary lines of code to remove each item installed when disassociated

Configuration

As suggested above, in this example Fileset is a JSON for Nudge configuration. There are two lines to immediately consider:

```
"requiredInstallationDate": "2023-12-28T00:00:00Z",
"requiredMinimumOSVersion": "12.7.1",
```

requiredInstallationDate	When reached the conditions of user notification are altered
requiredMinimumOSVersion	If OS version is below this set value, the user will begin to receive notifications

The frequency and handling of notifications both before and after the requiredInstallationDate are handled elsewhere within the JSON file. Unless otherwise noted, all other values are set as default.

Below is the contents of the included example JSON file:

```
▼ JSON File metadata

{
  "optionalFeatures": {
    "acceptableApplicationBundleIDs": [],
    "acceptableAssertionUsage": false,
    "acceptableCameraUsage": false,
    "acceptableScreenSharingUsage": false,
    "aggressiveUserExperience": true,
    "aggressiveUserFullScreenExperience": true,
    "asynchronousSoftwareUpdate": true,
    "attemptToBlockApplicationLaunches": false,
    "attemptToFetchMajorUpgrade": true,
    "blockedApplicationBundleIDs": [],
    "enforceMinorUpdates": true,
    "terminateApplicationsOnLaunch": false
  },
  "osVersionRequirements": [
    {
```

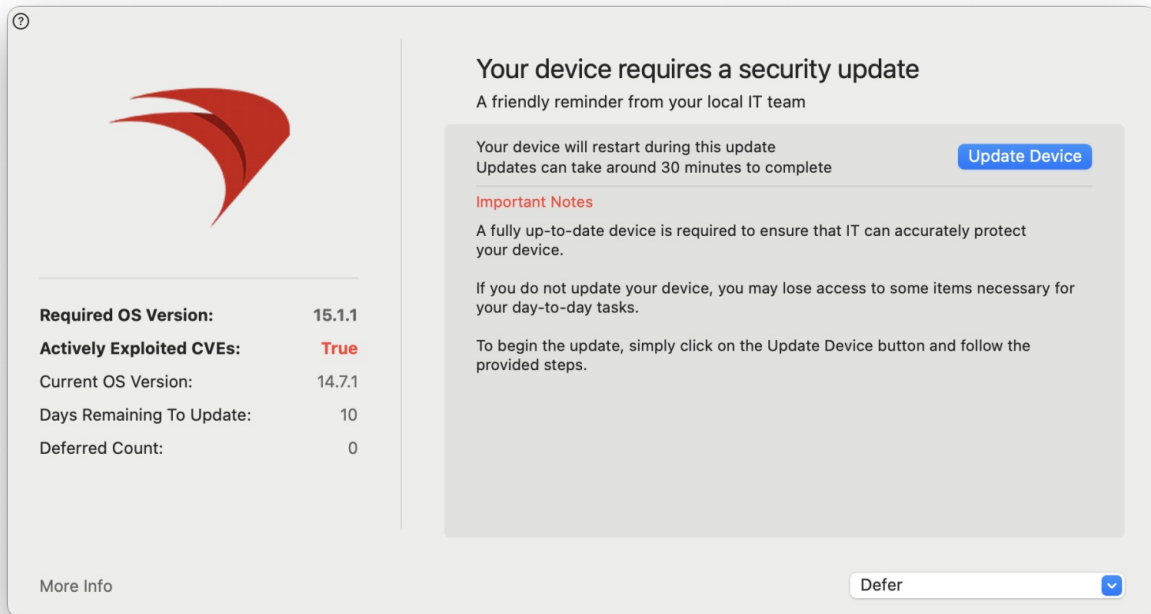
```
"aboutUpdateURL_disabled": "https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT211896#macos1121",
"aboutUpdateURLs": [
  {
    "_language": "en",
    "aboutUpdateURL": "https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT211896#macos1121"
  },
  {
    "_language": "es",
    "aboutUpdateURL": "https://support.apple.com/es-es/HT211896"
  },
  {
    "_language": "fr",
    "aboutUpdateURL": "https://support.apple.com/fr-fr/HT211896"
  },
  {
    "_language": "de",
    "aboutUpdateURL": "https://support.apple.com/de-de/HT211896"
  }
],
"actionButtonPath": "/System/Library/CoreServices/Software Update.app",
"majorUpgradeAppPath": "/Applications/Install macOS Big Sur.app",
"requiredInstallationDate": "2023-12-28T00:00:00Z",
"requiredMinimumOSVersion": "12.7.1",
"targetedOSVersionsRule": "default"
}
],
"userExperience": {
  "allowGracePeriods": false,
  "allowLaterDeferralButton": true,
  "allowUserQuitDeferrals": true,
  "allowedDeferrals": 1000000,
  "allowedDeferralsUntilForcedSecondaryQuitButton": 14,
  "approachingRefreshCycle": 6000,
  "approachingWindowTime": 72,
  "calendarDeferralUnit": "imminentWindowTime",
  "elapsedRefreshCycle": 300,
  "gracePeriodInstallDelay": 23,
  "gracePeriodLaunchDelay": 1,
  "gracePeriodPath": "/private/var/db/.AppleSetupDone",
  "imminentRefreshCycle": 600,
  "imminentWindowTime": 24,
  "initialRefreshCycle": 18000,
  "launchAgentIdentifier": "com.github.macadmins.Nudge",
  "loadLaunchAgent": false,
  "maxRandomDelayInSeconds": 1200,
  "noTimers": false,
  "nudgeRefreshCycle": 60,
  "randomDelay": false
},
"userInterface": {
  "actionButtonPath": "/System/Library/CoreServices/Software Update.app",
  "fallbackLanguage": "en",
  "forceFallbackLanguage": false,
  "forceScreenShotIcon": false,
  "iconDarkPath": "/usr/local/etc/Nudge.logo.png",
  "iconLightPath": "/usr/local/etc/Nudge.logo.png",
  "screenShotDarkPath": "/somewhere/screenShotDark.png",
  "screenShotLightPath": "/somewhere/screenShotLight.png",
  "showDeferralCount": true,
  "simpleMode": false,
  "singleQuitButton": false,
  "updateElements": [
    {
      "_language": "en",
      "actionButtonText": "Update Device",
      "customDeferralButtonText": "Custom",
      "customDeferralDropdownText": "Defer",
      "informationButtonText": "More Info",
      "mainContentHeader": "Your device will restart during this update",
      "mainContentNote": "Important Notes",
```

```

        "mainContentSubHeader": "Updates can take around 30 minutes to complete",
        "mainContentText": "A fully up-to-date device is required to ensure that IT can accurately protect your device.\n\nIf you do not update your device, you may lose access to some items necessary for your day-to-day tasks.\n\nTo begin the update, simply click on the Update Device button and follow the provided steps.",
        "mainHeader": "Your device requires a security update",
        "oneDayDeferralButtonText": "One Day",
        "oneHourDeferralButtonText": "One Hour",
        "primaryQuitButtonText": "Later",
        "secondaryQuitButtonText": "I understand",
        "subHeader": "A friendly reminder from your local IT team"
    },
    {
        "_language": "es",
        "actionButtonText": "Actualizar dispositivo",
        "informationButtonText": "Más información",
        "mainContentHeader": "Su dispositivo se reiniciará durante esta actualización",
        "mainContentNote": "Notas importantes",
        "mainContentSubHeader": "Las actualizaciones pueden tardar unos 30 minutos en completarse",
        "mainContentText": "Se requiere un dispositivo completamente actualizado para garantizar que IT pueda proteger su dispositivo con precisión.\n\nSi no actualiza su dispositivo, es posible que pierda el acceso a algunos elementos necesarios para sus tareas diarias.\n\nPara comenzar la actualización, simplemente haga clic en el botón Actualizar dispositivo y siga los pasos proporcionados.",
        "mainHeader": "Tu dispositivo requiere una actualización de seguridad",
        "primaryQuitButtonText": "Más tarde",
        "secondaryQuitButtonText": "Entiendo",
        "subHeader": "Un recordatorio amistoso de su equipo de IT local"
    },
    {
        "_language": "fr",
        "actionButtonText": "Mettre à jour l'appareil",
        "informationButtonText": "Plus d'informations",
        "mainContentHeader": "Votre appareil redémarrera pendant cette mise à jour",
        "mainContentNote": "Notes Importantes",
        "mainContentSubHeader": "Les mises à jour peuvent prendre environ 30 minutes.",
        "mainContentText": "Un appareil entièrement à jour est nécessaire pour garantir que le service informatique puisse protéger votre appareil efficacement.\n\n Si vous ne mettez pas à jour votre appareil, vous risquez de perdre l'accès à certains outils nécessaires à vos tâches quotidiennes.\n\nPour commencer la mise à jour, cliquez simplement sur le bouton Mettre à jour le périphérique et suivez les étapes fournies.",
        "mainHeader": "Votre appareil nécessite une mise à jour de sécurité.",
        "primaryQuitButtonText": "Plus tard",
        "secondaryQuitButtonText": "Je comprends",
        "subHeader": "Un rappel amical de votre équipe informatique locale"
    },
    {
        "_language": "de",
        "actionButtonText": "Gerät aktualisieren",
        "informationButtonText": "Mehr Informationen",
        "mainContentHeader": "Ihr Gerät wird während dieses Updates neu gestartet",
        "mainContentNote": "Wichtige Hinweise",
        "mainContentSubHeader": "Aktualisierungen können ca. 30 Minuten dauern.",
        "mainContentText": "Ein vollständig aktualisiertes Gerät ist erforderlich, um sicherzustellen, dass die IT-Abteilung Ihr Gerät effektiv schützen kann.\n\nWenn Sie Ihr Gerät nicht aktualisieren, verlieren Sie möglicherweise den Zugriff auf einige Werkzeuge, die Sie für Ihre täglichen Aufgaben benötigen.\n\nUm das Update zu starten, klicken Sie auf die Schaltfläche Gerät aktualisieren und befolgen Sie die angegebenen Schritte.",
        "mainHeader": "Ihr Gerät benötigt ein Sicherheitsupdate",
        "primaryQuitButtonText": "Später",
        "secondaryQuitButtonText": "Ich verstehe",
        "subHeader": "Eine freundliche Erinnerung von Ihrem IT-Team"
    }
}
]
}
}

```

Additionally with the Fileset is a logo file: logo.png. This file is also being referenced by the above JSON and will be seen by the user when prompted. The logo included in the example Fileset is the FileWave Logo (updated screenshot of Nudge v2.0):



The lines defining the sourced logo are:

```
"iconDarkPath": "/usr/local/etc/Nudge/logo.png",  
"iconLightPath": "/usr/local/etc/Nudge/logo.png",
```

For a great understanding of the user experience and configuration, consider viewing the following:

[MacAdmins Nudge by Neil Martin](#)

There are more resources shown below in the Related Content and Digger Deeper section.

Deployment

After importing the above Fileset, associate with a test device. If the device is running a lower version than that defined within the JSON, a logged in user should be prompted immediately with the option to update or defer.

Once happy, consider expanding deployment until all necessary devices are included.

Reconfiguring

Over time it will become necessary to alter the configuration file, such that new macOS versions are set as the minimum level, with new required installation dates. Due to self-healing, this is easily handled within FileWave. Simply change those lines inside the JSON file as desired and Update Model.

Removal

If Nudge is no longer considered a requirement, disassociation of the Fileset will action the uninstaller script, which should remove all elements of Nudge from the device.

Nudge Version

As with all Applications, the version installed on devices is reported back as standard inventory. Inventory Queries could be built to observe the current version:

Q

Component

▼ Application

AdHoc Code Signed

App Store Vendable

Average Time Used

Beta App

Device Based VPP

External Version Identifier

First Launch Date

Has Update Available

Install Date

Install Path

Path where the application has been installed to.

Internal name: path

Name: query name

Main Component: All Devices

☐ Include Archived Clients

CriteriaFields

Drop here the fields you want to see in the query report ; change column order by moving column header.

Device Name	Install Path	Version
ML1015VMNEWNAME	/Applications/Utilities/Nudge.app	1.1.9.81436
ml1063	/Applications/Utilities/Nudge.app	1.1.9.81437
mlm11063	/Applications/Utilities/Nudge.app	1.1.9.81437

Application >

All Devices >

Clear

Remove all

Remove Install Path

Remove Version

3 row(s)

CancelSave

Related Content

- [Home · macadmins/nudge Wiki · GitHub](#)
- [Getting Started · macadmins/nudge Wiki · GitHub](#)
- [Nudge version 2.0 features](#)

Digging Deeper

Customizing Nudge to meet your needs:

With Nudge, there are many more optional features and configurations that may be applied to meet your production environment. You may review these features here: [optionalFeatures · macadmins/nudge Wiki · GitHub](#).

Apple’s Rapid Security Responses:

Nudge has placed a feature-request to be added. For more information regarding, you may review the progress here: [Add support for Rapid Security Response updates](#).

🔄Revision #33

★Created 12 June 2023 20:16:43 by Josh Levitsky

✎Updated 22 November 2024 16:09:59 by Andrew Kloosterhuis