

Software Updates in the age of macOS MDM (Big Sur v11.0+ / iOS 15+)

What

For many years now, FileWave has leveraged the Software Update tool on macOS devices to evaluate and to deploy software updates. With the release of macOS 11 (Big Sur) this behavior has changed somewhat.

When/Why

We'll still want to deploy software updates, and from a FileWave admin perspective, the process for assigning the updates has not changed, but the mechanism that delivers those updates behind the scenes has changed. From Big Sur onwards, all Software Updates will be delivered through MDM commands only. So, the "How" of assigning updates has not changed, but the method of deployment has.

Here are some important items to note regarding this change:

- This requires all Big Sur+ devices to be MDM enrolled to enable delivery of Software Updates
- The updates are handled more like iOS updates were already handled...i.e. the device is notified to update, and the device itself gathers the update from Apple
 - The result of the above is that Apple caching servers become even more important to have in your environment
 - The delivery method being changed to MDM eliminates FileWave boosters from caching these updates
- This change also means that restriction profiles that defer Software Updates for up to 90 days are also pertinent now for macOS

How

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macOS 12 devices now report the right information to properly use the Apple Software Update Lookup Service. Specifically, the ProductVersion key is now supported for macOS (allows definition of update version to install) and FileWave will be sending 2 InstallSoftware commands as per Apple's direction in order to make software updates happen in a more timely fashion.

Starting with iOS 15, it will be possible to stay on the previous version (today, iOS 14) and still get minor updates. A new Settings command allows to define if the end-user will be presented the most recent update (iOS 15), the oldest (iOS 14.x), or both options as seen below in the updated Command Policy profile.

All platforms ▾

All versions ▾

Configured



General
Mandatory



Command Policy
Configured

Not configured



AD Certificate
Not configured



APN
Not configured



AirPlay Mirroring
Not configured



AirPlay Security
Not configured



AirPrint
Not configured

Use the following settings to configure user space; read [Apple's documentation](#) for more details.

Settings

User Space

Timeouts

Temporary Session Only (iOS 14.5+)

Don't change Temporary Session Only ▾

If enabled user can sign in with a managed Apple ID; If disabled user can only see the Guest Welcome pane and log in as guest user.

☐ Disable Temporary Session Only when fileset is removed

Time Zone (iOS 14.0+ and tvOS 14.0+, supervised device only)

Don't change time zone ▾

Set device time zone. If Force automatic delete and time restriction is set, this command will fail.

Software Update Settings (supervised iOS devices only)

Don't change update settings ^

Both update versions (e.g. iOS 15.0 and iOS 14.6)

Only minor update version (e.g. iOS 14.6)

Only major update version (e.g. iOS 15.0)

Don't change update settings

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- [Apple Software Updates - macOS](#)
- [Software Updates: Deploying to Groups](#)

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