

How to Create and Manage Configuration Profiles on macOS

Configuration profiles are essential for managing and deploying settings and policies on Apple devices, particularly in enterprise environments. These profiles allow administrators to control various aspects of macOS, iOS, and other Apple operating systems, ensuring that devices comply with organizational policies and standards. This article will guide you through the process of creating, deploying, and managing configuration profiles on macOS using tools like Apple Configurator and Profile Manager.

Examples:

1. Creating a Configuration Profile with Apple Configurator:

Apple Configurator is a powerful tool for creating and deploying configuration profiles. Here's how you can create a basic Wi-Fi configuration profile:

- **Step 1:** Open Apple Configurator on your Mac.
- **Step 2:** Go to the "File" menu and select "New Profile".
- **Step 3:** In the profile editor, select "Wi-Fi" from the list of available payloads.
- **Step 4:** Configure the Wi-Fi settings, such as SSID, security type, and password.
- **Step 5:** Save the profile by clicking "File" > "Save" and choosing a location on your Mac.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE plist PUBLIC "-//Apple//DTD PLIST 1.0//EN" "http://www.apple.com/DTDs/PropertyList-1.0.dtd">
<plist version="1.0">
  <dict>
    <key>PayloadContent</key>
    <array>
      <dict>
        <key>SSID_STR</key>
        <string>YourWiFiNetwork</string>
        <key>HIDDEN_NETWORK</key>
        <false/>
        <key>EncryptionType</key>
        <string>WPA</string>
        <key>Password</key>
        <string>YourPassword</string>
      </dict>
    </array>
    <key>PayloadType</key>
    <string>Configuration</string>
    <key>PayloadVersion</key>
```

```
<integer>1</integer>
<key>PayloadIdentifier</key>
<string>com.example.wifi</string>
<key>PayloadUUID</key>
<string>12345678-1234-1234-1234-1234567890ab</string>
<key>PayloadDisplayName</key>
<string>WiFi Configuration</string>
<key>PayloadDescription</key>
<string>Configures WiFi settings</string>
<key>PayloadOrganization</key>
<string>Example Corp</string>
</dict>
</plist>
```

2. Deploying Configuration Profiles via MDM:

Mobile Device Management (MDM) solutions like Jamf Pro or Apple Profile Manager can be used to deploy configuration profiles to multiple devices. Here's a brief overview of how to deploy a profile using Jamf Pro:

- **Step 1:** Log in to your Jamf Pro dashboard.
- **Step 2:** Navigate to "Computers" > "Configuration Profiles".
- **Step 3:** Click the "+" button to create a new profile.
- **Step 4:** Upload the configuration profile you created with Apple Configurator.
- **Step 5:** Assign the profile to the target devices or groups.
- **Step 6:** Save and deploy the profile.

3. Managing Configuration Profiles via Terminal:

You can also manage configuration profiles using the Terminal on macOS. Here are some useful commands:

- **Install a profile:**

```
sudo profiles -I -F /path/to/profile.mobileconfig
```

- **List installed profiles:**

```
sudo profiles -P
```

- **Remove a profile:**

```
sudo profiles -R -p com.example.wifi
```