

macOS 27: What You Need To Know

Who am I?

For over two decades, I've been a consultant, contractor, and employee, providing support and management for Macs, iPhones, iPads, and visionOS devices across various environments. My experience spans small and medium businesses, K-12 schools, Fortune 500 companies, and even the US government.

During my five-year tenure at SpaceX, I managed all macOS and iOS/iPadOS environments. Notably, I served as the Responsible Engineer for Crew Tablets, sending 58 iPads and several other Apple devices into orbit with astronauts and cosmonauts. Additionally, I played a crucial role in expanding these environments by 5-9 times in terms of the number of devices.

In December 2024, I joined the Mac Services team at SAP as Principal Mac Consultant. In this role, I assist with managing and securing SAP's nearly 60,000 macOS environment, which is recognized as one of the best in the enterprise sector.



macOS 27 Golden Gate



macOS 27 Golden Gate

- Announced at WWDC 2026 in June
- Shipping this Fall (Northern Hemisphere)
 - Probably mid-September

Hardware Requirements

macOS 27 is compatible with these devices.

Explore Mac

MacBook Neo (2026) >

MacBook Air with
Apple silicon (2020 and
later) >

MacBook Pro with
Apple silicon (2020 and
later) >

iMac with Apple silicon
(2021 and later) >

Mac mini with
Apple silicon (2020 and
later) >

Mac Studio (2022 and
later) >

Mac Pro with
Apple silicon (2023)

End of Intel Support



Rosetta 2: Going, Going...



Rosetta 2: Going, Going...

- Rosetta 2 removed during macOS 27 upgrade
- Can be reinstalled, but should you?
- macOS 27 will be the final OS release that supports full Rosetta 2

What does this mean for you?

- Inventory the number of Intel Macs in your organization, and plan to replace ASAP
- Inventory your software to see what is still Intel/requires Rosetta 2
 - System Information (Software->Applications)
 - Mac Evaluation Utility
 - RosettaCheck: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/rosetta-check/id6759349750?mt=12>
 - <https://derflounder.wordpress.com/2026/04/10/detecting-installed-intel-based-applications-on-macos-tahoe/>

System Information

Audio

Bluetooth

Camera

Card Reader

Controller

Diagnostics

Disc Burning

Ethernet

Fibre Channel

FireWire

Graphics/Displays

Memory

NVMeExpress

PCI

Parallel SCSI

Power

Printers

SAS

SATA

SPI

Storage

Thunderbolt/USB4

USB

Network

Firewall

Locations

MacBook Air

Application Name	Version	Obtained from	Last Modified	Kind	
Disk Inventory X	1.3	Unknown	11/8/19, 12:41 PM	Intel	
fax	5.33.0	Identified Developer	2/23/21, 8:12 AM	Intel	
ForeScout SecureConnector	24.0.24001	Identified Developer	12/2/24, 10:18 AM	Intel	
rastertofax	5.33.0	Identified Developer	2/23/21, 8:12 AM	Intel	
YubiKey Manager	1.2.5	Identified Developer	3/20/25, 3:16 PM	Intel	
Notion	4.13.1	Identified Developer	6/23/25, 10:05 PM	iOS	
SAPGUI 8.10rev0	810.4.1	Unknown	1/8/25, 3:15 PM	iOS	
Slack	4.44.65	Identified Developer	6/4/25, 2:06 PM	iOS	
com.apple.ctcategories		Unknown	12/2/24, 10:16 PM	Other	
Droplet with Settable Properties	1.0	Unknown	5/4/25, 1:39 AM	Other	
group.is.workflow		Unknown	12/2/24, 10:15 AM	Other	
Recursive File Processing Droplet	1.0	Unknown	5/4/25, 1:39 AM	Other	
Recursive Image File Processing Droplet	1.0	Unknown	5/4/25, 1:39 AM	Other	
50onPaletteServer	1.1.0	Apple	5/4/25, 1:39 AM	Universal	
fax:					
Version:		5.33.0			
Obtained from:		Identified Developer			
Last Modified:		2/23/21, 8:12 AM			
Kind:		Intel			
Signed by:		Developer ID Application: HP Inc. (6HB5Y2QTA3), Developer ID Certification Authority, Apple Root CA			
Location:		/Library/Printers/hp/Fax/fax.backend			
K74W0476R7 > Software > Applications > fax					

Mac Evaluation Utility

Search

Reports

K74W0476R7

15.5

Now

K74W0476R7

15.5

7/2/25

K74W0476R7

15.5

7/2/25

K74W0476R7

15.5

6/11/25

K74W0476R7

15.5

6/2/25

K74W0476R7

432 Tests

Report Complete

Overview

Results

macOS Sequoia

Version 15.5 (24F74)

MacBook Air (15-inch, M3, 2024)

IP Addresses

Private

10.40.23.68

Public

208.214.117.54

Mac Evaluation Utility Version

4.6.6 (MEU4F7)

Apple Network Services

These tests verify reachability of key services required to use macOS. These services include Apple Push Notification service (APNs), certificate validation, and software update services.

ApplePushService Daemon

Device Setup

Apple Business Manager and

Click this item to see additional details.

Classroom and Schoolwork

Apps and Additional Content

Content Caching

Apple Diagnostics

Apple Account

Apple Intelligence, Siri, and Search

Push Notifications

Device Management

Apple Business Essentials Device Management

Software Updates

Carrier Updates

Beta Updates

Certificate Validation

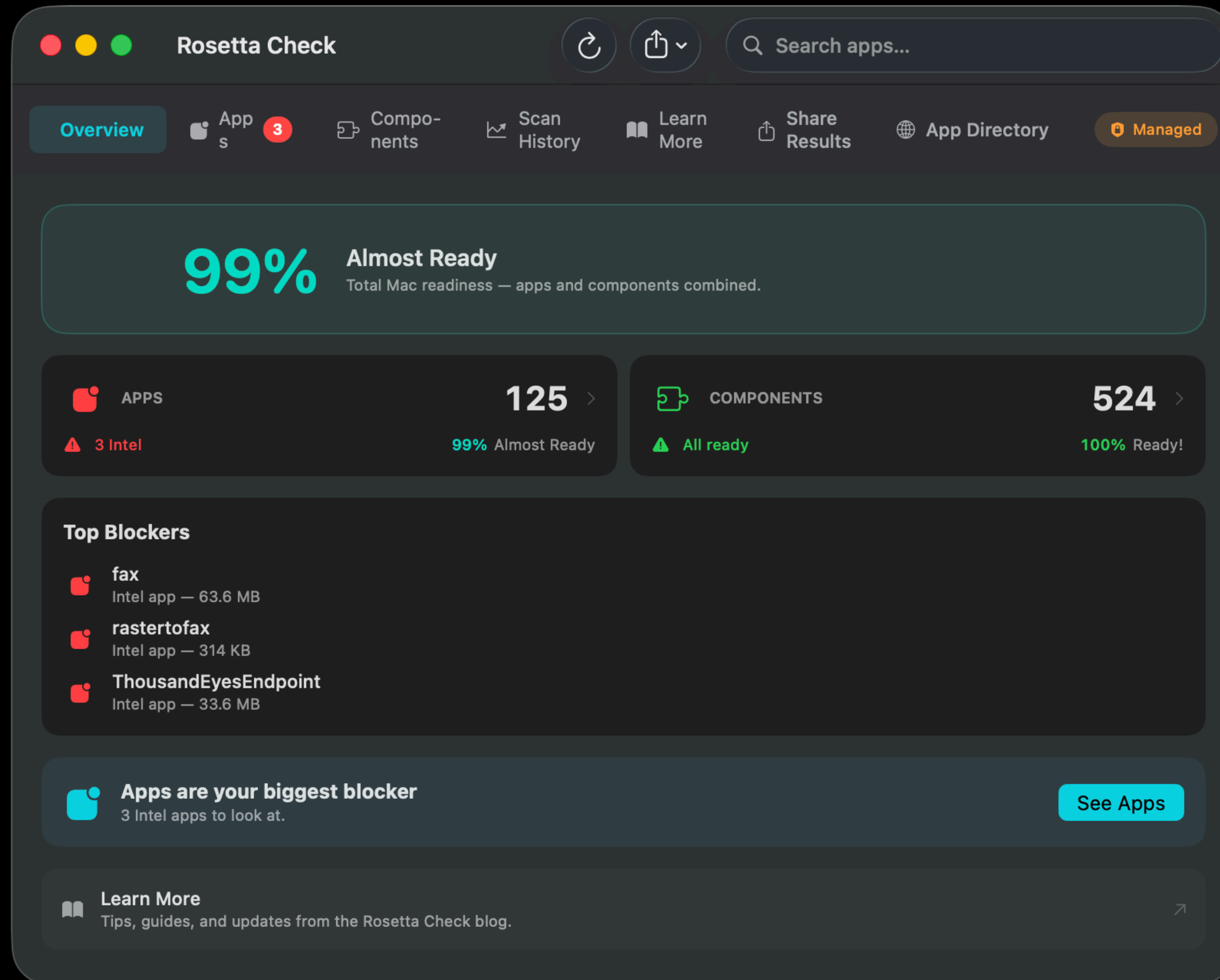
iCloud

Claris Connect

LaunchPad

By ROCKETMANTECH

RosettaCheck



Consumer Features

- <https://www.apple.com/os/macOS>
- New Siri AI (not in European Union)
 - New Restrictions as well
- Improved Image Playground
- AI added in various apps
 - Passwords App - compromised password mass change
 - Shortcut Generation

Liquid Glass Changes

- Better readability
- Improved contrast
- More consistent UI elements (corner radius, windows, sidebars, etc)
- Like iOS/iPadOS, slider to adjust level from fully clear to tinted

Performance Improvements

- AirDrop transfer speeds
- Network transfers (browsing, etc)
- Safari page loading
- Mail and Spotlight Search Improvements

What's New For Enterprise

- No longer gated behind AppleSeed for IT
- <https://support.apple.com/guide/deployment/intro-to-whats-new-for-it-at-wwdc26-depf12f51f51/1/web/1.0>

Major Changes?

- macOS 26 added MDM migration, AxM API's, Simplified Setup for Platform SSO, etc.
- Apple Business, other significant changes in macOS 26.4 pre-dated WWDC
- At first glance there doesn't seem to be anything earth-shattering, but as you dive deeper, there are a lot of changes

Declarative Device Management



MDM vs DDM

- MDM = Mobile Device Management
 - Server does all the work, constantly polling client
- DDM = Declarative Device Management
 - Server sends declarations to clients
 - Clients are much more powerful, sends updates to server via Status Channel
- Apple - DMS - Device Management Service

Declarative Device Management

- More and more things moving exclusively to DDM
 - Software Update (RIP: softwareupdate command)
 - Network Management
 - Certificate/Identity Management
 - Content Caching
- Change in Legacy Profiles
 - Can be deployed via declaration, vs URL

New Network DDM Functionality

- IT can provide a credential as a declarative asset for authentication purposes, instead of bundling it in the same configuration profile.
- Renewals of those credentials can be automated and seamless, and also allows the same credential to be used across different network configurations.

Legacy Profiles and DDM

- macOS 26: If legacy profile provided, the URL must point to the device management service, and access is authenticated with the device identity certificate.
- macOS 27: DDM supports deploying legacy profiles as configurations.

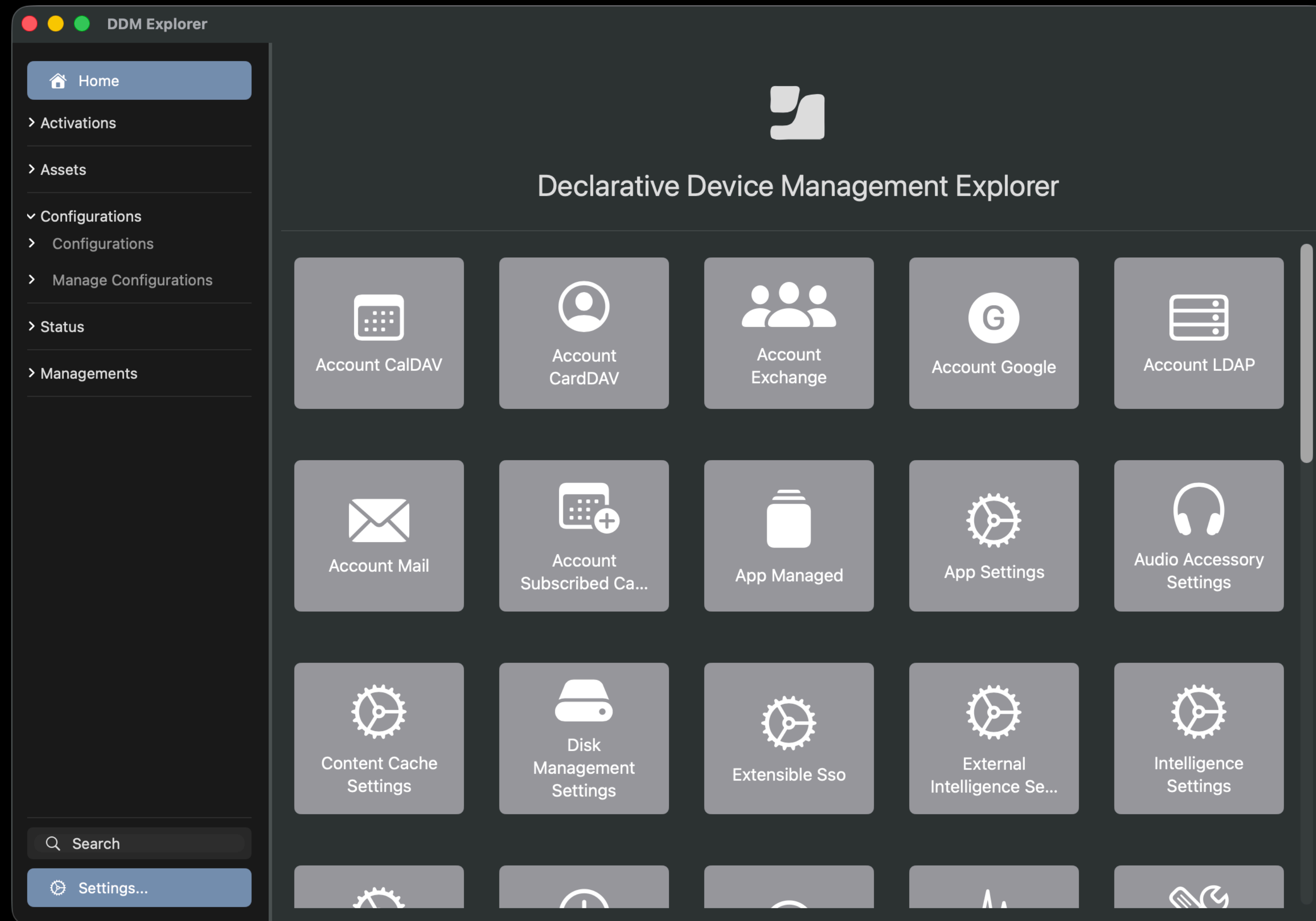
Increased Network Security Requirements

- TLS 1.2 and meets App Transport Security requirements
- <https://support.apple.com/126655>

DMS Support of New Features

- Apple Device Management Github: https://github.com/apple/device-management/tree/seed_OS_27_0
- Used to have to wait for vendor
- Jamf DDM Explorer: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/ddm-explorer/id6754861743>
- How to create custom declarations in Jamf: <https://derflounder.wordpress.com/2025/11/26/deploying-custom-ddm-declarations-using-blueprints-in-jamf-pro/>
- <https://jsonformatter.org>

DDM Explorer



DDM Explorer

[< Return](#)

 Settings

[Test Connection](#) [Save](#)

 Jamf Pro Tenant ID (NOT CONNECTED)

Sign in to Jamf Pro to retrieve Tenant ID.

 Target Device

Enter the Jamf Pro Management ID of an enrolled device you wish to use for testing.

 Jamf Pro Management ID

[Device Status Items](#)

 Github Branch

This app returns data directly from Apple's MDM Github repo. You can select a branch to use here.

Note non-release branches are under development and may not work as desired.

Github Branch

seed_OS_27_0

⌵

 Show Nested Directory Items ☒

 DDM Explorer version 1.0.7 (100) (beta)

DDM Explorer

< Return

+ Add Key

Camera

String

Enter a value with the above type

Allow

```
{
  "type" : "com.apple.configuration.app.settings",
  "payload" : {
    "Privacy" : {
      "PermissionDefaults" : {
        "ANY" : {
          "OrganizationJustification" : "because I said so",
          "Camera" : "Allow",
          "Microphone" : "Allow"
        }
      }
    }
  },
  "id" : "corp.sap.teamsprivacydefaults"
}
```

Reset

Copy to Clipboard

Edit

AppleCare Log Collection

- Remotely generate sysdiagnose/log collection on a Mac
- Jamf Pro support in 11.28.1 and later
- Requires AppleCare for Enterprise
- Interactive on macOS - user will receive a notification/prompt for consent

Managed Migration Assistant

- Added in macOS 26.4
 - **RequiredPaths:** Which subfolders and files inside the user's home folder are required to migrate.
 - **ExcludedPaths:** Which subfolders and files are excluded.
 - **ExcludedAccounts:** What user accounts aren't offered for migration.
 - **ShouldMigrateSecurityPrivacySettings:** Whether system-level privacy settings are migrated.
- 27 OSes do not restore enrollment profile, management configuration, and supervision status by default

Managed App Framework on macOS

- Deploy configurations, accounts, certificates, etc.
- Can Block app/process launch
 - Uses Endpoint Security Framework
 - Block by Signing ID, Team ID, etc.
- User experience isn't great for enterprise
 - Please file feedback requesting improvements - duplicate FB23245685

App Subscriptions

- In-App Purchases and VPP, two things that don't go great together
- Used to have to beg developer for a B2B app version with all features unlocked
- A future version of macOS 27 will support VPP app subscriptions
 - Designed for yearly purchases, not one-time/in-app

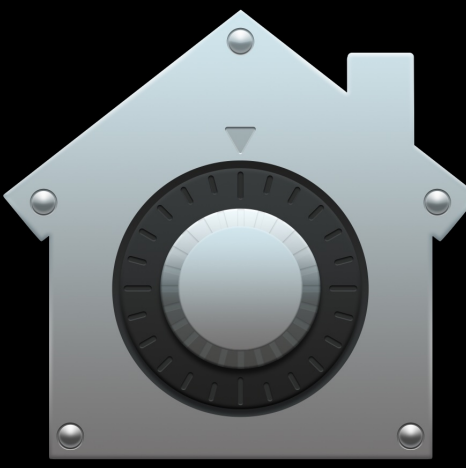
Privacy Preferences Policy Control

- Deprecated in macOS 27, but existing profiles should still work - but test/confirm
- Declarative-based replacements

Privacy Consent

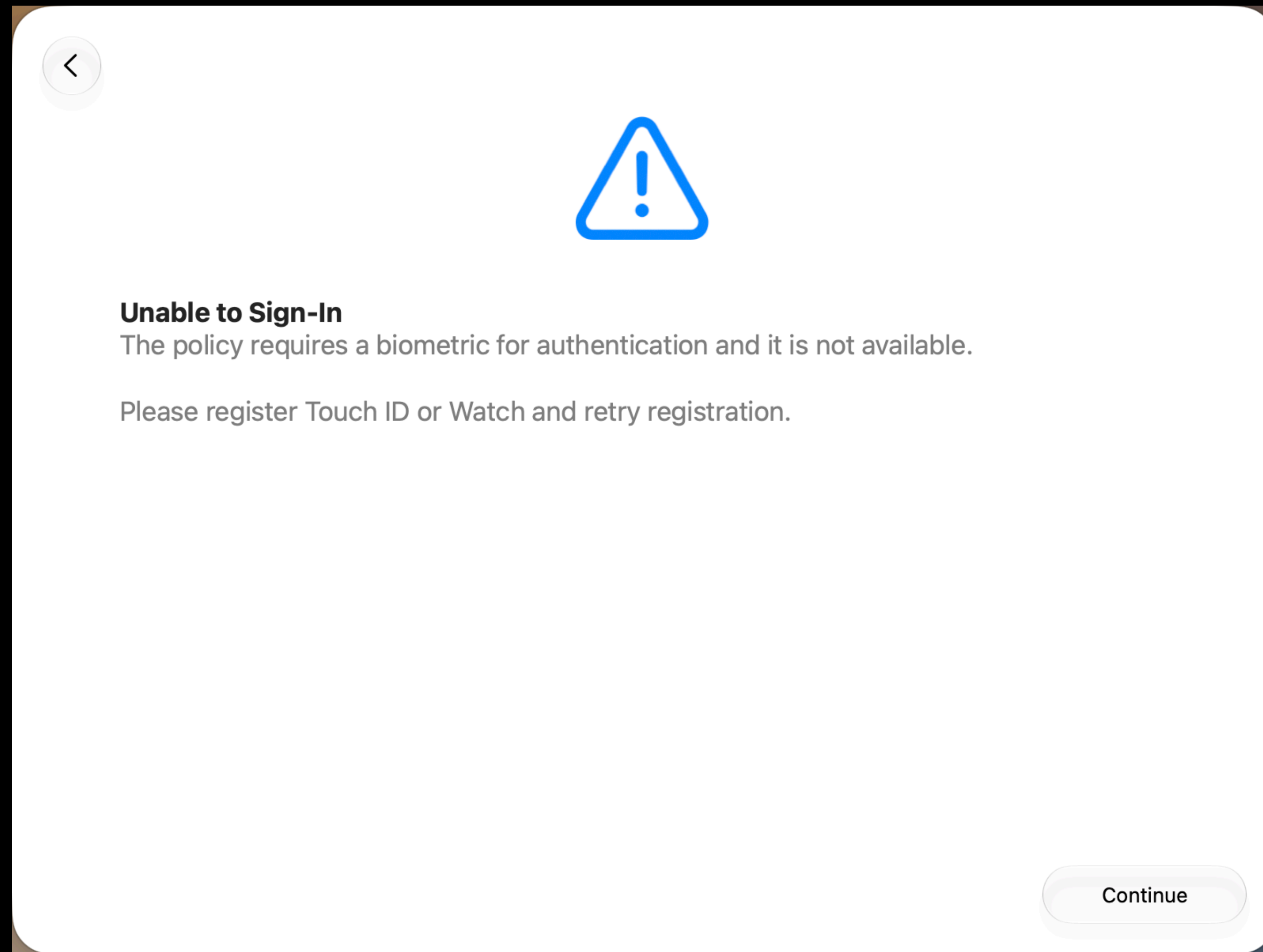
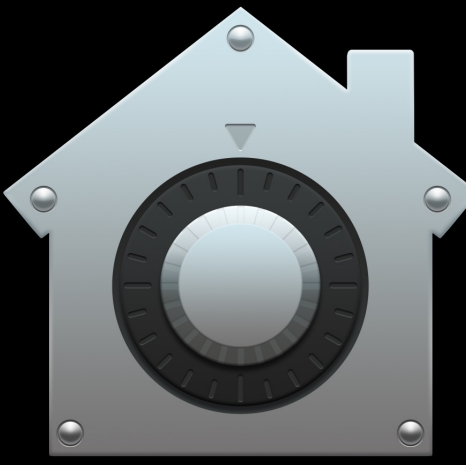
- When launched, apps will present a single dialog asking for permissions
- Organizations can deploy a profile to configure what is show to users, and give a justification/reasons for it (i.e. Microsoft Teams Camera and Microphone access)
- Feature uses MDM user channel
 - Only one user on a system can be MDM-enabled
 - Depending how you create users - user may not be MDM-enabled

FileVault Changes



- Now works with Authenticated Guest Mode
 - Wi-Fi network selection at AGM and also FileVault preboot
- With Platform SSO, can enforce/require Touch ID, and authenticate at FileVault pre-boot using Touch ID.

Touch ID at FileVault Pre-Boot



Exchange Integration

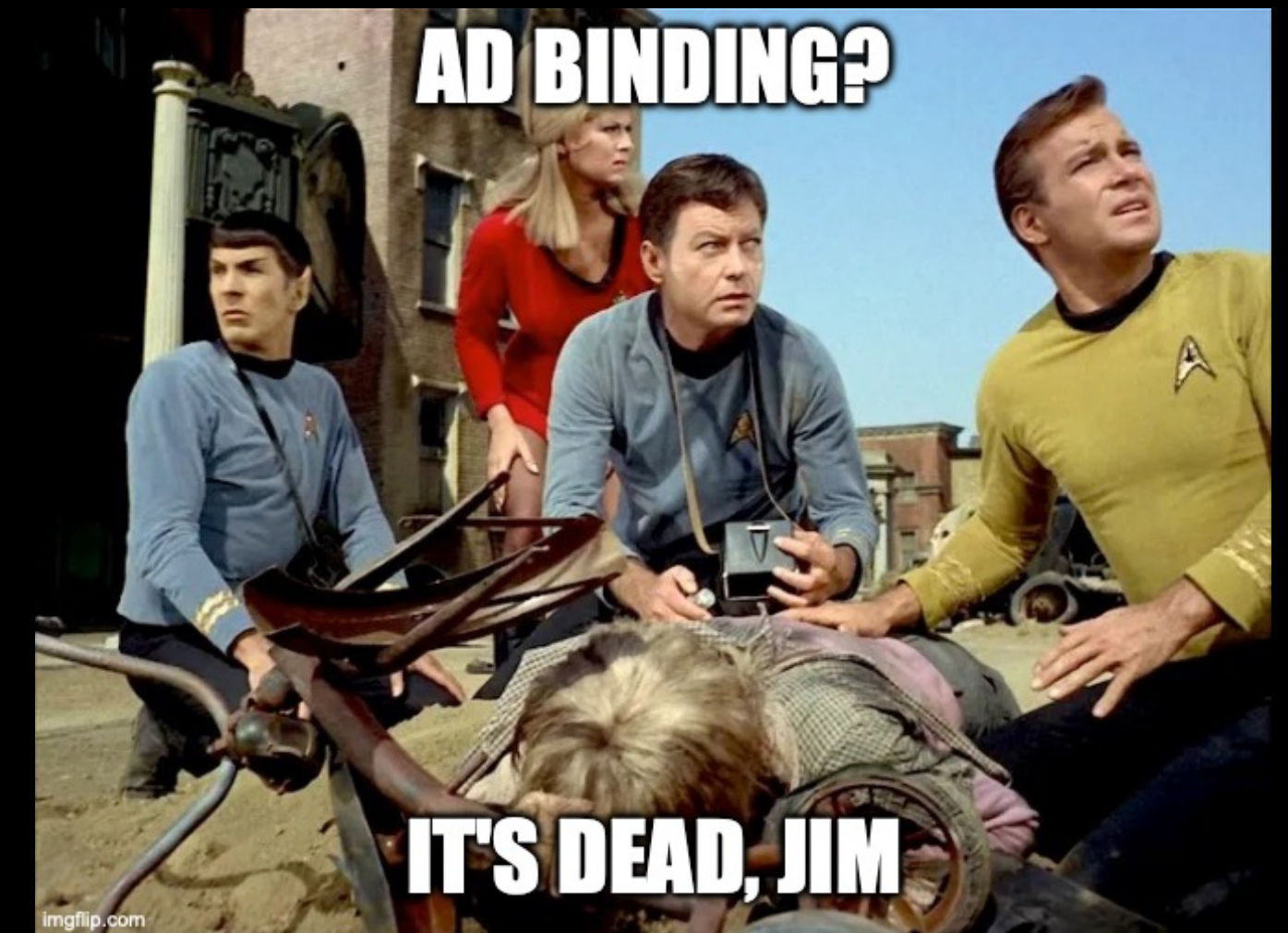
- Microsoft has deprecated Exchange Web Services
- <https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/blog/exchange/exchange-online-ews-your-time-is-almost-up/4492361>
- Primarily affects Apple Mail on macOS
- Apple will add GraphAPI support in a future version of macOS 27

Use Blueprints to Enroll Devices in Beta

- Can deploy a blueprint to force a Mac into a specific beta program - no Apple Account sign-in required
- Process to do so with Jamf (and Intune) is quite convoluted:
 - <https://derflounder.wordpress.com/2026/01/07/deploying-apple-beta-program-tokens-using-blueprints-in-jamf-pro/>
 - https://hcsonline.com/images/PDFs/Deploy_Apple_Beta.pdf

AD Binding

- It still works?
- Given Platform SSO, probably should not use it



CUPS and PPDs

- Deprecated since macOS 10.15
- Still present/working

If You Watch One Video about macOS 27...

- <https://developer.apple.com/videos/play/wwdc2026/206>

Testing



Why Should You Test?

- See How New Features/Changes Affect Your Environment
- Prepare to support the new OS as close to release as possible
- Maximum Deferral = 90 days
- New Mac hardware introduced after macOS 27 ships will likely require it

Before You Start Testing

- Document Your Environment
- Runbook of what actions are performed during enrollment
- Define what software is required, what software is optional
- Identify internal app/website owners and ask them to help test

Testing Resources

- MacAdmins Slack
 - Join #appleseed channel to learn how to access the private/NDA channel
 - #apple-feedback (for general Feedback)
 - #apple-dev-rss (tells you when Apple drops betas or releases)
- Betas: at first, every 2 weeks, usually on a Monday or a Tuesday
- Later in cycle = new betas weekly

New OS Testing Cycle

- Good time to re-evaluate your decisions
 - What software you deploy
 - What controls you implement
 - How you implement them
 - macOS Security Compliance Project
 - Granular (instead of monolithic) profiles - future you will thank you

AppleSeed for IT

- <https://beta.apple.com/for-it> - sign in with a Managed Apple Account associated with your AxM account
- AppleSeed for IT Program Planning Guide - June 2026
- WWDC 2026 AppleSeed for IT Test Plans
- Release Notes

Testing Tips

- Virtualization vs Physical Hardware
 - VirtualBuddy, etc. useful for getting exposure to new OS without upgrading primary Mac
 - Cannot test Automated Device Enrollment with Virtual Macs
 - Apple Account testing on Virtual Macs can be problematic (must use same Apple account on both)
- Physical Hardware reigns supreme

Testing Tips II

- Use a test device for early beta
- Once things have stabilized, upgrade your daily driver
- Back Up Your Data first!



Testing Tips III

- If using Configurator, MUST install Xcode Beta on macOS 26 to get latest Device Support

Filing Feedback



Filing Feedback



- Feedback lets Apple developers, users, and device administrators report bugs, issues, concerns, or suggest improvements.
- You can file Feedback in three ways:
 - Feedback Assistant app
 - <https://feedbackassistant.apple.com>
 - applefeedback:// in a browser window

Filing Feedback II



- Use a Managed Apple Account associated with your organization's Apple Business/School Manager.
- Enterprise-related feedback submitted with a Developer or personal Apple Account gets lost, because it is not visible to the Enterprise team.
- File feedback as part of your organization. You can be signed in with a Managed Apple Account, but not submit feedback as part of your organization/team. In the Feedback Assistant app, you'll see Personal and <your org>.

Filing Feedback III



- Test against the appropriate beta seed (**Developer**, **AppleSeed**/CustomerSeed, **Public**). You should always choose **AppleSeed** (hint: deploy betas via Blueprint)
- If you find a bug or unexpected behavior, start creating Feedback immediately. This helps collect logs and sysdiagnoses around the time of issue. Also note the time in your Feedback, to aid Apple in finding relevant logs. You can finish the Feedback later, but starting log collection ASAP is crucial.

Filing Feedback IV



- Give your feedback a descriptive title. Summarize the issue in a single sentence. Writing Tools in macOS 15 and later can help you make it more concise.
- Choose a category that's closely related to the issue. **Never, ever choose Something not on this list.** Someone at Apple will move it to the appropriate location

Filing Feedback V



- Break down your feedback into the following:
 - What are you trying to accomplish?
 - How did you attempt to accomplish this task?
Be specific.
 - What were the expected results?
 - What were the actual results? Does the problem persist or is it a one-time issue?

Filing Feedback VI



- State the impact of the issue (e.g. “We have 10,000 Macs and can’t upgrade to macOS 27 if this isn’t addressed”). Apple uses this context to prioritize issues.
- Feedback with profanity or abusive language will not be escalated to Engineering.
- For the same beta cycle, update your existing feedback (e.g., “tested on beta 3, still broken”) instead of re-submitting it, which may seem spammy.

Filing Feedback VII



- Consider screenshots and screen recordings as visual aids to convey information. They help Apple understand bugs when words alone can't describe a single symptom or set of steps. However, avoid including sensitive personal information like account numbers, phone numbers, names, physical or email addresses.

Filing Feedback VIII



- If your organization has an AppleCare Enterprise support contract:
 - Reference your ACE agreement number in your Feedback
 - File Feedback First! Include System Profile, sysdiagnose/logs, and other information AppleCare may ask for. Feedback without these items may not be reviewed.
 - Then, create an AppleCare case and reference the Feedback Number and description.
 - If the issue is critical, use the term **Deployment Blocker** in the subject of both your FB and ACE tickets. Note that this label is generally available during the major OS beta cycle (i.e. June through September).

Filing Feedback IX



- If it's of particular concern, reach out to your Apple Systems Engineer or Account Executive and request "Voice of the Customer" to escalate the issue inside Apple. Use this judiciously.
- If you've filed Feedback on an issue on a previous version of macOS (e.g. macOS 26), test again and re-file new feedback against the beta macOS
- Don't expect feedback on your Feedback. Be ready to act quickly if Apple replies to it, asking for more details or to try another approach, or test a new beta release.

Filing Feedback X



- “The best time to begin testing and filing Feedback on macOS 27 is yesterday. The second best time is now.”

THANK YOU!