

SCHOOL OF INFORMATICS

Computing Strategy Committee

Tuesday 8th February 2022

Migrating to the University Managed Mac service

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Background

The predominant commodity computing platform for School academic staff is self-managed Apple MacOS. The University's Information Services Group offer a Managed Mac service and there would be some benefits resulting from a migration of the School's Apple Macs to this service.

Action requested from the committee

The committee is asked to agree to the School installing the Managed Mac system (JAMF) on all newly purchased Macs and, if this proves successful, to migrating existing Macs to the JAMF system.

Main subject text

The predominant commodity computing platform for School academic staff is Apple MacOS. Whilst the majority of MacOS devices across the University are now running the Managed Mac system (JAMF), the School's MacOS devices are all self-managed. Across the University, there are now 2700 Managed Macs, including over 600 in Science and Engineering.

Adopting the JAMF system would provide some benefits :-

- it presents a UoE "App store" which provides an easy route to install common UoE and open-source software (e.g. MS Office, Emacs, LibreOffice, MacTeX) and configure against University services (e.g. VPN, printers, DataStore). We could also add support for configuring against School services (e.g. AFS, OpenVPN)
- it ensures FileVault full-desk encryption and centralises the storage of the FileVault keys
- it reports on the current MacOS version to the College's OCSng software inventory system which gives the School oversight over which versions of MacOS are in use across the School and will flag up any system which is running unsupported versions of MacOS
- improves compliance with University IT security standards

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Users retain administrative rights to their Mac so can install additional software and configure their system as they would normally.

Equality and diversity implications - None identified

Resource implications (staff, space, budget)

School computing staff - 1 hr to install and configure JAMF per machine

Budget - £15 p.a. per machine