

Apple Managed Client

Using Apple's Open Directory Server and Workgroup Manager, Apple provides a powerful tool for managing the users experience.

Workgroup Manager is the ultimate solution for defining administrative policies across users and computers in your organization. Featuring an intuitive interface for directory-based management of account information, Workgroup Manager allows you to provide access to network services, establish password policies, and create standardized computing environments. Not only does this give you greater control over organizational resources, it makes things easier for your users as well. No matter what computer they're using, they'll have the same experience—with consistent settings, a network-based home directory, and easy access to shared resources such as printers and group folders.



You can set system preferences per user, per group of users, per computer, or per group of computers, giving you a level of flexibility appropriate to your administrative needs. For example, you can create custom environments—with appropriate applications, settings, and permissions—for each workgroup or classroom in your organization. When users log in, predefined group applications launch automatically, and shared network resources are mounted on the desktop. The same functionality can be used to restrict operations; for example, you can set preferences that disable media burning, restrict outgoing email traffic, or require authentication for access to specific devices or printers.*

Directory-based management simplifies the administration and support of Mac OS X systems while protecting your organization's resources. Workgroup Manager makes it easy to manage user, group, and computer information in your LDAP directory, allowing you to provide a superior user experience, with consistent system configurations, network-based home directories, and streamlined access to shared group resources.

Control over organization resources

Workgroup Manager makes it easy to use directory services for controlling access to hardware, software, and digital assets, preventing unauthorized or excessive use of valuable resources. For example, you can prevent any user, group, computer, or group of computers from burning media, copying unauthorized files, or connecting to certain servers. You can set print quotas to restrict the use of expensive printers; control application and device use in classrooms, open-access labs, and kiosk environments; or require password-protected, authenticated login to special-purpose systems. By enabling login privileges for authorized administrators on a per-server basis, you can even manage administrative access to the servers on your network.

Simplified administration of computer pools

With client-side system controls for automatic logout and scheduled restart and shutdown, you can use Workgroup Manager to control these settings in computer pools and lab environments. For example, you can set all computers to power down at 5:00 p.m. or to log out automatically after 10 minutes of inactivity. And because computers are similarly configured across labs, classrooms, or departments, it's easier for administrators to support large numbers of client systems.

Enhanced user experience

With Workgroup Manager, you can set up your users for a successful computing experience. Managed system settings allow them to log in to a user environment that's appropriate to their needs and consistent from one computer to the next. For example, a teacher may choose a set of applications and documents that should always be in the Dock for each classroom of students; or when a kindergarten student logs in, the system could launch Simple Finder. In a work environment, you can set systems to open Final Cut Studio and mount shared storage volumes when a member of the video editing group logs in to any computer. Users' individual and group settings are immediately in effect, and they have streamlined access to authorized resources—no matter where they log in.



Defining Preferences

An intuitive interface allows you to set preferences for Mac OS X systems throughout your organization. From the list in the Name column, select one or more users, groups, computers, or computer groups, and click an icon to define or change their settings. Available settings vary based on the users, user groups, computer groups or computers.

Easier management of portable systems

With the Mobile Accounts feature in Mac OS X Server, you can set up a notebook computer to have a local home folder, as well as a network home folder on the server. Since content is synchronized automatically between the two, this is a great solution for people who work with the same information on both their desktop and their portable system.

Client Management and Configuration Services

Promedia offers complete setup and configuration services for all Apple's Managed client environment.

Directory Service Planning

- Provide basic training on Apple's Directory structure and features
- Work with customer team to develop Managed Client Plan
- Work with customer team to identify computer group structure
- Work with customer team to identify user group structure
- Provide training for customer on Apple's home folder environment including
 - True network home folders
 - Portable Home Folders with Synchronization
 - Portable Home Folders
 - Local Home folders with Network Redirection
- Work with customer to develop home folder plan

Directory Services Configuration

- Configure User Groups specified in Planning
- Configure Computer Groups specified in Planning
- Create scripts to automate joining computers to directory
- Create scripts and configure preferences to implement home folder solution
- Import users and groups from customer provided import file

Managed Client Planning

- Provide basic training on Apples' Managed Preference System
- Provide basic training on Work Group Manager
- Work with customer team to identify preference management plan

Managed Client Configuration

- Configure Managed Preferences and Settings in Workgroup manager
- Work with client to test managed preferences and settings

Coaching and Mentoring

- Provide customer with training on using Workgroup manager to manage preferences
- Provide customer with training on available managed preferences
- Provide customer with training on using details pain to manage custom and application specific preferences
- Provide quick time files of above training
- Provide customer with documentation on home folder implementation
- Provide customer with documentation on computer groups configuration
- Provide customer with documentation on user groups configuration
- Provide customer with written procedures for adding new users
- Provide customer with written procedures for adding new computers
- Provide customer with written procedures for adding new user groups
- Provide customer with written procedures for adding new computer groups
- Provide customer with procedure for backup up Open Directory Configuration
- Provide customer with Managed Client Summary document on configuration

About Promedia

Promedia Technology Services, Inc., founded in 1992 and located in Little Falls, NJ, is a network solutions provider whose core business is ensuring its clients' productivity and efficiency through the appropriate use of network technologies. Promedia understands how these intricate systems can become costly, hard to manage, and hard to maintain. These challenges are answered by developing accurate ROI's for technology investments and delivering monitoring and managed service offerings to minimize the burden on the client.

For more information on our Apple Solutions or any of our products and services, you may visit our website at www.promedianj.com or call 973-253-7600.

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