



Adobe Flash

The end is nigh

It now looks very likely that in the next year or two Adobe will cease to produce and distribute Flash, formally know as Flash Player. The primary function of Flash is to provide animation technology for web site developers. It does this as an internet browser plug-in. However, it has been plagued with stability and security issues for many years, and all the same functionality is available in HTMLv5. The time is coming where web developers will have to create better code using HTML and we will no longer have to deal with the constant updates and other issues which Flash has suffered from. If you want to remove Flash from your Mac, Adobe have provided an easy to use tool which can be downloaded here:

https://helpx.adobe.com/flash-player/kb/uninstall-flash-player-mac-os.html#OS_X_10_4_and_later

This will remove the Flash plug-in from your System Preferences. I would recommend rebooting your Mac after doing the uninstall.

Away from the desk...

We had a trip to Melbourne to celebrate my wife's retirement...



Useful "new" Attachment feature on iPad

With not having an iPad (my wife graciously allows me to use hers occasionally) I am not sure when this feature arrived, but it's here now. When you are writing an email in Mail, there are now two icons at the top right of the keyboard. Tapping on the Paperclip enables you to access files stored in your iCloud Drive, DropBox, or other file system, and then attach them to the email. A similar thing happens if you tap on the camera icon - it takes you into your Photos library so that you can attach photographs. If the icons don't appear on your keyboard then you are probably running an older version of iOS and need to upgrade the iPad software.



Getting to Grips with...the management of software assets

Bundled Applications

All new Mac's these day come pre-installed with a range of software. Much of this is included with the operating system and is free, and will be re-installed if necessary whenever the operating system is reinstalled. There are also "bundled" applications, such as Pages, Numbers and Keynote. These bundled applications are not managed in the same way as the free ones which come with the operating system, as they can also be purchased on the App Store.

When you set up a new Mac the bundled applications are installed and can be used, but they have no ownership. The ownership is assigned the first time they are updated and it is done by requesting the users Apple ID. Once the Apple ID has been entered the bundled applications which have been updated are then associated with that Apple ID. So, if the drive in the Mac were to fail and the operating system and bundled software had to be reinstalled, logging into the Apple ID would enable the bundled software to be installed for free. *The choice of which Apple ID is used therefore becomes important.*

If the Apple ID which is used is an employees personal Apple ID, and they leave the company, then effectively they are taking the bundled software with

them. If the company that owns the Mac does not know the credentials for the ex-employees Apple ID, then they will have to purchase the software in order to use it on the Mac.

In order to avoid this problem consideration needs to be given to the Apple ID's that are used on company machines in order to update bundled software. There is not necessarily one solution that will be suitable for every environment, but there are a couple of options that should be considered:

Company Apple ID: for each Mac create an Apple ID which uses company credentials. This could be done



using an email address which is related to the Mac and not the employee, or an iCloud address related to the Mac.

Employee Apple ID: use the employees email credentials for the Apple ID. When the Mac is allocated to a different employee the Apple ID details can be changed to reflect that.

iPhones and iPads

A similar issue arises with the use of Apple ID's on company phones and iPads. If an employee uses their personal Apple ID as the primary Apple ID on an iPhone or iPad, then the device effectively becomes theirs. If they don't sign out of their Apple ID when they leave the company and return the device, and the Apple ID credentials are not known, the iPhone or iPad can't be reassigned to another user.

Apple do have management software and systems for these tasks, but they are primarily aimed at large organisations with hundreds of employees, so would be expensive (and possibly cumbersome) for small companies to use. However, at the WWDC in June a new Corporate Apple ID system was announced but details are not yet available.