Education Technology Mistakes to Avoid

iPad Deployment Procrastination

As part of our education technology summer school series, we're examining the five most common mistakes that plague school districts, IT, educators and curriculum owners when deploying and utilizing iPad devices.

In part one of our series, we look at the "don't worry, we've got time" scenario that often leaves schools scrambling on the last day(s) of summer break to get their iPad devices enrolled, tested and deployed before students and teachers need them.

If you've ever waited until the last minute to enroll your iPad devices and get apps deployed, you've most likely ran into problems. Read on to see why procrastinating is a recipe for disaster and discover a new timeline — which includes iOS best practices — that will leave you prepared and confident when the first school bell rings.

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Don't worry, we've got time.

You're nearing the end of the summer. It's time to get your devices enrolled and apps deployed, and you want (need) this done today because the start of the school year is just around the corner. You begin the enrollment process, but things aren't running as fast as you want. You can't get apps deployed before devices are enrolled, so you wait. At last, devices are enrolled. Now, on to app deployments. But, you're running into the same, slow issues you were before. What gives?

You're not alone. From serving schools and their technology departments for more than 16 years, we've seen this scenario countless times. IT has a seemingly endless list of tasks to accomplish in the three months that students are away, so all too often, device enrollments and deployments are saved until the very end.
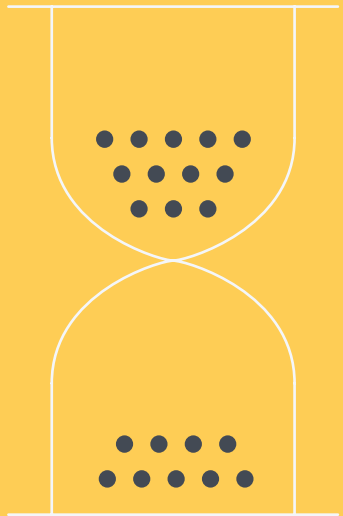
Why waiting until the end of summer is risky

First off, most networks struggle to handle this type of workload in a single sitting. Putting this much strain on your network opens the door for partial deployments because the full process may not have completed for every device prior to moving on.

Second, there are many schools in the country and around the world just like yours; looking to conduct enrollments and deployments at the same time. Apple services are robust, but consider that millions of devices from thousands of schools are hitting its server at the same time requesting access and assets.

Plan and execute

Instead of being last on the summer to-do list, IT needs to be methodical about readying devices for incoming and returning students. Also, they need the right management tools, so they are not going it alone.

Mobile device management (MDM) solutions are key to integrating with Apple deployment programs, providing streamlined onboarding and offboarding enrollment workflows and maximizing IT efficiency. An MDM solution dedicated to Apple management will also provide strategic advice on the best timeline for your deployment.

! Note

Not all management solutions are created equal. Select one with a proven track-record of providing efficient enrollment and app deployment workflows.

At least three weeks before new school year: Enroll devices into management
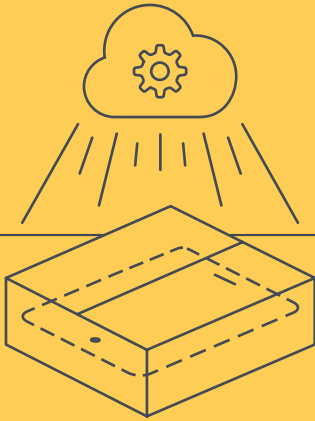
Before you can manage your devices, they must be enrolled into your MDM solution. The benefits of an MDM tool include easy enrollment into management, consistent app distribution, and enforcement of security and privacy protocols. Three methods are available to enroll your iPad devices:

Automated deployment with Apple School Manager (recommended)

Apple Configurator

User-initiated via URL

With schools primarily deploying iPad devices to students, automated or zero-touch enrollments are the preferred method. This style of enrollment requires Apple School Manager, a simple, web-based portal for IT administrators to manage people, devices and content all from one place. Choose a management solution that integrates with Apple School Manager, so you can immediately take advantage of this workflow for your summer enrollments and deployments.

Once you have your solution purchased, all you have to do is:

1 Sign up for Apple School Manager via **https://school.apple.com/** and add your MDM server to the Apple School Manager portal.
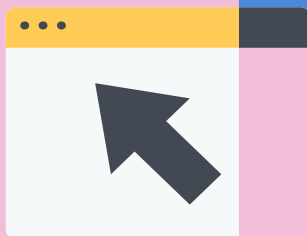
2 Purchase devices through Apple or an authorized Apple reseller and link them to your Apple School Manager account. No need to unbox devices before the school year begins. If devices are not purchased through Apple or an authorized reseller, there are additional steps to enroll devices into Apple School Manager.

3 As a user turns on their iPad for the first time, the device will automatically be enrolled — no additional interaction is needed.
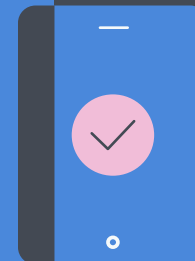
At least two weeks before school year:
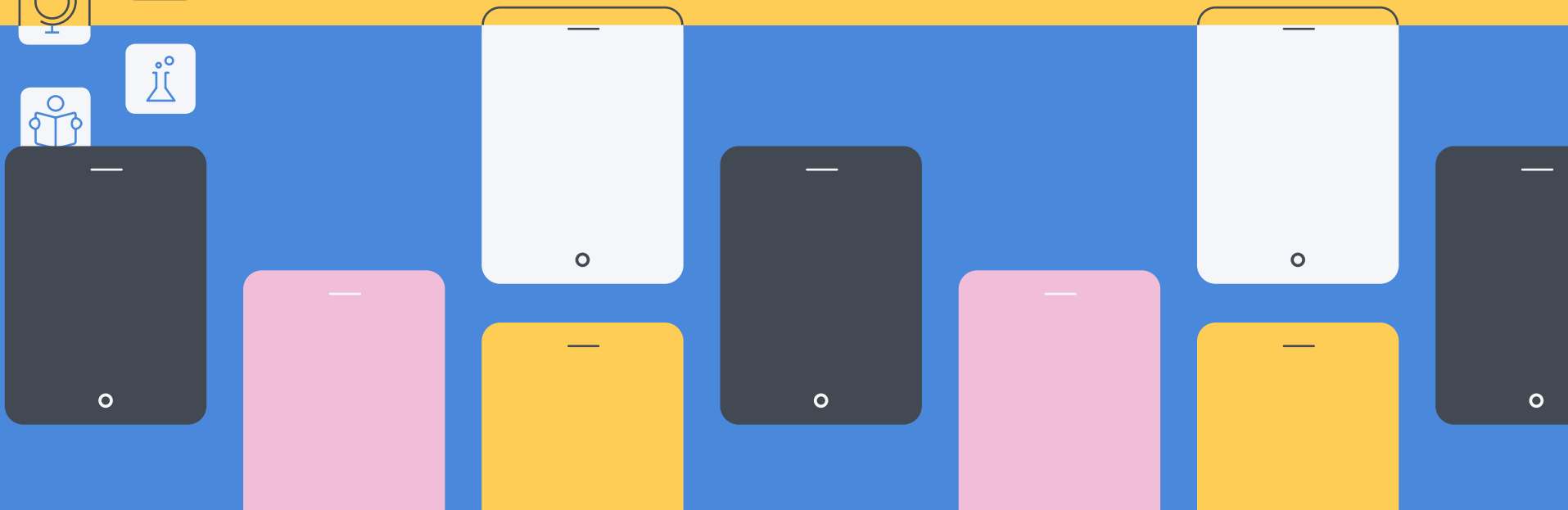## Configurations and app deployments

Once the device is enrolled, you can leverage your MDM solution and Apple School Manager to configure and deploy apps.

Configuration profiles tell your managed iPad devices how to behave. Profiles are built and deployed via your management solution and can configure settings, Wi-Fi passwords and restrict items you may not want students accessing such as the Camera or Safari web browser.

What sets iPad apart from other education technologies — and most likely the reason you chose Apple to begin with — is the endless supply of educational resources in the App Store. Leverage MDM and Apple School Manager to purchase, configure and deploy apps to one or all of your devices. Apps can be sent to individual Managed Apple IDs for single or Shared iPad use, or directly to the device.

All of this is done without ever physically touching the device.

A proper deployment and device configuration takes time.

Hastily doing things right before the school year starts adds undue stress and opens the door to errors. Putting the aforementioned timeline in place ensures everyone benefits:

District leaders

The technology investment is working as it should from day one. No technology complaints from teachers and parents.

IT

Allows time to test and ensure all devices are enrolled and configured properly with apps tailored to each student.

Instructional technologists

Can safely plan curriculum knowing that the technology will work as anticipated.

Teachers

Ability to get comfortable and confident with the technology before hundreds or thousands of students are present.

jamf

A tool up for the education task.

Download our full 5 Technology Mistakes to Avoid this Summer guide to walk through four additional scenarios.

By conquering these five scenarios, you're well on your way to delivering the best education experience to your users, but your school is most likely going to need more down the road (or now).

Read Now

Enrolling devices with Apple Configurator

Transitioning to Apple School Manager

Unlocking locked iPad devices

Deploying the rights apps and content

When it comes to Apple device management, one solution rises to the head of the class — Jamf Pro. More than 6,000 schools rely on Jamf to help them deploy, inventory and secure over 7 million devices. So, whether you need help with one of the above scenarios, or have a whole new situation on your hands, we can help.

Take Jamf Pro for a free test drive and start getting more out of your education technology today.

Request Trial