A user-centric focus

Shaping the IT landscape
Introduction

As organizations look to leave their mark on their respective industries, executives understand that empowering employees with the right technology is the best way to make them more productive and drive the business forward. With technology seemingly everywhere, a new generation of employees seeks a seemingly modern technology experience at work defined as:

• 100 percent access no matter where they are located.
• A harmonious marriage between their personal and professional lives in one device.
• And a consumer-grade experience the moment they power on their device.

No technology provider addresses these expectations better than Apple.

This shift in the employee mentality is prompting IT to reevaluate the definition of IT service, and the practices and workflows they deploy to users. **The question is how does IT shift their practices to embrace the user-centric trend?**

The following e-book examines this very question. It explains what's driving this trend and how IT can take advantage of it to streamline technology practices and save cost, positively impact company culture, and ensure their organization is hiring and retaining the best talent.
What’s driving this IT shift?

Apple’s penetration in the enterprise

Apple devices in the enterprise are on the rise. Based on direct comments from Apple CEO Tim Cook, Apple’s enterprise business is now worth more than $25 billion. Apple also reports that iPhone is used by 97 percent of the Fortune 500 companies and 91 percent of the Global 500. iPad tablets are used by 99 percent of the Fortune 500 and 93 percent of the Global 500.

“I doubt very many people knew that we have a $25 billion enterprise business that we’ve built quietly in not too many years.”

Tim Cook
CEO, Apple
Apple growth in the enterprise

And, this boom is only expected to continue. Jamf conducted a survey among commercial organizations of all sizes and asked, “Do you anticipate growth of Mac, iPad and iPhone in your organization?” The vast majority of companies replied that growth of these devices is imminent.
A changing workforce with different expectations

The expansion of Apple in the enterprise is in large part a reflection of the changing workplace demographics. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, there are more than 46 million workers in the workforce who were born between 1980 and 2000.

Growing up with Apple

- **1984**: Born in 1984, along with the Macintosh
- **1999**: Gets iMac in 2000 to replace CD collection
- **2000**: Family gets an iMac in 1999 for home computer
- **2004**: Brings a PowerBook to college in 2004
- **2007**: Buys iPhone in 2007 as first smartphone
- **2010**: Enters workforce, looking to use a MacBook Pro

Now, as these individuals enter the workforce, they are demanding the tools they grew up with, are most productive on and can harmonize their personal and professional worlds in one seamless experience.

“It used to be the device someone used at work influenced the device they would buy at home. Now, the opposite is true. People expect that whatever they find easiest to use, that’s what will be available to them at work.”

Mike Hamilton
Head of IT, MuleSoft
Attracting and retaining talent

Now that we understand how Apple and a generation of Apple users are impacting the direction of the enterprise, companies need to decide how to react to this trend. One option is to simply ignore it. For example, an organization could continue to offer a Windows computer as the default choice for new employees. However, this approach proves difficult when attracting and retaining talent.

According to the Millennials at Work report from PWC, the majority of young workers value what technology a prospective employer offers. This shows that offering the best technology can be leveraged to attract top talent. Additionally, an overwhelming majority said using the technology they prefer makes them more effective at work. People are more productive on tools they already know how to use.

59% of those surveyed said an employer’s state-of-the-art technology was important to them when considering a job.

78% said access to the technology they like to use makes them more effective at work.

Millenials at work report
PWC
A change in IT practices

With a younger, more mobile workforce who’s motivated by the best available technology, IT needs to adapt their methods to best empower their users.

A perfect example of the “traditional” approach is the lengthy imaging process IT administrators go through to provision a new, company-issued computer for each user. This involves creating a master image, which contains all of the software, settings and security protocols new employees require. Imaging is a reliable way for IT to ensure all devices are identical prior to handing them over. But, imaging is not without its flaws. The most glaring being that a master image is tedious to maintain and outdated almost immediately. Software constantly requires updates in order to patch security holes and add new features.

A typical imaging workflow starts after IT purchases computers from their preferred vendor and ships them to a central processing center. IT then spends time and resources building and pre-loading each computer with a master image. Next, IT transfers the pre-imaged computers to a warehousing location, stockpiling devices for future users. Lastly, as a new employee comes aboard, the device is shipped to them. To recap, this process requires IT to spend valuable time building an image, loading the image onto devices, shipping devices multiple times, and warehousing devices — where they depreciate in value and software quickly becomes out of date.

When the end user eventually gets their new computer, they need to go through an account setup process using a pre-determined password — signaling to the user that they received a locked-down, corporate-controlled computer.
There’s got to be a better way

And, for organizations using Apple, there is. Instead of going through a traditional process where corporate devices are quickly out of date, IT can leverage management software to provision all necessary settings beforehand and ship a new computer directly to an end user.

For example, Jamf and Apple’s Device Enrollment Program (DEP) are designed to shift the work that IT does, and build a collaborative, productive relationship between IT, the user and the device. This model allows IT to eliminate manual tasks, drastically streamlining the setup process for users and empowering them with a personalized device experience immediately.

How does it work?

DEP lets IT administrators order new Mac, iPad and iPhone devices from Apple resellers and register the corresponding serial numbers as owned by the purchasing organization. When a purchased Apple device boots up for the first time, it communicates with Apple’s servers and is told to install software, configurations and security settings from their device management solution — all automatically.

This allows IT to provide the great out-of-box Apple experience users are accustomed to, while ensuring new devices are configured correctly, software is deployed and security protocols are enforced. This is the wave of the future for IT — focusing on the user experience and automating routine, manual IT tasks.

Is this process possible with Windows?

Traditional imaging methods are synonymous with Windows. In fact, this is the only way to set up and configure a PC. Windows has yet to implement a way to enable IT to perform zero-touch deployments.
IBM Case Study

User-centric IT done right

Leveraging this approach, IBM, the inventors of the IBM personal computer in 1981, now represent the world’s largest Mac deployment. They have deployed over 90,000 Macs to their employees since implementing a technology choice program in June 2015, and they have learned a lot along the way.

“IT is an extension of the culture we want to have at IBM. We thought of this as a culture program and less as an IT program,” said IBM’s VP of Workplace as a Service, Fletcher Previn. IBM understood they needed to change their corporate culture if they wanted to attract top talent and keep employees productive and engaged.
Since implementing this program, 73 percent of employees said they will choose Mac as their next computer. This trend is consistent with a 2016 Jamf Employee Choice Survey, where 75 percent said they preferred Mac over a PC. And, of those who have already made the switch to Mac, IBM is reporting a 10-point increase in their annual employee satisfaction survey. The number one reason for this increase was attributed to “access to better tools.”

In addition to happier employees, IBM found that Macs were three times cheaper to manage compared to PCs. Thanks to fewer support calls (PC users call the help desk twice as often), cheaper management tools and better residual value, IBM saves between $273 and $543 per Mac over a comparable PC in a 4-year total cost of ownership model. This demonstrates that technology choice programs are not only good for employees, but also for the bottom line.
How to create a user-centric IT model

If your goal is to attract the top talent, keep the employees you have, increase productivity, and save time and resources for IT, then it is time to focus on the user.

**Start with choice**

Offer your employees a technology choice. There are many important considerations when implementing technology choice. Your first instinct might be to conduct an application readiness assessment. Save your time and skip it. Just understand that there will be software that won’t work on a Mac and vice versa, but there are often alternatives to keep employees productive.

Further, consider beginning with a beta choice program with one department before rolling it out to the entire company. This will ensure most, if not all, employees will remain productive while you work out any kinks in the workflow.

When you are ready to roll out your program to the masses, start it off on the right foot by being open and communicative. Go in knowing that not all employees will choose Apple or be satisfied with their initial decision. Consider offering a return window; IBM offered a 60-day return policy. This will give employees the freedom to confidently make, test and stick with their device decision.
Streamline device deployment

With employee devices selected, look to simplify your device ordering process making it more user-friendly for both your team and the user. Consider setting up an online portal that mimics a typical shopping experience. This approach gives users a sense of ownership over the process and IT the ability to easily approve or deny hardware requests.

After placing an order for a new Mac, iPad or iPhone, the device can be shipped directly to the employee and pre-configured thanks to Apple’s DEP and device management. Consider sending emails to your users when the device is on its way, informing them about the status of their device and reminding them where to find helpful IT resources.

Once the user opens their new device, they will be automatically guided through the IT-customized setup process and enrolled in management with all the appropriate provisioned settings and policies installed.
Embrace the native Mac experience

Apple has spent considerable time and effort making the macOS user experience a pleasant one, and organizations looking to deploy Macs in a choice program should consider keeping that experience intact. Apple has native encryption tools, such as FileVault, built into the operating system that can be managed remotely. This allows IT to ensure security standards without requiring additional software.

The same can be said about anti-virus software for Mac. macOS enjoys far less virus threats than Windows thanks to its UNIX underpinnings. Apple maintains a virus definition list and automatically updates all Macs. This is known as XProtect, and just like FileVault, is built into the operating system and doesn’t get in the way of users. By avoiding bolt-on, clunky, third-party security software, organizations allow users to get the most out of the Apple experience.
Providing on-demand resources is a great way to enable users to be self-sufficient. App catalogs, like Jamf Self Service, can be populated with IT-approved resources such as apps and printer drivers. These resources can be pre-configured and scoped to specific users and groups. IT can even add a button to trigger maintenance scripts to flush logs and clear cache files.

All this can be run by the user without admin rights, meaning standard users are also given the freedom to customize their own device. This is not a one-time process either. Add new and popular apps to your app catalog and remove unnecessary items at any time.

Better support experience

To make the support experience as user-friendly as the technology choice program itself, you'll want to re-architect your support model. While IT will do the heavy lifting, consider working with marketing, HR, communications and UI/UX teams to build an intuitive support portal that acts as an online community encouraging peer support. Your portal quickly becomes an ideal forum for arming employees with answers, and gives them a place to ask questions and post comments. This leads to employees self-helping, as opposed to immediately contacting you for assistance.
Make the IT transition easy with Jamf Pro

To help you deliver on the promise of user-focused IT, Jamf Pro — an Apple-exclusive management solution — empowers you with a tool to deploy Apple devices and maintain them throughout their entire lifecycle.

When Apple is paired with Jamf, IT can put the user at the center, the moment he or she opens the device packaging.

Request a free trial to see these powerful Apple management features in action and start putting user priorities first.

Request trial

Since 2002, Jamf has been solely focused on helping organizations succeed with Apple. Jamf is committed to enabling IT to empower end users and bring the legendary Apple experience to businesses, education, and government organizations via its Jamf Pro and Jamf Now software, and the 39,000+ member JAMF Nation Community. Today, more than 9,000 global customers rely on Jamf to manage 7 million+ Apple devices.

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