

Simplified macOS Upgrade Workflow

This guide walks you through the workflow process for deciding how to upgrade your Macs to macOS Sierra using Jamf Pro.



With the release of a new Apple operating system, it's recommended to first check compatibility with existing software, test the stability of the OS, and make sure it meets the organization's needs prior to upgrading. That's why the first question you need to ask is—**Do you want to upgrade now?**



NO

Jamf Pro has the ability to block the install file for any macOS upgrade. If you want to wait on upgrading, simply create a policy that will block the macOS Sierra installer app from running.



YES

Once you have decided to move forward with an upgrade you need to determine what to do with the existing data on your Macs. Are these shared Macs in a lab? Are they assigned to a specific user? The bottom line is—**Do you want to keep the data intact?**



KEEP DATA

There are 4 methods to deploy the new macOS for your users with the data intact. In all these options, using the Caching Service within macOS Server will help reduce network traffic. Consider adding one to your network.



Macs enrolled via the Device Enrollment Program (DEP) and running 10.11.4 or later can be upgraded by sending a mobile device management (MDM) command to download and install a new version of macOS. No user interaction or admin rights required for this option.



Download the Install macOS Sierra app from the Mac App Store and Casper Admin. Then publish a link in Self Service where users can start the upgrade on their own. Caching the install file on user's Macs will reduce your network load.



Cache the installer on users' Macs. Instead of waiting for users to start the upgrade, create a Policy to do it automatically. Users will need to reboot their Mac.



Alternatively, you can simply encourage your users to download and run the Install macOS Sierra app from the Mac App Store. Users will need to sign-in with an Apple ID. Admin rights are required for this option.



ERASE DATA

Since you have decided to erase any data on the existing Macs, you can utilize imaging techniques to speed up the process. There are 2 common ways to re-image your Macs:



NetBoot is a great way to image Macs remotely over a network. Casper Imaging creates a separate partition and runs the Install macOS Sierra app automatically. Trigger the install by putting a Mac into NetBoot mode.



Target Mode Imaging is ideal for local imaging over a fast cable such as Thunderbolt or Firewire. Capser Suite helps you create the image and distribute it quickly.