



# Software Update Server

Automatically manage how and when Apple software updates are downloaded and deployed.

## Features

### Managed Apple software updates

- Control your organization's access to Apple software updates
- Maintain standard desktop configurations
- Host Apple updates for Windows Boot Camp users

### Reduced bandwidth needs

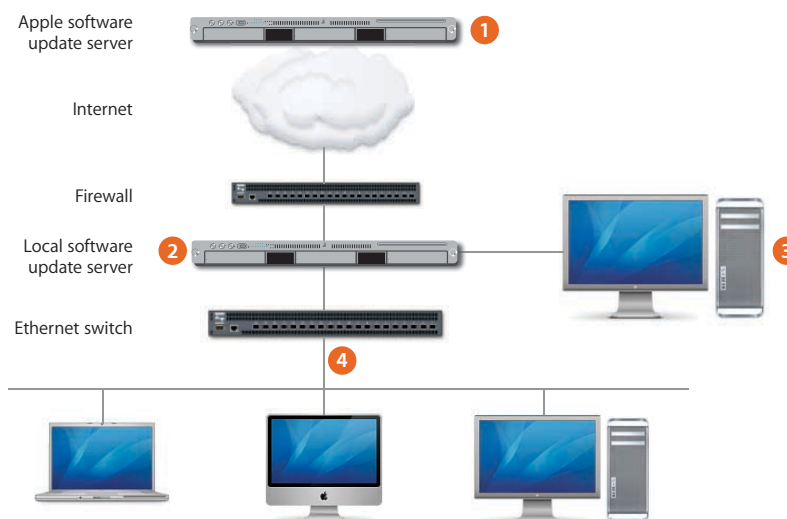
- Automatically download software updates and cache them locally
- Mirror all Apple software updates locally
- Eliminate the need to download multiple copies of each software update

### Administration and security

- Integrates with Workgroup Manager for directory-based account management
- Ensures that only official Apple updates are installed using digitally signed packages
- Allows administrators to define software update preferences on a per-computer basis

Extend the manageability of software updates on your network with Mac OS X Server. By deploying a software update server, administrators can control how and when client computers download software, enabling access to approved software updates only. This prevents users from selecting software that's unsuitable for the organization. At the same time, a local software update server streamlines network use, saving the costs of multiple downloads of the same update and reducing unnecessary bandwidth consumption.\*

## Software Update Service



- 1 Software updates are hosted on servers at Apple.
- 2 Local software update server automatically downloads and stores updates to mirror Apple updates.
- 3 Workgroup Manager allows administrators to control when and to whom the updates become available.
- 4 Bandwidth consumption for software updates can be controlled.

## Technology Brief

Mac OS X Server: Software Update Server

## Managed Software Updates

By caching software updates from Apple on your own local update server, you can evaluate and test software updates before installation and save them until you're ready for distribution. Instead of requiring you to manually manage these updates or monitor each client computer, Software Update Server gives you the freedom and flexibility to deploy organizationwide software at your discretion, creating and maintaining a standard desktop environment.

Using the managed preferences of Workgroup Manager in tandem with Software Update Server, you can direct computers to specific local software update servers. In addition, you can control which software update packages users can access by enabling or disabling individual packages at the local server.

### Cost control

The local software update server downloads software updates from Apple for sharing with local network clients, thus decreasing the amount of bandwidth used outside the enterprise network. By eliminating the need for each Mac OS X system to engage in multiple separate downloads for each software update, bandwidth charges, which add up quickly in large organizations, are reduced.

### Stay up to date

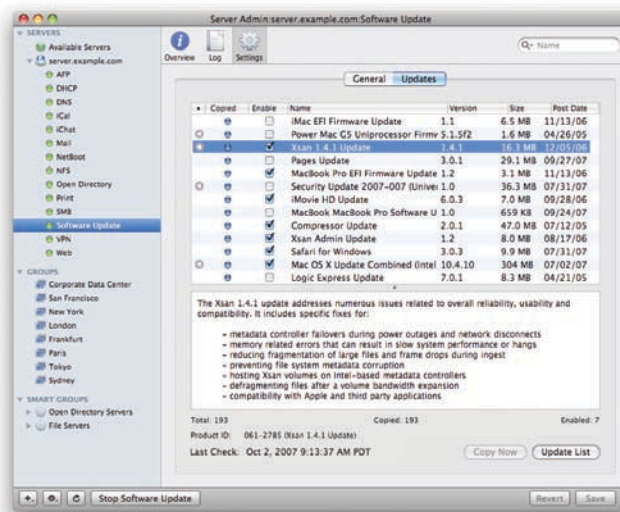
Software Update Server is capable of automatically mirroring updates between Apple's software update server and your local server to guarantee that the most current updates are immediately available. Mac OS X Server also supports hosting Apple updates for software running in Boot Camp, such as iTunes and QuickTime for Windows. To ensure security, all updates are digitally signed by Apple.

### Directory-based account management

Workgroup Manager integrates seamlessly with Software Update Server in Mac OS X Server to simplify directory-based management of software update policies. It allows you to set system preferences, including those for software update, on a per-computer basis. The preferences and policies you define in Workgroup Manager can be stored in any LDAP directory server—including Apple's Open Directory, which is built into Mac OS X Server.

## Software Update Server Architecture

Software Update Server is easy to install and implement quickly. Once up and running, it contacts Apple's software update server and requests a list of available software to download locally. When Software Update Server is enabled, administrators can instantly manage which updates their users can access. Automatically downloaded updates from Apple are cached for later deployment on Mac OS X systems. Based on the enterprise's needs and bandwidth, you can choose to mirror (copy and store packages locally) or enable (make the packages available to users) any of the updates in the list.



The easy-to-use Software Update Server interface offers you the option to mirror or enable each update, while providing specific information on each software program and its status on your server.

Software Update Server regularly checks in with Apple's software update servers to update usage information and send lists of newly available software to the Updates catalog on your server.

To prevent network slowdowns, Software Update Server in Mac OS X Server lets you limit the bandwidth that client computers use when downloading software updates from your server. Establishing this limit allows you to monitor network traffic and prevent software update clients from using unnecessary bandwidth, which is particularly important when using wireless networks. For example, if you limit the bandwidth to 56 Kbps, each client will download at that rate. If five clients connect simultaneously to the server, the total bandwidth used by the clients will be 280 Kbps.

## Apple Server Solutions

Combining the latest open source technologies with Mac ease of use, Mac OS X Server unleashes the power of Xserve, Apple's rack-optimized server hardware. With phenomenal performance, massive storage capacity, high-bandwidth I/O, and integrated remote management tools, Xserve running Mac OS X Server is the ideal solution for education, small businesses, and enterprises alike.

## For More Information

For more information about Mac OS X Server, Xserve, and other Apple server solutions, visit [www.apple.com/server](http://www.apple.com/server).

\*To use Software Update Server, client systems must be running Mac OS X Server v10.4 or later.

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