

Quick guide to MDM Enrollment Types

The first step in managing your Apple devices is to enrol them in an MDM system, there are several types of Enrollment and some are *definitely* better than others. Here's our guide to the pros and cons of each approach, but if you need help making sense of it all [get in touch](#) and we can get you up and running!

Enrollment Method	Pros	Cons
Automated Device Enrollment (ADE) (via Apple Business Manager/Apple School Manager)	• Zero-touch deployment: Devices enroll automatically on first boot. • Mandatory MDM: Profile is non-removable by users. • Supervision (iOS/iPadOS) / Full Control (macOS): Enabled by default, offering maximum control. • Streamlined setup • Highest level of security and management.	• Requires devices to be in ABM/ASM. • Existing devices must usually be wiped during Enrollment • Initial ABM/ASM setup can take some effort.
User Enrollment (BYOD)	• Privacy focused: Separates personal and work data using a Managed Apple ID. • User-initiated: Simple for users to enroll their personal devices. • Organization manages only work apps & data.	• Limited control: Fewer management capabilities compared to ADE or Device Enrollment. • Removable profile: User can un-enroll. • Not ideal for company-owned devices
Device Enrollment (Apple Configurator)	• Supervises devices: Enables higher level of control on existing iOS/iPadOS devices. • Can add devices to ABM/ASM (with a 30-day provisional period during which users can remove) • Useful for preparing devices before handing them out if ADE is not an option.	• Manual & hands on process: Requires connecting each device to a Mac or iPhone running Apple Configurator • Time-consuming for large numbers of devices. • Requires a "spare" Mac or iPhone to run Apple Configurator • Wipes the device to enable Supervision.

Glossary:

- Supervision: This is crucial for a higher level of control over iOS and iPadOS devices. ADE automatically enables Supervision. For existing devices, Apple Configurator is typically needed to Supervise them, which involves wiping the device. From a practical perspective Supervision shows that your organisation owns the device
- Apple Business Manager (ABM) / Apple School Manager (ASM): These Apple portals are used to register all of your devices for Automated Device Enrollment and manage app and book licenses through the Volume Purchase Program - VPP. Part of the initial setup is to connect them to your MDM of choice, in our case usually Mosyle.

About SecondBrain Consulting

I'm a specialist tech consultant and business mentor who helps small businesses grow by improving the ways they use technology, their workflows and operations. As a certified business MSP using Mosyle MDM I can help you get up and running and realising the benefits of managing your Apple devices to make things run more smoothly and improve your cybersecurity.

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