

The 7 Best Jamf Alternatives in 2026 (Compared)

For IT and security teams evaluating their MDM and endpoint management options.

If you're looking for a Jamf alternative, you're in good company. Jamf has built a massive reputation managing Apple devices over the last two decades. But as device environments grow more complex—and as leaner, more modern options emerge—many organizations are reconsidering their endpoint management stack.

Whether you're running Windows and Linux alongside Macs, finding Jamf's pricing hard to justify, or frustrated with the cost of bolt-on security products, this guide covers why teams are migrating away, what to look for in a modern MDM, and the 7 best Jamf alternatives worth evaluating in 2026.

What is Jamf? (And Why Are Teams Leaving?)

Jamf (specifically Jamf Pro) is an enterprise mobility management (EMM) and mobile device management (MDM) tool purpose-built for the Apple ecosystem. For years, it has been the gold standard for zero-touch deployment, inventory management, and security policy enforcement for macOS, iOS, iPadOS, and tvOS.

However, as IT infrastructure has evolved, several recurring themes come up when IT and security teams begin shopping for Jamf Pro alternatives:

- **Cross-platform limitations.** Jamf is strictly for Apple. If your environment includes Windows, Linux, or Android devices, you need a separate solution for everything outside the Apple ecosystem. (*note: Jamf does have a 3rd party Android offering*) That means managing multiple vendors, multiple contracts, and constant context-switching.
- **Licensing and add-on costs.** Jamf Pro is an MDM, but it's not a complete security story out of the box. Features like endpoint detection and response (EDR), telemetry collection, and advanced threat protection require purchasing Jamf Protect or Jamf Connect separately. Those costs multiply quickly at scale.
- **Complexity and legacy architecture.** Jamf is a powerful platform, but its depth creates a steep learning curve. Onboarding, configuration management, and keeping current with Jamf's product sprawl takes heavy lifting from IT teams.
- **~~No~~ Limited GitOps or config-as-code.** Modern IT and security teams increasingly want infrastructure-as-code workflows—version-controlled configurations, auditability, peer-reviewed changes, and the ability to roll back. Jamf's GUI-first approach doesn't offer this natively.

What to Look for in a Jamf Alternative

Before evaluating specific tools, define what your environment actually needs. The most critical criteria for modern IT teams include:

1. **Platform support:** Can you manage macOS, Windows, Linux, iOS, and Android from a single pane of glass?
2. **Security depth:** Are vulnerability detection, file integrity monitoring, and CIS compliance baked in, or are they extra-cost add-ons?
3. **Deployment flexibility:** Can you self-host the platform for maximum data control, or are you locked into a multi-tenant cloud?
4. **API and automation:** Does it support GitOps, CI/CD integrations, and programmatic management at scale via a complete API-first design?
5. **Pricing transparency:** Is the per-device pricing clear, without surprise module fees or forced minimums?

The 7 Best Jamf Alternatives to Evaluate

1. Fleet

Best for: Cross-platform environments, security-first teams, and GitOps workflows.

[Fleet](#) is an open-source, multi-platform device management solution built on osquery. It manages macOS, Windows, Linux, iOS, iPadOS, Android, and ChromeOS from a single, centralized console—making it the premier Jamf alternative for organizations with mixed environments.

What distinguishes Fleet is its API-first architecture and native GitOps support. Teams can manage device configurations the exact same way they manage code. Built-in features include near real-time device reporting via SQL queries, software vulnerability detection with CVE scoring, and CIS/STIG compliance.

- **Pros:** True cross-platform support (including deep Linux management); no separate security products to buy; open-source transparency; deployable via managed cloud or self-hosted.
- **Cons:** Requires basic familiarity with SQL for custom queries (though hundreds of standard queries are pre-built).
- **Pricing:** Transparent at \$7/device/month for Fleet Premium. No hidden add-ons for security features.

2. Microsoft Intune

Best for: Organizations already heavily invested in the Microsoft 365 ecosystem.

Intune is Microsoft's cloud-native endpoint management platform. It handles Windows, macOS, iOS, Android, and Linux, with deep, native integrations into Entra ID (formerly Azure AD) and Microsoft Defender.

- **Pros:** Included in many Microsoft 365 enterprise licenses; unbeatable integration with

Windows and Defender; robust conditional access policies.

- **Cons:** The Apple device management experience is functional but noticeably less mature than Apple-specialized platforms. The UI is notoriously complex and difficult to navigate.
- **Pricing:** Included in M365 E3/E5 plans, or starts at \$8/user/month standalone.

3. Kandji

Best for: Mac-first teams looking for modern simplicity and fast Apple OS support.

Kandji is a modern, Apple-focused MDM built specifically to challenge Jamf. Its automated remediation, one-click compliance blueprints (like CIS and FedRAMP), and same-day Apple OS support make it highly attractive for Apple-exclusive IT teams that find Jamf too clunky.

- **Pros:** Beautiful, intuitive user interface; robust library of one-click automation templates; great customer support.
- **Cons:** Strictly Apple-only. If you have a single Windows or Linux machine, you need a second MDM. Limited GitOps capabilities.
- **Pricing:** Custom quote required (historically requires platform fees + per-device fees).

4. NinjaOne

Best for: MSPs and lean IT teams that need a combined RMM and MDM.

NinjaOne combines RMM (remote monitoring and management) with core MDM capabilities. It covers Windows, macOS, Linux, iOS, and Android. It is incredibly popular for its patch management capabilities and background scripting automation.

- **Pros:** Excellent patching for third-party applications; great remote-control tools built directly into the console.
- **Cons:** Cloud-only (no self-hosting); security capabilities rely heavily on third-party integrations (like Bitdefender or CrowdStrike) rather than native tooling.
- **Pricing:** Custom quote required (typically priced per endpoint).

5. Mosyle

Best for: Education sectors and businesses needing a budget-friendly, Apple-only tool.

Mosyle is an Apple-specialized platform that has gained massive traction by undercutting Jamf on price while delivering a very clean, reliable product. It offers excellent automation for app deployment, OS updates, and basic security policy enforcement across Apple hardware.

- **Pros:** Highly cost-effective; specifically tailored tiers for Education vs. Business; clean interface.
- **Cons:** Apple-only; lacks the deep, programmatic API access and GitOps capabilities of a platform like Fleet.
- **Pricing:** Mosyle Fuse (Business) is generally around \$3/device/month.

6. ManageEngine Mobile Device Manager Plus

Best for: Legacy enterprises looking for a traditional, highly integrated IT suite.

ManageEngine offers a vast suite of IT tools, and their MDM covers Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, and Android. It focuses heavily on standard lifecycle management—enrollment, profile configuration, and app distribution.

- **Pros:** Integrates seamlessly with ManageEngine's ServiceDesk and overall IT ecosystem; offers on-premise deployment.
- **Cons:** The interface feels dated; the platform is robust but lacks the agility and modern infrastructure-as-code features favored by modern DevOps/IT teams.
- **Pricing:** Free for up to 25 devices; paid plans start around \$1.95/device/month.

7. Workspace ONE (formerly VMware AirWatch)

Best for: Massive enterprises needing complex VDI (Virtual Desktop Infrastructure) integration.

Workspace ONE by Omnisia (formerly VMware) is an enterprise unified endpoint management (UEM) tool. It handles all device types and heavily focuses on identity, zero-trust access, and virtualized desktops.

- **Pros:** Incredibly feature-rich; handles complex enterprise mobility and BYOD scenarios well.
- **Cons:** Notoriously difficult to deploy and manage; overkill for small to mid-sized businesses; uncertain future roadmap following the Broadcom acquisition of VMware.
- **Pricing:** Custom quote required.

How to Choose the Right Alternative

The right Jamf alternative depends entirely on your operating environment and IT philosophy:

- **For Apple-only shops:** If you just want a simpler, more modern Jamf, **Kandji** or **Mosyle** are your best bets.
- **For Microsoft-heavy shops:** If Windows is your primary OS and you already pay for M365 E5 licenses, **Microsoft Intune** makes the most financial sense.
- **For modern, cross-platform, security-focused teams:** If you manage a mix of macOS, Windows, and Linux, and want open-source transparency with infrastructure-as-code workflows, **Fleet** is the strongest candidate.

Replacing Jamf because of escalating security add-on costs? You'll find Fleet's all-in-one licensing model—which includes vulnerability management and compliance—a compelling difference.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the Windows equivalent of Jamf?

Microsoft Intune is generally considered the Windows equivalent of Jamf. However, for teams

that want to manage Windows, macOS, and Linux out of a single tool rather than using Intune for PCs and Jamf for Macs, cross-platform tools like Fleet or NinjaOne are the preferred solution.

Is there a free alternative to Jamf?

Yes. Fleet is built on open-source osquery and offers a free tier (Fleet Free) with device visibility and basic management capabilities. ManageEngine also offers a free tier for up to 25 devices.

Is Kandji better than Jamf?

"Better" depends on your needs. Kandji is frequently praised for having a more modern, intuitive interface and easier compliance automation (like one-click CIS templates) compared to Jamf. However, Jamf still holds an edge in highly complex, bespoke enterprise workflows due to its two decades of legacy API development.

Wondering how Fleet specifically stacks up against Jamf? [Book a demo](#) and see how Fleet can unify your Apple, Windows, and Linux environment while cutting security tool sprawl.

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