

Using Apple IDs

Last updated April 26th, 2023

I'm out of pop dolls on my desk - so today's episode is brought to you by the screaming goat. While he only says AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA, we can take that to mean (in goat speak) that using Apple devices sometimes requires an Apple ID. I wanted to take a look at Apple IDs for just a moment in our time together today, as they can cause some confusion and hesitation on the part of the user who may not be familiar with Macs or Apple products.

Apple IDs are basically the username and password to your Apple account. Just like we have usernames and passwords for our email addresses, wifi access, online banking, etc etc and so forth, we have Apple IDs that are associated with our Apple accounts. They are not a necessity a lot of the time, unless you use more than just the basic functions of a Mac or iPhone in your daily life. They are the doorway to your Apple email, the free storage (iCloud) you get through Apple (think Gmail / Drive), access to your media if you use iTunes, etc. There was a time (before me, and the screaming goat) that the Academy was a PC shop (IT / Tech speak for we mostly used windows machines), but like a lot of business environments and universities we have transitioned over to being almost completely Mac based. If you were to look behind the curtain at the IT infrastructure you'll see everything running on PCs, but at the user level of the game, we utilize Apple products - and for one good reason. They work.

To skip all my witty commentary, feel free to click here for the [TL;DR](#) (too long didn't read)

For the longest time I was anti Apple. I didn't want to buy an iPhone, I didn't want to use a Mac, I thought people who had Apple airpods were silly... but, much like coming in the house as a kid on a hot summer day in the south, I have drank the Kool-aid. Apple products just work, there isn't much else you can say. I will take an iPhone hands down over an Android, and will happily take the pepsi challenge on whether or not a Mac can outperform a PC. That does not mean that Apple has no problems whatsoever... and one of those problems that can pop up unexpectedly, is integration with other accounts and devices.

It is very easy to lose track of what you have signed into / where regarding Apple products and using your Apple ID. Apple goes to some pretty extraordinary lengths to secure its devices, and utilizes some pretty intense methods to ensure that your device cannot simply be stolen and reimaged, then passed off or sold as not being stolen.

Now I know, for all my witty commentary that you all love, after a few moments you start to think to yourself 'What is the boy even saying? Why's he bringing this up?'. Here is the deal. For us professionally as Academy IT, if you lock your devices to an Apple ID, then forget the password or leave the University, it is extremely hard for us to get them unlocked. I have a number of nice, shiny, gently used devices that have been given back to us over the years sitting in a cabinet in our office collecting dust. They're locked. I've emailed, guessed, rebooted, reimaged, and even

once or twice tried breaking them apart to get them unlocked - all to no avail. It's not even just professionally that I'm concerned about, but personally for folks, it's a great thing to keep in mind that if you try to sell an Apple device, you're going to need to sign out of it and clear your data from it, or it's going to be effectively useless to the person who is buying it from you.

SO. Apple IDs, #amiright? Let's talk about it.

Where do I get an Apple ID? Is it provided to me from IT like my email and password?

- No, it is not. We don't have anything to do with provisioning Apple IDs, and leave this almost entirely up to the person. I say almost, because we do want to make some suggestions as it pertains to Lipscomb equipment.
- Here is an Apple support article detailing how you go about signing up for an ID - [here](#)
- If you are going to use an Apple ID for Academy business like downloading an app to use on your Mac / iPad / etc, we suggest that you use your Academy email address for its creation. That way, if something happens and you forget the password or leave the University, we will have a much easier time recovering the password to sign you out of a device to allow someone else to use it.

Do I have to have an Apple ID?

- No, most of the time you do not if you are just using the basic functions of a device.
- Your Mac / iPad / iPhone may pester you about signing in with an Apple ID, but that's just so they can get their metaphorical hooks into you.

If I need an Apple ID, can IT set that up for me?

- No, we cannot. BUT, please know in your little heart of hearts, we will do everything we can to support you, including walking you through ID creation, advising you, doing our best to recover it if it gets lost, etc. We're here to help!

Why doesn't IT handle Apple IDs?

- The short and sweet version is there is just too much overhead there for us to be able to manage. I couldn't even tell you how many iPads we have at both schools, but trust me when I say it's a fair amount.
- Can't we have a default ID for all the devices?
 - No, due to the way authentication works with Apple IDs between devices. When you sign into a new device with an ID, it pings one of your other devices you are signed in to as a form of authentication. I have no way of knowing which of the devices it might ping, it could be an ipad in a random classroom on a different campus than I am.

What good does an Apple ID do me then?

- In some cases you have to download programs from the app store to utilize with your equipment. One of the programs we do this regularly for is QuikCam, which we use for document cameras.

- Outside of professionally, Apple IDs work a lot like Google accounts in that they save and sync your information between devices.
- For instance, iMessage is bound to your Apple ID. I use it on my phone, and my Mac to keep up and sync my messages across all my devices.

You said something about biscuits and gravy?

- ... I don't recall doing that... did I?

TL;DR

- Apple IDs are sometimes required to use certain features or download apps to your Apple device.
- IT does not provide Apple IDs to users, we leave it up to the users to create their own Apple ID.
- I highly suggest you use your Lipscomb email address to create an Apple ID. Please don't use an obscure email address to create an apple ID, it makes it way harder for us to troubleshoot the issue if you lock yourself out of a device.
- I also highly suggest that you not use a personal Apple ID if you already have one, just to create that layer of separation between personal / business accounts.
- I ALSO highly suggest you use a password that IT would be familiar with or could potentially figure out in the event that you separate from the University without clearing these devices. Reaching out to previous employees is sometimes a tenuous prospect when it comes to resetting devices.
- When in the eventuality of time you do separate from the University, or the device is obsolete and needs to be returned to IT, please sign your Apple ID out of the device so the next user can sign in and or we can easily wipe the device for disposal.
 - This is generally most significant if you have iPads in your classroom, but does also matter with your school provided macbooks. If you ever need assistance in signing out of devices at the end of a school year, end of employment, or turning in obsolete equipment, please just let us know.

As always we are on hand to guide and assist you in any way we can. We appreciate you for all you do, and the opportunity you provide for us to enable you to do it!

PS - The goat says hi!

