VEIWPOINT

# The Present and Future of Mobile Device Management

*Ram Vaidyanathan – Marketing Analyst, ManageEngine*

When Steve Jobs launched the iPhone in January 2007, it marked the birth of a new era in mobile technologies. The mobile revolution has come a long way since then with enthusiasts now talking about wearables, targeted apps, remote charging, and more. In the next two years, the Internet of Things will make automation a part of daily life.

Businesses are also taking part in the mobile revolution by using mobile technologies to improve employee productivity and customer loyalty. But this adoption of mobile technologies by businesses has not come without challenges. For example, company CIOs are scrambling to put management controls on mobile computing, such as bring your own device (BYOD) policies. IT management of mobile devices will thus become more and more critical as mobile technologies continue to evolve and proliferate. Here are some recommendations for IT managers looking for mobile management strategies for the present and the very near future:

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1. **Demarcate between work and home:** Mobile technologies have blurred the line between the office and home. The IT team should compartmentalize or sandbox corporate data to give employees a smooth mobile experience. The employee would access personal and official data by using the same interface, but on the back end, there should be a clear demarcation between the two. If the employee resigns, the IT team should be able to administer a corporate wipe. And, if the employee loses the device, the team should be able to administer a full device wipe.

2. **Provide security for wearables**: Employees will soon start using wearables to achieve business targets and compete better. For example, a sales manager on a customer visit may use her smartwatch to collaborate via video with her marketing manager. This may enable a faster pricing decision that can win the project for the company. The IT team should have a clear strategy for securing wearables and ensuring that unauthorized people does not intercept data. MDM solutions of the future would give IT administrators the exact location and time the wearable was put into use as well as the identity of the employee who used it. It would also ensure that only the right employee uses it through ECG validation or other advanced, biometric techniques.

3. **Manage assets centrally**: Smartphones, tablets, laptops, and desktops need to connect seamlessly to maximize productivity. It is necessary to track all the assets assigned to people, manage data access and passwords, and create user or department profiles from a central location. The IT team should also be able to configure any device from this central location. This will eliminate redundancy and improve productivity.

4. **Deploy and scan apps**: If an employee downloads a blacklisted app through his home network, it must be deactivated as soon as he enters the office network. For example, it is possible to block apps with a built-in camera function. IT must also be able to deploy apps for all chosen user profiles. This will allow employees to download the approved apps.

5. **Enhance user experience**: Professors have used virtual learning environments such as WebCT to complement their teaching for years. Universities have now started using learning apps to complement the curriculum. For apps such as these, IT managers must be able to give access to select students who enroll for the course. They should also be able to disable the app in certain situations, such as when a student is in class and ought to be focusing on the lecture.

6. **See from the cloud**: Just as corporate data can be stored in the cloud; MDM can also be performed from the cloud. The cloud allows the IT team to enroll, lock, and manage devices from remote locations. Furthermore, a cloud-based MDM solution is easier to set up.

7. **Stop APTs with the power of data**: Mobile endpoints are an easy target for advanced

persistent threats (APTs), which work on the principle of stealth. The company should monitor each endpoint, log all user activity, and proactively look for threat patterns. The IT team must be alerted as soon as a threat pattern is noticed. Virus definitions must also be automatically updated to prevent any security lapse.

**Mobile Device Management of the Future**

In the future, employees may use multi-language conference calls with real-time translation to collaborate. They may also use mobile to send 3-D prototypes to their peers, who will then use their *feel screen* to "experience the product." It may one day also be possible for mobile devices to read thoughts and share with others. And, the day this happens might mark another turning point - the end of the physical office. In this *brave new world*, the challenges of asset management, profile management, network management, and APTs are going to get bigger.

IT administrators of tomorrow would be trained to handle just these challenges. IT management apps would be integrated with IT hardware to facilitate quick decisions. For example, future MDM solutions will feature deep packet inspection, which would make it easier to detect security breaches. The IT admins would wear a smartwatch to get an immediate alert when there is a security breach. A tap on the smartwatch would activate their smartglasses, which would show data in an actionable format in real time. They could then act on the threat through their smartphones. In fact, they would also have an intelligent MDM solution that learns from the past and adapts itself to demolish threats. And, just like today, MDM and the IT administrator would be up to the task.

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## Active Jenkins installations quadruple since 2010

*Jenkins community experiencing more adoption in DevOps, with planning initiatives to improve workflow, onboarding experience*

CloudBees the enterprise Jenkins company, has announced significant growth in the Jenkins Community, the community of developers using the Jenkins CI open source continuous integration (CI) server. Whether the number of active Jenkins instances, plugins contributed to the community or attendees at Jenkins user conferences across the globe, all have continued to grow by double-digit percentages in 2014.

"This growth reinforces what we've been saying all along: The Jenkins Community is thriving, and is laser-focused on creating value for its members now and long into the future," said Jenkins CI founder and governance board member Kohsuke Kawaguchi, who also serves as chief technology officer at CloudBees. "We continue to see adoption of Jenkins expand across software delivery processes, across various industries and throughout the enterprise. The push in the market to automate processes remains strong. Jenkins usage is rapidly increasing along with that trend, since a key strength of Jenkins is its ability to automate and orchestrate the entire software delivery process. However, equally as important is the active and vibrant community that continues to advance Jenkins functionality."

Kawaguchi said the user base for Jenkins is expanding beyond leading-edge developers with advanced skills to include development teams in all industries, including conservative ones such as financial services and transportation. Jenkins users, he said, are taking advantage of a wider range of technologies – from Amazon Web Services to Platform as a Service (PaaS), from Chef to Vagrant – to automate processes, creating better quality projects in less time, at lower risk and at a reduced cost.

Growth in the number of active installations of the Jenkins platform has accelerated in 2014. Active installations reached 95,927 as of September 30, 2014, up 37 percent from September 2013 and more than four times the 22,389 installations registered as of December 31, 2010. There were 18,869 active installations added in the first nine months of 2014 – a 45 percent increase from the 13,045 active installations added in the first nine months of 2013.

*Resources*

About Jenkins CI and Jenkins Community
Jenkins CI is an open source project developed for and by the Jenkins CI community. Jenkins CI is the leading open source continuous integration (CI) server. Built with Java, it provides more than 1,000 plugins to support building and testing virtually any project.

The Jenkins Community helps advocate the use of Jenkins CI to the larger development community, serving as a central source for tutorials, forums and other helpful resources for Jenkins CI users of all skill-levels. By recognizing the numerous contributors to the Jenkins CI project, the Jenkins Community creates and fosters a community-powered infrastructure for maintaining and further developing Jenkins CI.

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