iOS Distribution Guide – Ad Hoc Distribution

1.0 Register Devices

1.1 Find Device UDID

First you need to find what the UDID (unique device ID) of the device you want to download the app on is. This can be found via iTunes, and a guide for doing so can be found at the following link: http://whatsmyudid.com/

1.2 Add to Developer Account

Now navigate to https://developer.apple.com/ and click Account. Log in and then on the sidebar navigate to Certificates, IDs & Profiles. On the new sidebar that appears go to Devices/All click the plus icon in the top right.

Now paste the UDID into the relevant field and add a name (e.g. Evelyne's iPhone) then add the device to the developer account.

2.0 Build the App

2.1 Update Provisioning Profile

Once all users have been added to the developer account as described above, you can update the provisioning profile to allow the device to install a build of the app. Once again navigate to https://developer.apple.com/ > Account > Certificates, IDs & Profiles, but this time go to Provisioning Profiles/All. Click on the Provisioning Profile already set up (DiabetesARP Ad Hoc) and click the Edit button.

On this new page select any new devices you want to add to the profile and hit Generate. This will update the profile and show you a link to download. Follow this and download the profile, which in this case should be called DiabetesARP_Ad_Hoc.mobileprovision

2.2 Add Certificate and Provisioning Profile to Development Mac

Now take this .mobileprovision file and the certificate called ios_distribution.cer (contained in the same folder as this distribution guide) and put them on a the Mac machine you're using to build. Double click each to add them to Xcode and the keychain respectively. Xcode may not give an indication that anything has happened.

2.3 Build in Visual Studio

Now in Visual Studio in the DiabetesApp solution set the Build to be Ad-Hoc, iPhone, DiabetesApp.iOS in the dropdown menus that appear at the top of Visual Studio. Then go to Build > Build Solution to create a build of the app with the new provisioning profile.

You may be prompted to enter the Mac device's password a few times during the build process. Do this or you'll be waiting a long time for the build to complete.

Once the build has completed, you can navigate from the root folder of the git project to \DiabetesApp\DiabetesApp.iOS\bin\iPhone\Ad-Hoc\ In this folder you should find a .ipa file called DiabetesApp.iOS.ipa This is the file you will use to install the app.

3.0 Install to User's Devices

First you need to distribute the ipa file to the users who had their device UDID added to the developer profile.

To install to the devices, the device needs to be connected to a computer with iTunes, and the file DiabetesApp.iOS.ipa needs to be dragged onto the iTunes sidebar where the device appears. This should install the app on the user's device, provided the user has been added to the provisioning profile correctly.

Further Reading

For information on how ad hoc distribution was set up initially see the following guide: https://developer.xamarin.com/guides/ios/deployment,_testing,_and_metrics/app_distribution/ad-hoc-distribution/

For information on IPA files in relation to Xamarin see: https://developer.xamarin.com/guides/ios/deployment,_testing,_and_metrics/app_distribution/ipa_support/