

# Push Notifications Overview

## Overview

IBM MobileFirst Platform Foundation provides a unified set of API methods to send notifications to devices on which MobileFirst applications are installed. Notification can be sent in 2 different ways: based on sources of events or based on tags.

## Agenda

- What is push notification?
- Push notification types
- REST API for Push notifications
- Supported environments

## What is push notification?

Push notifications is the ability of a mobile device to receive messages that are "pushed" from a server.

Notifications are received regardless of whether the application is currently running.

Notifications can take several forms:

- **Alert (all)**: a pop-up text message
- **Badge (iOS), Tile (W8, WP8)**: a graphical representation that allows a short text or image
- **Banner (iOS), Toast (W8, WP8)**: a disappearing pop-up text message at the top of the device display
- **Sound (all)**: a sound file playing when a notification is received
- **Interactive (iOS 8)**: action buttons inside the **Banner** of a received notification



## Device support

Push notifications are supported for the following mobile platforms:

- Android 2.3.5, 4.x, 5.x
- iOS 6, 7, and 8
- Windows Phone 8.x
- Windows 8

## Push notification types

### Event Source notifications

Event source push notifications are notification messages that are targeted to devices with a user subscription.

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## Tag notifications

Tag push notifications are notification messages that are targeted to all the devices that are subscribed to a particular tag.

## Broadcast notifications

Broadcast push notifications are a form of tag push notifications that are targeted to all subscribed devices.

## Unicast notifications

Unicast notifications are targeted to a particular device or a `userID`. Unicast notifications do not require any additional setup and are enabled by default when the MobileFirst application is enabled for push notifications.

For more information about unicast notifications, see the topic about sending push notifications, in the user documentation.

## Interactive notifications

### iOS 8 and above only

Interactive push notifications enables action buttons to be added for received notifications.

## Silent notifications

### iOS 7 and above only

Silent push notifications enables notifications to be sent without disturbing the user.

## REST API for Push notifications

MobileFirst Platform Foundation exposes a REST API endpoint that can be accessed by non-mobile clients. It is another way to use the push service without needing to develop and deploy MobileFirst adapters.

For more information about the REST API for push notification, see the topic about REST API Runtime Services, in the user documentation.

## Supported environments