

# Push Notifications Overview

## Overview

IBM MobileFirst Platform Foundation provides a unified set of API methods to send notifications to iOS, Android, Windows 8 Universal, Windows 10 UWP and Cordova (iOS, Android) applications. Continue reading to learn more on the available push support.

The package used to filter logs for the push notification service is `com.ibm.mfp.push`.

Jump to:

- [What is a Push Notification](#)
- [Push Notification Types](#)
- [Tutorials to follow next](#)

## What is a 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 in the foreground or background.

### Notifications can take several forms:

- **Alert (iOS, Android)** - a pop-up text message
- **Badge (iOS)** - a graphical representation that allows a short text or image
- **Banner (iOS)** - a disappearing pop-up text message at the top of the device display
- **Sound (iOS, Android)** - a sound file playing when a notification is received
- **Interactive (iOS 8 and above)** - action buttons inside the banner of a received notification
- **Silent (iOS 8 and above)** - sending notifications without disturbing the user

## Device support

Push notifications are supported for the following platforms in MobileFirst Platform Foundation:

- iOS 8.x, 9.x
- Android 4.x, 5.x, 6.x

## Push Notification Types

### Tag notifications

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

Tags represent topics of interest to the user and provide the ability to receive notifications according to the chosen interest.

### Broadcast notifications

Broadcast notifications are a form of tag push notifications that are targeted to all subscribed devices. Broadcast notifications are enabled by default for any push-enabled MobileFirst application by a

subscription to a reserved `Push.all` tag (auto-created for every device). Broadcast notifications can be disabled by unsubscribing from the reserved `Push.all` tag.

## User Authenticated Notifications

User Authenticated Notifications are notifications secured with OAuth.

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

## Tutorials to follow next

Follow through the below required setup of the server-side and client-side in order to be able to send and receive push notifications:

- Sending push notifications ([../sending-push-notifications](#))
- Handling push notifications in Cordova applications ([../handling-push-notifications-in-cordova](#))
- Handling push notifications in iOS applications ([../handling-push-notifications-in-ios](#))
- Handling push notifications in Android applications ([../handling-push-notifications-in-android](#))