Pre-requisites for Administrators: Using winget and Microsoft.Winget.Client Module via Intune

A Comprehensive Guide to Preparing Your Estate for Modern Application Management

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# Introduction

The Windows Package Manager (winget) and the Microsoft.Winget.Client PowerShell module offer powerful, modern tools for application deployment and management across Windows devices. When integrated with Microsoft Intune, these tools enable administrators to automate and streamline application provisioning, updates, and removals across their estate. This document outlines the essential pre-requisites that must be met before administrators can successfully use winget and the Microsoft.Winget.Client module with Intune.

## 1. Supported Operating Systems

To use winget and the Microsoft.Winget.Client module, all managed devices must run a supported version of Windows:

* Windows 10 version 1809 or later
* Windows 11 (all versions)

Devices running older versions of Windows will not be compatible with winget or the PowerShell module.

## 2. Windows Package Manager (winget) Installation

Winget is included by default in Windows 11 and recent Windows 10 builds. For older supported builds, ensure the App Installer application is installed from the Microsoft Store or use the Pre-Reqs script provided. This app contains winget and is required for all winget functionality.

* Verify App Installer is present on all devices
* Ensure the app is kept up to date via the Microsoft Store

## 3. Microsoft.Winget.Client PowerShell Module

The Microsoft.Winget.Client PowerShell module enables programmatic access to winget features. To use it:

* Install PowerShell 7.2 or later on managed devices
* Deploy the Microsoft.Winget.Client module via Intune using the provided script in the pre-reqs folder provided or manually using PowerShell Gallery
* Ensure the PowerShell execution policy allows module installation and execution (e.g., RemoteSigned or less restrictive)

## 4. Intune Configuration

To manage winget and PowerShell modules with Intune, confirm the following:

* Devices are enrolled in Microsoft Intune and are actively communicating
* Intune policies allow installation of apps from the Microsoft Store and execution of PowerShell scripts
* Appropriate permissions for administrators to deploy apps and scripts via Intune

## 5. Network and Connectivity Requirements

Winget and Microsoft.Winget.Client require access to online repositories and Microsoft services:

* Allow outbound HTTPS traffic to winget repositories (<https://github.com/microsoft/winget-pkgs/tree/master/manifests>) and Microsoft Store endpoints
* Ensure firewall policies do not block connectivity to required URLs
* Proxy settings should not interfere with package downloads or installations

## 6. User Account Permissions

Administrators and end-users require sufficient permissions:

* Local administrator rights may be necessary for some installations (if the app is capable of being installed as system then deploy that way).
* Intune role-based access controls should allow management of apps and scripts
* Devices should not be restricted by group policies that block Microsoft Store or PowerShell usage

## 7. Licensing and Compliance

Ensure all devices are licensed for:

* Microsoft Intune
* Microsoft Store for Business (if required for app deployment)
* Windows 10/11 Enterprise or Education editions for enhanced management features

## 8. Additional Recommendations

* Test winget and Microsoft.Winget.Client deployments in a pilot group before wide rollout
* Document and communicate installation and usage instructions to support teams
* Monitor application deployment status and troubleshoot issues using Intune reporting tools

## Conclusion

Meeting these pre-requisites ensures that administrators can fully leverage winget and the Microsoft.Winget.Client module for modern application management with Intune. This not only simplifies software deployment but also enhances security and compliance across the organisation’s Windows estate.