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Deploying App Control for Business policies

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Applies to: ☑ Windows 11, ☑ Windows 10, ☑ Windows Server 2025, ☑ Windows Server 2022, ☑ Windows Server 2019, ☑ Windows Server 2016

Feedback

In this article

> ⓘ Note
>
> Some capabilities of App Control for Business are only available on specific Windows versions. Learn more about App Control feature availability.

You should now have one or more App Control for Business policies ready to deploy. If you haven't yet completed the steps described in the App Control Design Guide, do so now before proceeding.

Convert your App Control policy XML to binary

Before you deploy your App Control policies, you must first convert the XML to its binary form. You can do this using the following PowerShell example. You must set the $AppControlPolicyXMLFile variable to point to your App Control policy XML file.

PowerShell Copy

```powershell
## Update the path to your App Control policy XML
$AppControlPolicyXMLFile = $env:USERPROFILE + "\Desktop\MyAppControlPolicy.xml"
[xml]$AppControlPolicy = Get-Content -Path $AppControlPolicyXMLFile
if (($AppControlPolicy.SiPolicy.PolicyID) -ne $null) ## Multiple policy format (For Window
{
    $PolicyID = $AppControlPolicy.SiPolicy.PolicyID
    $PolicyBinary = $PolicyID+".cip"
}
else ## Single policy format (Windows Server 2016 and 2019, and Windows 10 1809 LTSC)
{
    $PolicyBinary = "SiPolicy.p7b"
}

## Binary file will be written to your desktop
ConvertFrom-CIPolicy -XmlFilePath $AppControlPolicyXMLFile -BinaryFilePath $env:USERPROFIL
```

Plan your deployment

As with any significant change to your environment, implementing App Control can have unintended consequences. To ensure the best chance for success, you should follow safe deployment practices and plan your deployment carefully. Identify the devices you'll manage with App Control and split them into deployment rings. This way, you can control the speed and scale of the deployment and respond if anything goes wrong. Define the success criteria that will determine when it's safe to continue from one ring to the next.

All App Control for Business policy changes should be deployed in audit mode before proceeding to enforcement. Carefully monitor events from devices where the policy has been deployed to ensure the block events you observe match your expectation before broadening the deployment to other deployment rings. If your organization uses Microsoft Defender for Endpoint, you can use the Advanced Hunting feature to centrally monitor App Control-related events. Otherwise, we recommend using an event log forwarding solution to collect relevant events from your managed endpoints.

Choose how to deploy App Control policies

> ⓘ Important
>
> Due to a known issue in Windows 11 updates earlier than 2024 (24H2), you should activate new **signed** App Control Base policies with a reboot on systems with **memory integrity** enabled. We recommend **deploying via script** in this case.
>
> This issue does not affect updates to signed Base policies that are already active on the system, deployment of unsigned policies, or deployment of supplemental policies (signed or unsigned). It also does not affect deployments to systems that are not running memory integrity.

There are several options to deploy App Control for Business policies to managed endpoints, including:

- Deploy using a Mobile Device Management (MDM) solution, such as Microsoft Intune
- Deploy using Microsoft Configuration Manager
- Deploy via script
- Deploy via group policy

Feedback

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Additional resources

Training

Module
Deploy and update applications - Training

In this module, you will be introduced to application deployment in Intune and Microsoft Store for Business.

Certification
Microsoft 365 Certified: Endpoint Administrator Associate - Certifications

Plan and execute an endpoint deployment strategy, using essential elements of modern management, co-management approaches, and Microsoft Intune integration.

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