

Networking with NSURLSession

Hands-on Challenges

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Challenge 4: Using the Network Link Conditioner

If you're on a fast network, that's great for development, but it may be hard to see issues that your users will have when they're on less-fantastic networks. It's a good idea to simulate slow network conditions just to see how usable your apps are in those conditions, but can also be helpful for seeing what your app looks like while a network request is in progress.

Apple provides a tool, called a Network Link Conditioner on both OS X and iOS that you can use to simulate different network conditions.

For step-by-step instructions, read on.




OS X

1. In Xcode, select Xcode/Open Developer Tool/More Developer Tools... This will open up Apple's Downloads for Apple Developers site. You should see an entry called "Hardware IO Tools for Xcode 7.3" (or whatever Xcode version you're using).

- Hardware IO Tools for Xcode 7.3 beta 4

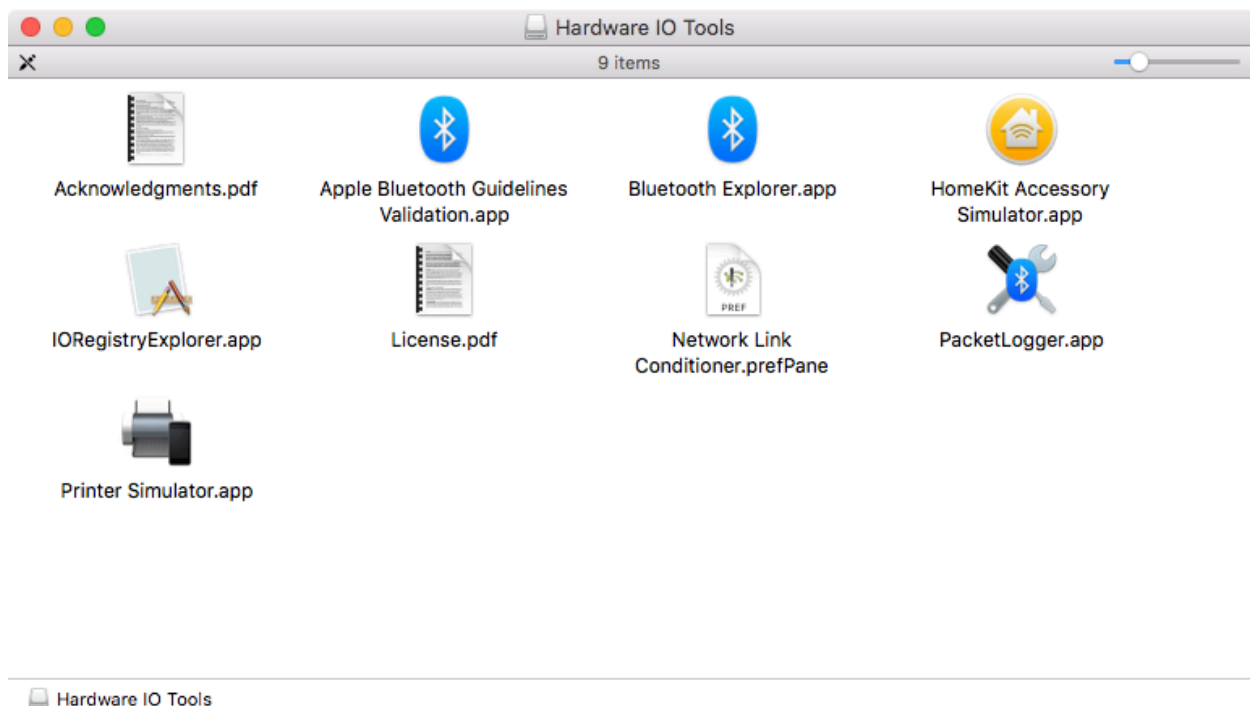
Feb 21, 2016

This package includes additional hardware i/o tools formerly bundled in the Xcode installer. These tools include: Apple Bluetooth Guidelines Validation, Bluetooth Explorer, HomeKit Accessory Simulator, IO Registry Explorer, Network Link Conditioner.prefpane, PacketLogger and Printer Simulator. These graphics tools support running on OS X 10.11.

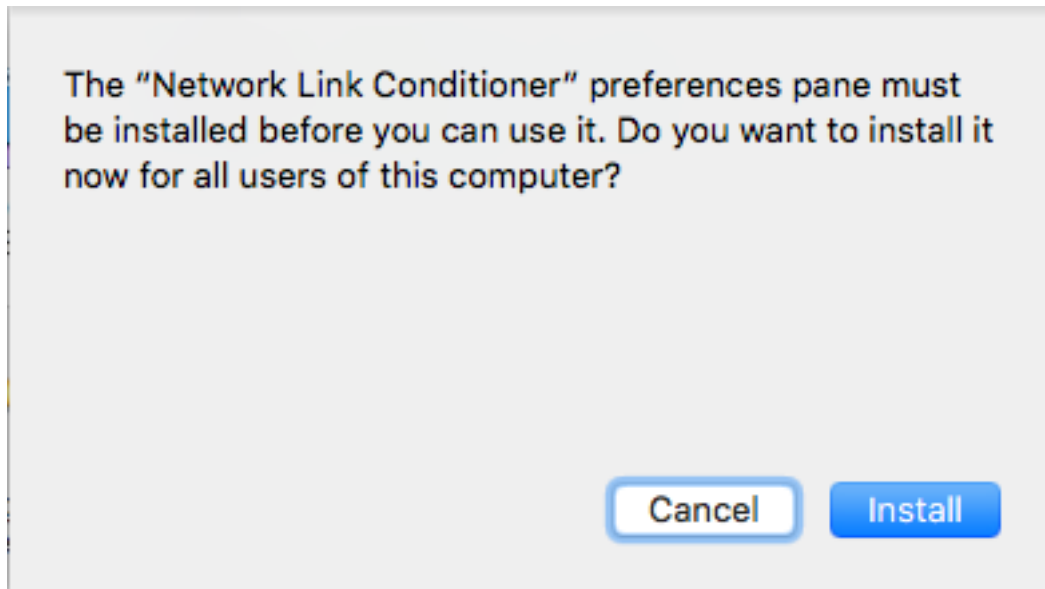
 [Hardware IO Tools for Xcode 7.3 beta 4.dmg](#)
11.6 MB

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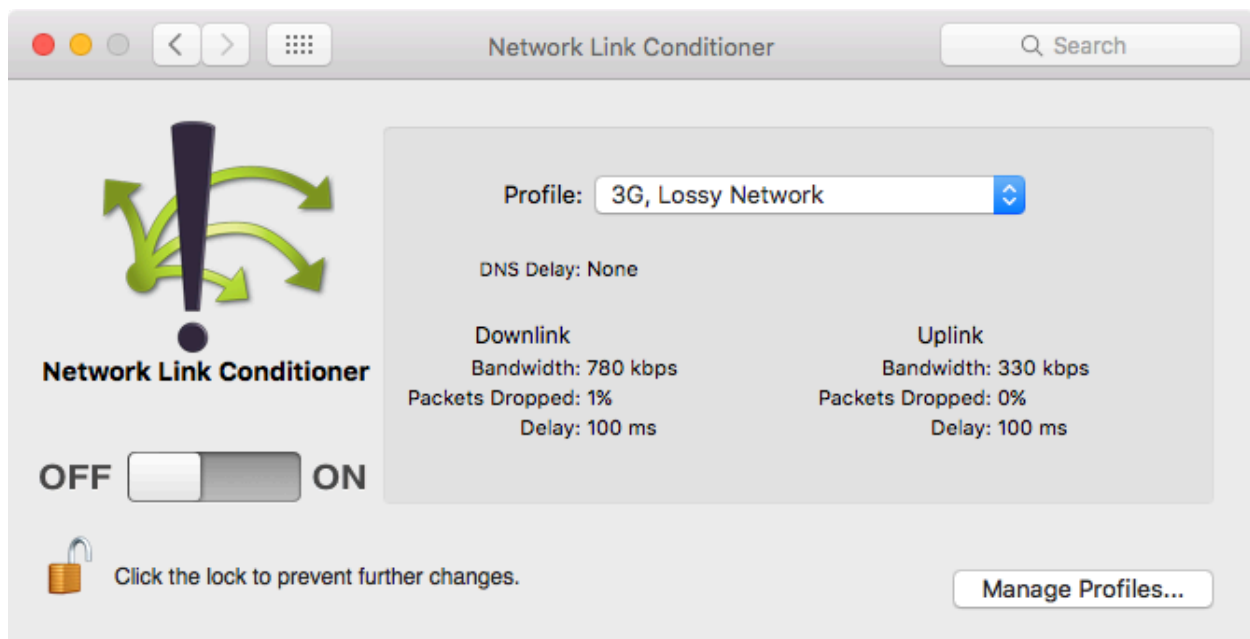
2. Download and open the DMG



3. Double click on the “Network Link Conditioner.prefPane”. The system will prompt to install it.



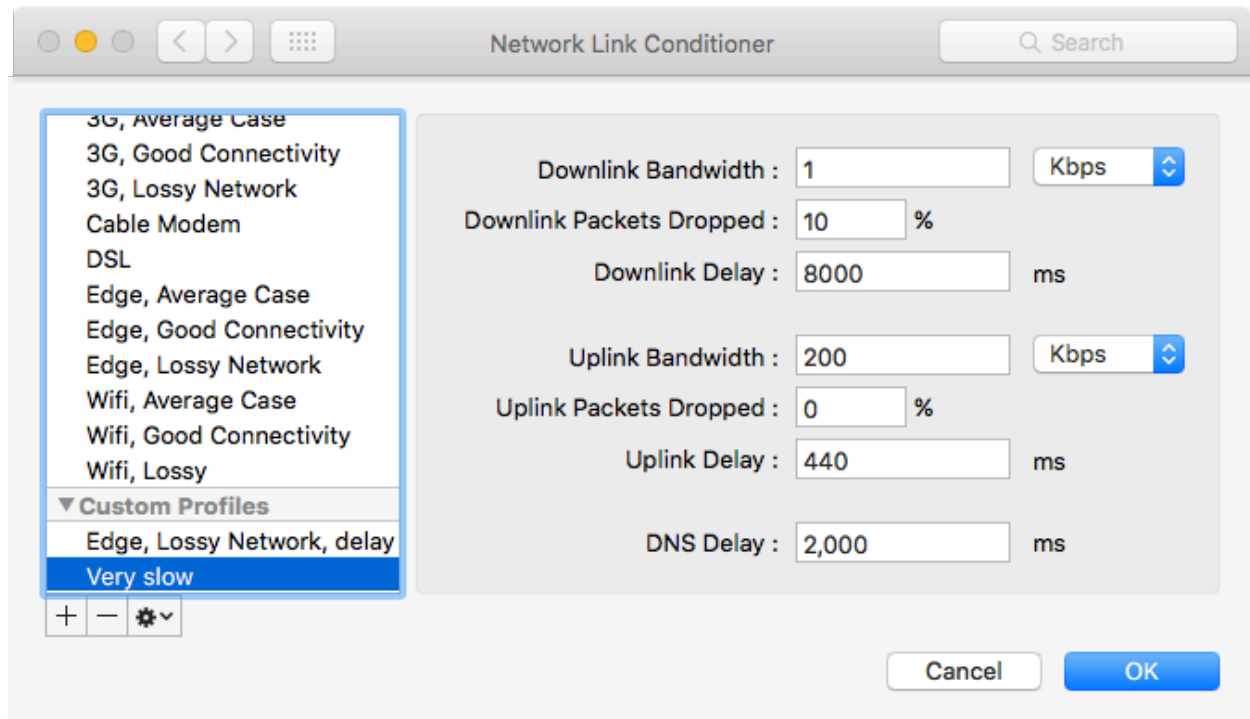
4. You should now see “Network Link Conditioner” at the bottom of your System Preferences. If you click this item, you’ll see the Network Link Conditioner.



5. You may have to restart your Mac to get the link conditioner to work, but when you pick a profile and turn it on, your network for all requests from your Mac will simulate the conditions in the profile. Don’t forget and leave this on or you’ll

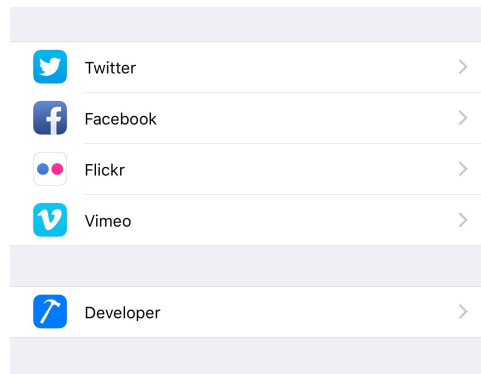


wonder why your Mac is so slow! :] You can add your own profiles if there are specific conditions you want to simulate.

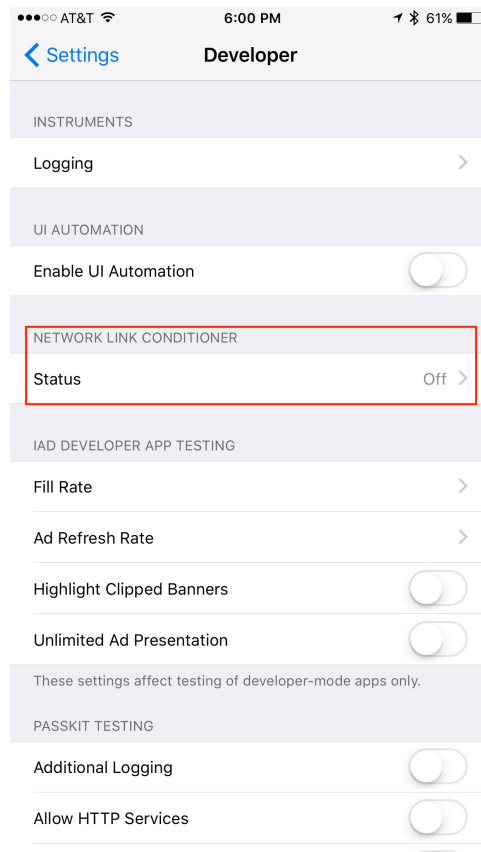


iOS

1. If you've been using your iOS device for development, you should have a "Developer" menu item in the Settings app.



2. Select that option and you should see a section for "Network Link Conditioner".



3. Select that item and you can choose a profile, create a new profile, and turn the link conditioner on and off.

