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Property List Key

App Groups Entitlement

A list of identifiers specifying the groups your app belongs to.

iOS 3.0+ | iPadOS 3.0+ | macOS 10.7+ | tvOS 9.0+ | watchOS 2.0+

Details

Key

com.apple.security.application-groups

Type

Array of strings

Discussion

App groups allow multiple apps produced by a single development team to access shared containers and keychain access groups, and communicate using interprocess communication (IPC). Apps may belong to one or more app groups.

Format the identifier as follows:

```
group.<group name>
```

Apple ensures that the group name you choose is unique when you register the app group on the Apple Developer website. For more information, see [Register an app group](#).

In macOS, you can also create app groups or add apps to existing app groups using this identifier format:

```
<team identifier>.<group name>
```

You don't need to register app groups that use this format on the Apple Developer website.

Apps within an app group share access to a group container. For more information about container creation, location, and deletion, see [containerURL\(forSecurityApplicationGroupIdentifier:\)](#).

Apps within a group can communicate with other members in the group using IPC mechanisms including Mach IPC, XPC, POSIX semaphores and shared memory, and UNIX domain sockets. In macOS, use app groups to enable IPC communication between two sandboxed apps, or between a sandboxed app and a nonsandboxed app. You use the app group identifier in the service identifier for your IPC mechanism, so keep these restrictions in mind when creating your app group identifier:

IPC mechanism	Requirements
Mach IPC, XPC	The service name has the format <group identifier>.<unique name>. The maximum length of the service name is BOOTSTRAP_MAX_NAME_LEN characters.
POSIX semaphores	The service identifier has the format <group identifier>/<unique name>. The maximum length of the service identifier is PSEMNAMLEN characters.
POSIX shared memory	The service identifier has the format <group identifier>/<unique name>. The maximum length of the service identifier is PSHMNAMLEN characters.
UNIX domain sockets	The path to the socket needs to be in your app group container, and the name of the socket is limited to SOCK_MAXADDRLLEN characters, which includes two bytes that are reserved for sun_len and sun_family.

App groups that you register in your Apple Developer profile also act as keychain access groups. For more information about the relationship between app groups and keychain access groups, see [Sharing access to keychain items among a collection of apps](#).

To add this entitlement to your app, enable the App Groups capability in Xcode, and add the groups your app belongs to.

See Also

Application groups

Keychain Access Groups Entitlement

The identifiers for the keychain groups that the app may share items with.

Key: keychain-access-groups