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Getting started with iOS Push Notifications

Updated Sept. 11, 2012

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This guide will show you how to configure an iOS app to receive push notifications. If your app is already set up to receive push notifications, follow the [Mixpanel iOS push guide](#) to learn how to use Mixpanel to send your notifications.

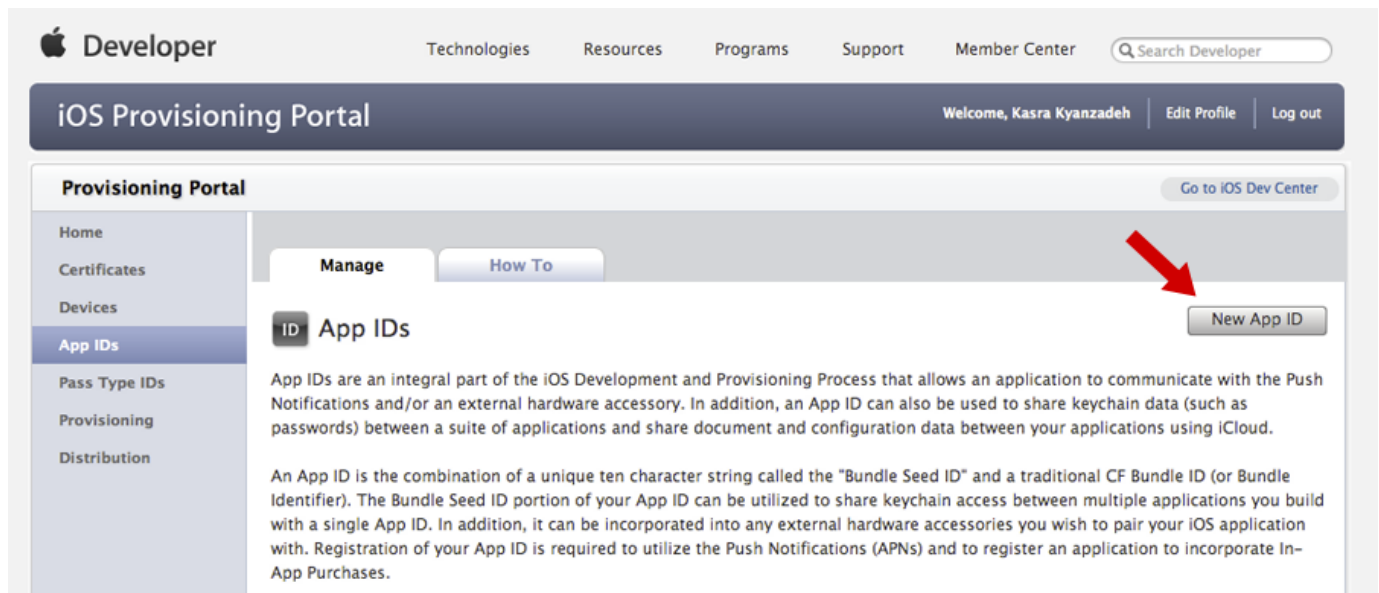
Note that since the iOS simulator is not capable of receiving push notifications, you'll need an iOS device and an Apple Developer license to receive notifications.

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Create an App ID

To send push notifications, you need create an App ID and push certificate. Head to the [iOS Provisioning Portal](#) to get started. Click "App IDs" in the left sidebar, then click the "New App ID" button. (Note: you can configure an existing app for push notifications as well.)



Create your App ID. Make sure you do not use the wildcard character "*" in the Bundle Identifier.

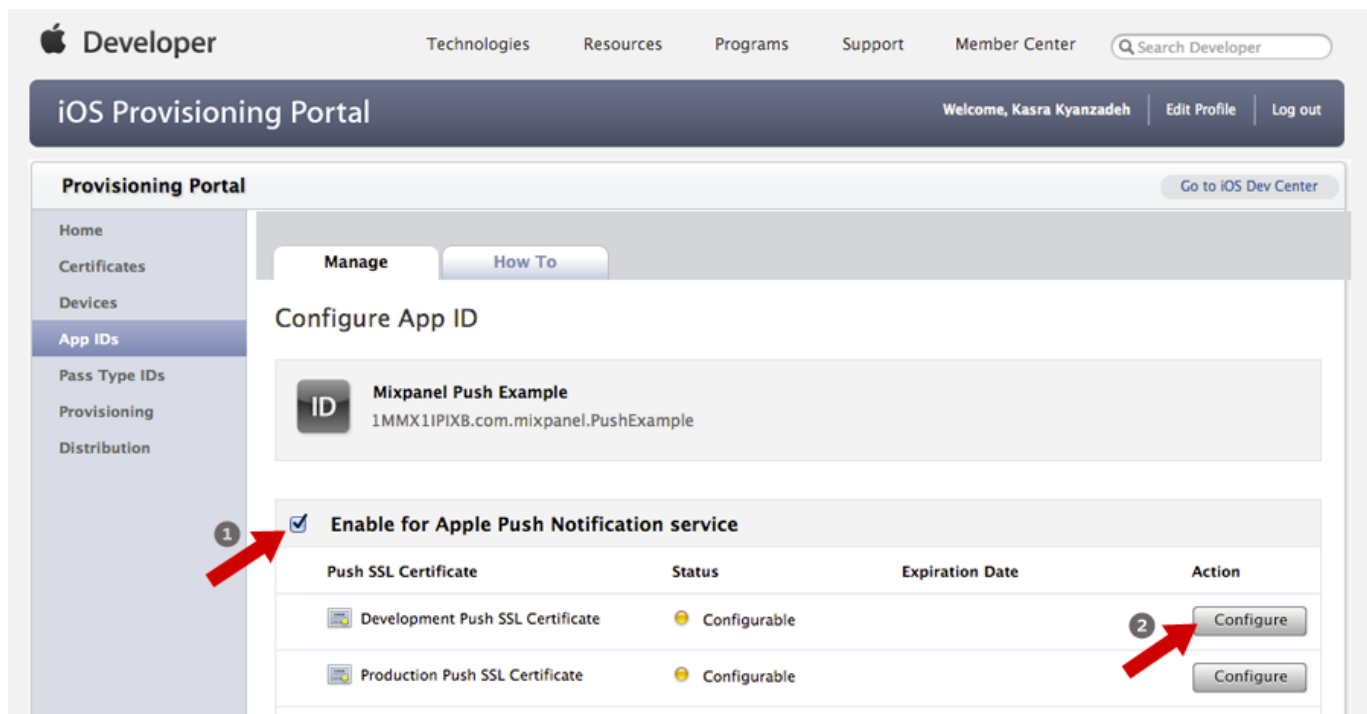
The screenshot shows the 'Create App ID' page in the Apple Developer iOS Provisioning Portal. The left sidebar contains navigation links: Home, Certificates, Devices, App IDs (selected), Pass Type IDs, Provisioning, and Distribution. The main content area has tabs for 'Manage' and 'How To'. The 'Create App ID' form includes three sections: 'Description' with a text input field containing 'Mixpanel Push Example' and a warning about special characters; 'Bundle Seed ID (App ID Prefix)' with a 'Use Team ID' button and explanatory text; and 'Bundle Identifier (App ID Suffix)' with a text input field containing 'com.mixpanel.PushExample' and an example 'com.domainname.appname'.

Find the App ID you just created in the list and click "Configure".

The screenshot shows the 'App IDs' list in the Apple Developer iOS Provisioning Portal. The left sidebar is the same as the previous screenshot. The main content area has tabs for 'Manage' and 'How To'. A 'New App ID' button is in the top right. The table lists two App IDs. The first App ID, '1MMX1PIX8.* FitAmLibrary', has 'Passes', 'Data Protection', and 'iCloud' set to 'Configurable', while 'In-App Purchase', 'Game Center', and 'Push Notification' are 'Unavailable'. The second App ID, '1MMX1PIX8.com.mixpanel.P... Mixpanel Push Example', has 'Passes', 'Data Protection', and 'iCloud' set to 'Configurable', and 'In-App Purchase', 'Game Center', and 'Push Notification' set to 'Enabled'. A red arrow points to the 'Configure' link for the second App ID.

ID	Description	Development	Production	Action
1MMX1PIX8.*	FitAmLibrary	Passes: Configurable Data Protection: Configurable iCloud: Configurable In-App Purchase: Unavailable Game Center: Unavailable Push Notification: Unavailable	Passes: Configurable Data Protection: Configurable iCloud: Configurable In-App Purchase: Unavailable Game Center: Unavailable Push Notification: Unavailable	Configure
1MMX1PIX8.com.mixpanel.P...	Mixpanel Push Example	Passes: Configurable Data Protection: Configurable iCloud: Configurable In-App Purchase: Enabled Game Center: Enabled Push Notification: Configurable	Passes: Configurable Data Protection: Configurable iCloud: Configurable In-App Purchase: Enabled Game Center: Enabled Push Notification: Configurable	Configure

Check off "Enable for Apple Push Notification Service", then click "Configure" on the Development Push SSL Certificate line. Note: you will have to repeat this step for the Production Push SSL Certificate when you are sending your application to the App Store.



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iOS Provisioning Portal Welcome, Kasra Kyanzadeh [Edit Profile](#) [Log out](#)

Provisioning Portal [Go to iOS Dev Center](#)

Home Certificates Devices **App IDs** Pass Type IDs Provisioning Distribution

Manage **How To**

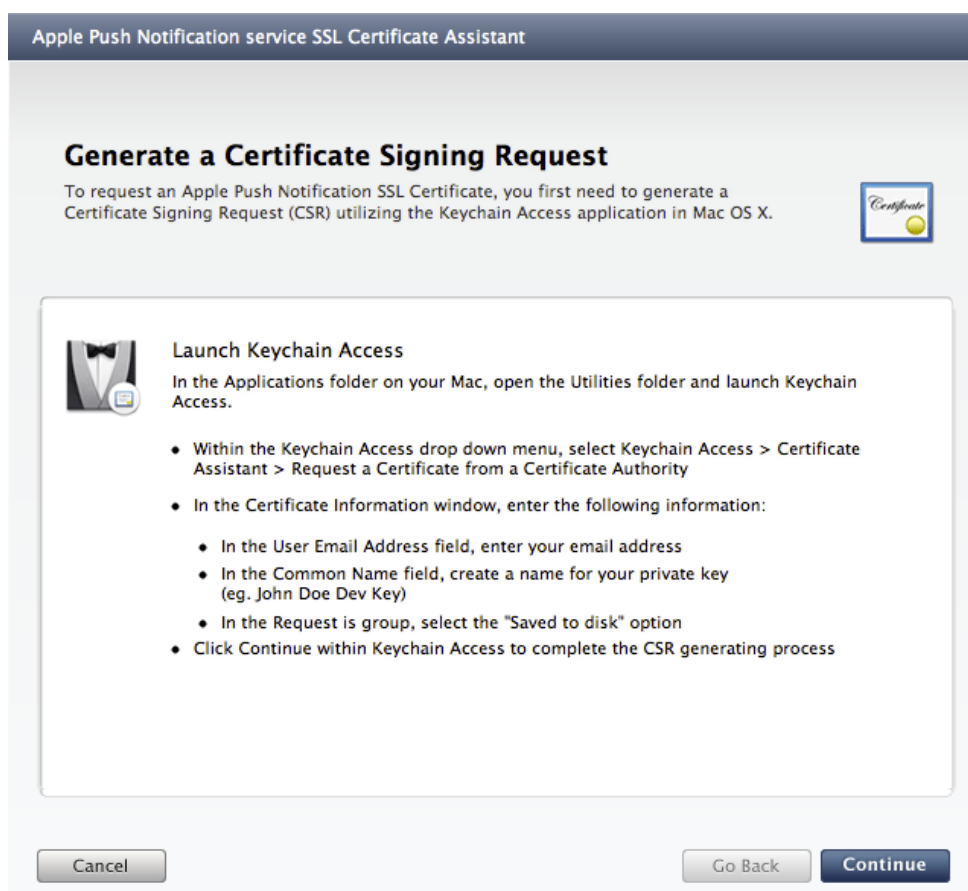
Configure App ID

ID **Mixpanel Push Example**
1MMX1IPIXB.com.mixpanel.PushExample

1 ☒ **Enable for Apple Push Notification service**

Push SSL Certificate	Status	Expiration Date	Action
Development Push SSL Certificate	Configurable		2 Configure
Production Push SSL Certificate	Configurable		Configure

The Apple Push Notification service SSL Certificate Assistant will open. Follow its instructions to generate and download the Push Notification Certificate you need. If you can't locate Keychain Access in your Utilities directory, try using Spotlight to search for it.



Apple Push Notification service SSL Certificate Assistant

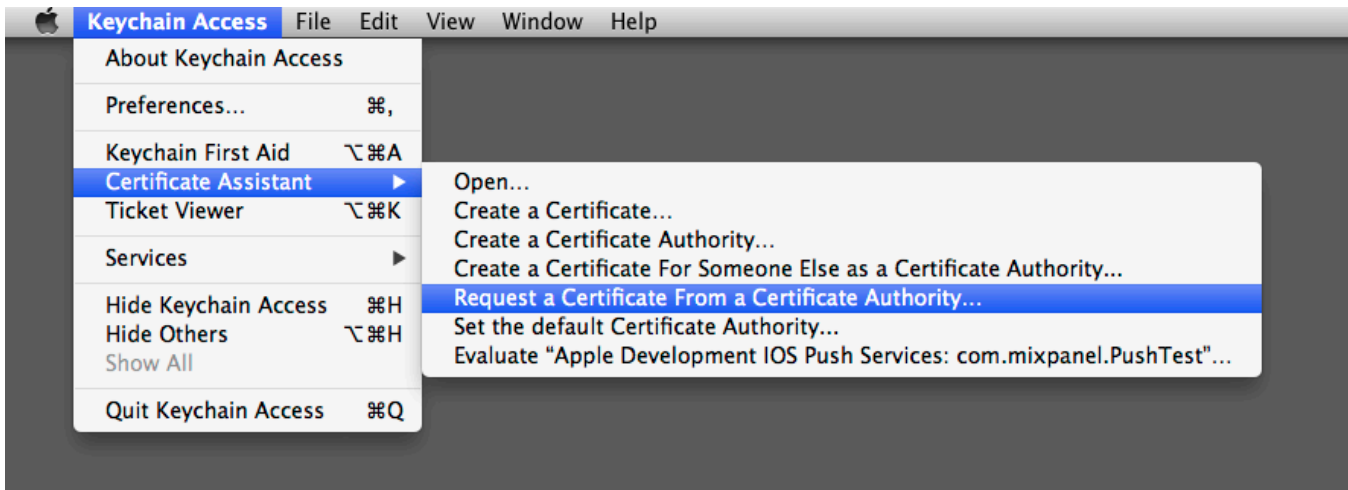
Generate a Certificate Signing Request

To request an Apple Push Notification SSL Certificate, you first need to generate a Certificate Signing Request (CSR) utilizing the Keychain Access application in Mac OS X.

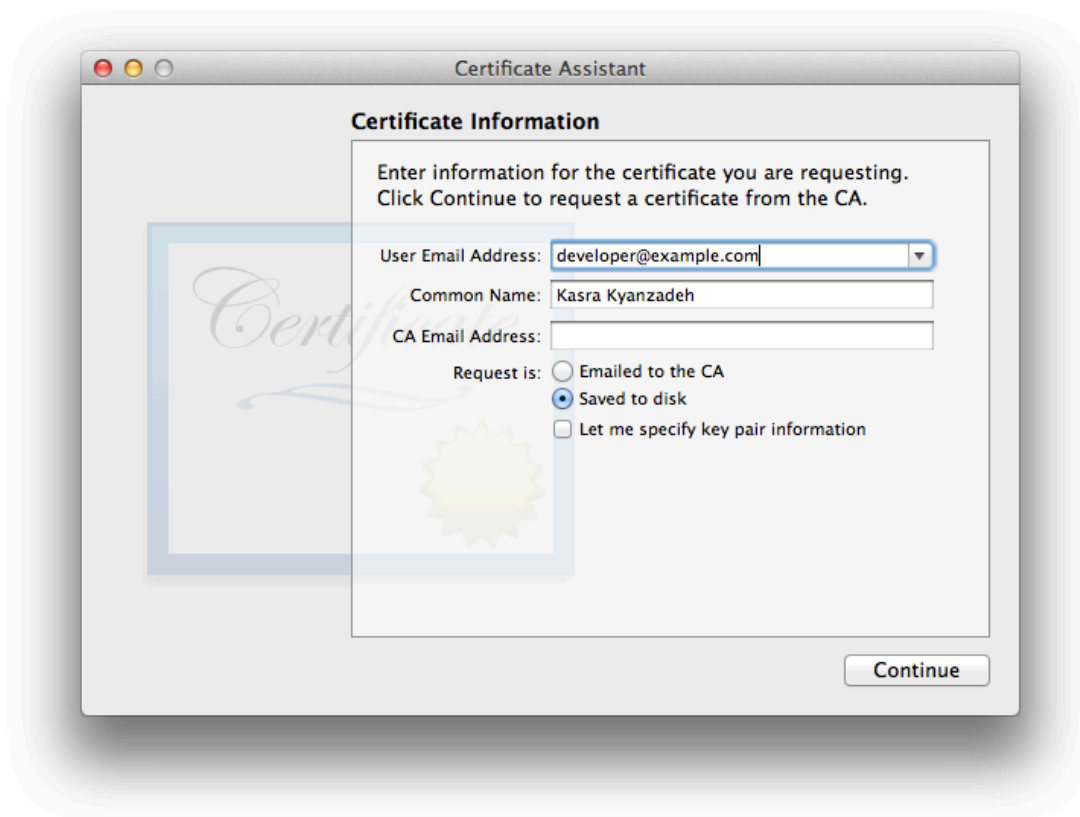
Launch Keychain Access
In the Applications folder on your Mac, open the Utilities folder and launch Keychain Access.

- Within the Keychain Access drop down menu, select Keychain Access > Certificate Assistant > Request a Certificate from a Certificate Authority
- In the Certificate Information window, enter the following information:
 - In the User Email Address field, enter your email address
 - In the Common Name field, create a name for your private key (eg. John Doe Dev Key)
 - In the Request is group, select the "Saved to disk" option
- Click Continue within Keychain Access to complete the CSR generating process

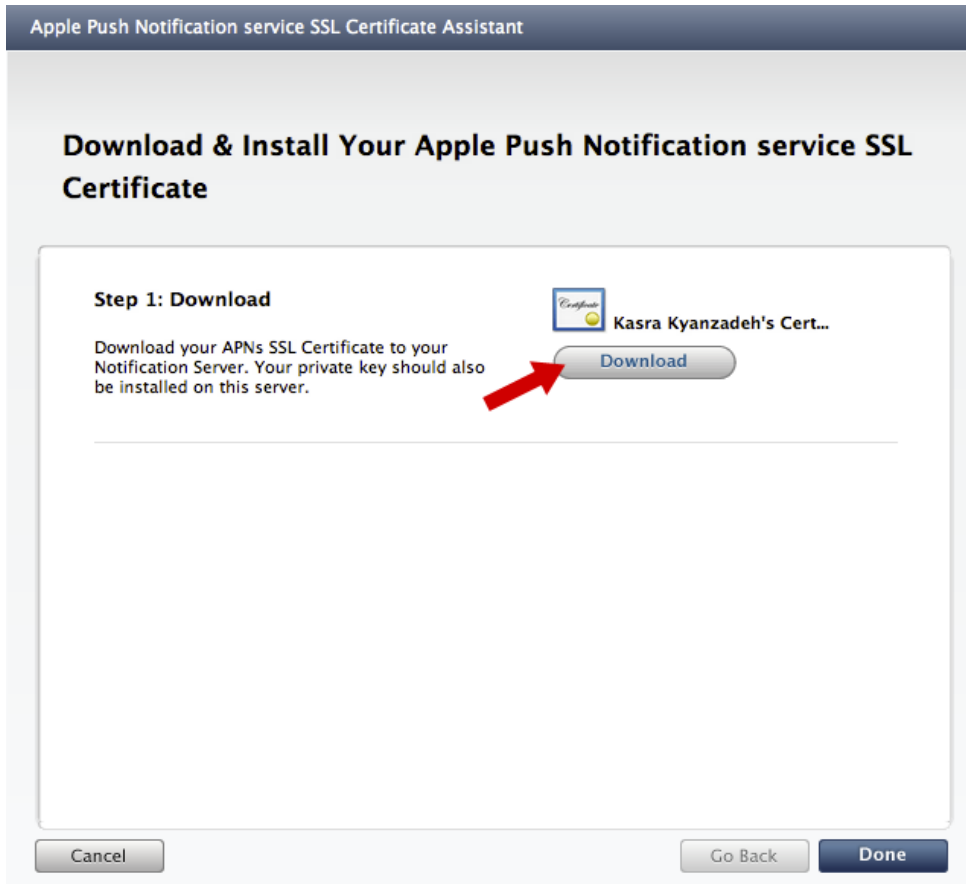
Cancel Go Back Continue



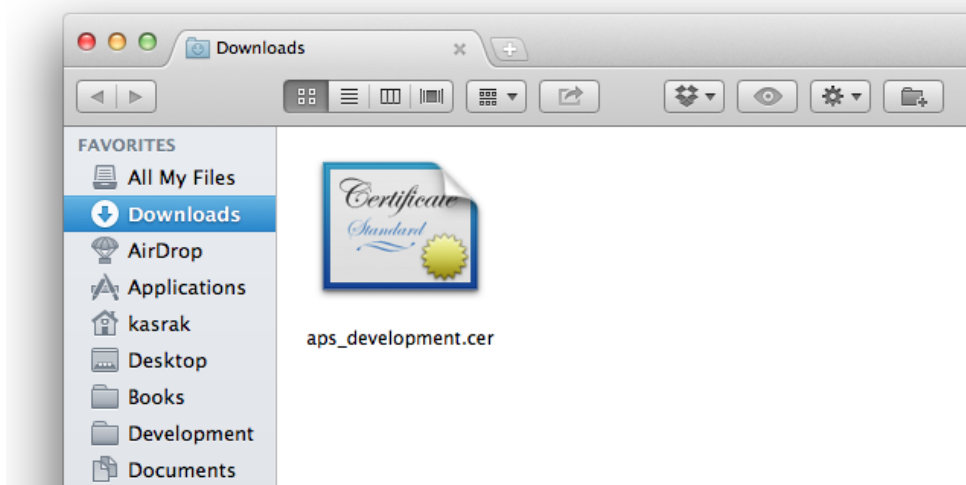
Enter your Apple developer email address in the "User Email Address" and leave the "CA Email Address" field blank. Select "Saved to disk".



Click continue and save the certificate request file. Upload this file using the assistant on Apple's website.



Double click the downloaded certificate to install it in your keychain.

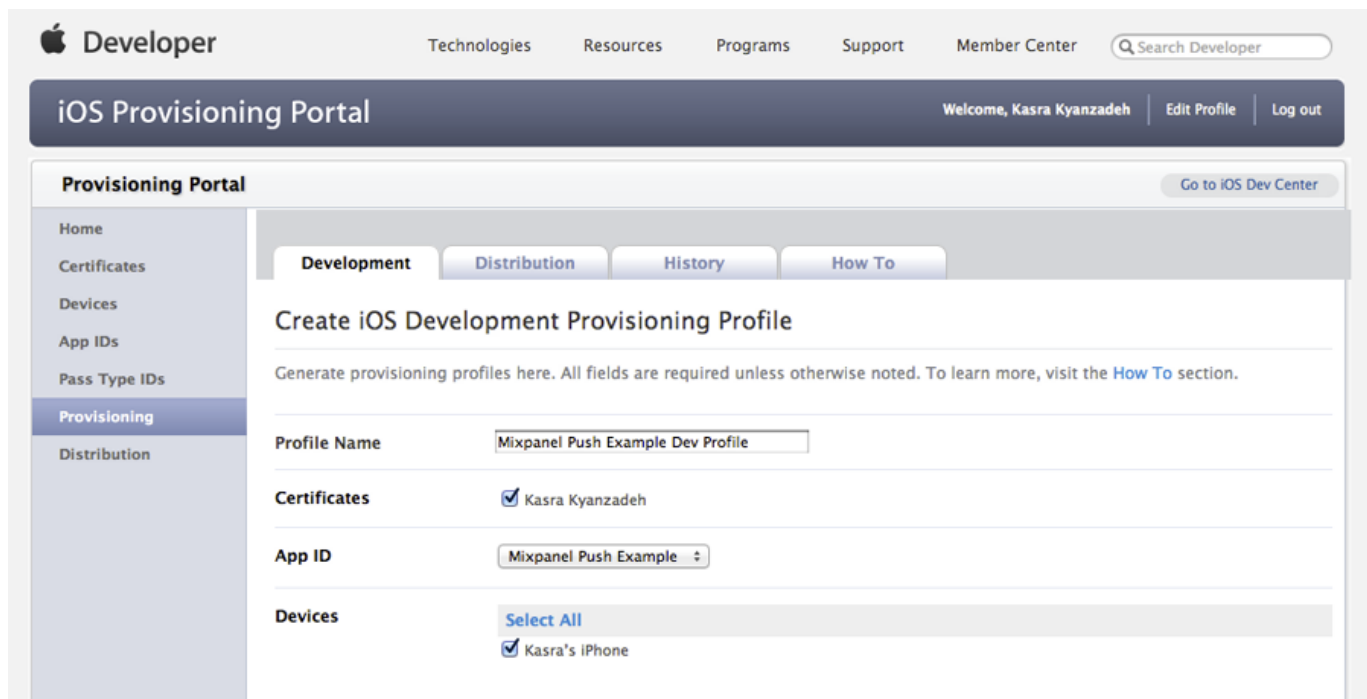


Provision your application

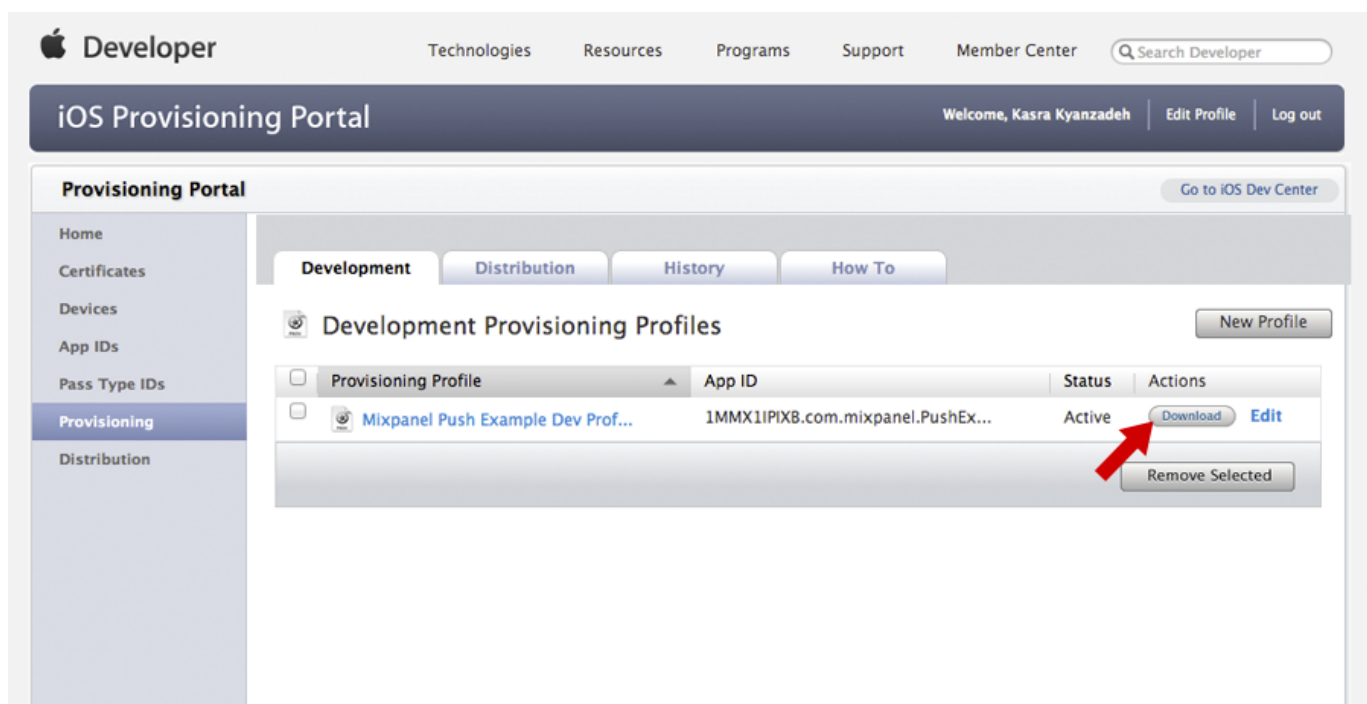
To get your application to run on a device, it needs to be provisioned. If you've already generated a provisioning profile, **you will have to regenerate and reinstall it after enabling push notifications**. Here, we will generate a new one.

From the iOS Provisioning Portal, click "Provisioning" in the left sidebar, then click the "New Profile" button.

Create your profile using the certificate and App ID you just generated.



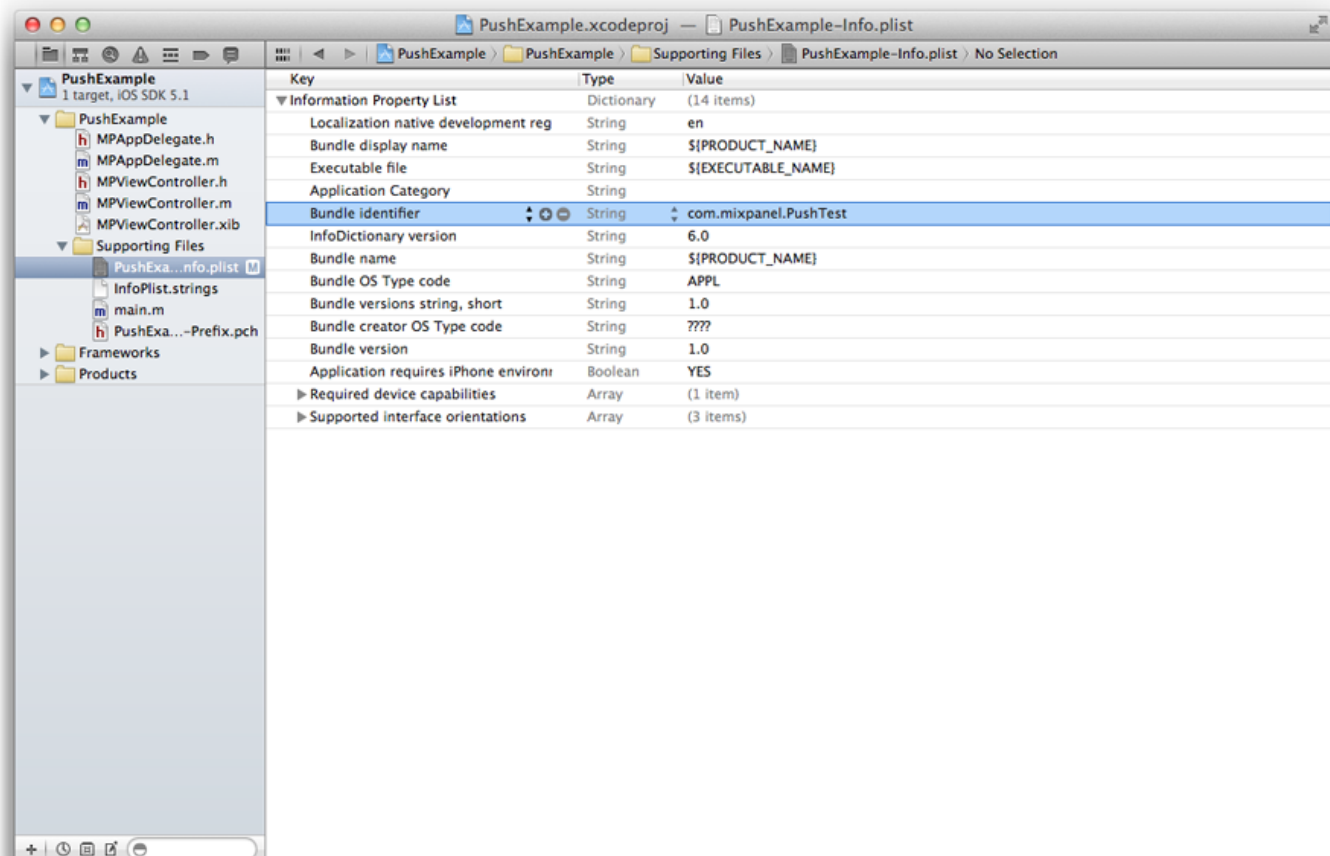
Once the status of your new profile changes from "Pending" to "Active", click the "Download" button.



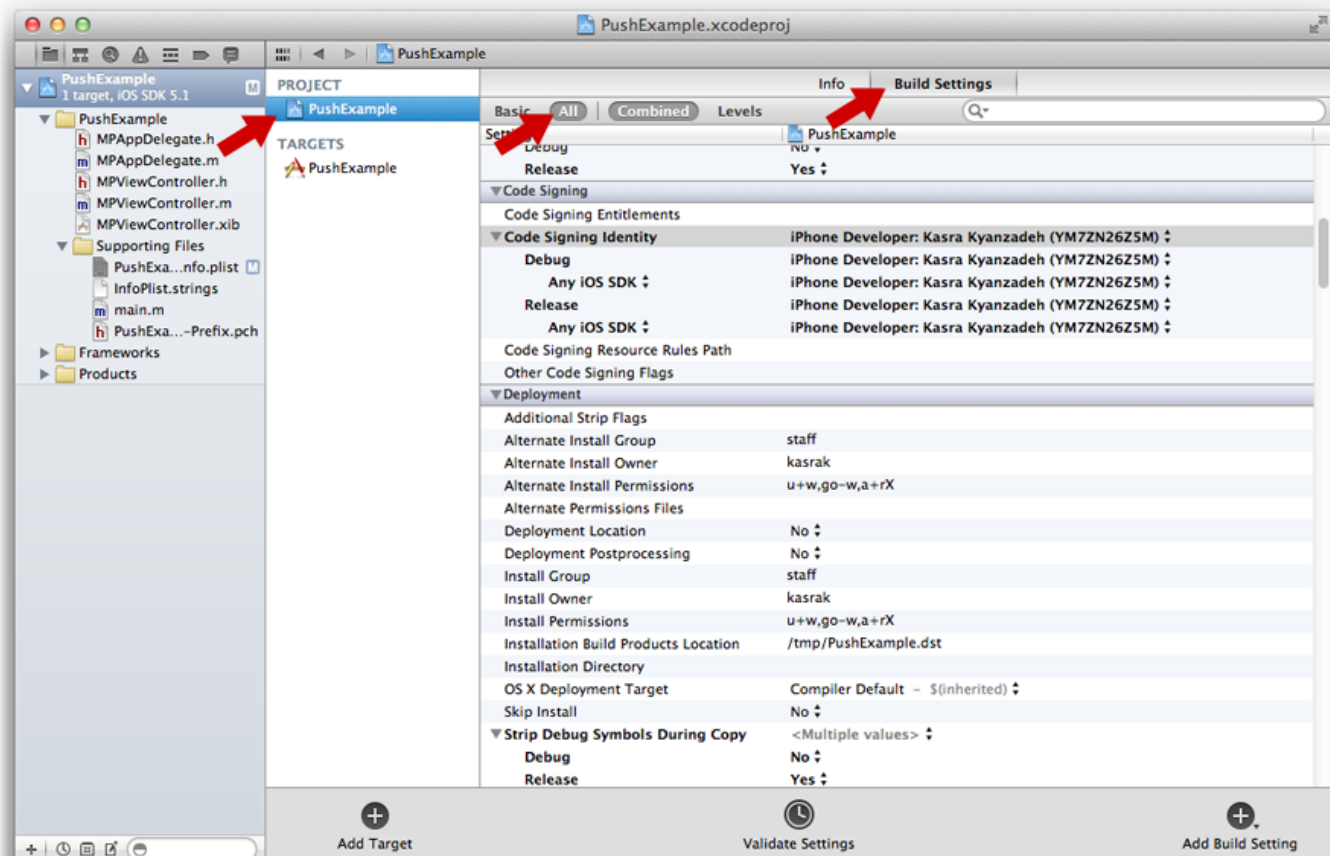
Double click the downloaded file to install the profile.

Configure your application for push notifications

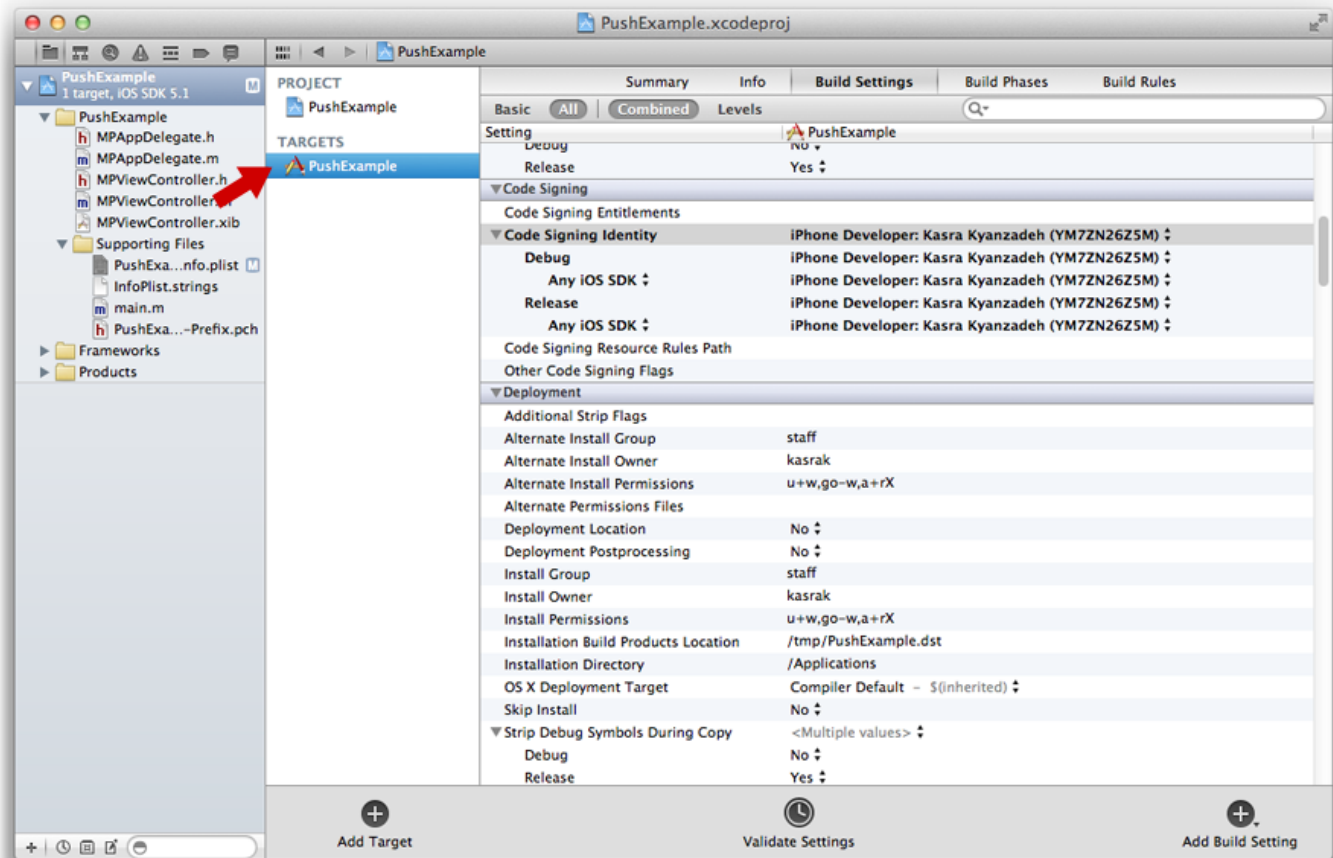
Open or create a new project in Xcode. Then open the file called *YourProjectName-Info.plist* in the Supporting Files folder. Edit the "Bundle Identifier" to match the Bundle Identifier you set in your App ID.



Select your project in the left sidebar. Make sure the item under the "Project" heading is selected, not your target under the "Target" heading. Switch to the "Build Settings" tab and change all the values of "Code Signing Identity" to the provisioning profile you just installed. If you don't see "Code Signing Identity" in the list, make sure you've selected the "All" option, not "Basic".



You also need to change the "Code Signing Identity" under your project's target.



Integrate Mixpanel

Now that your app is configured to receive push notifications, read the Mixpanel iOS Push guide to learn how to use Mixpanel to send your users push notifications.

Next: Getting Started with Android Push Notifications



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