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JAMF SOFTWARE RELEASES CASPER SUITE VERSION 7.2, ENABLING DEVELOPERS TO EXTEND AND AUTOMATE ENTERPRISE PRODUCTS ON THE MACINTOSH PLATFORM

(Minneapolis, MN) — JAMF Software, developers of the Casper Suite, a collection of client management applications, today announced the release of version 7.2, expanding the Suite's reach into several additional areas of system administration for the Mac Enterprise.

Casper Suite 7.2 allows administrators to extend and automate enterprise products on Mac OS X using Extension Attributes, while unifying administration of software into a single console. Additionally, new setup assistants like the Policy Assistant have been incorporated for easier day-to-day use and unleash the depth of the Casper Suite's capabilities within a simplified and improved user interface. Finally, the ability to use Apple's native technology in managing settings on client computers (also known as MCX) will be greatly enhanced by taking advantage of (and contributing to the expansion of) the offerings of the Manifest Destiny open-source project from the creators of AFP548.com.

JAMF Software is constantly striving to improve software for function, speed and stability, and extending the suite of tools available to IT Administrators. With this release, the Casper Suite makes great strides towards that end. Version 7.2 broadens the capabilities of the Casper Suite to function as a framework around which an IT ecosystem can be unified and extended to manage Mac OS X resources from a single console.

IT Administrators have long struggled with the dilemma of how to deploy, automate, activate and report upon software from multiple vendors throughout an enterprise organization. Version 7.2 of the Casper Suite incorporates Extension Attributes, significantly expanding the number of software products that can be distributed and reported upon at the enterprise level. The introduction of Extension Attributes and policy assistants into the Casper Suite simplifies the user interface to make the existing capabilities of the suite readily available to more administrators on a daily basis.

Casper Suite 7.2 offers three key features to extend the depth of functionality available to IT managers:

Unification and Extensibility using Extension Attributes

Extension Attributes allow developers to automate reporting for their products within one console. This integration eliminates the need for administrators to use multiple reporting tools, by bringing most major functions under control of the JAMF Software Server (JSS). With the addition of Extension Attributes, version 7.2 of the Casper Suite has evolved into a platform focused around unification and extensibility to simplify management of the best software available on Mac OS X.

"We recently deployed several thousand CrashPlan PRO Clients throughout an enterprise," said Matthew Dornquast, Founding Partner at Code 42, developers of CrashPlan backup software. "Not only were users blissfully unaware of the installation, but the Casper Suite's extensible architecture allowed us to integrate critical third party information. With 7.2, we are able to offer backup reports and alerts through a single console."

Casper Suite 7.2 launches with Extension Attributes for products including CrashPlan, Time Machine, Atempo Live Backup, WinMagic, PGP, Checkpoint, ClamXav, Norton/Symantec AntiVirus, VirusScan, Virex, Sophos, VirusBarrier and Deep Freeze.

Wizard-like assistants to simplify usage of the Casper Suite

Casper Suite 7.2 updates its simplified console for IT administrators, which incorporates new capabilities to complement the comprehensive foundation of features already available in previous versions. New additions to the Casper Suite's JSS include familiar wizard-like assistants to simplify distribution and reporting: Policy Assistant to manage printers, scripts and software packages, Setup Assistant to make it even easier to get started with Casper Suite, and LDAP Assistant to integrate with directory services.

"We're constantly working to make our products easier and more intuitive to use," said Zach Halmstad, Product Manager at JAMF Software. "The new assistant interfaces in the JSS have been developed based on feedback from our customers. We're very excited to see how they can streamline people's experiences using our software."

Improvements to Managed Preferences (MCX)

With the release of version 7.2, the usage of Apple's native MCX will be enhanced with the ability to upload custom manifest and plist files directly to JSS, or administrators can choose to import pre-built manifests from the Manifest Destiny project. Using the pre-built manifests from Manifest Destiny can save IT managers a great deal of time while leveraging the combined efforts of the community to avoid repetition of tasks. Of course, granular control is readily available for those who want to create custom manifests or build upon the available resources to suit their specific requirements.

"The Manifest Destiny project is a remarkable pool of shared knowledge and resources amongst IT Administrators," said Dana G. Williams, Director of Partnerships at AFP548, developers of the Manifest Destiny project. "With the capability to directly import pre-built manifests into the JSS in Casper Suite 7.2, leveraging the resources in Manifest Destiny has become even easier. We're excited about the integration and looking forward to offering expanded resources as JAMF Software shares their manifests with the Manifest Destiny project."

Casper Suite 7.2 is a significant step towards JAMF Software's principle of unification and extensibility of existing software to increase the reach and usability of software available for Mac OS X. With this release, management of Mac OS X systems will be greatly expanded and simplified.

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About JAMF Software

JAMF Software, founded in 2002 and headquartered in Minneapolis, MN, is the creator of the Casper Suite, the only suite of client management software developed exclusively for the Apple platform. As such, it offers a native solution that provides great breadth and depth of functionality for IT managers including inventory, package building, image management, remote imaging, remote updates, management and a powerful framework for automated support.

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