

# Mac OS X Server v10.6: Using the Software Update service with multiple Mac OS X client versions

Last Modified: May 06, 2010

Article: HT4069



## Summary

Learn how to use Mac OS X Server v10.6's Software Update service with clients running a variety of Mac OS X versions.

## Products Affected

Mac OS X Server 10.6

## Managed Client X

To manage access to Software Update servers:

1. In Workgroup Manager, click Preferences.
2. Make sure the correct directory is selected and you are authenticated. To switch directories, click the globe icon. If you are not authenticated, click the lock and enter the name and password of a directory administrator.
3. Select a computer group in which all members are running the same major version of Mac OS X. You should configure one computer group for clients running Mac OS X version 10.5, another group for clients running 10.6, and so forth.
4. Click Software Update.
5. Set the management setting to Always.
6. Specify the URL required by the client operating system.
  - For Mac OS X v10.6:  
`http://su.domain_name.com:8088/index-leopard-snowleopard.merged-1.sucatalog`
  - For Mac OS X v10.5:  
`http://su.domain_name.com:8088/index-leopard.merged-1.sucatalog`
  - For Mac OS X v10.4:  
`http://su.domain_name.com:8088/index.sucatalog`
7. Click Apply Now.

## Unmanaged Clients

To point unmanaged clients (clients not being managed with MCX) to a Software Update server:

1. On the unmanaged client, open Terminal.
2. Enter the following command:

```
defaults write /Library/Preferences/com.apple.SoftwareUpdate CatalogURL URL
```

Replace *URL* with the URL of the Software Update server, including the port number and the name of the catalog file for the specific version of Mac OS X. For example:
  - For Mac OS X version 10.6:  
`http://su.domain_name.com:8088/index-leopard-snowleopard.merged-1.sucatalog`
  - For Mac OS X version 10.5:  
`http://su.domain_name.com:8088/index-leopard.merged-1.sucatalog`
  - For Mac OS X version 10.4:  
`http://su.domain_name.com:8088/index.sucatalog`

You can verify your change using the following command:

```
defaults read /Library/Preferences/com.apple.SoftwareUpdate CatalogURL
```

To point the unmanaged client computer back to the Apple Software Update server, use the following command:

```
defaults delete /Library/Preferences/com.apple.SoftwareUpdate CatalogURL
```

Alternatively, you could create a script designed to run at boot which would check the version of the client's OS, and set the CatalogURL appropriately. One way to do this would be to save a script like the following as `/etc/rc.local` on all client machines:

```
URL='http://su.domain_name.com:8088'
case `usr/bin/sw_vers -productVersion | /usr/bin/awk -F . '{print $2}'` in
  4) URL="{URL}/index.sucatalog" ;;
  5) URL="{URL}/index-leopard.merged-1.sucatalog" ;;
  6) URL="{URL}/index-leopard-snowleopard.merged-1.sucatalog" ;;
  *) echo "Unsupported client OS"; exit 1 ;;
esac

/usr/bin/defaults write /Library/Preferences/com.apple.SoftwareUpdate CatalogURL "${URL}"
```

### Using the same URL for all clients

If you wish to use the same URL for all of your clients, you can use this advanced configuration to allow the Software Update server to detect the client's operating system version, and to send it the appropriate catalog. This method leverages Apache's `mod_rewrite` module.

1. Use the method for MCX or for unmanaged clients to point clients running Mac OS X versions 10.4, 10.5, or 10.6 to the 10.4 style URL:

```
http://su.domain_name.com:8088/index.sucatalog
```

2. Use Server Admin or `serveradmin(8)` to stop the Software Update service.

3. Back up your existing `/etc/swupd/swupd.conf` file:

```
sudo mv /etc/swupd/swupd.conf /etc/swupd/swupd.conf.orig
```

4. Back up `/System/Library/PrivateFrameworks/SU.framework/Versions/A/Resources/swupd.conf` with these commands:

```
cd /System/Library/PrivateFrameworks/SU.framework/Versions/A/Resources

sudo cp swupd.conf swupd.conf.orig
```

5. Append these lines to

```
/System/Library/PrivateFrameworks/SU.framework/Versions/A/Resources/swupd.conf:
```

```
LoadModule rewrite_module      libexec/apache2/mod_rewrite.so
RewriteEngine On
RewriteCond %{HTTP_USER_AGENT} Darwin/10
RewriteRule ^/index\.sucatalog$ /index-leopard-snowleopard.merged-1.sucatalog
RewriteCond %{HTTP_USER_AGENT} Darwin/9
RewriteRule ^/index\.sucatalog$ /index-leopard.merged-1.sucatalog
```

6. Use Server Admin or `serveradmin(8)` to start the Software Update service.

If you wish to revert the changes, simply stop the Software Update service, restore `/System/Library/PrivateFrameworks/SU.framework/Versions/A/Resources/swupd.conf` and `/etc/swupd/swupd.conf` to their original state, then start the Software Update service again. Note that `/System/Library/PrivateFrameworks/SU.framework/Versions/A/Resources/swupd.conf` could be overwritten by a software update.