A year ago in this very room...
Hello, I’m William Smith and a Professional Services Engineer with JAMF Software.

Let’s talk about *again* about Administering Office 2016 for Mac.

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First, this release was only for Office 365 customers. There was no volume license edition and it was up in the air if Microsoft would ever release a non-Office 365 perpetual license.
The first time our users launched an Office 2016 application, they reported messages about the Microsoft AU Daemon.
As administrators, we had a pretty good idea this was Microsoft AutoUpdate. But this was a new dialog we never saw in Office 2011.
And when we installed the Office 2016 package, we never saw this prompt. Why were our users seeing it?

Should we tell them to open it?
Should we tell them to cancel it?

Clicking the Show Application button certainly revealed it was part of AutoUpdate, but why didn’t it just run silently like it had in the past?
Next, Office 365 customers saw bizarre cryptic messages about Office applications wanting access to their Keychain.

**Should we Allow it?**
Should we Deny it?

Users had a difficult time knowing how to respond to these prompts. And, so too, did administrators. What was this?
Next, Office 365 customers saw bizarre cryptic messages about Office applications wanting access to their Keychain.

**Should we Allow it?**
Should we Deny it?

Users had a difficult time knowing how to respond to these prompts. And, so too, did administrators. What was this?
Finally, Microsoft slipped in some What's New screens just before shipping.
These hadn't been in the Office previews.

We learned last year Office 2016 preferences were stored in a new SQLite database file called MicrosoftRegistrationDB.reg.

Could we edit that file?
Could we manage it?
Could we make these windows go away!?
On August 5th, just a few weeks after releasing to Office 365 customers, Microsoft answered our requests for a volume license installer.

The importance of the volume license installer is that it allows us to deploy Office en masse without requiring user intervention or activation. But there was a problem.
It still required activation.

Or rather, it wasn't installing the volume license. We later learned that if we double-clicked the package and manually installed Office, everything worked just fine. However, any method using the command line installer tool failed. That included Apple Remote Desktop, Casper, DeployStudio and munki.

The volume license edition of Office 2016 for Mac was effectively non-deployable. These were just a few of the issues Mac admins had with the new version of Office.
The community began dissecting and inspecting the Office 2016 package and we quickly knew why we were seeing several of these problems.

Tim Sutton wrote a fantastic post detailing some of the issues he’d seen. And, knowing Mac admins would have to resort to unsupported workarounds, he urged everyone reading his post to reach out to his or her Microsoft TAM and to tweet and email anyone who’d listen and could effect change.
So, escalate the issue through whatever supported channels are available to you.

If you are a Microsoft Enterprise customer and have a Technical Account Manager, this seems to be the recommended route.

If you’re paying for support, make it worth it.

Tweet at and e-mail people who might care and may be in a position to effect change.

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My contacts put me in touch with Paul Bowden. I emailed him and asked if I could have some of his time to review a list of issues we'd seen in the Mac admin community. He replied, "Sure, I can help with your list."

Prior to our visit, I forwarded him this email I'd put together with my list of items I wanted him to see. Then I met with Paul during the last hour of the last day of my visit to the Microsoft campus.

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Paul was currently working on the volume license installer issue and he already had an list of other things he'd tackle. Wow—mission accomplished in under 2 minutes. Now what?

We talked about a lot of things. Paul asked me for some opinions, I gave him some feedback.
He showed me his whiteboard and told me about how he's working on these new channels for AutoUpdate called Dogfood, Insider and Production. Before long, I'd be able to subscribe to some sooper sekrit channels to get updates for testing before they were released.

Paul told me about their plans for faster updates and their methods for testing new releases. I asked why the volume license downloaded as a PKG in a DMG inside an ISO. (I'll let him explain that one.) During our visit, I asked him a lot of those niggling "why" and "how" questions.
At the end of our conversation, I’d learned about a lot of new things coming to Office for Mac.

As I was walking out of his office to leave, I asked if Paul had ever heard of Slack. He said "yes". I asked him to call up the sign-up page and check it out tomorrow. Specifically, I asked him to join the #microsoft-office channel and lurk—just see what people are saying and you’ll get a lot of insight into our issues. He said he would.
I posted in the #microsoft-office channel in Slack that evening that I'd met someone who said he'd help.

"Great guy, open, honest and listening."
The next day, Paul introduced himself... I was certainly not expecting that.

Over the next couple of hours, he received numerous welcomes and emoji beers. He'd stepped into the lions den, although as Eric Holtam said: "most of us are toothless, declawed, and full of mange."

I'd like to introduce Paul now and let him take over the story from here.
Last year, I began my presentation with a brief history of Office for Mac.

As we reached the end, the Office 2016 Preview for Mac was our only guide for what to expect. Let's continue this timeline and see what's happened since then.
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As we reached the end, the Office 2016 Preview for Mac was our only guide for what to expect. Let's continue this timeline and see what's happened since then.
Paul joined the MacAdmins team in Slack back in November and since then five more Microsoft developers have joined too. **Jonathan Leung is here in the audience too.** He works on OneDrive. They represent different Office and non-Office applications such as Outlook, OneDrive and Skype for Business. **Jonathan Leung is here in the audience too.** He works on OneDrive.

When Paul introduced himself, he asked for our top three wishes with regard to issues we had with Office. By mid December, he had addressed 10 issues that would appear in the December and January releases. His changes included support for command line installation, a new volume license serializer tool (which we'll discuss later), suppressed dialogs and manageable plists for admins to control saving to online storage locations.
Once our most pressing concerns were addressed, Paul and Erik Schwiebert (or Schwieb) started telling us their plans for Office. Yes, they plan to release it to the Mac App Store. When? That's to be determined. But the apps are ready now. Just think how easy it'll be to deploy and update Office apps for your Macs using device-assigned VPP from your caching servers!

Schwieb heard our problems with Thompson Reuters' EndNote plug-in and reached out to the developers to help get their software ready Word's new sandboxing requirements. And we learned 64bit apps are definitely in the future. The very near future!
With that, let’s look at what we’ve learned about administering Office and what the future holds.

We’ll take a look at not only how quickly Microsoft is releasing updates but also the different types of updates they offer now. We’ll learn they support a variety of deployment methods and discuss their new tools for managing deployments and updates.

Then we’ll talk about what we know about the future of Office.
With Office 2011 and earlier, we were used to receiving new updates about *every 1-4 months*. The release was sporadic and unpredictable at best. Sometimes, we might see a new feature or two. Usually, we’d see an update follow the next month only if Microsoft had a need to patch a security vulnerability or fix a significant bug.
New Release Cadence

Office 2011 for Mac

New updates every 1-4 months
Occasional new features

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Today, we’re seeing a regular release of updates every month for Office 2011, however, since the release of Office 2016, these releases have only included those patches for security and significant bug fixes.

Generally, the updates release about every second Tuesday of the month, which Microsoft calls Patch Tuesday.
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New Release Cadence

Office 2016 for Mac

Every month (Patch Tuesday)
  Security vulnerabilities
  Bug fixes
  New features

The same holds true for Office 2016.

We're seeing a regular release of updates every month and they include patches for security and significant bug fixes. However, they're frequently including new features too. Not for every app, but usually a handful between all the apps.
Here's how the release cycle works:
Throughout the month, developers work on a sprint, which set period of time during which specific work has to be completed and made ready for review. On the last Sunday of each month, which is called "fork day", the Office team freezes work on their Main branch of code and copies those changes to their Release branch.
Around the following Wednesday, which is mathematically fork + 3 days, the candidate build for release goes to the Internal channel of Microsoft AutoUpdate. The only way to get to this build is to manually edit your com.microsoft.autoupdate.plist file and set your channel to "Internal".

This is a period of time where the build goes through tests to check for any new issues as a result of the new code and to make sure the new code works as expected. Microsoft has a week to fix, change or remove code before releasing to Insider Slow. We’re about two weeks out before final release.
New Release Cadence

June 2016
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
1  2  3  4
5  6  7  8  9 10 11
12 13 14 15 16 17 18
19 20 21 22 23 24 25
26 27 28 29 30

July 2016
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
1  2
3  4  5  6  7  8  9
10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31

Then the code moves to **Insider Slow**, which is fork + 8 days. This is a channel in Microsoft AutoUpdate where you or any customer can choose to receive the candidate code about a week before Microsoft releases it to production. The code at this point should be fairly stable and this may be a channel that administrators allow some of their power users to access. Be careful of what you put into production.

During this week, which is called "recall", Microsoft's looking for **showstoppers**. If they find any major issues, they have this time to recall the update.
To subscribe to Insider Slow, launch the Microsoft AutoUpdate application by choosing **Check For Updates** from the **Help** menu of any Office application.

There's no cost and it's available to everyone. Then choose the Insider Slow option and check for updates. You should immediately see new downloads if they're available.
Finally, if they've found no showstoppers and the code seems solid from testing, they'll release to production on "fork + 16" or around the first or second Tuesday of the month. This release date is approximate and subject to adjustment without notice.
For a list of what's new each month, search for this page by its title. You'll find it's usually the second or third hit in Google. (It's the first hit in Bing.)

This is the most comprehensive list of major changes on one page that you'll find. But it doesn't list everything, though. For example, Office 2016 quietly added Czech and Thai languages in version 15.23.
Notice that AutoUpdate has an Insider Fast channel available too. While it sounds similar to Insider Slow, it has a very different purpose. This channel is **not** for production!
In fact, if you opt in for the Insider Fast channel, you'll have to accept additional terms and agreements that you understand you'll have no warranty and no support.
Instead, this channel points back to the Main branch of the code.

It'll include new bug fixes and may introduce new features just like the Insider Slow channel or the Production channel. However, this updates about every Wednesday, which means you'll be downloading new code each week. That code is a work in progress. It may be unstable. Those new features you see here may not get released to production for a few months because they're not finished or tested. This channel is ideal for anyone who wants to see what's coming and has the ability or patience to deal with crashes or unexpected behavior. And Paul has some new information on this.
Now, let's look at our deployment options. This has caused confusion for some folks, but they're really pretty simple.
How you make your initial deployment of Office 2016 really depends on your licensing.
And there are only three types of licensing:

We have Office 365, which requires a user to sign in to his or her Office 365 account to use the product. Administrators can deploy the software, but they cannot deploy this license. It requires **monthly** access to Microsoft's activation servers to continue running.
A volume license is more expensive, but you're paying for the ability to distribute the same software to multiple Macs without having to activate. It's ready to run.

More importantly, we as Mac admins have been following a bad practice to deploy the licensing component of this product and we need to stop. Paul has given us a tool called the VL Serializer, which we'll talk about in a moment.
Finally, a perpetual license allows the customer to purchase Office once and use it as long as he or she is running an operating system and hardware that supports the product. It never expires.

It's also less expensive than a volume license but each license has its own unique serial number, which makes the license effectively non-deployable.
For the sake of deploying Office for an Office 365 user, you simply need to download the installer from any of your Office 365 accounts and deploy the package.

The Office 365 installer is also called a **SKUless** installer. All that means is, technically, it has no licensing associated with it. It's a generic installer that will work with any type of licensing (Office 365, Volume or Perpetual).

You can deploy this SKUless package first and then add whatever licensing you like later. We'll see how this can work for us in a moment.
Install Office 2016

Command line

```
sudo /usr/sbin/installer \
    -pkg /path/to/Microsoft_Office_2016_15.23.0_Installer.pkg \
    -target '/path/to/Volumes/Macintosh HD'
```

For automated deployments, any tool capable of installing packages using Apple's command line `installer` tool, such as Apple Remote Desktop, Casper, DeployStudio or munki, can install this SKUless package either during imaging or after the computer is imaged and booted to its own drive.
Volume license customers should download the latest installer from their portal on the volume license service on Microsoft's site.

Look for the ISO file for Office for Mac. Inside that you'll find a DMG. And inside that DMG you'll find your volume license installer package. *I'll ask Paul to explain that one.*
Install Office 2016

Command line

```
sudo /usr/sbin/installer \
-pkg /path/to/Microsoft_Office_2016_15.23.0_Installer.pkg \
-target /
```

The command line installation for a volume license, however, is a little different. Your target must be the current boot volume. Why?

The licensing component of this installer is generating a license plist file that's tied to the hardware. In the past, we've assumed this file contains our organization's unique serial number that we see in the Volume License Service Center. What's actually happening is the licensing component doesn't contain our serial number but instead ties the license to the machine during installation. That.plist file is unique to each Mac and shouldn't be copied between Macs. Today, we can still copy this licensing file, but that may change in the future. That's up to Paul.
Volume license customers will also find a second package in their ISO/DMG download file called the VL Serializer.

If you deploy the full installer from that same download, then *you don't need this package*. It's already inside the full Volume License installer.
Volume license customers will also find a second package in their ISO/DMG download file called the VL Serializer.

If you deploy the full installer from that same download, then you don't need this package. It’s already inside the full Volume License installer.
You'll use the VL Serializer for three reasons:

The VL Serializer package installed before or after an Office 365 or SKUless installer is a valid and supported volume license installation. This will also convert an Office 365 installation to a volume license installation.

The VL Serializer package installed after you've copied that licensing plist file from another Mac with a volume license will correct the plist file for the current hardware. Any questions about the Serializer?
Sometimes, you don't want to install all the applications that come with Office. That's where a choices file comes in to play.

While Microsoft is perfectly willing to support installing the full suite of applications and then deleting those you don't want by dragging them to the Trash, this isn't really a clean way to handle them. Instead, during your command line installation, add the -applyChoiceChangesXML option to point to a file that says what you want and don't want to install.
Using a choices file is well documented in several places. I'll point you to two:

Clayton Burlison's Demystifying Office 2016 for Mac post, which has become the de facto everything you want to know page about Office.

And the munki repository on GitHub, where Greg Neagle explains how to use a choices file.
I'll give a small plug for an AppleScript I wrote a couple months ago for folks looking for something a little less technical and more automated. I wrote this primarily for Office 2016 and it works. It still needs refinement include logging and a progress bar, but it takes care of repackaging Office with a choices file for you.
Now, once we've deploy Office, we need to keep it up-to-date.
Managing Updates

The most straightforward way is to use Microsoft AutoUpdate. Just recently the "Automatic" option lost the ability to specify how frequently the Mac checks for updates. We no longer have the daily, weekly, monthly checks. Now, it checks every 12 hours for new updates. **Paul, was there a specific reason for changing this?**

If your users are administrators on their Macs then AutoUpdate may make the most sense. They can keep themselves updated. But that also means you’ll have multiple versions of the Office apps in your environment. When we get to managing preferences later, we'll see how you can control this.
By the way, AutoUpdate is optimized to determine the smallest updates necessary to patch the current versions of the installed applications.

If your applications are just a minor version behind, it'll download the delta updates. These include only the changes from the last version to the new version. However, if Autoupdate finds the current applications are several versions behind, it'll download the full installer.
Allister Banks worked with Paul early on in the #microsoft-office Slack channel to put together AutoPkg recipes for Office 2016. Between the two of them they standardized the recipes for identifying, downloading and installing updates.

If AutoUpdate isn’t an option for your environment and you’re running a software management system such as Casper or munki, then AutoPkg and AutoPkgr are ready to deliver. I believe these recipes are part of the primary installation now.
Managing Updates

Office 2016 for Mac Update 15.xx

If you need to download and deploy updates manually, you can simply search the Internet for the "Office 2016 for Mac Updates" by version number and you'll find a download for each application.

But you won't find a single installer to update all applications. Some of you may recall from my presentation last year that Office is now sandboxed and each application is now a fully self-contained app bundle. If you download each update, you're downloading nearly full installers. Word alone is about 1.0 GB.
Furthermore, you can deploy full SKUless installers as if they were updates. Quite often, if you want to update the entire suite of applications, deploying the latest full installer as if it were an update will be smaller and faster than the sum of multiple individual applications.

For example, use the individual installers to update just Outlook and OneNote (the two smallest updates) because they total about 1.15 GB. But if you choose to update a third application, then deploy the full installer because it will be smaller than any three individual application updates.
Managing Updates

Content Delivery Systems (CDNs)

Base URL: http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?linkid=

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And depending on your location in the world, you'll receive installers from one of three Content Delivery Systems around the world. These full installers include the licensing components as well as Microsoft AutoUpdate.

Paul, what's a CDN and how does Microsoft use these for delivering software?
Soon after joining us in Slack, Paul put together this page. If you've ever wondered if it's legit or where it came from, thank him.

Paul refreshes this page with every Office 2016 update download link and KB article. It goes all the way back to July 2015 and all the links link back to microsoft.com.

Just remember "macadmins dot software".
After we've deployed and updated Office, we may need to manage some files and settings.

Unfortunately, we still can't manage most user-level settings in each application now that Microsoft has moved from plists to a SQLite database. But many of the newer features built within the past year do use plists and Paul and the other developers have made sure they're manageable. And regarding that MicrosoftRegistrationDB.reg file, Paul has some new information to share with us.
This feature was designed for the release of Office 2016 back in July, but it wasn't well documented and it was broken during the initial delivery. Schwieb fixed it shortly after Office shipped.

If you deploy files in the top level /Library folder following this path, they’ll be available to all users on a Mac. You cannot redirect this location to another path. This location is ideal for more than a dozen Office file types including templates such as company letterheads, add-ins for automation, startup items, themes and more. You don't need to modify user preferences to make this work.
For several years, I've maintained an AppleScript to help administrators connect their users to company Exchange servers. Version 5 of the script supports Outlook 2016 and is actually much easier to configure and deploy.
Managing Preferences

Like the older versions, administrators need to edit some properties in the script to point to the correct servers. New for this version, though, is a second script that takes everything and generates an Apple Installer package for deployment. It’s much easier and faster to prepare and distribute.

Look for the wiki and you should find everything you need to know. Shout-out to Eric Holtam for helping me solve the setup issue.
Not every customer uses Office 365, which means their users need to save to local network shares instead of online.
Office apps **default** to saving to an online OneDrive account or SharePoint site but if those services don't exist in the environment then users need to click the On My Mac button to display a second dialog for saving locally.

Administrators can manage that setting and instead default saving to local drives.
Managing Preferences

Defaults

defaults write $HOME/Library/Group\ Containers/
UBF8T346G9.Office/com.microsoft.officeprefs.plist
DefaultsToLocalOpenSave -bool TRUE

We can use the command line to write a plist to the Group Containers folder in each user home folder.

Note, though, this plist isn't in a manageable location, so you can't use configuration profiles to automatically distribute this setting to your Macs. Currently, you'll either need to distribute the .plist file to every user folder of a machine or script creating this file for every user.
Managing Preferences

Keep in mind that if a user chooses to save locally once, then that changes the default save location going forward to always save locally.

Side-note: Paul's working on some changes in the Group Containers for us to make this and similar preferences manageable.
Managing Preferences

Disable Updates

We may need to manage updates other than using Microsoft AutoUpdate.
We've been able to **manage checking for updates** since Office 2011 and we can use the same method to manage them for Office 2016.
We've been able to **manage checking for updates** since Office 2011 and we can use the same method to manage them for Office 2016.
Managing Preferences

~/Library/Preferences or
/Library Preferences

Defaults

defaults write com.microsoft.autoupdate2 HowToCheck
-string Manual

defaults write com.microsoft.autoupdate2 LastUpdate
-date '2001-01-01T00:00:00Z'

We can use the defaults command to set the HowToCheck and LastUpdate options and write them to each user's com.microsoft.autoupdate2.plist file. Or we can write this to the same file in the top level Library folder to apply to all users.
We can also create and upload this plist file to an MDM to make a custom configuration profile.
Managing Preferences

This doesn't dim and disable the setting and won't stop someone from manually checking for updates but it will always override the Automatic setting.
Earlier, we discussed the Office Insider program.
And we saw anyone could enable access to either the Office Insider Slow or Office Insider Fast channel. Remember, Insider Fast is not for production. And you may decide that neither is Insider Slow. In other words, you need to allow users the ability to update their software but not allow them access to the Insider channels.

We have a couple of tools to do this, thanks to Paul.
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We have a couple of tools to do this, thanks to Paul.
Managing Preferences

Defaults

defaults write com.microsoft.autoupdate2 DisableInsiderCheckbox -bool TRUE

Configuration Profile

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE plist PUBLIC "-//Apple//DTD PLIST 1.0//EN"
"http://www.apple.com/DTDs/PropertyList-1.0.dtd">
<plist version="1.0">
<dict>
    <key>DisableInsiderCheckbox</key>
    <true/>
</dict>
</plist>

We can use the defaults command to set the DisableInsiderCheckbox option and write this to each user’s com.microsoft.autoupdate2.plist file or we can write this to the same file in the top level Library folder to apply to all users.
Managing Preferences

AutoUpdate checks for update versions of your Microsoft software. For more information about AutoUpdate, see Help.

How would you like to check for software updates?

- Manually
- Automatically

Checking occurs only when you are connected to the internet.

- Join the Office Insider program to get early access to new releases

Choose how you get Insider builds:

Office Insider Slow – Best for Insiders who want to get early access to fully supported builds with minimal risk and provide feedback to make Office great.

Learn more

This dims and disables the option for anyone to select it.
Managing Preferences

Custom Channel

This recent feature allows users to continue running AutoUpdate but allows an administrator to determine which updates to install. It's ideal for organizations needing to vet a specific version of Office before deployment but still wanting to take advantage of AutoUpdate both inside and outside the network.
Managing Preferences

Defaults

```bash
defaults write com.microsoft.autoupdate2 ChannelName -string 'Custom'

defaults write com.microsoft.autoupdate2 ManifestServer -string 'https://yourwebserver/yourpath/'
```

For the client setup, use Defaults to set the ChannelName to **Custom**. Then add a new key called **ManifestServer** with a value that specifies a web server on your network (and maybe the Internet too if you want to manage external users).
Managing Preferences

Configuration Profile

com.microsoft.autoupdate2.plist

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE plist PUBLIC "-//Apple//DTD PLIST 1.0//EN"
"http://www.apple.com/DTDs/PropertyList-1.0.dtd">
<plist version="1.0">
  <dict>
    <key>ChannelName</key>
    <string>Custom</string>
    <key>ManifestServer</key>
    <string>https://yourwebserver/yourpath/</string>
  </dict>
</plist>
```

Likewise, you can take this plist and upload it to your MDM to create a custom configuration profile.

These settings redirect your Macs to your own HTTP or HTTPS web server instead of Microsoft's to check for updates.
Next, two files on Microsoft's servers control the versions their customers see when they run AutoUpdate.

If you want to keep your users at specific versions then append the .xml and .cat files listed here to the end of the URL, download the files and put them on your web server.

When your Macs go to check for updates on your web server, they'll see these files not Microsoft's. You can hold users at a specific software version until you remove these files. AutoUpdate will default back to Microsoft's CDN servers and get the current updates.
Managing Preferences

Demo
Telemetry is your Office applications sending feedback to Microsoft to improve the product.

I'll ask Paul to tell us about telemetry and why it's important.
It starts with Microsoft Error Reporting. You or your users have probably seen this dialog appear after an Office application has crashed.
If you click on the More Information button, you’ll see the data you’re about to send to Microsoft about the crash. Nothing in this report is personally identifiable.

At this point, nothing has been transmitted from your network to Microsoft. When you close this window and click the OK button, your crash report feeds into a pool of crash reports and is automatically analyzed and aggregated with other reports.

If you choose to click the red close jelly in the upper left corner, nothing goes to Microsoft.
What Microsoft gains from these reports is an analysis that looks something like this.

**Paul, you posted this in Slack back in February. Can you tell us what this means?**
Managing Preferences

Telemetry continues with the Security & Privacy setting in each Office application. You'll find this by selecting Preferences from the application menu.

This option is **disabled** by default in all Office applications.

**Paul, what happens when users enable this feature?**
Managing Preferences

Defaults

defaults write com.microsoft.Word
SendAllTelemetryEnabled -bool FALSE

Configuration Profile

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE plist PUBLIC "-//Apple//DTD PLIST 1.0//EN"
"http://www.apple.com/DTDs/PropertyList-1.0.dtd">
<plist version="1.0">
<dict>
  <key>SendAllTelemetryEnabled</key>
  <false/>
</dict>
</plist>

If your organization chooses not to send telemetry to Microsoft, you can disable it per application using either defaults or a custom configuration profile created from a plist.

This is for Word.
Managing Preferences

Defaults

defaults write com.microsoft.Excel
SendAllTelemetryEnabled -bool FALSE

Configuration Profile

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE plist PUBLIC "-//Apple//DTD PLIST 1.0//EN"
"http://www.apple.com/DTDs/PropertyList-1.0.dtd">
<plist version="1.0">
<dict>
    <key>SendAllTelemetryEnabled</key>
    <false/>
</dict>
</plist>

This is for Excel.
Managing Preferences

Defaults

defaults write com.microsoft.Powerpoint
SendAllTelemetryEnabled -bool FALSE

Configuration Profile

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE plist PUBLIC "-//Apple//DTD PLIST 1.0//EN"
"http://www.apple.com/DTDs/PropertyList-1.0.dtd">
<plist version="1.0">
<dict>
  <key>SendAllTelemetryEnabled</key>
  <false/>
</dict>
</plist>

This is for PowerPoint.
Managing Preferences

Defaults

defaults write com.microsoft.Outlook
SendAllTelemetryEnabled -bool FALSE

Configuration Profile

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE plist PUBLIC "-//Apple//DTD PLIST 1.0//EN" "http://www.apple.com/DTDs/PropertyList-1.0.dtd">
<plist version="1.0">
<dict>
  <key>SendAllTelemetryEnabled</key>
  <false/>
</dict>
</plist>

This is for Outlook.
Managing Preferences

Defaults

defaults write com.microsoft.onenote.mac SendAllTelemetryEnabled -bool FALSE

Configuration Profile

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE plist PUBLIC "-//Apple//DTD PLIST 1.0//EN" "http://www.apple.com/DTDs/PropertyList-1.0.dtd">
<plist version="1.0">
<dict>
  <key>SendAllTelemetryEnabled</key>
  <false/>
</dict>
</plist>

This is for OneNote.
Managing Preferences

Defaults

defaults write com.microsoft.autoupdate2
SendAllTelemetryEnabled -bool FALSE

Configuration Profile

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE plist PUBLIC "-//Apple/DTD PLIST 1.0//EN"
"http://www.apple.com/DTDs/PropertyList-1.0.dtd">
<plist version="1.0">
  <dict>
    <key>SendAllTelemetryEnabled</key>
    <false/>
  </dict>
</plist>

This is for AutoUpdate.
Managing Preferences

Defaults

defaults write com.microsoft.Office365ServiceV2 SendAllTelemetryEnabled -bool FALSE

Configuration Profile

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE plist PUBLIC "-//Apple//DTD PLIST 1.0//EN" "http://www.apple.com/DTDs/PropertyList-1.0.dtd">
<plist version="1.0">
<dict>
  <key>SendAllTelemetryEnabled</key>
  <false/>
</dict>
</plist>

And this is for Office 365.
Managing Preferences

Defaults

defaults write com.microsoft.errorreporting
IsAttachFilesEnabled -bool FALSE

Configuration Profile

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE plist PUBLIC "-//Apple/DTD PLIST 1.0//EN"
"http://www.apple.com/DTDs/PropertyList-1.0.dtd">
<plist version="1.0">
<dict>
  <key>IsAttachFilesEnabled</key>
  <false/>
</dict>
</plist>

In some cases, the contents of a document will cause the application to crash. If the app identifies the document as the cause, it will ask the user if it’s okay to also send the document along with the call-stack.

IT administration may have strict requirements about the transmission of documents and make the decision on behalf of the user to never send documents. You can disable this for error reporting using either defaults or a custom configuration profile created from a plist.
If your network security team has enabled filtering or your have a proxy server connecting you to the Internet, you may notice alerts on your Mac telling you it cannot access certain server addresses at Microsoft.

These addresses include support for Office 365 activation, telemetry, template downloads, AutoUpdate, smart lookups and other services. For a complete list of these servers, refer to this document on http://macadmins.software. It’ll tell you the server addresses and their purpose so you can whitelist them to avoid these prompts.
Finally, Paul, what is the heartbeat and what data is collected?
We've discussed Microsoft's new release timing and deployment options as well as how to manage updates and preferences. So, what's to come? Here's some of what we know...
So far, with regard to AutoUpdate, we can disable automatic checking for updates and we can disable Office Insider.

In the works are two more management features for AutoUpdate.

The first is UpdateCache and Paul has posted a document for the specification in the #microsoft-office channel on Slack detailing how he plans for it to work and behave. You can read about it there and give feedback too, but I'll ask Paul to give a quick overview.
Paul's also working on implementing a command line interface to the AutoUpdate tool. This will allow administrators to take advantage of AutoUpdate but remotely or programmatically control when and how it behaves.

For example, you could create a launchd agent with a script that checks for updates just after Patch Tuesday to see if anything is available. Then you could report this back to your management server or optionally install them. Any update on this, Paul?
Office 2016 was written with the intention to eventually distribute the applications through Apple's Mac App Store.

A year later, that's still the plan.

Any updates on this, Paul, or why it's taking so long?
If Microsoft wants to distribute Office apps via the Mac App Store then part of Apple's requirements is that all apps they sell through their store be 64-bit.

The first 64-bit version of Office is just about ready to ship and when it does, there won't be as much fanfare as you might expect. It won't be the same as the transition from Mac OS 9 to Mac OS X or PowerPC to Intel. We discussed during my presentation last year that these were two Apple transitions that cost Microsoft a lot of development time.

When 64-bit arrives, it'll simply come as an update and 32-bit will be dead going forward.
What's going to be affected by this change and do you need to worry? Visit the Mac Office and the Transition to 64-bit page to see how you may be impacted.

For the most part, you and your users really shouldn't see anything new as a result of this. If you're using VBA for custom development in Office then you shouldn't need to worry. However, if you use compiled add-ins, those may need to be updated to 64-bit.

Paul, is there anything else we need to know about this? Any timeline?
Microsoft’s plan for Office on Mac, Windows, iOS and other platforms is to move toward as much common code as possible. That means writing core features and code once and then adapting that code to each platform. Code across platforms can never be 100% the same, however, if all the apps share core sets of code then not only do platforms stand the chance of getting closer to feature parity but features should work similarly too.

Paul, just about how much code can all the different editions of Office share? And how long term is this project?
The Future

When can we expect the next version of Office?

With incremental monthly updates, does that mean we'll ever see another version?
A lot has happened in the past year. We’ve learned a lot about how things work within Microsoft and thanks to developers reaching out to Mac admins, we’ve had unprecedented influence in what happens with Office for Mac.

For better or worse, Microsoft has accelerated development but at least they now know who Mac admins are, what we do and our needs for support for supporting our users. We don’t have to feel lost in such rapid change with them there to listen and guide us. I’d like to personally thank Paul for jumping in to the lion’s den, engaging with us and helping change our long-held opinions about Office for Mac and Microsoft.
A lot has happened in the past year. We’ve learned a lot about how things work within Microsoft and thanks to developers reaching out to Mac admins, we’ve had unprecedented influence in what happens with Office for Mac more than ever before.

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Administering Office for Mac 2016, Part Deux  
Information Resources

Administering Office 2016 for Mac
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-EtZizWJdQ

Slack sign-up
http://macadmins.org

Downloads and Documents
http://macadmins.software
http://macadmins.software/docs/
Information Resources

What’s Wrong with the Office 2016 Volume License Installer?

Demystifying Office 2016 for Mac
https://clburlison.com/demystify-office2016/

What’s new and improved in Office 2016 for Mac
Information Resources

Office 365 Download:
https://portal.office.com/Home

Volume License Service Center
https://www.microsoft.com/Licensing/servicecenter/default.aspx

ChoiceChangesXML
https://github.com/munki/munki/wiki/ChoiceChangesXML

Choices Packager
https://github.com/talkingmoose/Choices-Packager
Information Resources

AutoPkg and AutoPkgr
https://github.com/autopkg/autopkg
https://github.com/lindegroup/autopkgr

User Content in 2016
http://macadmins.software/docs/UserContentIn2016.pdf

Outlook Exchange Setup 5

Office Insider
Information Resources

UpdateCache Specification
https://macadmins.slack.com/files/pbowden/F19996TSM/spec-updatecache.docx

Mac Office and the Transition to 64-bit
http://dev.office.com/mac-office-64-bit-transition

Microsoft Servers
http://macadmins.software/docs/Network_Traffic.pdf
✔ New Release Cadence
✔ Deployment Options
✔ Managing Updates
✔ Managing Preferences
✔ The Future
✔ Information Resources