

Your Apple Developer Account

What's an Apple Developer Account?

An Apple Developer Account registers you (or your organization) as an app publisher in Apple's systems. Having an account lets you submit apps to the app store, and is required in order to do this.

Do I need an account to begin work on an app?

Technically No, but in practice Yes. There is some limited work a developer can do for you without a developer account, but most apps quickly run into situations where a developer account is required (using notifications, in app purchases, etc).

Also, without a Developer Account there is no way for the developer to publish builds of your app for you to look at and test on your own iOS device.

Can't the developer use their own Apple Developer Account?

Technically yes, but this generally isn't a workable solution. You want to maintain ownership over all the resources for your app, so having your app established in someone else's Developer Account means you won't have direct access to it and can't exercise control over it.

Also, using someone else's Developer Account means that eventually you'll have to transfer all the app configuration and data from that account to one that you control, and this can be extremely problematic due to the complexity of the account configuration for a given app.

What types of Developer Accounts are there?

You can sign up with Apple at developer.apple.com for either an Individual or Organization account.

What's the difference between Individual and Organization accounts?

An individual account is for one person. It's fully functional for building apps and submitting to the app store. You allow your developer to use your account by sharing your username and password. (Note: due to the technical nature of many tasks, it's not generally possible to try to do things in the the account "on behalf of" your developer).

An Organization account takes longer to set up, but is more flexible. An Organization account allows you to add other developers (with their own Individual accounts) as “team members” with limited privileges inside your account. You don’t need to share your account username or password, and you can add and remove “team members” as needed to suit your development needs.

(Note: you will rarely ever find an iOS developer who does not have their own personal Individual developer account, so Organization accounts work very well for team development once the get set up!)

Are there any other accounts I need to set up?

You will need an Apple ID to use as the “owner” of your Developer Account. Apple ID’s are free, require only an email address, and you can create as many as you need.

You should create a new, separate Apple ID to be the “owner” of your Developer Account, rather than using a personal Apple ID you may already have. This will allow you to grant access to your “developer” Apple ID if needed while keeping your personal information safe.

You will can create a new Apple ID at:
<https://appleid.apple.com>

What services does my Developer Account access?

Creating an Apple Developer Account (either Individual or Organization) lets you access the developer portal at developer.apple.com and the iTunes portal at itunesconnect.apple.com.

The developer portal is where your developer can define your app, create signing certificates for it (authentication tools that tie an app to your account), and do other administrative tasks related to actually building an app.

The iTunes portal allows you to set artwork for the app store, enter your app’s description, send your app to testers before release, submit your app for review, and other functions related to sharing and publishing your app once it’s developed.

Where do I create an account? What will I need?

You can sign up for an account at:
<https://developer.apple.com/programs/>

Apple’s website has full details on the information you will need to establish either an Individual or an Organization account.

You will need an Apple ID, which you can create at:
<https://appleid.apple.com/account#!&page=create>