

iPhone, iPad, Mac apps merging? Apple SDK will create iOS apps that work on Mac

Apple's incoming software development kit will reportedly initially let devs publish iPad apps that work on Mac.



By [Liam Tung](#) | February 21, 2019 -- 14:02 GMT (06:02 PST) | ZDNet

Apple is planning for developers to be able to build a single app that works on the iPhone, iPad and Mac by 2021, according to Bloomberg.

The move will eventually allow Apple to merge the Mac App Store and its more widely used App Store for iOS devices, allowing developers to submit a "single binary" for all Apple devices, [according to the report](#).

Apple could release a new software development kit as early as its June WWDC annual developer conference that would initially let developers port iPad apps to Mac. The SDK would mean developers don't need to double up on code for the same app. However, they would at this

point still need to submit different versions of the app to each App Store.

The SDK would then expand in 2020 to allow iPhone apps to be ported to Mac apps, though this is considered more challenging due to the large difference between screen sizes.

The plan is said to be happening under a project called Marzipan, though Bloomberg's sources said the timing and exact details aren't set in stone.

Apple [discussed Marzipan and allowing iOS apps to run on macOS](#) at the 2108 WWDC in June. It brought several of its own iOS apps to macOS Mojave, including the iOS News, Home, Voice Memos, and Stocks apps. The idea was for Apple to test the iOS-to-Mac plan on itself and then let developers do the same in 2019.

At the time Apple emphatically denied having plans to merge iOS and macOS, but allowing iOS developers to port their apps to the Mac App Store more easily could help beef it up.

The company said it would update its existing UIKit to help iOS developers bring their app to macOS.

While Apple has been open about plans to get more iOS apps into the Mac App Store, it has not discussed plans to merge the two App Stores.

Apple's plans to leverage the bigger iOS developer ecosystem to bolster the smaller MacOS platform isn't unfamiliar territory. Google now allows Android apps to run on Chromebooks, while Microsoft at one point hoped Universal Windows Platform would help developers build one app for Windows 10 desktops and its now-abandoned Windows Phone/Windows 10 Mobile platform.

original article:

[https://www.zdnet.com/article/iphone-ipad-mac-apps-merging-apple-sdk-will-create-ios-apps-that-work-on-mac/?](https://www.zdnet.com/article/iphone-ipad-mac-apps-merging-apple-sdk-will-create-ios-apps-that-work-on-mac/)

[ftag=TRE-03-10aaa6b&bhid=23405847687286447375579737817622](https://www.zdnet.com/article/iphone-ipad-mac-apps-merging-apple-sdk-will-create-ios-apps-that-work-on-mac/?ftag=TRE-03-10aaa6b&bhid=23405847687286447375579737817622)