



How to Deploy  
Cisco AnyConnect with Jamf Pro



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The purpose of this guide is to configure all the required items for a silent installation of Cisco AnyConnect using Jamf Pro. A custom installer package and configuration profile will be used to silence prompts for System Extensions, Socket Filter messages, and Notifications. This will allow for an installation without prompting users to accept or allow any messages during and after the installation of Cisco AnyConnect.

We will also cover creating a xml file that can be used to choose what apps get installed as part of the Cisco AnyConnect bundle as well as providing a custom configuration file so users can get up and running without having to add any additional server information when connecting to the VPN.

To follow along with this guide you will need the following:

- Cisco AnyConnect installer. This guide will use version 4.10
- Jamf Composer for creating packages.
- A Mac computer running macOS Monterey enrolled in Jamf Pro. This guide will use version macOS Monterey 12.3.1 and Jamf Pro 10.37.2
- Administrative access to a Jamf Pro server.
- Sample files for this guide can be downloaded here:  
[https://hconline.com/HCSfiles/AnyConnect\\_Sample\\_Files.zip](https://hconline.com/HCSfiles/AnyConnect_Sample_Files.zip)
- Once downloaded, unzip the file and place the contents on your Desktop.



## Section 1: Creating an XML Choice Installation File

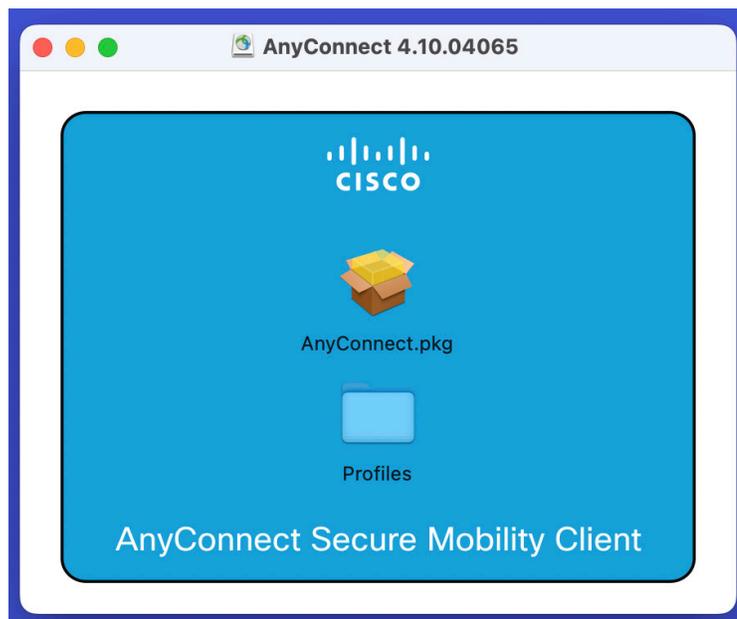
This section is optional and is meant to explain how XML choice files work. If you are already familiar with creating and working with XML choice installation files you can move on to the next section. If you downloaded the sample files for this guide, there is a pre formatted XML file named `anyconnect_choices.xml` ready for use with this guide. We recommend using the sample file and editing it to your needs.

To follow along with this section, you need a copy of your Cisco AnyConnect installation file. This guide will use version 4.10 which downloads as a DMG file. Once downloaded, place the DMG on your Desktop as we will use the Desktop in some file paths throughout this section.

1. Double click the `anyconnect-macos.dmg` file to mount it.

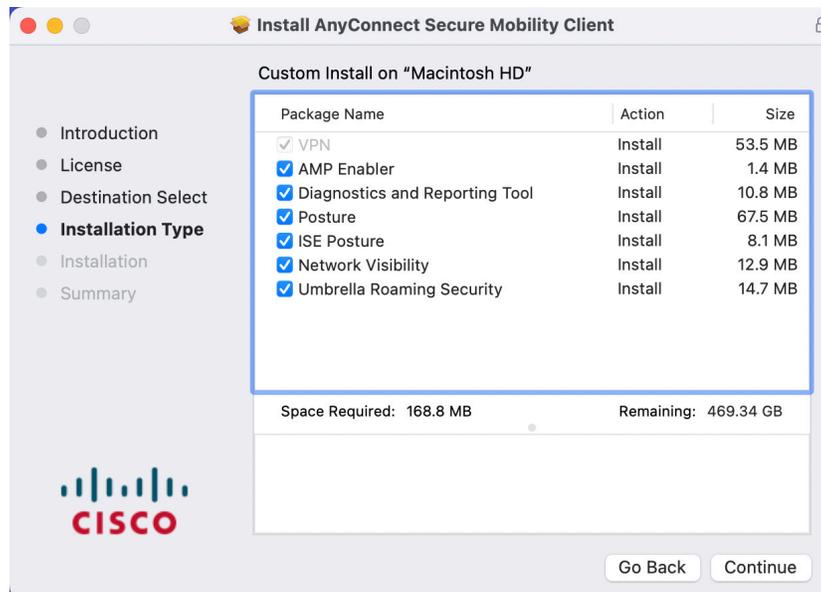


2. You are presented with the window below. Do NOT install AnyConnect. Leave this window open as we will need it in a later step.





3. This purpose of this step is to show you what choices are available when installing Cisco AnyConnect from the GUI. This is an informational step and nothing needs to be done for this step when following this guide. The Cisco AnyConnect installer package contains a myriad of applications that can either be installed or excluded from the install based on your needs. When installing via the GUI, you're presented with a window where you can select and deselect the apps that you want to install shown below.



What if you wanted to automate the installation of Cisco AnyConnect and exclude some apps using the command line? How can that be achieved?

macOS includes a binary located in `/usr/sbin` called `installer`. The `installer` command supports a flag called `-applyChoiceChangesXML`. This will allow you to create an XML file with the items that you want to include when installing Cisco AnyConnect from the command line. For example, if you only wanted to install the VPN app, you could configure your XML file to only include the VPN app. In order to find out what choices are supported by Cisco AnyConnect, the `installer` command has another flag called `-showChoicesXML`.

4. Open Terminal located in `/Applications/Utilities`.



Terminal



5. If you run the command below, it will output all the XML key value pairs that are supported by Cisco AnyConnect to your Desktop.

NOTE: The section of the command below that is in red is a drag and drop of the AnyConnect.pkg file from the AnyConnect dmg that we mounted on the Desktop in step 2 of this guide. Your version number may vary.

```
/usr/sbin/installer -showChoicesXML -pkg /Volumes/AnyConnect\ 4.10.04065/  
AnyConnect.pkg -target / > ~/Desktop/anyconnect_choices.xml
```

6. Open the anyconnect\_choices.xml file to examine the key value pairs.



7. As we examine the file, you will notice keys named childitems that contain an additional key named choiceDescription. Each app is identified by its choiceIdentifier key and its installation status is identified by the choiceSelected key. If you look at the choiceIdentifier key, which is in blue text, you will see the choice is for the VPN app, which is in red text. If you look at the choiceSelected key, which is in blue, you will see an integer of 0 which means the VPN app will NOT be installed. If the integer was set to 1, then the VPN app would be installed. The integer is what decides if an app will be installed. 0 means don't install and 1 means install.

Close this file when you're done examining it.

```
<?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">  
<array>  
<dict>  
<key>childItems</key>  
<array>  
<dict>  
<key>childItems</key>  
<array/>  
<key>choiceDescription</key>  
<string>Installs the module that enables VPN capabilities.</string>  
<key>choiceIdentifier</key>  
<string>choice_vpn</string>  
<key>choiceSelected</key>  
<integer>0</integer>  
<key>choiceVisible</key>  
<true/>  
<key>choiceSizeInKilobytes</key>  
<integer>52274</integer>  
<key>choiceTitle</key>  
<string>VPN</string>  
<key>pathsOfActivePackagesInChoice</key>  
<array>  
<string>file://localhost/Volumes/AnyConnect%204.10.04065/AnyConnect.pkg/vpn_module.pkg</string>  
</array>  
</dict>  
</dict>  
<dict>  
<key>childItems</key>  
<array/>  
<key>choiceDescription</key>  
<string>Installs the AMP Enabler module that downloads and deploys AMP for Endpoints, as configured by the administrator.</string>  
<key>choiceIdentifier</key>  
<string>choice_fireamp</string>  
<key>choiceSelected</key>  
<integer>1</integer>  
<key>choiceVisible</key>  
<true/>  
<key>choiceSizeInKilobytes</key>  
<integer>1332</integer>  
<key>choiceTitle</key>  
<string>AMP Enabler</string>  
<key>pathsOfActivePackagesInChoice</key>  
<array>  
<string>file://localhost/Volumes/AnyConnect%204.10.04065/AnyConnect.pkg/fireamp_module.pkg</string>  
</array>  
</dict>
```

In the next section, we will go over creating a custom Cisco AnyConnect installer package that will apply the anyconnect\_choices.xml file and a anyconnect\_profile.xml settings file that will include the VPN server information.



## Section 2: Creating a custom Cisco AnyConnect Installer Package

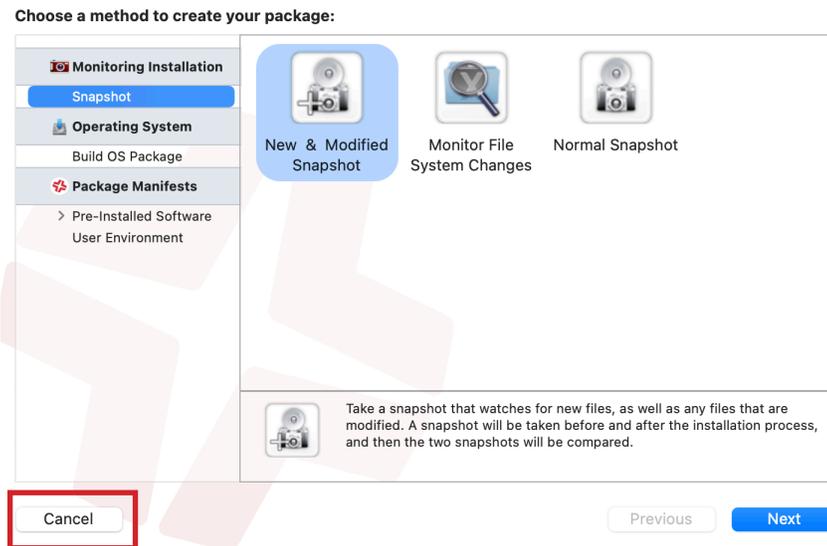
To follow along with this section, you will need download the sample files using the link in the beginning of this guide, Jamf Composer, and your Cisco AnyConnect installation file.

1. Open Composer located in the /Applications/Jamf Pro folder.



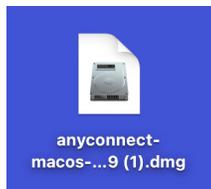
Composer

2. Click Cancel at the screen below.



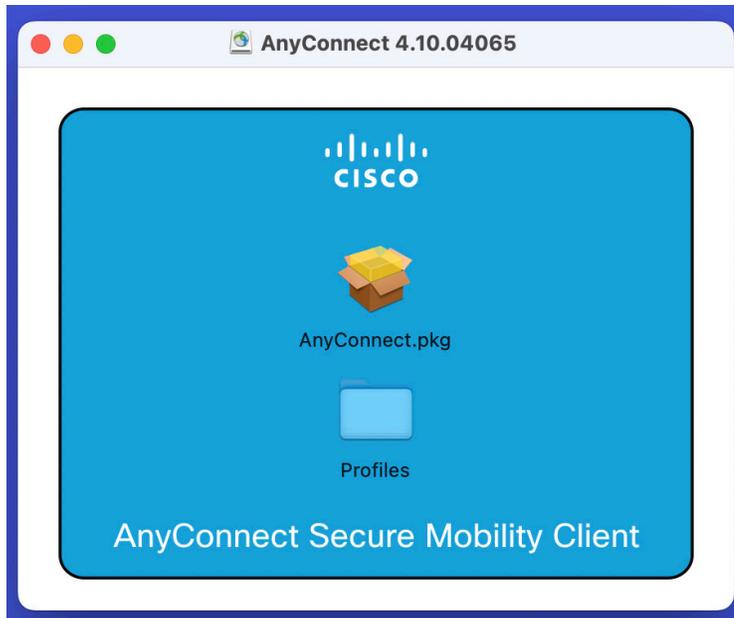
3. Double click the anyconnect DMG file.

NOTE: If you did not skip the first section of this guide, this dmg may already be mounted on your Desktop.

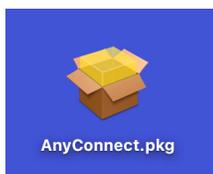




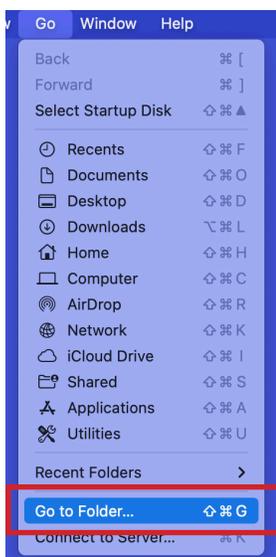
4. Drag the AnyConnect.pkg file to your Desktop.



5. Confirm the file is on the Desktop. We will use it later in the guide.

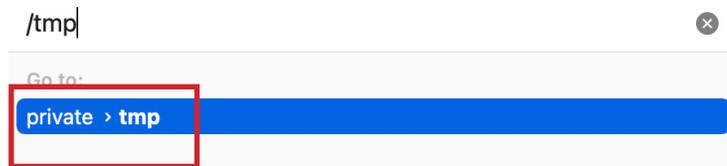


6. Navigate back to the Finder, click the Go menu and select Go to Folder.

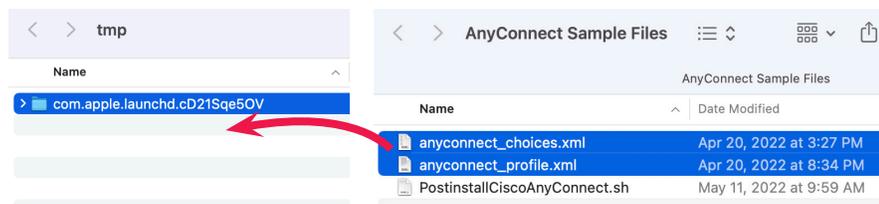




7. Enter /tmp in the field, then double-click the private > tmp link.



8. Move the tmp folder to the left side of your desktop. Open the AnyConnect Sample Files folder on your Desktop and move it to the right of the tmp folder so they are side by side. Drag the anyconnect\_choices.xml and anyconnect\_profile.xml files from the AnyConnect Sample Files folder into the tmp folder.



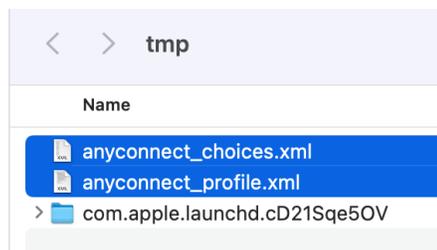
NOTE: The sample anyconnect\_profile.xml file should be edited to your needs before creating the package. This file contains information related to your organization. For example, you can include the hostname of the VPN server for your organization so it pre populates when the AnyConnect VPN software is open. There are a few ways to create this file:

- A. If you're comfortable with xml, you can edit the sample file to your needs.
- B. If you already have a Mac computer that is configured with all the required AnyConnect settings, you can copy the xml settings file located in /opt/cisco/anyconnect/profile/
- C. If you have a Windows PC, Cisco has an AnyConnect Profile Editor Application that you can use to create a profile. More on that here:

[https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/td/docs/security/vpn\\_client/anyconnect/anyconnect40/administration/guide/b\\_AnyConnect\\_Administrator\\_Guide\\_4-0/anyconnect-profile-editor.html](https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/td/docs/security/vpn_client/anyconnect/anyconnect40/administration/guide/b_AnyConnect_Administrator_Guide_4-0/anyconnect-profile-editor.html)

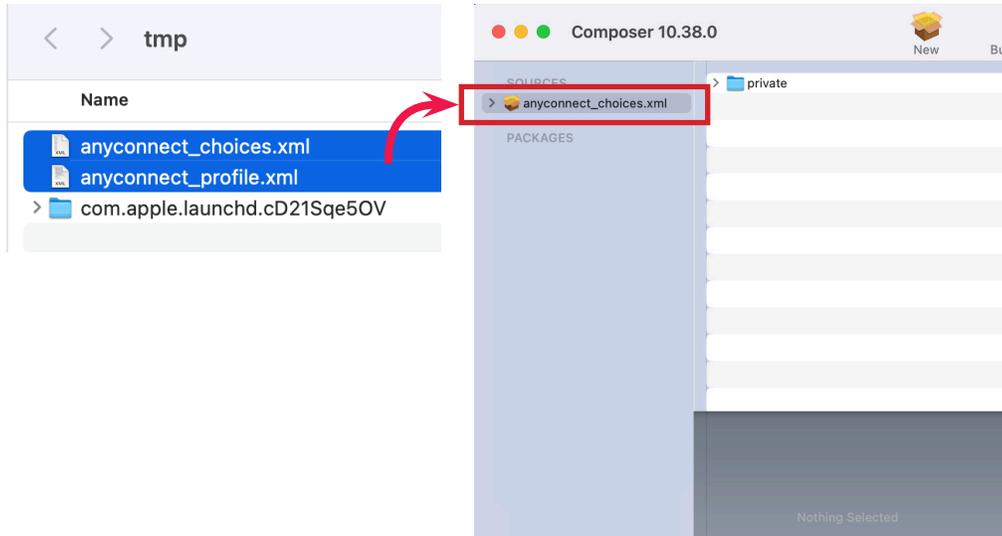
Make sure you have your settings files configured to your needs before continuing to step 9.

9. Confirm the anyconnect\_choices.xml and anyconnect\_profile.xml files are in the tmp folder.

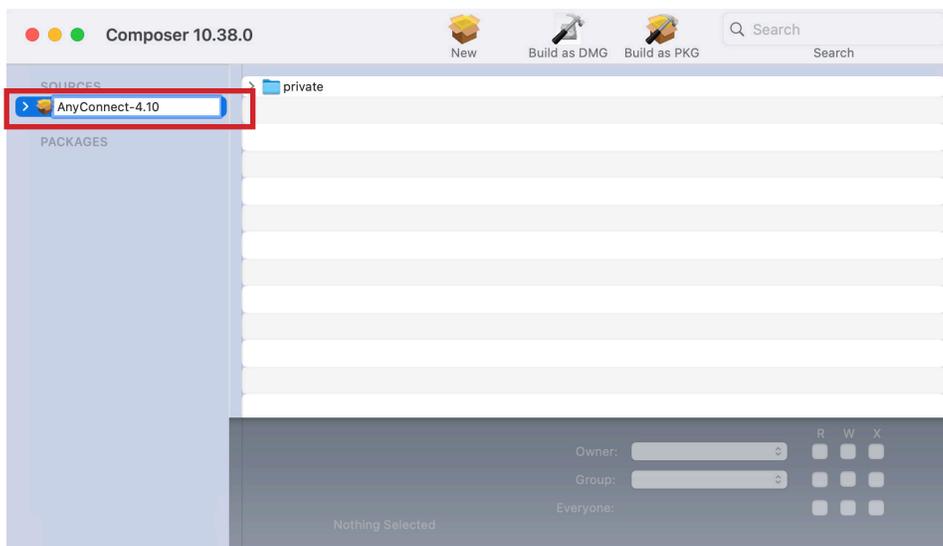




10. Drag the anyconnect\_choices.xml and anyconnect\_profile.xml files from the tmp folder to the SOURCES section of Composer.

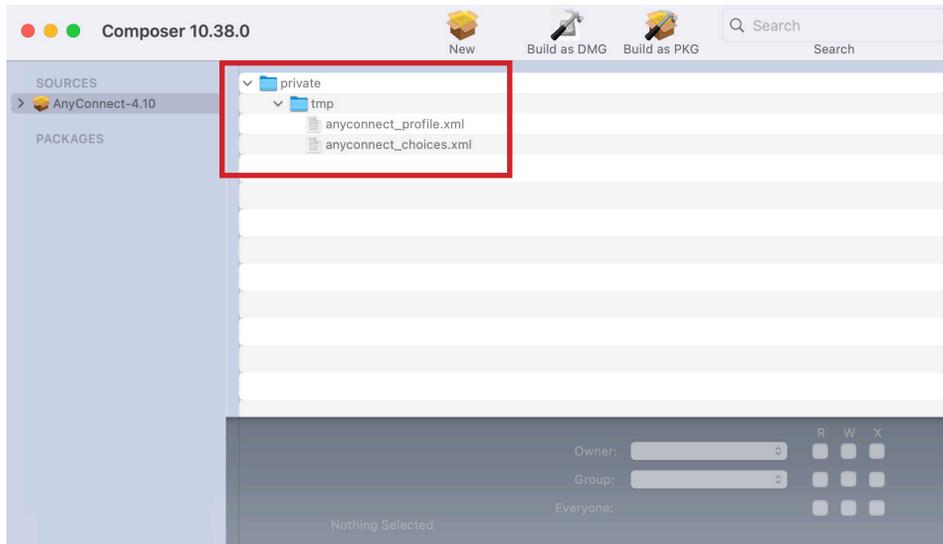


11. In the SOURCES section of Composer select the anyconnect\_choices.xml file and rename it to AnyConnect-4.10 or whatever version you are using.

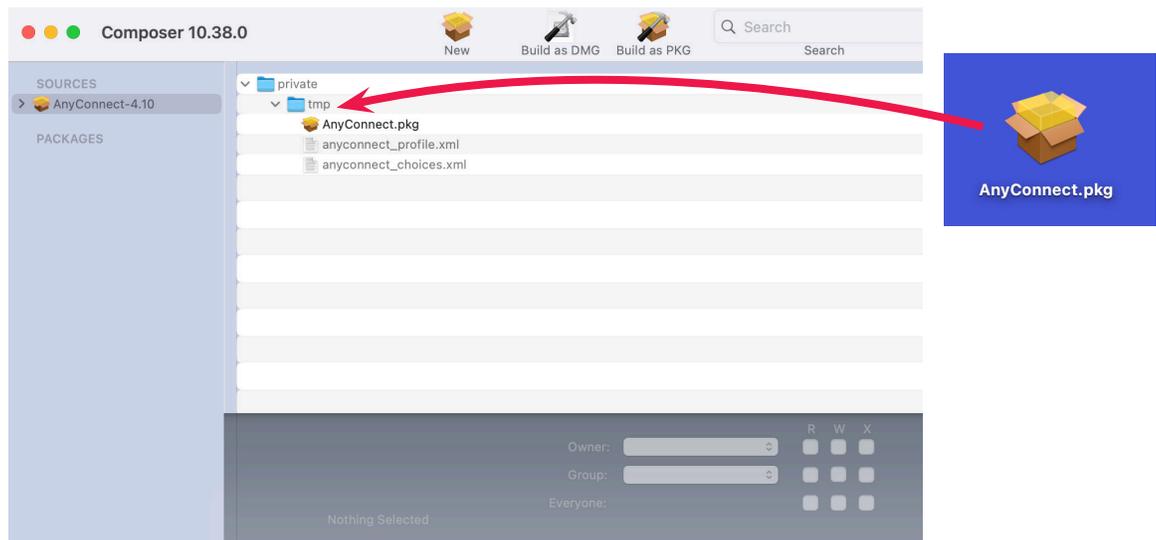




- Expand the private folder then expand the tmp folder. You will see the the two xml files named anyconnect\_choices.xml and anyconnect\_profile.xml.

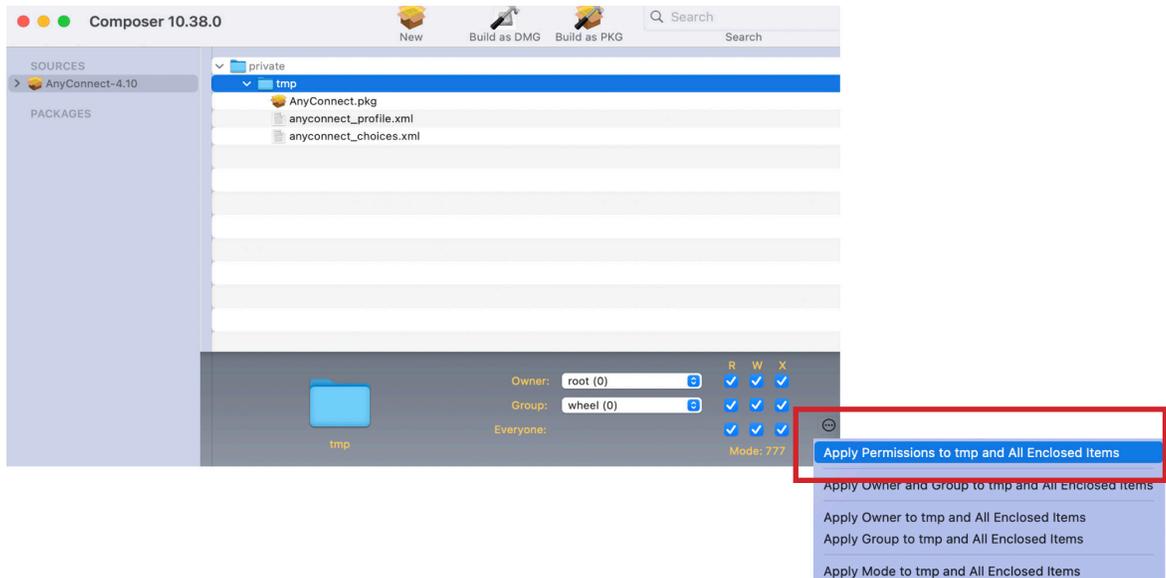


- Drag the AnyConnect.pkg file from your Desktop to the tmp folder in Composer. Confirm you have three files in the tmp folder in Composer as shown below.

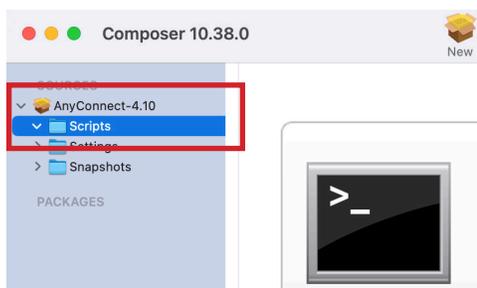




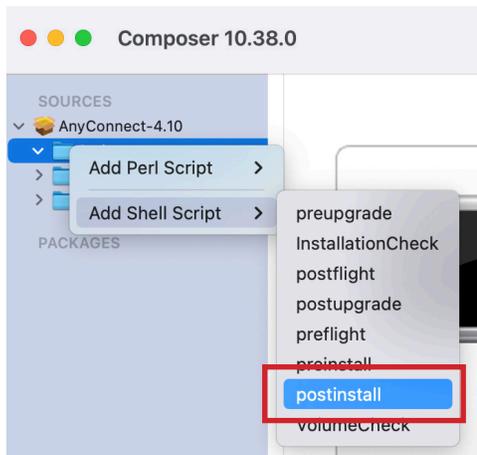
14. Select the tmp folder, then select the permissions icon on the bottom right corner (circle with 3 dots). Select Apply Permissions to tmp and All Enclosed Items.



15. In the left-hand column, expand AnyConnect-4.10 then select the Scripts folder.

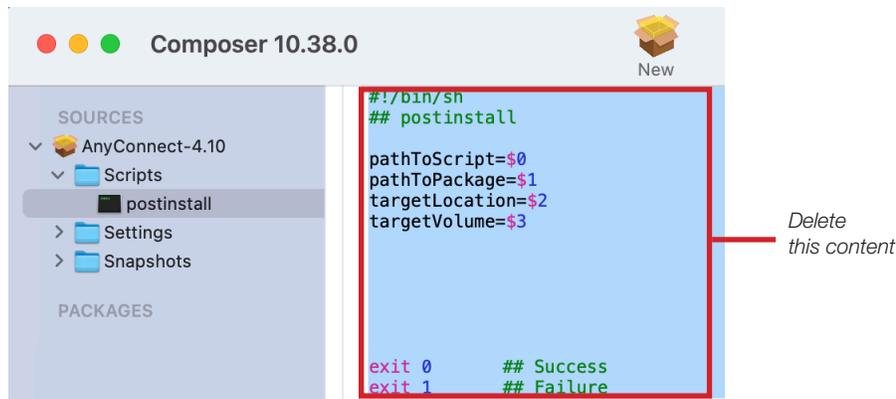


16. Right-click the scripts folder and select Add Shell Script. Select postinstall.

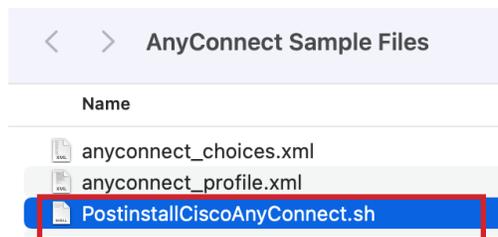




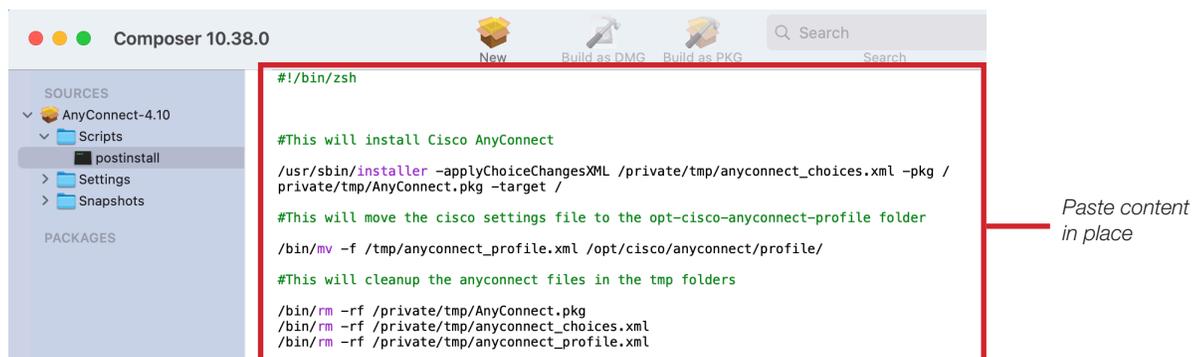
17. Delete the sample postinstall script. We will replace this in the next step.



18. Open the AnyConnect Sample Files folder on the Desktop. Open the PostinstallCiscoAnyConnect.sh script. Copy the contents of the script.



19. Paste in the script you copied in the previous step. Press the Command and S key on your keyboard to save the script. This is required by Composer.

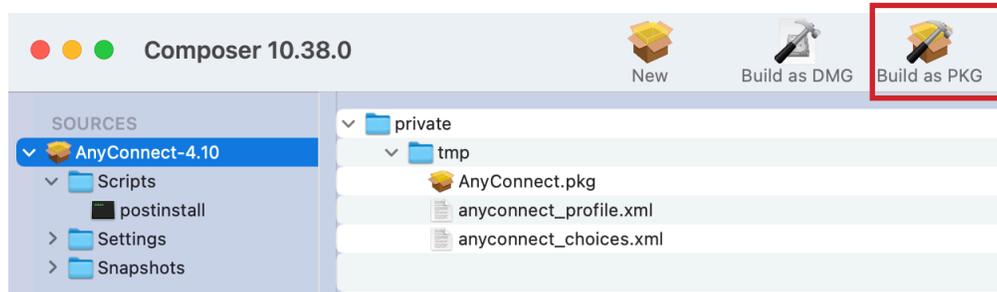


Let's break down the postinstall script:

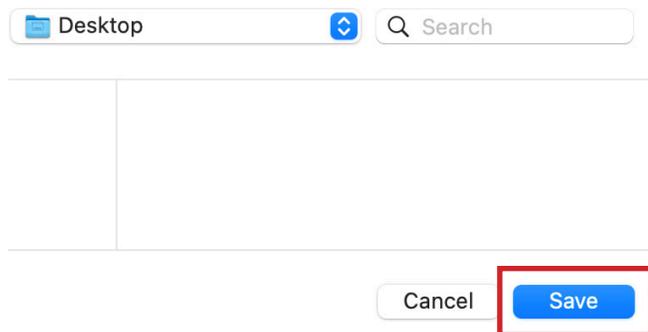
- The first item in the script will run the installer command and apply the XML choice installation file with the apps that we want to be installed. We covered the XML choice installation file in section 1 of this guide.
- The next item in the script will move a pre configured anyconnect settings file to the required location which is /opt/cisco/anyconnect/profile/. This file should be edited to include your required information as discussed in the note before step 9 of this section.
- The last few lines are doing some cleanup after the install. It will remove all the files that were placed in the /tmp folder.



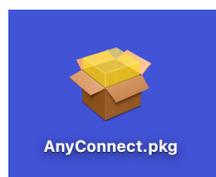
20. Select AnyConnect-4.10 then select Build as PKG.



21. Save the package to your Desktop. Click Save.



22. The new package is now on your Desktop.



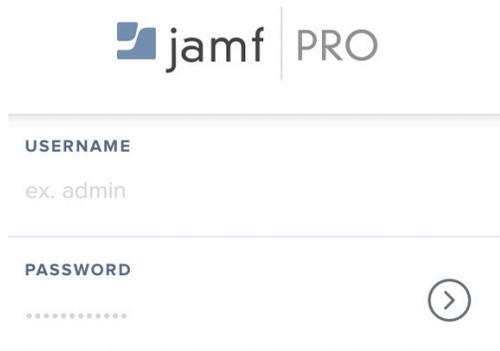
In the next section, we will go over configuring Jamf Pro with a policy and configuration profiles to stop all the messages that a user is prompted with when installing Cisco AnyConnect.



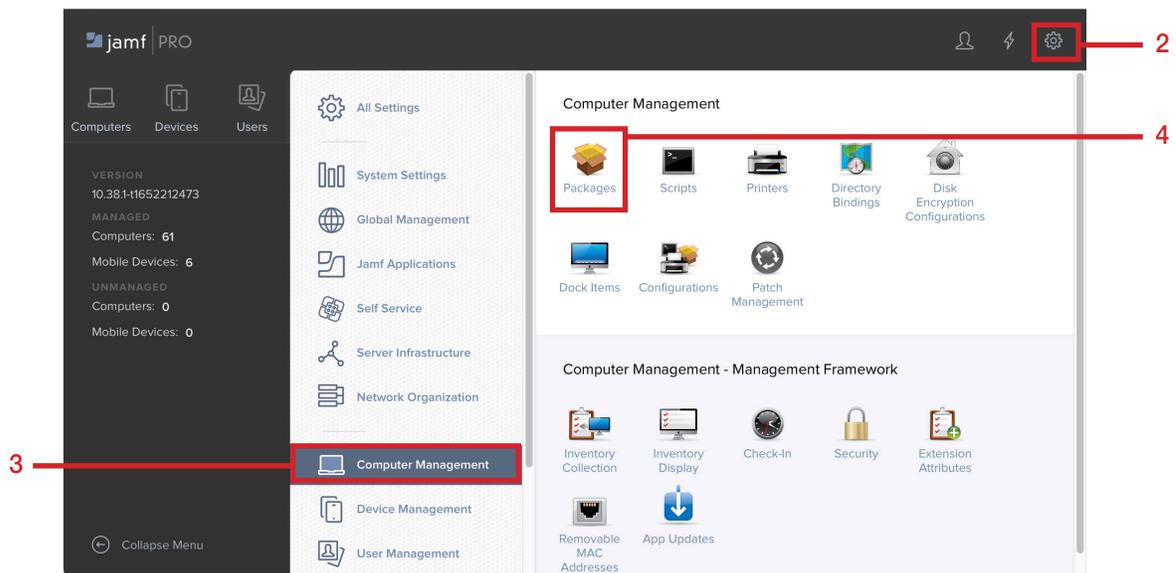
### Section 3: Deploying Cisco AnyConnect with Jamf Pro

To follow along with this section, you will need the custom package that was created in section 2 of this guide, administrative access to your Jamf Pro server, and a Mac computer enrolled in your Jamf Pro server.

1. Log into your Jamf Pro server

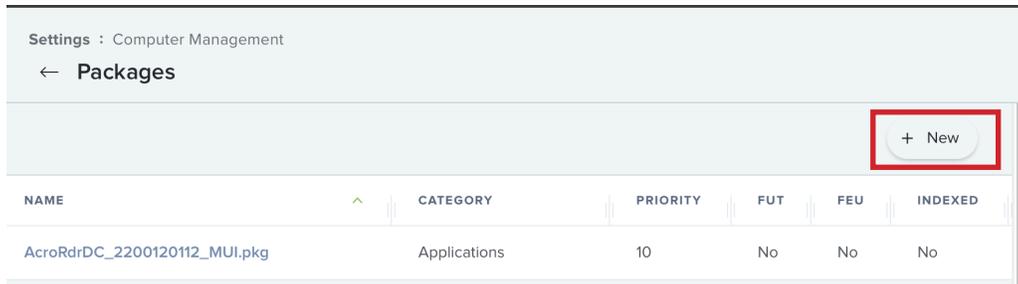


2. On the top right-hand, click Settings (looks like a gear.)
3. Click Computer Management
4. Click Packages.



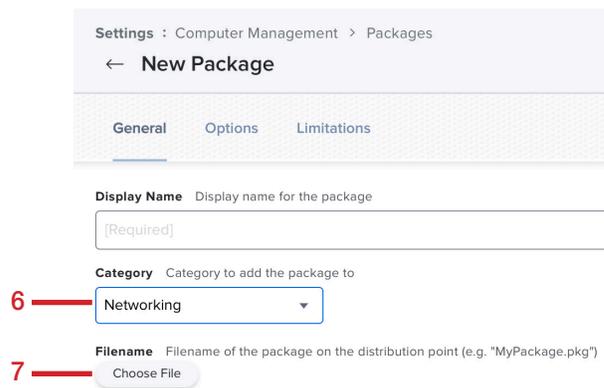


5. Click New.

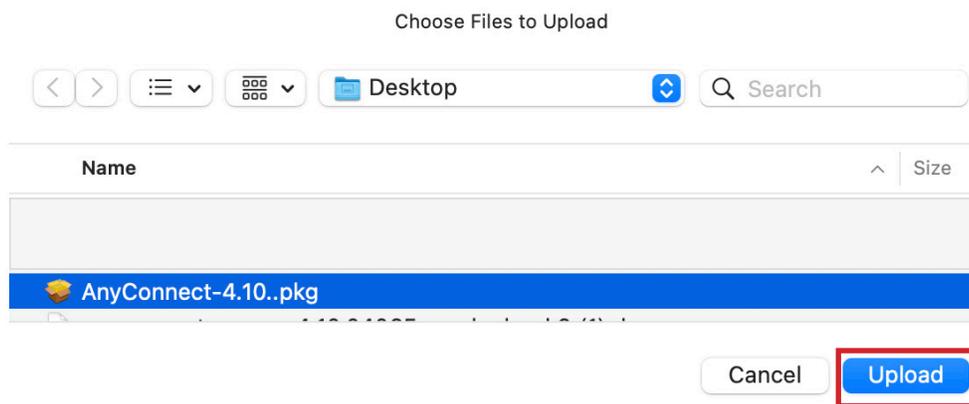


6. Select a Category.

7. Click Choose File.



8. Navigate to the AnyConnect-4.10.pkg then click Upload.





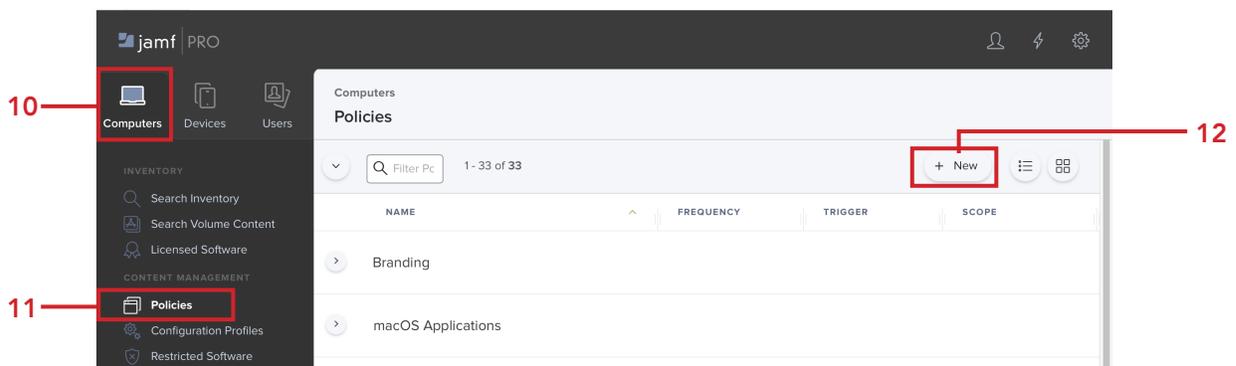
9. Click Save.



10. Click Computers.

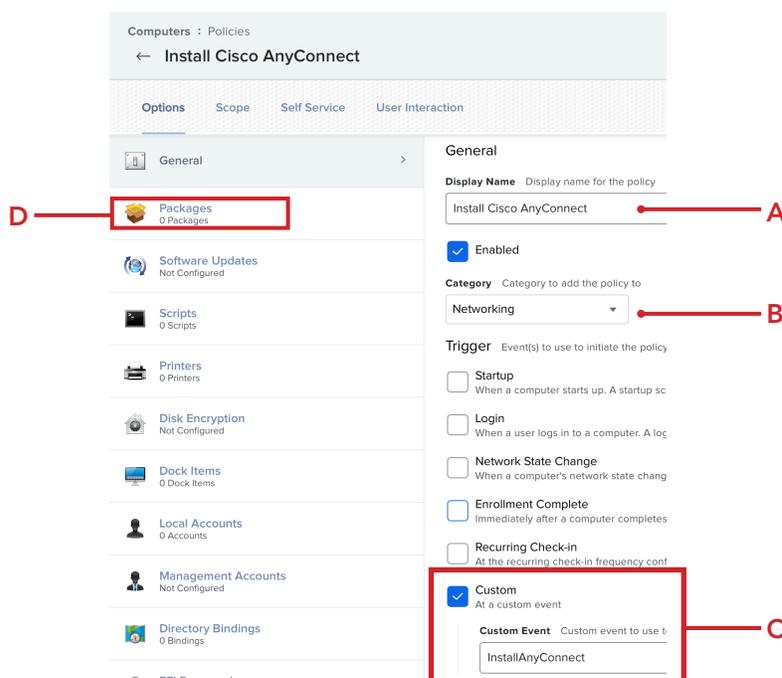
11. Click Policies.

12. Click New



13. Enter the following:

- A. Display Name: **Install Cisco AnyConnect**
- B. Category: Set the category to your needs
- C. Trigger: Set the trigger to your needs
- D. Click Packages





14. Click Configure.

### Configure Packages

Use this section to install, cache, and uninstall packages. Also use this section to install a single cached package.

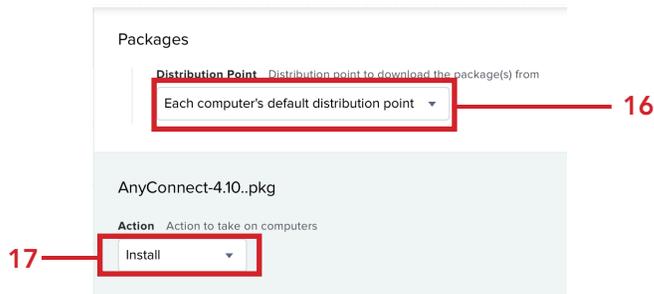
Configure

15. Find the AnyConnect-4.10.pkg and click Add.

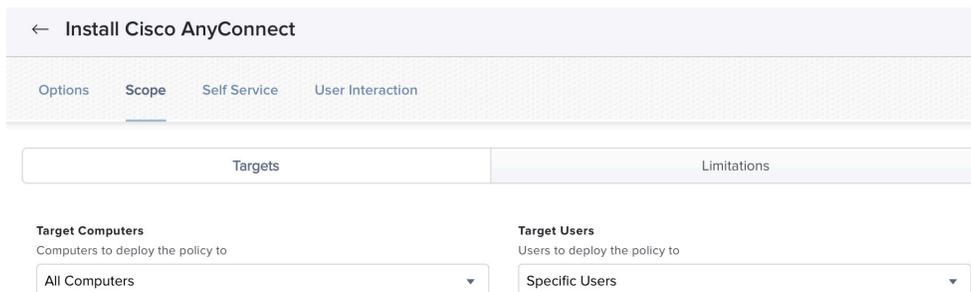


16. Set the Distribution Point your needs.

17. Set the Action to Install.



18. Click Scope and scope to your needs.





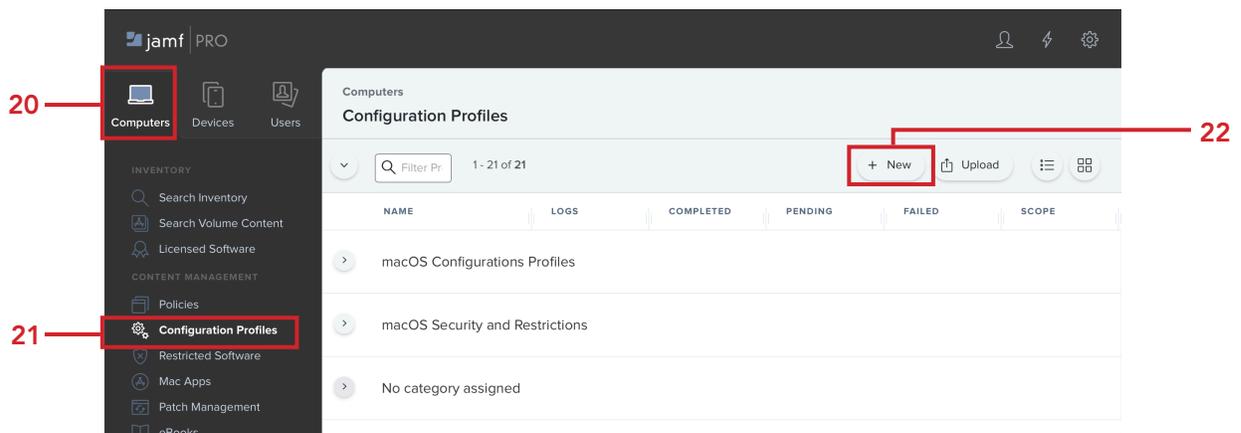
19. Click Save.



20. Click Computers.

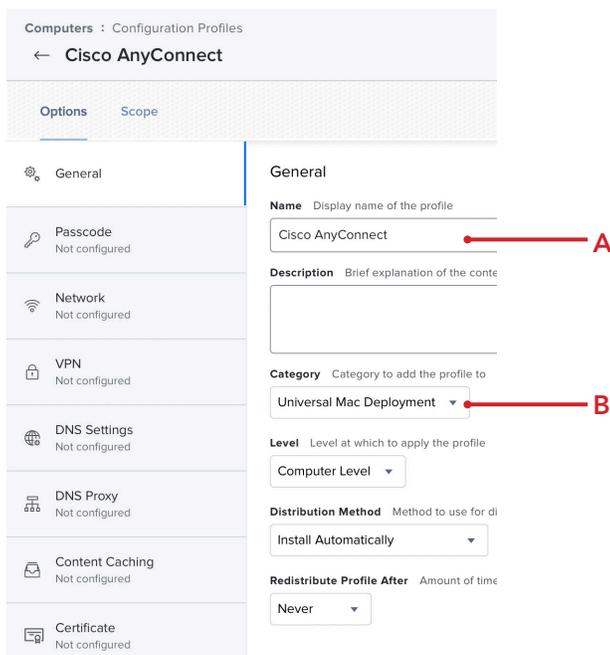
21. Click Configuration Profiles.

22. Click New



23. Select General, then enter the following:

- A. Name: **Cisco AnyConnect**
- B. Category: Set the category to your needs
- C. Leave other items at the default settings.



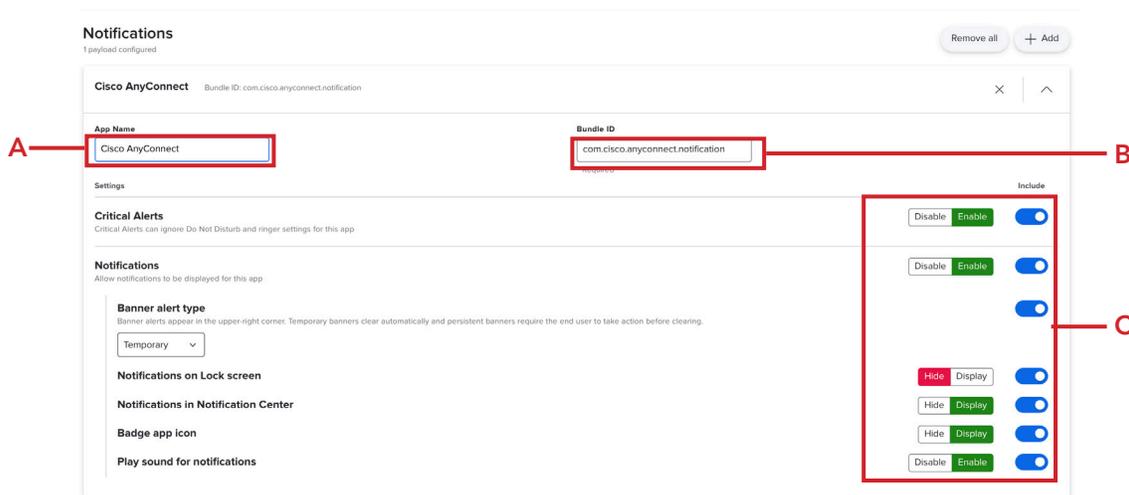


24. Select the Notifications Payload, then click Add.

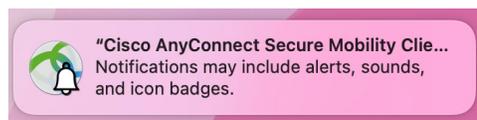


25. Enter the following:

- A. App Name: **Cisco AnyConnect**
- B. Bundle ID: **com.cisco.anyconnect.notification**
- C. Configure the Critical Alerts and Notifications to your needs.



26. The Notifications payload will prevent the user from having to allow or deny the message below.



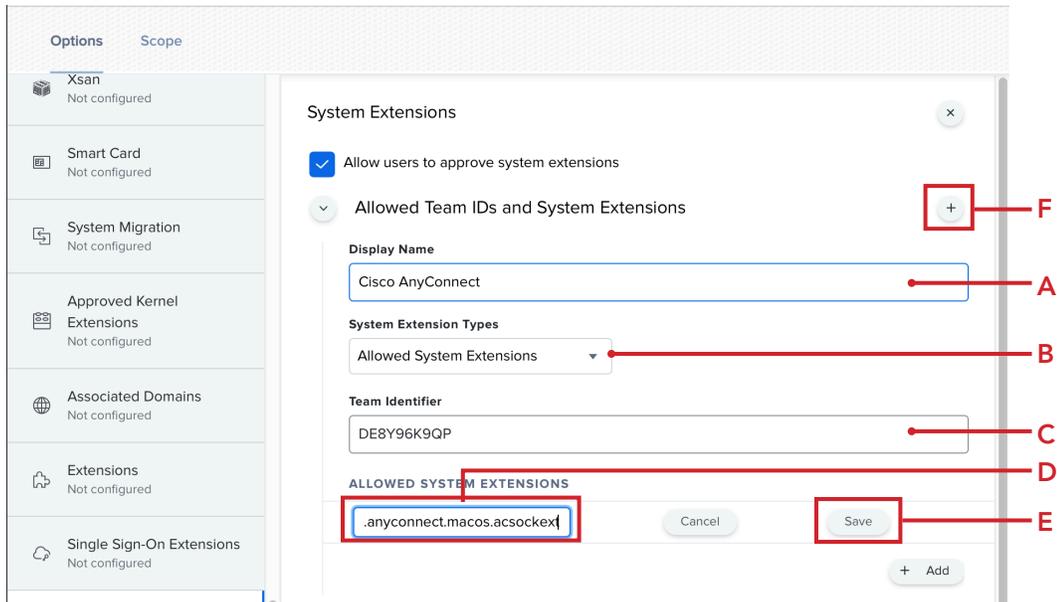
27. Select the System Extensions Payload, then click Configure.





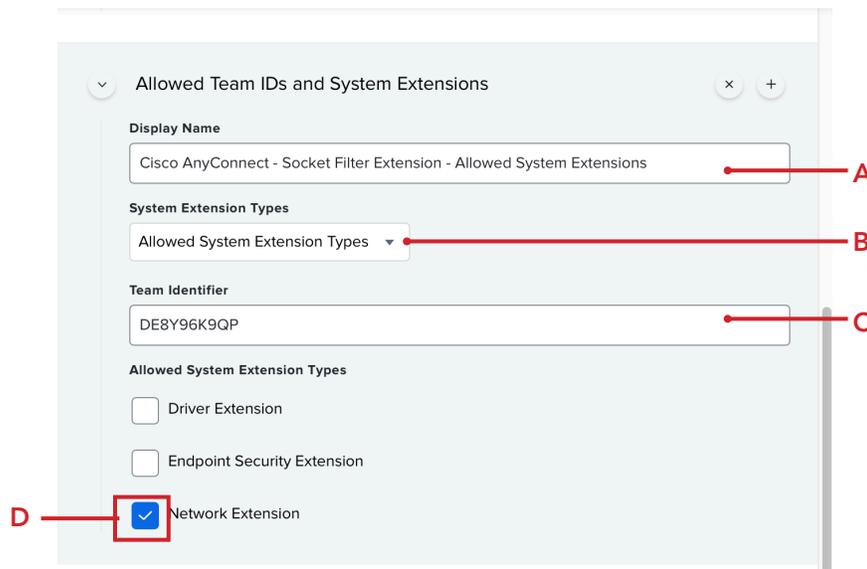
28. Enter the following:

- A. Display Name - Cisco AnyConnect - Socket Filter Extension - Removable System Extensions
- B. System Extension Types: Allowed System Extensions
- C. Team Identifier: DE8Y96K9QP
- D. Allowed System Extensions - Click Add (+) then enter this:  
com.cisco.anyconnect.macos.acsockext
- E. Click Save.
- F. Click Add (+) in the upper-right corner to add another System Extension.



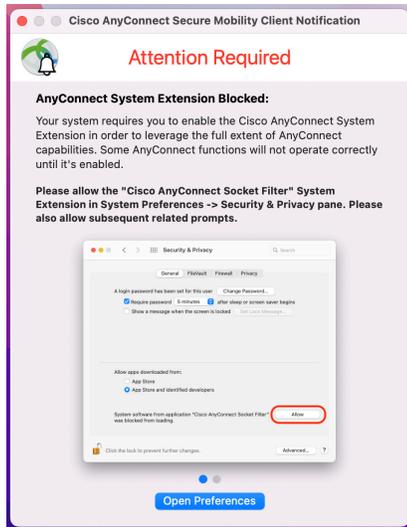
29. Enter the following:

- A. Display Name - Cisco AnyConnect - Socket Filter Extension - Allowed System Extensions
- B. System Extension Types: Allowed System Extension Types
- C. Team Identifier: DE8Y96K9QP
- D. Allowed System Extension Types - select the checkbox next to Network





30. The System Extensions payload will prevent the user from seeing the message below.



31. Select the Content Filter Payload. NOTE: This is a very long payload. Only the sections shown below should be configured. Leave all other items at their defaults.

Enter the following:

- A. Filter Name: **Cisco AnyConnect Content Filter**
- B. Identifier: **com.cisco.anyconnect.macos.acsock**
- C. Scroll down to the Socket Filter section.



32. In the Socket Filter section, enter the following:

- A. Socket Filter Bundle Identifier: **com.cisco.anyconnect.macos.acsockext**
- B. Socket Filter Designated Requirement (Copy and paste the info below):  
 anchor apple generic and identifier "com.cisco.anyconnect.macos.acsockext" and (certificate leaf[field.1.2.840.113635.100.6.1.9] /\* exists \*/ or certificate 1[field.1.2.840.113635.100.6.2.6] /\* exists \*/ and certificate leaf[field.1.2.840.113635.100.6.1.13] /\* exists \*/ and certificate leaf[subject.OU] = DE8Y96K9QP)
- C. Scroll down to the Custom Data section.





33. Click the Add (+) five times to add five Key/Value fields:

34. Enter the information shown in the picture below in the five fields. Enter exactly as shown. This is case sensitive.

Key	Value
FilterGrade	firewall
FilterPackets	false
FilterSockets	true
FilterBrowsers	false
AutoFilterEnabled	false

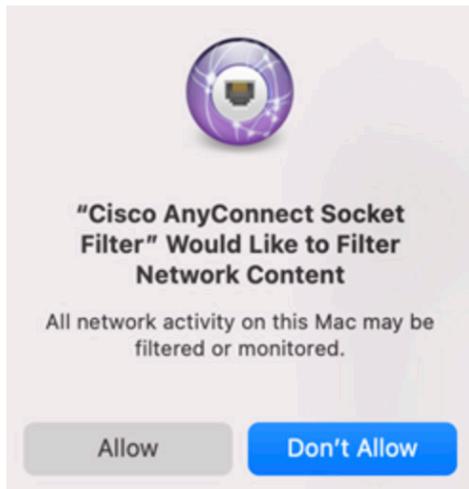
35. Click Scope and scope to your needs.



36. Click Save.



37. The Content Filter payload will prevent the user from having to choose Allow or Don't Allow at the message below.





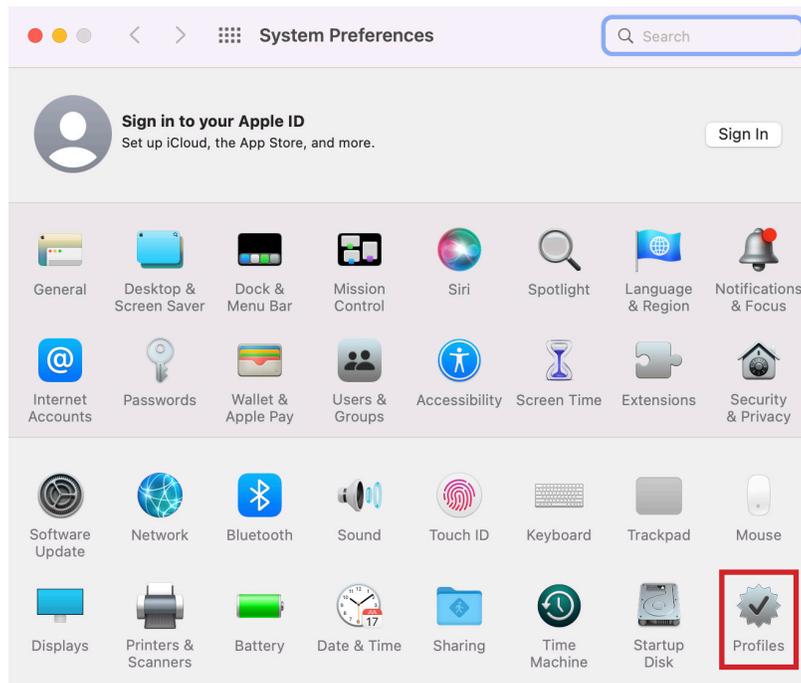
## Section 4: Deploying Cisco AnyConnect to a Mac Computer

To follow along with this section, you will need a Mac computer enrolled in your Jamf Pro server and scoped to the policy and configuration profile we created in section 3 of this guide.

1. Login to the Mac Computer, then open System Preferences

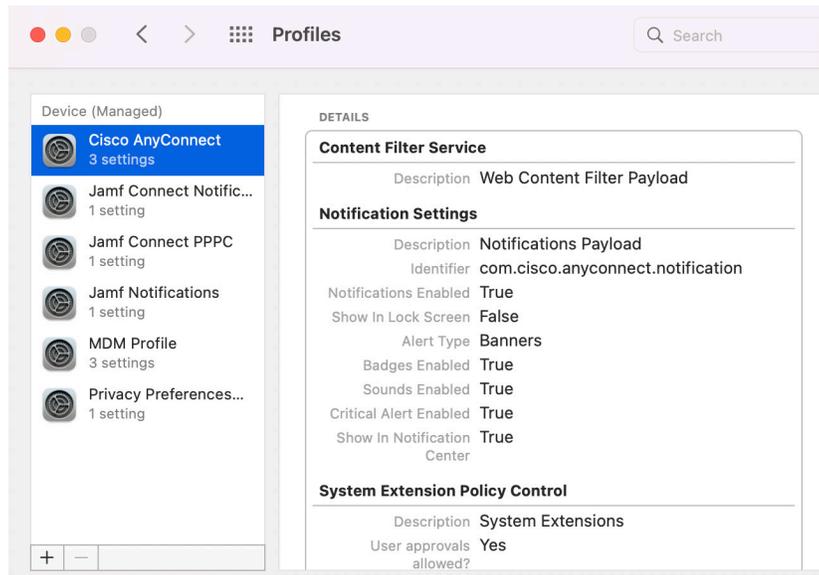


2. Click Profiles.





3. Confirm the Cisco AnyConnect profile is installed then quit System Preferences. It's very important that the profile is installed before Cisco AnyConnect gets installed on the Mac computer. If not, the user will get all the messages and prompts that we are trying to silence.



This guide used a custom trigger to call the Install Cisco AnyConnect policy. If you used a different installation trigger when setting up your policy to install Cisco AnyConnect, you can skip step 4.

4. Open Terminal located in /Applications/Utilities.



Terminal

5. Enter this command to run the Install Cisco AnyConnect policy:

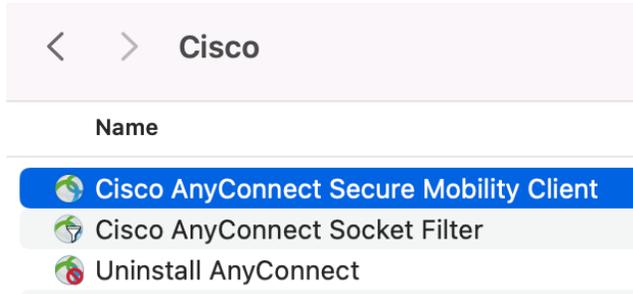
```
sudo jamf policy -event InstallAnyConnect
```

If all goes well, you should NOT get any prompts to approve System Extensions, Proxy, or Notification messages. Cisco AnyConnect should install silently.

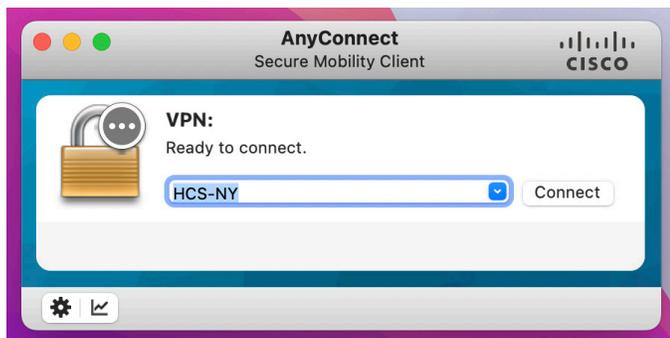




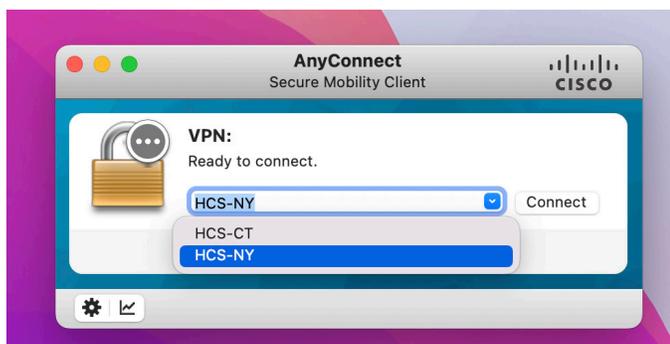
6. Confirm the installation of Cisco AnyConnect. Go to /Applications/Cisco. Open the Cisco AnyConnect Secure Mobility Client.



7. You will be presented with ONLY the AnyConnect VPN client. No other Cisco applications should be installed. The anyconnect\_choices.xml file that we added to the custom package we created in section 2 of this guide instructed the installer to only install the VPN app.



8. Confirm the pre configured server settings show up in the dropdown menu. These settings were populated from the anyconnect\_profile.xml that we added to the custom package created in section 2 of this guide.



This completes the guide.