

JANET Roaming – SU1X and Mac OS X Lion News Announcement

August 2011

Updated version of the Windows SU1X tool released

Gareth Ayres has introduced a number of improvements to the SU1X 802.1X Windows client configuration tool. Contributions from Alexander Clouter (SOAS) and others from outside the UK have been incorporated.

Homepage: <http://su1x.swan.ac.uk>

Download: <https://sourceforge.net/projects/su1x/>

Latest code: <https://github.com/GarethAyres/SU1X>

The major improvements are:

1. Capturing reference profiles is easier and any number of profiles including 'setup network' profiles can be captured and then added by the tool.
2. Should connection to the primary Wi-Fi network (e.g. eduroam) fail, the tool now has the capability to detect such authentication failure and has the facility to automatically connect the device to a fallback network for registration testing. The tool can be configured to send information such as user name and MAC address to a web server on the fallback network which could then perform some checks, and the user could be advised if there is an obvious problem. This would be useful for users on their Home networks by allowing problem reporting and checks to be performed.
3. The tool can now intercept auth failures if the connection fails after successfully connecting for the first time. The tool is run following an auth failure and then checks/resets the profile and EAP credentials and tries to help the user fix a failed connection. This replaces the standard Windows popup bubble users get if they change their password etc.
4. Introduction of a built in problem notification system that can be used to allow users to report a problem via a fallback network to a help desk (via a php script).
5. There is now an NSIS installer bundled with the tool. So a full install is performed with desktop link and uninstall option in Add/Remove and Start Menu etc.

Apple Mac OS X Lion 802.1X config File Generator Online

Although not directly related to the SU1X windows tool, a neat feature has been added to SU1X web site enabling administrators to build a custom plist XML file, mobileconfig, for deployment to users as part of a registration process or via an instructions page. This file allows the Mac OS X Lion user's 802.1X settings to be configured. If the Mac has Safari it will just automatically pop up as a profile install (the OS recognises the file type and runs it outside the browser window). If using Firefox, the user will need to save the file then click on it to get the profile install screen.

Also documented is a description of an issue relating to OS X Lion when connecting to an open captive portal network, as might be used for a 'setup network'. In this scenario, the OS checks for Internet connectivity to the Apple website and if not available launches a 'special browser', which unfortunately does not support mobileconfig. A workaround solution is described for this, which allows effective use to be made of mobileconfig to facilitate easy deployment Wi-Fi configs to Mac OS X Lion clients.

https://su1x.swan.ac.uk/osx_mobileconfig.php