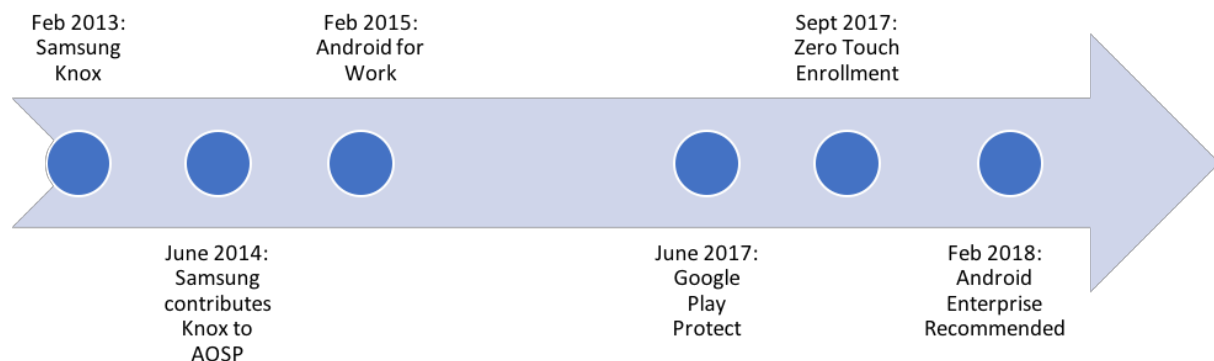




## Android in the Enterprise

At the end of 2017 Google made an announcement regarding the future of EMM and Android devices. Except for some technical forums this went largely unnoticed. The question for any organisation that have android devices deployed within their business, is what does this mean for my Android devices?

What Google announced is that with effect from Android Q, due for release sometime this year 2019, the traditional Device Administrator management method will no longer be available, and devices will need to enrol using the management method known as Android Enterprise Work Profile method. Further to this which we will discuss later in this document what happens to my legacy android devices enrolled, will they continue to work, will I be able to manage them, do I need to get rid of them and refresh the whole estate.

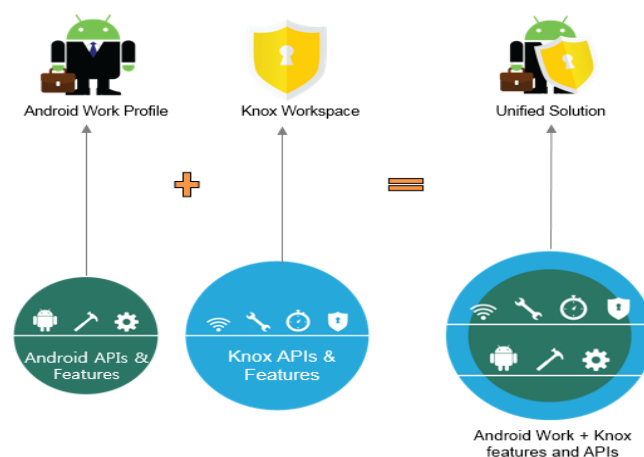


## That's the technical jargon but what are the benefits/pitfalls of the change?

First let's look at the existing situation. The Android Device Administrator method took complete control of the device, it made no difference if the device was Corporate Owned or BYOD. It also relied on the device manufacturer to enable the API sets for the EMM to manage the device fully and not all manufacturers did so. Some BYOD users had serious concerns over this level of control on a personal device.

The second major disadvantage is that in order to install applications from the Google Play Store a Google/Gmail account was required on the device. Many enterprises did not want to allow Google accounts on their devices so this led to the device not being fully utilised.

These limitations often led to enterprises opting not to use Android devices in their business



The new up and coming Android Enterprise method addresses these concerns.

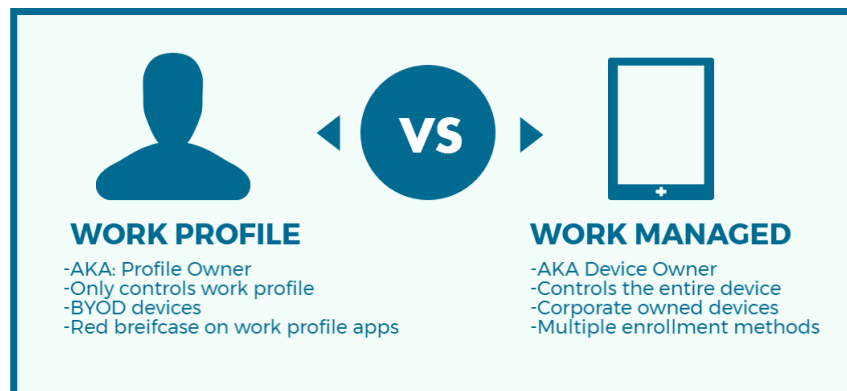
Firstly, the Android Enterprise management API's are included in the Android Operating System and so are no longer require the OEM to release the API's to the EMM providers. This will give a standard management experience across all Android devices no matter the manufacturer. Some manufacturers such as Samsung release additional API sets that enable extra management capabilities on their devices.

Secondly, for BYOD devices Android Enterprise only takes control of the corporate deployed resources not the whole device. This is a major plus for both the Enterprise who wants to allow BYOD but in a controlled manner and the BYOD user who is concerned that their employer may have access to their personal data.

Thirdly, Android Enterprise introduces the Managed Play Store, where approved applications can be deployed silently to devices without the need to have a Google account on the device.

For a Corporate Owned Business Only (COBO) device then this Managed Play Store can be the only Play Store access available on the device restricting the ability to install un-approved applications. For BYOD users the Managed Play Store will exist in a container with the managed applications easily identifiable by a small symbol at the bottom of their icon. Indeed, it will be possible to have two copies of the same application on the device, one

managed and the other in the personal space, so for example, a user's personal Twitter account will be kept separate from a corporate Twitter account.



### How to get started?

The good news is that the main EMM providers including VmWare Workspace One, Microsoft Intune and Blackberry UEM already support this method of enrolment.

You should begin the roll out of Android Enterprise for your new devices and device refresh as soon as possible.

Consider signing up for Google Zero Touch for enrolment, or, if you are using Samsung Android devices, Samsung Knox Mobile Enrolment (KME). Both offer the ability to activate and enrol your devices in your EMM without the need to have a Google account on the device at any stage.

With Android Pie some API sets are already being deprecated in advance of the release of Android Q (the release date of which has yet to be confirmed) as the device administrators position themselves for the changes required.

Keep in mind that older devices will generally not receive the upgrade to Android Q, and this may limit the management capabilities going forward. Although Android Enterprise, or Android for Work, as it was previously known has been supported on devices since Android 5.0, the newer management API sets are only being released with Android Q

For the moment the major EMM providers will continue to support the Device Administrator enrolment method and have yet to provide dates when this will cease. Currently managed devices will therefore continue to function as normal.

B-Connected are the recognised experts in EMM and we can assist you with getting started with Android Enterprise, Google Zero Touch and Samsung KME. Email [GetConnected@BConnected.ie](mailto:GetConnected@BConnected.ie) or Call +353-1-6854011

