Managing your Enterprise Android Devices without a Google account.

Imagine using a corporate Android device without the security risks of users having access to the Play Store. No more users downloading unapproved applications, that new game that everyone is playing, social media apps, or the potential Data Loss implications of an unmanaged Gmail account on the device!

Android Enterprise enrollment brings the capability of enrolling your Android device in your preferred EMM solution and your users having access to approved application in a Managed Play Store, without having the need to add a Google account on the device.

This is a big statement, but how do you go about enrolling devices in your preferred EMM solution without the Google account?

Let's look at the options:

AFW#

The simplest way is when activating the device on the Google Account Screen type "afw#" and the name of the application provided by your EMM provider. For the most common EMM providers the entries are:

- VMware Workspace One   afw#hub
- MobileIron -Core   afw#mobileiron.core
- MobileIron – Cloud   afw#mobileiron.cloud
- Microsoft Intune   afw#setup
- Blackberry UEM   afw#blackberry

A big drawback of using this method is that while this will enrol your device, system applications on the device will be disabled by default.

Devices enrolled using this method are enrolled as a Work Managed Corporate Owned Business Only devices, and so is only suitable for Corporate Dedicated devices.

For an explanation of the different Android Enterprise Enrollment types you can find more information here: https://www.bconnected.ie/blog/259-android-in-the-enterprise.html

A far better solution would be to use either Android Zero Touch or Samsung Knox Mobile Enrollment. Both solutions use essentially the same methodology to manage and enforce enrollment into your preferred EMM solution.

Devices are registered on either portal and enrollment into the EMM solution is enforced at activation or after a reset. The EMM controls if the device is enrolled using Work Managed Profile (COPE) or Work Managed (COBO).

Using either Zero Touch or Samsung Knox Mobile Enrollment devices can be delivered directly to end users without IT resources needing to handle the device.

In the next sections we will discuss Zero Touch and Samsung Knox Mobile Enrollment.

Zero Touch

Zero Touch is supported by many manufacturers including: Google, Sony, Blackberry and OnePlus.   Manufacturers and devices that work with Zero Touch carry the Android Enterprise Recommended logo.

To use Android Zero Touch, there are a small number of steps involved in getting started:

➢ You must purchase your devices from a registered reseller/carrier
➢ The supplier will then create a login for you and upload the IMEI or Serial Numbers of the devices you purchased to your Zero Touch Account.
➢ You create an EMM Configuration and assign it to your devices.
➢ The device is shipped to your end user who powers on the device and the enrollment is started automatically.

The good news is that almost all the most popular EMM solutions support Zero Touch. The current list of partner EMM solutions can be found here:
https://androidenterprisepartners.withgoogle.com/emm/#!?EMM_FEATURES=zero_touch_enrollment

For a list of device manufacturers that are Android Enterprise Recommended check this link:
https://androidenterprisepartners.withgoogle.com/devices/#!?DEVICE_FEATURES=zero_touch


What about Samsung you may ask. If you are considering Android devices for your enterprise, you will notice that Samsung devices are not listed under the Android Enterprise Recommended banner. This does not mean that you should avoid Samsung in your enterprise.

Samsung do not show on the Android Enterprise Recommended list because they have their own platform for device enrollment and were one of the first manufacturers to offer the capability.   In fact, Samsung have traditionally offered more management API's than most Android device manufacturers.

Samsung Knox Mobile Enrollment

The Samsung Knox brand includes Knox Mobile Enrollment which operates in the same manner as Zero Touch for Samsung devices.
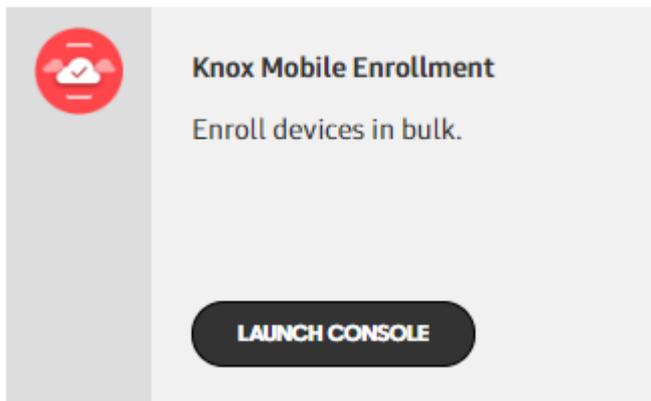
This is part of a wider range of value-added services that Samsung offer for their mobile devices including:

- Knox Configure
- Knox E-Fota
- Knox Manage
- Knox Platform for Enterprise

The steps involved in setting up Samsung Knox Mobile Enrollment are quite similar to Zero Touch

1. Register a Samsung Account using a corporate email address and verify
2. Apply for Knox Mobile Enrollment (KME) account.
3. Create an MDM Profile on your KME portal.
4. Purchase your devices from an approved Samsung Reseller and obtain their reseller ID.
5. Add the reseller to your approved resellers on the KME portal
6. Supply your Knox Customer ID to the reseller. Your reseller will then automatically assign your devices to your KME account
7. Power on the device and KME will automatically begin the enrollment process.

Samsung Resellers: https://www.samsungknox.com/en/resellers

Conclusion:

Enrolling your Android Devices without a Google account is now a realistic option when combined with Android Enterprise Work Profile.

From an enterprise point of view, it is an easy decision to make to utilize either Samsung Knox Mobile Enrollment or Zero Touch, the benefits of having a device with all system applications available and enrollment enforced to your EMM solution are obvious.

The other plus factor is the cost… both of the above solutions are free.

Finally chose the right partner with the necessary expertise to help you get started.

Bconnected
Enterprise Mobility Experts

A lot of ICT and managed service providers specialise in desktop and server operating systems and do not have the experience or knowledge to fully understand Enterprise Mobility Management.

When choosing a partner to assist with getting started with Android Enterprise and Enterprise Mobility Management, B-Connected are uniquely positioned to assist you.

We are recognised experts in Enterprise Mobility Management solutions. We partner with the leading players in enterprise mobility, including Google, Samsung, VMware, Mobile Iron, Microsoft, and Blackberry.

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