

# How to deploy Windows Autopatch with Microsoft Intune -By Robin Hobo -Published on Mar2,2023

Windows Autopatch is a service from Microsoft that automates the update process of Windows (both quality updates and feature updates), Microsoft 365 Apps for Enterprise (aka Office apps), the Microsoft Edge browser and Microsoft Teams. Once the service is enabled in your tenant and devices are onboarded successfully you don't need to worry about updates of the supported products anymore. Microsoft will take care of it.

## Prerequisites of Windows Autopatch

- Windows 10/11 Enterprise E3 or higher licenses
- Azure AD P1 or higher licenses
- Microsoft Intune licenses
- Windows build 1809 or higher
- Users must exist in Azure AD (synced or cloud-only)
- Devices need to be under management of Microsoft Intune or Configuration Manager Co-managed

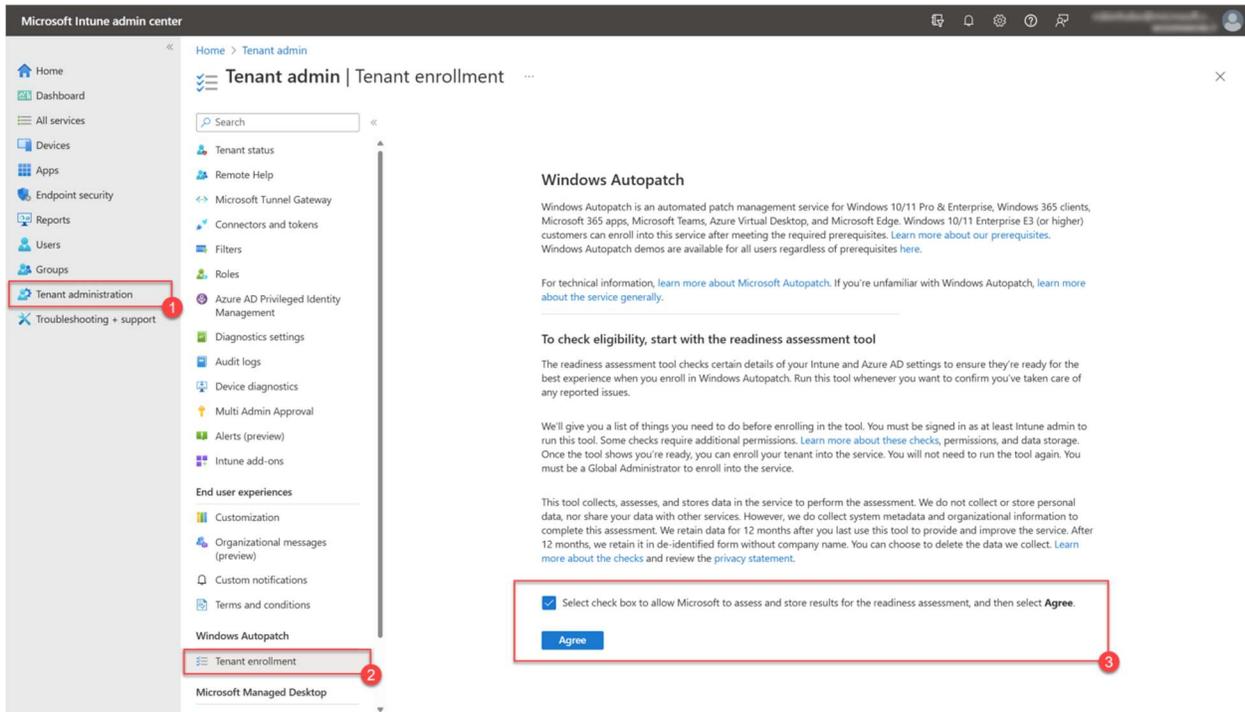
## Table of content

The following steps will step-by-step be described in this blog.

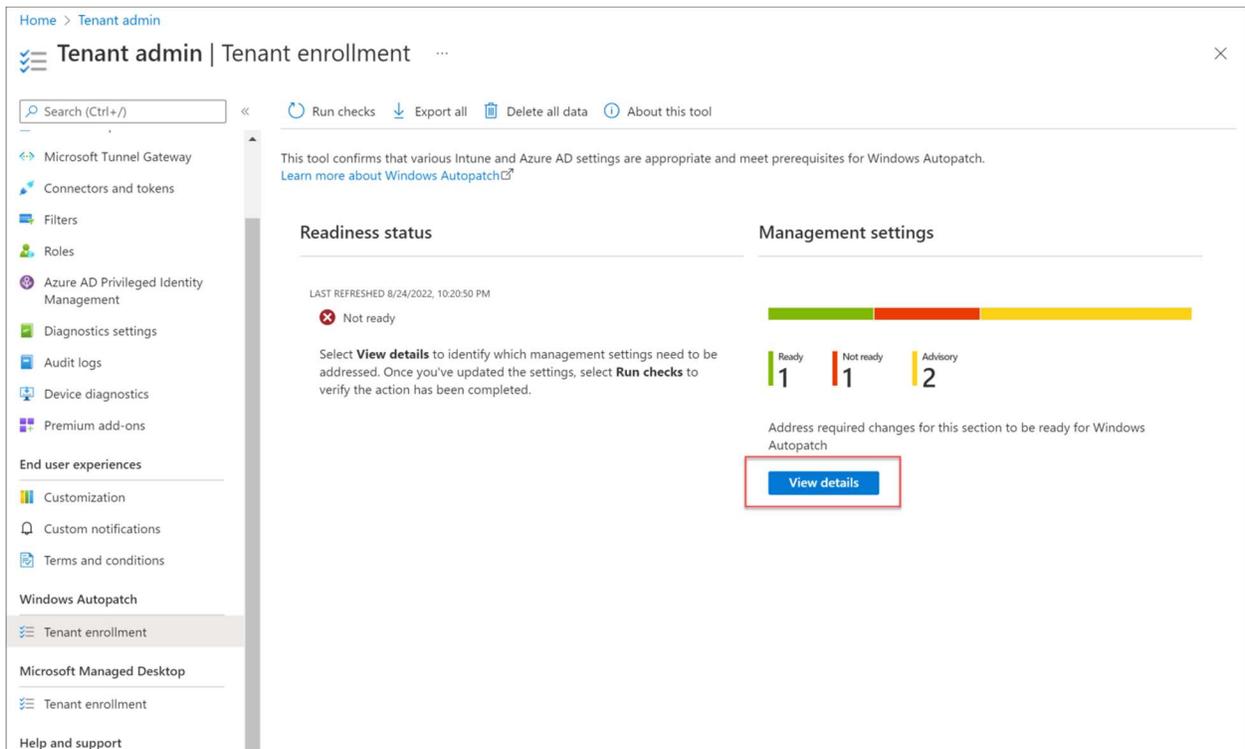
1. Enable Windows Autopatch
2. Onboard devices to Windows Autopatch
3. Managing Windows Autopatch

## 1 – Enable Windows Autopatch

For the next steps, navigate to the [Microsoft Intune admin center](#).



Navigate to **Tenant administration > Tenant enrollment**. Select the checkbox and click **Agree**.



First we need to run the **Readiness assessment tool** to see if we can enable the service and we met all the requirements. The results of the test can have one of the following status.

**Ready** – Ready to go, no actions are required

**Advisory** – An advice to get the best experience once the service is up and running, not a requirement and so, not a blocker

**Not ready** – A show stopper that needs to be fixed before you can continue

**Error** – Mostly related to insufficient permissions to run this task

In my case I have some advisory and not ready points, lets discuss them from top to bottom. Click **View details**.

The screenshot displays the Readiness Assessment tool interface. On the left, under 'Management settings', there is a table with columns for 'Readiness' and 'Setting'. The 'Unlicensed admin' setting is highlighted with a red box, showing a 'Not ready' status. On the right, a detailed view for 'Unlicensed admin' is shown, including the following information:

- Readiness:** Not ready (indicated by a red 'X' icon).
- Reason:** This setting must be enabled to avoid a "lack of permissions" error when we interact with your Azure AD organization.
- How to remediate:**
  1. Sign in to the [Microsoft Endpoint Manager admin center](#).
  2. Navigate to **Tenant administration, Roles**, and then **Administrator licensing**.
  3. On the **Allow access to unlicensed admins**, select **Yes**.
  4. Run the Readiness assessment tool again to confirm this item is fixed.
- [Learn more about Unlicensed admin](#)

The first point is about **Unlicensed admin**, this is a requirement for this service and I did not enable this feature yet. When clicking on the setting on the left, the instructions about the required steps that needs to be made are displayed on the right.

Home > Tenant admin | Tenant enrollment >

## Management settings

Export Run checks Learn more about each check

Last updated 8/24/2022, 10:20 PM

Search assessment type

Readiness	Setting
Not ready	Unlicensed admin
Advisory	Co-Management
Advisory	Update rings for Windows 10 or later
Ready	Licenses

### Co-Management

**Readiness**  
Advisory

**Reason**  
To successfully enroll in devices that are Co-Managed, it is necessary that the following Co-Managed workloads are switched to Intune.

1. Device Configuration
2. Windows Update policies
3. Office 365 Client Apps

**How to remediate**  
Follow the steps described in [how to switch co-management workloads](#) for the above workloads.

Second point is an Advisory about co-management configuration. I did not setup co-management in my environment so I will ignore this one.

Home > Tenant admin | Tenant enrollment >

## Management settings

Export Run checks Learn more about each check

Last updated 8/24/2022, 10:20 PM

Search assessment type

Readiness	Setting
Not ready	Unlicensed admin
Advisory	Co-Management
Advisory	Update rings for Windows 10 or later
Ready	Licenses

### Update rings for Windows 10 ...

**Readiness**  
Advisory

**Reason**  
Make sure that any Update rings for Windows 10 and later profiles you have exclude Windows Autopatch devices.

**Take action**  
Update these profiles with the instructions in **How to remediate** Windows Updates

< Previous Page 1 of 1 Next >

**How to remediate**

1. Go to the [Update rings for Windows 10 and later](#) blade in the Microsoft Endpoint Manager admin center.
2. In the **Update rings for Windows 10 and later** blade, select the conflicting profile, and then select **Properties**.
3. Next to **Assignments**, select **Edit**.
4. On the Edit page, change the profile to use an assignment that targets a specific Azure AD group that doesn't include any Windows Autopatch devices, select **Review + save**, and then select **Save**.
5. Repeat these steps for each of the profiles listed in **Take action**.
6. Run the Readiness assessment tool again to confirm this item is fixed.

[Learn more about Update rings for Windows 10 or later](#)

Next point is an important one. I have setup Update policies for Windows 10 and later devices. These settings can conflict with the settings of Windows Autopatch. Make sure that you exclude Autopatch devices from current Windows Update rings policies. See instructions on the right for more information in the screenshot.

Home > Tenant admin | Tenant enrollment >

## Management settings

Export Run checks Learn more about each check

Last updated 8/24/2022, 10:20 PM

Readiness ↑↓	Setting ↑↓
Not ready	Unlicensed admin
Advisory	Co-Management
Advisory	Update rings for Windows 10 or later
Ready	Licenses

After changing the required and advised settings, click **Run check**

Home > Tenant admin | Tenant enrollment >

## Management settings

Export Run checks Learn more about each check

Last updated 8/24/2022, 10:31 PM

Readiness ↑↓	Setting ↑↓
Advisory	Co-Management
Advisory	Update rings for Windows 10 or later
Ready	Licenses
Ready	Unlicensed admin

We are now ready to go.

Home > Tenant admin

## Tenant admin | Tenant enrollment

Search (Ctrl+/) Run checks Export all Delete all data About this tool

Microsoft Tunnel Gateway  
Connectors and tokens  
Filters  
Roles  
Azure AD Privileged Identity Management  
Diagnostics settings  
Audit logs  
Device diagnostics  
Premium add-ons  
End user experiences  
Customization  
Custom notifications  
Terms and conditions  
Windows Autopatch  
Tenant enrollment  
Microsoft Managed Desktop

This tool confirms that various Intune and Azure AD settings are appropriate and meet prerequisites for Windows Autopatch. [Learn more about Windows Autopatch](#)

### Readiness status

LAST REFRESHED 8/24/2022, 10:31:28 PM

Ready

You are ready to enroll in Windows Autopatch, but you still have Advisory tasks. Review these before you set up your first device.

Select **Enroll** to start your enrollment process.

**Enroll**

### Management settings

Ready 2 Not ready 0 Advisory 2

**View details**

Click **Enroll**

Microsoft Intune admin center

Home > Tenant admin | Tenant enrollment >

## Windows Autopatch

### Allow administrator access for Microsoft

To get started, Microsoft needs your permission to take a few actions in your Azure Active Directory organization and on devices you want to enroll in Windows Autopatch. With your permission, Microsoft will do the following:

- Create a Microsoft application that we use to run the Windows Autopatch service. [Learn more about Windows Autopatch enterprise applications](#)
- Create the policies, groups and scripts necessary to run the service. This involves excluding necessary for any of your existing policies that may cause conflicts. Windows Autopatch update policies must take precedence to avoid any conflicts. [Learn more about Changes made at tenant enrollment](#)
- Manage devices using Intune.
- Collect and share info on usage, status, and compliance for devices and apps.
- Collect and share Windows Diagnostic data on usage, status, and compliance for devices and apps. [Learn more about the data we collect](#)
- Store Windows Autopatch data securely in Azure data centers based on your data residency. [Learn more about Windows Autopatch data storage](#)

I give Microsoft permission to manage my Azure AD organization on my behalf.  
Revoking this access at any point terminates the service.

**Agree**

Select **I give Microsoft permission to manage my Azure AD organization on my behalf** (if you do) and click **Agree**

## Windows Autopatch ...



### Welcome to Windows Autopatch

We need some contacts in your organization for people that Windows Autopatch Operations can work with to help you with issues that are outside the scope of your own IT operations.

We might have to contact this contact at any time, so choose contacts you're sure will be available. [Microsoft Privacy statement](#)

Primary Admin  Secondary Admin

Provide contact info for your organization's Windows Autopatch admin.

Phone number *	<input type="text"/>
Email *	<input type="text" value="robin"/> ✓
Name *	<input type="text" value="Robin Hobo"/> ✓
Preferred Language * ⓘ	<input type="text" value="English"/> ▼



Fill in the primary admin contact details and click **Next**

Home > Tenant admin | Tenant enrollment >

## Windows Autopatch

**Welcome to Windows Autopatch**

We need some contacts in your organization for people that Windows Autopatch Operations can work with to help you with issues that are outside the scope of your own IT operations.

We might have to contact this contact at any time, so choose contacts you're sure will be available. [Microsoft Privacy statement](#)

Primary Admin  Secondary Admin

Provide contact info for your organization's Windows Autopatch admin. This contact will need to be different from primary contact.

Phone number \*

Email \*

Name \*

Preferred Language \*

[Previous](#) [Complete](#)

Fill in the secondary admin contact details and click **Next**

Home > Tenant admin | Tenant enrollment >

## Windows Autopatch

**Windows Autopatch setup is complete**

Select **Continue** to start registering devices.

[Continue](#)

Click **Continue**

Home > Tenant admin | Tenant enrollment > Windows Autopatch >

## Devices

Ready Not ready

Discover devices Columns Refresh Export Device actions

These devices are managed by Windows Autopatch. To register more devices, add members to the Azure AD group called [Windows Autopatch Registration](#). It can take up to an hour for registered devices to appear here. Try clicking the "Discover devices" button to register more devices.

Device count: 0

Device name Serial Number Status Group

### Notifications

More events in the activity log → Dismiss all ×

- **Windows Autopatch Setup** 53% complete ×
 

Finishing background tasks to complete your tenant setup, but you can continue to use the Windows Autopatch Admin Portal.

a few seconds ago
- **Management settings checks** ×
 

Checks are complete.

11 minutes ago

In the background the resources will now be provisioned, this include security groups in Azure AD and policies in Microsoft Intune.

Home >

## Groups | All groups

modernwork.it - Azure Active Directory

New group Download groups Refresh Manage view Delete Got feedback?

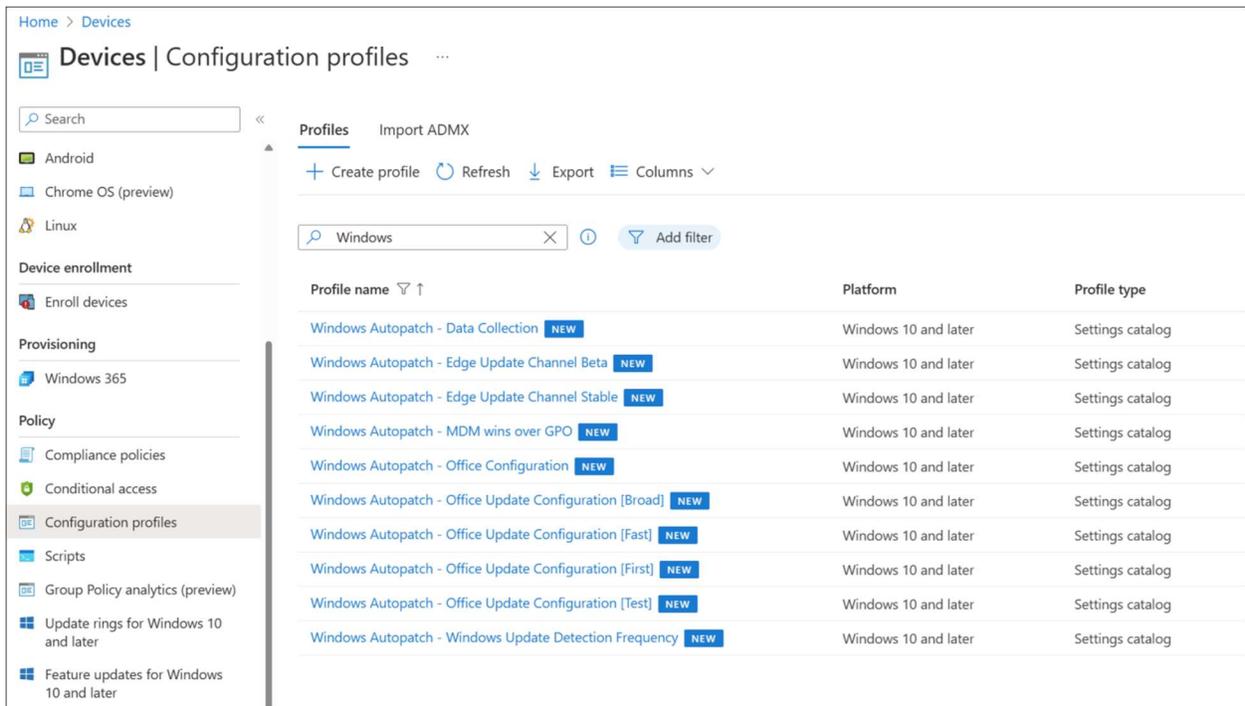
Search Modern Add filter

Search mode Contains

12 groups found

Name	Object Id	Group type	Members
MW Modern Workplace-All	c2edc864-2b34-4334-8654-6c2a7e3871df	Security	Assigned
MW Modern Workplace Devices-All	62350629-ced6-4797-a7c7-f87f785a0e56	Security	Assigned
MW Modern Workplace Roles - Service Reader	16e6c92c-94d1-4612-87ac-5af86ed8b800	Security	Assigned
MW Modern Workplace Devices-Virtual Machine	3d362532-3d0e-4bd9-a9d8-9642bf766494	Security	Assigned
MW Modern Workplace Device Profiles - Windows Autopatch	ef0dbd07-c94c-4ef5-8193-d6e5e12c8565	Security	Assigned
MW Modern Workplace Roles - Service Administrator	fc64b1b5-d78e-4f87-abd8-e29895f18763	Security	Assigned
MW Modern Workplace Devices-Windows Autopatch-Fast	0164fd5-e9f1-4350-a98b-13cb851ea9a8	Security	Assigned
MW Modern Workplace Devices-Windows Autopatch-First	1b8514cc-be4c-45f0-b23d-c250e9633228	Security	Assigned
MW Modern Workplace - Windows 11 Pre-Release Test Devices	4dcca2d-da90-48a9-9871-2653caa4da4a	Security	Assigned
MW Modern Workplace Devices-Windows Autopatch-Test	79aded16-f40f-424a-b6b9-116f54feba60	Security	Assigned
MW Modern Workplace Devices-Windows Autopatch-Broad	b97c664e-2eac-46a5-a301-efe71bba2b60	Security	Assigned

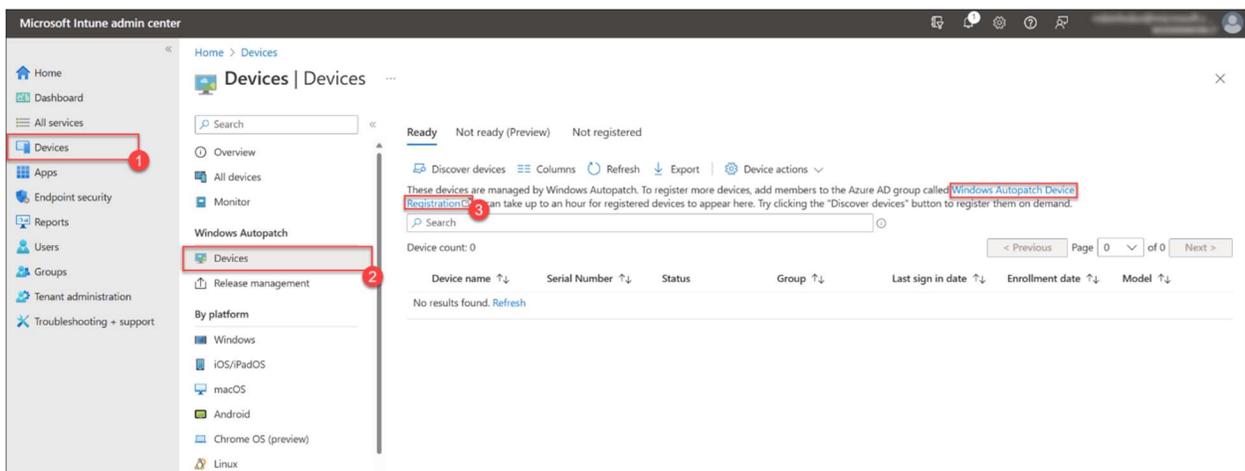
In Azure AD the groups in the above screenshot are created during the Windows Autopatch deployment.



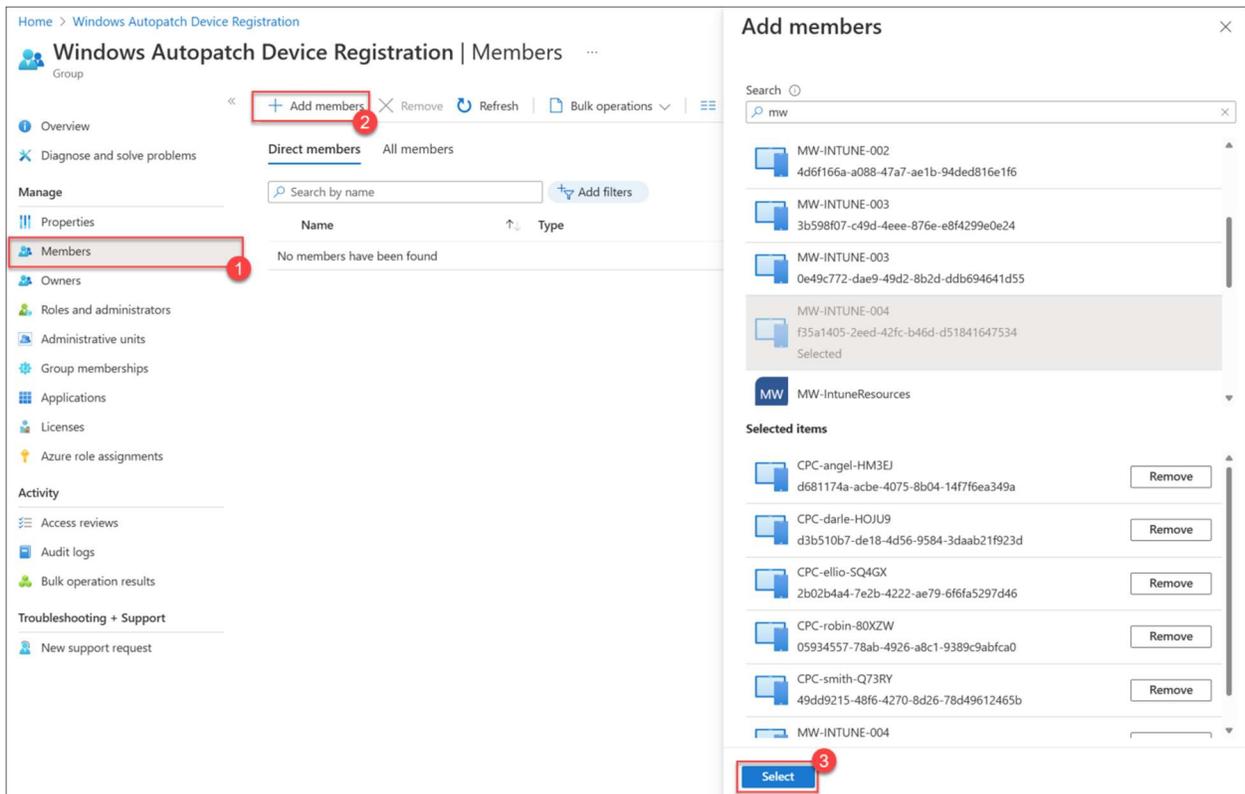
The Configuration profiles for Windows endpoints are created during the Windows Autopatch deployment. Beside these policies, also **Update rings for Windows 10 and later** and **Feature updates for Windows 10 and later** policies are created.

## 2 – Onboard devices to Windows Autopatch

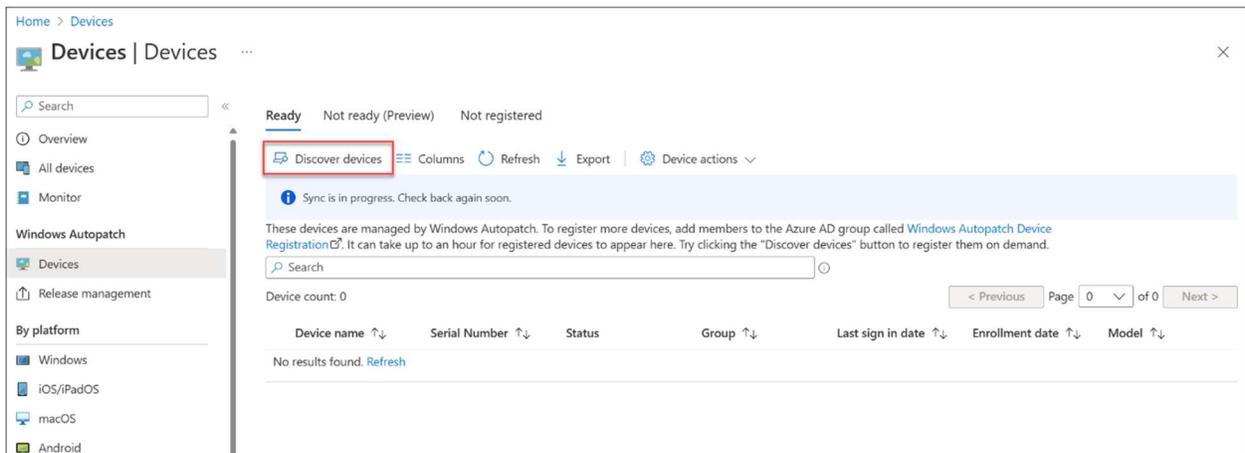
To register / onboard devices to Windows Autopatch you need to make the devices member of the **Windows Autopatch Device Registration** security group.



Within the Microsoft Intune admin center, navigate to **Devices > Windows Autopatch Devices**. Click **Windows Autopatch Device Registration**.



With that link the **Windows Autopatch Device Registration** security group will be opened in a new browser tab. Make sure the **Members** page is open and click **Add members** to add the computer accounts.



Go back to the **Microsoft Intune admin center** and click on **Discover devices**

Home > Devices

Devices | Devices

Search

Ready Not ready (Preview) Not registered

Discover devices Columns Refresh Export Device actions

These devices are managed by Windows Autopatch. To register more devices, add members to the Azure AD group called [Windows Autopatch Device Registration](#). It can take up to an hour for registered devices to appear here. Try clicking the "Discover devices" button to register them on demand.

Search

Device count: 7

Device name	Serial Number	Status	Group	Last sign in date	Enrollment date	Model
<input type="checkbox"/> CPC-ellio-SQ4GX	0000-0001-5452-7294...	Active	First	01/03/2023, 05:42:07	05/02/2023, 20:39:01	Cloud PC Enterprise 4v...
<input type="checkbox"/> CPC-robin-80XZW	0000-0004-9614-6673...	Active	First	01/03/2023, 05:42:06	06/02/2023, 07:30:19	Cloud PC Enterprise 4v...
<input type="checkbox"/> CPC-darlie-HOJU9	0000-0008-7649-6545...	Active	Fast	01/03/2023, 05:42:07	05/02/2023, 20:38:59	Cloud PC Enterprise 4v...
<input type="checkbox"/> CPC-angel-HM3EJ	0000-0009-6135-6350...	Active	Fast	01/03/2023, 05:42:08	05/02/2023, 20:38:50	Cloud PC Enterprise 4v...
<input type="checkbox"/> CPC-smith-Q73RY	0000-0016-3412-4046...	Active	Broad	01/03/2023, 05:42:07	06/02/2023, 07:30:11	Cloud PC Enterprise 4v...
<input type="checkbox"/> MW-INTUNE-003	1218-3971-0815-3142...	Active	Broad	01/03/2023, 05:45:39	27/02/2023, 06:27:59	Virtual Machine
<input type="checkbox"/> MW-INTUNE-004	8120-1038-4566-0303...	Active	Broad	01/03/2023, 05:45:50	27/02/2023, 07:01:10	Virtual Machine

Once the device is onboarded to the Windows Autopatch service you can see which ring is assigned to the device.

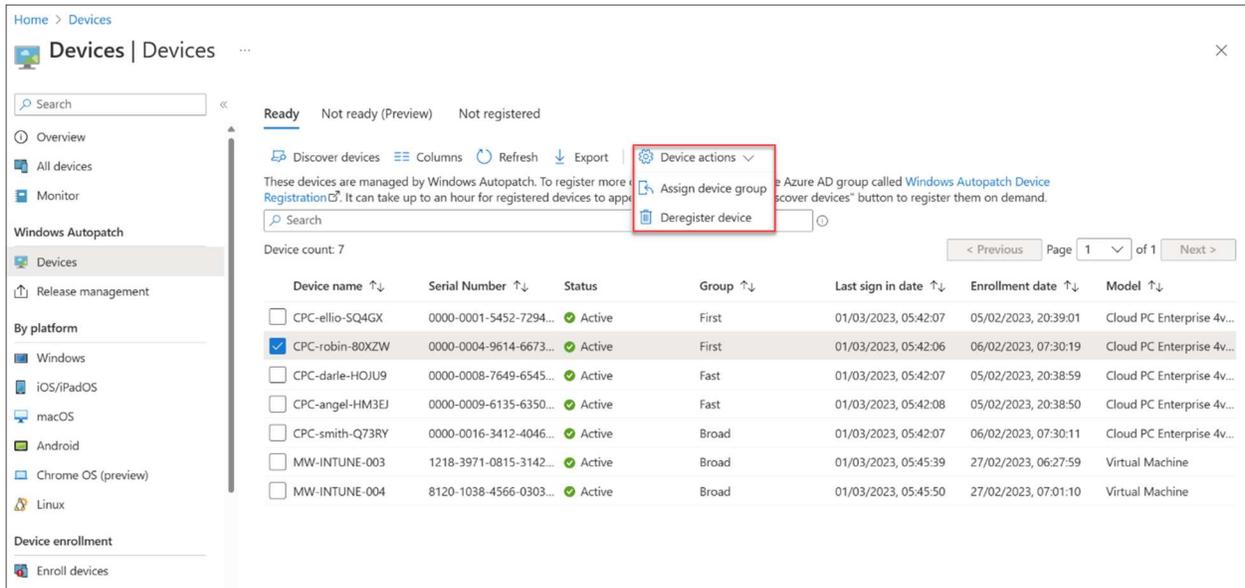
This can be one of the following rings.

**Test – Deployment** ring for testing update prior production rollout.

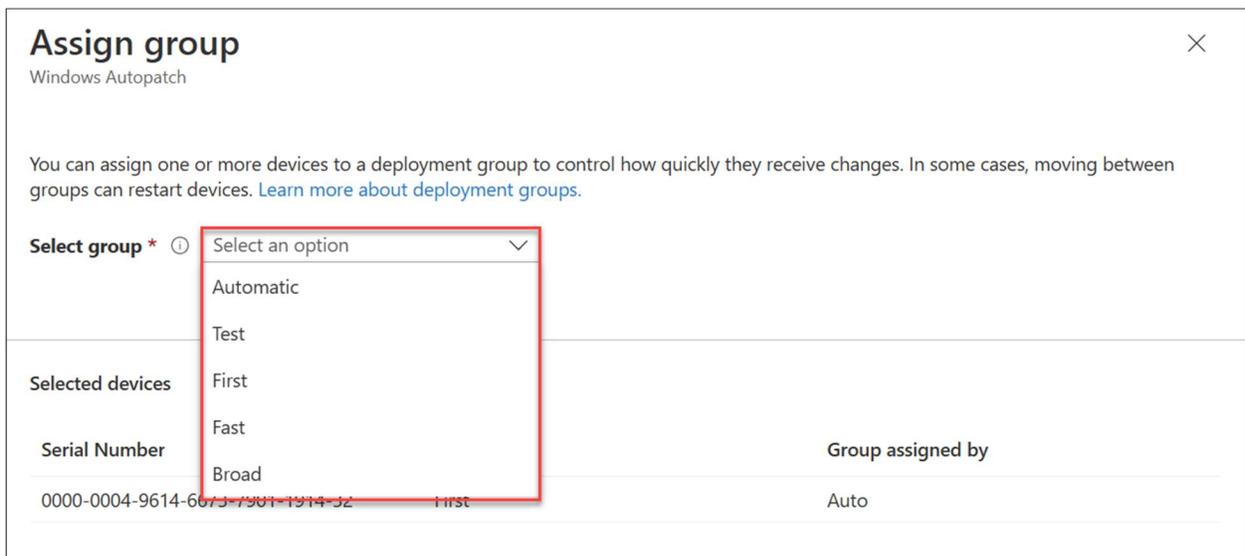
**First** -Early adopters

**Fast** – Quick rollout and adoption

**Broad** – Final ring for broad rollout

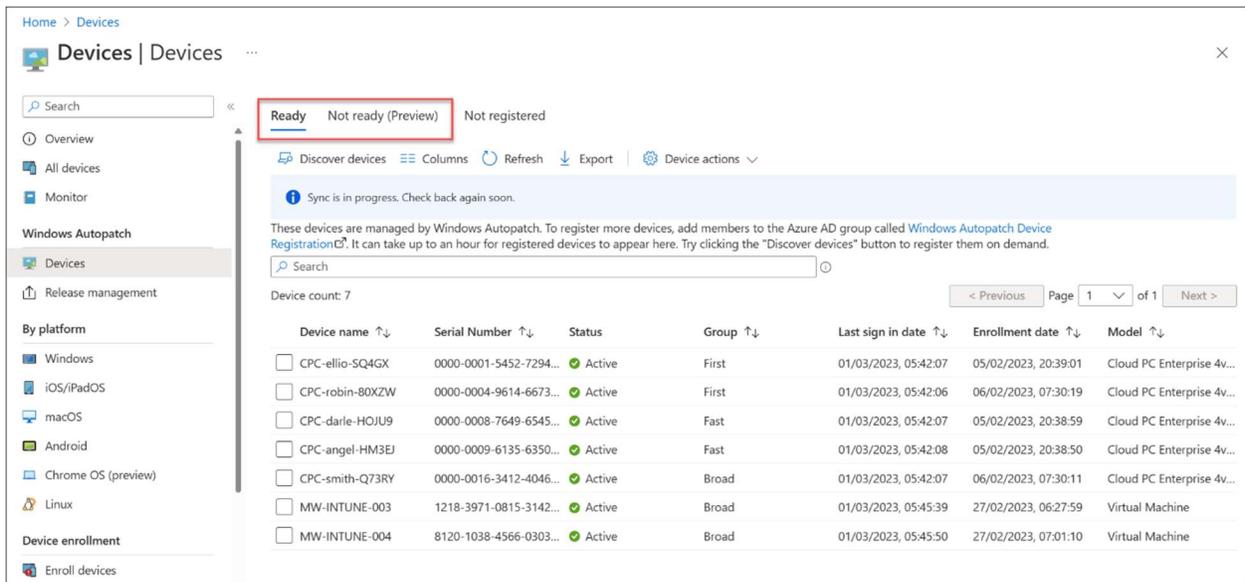


When a device is selected, you can go to **Device actions** > **Assign device group** to change the update ring.

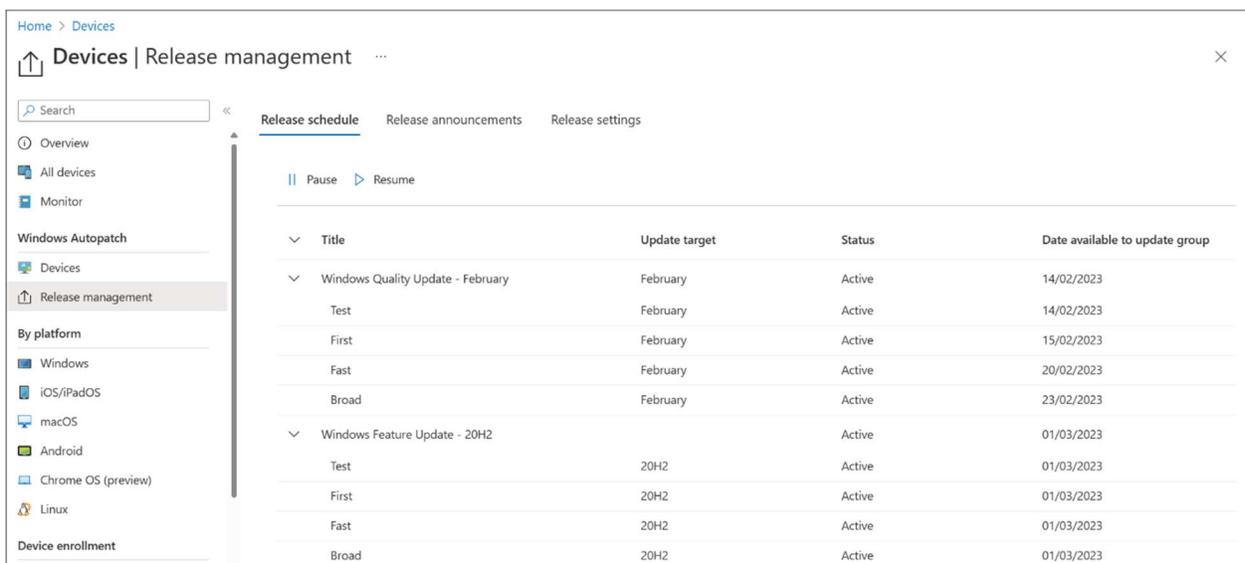


### 3 – Managing Windows Autopatch

I will give a short overview where you can manage Windows Autopatch within the Microsoft Intune admin center.



Under devices a **Windows Autopatch** section has been added after the enrollment. In the **Devices** tab you can see an overview of devices that are **Ready** (onboarded) and **Not ready**. A reason that a device is Not ready can be that prerequisites are not met.



On the **Release management** tab you have the option to **Pause** and **Resume** updates per ring. You can also see which updates are announced under the **Release announcements** tab. In the **Release settings** tab you can configure if you want to apply the **Expedited quality updates** and/or **Microsoft 365 apps updates** (enabled by default).

Home > Reports

## Reports | Windows Quality Updates

Search

- Overview
- Device management
  - Device compliance
  - Device configuration (preview)
  - Group policy analytics (preview)
  - Windows updates (preview)
- Endpoint security
  - Microsoft Defender Antivirus
  - Firewall
- Analytics
  - Endpoint analytics
- Intune data warehouse
  - Data warehouse
- Windows Autopatch
  - Windows Quality Updates**
- Azure monitor
  - Diagnostic settings
  - Log analytics
  - Workbooks

Summary Reports

Refresh

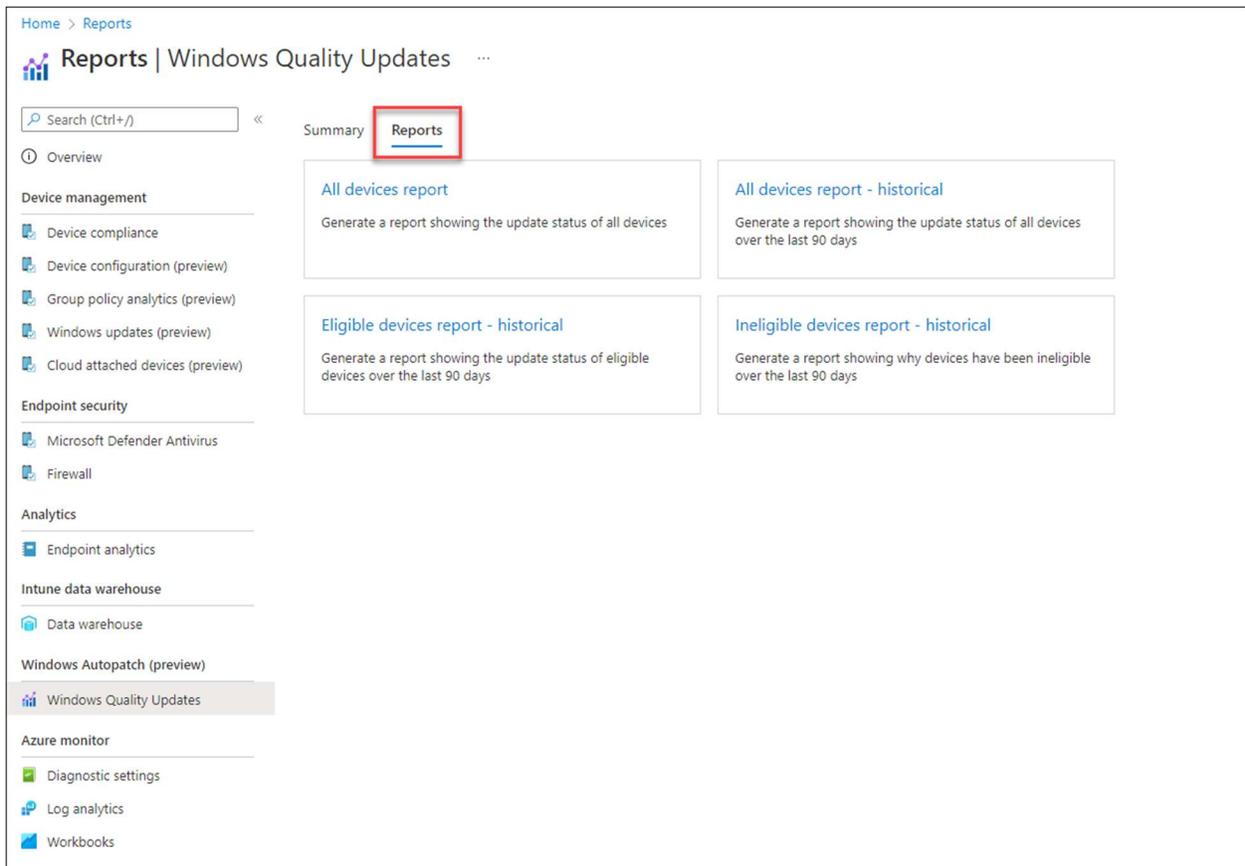
Last refreshed on:

### Windows quality updates

Up to Date	In Progress	Paused	Not Up to Date	Ineligible	Total
0 Devices	1 Devices	0 Devices	0 Devices	0 Devices	1 Devices

Quality updates status	Devices
Healthy Devices	
Up to Date	0
In Progress	1
Paused	0
Not Up to Date (Microsoft Action)	
Not Offered	0
No Heartbeat	0
Policy Blocking Update	0
In Progress - Stuck	0
Other	0
Ineligible Devices (Customer Action)	
Insufficient Usage	0
Low Connectivity	0
Out of Disk Space	0

In the Microsoft Intune admin center, under **Reports** you can also find a new section regarding Windows Autopatch; **Windows Quality Updates**. This gives an overview on all the device statuses (can take a few hours before this report is up to date).



There are also **Reports** to display historical trends in your environment.

This was a short post about how to deploy Windows Autopatch followed by a short introduction about some management features.