

Over The Air Distribution with Buzztouch

Preface



This tutorial is based on the findings of Rawls Enterprises, a fellow Buzztouch Member. Although I've done work with OTA and BT before, it is his (or her) discoveries that have made things flow without any bothersome details each and every time. Major props to Rawls Enterprises.

This tutorial assumes that you are Self Hosted, and have Administrator privileges on your BT Server. Otherwise, it's a great read, but it won't do you much good.

Cheers!

-- Smug

Step 1: Modify your /download/index.php file.

Around line 122 of your index.php file, replace the line that states:

```
$pListOrAPKURL = "itms-services://?action=download-manifest&url=" . fnGetSecureURL(APP_URL) . "/" . $appDirectoryPath . "/install-ios/app.plist";
```

with this statement:

```
$pListOrAPKURL = "itms-services://?action=download-manifest&url=" . fnGetSecureURL(APP_URL) . "" . $dataDir . "/install-ios/app.plist";
```

```
117 if($bolPassed){
118
119     if(strtoupper($platform) == "IOS"){
120         $iconURL = fnGetSecureURL(APP_URL) . $dataDir . "/install-ios/icon.png";
121         $instructions = "If your device is not on the authorized list of testing devices this application will not install.";
122         // $pListOrAPKURL = "itms-services://?action=download-manifest&url=" . fnGetSecureURL(APP_URL) . "/" . $appDirectoryPath . "/install-ios/app.plist";
123
124         $pListOrAPKURL = "itms-services://?action=download-manifest&url=" . fnGetSecureURL(APP_URL) . "" . $dataDir . "/install-ios/app.plist";
125
126
127
128     }
129
130     //Android variables...
```

Step 2: Modify your /bt_v15/bt_app/bt_overTheAir.php file.

Around line 293 of your bt_overTheAir.php file, replace the line that states:

```
<?php echo $appInstallURL . "/platform=ios"?>
```

with this statement:

```
<?php echo $appInstallURL . "&platform=ios"?>
```

And around line 302 of your bt_overTheAir.php file, replace the line that states:

```
<?php echo $appInstallURL . "/platform=android"?>
```

with this statement:

```
<?php echo $appInstallURL . "&platform=android"?>
```

Enabling this modification will allow you to easily distribute test/pre-release versions of your app to all applicable devices.



The screenshot shows a code editor with line numbers 288 to 308 on the left. The code is as follows:

```
288 <div style='padding-top:10px;white-space:nowrap;'>
289 <div style='margin-bottom:5px;'>
290 <a href='<?php echo $appInstallURL;?>&platform=ios' target='_blank'>
291 </div>
292 <div style="font-size:12pt;">
293 <!-- <?php echo $appInstallURL . "/platform=ios"? -->
294 <?php echo $appInstallURL . "&platform=ios"?>
295 </div>
296 </div>
297 <div style='padding-top:10px;white-space:nowrap;'>
298 <div style='margin-bottom:5px;'>
299 <a href='<?php echo $appInstallURL;?>&platform=android' target='_bla
300 </div>
301 <div style="font-size:12pt;">
302 <!-- <?php echo $appInstallURL . "/platform=android"? -->
303 <?php echo $appInstallURL . "&platform=android"?>
304 </div>
305 </div>
306
307
308 ... </div>
```

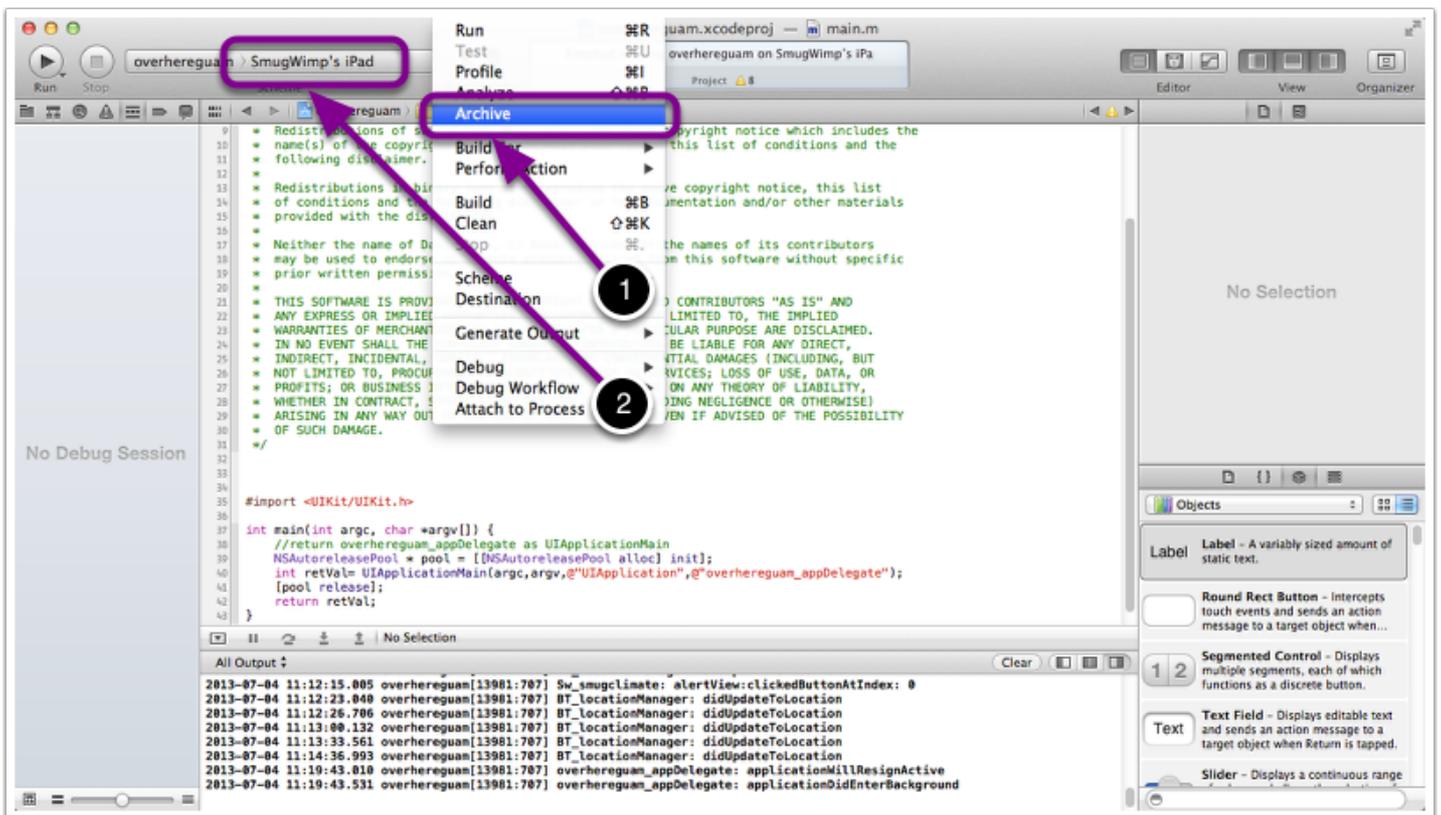
And you're finished! Go forth and distribute with impunity!

Actually Distributing your file 'Over the Air'.

Step 1: Archive your file

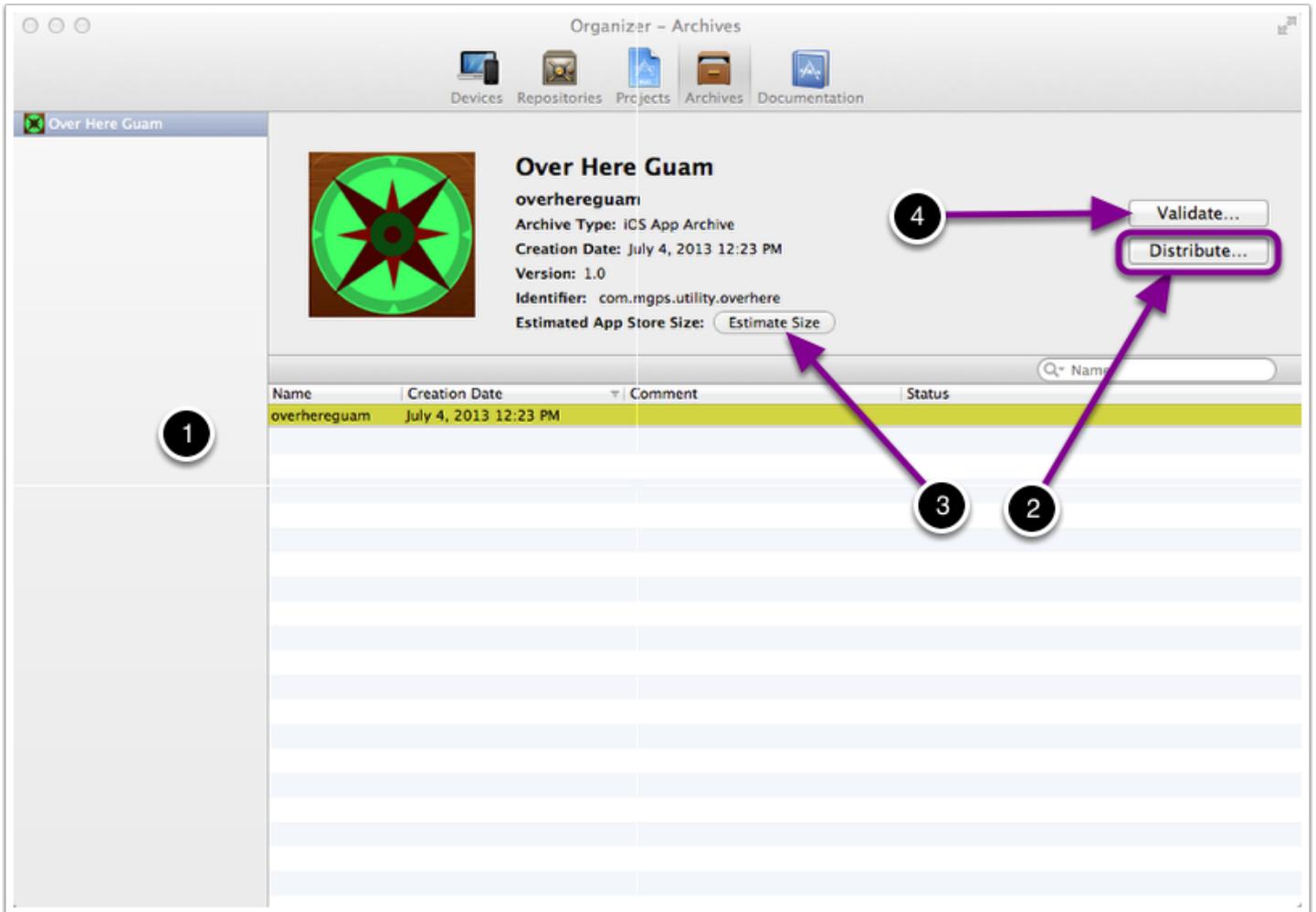
- 1) With a 'ready to test' app, select 'Archive' from your Xcode 'Project' menu
- 2) Ensure you have a valid iOS Device, or have 'iOS Device' selected. I don't think it works with simulators.

It will do a seemingly more comprehensive build on your project, that might take a little longer than usual.



Step 2: Review your file

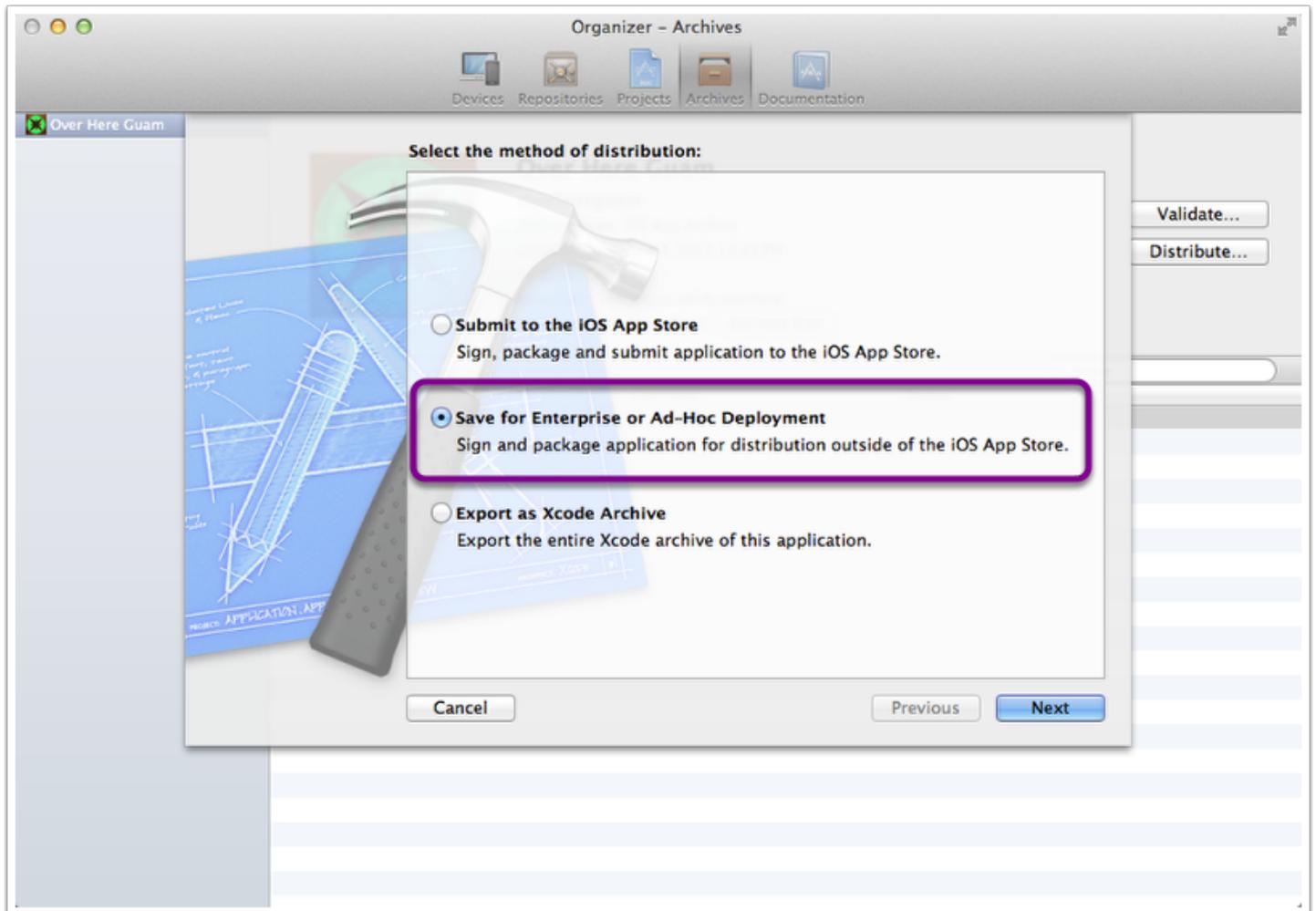
- 1) Take a look around, and make sure that the filename is the way you want it, and that all the basic information is correct
- 2) Afterwards, you'll press the 'Distribute' button
- 3) If you're curious, you can find out what the filesize of the app will be
- 4) You won't validate until you're ready for the app store. In fact, you **can't** validate until you register your app for distribution on the app store.



Step 3: Ad-Hoc Deployment

When you press the 'distribute' button, a dialog box will appear asking you the 'purpose' of your distribution. 'At this time' you want to select 'Save for Enterprise or Ad-Hoc Deployment'.

(The other two are relatively self explanatory)



Step 4: Choose your Deployment Identity

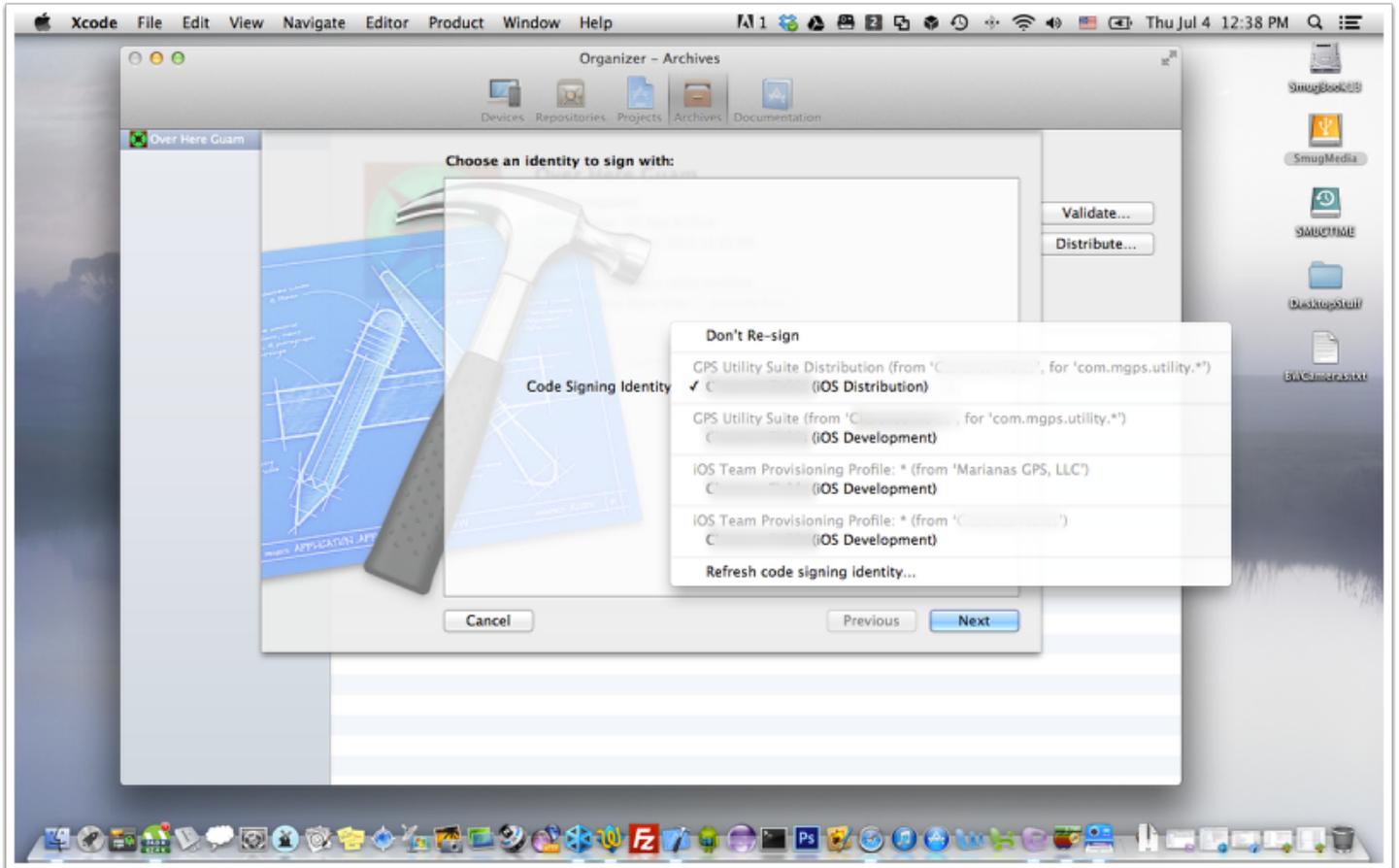
You will see another dialog box asking you for your 'Code Signing Identity'.

If this is a release, then of course, you will choose the correct 'iOS Distribution' identity.

If this is a test you may want to distribute using your development certificate.

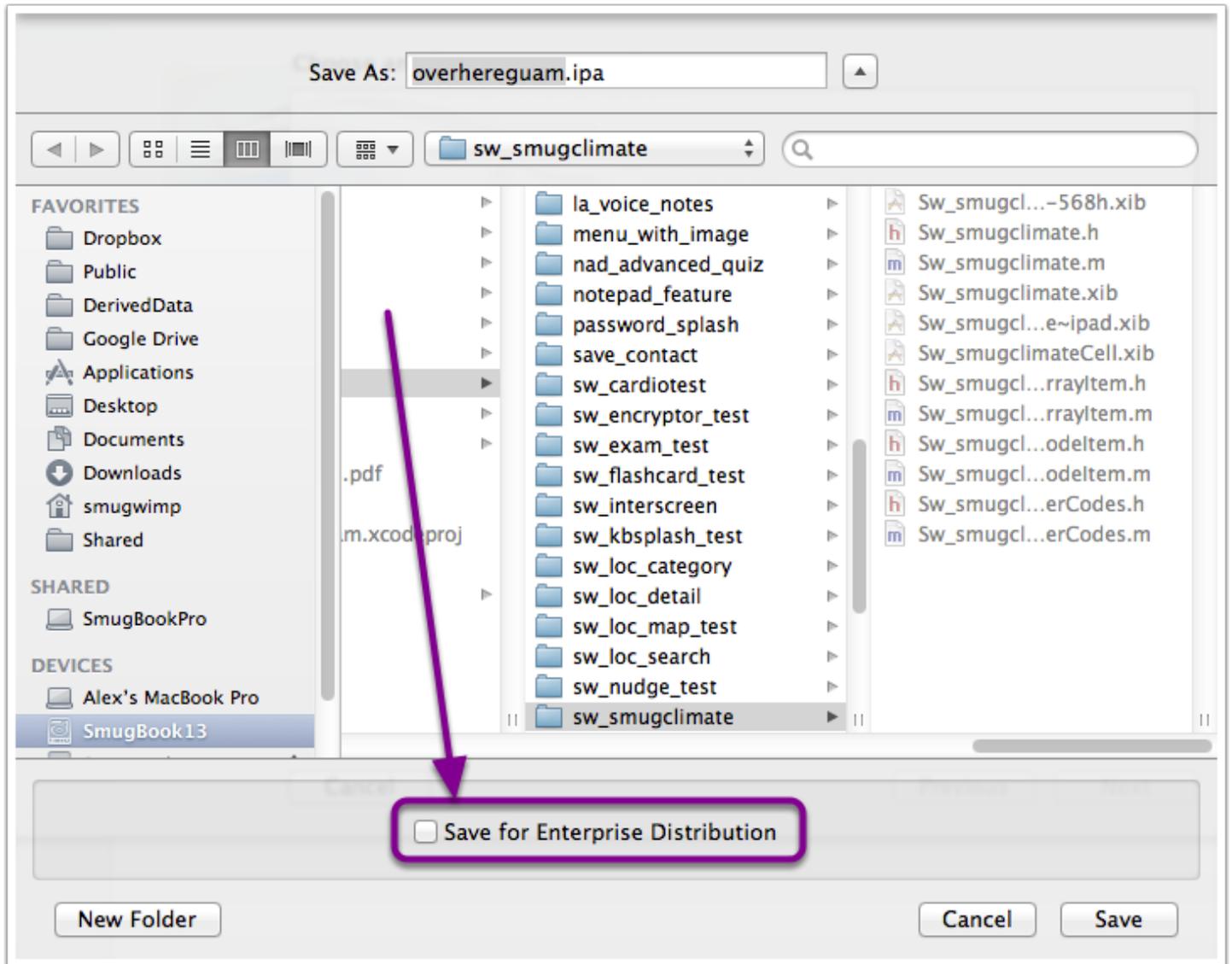
If you are not sure, accept the default choice made by Xcode.

Regardless, these provisional certificates need to be setup 'prior' to deployment attempts.

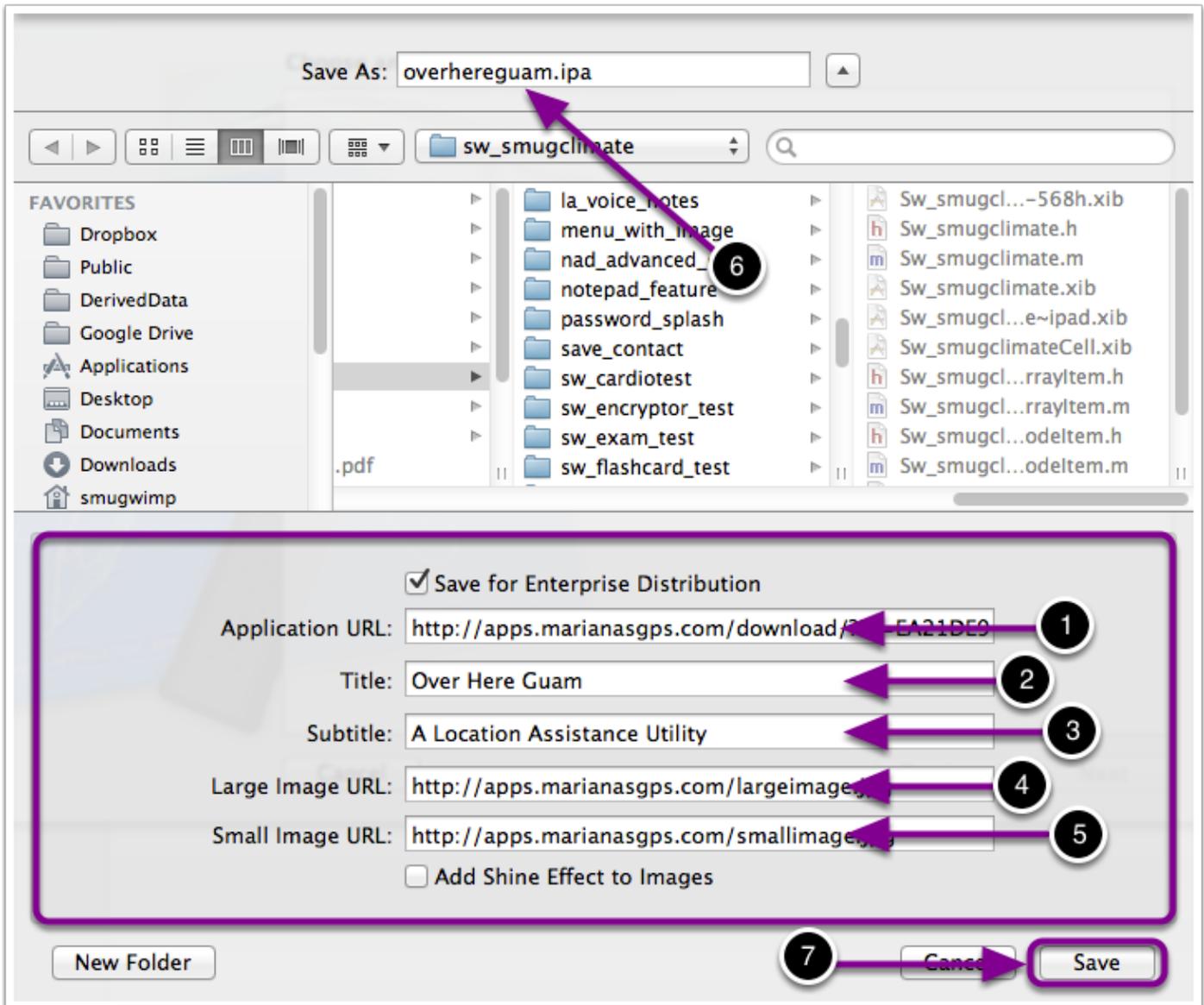


Step 5: Enterprise information option

For OTA to work, you MUST deploy as an Enterprise app. Check the box when prompted to save the file



Step 6: Entering Enterprise Information



- 1) You get your Application URL from your Buzztouch App 'OTA' screen. To be discussed next.
- 2) Your Title is a name you give it. Usually it is the application name, but it doesn't have to be.
- 3) An Optional Subtitle
- 4) An optional Image URL for large images (displayed on retina devices)
- 5) An optional Image URL for small images (displayed on non retina devices)
- 6) Rename your file to 'app.ipa'
- 7) Once you have your desired information, save the file to a known location on your hard drive.

Step 6A: Obtaining your Application URL

Before you can finish saving your file for OTA upload, you must obtain the Application URL from your self hosted server. Open a browser window and navigate to your BT Servers Application Page. Select 'Over The Air Distribution' from the sidebar menu.

You will be shown the appropriate OTA Installation URL to be used in your Enterprise App URL field.

Be sure to use the correct URL!

1) is the correct URL for the App for your Enterprise Dialog Box

2) is the correct URL for the Customer to obtain the app.

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Over Here Guam Control Panel" with the URL `apps.marianasgps.com/bt_v15/bt_app/bt_overTheAir.php?appGuid=EA21DE9D3A2472CDB74B59575`. The page header includes "Marianas GPS iOS/Android Mobile Application Server" and "Smug's Account | Admin | Logout". The main heading is "Over Here Guam Over The Air Distribution".

The sidebar on the left lists "Application Options" with a sub-menu including "Application Home", "App Icon", "Core", "Layout", "Theme", "Screens", "App Users", "Files / Media", "JSON Data", "Publish Changes", "Screen Copy", "Smug Multi-Upload", "Usage Map", "Push Notifications", "Download Source Code", "Over the Air Distribution", "Application Archives", and "Permanently Delete App".

The main content area has two highlighted sections:

- Section 2:** "Over the Air Installation URL". It contains the text: "App Install URL: The URL listed below is the URL you provide to end-users. It will not work unless the requirement for iOS and / or Android distribution are met. After you upload the proper files, end-users install the app by entering the URL below in their MOBILE BROWERS (not their desktop browser). It's best to email or text or tweet this URL to end-users because entering long URL's in mobile browsers is very difficult (it is case sensitive)." Below this are two links: "Show the iOS Install Screen" with URL `http://apps.marianasgps.com/download/?id=EA21DE9D3A2472CDB74B59575&platform=ios` and "Show the Android Install Screen" with URL `http://apps.marianasgps.com/download/?id=EA21DE9D3A2472CDB74B59575&platform=android`.
- Section 1:** "iOS Required Files". It contains the text: "Upload an .ipa file that you compiled using Xcode for Ad-Hoc distribution. When you export this file, it must be named app.ipa (exactly, case sensitive). Additionally, upload the app's .plist file. The .plist file must be named app.plist (exactly, case sensitive). End users will not be able to install this app unless you registered their device's UDID in the Apple Developer Portal, and included it in the provisioning profile you created for the Ad-Hoc build. When exporting the application using Xcode's organizer, you need to name the application file app.ipa (exactly, case sensitive). The export process will create the app.ipa file and the app.plist file for you. Next, you'll need to copy-n-paste these URL's in the Distribute for Enterprise Dialogue:" Below this are two links: "Application URL: `http://apps.marianasgps.com/files/applications/EA21DE9D3A2472CDB74B59575/install-ios/app.ipa`" and "Icon URL: `http://apps.marianasgps.com/files/applications/EA21DE9D3A2472CDB74B59575/install-ios/icon.png`".

Below the highlighted sections is a section titled "Uploading Large Files" and a form with the text "Choose the app.apk, app.ipa, or app.plist file to upload" and an "upload" button.

Step 7: Upload the file to your server

- 1) Upload your saved 'app.ipa' and 'app.plist' files to your BT server via the BT Control Panel. Note the files MUST be named app.ipa, app.plist
- 2) You will see the files listed upon successful upload.

Over Here Guam Control Panel

apps.marianasgps.com/bt_v15/bt_app/bt_overTheAir.php

Facebook ML Location Map Inbox - smugwimp@gmail.com - Gmail Over Here Guam Control Panel

Marianas GPS
iOS/Android Mobile Application Server

Smug's Account | Admin | Logout

Over Here Guam Over The Air Distribution

Application Options

- Application Home
- App Icon
- Core
- Layout
- Theme
- Screens
- App Users
- Files / Media
- JSON Data
- Publish Changes ●
- Screen Copy
- Smug Multi-Upload
- Usage Map
- Push Notifications
- Download Source Code
- Over the Air Distribution
- Application Archives
- Permanently Delete App

Over the Air Installation URL

Android Required Files

iOS Required Files

Uploading Large Files

File Uploaded Successfully.
OK, hide this message

Choose the app.apk, app.ipa, or app.plist file to upload

upload

File	Uploaded (server time)	File Size	
app.ipa (iOS application)	July 03 2013 20:20:42	8.05 MBs	delete
app.plist (iOS property list)	July 03 2013 20:29:16	1.25 KBs	delete

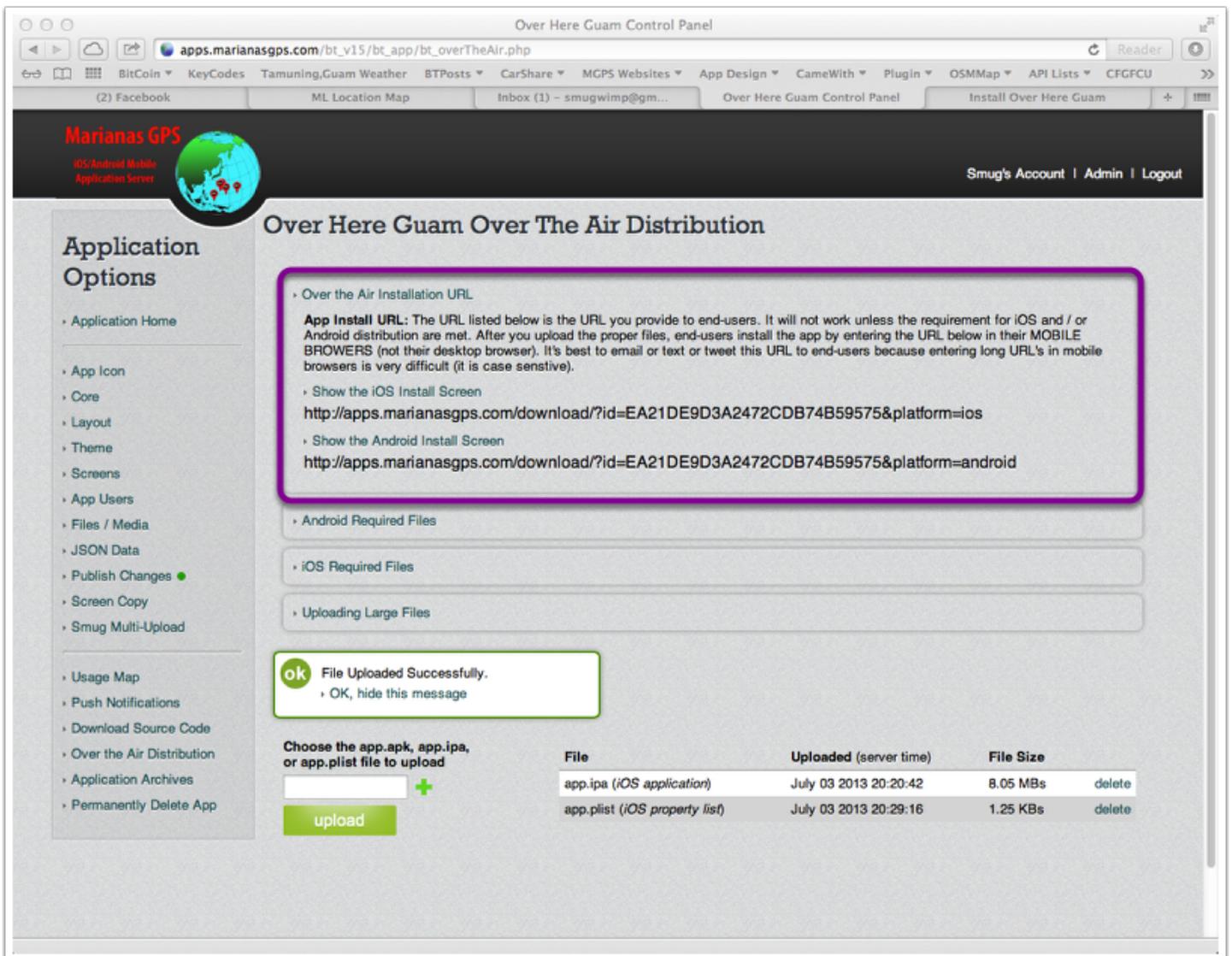
©2013 Marianas GPS, LLC

Step 8: Distribute the URL to your testers/clients

Now you only need to distribute the correct URL to your clients and/or testers.

This is listed in the 'Over the Air Installation URL' box in your app control panel.

The 'easiest' way is to cut and paste the URL into an email, and send it to their mobile account.



Over Here Guam Over The Air Distribution

Over the Air Installation URL

App Install URL: The URL listed below is the URL you provide to end-users. It will not work unless the requirement for iOS and / or Android distribution are met. After you upload the proper files, end-users install the app by entering the URL below in their MOBILE BROWERS (not their desktop browser). It's best to email or text or tweet this URL to end-users because entering long URL's in mobile browsers is very difficult (it is case sensitive).

- Show the iOS Install Screen
<http://apps.marianasgps.com/download/?id=EA21DE9D3A2472CDB74B59575&platform=ios>
- Show the Android Install Screen
<http://apps.marianasgps.com/download/?id=EA21DE9D3A2472CDB74B59575&platform=android>

Android Required Files

iOS Required Files

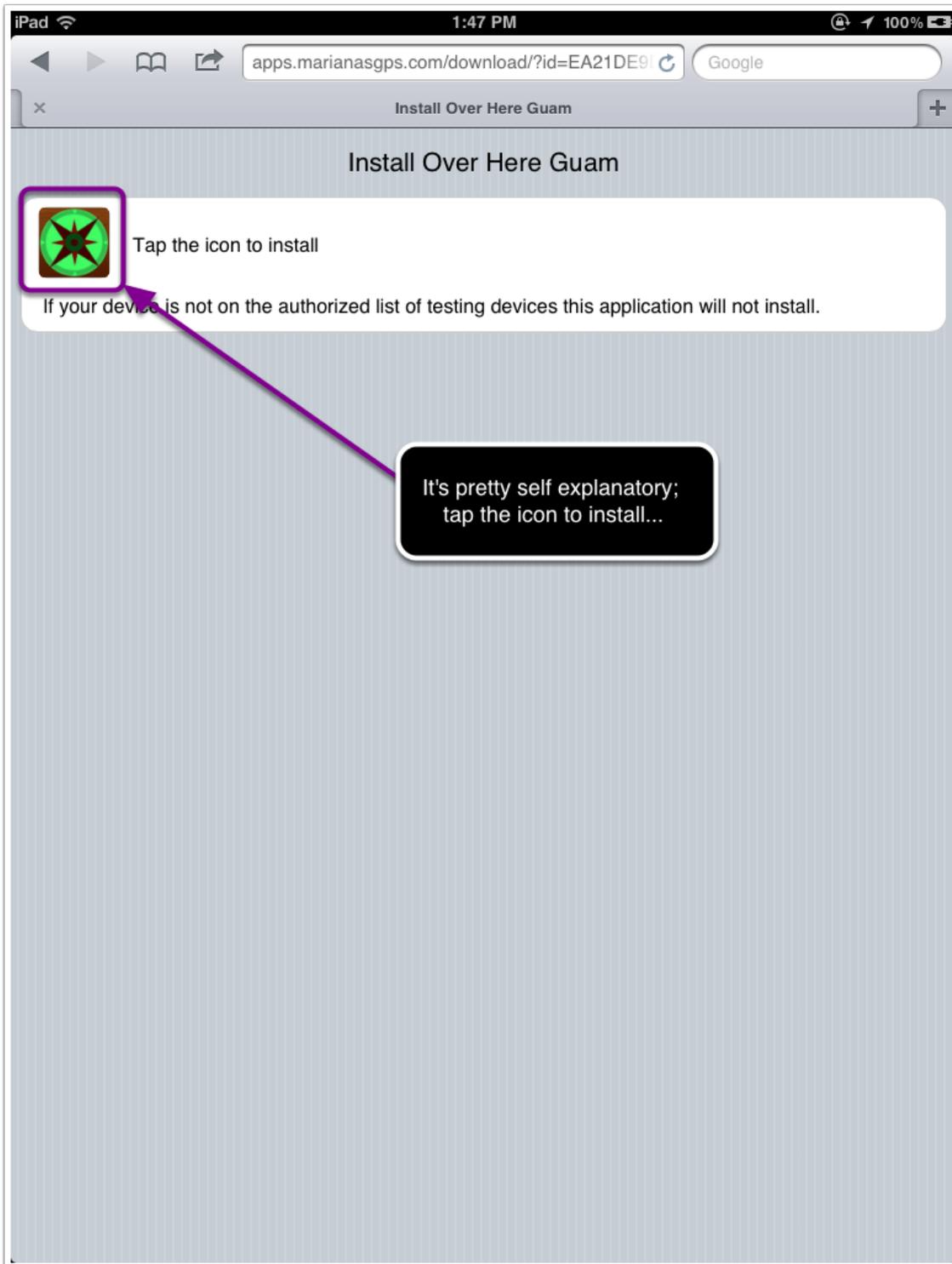
Uploading Large Files

ok File Uploaded Successfully.
OK, hide this message

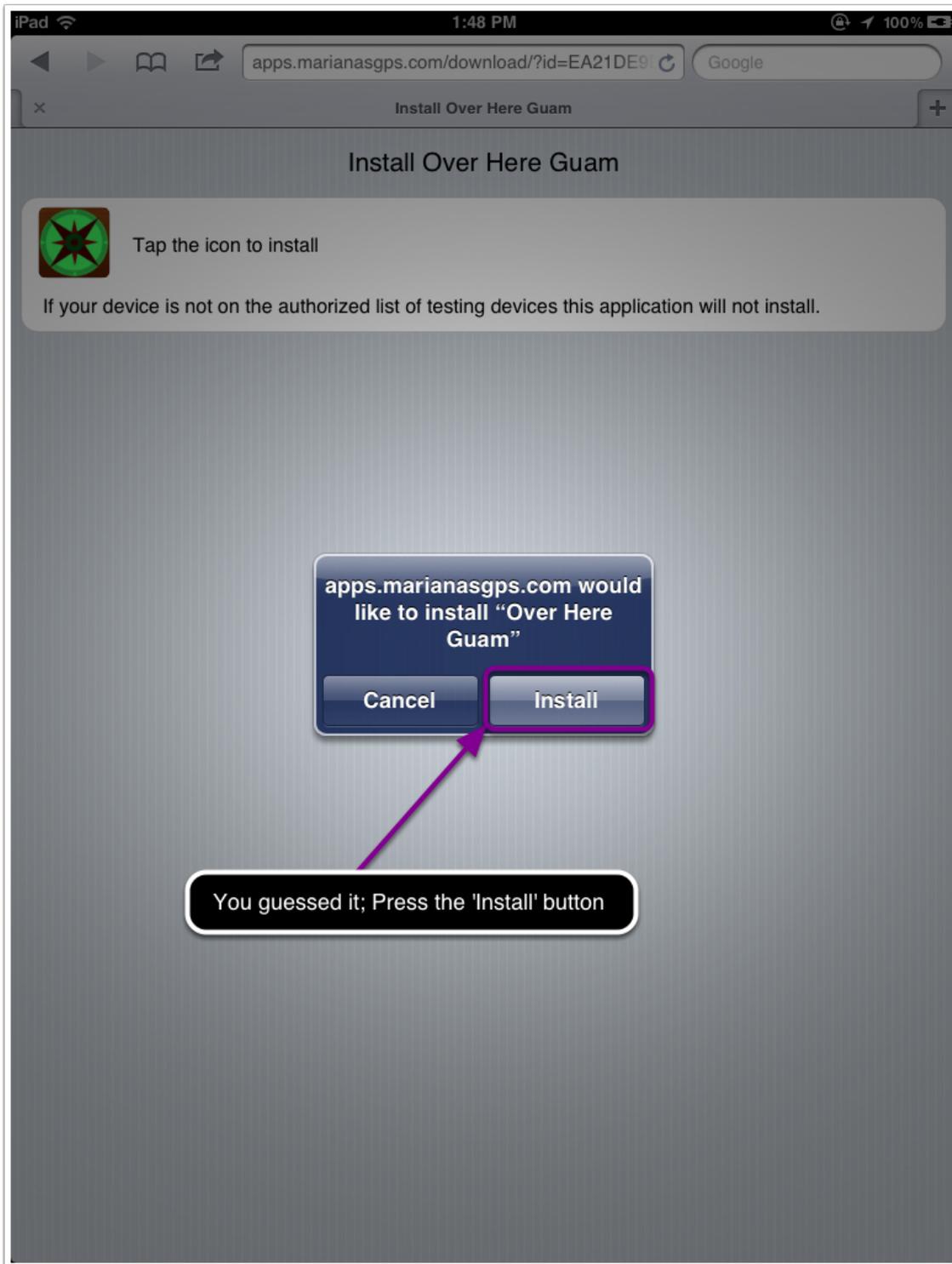
Choose the app.apk, app.ipa, or app.plist file to upload

File	Uploaded (server time)	File Size	
app.ipa (iOS application)	July 03 2013 20:20:42	8.05 MBs	delete
app.plist (iOS property list)	July 03 2013 20:29:16	1.25 KBs	delete

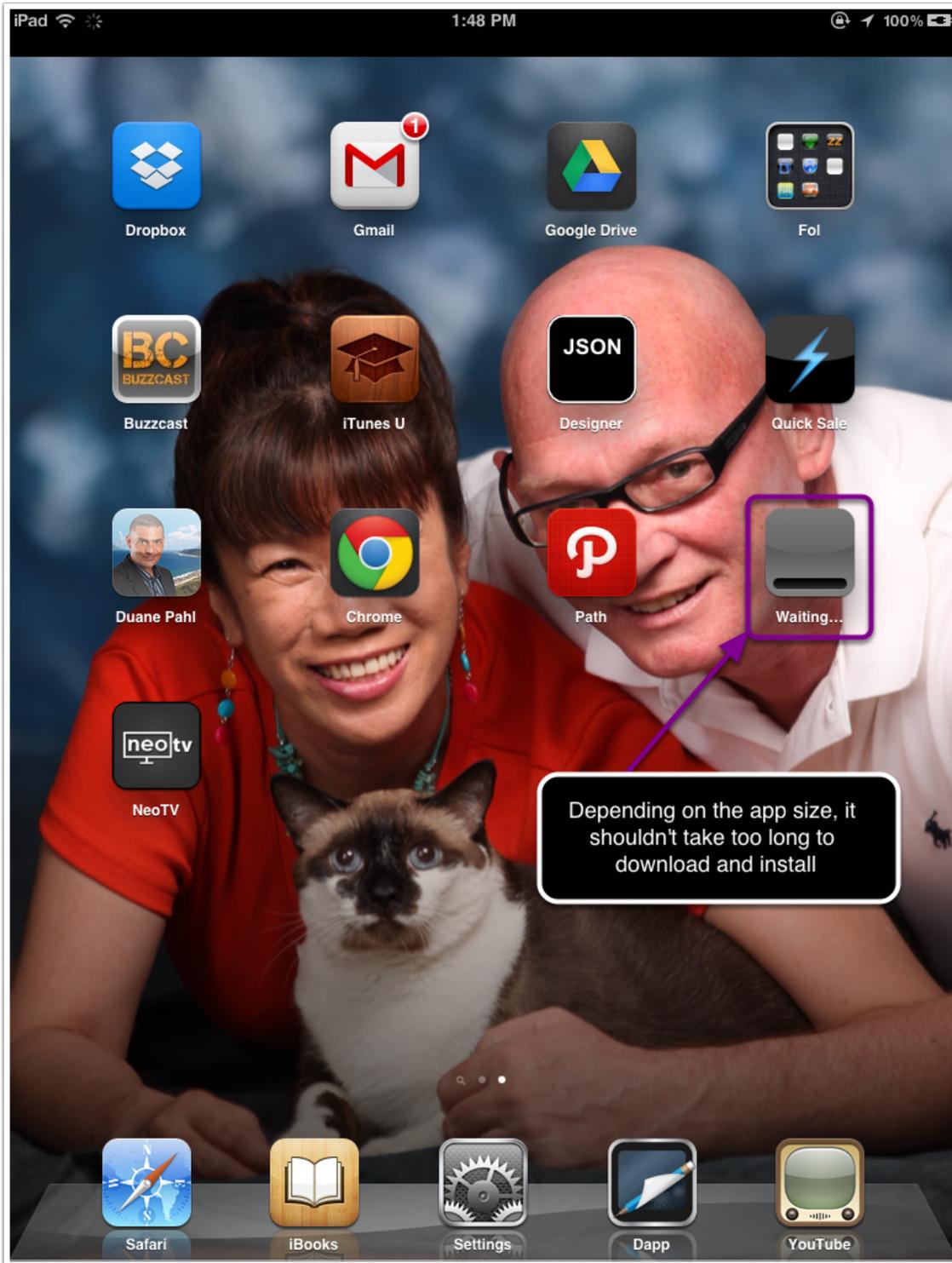
Step 9: Download/Install to your device



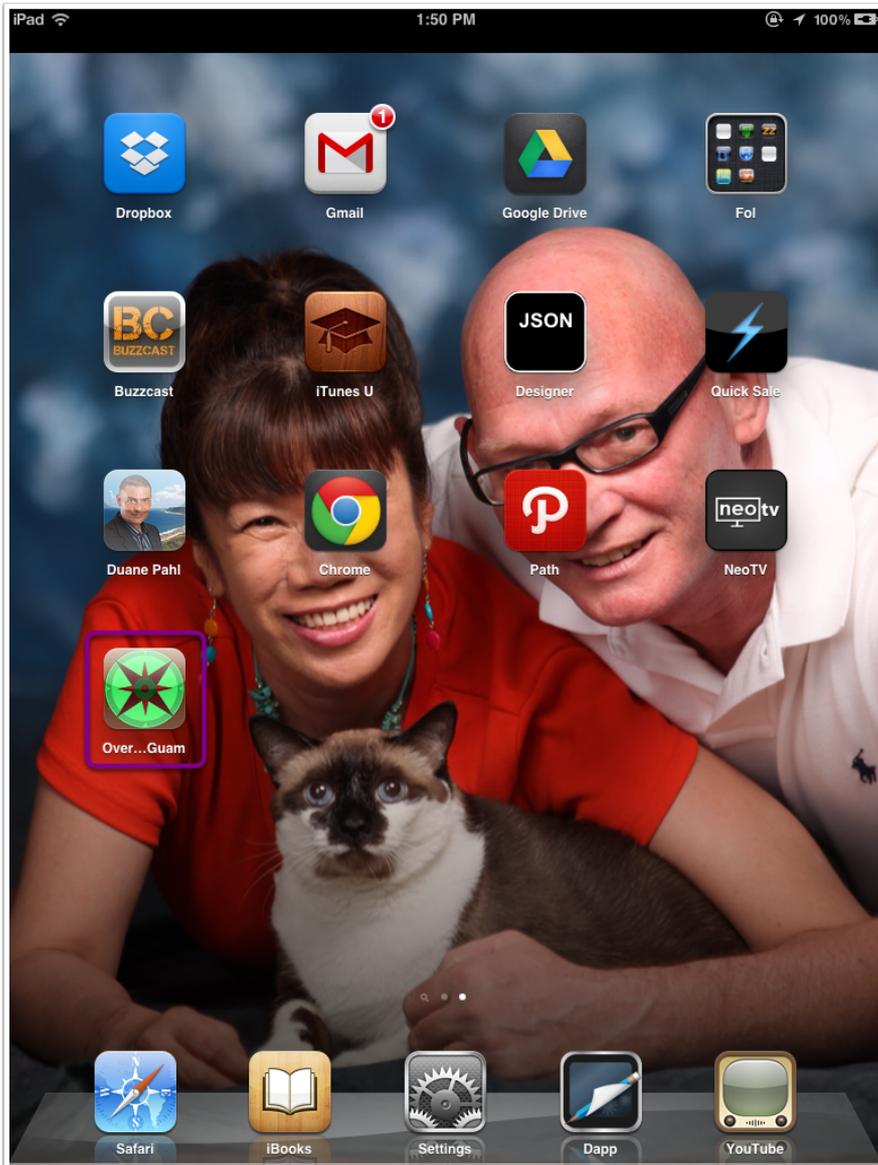
Step 10: Authorizing the Install



Step 11: Allow the app to install



Step 12: Launch and test app!



Once the app has downloaded and installed on your device, you should test to ensure that everything is as you desire. If not, you'll need to return to your Xcode project for modifications, and repeat the process to distribute again. Good luck and have fun!