EdgeFlow

User Manual

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EdgeFlow

User Manual — Version 1.0

EdgeFlow is a macOS app that sends the mouse and keyboard of one Mac (the host) to up to two further Macs. The pointer changes machines when it crosses the edge of the screen, or with a keyboard shortcut. The connection runs directly between the Macs — no shared Wi-Fi network, no shared Apple ID, no server in between.

Features

- **Edge switching** — push the mouse across the edge of the screen and the pointer lands on the neighbouring Mac
- **Keyboard switching** — ⌃⌥← / ⌃⌥→ jumps one Mac further without moving the mouse
- **Machine picker** — shake the mouse quickly to open a miniature map of all Macs for direct selection
- **Shared clipboard** — copied text is available on the other Mac (up to 256 KB, never from password fields)
- **Paired connection** — a new Mac can only connect after confirmation on both sides
- **Emergency exit** — control returns to the local mouse and keyboard immediately, at any time

Getting Started

Download EdgeFlow, open it, grant one permission. The Macs take care of the rest between themselves.

The same on every Mac

1. **Download EdgeFlow** and drag it from the window into the “Applications” folder.
2. **Open EdgeFlow.** The first time, macOS asks once whether you want to open the app you downloaded from the internet: “Open”.
3. **Allow Accessibility.** EdgeFlow shows its setup window with a button “Allow Accessibility”. It takes you straight to the switch in System Settings. As soon as the switch is on, the window continues by itself, no restart needed.
4. macOS also asks whether EdgeFlow may find devices on the **local network**: “Allow”.

More about the Accessibility permission under Permissions.

That is all you have to do on a Mac. Which Mac is in control, how the screens are arranged and that EdgeFlow starts at login — EdgeFlow takes care of that itself.

The second Mac

The setup window on the first Mac says: **“Now open EdgeFlow on the other Mac”**. Do the same steps as above on the second Mac. “Send link” gets the download address across via AirDrop or Messages. If the second Mac has no internet access, “No internet on the other Mac?” helps: the first Mac then serves EdgeFlow directly.

As soon as both are running, they find each other and show **the same six-digit number on both screens**. If it matches, click “They match” on both Macs. Why this is necessary is explained under Pairing.

The window then says **“Connected”**. Move the mouse across the edge of the screen, and the window closes by itself.

A third Mac is added the same way: choose **“Add Mac…”** in the EdgeFlow menu and open EdgeFlow on the new Mac.

What EdgeFlow decides on its own

- **Who is in control.** The Mac on which you set up EdgeFlow first controls the others. Its mouse and keyboard travel across the edge to the other Macs. If that is the wrong way round, for example because you started on the MacBook, choose **“Control from this Mac…”** in the EdgeFlow menu on the right Mac. EdgeFlow explains there what changes. Pairing and arrangement are kept.
- **Where the screens are.** The first additional Mac is placed on the left, the second on the right. If yours is on the other side, one click on **“It’s on the right”** or **“It’s on the left”** in the setup window is enough. You can fine-tune the arrangement at any time under “Settings…”.
- **Launch at login.** After the first connection, EdgeFlow starts at login by itself, on every Mac. That way the connection is back after a restart without you doing anything. You can switch this off in the EdgeFlow menu under “Launch at login”. EdgeFlow remembers a no.

System requirements

- **macOS 14** or newer, on every Mac involved.
- **Wi-Fi switched on**, even if you use a cable later. If it is off, the setup window tells you.
- No Apple ID login and no shared network required.

More about Wi-Fi under Connecting.

If something gets stuck

The setup window itself shows what is missing: Wi-Fi off, a Mac that can be seen but does not answer, or nothing at all for a long time. More under Troubleshooting.

Permissions

Which macOS permissions EdgeFlow needs, and why you have to grant them by hand.

Accessibility (granted manually)

EdgeFlow does not just read mouse and keyboard events, it can also **suppress** them on the host so that they do not act locally and on the neighbouring Mac at the same time. For that, macOS requires the full Accessibility permission — the weaker “Input Monitoring” is not enough, because it may only read events, not stop them.

macOS does **not** ask for this automatically in a dialog that grants the permission with one click; you have to enable it yourself:

1. Open **System Settings** → **Privacy & Security** → **Accessibility**.
2. Enable EdgeFlow in the list (add it with “+” if necessary).

Without this permission EdgeFlow can neither capture input nor pass it on — the app then does nothing.

Local network

EdgeFlow also asks for permission to **find devices on the local network** — this is what allows two Macs running EdgeFlow to discover each other. Without it your Mac finds no neighbours.

Wi-Fi

Not an app permission in the strict sense, but a basic requirement: **Wi-Fi must be switched on on every Mac involved** — even if you connect by cable later. More under Connecting.

Connecting

How EdgeFlow connects two Macs — directly over the air, by cable and on a corporate Wi-Fi — and what “Wi-Fi off” means for the connection.

The default: directly over the air, without a shared Wi-Fi network

EdgeFlow normally connects Macs **directly**, using Apple’s AWDL radio technology (the same technology AirDrop uses). The Macs do **not** have to be on the same Wi-Fi network and do **not** need a shared Apple ID — exactly the case in which Apple’s own Universal Control does not work. The range is the same as AirDrop’s: meant for the same room or desk, not for separate floors.

Cable

If a neighbouring Mac can be reached over a network cable (directly or via a switch on the same network), EdgeFlow automatically uses the cable as soon as it is available. This is intended in particular for the case where a company policy forbids Wi-Fi connections between private and company devices — with a cable EdgeFlow works anyway.

Corporate Wi-Fi / switched network

EdgeFlow also finds Macs over an ordinary switched corporate network, not only over a direct cable connection. On some corporate networks automatic device discovery is restricted by the network administration (for example client isolation between devices or filtered discovery packets) — that is a network or IT matter, not a fault of EdgeFlow.

What “Wi-Fi off” means

Wi-Fi must be switched on on every Mac involved — even if you end up connecting by cable. If Wi-Fi is off on a Mac, the radio interface needed for the direct connection never comes up on that Mac. The Mac can still announce itself on the network — so it is found — but every attempt to connect to it fails. To you it looks as if EdgeFlow shows the Mac but does not connect to it.

In short: before you look for a connection problem, first check on **all** Macs involved whether Wi-Fi is switched on — including the Mac you use by cable.

Pairing

How a new Mac is admitted, and why EdgeFlow uses a visible number comparison for this instead of a typed code.

Why pairing is necessary

A new Mac can only connect after confirmation on both sides. Only once you **pair** it does EdgeFlow remember this device and admit it in future without asking again.

The procedure

You do not have to open anything for this. As long as EdgeFlow's setup window is open — by itself on first launch, or via **"Add Mac…"** in the EdgeFlow menu — EdgeFlow is ready to pair.

1. Open EdgeFlow on both Macs. The setup window shows the same **six-digit number** on **both**.
2. Compare the number: if it matches on both screens, click **"They match"** on both Macs.
3. If it does **not** match, or you are not sure: **"They don't match"**. EdgeFlow then does not pair, and it does not ask again by itself. It only continues once you click "Try again".

From then on EdgeFlow no longer asks about this Mac. It is known permanently.

If you close the setup window, the readiness to pair ends as well. Unknown Macs are no longer admitted.

Why compare a number instead of typing a code

You do not type a code, and no secret travels over the connection. The number is derived from the running, encrypted connection between the two Macs. A man in the middle trying to place himself between the two Macs would have to run two separate connections at the same time and would inevitably get two different numbers. The comparison exposes exactly that.

When the role changes

If you choose **"Control from this Mac…"**, another Mac takes over control. Up to then, each Mac is paired only with the controlling Mac, not the controlled Macs with each other. That is why the Mac that was in control passes the pairings on when switching, over the connections that are already paired. You do not have to compare a new number for that.

Removing a Mac again

Under **“Paired Devices”** in the EdgeFlow menu you can select a Mac and remove it, for example because you sold it. It can no longer connect afterwards. If it should belong again, you simply pair it anew.

If pairing does not work

- A Mac whose key has changed, for example after a fresh installation of macOS, is treated like an unknown device. Without an open setup window it is rejected and never re-paired automatically. It is admitted again only through a deliberate pairing on both sides: “Add Mac…”, compare the number, done.
- The other Mac can be seen, but no number appears? Then the setup window is closed over there. Choose “Add Mac…” in the EdgeFlow menu on that Mac.

Using EdgeFlow

Edge switching, keyboard switching, machine picker, clipboard, sleep and the emergency exit.

Edge switching

The default: move the pointer across the edge of your screen towards a neighbouring Mac (the way you arranged it in the settings window) — the pointer appears on the neighbour, and from that moment mouse and keyboard control that Mac.

Several displays on one Mac. If a Mac has a second display, you reach it as usual, on a remotely controlled Mac as well. The switch to the neighbour happens only at the **outer** edge: where two displays of the same Mac share an edge, the pointer simply moves across. On a switch it lands on the display that is outermost in that direction, at the same height.

Keyboard switching

Alternatively, without moving the mouse: ⌃⌥← switches one Mac to the left, ⌃⌥→ one Mac to the right, along the same arrangement you set in the settings window. One key press is one step. This setting is set by the host for the whole chain; if it is switched off, the shortcut cannot be used on any Mac.

Machine picker (shake gesture)

If you shake the mouse quickly back and forth, a miniature map of all connected Macs opens in the middle of the screen, in the same spatial arrangement as in the settings window. You choose with a mouse click, with the arrow keys plus Return, or with a digit — the pointer then lands in the centre of the chosen screen. Pressing **Esc**, a normal mouse movement or a click on the screen that is already active closes the map again without switching Macs.

Shared clipboard

Text you copy on one Mac is ready to paste on the other Mac — up to **256 KB** per operation. Only text is transferred, no images and no files. Content that your password manager marks as “concealed” (for example a password you just copied) is explicitly **not** transferred by EdgeFlow.

Sleep

When a Mac goes to sleep or wakes up again, EdgeFlow automatically tries to restore the connection by itself as soon as the Mac is responsive again — a manual restart of the app is normally not necessary.

Emergency exit

Should controlling a neighbouring Mac ever get stuck, or should you want control of your own Mac back immediately, there is an emergency exit that always works, regardless of the state of the network:

- **hold the Esc key for two seconds**, or
- **press Esc eight times in a row** within three seconds.

Both cut the connection immediately and hand control back completely to the local mouse and keyboard. EdgeFlow never suppresses the Esc key itself, precisely so that this way is always open.

Troubleshooting

What it means when a Mac is shown as missing in the menu bar, and what helps in each case.

First question, always: is Wi-Fi switched on on all Macs?

This is the most common cause of “does not connect” — and that **also** applies if you actually connect by cable. Details under Connecting.

What the menu bar says about a missing Mac

If a Mac is missing, EdgeFlow names it and assigns one of several reasons instead of just reporting “not connected”:

Message	Meaning	What helps
is reachable, but EdgeFlow is not running there	The Mac answers on the network, but EdgeFlow has not been started there (e.g. after a restart or after quitting).	Start EdgeFlow on that Mac. So that this happens by itself in future: switch on “Launch at login” in the EdgeFlow menu.
answers, but the connection does not come through	The Mac accepts the connection but drops it again.	Check the radio conditions and, if applicable, the cable; if that does not help, restart EdgeFlow on the other Mac.
is there, but not paired with this Mac	The Mac is visible on the network, but the two devices have never been paired.	Pair — see Pairing.
is not on the network (asleep, Wi-Fi off or cable unplugged)	The Mac does not answer at all.	Open the lid or wake the Mac, and check Wi-Fi/cable.
still announces itself on the network, but no longer answers	The Mac was last seen on the network but has not responded for some time — typically a stale entry.	Wake the Mac or restart EdgeFlow there.

EdgeFlow does not keep knocking at a Mac that cannot be reached at the same rate all the time; it becomes more sparing over time — as soon as the Mac reports back, EdgeFlow reacts quickly again.

The menu item “Wake up …” shows you the matching hint from the table above for every missing Mac. It does not (yet) wake the Mac remotely by itself — that is a deliberate statement, not a bug: a button that does nothing but looks as if it did would be worse than no button at all.

Log location for support

EdgeFlow continuously writes a diagnostic log to `~/Library/Logs/EdgeFlow/`. Should you contact support, the most recent file from this folder is the most helpful attachment. In the Finder, use “Go to Folder…” (⇧⌘G) to jump straight to this path.

If EdgeFlow does not come back by itself after sleep

EdgeFlow tries to re-establish an interrupted connection by itself after waking from sleep. If, exceptionally, that does not work: wake up or log in to the affected Mac once and wait a moment — EdgeFlow keeps looking for the other side automatically afterwards; a manual restart is normally not necessary.

FAQ

Is EdgeFlow available on the Mac App Store?

Not at the moment. EdgeFlow is offered as a direct download via store.juergenkoller.software. The app is notarized by Apple and opens without any workaround.

Does EdgeFlow support Bluetooth?

No. EdgeFlow connects Macs over a direct radio connection (AWDL) or, where available, over cable/network — not over Bluetooth.

Does EdgeFlow run on Windows or Linux?

No, EdgeFlow is a macOS-only app, both as the host and as a controlled Mac.

Can I transfer files between the Macs?

No. EdgeFlow transfers mouse and keyboard input and copied text (clipboard). File transfer is not part of EdgeFlow.

Can I share images via the clipboard?

No, the shared clipboard transfers text only, no images.

Does EdgeFlow need an internet connection?

Yes, for the licence: EdgeFlow checks the licence over the internet. The connection between the Macs themselves runs directly, without the internet — only Wi-Fi has to be switched on. Without the internet, EdgeFlow keeps working for up to 40 days. If no check has succeeded after 40 days, EdgeFlow stops forwarding mouse and keyboard input until the licence server can be reached again. Your licence is not lost: as soon as the Mac is back online, “Check Again” is enough. A refunded or revoked licence is locked after these 40 days at the latest, and with an internet connection at the next check.

Can I connect more than two neighbouring Macs?

No, one host currently controls up to two clients.

Can I switch roles, i.e. make the client the host?

Yes. On the Mac that should be in control, choose “Control from this Mac…” in the EdgeFlow menu, or on the controlling Mac “Let “X” control…”. EdgeFlow explains beforehand what changes. Pairing and arrangement are kept; the connection is interrupted for a few seconds. Going back works the same way.

How far apart may the Macs be?

The range of the direct radio connection is the same as AirDrop’s — meant for the same room or desk, not for separate floors or locations over the internet.

What does EdgeFlow cost?

EdgeFlow is sold as a one-time purchase via store.juergenkoller.software, no subscription.

Privacy

What stays on your Mac, what is transmitted between your own Macs, and what EdgeFlow does not do.

What is transmitted between your Macs

EdgeFlow transmits mouse and keyboard events and, if enabled, copied text (up to 256 KB, see Using EdgeFlow) — exclusively **directly between the Macs you have paired**. Keyboard, clicks and clipboard are transmitted encrypted (TLS 1.3, between paired devices). Mouse movement is transmitted unencrypted.

There is no intermediate server through which this data passes — the connection exists exclusively between your own, paired Macs.

What EdgeFlow reveals on the local network

So that two Macs running EdgeFlow can find each other, every Mac announces itself on the local network (device name, service type) — just as AirDrop or printer sharing do. This announcement does not leave the local network.

What stays local

The diagnostic log (`~/Library/Logs/EdgeFlow/`) is written exclusively locally on the respective Mac. EdgeFlow does not upload these logs anywhere by itself; they are only passed on if you provide them to support yourself.

No tracking in the app

EdgeFlow itself contains no analytics or tracking function. Web analytics (Matomo) are used exclusively on the sales website, not in the app.

Licensing

EdgeFlow is sold as a one-time purchase. For activation and licence checks EdgeFlow needs an internet connection to the licence server of Juergen Koller Software GmbH. What is transmitted is your licence key, the program version and a device identifier. The device identifier is not the raw

hardware identifier of your Mac but a product-specific value derived from it, from which your Mac cannot be recognised; your Mac's name is not transmitted (data minimisation of the licensing component `jks-kit` used).

Feedback & Support

"Feedback & Support …" lets you write to support from within the app. What goes to the support server of Juergen Koller Software GmbH is your text, the type of report, optionally your e-mail address (only if you enter it yourself), and the details shown beneath the form: version, build, macOS version, distribution channel and licence status.

So that you notice a reply even without an e-mail address, EdgeFlow asks the support server whether there are new replies to your requests: at launch, when you open "Feedback & Support …" and at regular intervals. While a request is waiting for a reply, this happens about every 30 minutes (hourly after one day, every three hours after one week) and additionally when you open the EdgeFlow menu or bring an EdgeFlow window to the front, then at most every two minutes; if support replied last, every three hours. Closed requests are only checked at launch and only up to 30 days after they were closed. Only the numbers of your requests and their access tokens are transmitted; as with every connection, the server sees your IP address. EdgeFlow shows a new reply as a dot on the menu bar icon (in Dock mode as a number on the Dock icon) and, if you have allowed notifications, as a notification — without the text of the reply.

Once you have read a reply, EdgeFlow reports the time to support (read receipt) so that it can see the reply has arrived. You can switch this off on the feedback page.

Purpose, legal basis and retention are described in the privacy policy at juergenkoller.software/en/privacy.html, section "In-App Feedback and Support".

Contact & Support

For questions or issues, please contact support at: info@juergenkoller.software

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EdgeFlow — One mouse and keyboard for several Macs.