

RunConsolation (1.1) for macOS Sierra and High Sierra *Documentation*

Howard Oakley <https://eclecticlight.co>

Recent versions of macOS Sierra have prevented anyone who is logged in as an *ordinary user* (as opposed to being an *admin user*) from reading the unified log. RunConsolation is one way of being able to read the unified log while still logged in as an ordinary user.

If you need to read the unified log as an ordinary user, the best way of doing so is to switch to your admin user account and log in using that. Because there is only one unified log, you will still be able to view all log entries made when the ordinary user was logged in. You can either log out and log back in as the admin user, or use fast user switching instead.

There are ways of running Consolation, Console, or Terminal's `log` command with elevated privileges, from Terminal or AppleScript. If you know any of those, you can use them, provided that you understand the security implications which they each bring.

If you do not know those, or would rather not have to use Terminal, then you can use **RunConsolation** instead. All this little app does is use AppleScript to run the Consolation2 app as the root user.

Running any app as the root user is not something which you should do unless it is essential. It exposes your Mac to a security risk, in that malware could exploit Consolation's root privileges, in an attack.

What you need

- A Mac running macOS Sierra or High Sierra. This version should now run correctly in High Sierra.
- A copy of the latest version of RunConsolation from <https://eclecticlight.co/downloads/> (This is delivered by secure HTTPS download), and a copy of Consolation2.app, which must be installed at the top level of your main /Applications folder. RunConsolation can only run the app if a copy is located there.
- The username and password for an admin account on that Mac.

To run Consolation2 as the root user

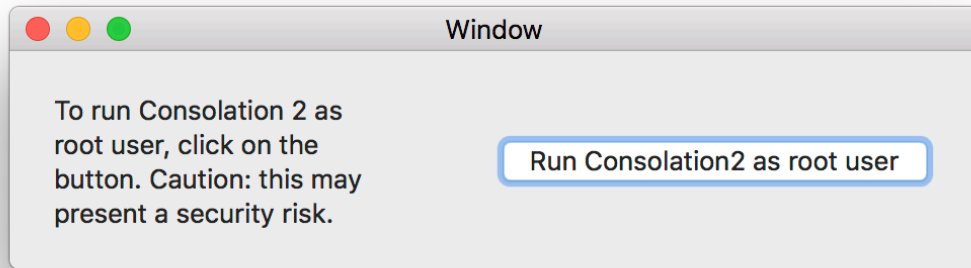
RunConsolation uses my developer code signature, so should run normally first time after installation.

If it does not, you should still be able to use it safely. Instead of double-clicking to run it the first time, select the app icon in a Finder window, and use the Finder's *Open* command to run it. You will be prompted to confirm that you want to open it: click on the button to say that you do. After that first use, on that Mac, you should be able to use it normally. If you are told that it is damaged or the signature is incorrect, please contact me.

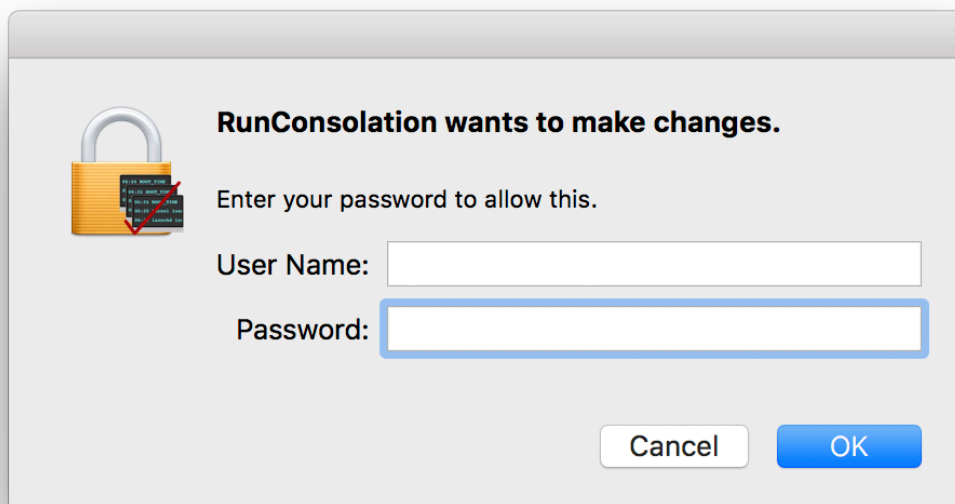
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RunConsolation will then call AppleScript to run the Consolation2 app. You should then be prompted to enter an admin username and its password. Note the icon displayed in this dialog, as it shows that the request is coming from RunConsolation, and not another app.



When you complete those and click on the OK button, Consolation2 should be launched and run as the root user.

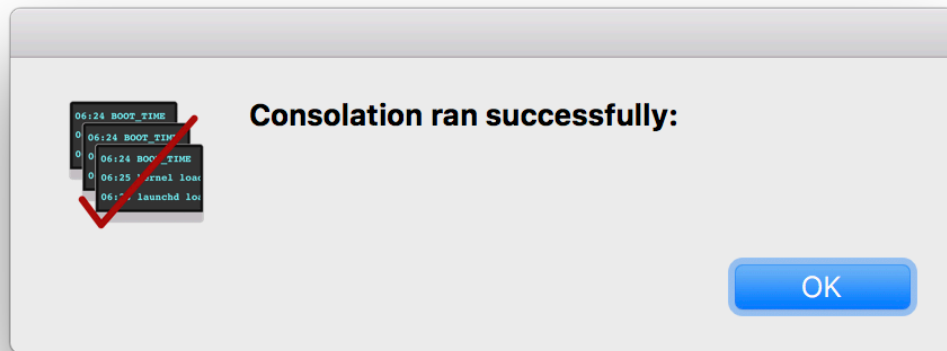
One problem with running as root is that the app cannot use preference settings, as it is unable to save those to an appropriate folder. Each time that you open a new window, or run Consolation using RunConsolation, you will need to set it up afresh.

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It is wise to leave RunConsolation running until you quit Consolation, as it serves as a reminder that the app is still there, and running as root. When you then quit Consolation, you should see the following alert if Consolation completed with error:



You can then quit RunConsolation.