

Clearing the quarantine extended attribute from downloaded applications

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When I'm packaging an application for deployment, I normally download the latest version from the vendor. If it's a drag-and-drop install, where the application is a self-contained bundle, it will get the **com.apple.quarantine** extended attribute associated with it.

[The quarantine attribute is added by the OS](#) so that it can ask for user confirmation the first time the downloaded program is run. [Gatekeeper in Lion and Mountain Lion](#) also uses the **com.apple.quarantine** attribute to determine if an application should be checked (and blocked if needed.)

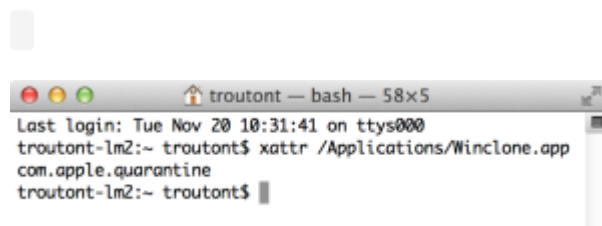
To avoid issues with both unwanted messages and Gatekeeper, I normally clear this attribute as part of my packaging. Here's how to check to see if your application has the **com.apple.quarantine** attribute associated with it:

1. Open Terminal
2. Run the following command:

```
xattr /path/to/MyApp.app
```

If the **com.apple.quarantine** attribute is associated with the application, you should see the following output:

```
computername:Applications username$ xattr /path/to/MyApp.app
com.apple.quarantine
computername:Applications username$
```



Note: Other attributes may also be listed, with **com.apple.FinderInfo** being a common one.

To remove the quarantine attribute, you would then run the following command:

```
sudo xattr -r -d com.apple.quarantine /path/to/MyApp.app
```



That will recursively remove the **com.apple.quarantine** attribute from the application. The **-r** option will allow the quarantine attribute of all files inside the application to be selected, while the **-d** option causes the given attribute name (and associated value) to be removed.

Source: <https://derflounder.wordpress.com/2012/11/20/clearing-the-quarantine-extended-attribute-from-downloaded-applications/>