

FairPlay Streaming — Deployment Checklist

Certificate flow, SDK 26 migration, EME and AVContentKeySession code paths, four production pitfalls.

1. Certificate request

Sprint 1, not sprint 4 — Apple review runs 2+ weeks.

- Account Holder signs in to the FairPlay Streaming portal.
- Apple checks: real streaming service to consumers (not agency).
- On approval, generate CSR via OpenSSL; download .cer + .pem + ASK.
- Two certificate slots per team — clear an old SDK 4 slot first.

3. HLS packaging

CMAF fMP4, cbcs scheme, dual key lines for multi-DRM.

- Encrypt CMAF with cbcs (AES-128 CBC, 1:9 pattern).
- EXT-X-KEY METHOD=SAMPLE-AES, KEYFORMAT=com.apple.streamingkeydelivery.
- Second EXT-X-KEY line carries Widevine pssh as data: URI.
- EXT-X-VERSION:6 minimum; HLS Authoring Spec 2025-09 mandates fMP4.

Pitfalls — KSM side

What goes wrong on the server.

- **Cert review slipped.** Apple review > 2 weeks — start sprint 1.
- **Wrong RSA size.** SDK 26 = RSA-2048, SDK 4 = RSA-1024. KSM auto-detects.
- **SPC integrity skipped.** Silently accepts tampered SDK 26 SPCs.
- **CKC policy missing.** Right HDCP flag + rental duration; otherwise 480p.
- **Single key for all renditions.** Use multi-key packaging per ladder.

2. SDK 26 migration (by Sep 2026)

RSA-1024 to RSA-2048, SPC v3 integrity protection.

- Load both SDK 4 + SDK 26 certificate bundles in your KSM.
- Auto-detect SPC version (v1/v2/v3) from the header.
- Enable SPC v3 mandatory integrity-hash verification.
- Use Apple's Swift or Rust reference KSM as a baseline.

4. Client-side integration

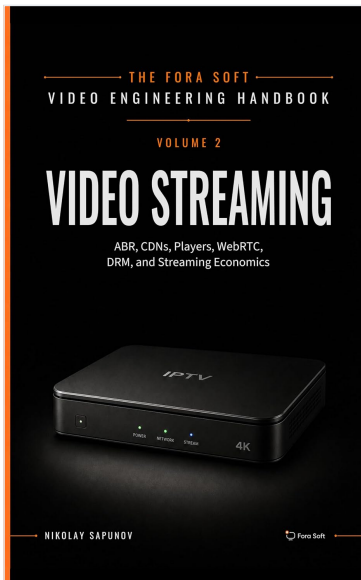
Browser EME and native AVContentKeySession.

- Safari EME keySystem string: **com.apple.fps.1_0**.
- iOS / tvOS / visionOS native: AVContentKeySession.
- Persistent license? Pass storage + playback duration in CKC.
- Track playback start in the app — Apple gives no remaining-time API.

Pitfalls — client side

What goes wrong in the browser or the app.

- **EME key system off.** Use com.apple.fps.1_0, not com.apple.fps.
- **MEDIA_ERR_SRC_NOT_SUPPORTED + KSM -42676.** EME config bug, not server.
- **MPEG-TS for new content.** Authoring Spec 2025-09 requires CMAF.
- **No offline-clock UI.** No API for remaining persistent-license time.
- **Manifest signals only Widevine.** Safari sees no FPS line, refuses to play.



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This checklist covers the FairPlay certificate flow, the SDK 26 migration, HLS packaging and the client code paths. Volume 3 goes deeper into the rest of protected playback: multi-DRM in browsers and on devices, player license handling and error recovery, CDN delivery of encrypted segments, and the cost of protection per viewer.

WHAT YOU WILL FIND INSIDE

- FairPlay, Widevine and PlayReady side by side
- License handling and player error recovery
- Encrypted segment delivery through CDNs
- Cost of DRM per viewer

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