



Country  
United States

Industry  
Education

**Customer Profile**

Delta VISTA is a newly formed Science and Technology charter school program of Venture Academy, a K-12 school which utilizes Intel-Macs in its educational computer labs.

A key part of Delta VISTA's program required its students to have access to GIS software from ESRI – a Windows-only program. Because the school was unable to invest in additional computers, students were faced with missing out on hands-on education with this important piece of industry standard software.

Parallels Desktop for Mac enabled Delta VISTA to transform its Mac OS X computer lab into a flexible GIS learning environment that supports Mac OS X, Windows, and even Linux.

Company URL  
[www.VentureAcademyCA.org](http://www.VentureAcademyCA.org)

"[My students] are now able to be better prepared for Industry and College," declared Mark McKay.

# Delta VISTA – Venture Academy

"Parallels Desktop for Mac has allowed my GIS and computer lab to be a complete computer lab. Students are able to use whatever computer tool they need, and they have access to whatever operating system they need."

- Mark McKay, Delta VISTA Science Teacher

**Situation**

Delta VISTA is a newly formed Science and Technology Academy charter school of Venture Academy. Focused on providing select high school students with hands-on training in computer sciences including biology, geosciences, and oceanography as well as computer technologies such as GIS/GPS and remote sensing, Delta VISTA's goal is to provide its students the skills and training necessary to either enter the workforce or pursue additional education after high school.

Delta VISTA's educational computer labs were stocked exclusively with Intel-powered Macs to allow students access to essential Mac-only computer science programs. However, a critical part of the growing school's program required that students have access industry standard GIS software from ESRI, which could only run on Windows XP.

If Delta VISTA could not find an alternative way to run this Windows-only application in its Mac-only computer lab, the school would have to invest in additional machines, which would prove a challenge as Venture Academy's budget was extremely tight. Additionally, because the school's computer lab was limited in space, Delta VISTA would not be able to equip each student with a separate PC, which would force the students to share the limited number of Windows workstations and severely limit the students' experience and education with GIS software. Not only would students' overall efficiency suffer, so would their teachers', as they would face the additional workload of trying to ensure that each student spent a sufficient amount of time with the GIS workstation.

"If we could not find a way to use this software," stated McKay, "students would not be able to use a valuable tool."

**Solution**

Seeking to integrate Windows XP into their Mac OS X environment without investing in additional hardware, Delta VISTA first installed Apple Boot Camp on each lab computer, but students and teachers found that constantly having to reboot between the two operating systems required too much time. With each class session limited to a specific timeframe, each moment required to switch between operating systems was education lost. To maximize the computer lab's full potential, Mac OS X and Windows needed to be able to run simultaneously on a single machine.

Delta VISTA then deployed Parallels Desktop for Mac to its lab. By enabling the lab computers to run OS X, Windows, and any distribution of Linux side-by-side on a single Mac, Parallels Desktop gave the teachers and students access to the critical GIS applications they needed and the educational opportunity they deserved.

**Benefits**

By deploying Parallels Desktop for Mac to its educational Mac computers, Delta VISTA was able to turn its Mac lab into true GIS educational environments and provide student with access to Mac OS X, Windows, and Linux on each student's workstation. Parallels Desktop's flexibility also enables teachers to continue remotely monitoring their students' machines using Apple Remote Desktop, which gives the teachers more control over their classrooms and more time to devote to their students' education.

