

Wentworth Institute of Technology



“WIT stays leading edge by using the most current computer technology available. Because of Parallels Desktop for Mac, we were able to facilitate key products for all of our students, regardless of their platform.”

- Mike Feller, Director of Academic Computing

Situation

For over a century, the Wentworth Institute of Technology (WIT) has prided itself on providing its students a comprehensive, cutting edge technology and design education. To support the Institute's goal of providing a thorough, hands-on education, the Wentworth Academic Division determinedly focuses on making today's leading software and technology available to both teachers and students. In 2004, WIT launched its Laptop Initiative, providing freshmen with a laptop preconfigured with the applications and settings required for their chosen curriculum.

Of WIT's more than 2,800 students, 60% required PCs and 40% required Macs. For example, while WIT's Design and Architecture students needed Macs to study Mac-based design and CAD applications, such as Adobe CS3 Suite and VectorWorks, its engineering students needed PCs to work with Windows-only CAD and 3D-rendering software, such as AutoCAD and Solid Works. However, the design students also needed hands-on experience with many of the same Windows-only applications that the engineering students had ready access to. To accommodate the students in Architecture and Design, teachers had to juggle special class schedules, severely limiting students' access to the critical applications.

Software licensing costs were also becoming a burden. To accommodate both the Mac and PC communities on campus, WIT had to invest in dual site licenses – one for MS Project and another for Fast Track for Macs. While both applications performed the same function, each would only run on a single platform.

To give each student access to key Windows-only CAD and 3D graphics applications and reduce the cost of multiple site licenses for additional software, the IT staff deployed Apple's Boot Camp to run Windows on each Mac laptop but found that the sheer number of man hours required to install Boot Camp and configure each individual Mac laptop was far too time-consuming. With its Laptop Initiative in full swing, WIT still needed an easy-to-deploy, flexible solution that would enable its Mac-only students to run key Windows-only 3D graphics, CAD, design, and project management software. Otherwise, teachers, students, and IT alike would be forced to work through cumbersome deployment, special class schedules, and the cost of dual site licenses.

Solution

After reevaluating the deployment using Boot Camp, WIT looked to Parallels Desktop for Mac, which enables users to run Mac OS X and Windows on any Intel-powered Mac at the same time without rebooting. After deploying Parallels Desktop for Mac to each Mac, IT then created a single image already preconfigured with both Mac- and Windows-only graphics applications as well as MS Project for easy deployment to any Parallels-powered Mac on the network, giving students access to any Windows-only application they needed, including AutoCAD, right on their laptops.

Country
United States

Industry
Education

Customer Profile

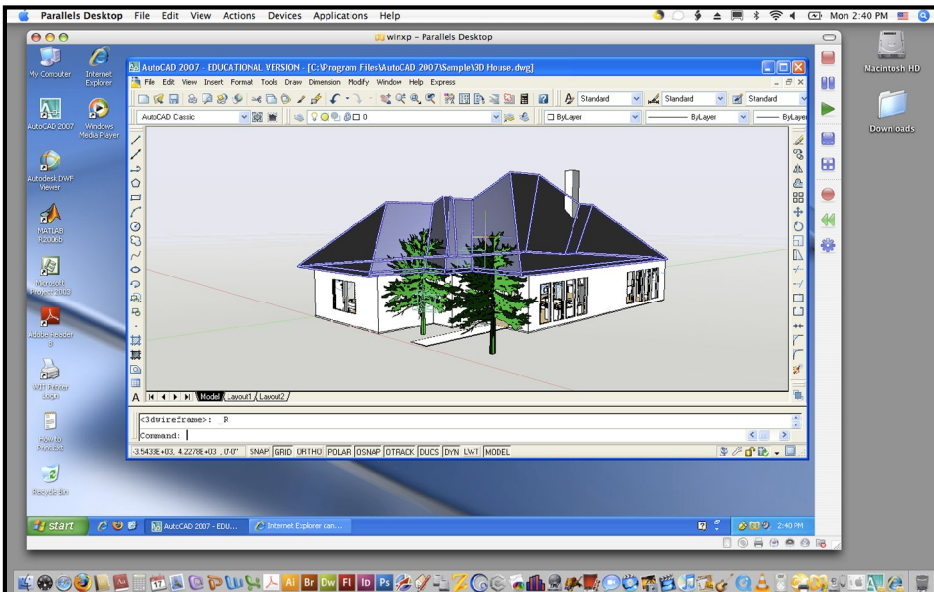
Founded in 1904, the Wentworth Institute of Technology is a nationally-ranked design and technology educational institution focused on hands-on experience with the most cutting-edge technology and applications available.

60% of WIT's students required PCs and 40% required Macs, but the Mac-only students still needed access to Windows-only CAD and 3D graphics applications. With the launch of WIT's Laptop Initiative, IT administrators faced a daunting mass deployment each semester as they customized several hundred laptops to provide students the software required for their chosen curriculum.

By deploying Parallels Desktop for Mac, WIT's IT was able to create and install a single image for each Mac laptop, streamlining deployment, giving Mac-only architecture and design students access to key CAD and 3D graphics applications, and saving more than \$78,000 by eliminating the need for multiple site licenses for additional software.

Company URL

www.wit.edu



Benefits

Able to deploy a single, customized image to any Parallels-powered Mac on the network, IT streamlined what was once a tedious and cumbersome deployment. WIT's design students were given unlimited access to critical applications related to their course of study. Students and faculty report that some 3D applications, such as Solid Works, even ran faster in Parallels Desktop for Mac than they did on real PCs!

With students now able to run Windows on each Mac laptop, architecture students were able to use MS Project instead of Fast Track, saving WIT more than \$78,000 by eliminating the need to invest in the additional site license.