

Parallels® Virtuozzo Containers

Customer Success Story

AET Films Wraps Up Data Center Virtualization with Parallels Virtuozzo Containers

Facing Server Sprawl and Growing Numbers of Uncontrolled Servers, AET Films Deploys Parallels Virtuozzo Containers to Regain Control over its Infrastructure

Business Challenge

AET Films is a company that touches most consumers every day, yet few know its name. AET Films produces the packaging and labeling for everything from potato chips to cat food. The company has grown very quickly and has built its success on a culture of innovation at an extremely fast pace. One example of the culture was a concept for an application that improves their customer experience; the idea went from concept, to trial to mission critical application within a week. Engineers would find servers in many different ways, and often they wouldn't want to wait for appropriate hardware or for the IT team to provide a server. As a result they would deploy these bleeding edge applications on anything that hummed – including an old PC housed under their desk.

This fast paced, unmanaged environment quickly became a nightmare for the IT department to manage. It was impossible to know how many servers and applications were in existence; it was a challenge to do the basic Microsoft system updates. In addition to the administrative challenges, AET Films was experiencing server sprawl.

“We had a classic case of server sprawl, with more than 75 servers and PCs spread around the facility. This led to a lot of extra overhead, both administrative and support, trying to manage the disparate systems was impossible, we couldn't keep the OSs patched. It was a real quagmire.”

— Chris Stucker, Manager of Systems, Networking and Services

Evaluation

Chris Stucker, Manager of Systems, Networking and Services was in charge of several of these areas for the company. The systems and networking areas created many of these bandit applications while the help desk in the services area tried to support these groups. Stucker had thoroughly tested VMware ESX and was very close to deploying this solution. However, as a part of his due diligence, he felt obligated to provide another technology choice for comparison. Completely unexpectedly, Stucker changed course and decided that Parallels Virtuozzo Containers was the better choice for the AET Films deployment. One of the key reasons Stucker chose Parallels Virtuozzo Containers was its performance. As a part of the evaluation, he was able to use the management tools on a fully loaded Parallels Virtuozzo Containers server.



About AET Films

AET Films is North America's leading developer and only independent global supplier dedicated solely to the manufacturing of oriented polypropylene (OPP) films.

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Parallels Virtuozzo Containers Solutions

- **Server and OS Consolidation**
- **Business Continuity (HA/DR)**
- Centralized Desktop Management
- **Dynamic Workload Management**
- Internal and Commercial Hosting
- **Development and Testing**

“We were impressed with the number of virtual environments we could create on a single physical machine, we had 25 or more Parallels Virtuozzo Containers virtual environments running on a server and the applications, including MSSQL, were extremely responsive.”

— Chris Stucker, Manager of Systems, Networking and Services

Parallels Virtuozzo Containers Solution and Implementation

Stucker’s team loaded Parallels Virtuozzo Containers for Windows and deployed its first virtual environment in one afternoon. Today it houses many of their applications such as MSSQL as well as many home-grown proprietary applications. They have consolidated approximately 45 servers (or PCs) onto three servers, each running about 15 virtual environments. The internal support team now has complete control over these environments, provisioning, patching, monitoring and maintaining them at a level that was previously impossible. On a daily basis they also deploy virtual environments for various reasons. Their very active development team to uses them to develop and test more innovative applications, and virtual environments are periodically migrated to other hardware for updates and other maintenance reasons.

“Now that we’re in production, Parallels Virtuozzo Containers high-density capabilities, combined with great management tools, reduced power and cooling needs and excellent up-front pricing leads to a very cost-effective way to streamline the data center and reduce complexity throughout the IT organization.”

— Chris Stucker, Manager of Systems, Networking and Services

Results

AET Films continues to deploy Parallels Virtuozzo Containers virtual environments as application requirements continue to grow. Stucker’s long-term goal is to continue to provision virtualized servers until they eliminate standalone Windows servers. They will be deploying a high availability configuration on their servers with the Parallels Virtuozzo Containers 4.0 release. They also have a growing Linux deployment they may consider moving onto Parallels Virtuozzo Containers for Linux.

Learn more at www.parallels.com/virtuozzo

Hardware

- IBM HS21 Blade Server
- SAN Storage
- RAM 8GB
- CPU: 2 Dual Core 2 GHz

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