Integra Engineering lowers IT overhead, improves network stability with Parallels RAS

Company Overview

Integra Engineering is an innovative full-service design firm that specializes in providing complete engineering, procurement, and construction management (EPCM) services to the oil and gas industry. The small design firm is located in the "Heavy Oil Capital of Canada," Lloydminster, Alberta. One of the company's main strengths against larger firms is its location close to the field, which allows them to make frequent site visits where they can supervise design implementation.

Integra Engineering works on projects worldwide, including those located in southern and northern Alberta and Saskatchewan, southern Manitoba, Argentina, Cuba, Colombia, Trinidad/Tobago, and Yemen. The company prides itself on its technical expertise, quality service, and quick turnaround.

The Challenge: Mounting VDI-related costs and maintenance hours

With a modest network of 30 users, and 25 concurrent users at peak times, Integra Engineering needed an application delivery solution to provide personalized line-of-business (LOB) applications, MS Office, Adobe®, and engineering software to employees in the office and remote locations. The company also needed a VDI solution to run Microsoft Hyper-V® in order to create virtual machines for employee use.

Before selecting Parallels Remote Application Server (RAS) as its comprehensive solution of choice, Integra Engineering was struggling with a Citrix-based infrastructure. The costs and maintenance hours required to manage the Citrix® infrastructure were mounting at an unsustainable rate, especially for the small staff of an organization struggling against strong economic headwinds with the fall in oil prices. Due to software and hardware issues, the IT team was forced to make constant and, as a result, costly upgrades to the system run by Citrix Presentation Server™.

Users also frequently lost connection with Citrix, which was taking a toll on productivity. Not only was the Citrix infrastructure expensive, but it was also unreliable. Unsatisfied with the level of service provided by Citrix for their virtual application delivery solution, Integra Engineering decided to return to the marketplace to explore other options.

> "Citrix was becoming too costly. We were always playing around with it, and it took a lot of time out of the day just to keep it working."
>
> -Duane Liebelt, *IT Coordinator*

Integra Engineering Chooses a Comprehensive Virtualization Solution: Parallels RAS

Integra Engineering chose to replace Citrix with Parallels RAS. The firm's IT coordinator, Duane Liebelt, was initially attracted to Parallels RAS because of its lower TCO. However, after a straightforward installation process, he was pleasantly surprised by the streamlined management features and strong network reliability offered by RAS.

Key Benefits of Parallels RAS

After switching to Parallels RAS, the main benefits for Integra Engineering were lower overhead and greater virtualization solution stability. With Citrix, the IT team was constantly forced to work long hours under stressful situations in order to fix connection problems. This also cost the employees time and created lost business opportunities when the system was down.

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Furthermore, the economy in Alberta is struggling against low oil prices worldwide, which has, of course, put pressure on the entire team, including IT, to cut costs. Parallels RAS allows the IT team to provide efficient access to personalized LOB applications such as MS Office while simultaneously lowering costs.

By providing reliable access to highly important LOB applications from a range of remote devices, Parallels RAS helps Integra Engineering's employees better address client needs and create more sustainable solutions.

About Parallels RAS

Parallels RAS is a comprehensive virtual application delivery and VDI solution. In contrast to other market leaders, Parallels RAS offers an affordable, streamlined virtualization solution that is accessible to firms of all sizes, including small and medium-sized businesses. Both IT administrators and end users benefit from the endless mobile options and straightforward interface offered by the Parallels RAS solution.

VDI and application delivery can be expensive and complex—unless you are one of the over 5,000 organizations and businesses that uses Parallels RAS to deliver applications, desktops, and data to their employees on any device, anywhere.

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