

# Region 7 ESC Uses Parallels RAS to Deliver Homegrown Applications on the Public Cloud



## The Customer: Region 7 Education Service Center (ESC)

Region 7 Education Service Center (ESC) is one of 20 regional education service centers in Texas that participates in the planning, development, coordination, implementation, and evaluation of innovative educational programs. Created in 1967, education service centers (ESCs) do not have tax levying or bonding authority; they rely on grants and contracts for funding. Revenues are received from three primary sources: federal, state, and local funds. Region 7 currently serves seven charters and 95 school districts, the largest amount of school districts of any ESC.

## The Challenge: Citrix XenApp was too costly, complicated

In the past, Region 7 ESC had published its time-accounting software to remote sites and employee end users by using the Citrix XenApp virtualization solution. Unfortunately, Citrix XenApp created high costs that pushed up the IT budget. In addition, the educational organization found that technical support at Citrix provided an inadequate service to the customer.

Region 7 ESC needed to switch out complex, costly Citrix with an affordable application publishing solution. Accordingly, the educational organization went on the market to find a comprehensive application publishing solution with public-cloud support features and a user-friendly HTML5 Client portal.

## The Solution: Easy-to-install Parallels RAS virtualization immediately lowers costs

To replace Citrix, Region 7 ESC decided to test the comprehensive application delivery solution Parallels® Remote Application Server (RAS). The organization was pleased to find that Parallels RAS was straightforward to test and install. Furthermore, Parallels RAS offered vastly more affordable licensing options than Citrix.

With Parallels RAS, Region 7 ESC was able to provide user-friendly remote application access to its employees working on PCs, Mac®, or any other device with an HTML5 web browser. Parallels RAS also fully supported Microsoft Azure and Amazon Web Services™ (AWS) public cloud infrastructure.

The educational organization was able to implement an HTML5 web portal that created further flexibility for its workers in the office and at offsite locations.

Additionally, Parallels RAS offered advanced application publishing features in its standard edition. This meant that Region 7 ESC was able to take advantage of auto-configured load balancing, universal printing, and scanning options at no extra costs.

### **The Benefits: Lower remote application publishing and management costs**

Region 7 ESC was instantly able to dramatically lower its total cost of ownership (TCO) for their application publishing solution by implementing Parallels RAS. Not only was Parallels RAS easy to install and use, but IT management also improved through the use of a simple wizard to manage application publication from a centralized location.

Parallels RAS generated important cost reductions with lowered licensing costs. Compared to Citrix, Parallels RAS was much easier to set up and use. As a result, the IT team was able to build and maintain the system in a much shorter time, without needing specialized virtualization certifications, trainings, or expensive consultants.

Parallels RAS offers comprehensive application publishing features in a single package and an easy-to-understand licensing model. In fact, the award-winning virtualization tool by Parallels reduces licensing costs by 60% when compared to other solutions such as Citrix, all while improving the speed and reliability of remote application access.



*"We utilize Parallels Remote Application Server to provide access to time-accounting software at 60+ remote sites as well as to offsite users."*

**-Ben Warriner**  
WAN Specialist, Region 7 ESC

### **Conclusion**

The Parallels RAS comprehensive desktop and application delivery solution provided Region 7 ESC with a seamless, easy-to-use virtual application publishing environment for its employees to take advantage of. The greatest advantage for Region 7 ESC was a more affordable, user-friendly IT infrastructure; the educational organization was able to do more with less. Overall, IT network administrators and employee end users were extremely satisfied with the virtualization solution provided by Parallels RAS.

### **About Parallels**

Parallels is a global leader in virtual desktop, application delivery, and mobile device management solutions. Thousands of organizations worldwide trust in the reliability and scalability of Parallels virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) and virtualization solutions. Parallels makes it simple and affordable to deliver applications to any device over the cloud, or through on-premise and hybrid deployments.

The company's solution portfolio includes the award-winning Parallels Remote Application Server (RAS), providing platform-independent virtual desktop, application delivery, and integrated thin-client management from a unified interface to any modern operating system.