



Case Study | **Parallels Remote Application Server**

Parallels RAS Provides High-Quality Citrix Replacement to Rawls College of Business

The Customer: Rawls College of Business at Texas Tech University

Named after Texas Tech alumnus Jerry S. Rawls, the Rawls College of Business offers extensive undergraduate and graduate programs designed to give students an in-depth understanding of the business world, preparing them for successful careers as leaders, managers, executives, and innovators in their chosen field. The Rawls College prides itself on its ability to foster tomorrow's thought leaders, develop innovative programs that meet industry demands, expand its alumni network, and hire renowned faculty.

The diverse student body includes almost 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students who have the opportunity to pursue futures in accounting, energy commerce, finance, health organization management, management information systems, management, and marketing and supply chain management.

The Challenge: High cost and integration challenges presented by Citrix

Rawls College of Business relied on Citrix before Parallels® Remote Application Server (RAS) to provide a virtual application publishing solution for between 26-100 concurrent users at any given time. The institution needed to publish applications, including Microsoft Office Suite, to a wide range of devices, including Windows, Mac®, Android, iPhone®, iPad®, and Microsoft Surface. Rawls College also required a virtualization solution that supported cloud provider Amazon Web Services™ (AWS), as well as Dropbox for Business.

With Citrix, the high licensing costs were cutting a large hole in the IT budget. The Citrix environment was not only expensive to maintain, but it was also difficult to integrate with other server farms on the campus. Moreover, Citrix's XenApp and XenDesktop solutions required complicated additions and further purchases in order to achieve a truly comprehensive virtualization solution.

To simplify and better integrate their virtual application solution, Rawls College began searching for a VDI solution that was more in-line with their organization's needs.

The Solution: Parallels Remote Application Server (RAS)

Rawls College primarily decided to switch to Parallels RAS because of its easy implementation and favorable price point in comparison to Citrix. Additionally, the Parallels RAS solution was more stable and user-friendly than Citrix for students, staff, and faculty at the institution.

The flexibility to use Parallels RAS with multiple VDIs (including both Microsoft Hyper-V and VMware) was also a "huge benefit," according to Dayton Perrin, who is a server administrator at Rawls College.

Key Benefits: Easy set-up and lower TCO

The key benefits of implementing Parallels RAS were wide ranging. First off, the overall simplicity of the solution streamlined virtualization and application publishing. Secondly, the fast implementation and ease of use saved valuable time and money, including fewer IT certification trainings and expensive consultants, as well as a reduction in end-user support requests. With Parallels RAS, Rawls College could now manage their entire virtualization solution on Windows Server 2003–2016 through one pane of glass.

Perrin also pointed out that the Parallels RAS wizards simplified many time-consuming tasks, which further lowered costs. The organization could also implement bring-your-own-device (BYOD) and carry-your-own-device (CYOD) policies. This brought down hardware costs and improved the user experience for faculty and students who wanted to use their devices for accessing learning applications. Parallels RAS made it simple to deploy virtual applications and desktops to any device remotely, without needing to physically touch the device.

“Not only is Parallels RAS much cheaper than Citrix, it is more stable and more user friendly for our faculty, staff, and students at our business college,” said Perrin.

Another major benefit was the streamlined migration process, which took only one day to complete instead of months. Overall, by implementing Parallels RAS, Rawls College was able to enjoy a much lower total cost of ownership (TCO) (including lower licensing) as well as all-in-one virtualization features such as automatic load balancing available out of the box.

“Within a single day we were able to set up Parallels and have a published application running in our environment. The performance of Parallels RAS is fantastic and provides our business college with the tools to meet any request from our faculty, staff, and students.”

–Dayton Perrin, Server Administrator III, Rawls College of Business

About Parallels

Parallels Remote Application Server (RAS) makes VDI and virtual application delivery easy to manage and affordable to deploy. Among its competitors, Parallels RAS features the top mobile experience within iOS and Android clients by supporting native touch gestures. The cloud-ready virtualization solution Parallels RAS is fully functional on Amazon Web Services and Microsoft Azure cloud, on-premise networks, and hybrid deployments.

Find out why 5,000 organizations use Parallels RAS to deliver virtual applications and desktops to their employees on any device imaginable. Download the free 30-day trial today!