



Virtual Applications and Desktop Delivery to Mobile Devices

White Paper | Parallels Remote Application Server

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Virtual Applications and Desktop Delivery to Mobile Devices

More and more businesses are allowing their employees, customers, and business partners to access corporate applications, data, and desktops virtually from any device and any location to help them boost productivity and increase revenue.

Businesses need a comprehensive application and desktop delivery solution that allows them to centrally hold and manage resources in their datacenter of choice. It also needs to provide access to those resources from any device, regardless of operating system, network location, or hardware type.

This white paper explains why Parallels® Remote Application Server (RAS) is the perfect solution to make company resources securely accessible from any workstation, thin client, or mobile device, therefore enabling complete bring-your-own-device (BYOD) support.

Parallels RAS completes your company virtualization solution

Parallels RAS offers a flexible, scalable, and easy-to-deploy application and virtual desktop delivery solution. It complements any business virtualization solution and provides suitable mobility solutions for employees and business partners alike, allowing them to access their corporate resources from anywhere, at any time.

Deliver access to legacy applications everywhere

Maintaining and updating legacy applications locally on individual computers requires a great investment of time and resources. With the Parallels RAS application publishing feature, all of your legacy applications can easily be centralized and managed on Remote Desktop Server Hosts (RDSH) servers, making them accessible from any device.

Additionally, every application upgrade process is centrally managed. Administrators only have to update one central application, simplifying day-to-day management tasks and requiring less resources. The RDSH servers' auto-scaling feature will also guarantee that the number of servers used to host user sessions will be automatically adjusted, ensuring the optimal use of your company's resources.

Deliver virtual desktops everywhere

A growing number of businesses are introducing virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) to host their employees' desktops. VDI solutions allow businesses to optimize resources, offer mobility solutions, and simplify maintenance tasks (such as backup management or application updates).

The comprehensive, easy-to-use VDI solution found in Parallels RAS works with the most commonly used hypervisors (including Microsoft Hyper-V, Citrix Hypervisor (formerly known as XenServer), VMware ESXi) as well as hyperconverged infrastructure such as Nutanix Acropolis, HPE, Scale Computing HC3, or Kernel-based Virtual Machine (KVM). It allows businesses to easily manage and deliver virtual desktops. Parallels cutting-edge technology is fully compatible with cloning technologies—both full and linked clones—and with its own generalization tool (RASPrep), new desktops can be built within minutes.

Support for any devices, plus HTML5

Parallels client software is available for Windows, Mac®, and Linux operating systems. It can be installed virtually on any type of mobile device, such as Android, iOS, or Raspberry Pi.

Users can also access their published resources using the HTML5 client. Therefore, regardless of the device or operating system they are using, users can access their applications and virtual desktops as long as they use an HTML5-compatible browser such as Google Chrome, Firefox, or Internet Explorer.

Great user experience

Parallels RAS offers a superior user experience on mobile devices due to features such as:

- **Keystroke shortcuts** can be defined to perform common actions, easing and personalizing the usage of applications or desktops on mobile devices.
- **Three different mouse modes in Parallels Client** (Touch Mode, Dumbo Mouse, and Pointer) allow users to choose what best fits their requirements when working from smartphones or tablets. For iOS devices, the Swiftpoint GT Mouse nearly transforms your iPhone® or iPad® into a traditional workstation.
- **Applification™ technology** allows users to make use of common touch gestures in mobile devices—such as wipe, drag, or zoom—to interact with their published applications or desktops.
- **Parallels Client text button** allows users to open a text box, write in it, and send data to a remote application. This enhances the usage of applications in certain situations, such as small screens or slow network connections.

All these features add up to a brilliant end-user mobile experience, making it possible to easily use applications on mobile devices, even when they were not designed to run on them.

Secured access

All Parallels RAS components support and work with Secure Socket Layer (SSL) technology, ensuring an encrypted and secure communication channel between all clients and the servers that host the published resources. Communication will always be secure, even when connected over non-trusted networks.

Parallels RAS also includes a complete set of features that boosts the security of the IT infrastructure. This allows administrators to fully control who can access which resources and when.

- All the infrastructure components, RDSH servers, and user virtual desktops are located in a secure and central location, such as a datacenter, a public cloud, or a private cloud. Therefore, all access to corporate data can be centrally controlled, simplifying firewall rules configuration and avoiding critical data traffic leaving your datacenter.
- Administrators have all the tools they need to specify which devices are authorized to connect to the environment. They can use different policy settings and criteria, controlling access based on the incoming RAS Gateway, client MAC address, user, user group, or client machine type. Policies also allow the administrator to control advanced client-machine networking settings such as device port redirections, local drive mapping, printing, scanning, and much more.
- Complete integration with Microsoft Active Directory inherits all user accounts logon properties: password complexity requirements, logon time configuration, and user account state (enabled or disabled).
- Administrators can configure lockdown policies for user devices and can transform them into a thin-client kiosk mode. For Windows client devices, Parallels RAS provides additional management features. It allows administrators to remotely manage client devices and remotely power on or off, reboot, log off, lock, or shadow.
- FIPS 140-2 encryption support for Windows clients helps organizations be compliant with many of the different existing data-compliance regulations. Multifactor authentication (MFA) can also be configured through RADIUS for Microsoft Azure MFA (natively compatible), Duo, and FortiAuthenticator.

On-premise, hybrid, and cloud solutions

Cost reduction and business continuity are some of the most popular reasons why businesses are moving their resources to the cloud, either in full cloud mode or hybrid mode.

Parallels understands this and supports businesses who want to move to the cloud. In fact, in addition to the traditional on-premise setup, Parallels RAS also supports both hybrid and cloud deployments. Parallels RAS is available for Microsoft Azure, Amazon Web Services™ (AWS), and Alibaba Cloud.

Parallels RAS offers flexibility when it comes to configuration

In hybrid mode, IT administrators can easily configure how to redirect user connections to the RAS setup based on the device type or the network location. For example, in a multi-site RAS deployment, administrators can redirect mobile device connections coming from the Internet to a specific cloud deployment, while connections coming from trusted networks can be redirected to the on-premise setup.

Other notable features

App-V integration Parallels RAS is completely integrated with Microsoft App-V. Application packaging is centrally managed and configured, delivering the applications directly to the RDSH servers. This allows administrations to seamlessly deliver App-V packaged applications to any mobile device that otherwise may be unsupported.

Turbo.net integration Parallels RAS integrates natively with Turbo.net, allowing applications to provision directly from their repositories to your RDSH servers. Administrators just have to choose required applications from the Parallels RAS Console and publish them to their respective users under predefined security-access policies.

Remote PCs availability Some legacy applications only run properly under specific conditions, and they cannot be installed on any client device. To solve this, Parallels RAS has the Remote PC feature, which provides the ability to publish desktops and applications from any Windows client operating system.

Other resources publishing Apart from applications and desktops, Parallels RAS can also publish web applications, document files, or UNC folders. This allows you to truly make your business data and resources easily accessible from anywhere, on any device, regardless of the OS and hardware.

Conclusion

To keep up with the competition and today's fast-paced industries, businesses need to make their legacy resources accessible to employees from any site, anywhere, on any device. Parallels RAS is the perfect solution to achieve this, thanks to its configuration flexibility, ease of deployment, enhanced security policies and authentication methods, and compatibility with hybrid and cloud environments.

With Parallels RAS, all your business applications, desktops, and documents can be delivered securely to your employees and business partners, regardless of their device, physical location, and network connection conditions.