

# Orchard Hill College Simplifies and Improves Remote Access with Parallels RAS



## The Results



### BRING-YOUR-OWN-DEVICE (BYOD) INITIATIVES

Users can access virtual workloads on Windows, Mac, iOS and HTML5 web browsers with future support for Chromebooks.



### EASE OF USE AND STREAMLINED MANAGEMENT

Features like simple patching and direct updates to all clones make technical support easy for administrators.



### LOWERED THE TOTAL-COST-OF-OWNERSHIP

Decrease in licensing costs combined with eliminating the need for expensive add-ons and outside technical consultations.



### INCREASED REMOTE ACCESSIBILITY

Staff can access essential documents from anywhere, including their homes.

“We also looked at implementing Citrix, but it was a lot more expensive and trickier.”

Andy Barnes  
Head of IT Services  
Orchard Hill College

## About Orchard Hill College

- Orchard Hill College is a community-based specialist college offering educational opportunities for students over 16 years old with a wide range of special needs.
- As an outstanding provider and Academy sponsor, Orchard Hill College has a strong track record for positively impacting the local community it serves.
- With multiple locations in England, centers across London and Surrey maintain around 300 lecturers and staff.



Parallels is a global leader in cross-platform solutions, enabling businesses and individuals to access and use the applications and files they need on any device or operating system. Parallels helps customers leverage the best technology available, whether it's Windows, Linux, macOS, iOS, Android or the cloud.

The company's solution portfolio includes the award-winning Parallels Remote Application Server (RAS), an all-in-one application delivery and virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) solution that enables users to work remotely from anywhere, on any device, at any time.

## The Challenge

Previously, Orchard Hill College had implemented remote access through Barracuda SSL VPN. However, the London-based college encountered challenges when providing remote access to its employees due to problems with Java installation and updates.

While the college explored Citrix-based virtualization options, the basic Citrix package only allowed applications to be published through Citrix Virtual Apps (previously XenApp). Orchard Hill College would have needed to purchase a more expensive license to publish applications or virtual and remote desktops to remote machines. Adding additional servers manually would have also required more employee time to set up and maintain.

This increased workload and costly upgrades encouraged Orchard Hill College to search for a better application environment that would facilitate simple and fast implementation across various devices. Ideally, this application and desktop delivery solution would help them to focus on their mission to improve opportunities and outcomes for their pupils and students.

## The Solution

Orchard Hill College assessed virtual application delivery and remote desktop alternatives before choosing Parallels® Remote Application Server (RAS)—an efficient and cost-effective solution. By choosing Parallels RAS, the college saved staff time and the IT department's budget by eliminating the need for expensive add-ons and outside technical consultation. Parallels RAS is an all-in-one virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) solution. It includes simple patching and updates to all clones, load balancing, automatic configuration of clients and ready-to-go shadowing features that make technical support easy for administrators and end-users.

As another benefit, Parallels RAS enables staff to achieve remote access to Capita SIMS information management software on virtual desktops. The institution also implemented a bring-your-own-device (BYOD) policy for the staff. They can update administrative documentation on any device, anywhere, including from the comfort of their own homes. In the future, they will implement low-cost Google Chromebook devices for staff which creates additional time and cost savings for Orchard Hill College.

Parallels RAS is a comprehensive virtual desktop and application delivery solution, which offers an outstanding user experience. The out-of-the-box technical features—combined with cost savings on licenses and third-party support—made Parallels RAS a clearly superior choice for Orchard Hill College.

## The Results

Upgrading to Parallels RAS was a quick and straightforward process. The Orchard Hill College IT department was impressed to see the speed its end users were able to migrate to Parallels RAS. After concerns that the move could take months, they were pleased to see that it was achieved in a few hours.

Orchard Hill College appreciates the ability to choose your own device. Allowing users to bring their own devices extends the life of the college's current hardware while saving money in future investments.

After implementing Parallels RAS, Orchard Hill College lowered the total cost of ownership (TCO) for their remote application management. Decreases in licensing fees, reduced additional application costs, increased efficiency to load balance and server management optimization added up to noticeable savings for the college.

Parallels RAS provided Orchard Hill College with a seamless, easy-to-use ERP application publishing environment for its users. A significant advantage for the organization is that Parallels RAS fully supports ERP software on a wide range of devices. In the end, Parallels RAS fulfilled and exceeded the entire range of expectations the IT team had set for its application publishing solution.

For further information visit [parallels.com/ras](https://parallels.com/ras)  
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