Parallels®

How Parallels RAS Helped Lake Forest Academy Access Their Old ERP Solution

> "Parallels RAS is the most cost-effective VDI solution for mid-sized organizations. It delivers excellent value for the price and lives up to its promises. Parallels give us the flexibility to easily spin up VDI sessions across domains and for as many users as we need, while also allowing a very easy to stomach license cost that keeps our finance office happy."
>
> Mikel Seidl
> *LFA's Systems Administrator*
> Lake Forest Academy

The Results

INCREASED SECURITY
Implemented multi-factor authentication and stricter permission policies

IMPROVED USER EXPERIENCE
End users in LFA can now access Windows applications from any location, including outside their network and overseas

INCREASED REMOTE ACCESSIBILITY
Students are pleased that they can use their device of choice, including smartphones and tablets running iOS

The Challenge

Keen on continuously improving their IT infrastructure, LFA updated their IT infrastructure to modern domain and a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system simultaneously as part of a strategic effort to bolster their network capabilities. However, instead of migrating the old ERP solution, they wanted to use it as a reference.

The challenge they faced was that their old ERP solution was Window-based and resided on the old domain. It became clear to Mikel Seidl, LFA Systems Administrator, that they needed a solution that allowed users to access the old ERP system from their own devices with ease.

The Solution

LFA solved the problem by leveraging virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) with Parallels RAS, allowing users to access Windows applications on other operating systems from their device of choice.

Mikel and his team initially looked at Citrix Workspace as a solution. However, they decided against it as a possibility because they found it to be costly and complicated to set up.

LFA found Parallels RAS to be much easier to implement at a lower cost.

The Results

With Parallels Remote Application Server (RAS), LFA set up VDI hosts without any outside consulting. The aspects that helped them choose Parallels RAS as a solution were:

Simplicity
As the IT department of LFA is small, they required a solution that could help them manage published applications easily. Due to its simple configuration and management capabilities, they found Parallels RAS to be their best bet.

User Experience
End users in LFA can now access Windows applications from any location, including outside their network and overseas. Staff and students are pleased that they can use their device of choice, including smartphones and tablets running iOS. By implementing Parallels RAS, the ERP migration was successful without having to impact the user base in any way.

Flexibility
LFA has Parallels RAS virtualized on a Nutanix Hyperconverged host running Nutanix's own Acropolis Hypervisor. Seidl and his team found it easy to integrate into the hypervisor to create and manage VDI sessions and pooled resources. Parallels RAS proved to be one of the few solutions that could do this seamlessly as it supports Nutanix natively.

Security
LFA users connect to Parallels RAS using their Active Directory (AD) credentials. The login process uses multifactor authentication (MFA) - a code generates from Google Authenticator on each login. Parallels RAS supports AD and MFA, mitigating the risk of allowing users to connect to VDI sessions from outside the network, and helping to ensure the security of domain resources.

Support
LFA found Parallels customer support to be phenomenal. Regardless of the questions asked, they were always ready to assist in the trial process. Seidl and his team agree that the support team solved every problem that LFA came across.