||Parallels®

POOLgroup makes the most of Windows Programs without using Windows PCs

"The Parallels Desktop Business Edition saves money for our company, for me as an admin it saves a great deal of time, and it saves the nerves of users who would long have lost them with cumbersome switching between operating systems. I can only recommend Parallels Desktop."

Harry Schuler
IT System Administrator
POOLgroup

The Results

CHOOSE-YOUR-OWN-DEVICE (CYOD) INITIATIVESP
Affordable licensing and all-inclusive features eliminate the need to purchase additional solutions.

EASE OF USE AND STREAMLINED MANAGEMENT
Uncomplicated deployment and fail-proof operation.

LOWERED THE TOTAL COST OF OWNERSHIP
Solution reduces the need to purchase new hardware and doesn't entail any support overhead.

The Challenge

Harry Schuler is an electrical engineering graduate who has worked as a system administrator for POOLgroup since 1994. He ensures that the organization's backend always leverages the latest state-of-the-art technology with minimal downtime. The fleet of computers which Harry oversees at POOLgroup includes some 200 endpoint devices, around 60 of which can be rented for events. The computers used by the employees are mostly current model MacBooks, with a number of iMacs thrown in. Harry sets up these systems in person while day-to-day administration is handled locally, to the extent that on-site admin can support it.

The predominantly used applications include the office programs Apple supplies by default, as well as Final Cut, the Adobe Creative Suite, and a range of recording solutions. At POOLgroup, a consistent Apple environment generally 'does the job'. However, a number of special applications required the introduction of a Windows solution as well. For example, the ERP system used in the back office is only available as a Windows version; a number of Microsoft Excel applications along with some database connectivity only work smoothly on Windows and, finally, Mac users could not access public Outlook folders under certain circumstances.

A possible solution for this problem could of course have been to provide the affected users with PCs. But this would not only have meant a significantly increased administration workload for Harry but would also have caused considerable discontent on the part of those users.

The Solution

Another alternative to purchasing PCs would have been to use Boot Camp, a pre-installed utility on newer Mac computers, which turns them into dual operating systems. By pressing a select key, users can choose to run macOS or to start Windows (if installed) at each system boot or reboot. This was not an option for Harry, however, the reason being that the reboot needed for every operating system switch would certainly have had an overly detrimental effect on both the productivity and the nerves of the back-office staff. An internet search then produced a promising solution that seemed neither to imply buying additional hardware nor to come with any impact on productivity or high deployment or training overhead: The Parallels Desktop Business Edition. A trial version that Harry downloaded free of charge and tested thoroughly, performed to his satisfaction, so he first provided five back-office staff members with the new solution.

The Results

ERP solution users are highly valued specialists in their field but only in the rarest of cases, seasoned IT pundits as well. Deploying Parallels Desktop Business Edition went smoothly, and the solution proved to be smooth sailing for daily operations with no additional support overhead, showing that Harry had made the right initial decision. He was fully convinced of the merits of Parallels Desktop Business Edition and decided to purchase a volume license for 50 seats. Today this is in operation at POOLgroup in its most recent release.

When asked what this virtualization solution's most relevant features are for himself and for the users, he explains: "For me as an admin, key features of a new solution are that it integrate perfectly into the existing infrastructure, it is easy to set up and roll out, it doesn't entail any support overhead, and it comes with efficiency benefits that help pay for the purchase price in a short time. All this is true for Parallels Desktop Business Edition. And the Coherence Mode is clearly the star feature for users, where Windows and macOS cooperate so seamlessly that they might be seen as part of one single operating system. Windows and Mac applications appear on the desktop together and documents from both worlds can be stored in the same folders. This enables users to work in a completely intuitive way and the underlying technology simply disappears in the background."

Harry is also enthusiastic about another of Parallels Desktop's features that generally goes unnoticed by his users: the total ease with which virtual machines (VMs) can be generated and moved around. "I can move single Parallels virtual machines as well as complete VM storage locations to external drives quite easily if I'm, say, planning to roll them out to multiple Mac computers. I really can't imagine how much more convenient scaling up an environment (once created) can get!" So, it doesn't come as a big surprise that Harry's verdict concerning purchase and deployment of this solution turned out to be highly positive: "The Parallels Desktop Business Edition saves money for our company, for me as an admin it saves a great deal of time, and it saves the nerves of users who would long have lost them with cumbersome switching between operating systems. I can only recommend Parallels Desktop."