Parallels RAS + IGEL: Enabling Powerful Virtualization Capabilities for Businesses

White Paper | Parallels Remote Application Server

IGEL®

Introduction

Parallels® is pleased to announce that its virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) solution, Parallels Remote Application Server (RAS), is IGEL Ready.

In this white paper, we'll highlight the business benefits of combining the technology of Parallels RAS with IGEL.

Understanding Thin Clients

Thin clients are purpose-built, low-cost computers that normally access virtual apps and desktops. The have reduced onboard computing and storage requirements and work through the cloud or via an on-premises network and virtualization technology.

In thin client environments, data is not stored on the device, and computing operations are performed remotely on the central server. The thin client device only functions to access shared resources, such as virtual applications, data, and desktops over the server.

Key advantages of thin client deployments are hardware optimization, improved endpoint security, reduced software maintenance, and improved support options.

Benefiting from their reduced footprint, thin clients consume less energy and require less space than traditional computer hardware deployments because they typically don't require a cooling system or rotating hard drives to operate. As a result, the risk of hardware failure is reduced, resulting in an increase in overall IT availability.

With efficient remote administration and a flexible virtualization solution, thin client deployments offer an excellent return on investment (ROI) opportunity, allowing businesses of any size to enjoy the benefits of cloud computing without breaking their IT budget.

Benefits of Thin Client Deployments

Deploying thin clients can result in many benefits for organizations. A few of the biggest ones include:

Lower hardware and maintenance costs. Thin clients can be fully managed from a central management console. The centralized management and control of virtual thin client devices makes updating applications and desktops more streamlined for the IT department.

Stronger security and virus protection. IT teams have more control over the operating system and centralized applications deployed to thin clients. They can easily restrict the rights of the end users, such as access to taskbars, application installations, internet browsing, and system settings.

Streamlined local device support. Thin clients help enable instant, secure, and trouble-free connections between remote computers anywhere. Shadow remote assistance allows helpdesk technicians to provide assistance to any local device.

Business continuity and disaster recovery. Data is more secure and easier to recover in the event of failure, as corporate data is not stored on the local machine but on the server or the cloud. Having a centralized storage system allows for faster and easier backups, as well as efficient disaster recovery and better business continuity.

Parallels RAS and IGEL OS

Parallels RAS is a powerful, yet cost-effective virtual application and desktop delivery solution built for today's remote and hybrid workforces.

IGEL OS, a next-generation edge operating system for cloud workspaces, complements Parallels RAS by enhancing application performance, improving endpoint security, and reducing overall cost and complexity.

IGEL OS-powered endpoints deployed in virtualization environments through Parallels RAS deliver a straightforward, highly accessible virtual application and desktop delivery solution for organizations of any size.

IGEL OS is hardware-agnostic. It converts any compatible x86-64 device, regardless of manufacturer or form factor, into a secure, standardized endpoint, which can then be enhanced via Parallels RAS and managed by IGEL's Universal Management Suite (UMS).

This UMS simplifies endpoint management through zero-touch deployment, remote support, and granular control from a single central console for up to 300,000 devices.

IGEL UD Pocket

A portable and powerful USB stick [endpoint solution](#) that is no larger than a paper clip, the UD Pocket is essentially "IGEL OS on a stick." It offers secure performance for remote and mobile workforces, freelance workers, as well as educators and/or students who access cloud services, server-based computing applications, or use virtual desktops to access cloud services.

The IGEL UD Pocket

UD Pocket is automatically integrated into the IGEL UMS for remote support, deployment, and management. With IGEL Cloud Gateway, the UMS can manage the UD Pocket beyond the company network without a virtual private network (VPN).

UD Pocket extends the functionality of existing hardware by enabling a temporary second operating system (IGEL OS) on a single endpoint. Once a user has finished using IGEL OS via the UD Pocket, they can simply unplug the UD Pocket and reboot from the local operating system and return to the local desktop.

Benefits of Parallels RAS

Parallels RAS is a streamlined remote working solution that provides secure access to virtual desktops and applications.

Key benefits include the ability to:

- Deliver virtual desktops and apps to any device, anywhere, anytime.
- Enhance data security by centrally monitoring and restricting access.
- Quickly scale your IT infrastructure on-demand with auto-provisioning.

Parallels RAS is ready to use right out of the box and is easy to deploy, configure, and maintain. It's also quick and simple to scale depending on an organization's needs, making it an ideal solution for increasing IT agility and business readiness.

Parallels RAS provides IT administrators with a simple and intuitive virtual application delivery experience while helping streamline IT network operations. This enables IT teams to reduce costs and resources they would otherwise have to dedicate to managing application delivery over a remote network.

Parallels RAS Advantages with IGEL OS-powered Endpoints

The Parallels Client is integrated into every firmware version of IGEL OS. Combining the technology of Parallels RAS with IGEL OS endpoints provides organizations with numerous benefits, including:

Lightning-fast connection speeds. Endpoint users sustain excellent, native desktop-like experiences on IGEL OS-powered endpoints with the automated, out-of-the-box load-balancing features of Parallels RAS to ensure that server resources are fully used.

Lower total cost of ownership (TCO). As opposed to traditional hardware, the use of Parallels RAS virtualization and IGEL OS-powered endpoints can lead to significant savings by deferring the need for additional hardware purchases, as well as lower licensing costs.

Increased security. Thin clients deployed with a virtualization solution reduce the risk of viruses and data theft. Instead of storing sensitive data on individual machines where it can easily be compromised, the endpoint user only has access to desktop and application images, so all company information stays safe on the server.

Streamlined administration. Parallels RAS/IGEL UD deployments are easy to manage on the fly through a centralized administration dashboard that is accessible over a remote connection.

Space and energy savings. The slim design and energy efficiency features of thin clients mean that organizations can save on a host of additional business costs, including electricity bills and office space.

Business Benefits of Parallels RAS + IGEL OS

The unique combination of the Parallels RAS and IGEL OS technology provides benefits for businesses of all types, including healthcare, finance, and educational institutions.

Let's take a closer look at each.

Enterprises

Businesses using Parallels RAS deployed on IGEL OS-powered endpoints can benefit from streamlined IT administration, hardware cost savings, fast connections, and secure zero-touch deployments.

IT teams can easily build out a robust, high-availability remote delivery solution with automated load-balancing features and easy-to-understand installation wizards found in Parallels RAS.

Users of IGEL OS-powered endpoints enjoy outstanding native desktop-like experiences when connecting to shared desktops, applications, and data through Parallels RAS.

Notably, Parallels RAS features a single license that is affordable and straightforward with no hidden costs, which makes it an ideal fit for organizations of all sizes and IT budgets.

Healthcare Organizations

Using IGEL OS-powered endpoints deployed over Parallels RAS, healthcare providers are equipped to access medical applications and patient information on their virtual workstations in a highly secure way. IGEL offers fully integrated support for single sign-on (SSO) as well as secure roaming and data protection.

Parallels RAS and IGEL OS-powered endpoints empower healthcare IT professionals to improve the patient care experience while saving time, enhancing security, and reducing total cost of ownership (TCO) by using thin clients, endpoint management software, and virtualization technology.

Finance Organizations

Finance organizations can use Parallels RAS and IGEL OS-powered endpoints to increase security among remote and hybrid workforces while improving IT efficiency. Data security and protection are key concerns for these organizations, as they often handle vast amounts of sensitive client data and adhere to strict industry standards for safeguarding it.

Using thin clients enables all data to be stored and protected centrally in the cloud. IT teams can provide only authorized users with access to this data via user authentication and permissions, and added features such as smart cards, USB port protections, and firewalls can be used to increase security even further, if needed.

Educational Institutions

Staff, students, and faculty using IGEL OS via the UD Pocket or deployed through Parallels RAS can achieve high-fidelity access to learning applications, student data, and virtual teaching desktops at an affordable rate.

Parallels RAS with IGEL OS including the UMS helps save academic IT costs for institutions of all sizes, allowing them to reduce their capital expenses by repurposing existing hardware and operating expenses with a software license subscription to build a more adaptive and innovative learning experience.

Discover the benefits of Parallels RAS for your organization.

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