Parallels

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Parallels takes the cost and complexity out of desktop virtualization supported by Lenovo-Nutanix hyperconverged infrastructure

Overview

High hardware, licensing and maintenance costs can often discourage small companies – or those operating in highly cost-sensitive industries – from deploying a virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) to streamline IT operations. Parallels is helping companies of all sizes to reap the rewards of a VDI with its innovative, cost-effective solution, available on Lenovo Converged HX Series appliances powered by Nutanix Enterprise Cloud Platform software and Intel® Xeon® processors.

Parallels, a global leader in cross-platform solutions, makes it simple for customers to use and access the applications and files they need on any device or operating system. Headquartered in Bellevue, WA, the company has offices in North America, Europe and Asia.

Democratizing desktop virtualization

For the last 15 years, big businesses have been taking advantage of application and desktop virtualization technology to enable remote connectivity and to simplify client management.

However, the high up-front costs of implementing the servers, storage and networking required to support concurrent users – alongside hefty virtualization software licensing fees – may deter many small and medium enterprises, as well as organizations in cost-sensitive industries, from taking the plunge.

Chris McCoy, Worldwide Partner Manager at Parallels, begins: "Although it can save you money in the long term, setting up and maintaining a traditional VDI can be very expensive. We wanted to change that."
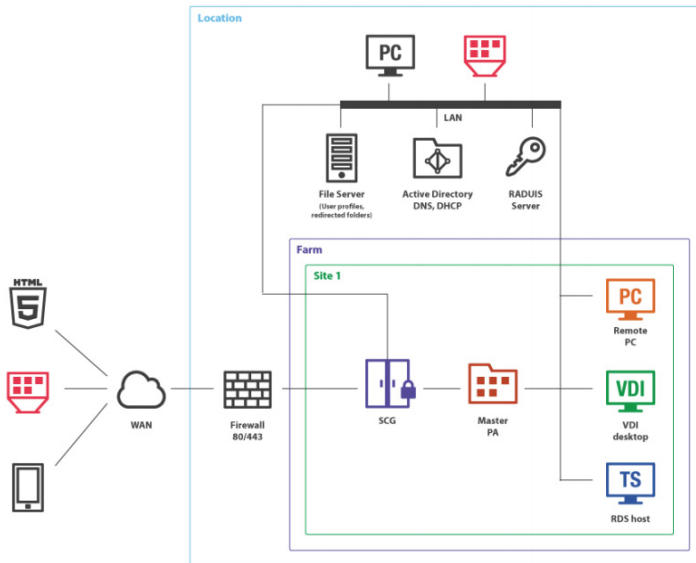
"By joining forces with Lenovo and Nutanix, we're making VDI technology more attainable than ever before."

—Chris McCoy,
Worldwide Partner Manager,
Parallels

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To enable businesses big and small to take advantage of VDI technology, the company developed Parallels Remote Application Server (RAS) – a comprehensive virtual application and desktop delivery solution that won't break the bank.

"Based on Microsoft Remote Desktop Services and RDP, Parallels RAS offers all the core functionalities of leading application and desktop virtualization software at a fraction of the cost," explains Chris McCoy. "And because RAS can support any hypervisor or operating system, it offers complete flexibility."

Parallels Remote Application Server architecture diagram

To make Parallels RAS even more accessible, the company wanted to offer the software together with a supporting infrastructure as a single solution. Designed with hyperconverged technology in mind, Parallels turned to Lenovo and Nutanix.

Teaming up with Lenovo and Nutanix

To facilitate the rapid and successful deployment of Parallels RAS, the company selected the Lenovo Converged HX Series, integrated with Nutanix Enterprise Cloud Platform software and powered by the Intel® Xeon® E5 family of processors, as the underlying infrastructure for an all-in-one solution.

Chris McCoy remarks: "The Nutanix Acropolis data services and Prism software management tool come pre-loaded on the Lenovo server platforms, which makes the Lenovo Converged HX Series a turnkey hyperconverged solution. Scaling is simply a matter of purchasing a new appliance and adding the compute and storage capacity to the virtual pool. The simplicity of the Lenovo Converged HX Series solution convinced us that it was the right platform to support RAS."

Solution components

Hardware

Lenovo Converged HX2000 Series with Intel® Xeon® E5 processor family

Lenovo Converged HX3000 Series with Intel Xeon E5 processor family

Software

Nutanix Enterprise Cloud Platform
- Nutanix Acropolis
- Nutanix Prism

Parallels Remote Application Server (RAS)

Parallels worked closely with teams from Lenovo and Nutanix to test and certify the hardware to ensure it was compatible with the Parallels RAS solution. Next, the company developed a set of new APIs tailored to the Lenovo Converged HX Series solution to simplify and automate VDI management processes on the platform.

Chris McCoy comments: "Running on the Lenovo-Nutanix solution, Parallels RAS can be delivered as a single, all-in-one solution, which we believe will widen its appeal to many companies."

VDI for all

By offering Parallels RAS on the Lenovo-Nutanix hyperconverged infrastructure solution, Parallels is making VDI more accessible than ever.

Chris McCoy notes: "The beauty of running Parallels RAS on the Lenovo-Nutanix solution is that a company can just drop it into their data center and they've got a scalable, powerful VDI in next to no time. Thanks to the integrated, modular nature of the hardware, companies don't need to worry about building out their network or storage – they can just keep stacking."

In comparison with traditional VDI software, Parallels RAS significantly reduces the cost and the complexity of desktop virtualization.

Chris McCoy says: "The cost of implementing, licensing and maintaining Parallels RAS – particularly when running on the Lenovo-Nutanix solution – is lower than other traditional infrastructures, which opens up VDI to companies who may not have been able to afford it in the past. It also creates a new opportunity for managed service providers to deliver all-inclusive VDI services to their clients; a very valuable proposition.

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"With Parallels RAS, companies can deliver applications, virtual desktops and data to users anywhere, anytime and on any device. And because Parallels RAS is based on Microsoft RDP, you don't need to be an expert on VDI virtualization software – any Windows administrator can spin up a virtual desktop in as little as 30 minutes."

He concludes: "By joining forces with Lenovo and Nutanix, we're making VDI technology more attainable than ever before."

For more information

To learn more about Lenovo Data Center Systems solutions, contact your Lenovo Sales Representative or Lenovo Business Partner, or visit: www.lenovo.com/data-center

For more information about Parallels, visit: www.parallels.com

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