CASE STUDY



Business Situation Summary

The La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology's scientists and staff use Macs for scientific research, but applications they use to track patents, contracts, and grants run only on PCs. Installing a Mac and PC for each person wasn't in the budget and would burden tech support. The institute needed a way to run both Mac OS and Windows on a single computer.

Solution Summary

After testing products that allow Macs to run applications designed for Windows, including the free dual-boot utility bundled with new Macs, the institute purchased and installed Parallels Desktop for Mac Business Edition throughout its facility. Easy to deploy and use, its ability to switch instantly from Mac OS to Windows and back—without rebooting — is a huge time saver.



La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology

Major medical researcher relies on Parallels Desktop for Mac Business Edition in its quest to understand the human immune system and prevent disease

Business Challenge

Closer to an academic institution than a corporation, LIAI is staffed by 375 researchers, scientists, and staff who use Apple® Mac® Pro, iMac®, and MacBook® Pro computers for scientific analysis and for interfacing with laboratory equipment. They also have a requirement to run programs that are available only for the Windows® operating system, including vital applications to track patents and contracts, and an indispensable system to manage funding grants.

"Our challenge was to put Mac OS and Windows on a single computer, run either without a performance penalty, make it easy for users to switch back and forth without rebooting, and simplify the roll-out and ongoing license management for IT," says Michael Scarpelli, LIAI's Senior IT Manager of Technical Support.

With neither the physical space nor budget available to equip each staffer with both a Mac and a PC, the Institute first turned to a free utility from Apple that lets users install Windows on their Macs. "Boot Camp® was cumbersome for users who worked mostly on the Mac side," says Scarpelli. "It requires users to reboot their computers each time they switch between operating systems, and that wasn't acceptable. We needed a solution that would let users function in either environment without a performance penalty and switch from Mac OS X® to Windows and back instantly and without rebooting."

Solution

After a careful comparison of features, costs, and performance, LIAI chose to purchase and install Parallels Desktop® for Mac Business Edition, enabling the fellows, faculty investigators and all other staff to run Windows and Mac applications seamlessly side-by-side.

"Parallels Desktop for Mac Business Edition solved everything we wanted and at the right price. It's low impact for the user and it's not complicated," says Scarpelli. "With Parallels Desktop for Mac Business Edition, everyone can run their Windows programs and integrate with their Mac environment, or they can launch the Windows apps, then switch back to Mac to access their other work quickly." For those instances when Windows is not the best fit, Parallels Desktop for Mac Business Edition includes the ability to host other operating systems. "In addition to Windows 8, Windows 7, Windows Vista,



Benefits Summary

The institute achieved its goal of providing users with simultaneous Mac and Windows capability on a single computer, saving money and desktop space, streamlining workflows, and reducing the support burden on IT.

Parallels Products Used

Parallels Desktop for Mac Business Edition and Windows XP, we also use Parallels Desktop for Mac Business Edition in conjunction with several Linux® flavors, which gives us access to specialty user applications."

By choosing the Business Edition of Parallels Desktop for Mac, LIAI also simplified the task of license management. Using a single unified activation key erases the inconvenience of managing hundreds of individual license keys. The Business Edition also features a mass-deployment tool for central configuration that enables "lights-out" roll-outs, cutting deployment time for each Mac from hours to minutes.

Results

Parallels Desktop for Mac Business Edition is now installed on hundreds of Macs, helping the Institute's researchers perform more efficiently. "Parallels Desktop for Mac Business Edition lets us use the Mac hardware we prefer while allowing our staff to use the applications they consider necessary to get their work done," says Scarpelli. Employees no longer waste time trying to work with a cumbersome dual-boot workstation setup, and LIAIA has been able to cut the number of workstations as well as substantially reducing administrative overhead and maintenance costs.

"Parallels Desktop for Mac Business Edition solved everything we wanted and at the right price. It's low impact for the user and it's not complicated."

On the IT side, LIAI now turns to Parallels Desktop for Mac Business Edition when adding new Macs to its infrastructure. Says Scarpelli, "The ability to set up a Parallels virtual machine template and simply copy it to a user's workstation to configure a new instance of the Parallels Desktop for Mac Business Edition application is a great time-saver."

With nearly 2,000 published scholarly papers and numerous patents to its credit, LIAI is one of the world's preeminent scientific organizations engaged in research on the immune system. By helping the institute cut IT expenses while simplifying support, and by providing its researchers with the computing tools needed to do their work efficiently, Parallels Desktop for Mac Business Edition is helping LIAI fulfill its mission more quickly. For the La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology, Parallels Desktop for Mac Business Edition is the right cure.

"We also use Parallels Desktop for Mac Business Edition in conjunction with several Linux flavors, which gives us access to specialty user apps."

Organization

Among the world's preeminent scientific organizations engaged in research on the human immune system, California's La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology (LIAI) is working to apply its expertise toward the prevention of disease. Founded in 1988, the Institute's staff includes 22 faculty investigators, 145 post-doctoral fellows and trainees, and 180 technicians and support staff. LIAI's scientific impact on immunology is currently ranked No. 5 worldwide.

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