



Oakland University

“I can finally work on my Mac and still carry out the assignments that require Windows-specific software. The ability to move back and forth between operating systems without switching machines makes my life less complicated and my workday more productive.”

- Jim Ciplewski, Associate Professor of Reading & Language Arts

Country
United States

Industry
Education

Customer Profile
Oakland University needed to equip students and teachers with computer labs that encompassed both Macs and PCs.

After exploring several options, the University deployed Parallels Desktop for Mac, which gave its students, teachers and faculty full access to the Mac and PC applications they needed.

In addition to increased student and staff productivity, the University also realized significantly reduced IT costs.

Company URL
www.oakland.edu

Situation

Oakland University is a top-rated academic institution offering more than 18,000 students per year a personal, high-quality, affordable education. Local to Rochester, Minnesota the university has put forward 127 bachelor's degrees and 99 graduate/certificate programs for over 50 years. The University offers a distinctive undergraduate education that produces liberally educated students with writing, analytical, technological and human relations skills as well as specialized skills and knowledge in their areas of interest.

As part of its commitment to providing the best possible real-world training, Oakland recognized the need to equip students and teachers with computer labs that embrace both Mac and PC computing environments. However, this proved to be a challenge as the cost and inefficiency of maintaining two identical labs – one for each platform – hindered deployment.

Solution

The University explored many options to enable dual-platform computer labs. First, it considered Boot Camp, Apple's dual boot solution, but passed it over because it did not enable users to run multiple OSes at the same time. Soft PC and Virtual PC were also explored, but they were much too slow and incompatible with Apple's new Intel hardware. Parallels Desktop for Mac, however, was the perfect solution as it enabled students and teachers to run both Windows and Mac OS X side-by-side on a single computer without rebooting.

Benefits

Now, the University's labs are running at double capacity because each machine is in effect, two computers in one. With less hardware to maintain, it has become easier for the administrative staff to keep machines operating efficiently, and the University has cut replacement costs by half.

In addition to the significant IT savings, the University can also now standardize on a single set of productivity software (Microsoft Office for Windows), and all students and teachers can have ready access to the School Student Management system, a Windows-only system, even if they are on a Mac.

By deploying Parallels Desktop for Mac to its computer labs, Oakland University has been able to reallocate valuable school resources that have increased savings and productivity across the campus, allowing the faculty, staff and students to integrate their Windows and Mac learning experiences.