

Parallels Remote Application Server vs. RDS and RemoteApp

Subject	Parallels Remote Application Server	RDS and RemoteApp Infrastructure
Components	Provides an all-in-one solution leveraging RDSH. Enterprise features such as load balancing, high availability, reports, and others are all included and managed centrally.	Five main architectural components, installed as separate roles: Remote Desktop Web Access (RDWA), Remote Desktop Gateway (RDG), Remote Desktop Session Host (RDSH), Remote Desktop Virtualization Host (RDVH) and Remote Desktop Connection Broker (RDCB). RemoteApp programs are programs that are accessed remotely through RDS located on RDSH. Session-based RDSH desktop applications cannot be published from the single collection. Different paths need to be created to published applications that are not supported. All of these roles have to be installed and configured separately. Client management, intelligent load balancing, monitoring, and reporting are not included in this setup.
Licensing	Provides all features with a standard edition license. This eliminates the complexity of evaluating which license best suits your business needs and provides enterprise features to any company, no matter the size, out of the box.	Setting up a complete RDS infrastructure or just delivering RemoteApp programs does not require additional software licenses. Windows operating system licenses and Remote Desktop CALs are required as per standard. However, for high availability, MS SQL licenses are required.
Installation and setup	Very straightforward process. Thanks to the intuitive software, even junior IT personnel can build a setup within a few minutes without requiring any training. SSL certificates, configurations, load balancing, remote access, and HTML5 are ready out of the box.	Challenging, with multiple role installations and separate configurations. Features are limited based on the underlying operating system. High availability relies on Microsoft SQL, which requires a separate configuration to provide HA.
Delivery	Web portal and HTML5 are included.	RD Web Access is now the only RemoteApp delivery mechanism offered (no more creating MSI and RDP files in RemoteApp Manager). RemoteApp Manager removed in Windows 2012. Same functionality of RemoteApp Manager can be achieved with Remote Desktop App, which is downloaded separately.
Clients	Clients for virtually any platform: Windows, iOS, Mac, Android, Linux, Chromebook, native Chrome applications, and HTML5	Remote Desktop client for Windows, iOS, Mac, and Android
Filtering	Filtering is based on user/group, client, MAC address, IP range, gateway access.	The RemoteApp programs can only be assigned to domain users or domain groups.
Authentication	Username/password; smart card available in v15.	Username/password, smart card, or both. There is also certificate-based authentication, which smart card forms a part of, but it is complex to implement.
2FA	Deepnet, SafeNet, and Radius (so any AAA protocol support)	TMG and UAG are end of life. Limited 2FA integration with third-party vendors using the PAA model to secure RD gateway.

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Time investment	All-in-one complete solution that is straightforward to configure and can be deployed in the corporate environment in just a couple of hours. This ensures quick time to value.	Installing different roles is time-consuming, requiring various reboots. Needed features such as high availability and load balancing are not ready out of the box and need to be configured separately.
Integrated RemotePC	Provides more control, especially on Windows devices. Some of the features include Wake-on-LAN integrated security and remote accessibility to corporate PCs.	No solution
Hypervisor support	Can publish virtual resources from RDS as well as VDI. In terms of supported VDI solutions, Parallels Remote Applications Server is hypervisor agnostic. It supports Microsoft Hyper-V, VMware ESXi, and Citrix XenServer.	Microsoft Hyper-V is only supported to host VDIs.
Load balancing	Can distribute load among servers and gateways based on the resources available, dramatically improving the user experience. Load balancing is available out of the box at no additional cost and without complex network configuration or dedicated hardware. For example, HALB is used to load-balance traffic to secure gateway servers	Front end load balancing is very basic, using DNS round robin or network load balancing. Third-party solution for example, Azure LB, required to achieve true load balancing. Load balancing on RDSH servers is limited, based on number of user sessions and server weight; redirects users to the server with the least user session count, regardless of session load.
High availability	High availability is ready out of the box with HALB, and configuration does not rely on SQL. This makes system HA ready out of the box, and when another broker is added, configuration is synced with all Publishing Agents.	Relies on DNS round robin and NLB when providing high availability. Relies on SQL and requires a separate SQL HA setup.
Mixed farms	Supported: Windows 2003, 2008, 2012	The RDS roles between Windows Server 2012 and Windows Server 2008 R2 can't be part of a single RDS implementation. For example, the Windows Server 2012 Remote Desktop Services Connection Broker can't provide brokering services for a Windows Server 2008 R2 Session Host or Virtualization Host (for VDI).
Client management	Can manage and lock down Windows devices out of the box. Windows devices are centrally visible from the management console. The administrator can also power cycle and shadow these devices, offering full control. This feature requires no additional components and comes at no extra cost. Local applications can also be added with published applications for a complete synergy between local and virtual applications. Desktop shadowing Full desktop replacement Client power management	None; third-party solutions have to be acquired, configured, and maintained

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Windows Server support	Supports Windows Server® 2003, 2008, 2008 R2, 2012, and 2012 R2. This provides the administrator a unique opportunity to migrate to newer systems at his own pace.	Remote App introduced with Windows 2008. No support or integration available for older operating systems.
Printing redirection	Universal printing solution	Remote Desktop Easy Print is a universal print driver for RDP sessions. Client needs to have .Net 3.5 and be running at least RDP 7. Can print only from Windows and Mac.
Shadowing	Desktop shadowing for managed clients. Session shadowing available in v15 for RDS hosts.	Session shadowing included in Windows 2012 R2. RemoteApp shadowing is not supported on Windows 2008/R2. No device shadowing available.
Monitoring Logging Auditing	Available and can all be configured from the console	Limited monitoring with a separate RDS pack, which is required to monitor the health of the Remote Desktop Servers' infrastructure. Limited and basic event viewer logging available.
Reporting	Virtually unlimited reporting is able to retrieve historic data. Plugging in to Microsoft Reporting Services provides 14 predefined reports on user activity, server groups, devices being used, server health, and application usage.	Not available
Upgrade	In-place upgrades with minimal downtime for all versions	Upgrades are limited and require reinstallation of roles. From Windows Server 2008 R2 to Windows Server 2012 R2, upgrade is only supported for the following role services: RD Gateway RD Licensing For all other roles (RD Session Host, RD Virtualization Host, RemoteFX, RD Web Access, RD Connection Broker), upgrade is blocked (same as for upgrades from Windows Server 2008 R2 to Windows Server 2012). Administrators need to uninstall the role, upgrade the OS, and then install the role again. For upgrade from Windows 2012 to 2012 R2, all RDS roles can be upgraded in place.
Administration	Role-based delegated administration; site, publishing, viewing, access, and reporting administration. Session management added in v15.	No role-based delegation available
Backups/restore	Import/export configuration from Remote Application Server console. Simple and efficient with lower downtime. Can also schedule using PowerShell in v15.	No central location to back up configuration. Separate procedures need to be followed in order to back up machines and databases. Restoring requires basic SQL knowledge.

Parallels Remote Application Server vs. Azure Remote App

Questions to Customers

Do you require control over which devices users use to access their published resources?
Retrieving data. Wait a few seconds and try to cut or copy again.
Do you require a VDI solution to be implemented on VMware or XenServer rather than just Hyper-V?
Do you require extensive reporting based on user activity, server health, application usage, or devices utilizing your system?
Do you require role-based delegation for help desk admins?
Do you require multi-site?
Do you require out-of-the-box high availability and load balancing?
Would the end user need to print from any device?
Do you require different policies for external and internal access?
Do you require end client management?
Do you require easy and straightforward configuration and maintenance?
Do you require high availability without investing in SQL databases?
Do you require native client access from Windows, Linux, iOS, OS X, Android, or Chrome?
Do you require HTML5?

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