

Parallels® Desktop

The Mac-Native Way to Deliver Windows Apps, Powered by Parallels Desktop



About the speakers



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Agenda

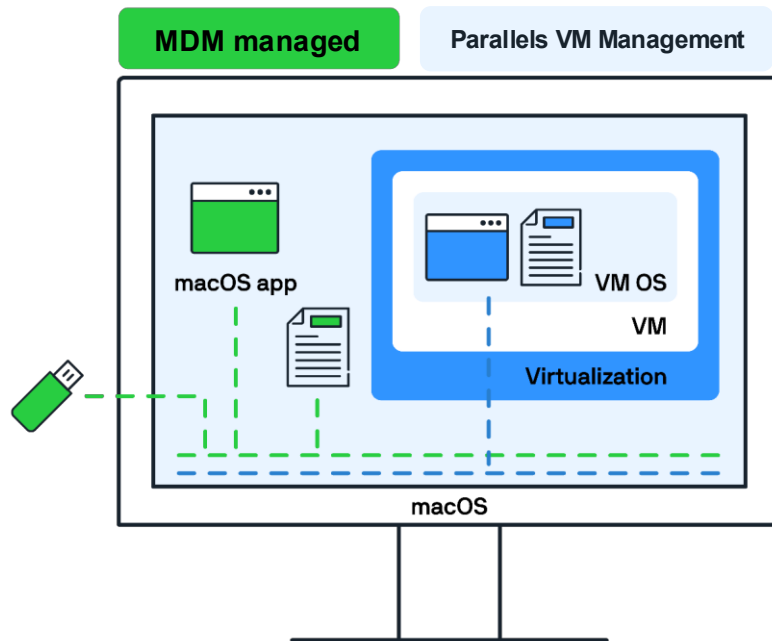


What we'll cover today

- **Where we are today** – Parallels Desktop Enterprise and the last 12 months
- **The core shift** – the big change: deliver the app, not the OS
- **The admin experience** – packaging and deploying Windows apps through your MDM
- **The end-user experience** – Windows apps that launch like native Mac apps
- **The security model** – Windows as a sealed runtime, not a second endpoint
- **Summary and discussion**

Take control of your users' VMs

Parallels Desktop Enterprise Edition offers control options on all levels. From unmanaged access to individual app provisioning, IT can choose the depth of oversight that balances security, flexibility, and user experience.



Manage Access

Provision

Monitor

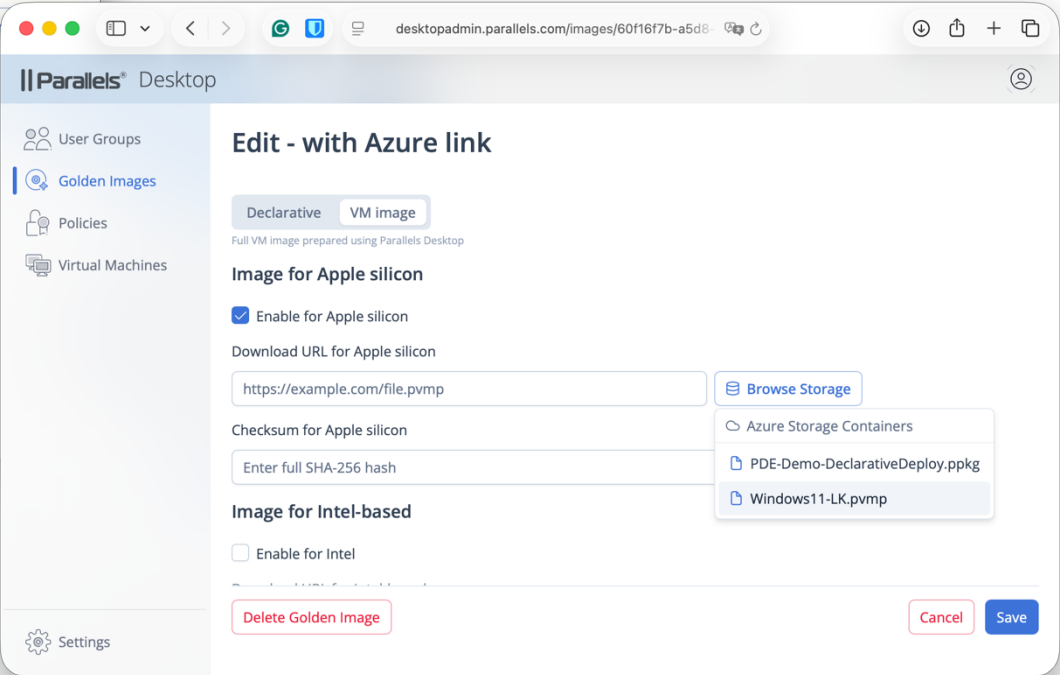
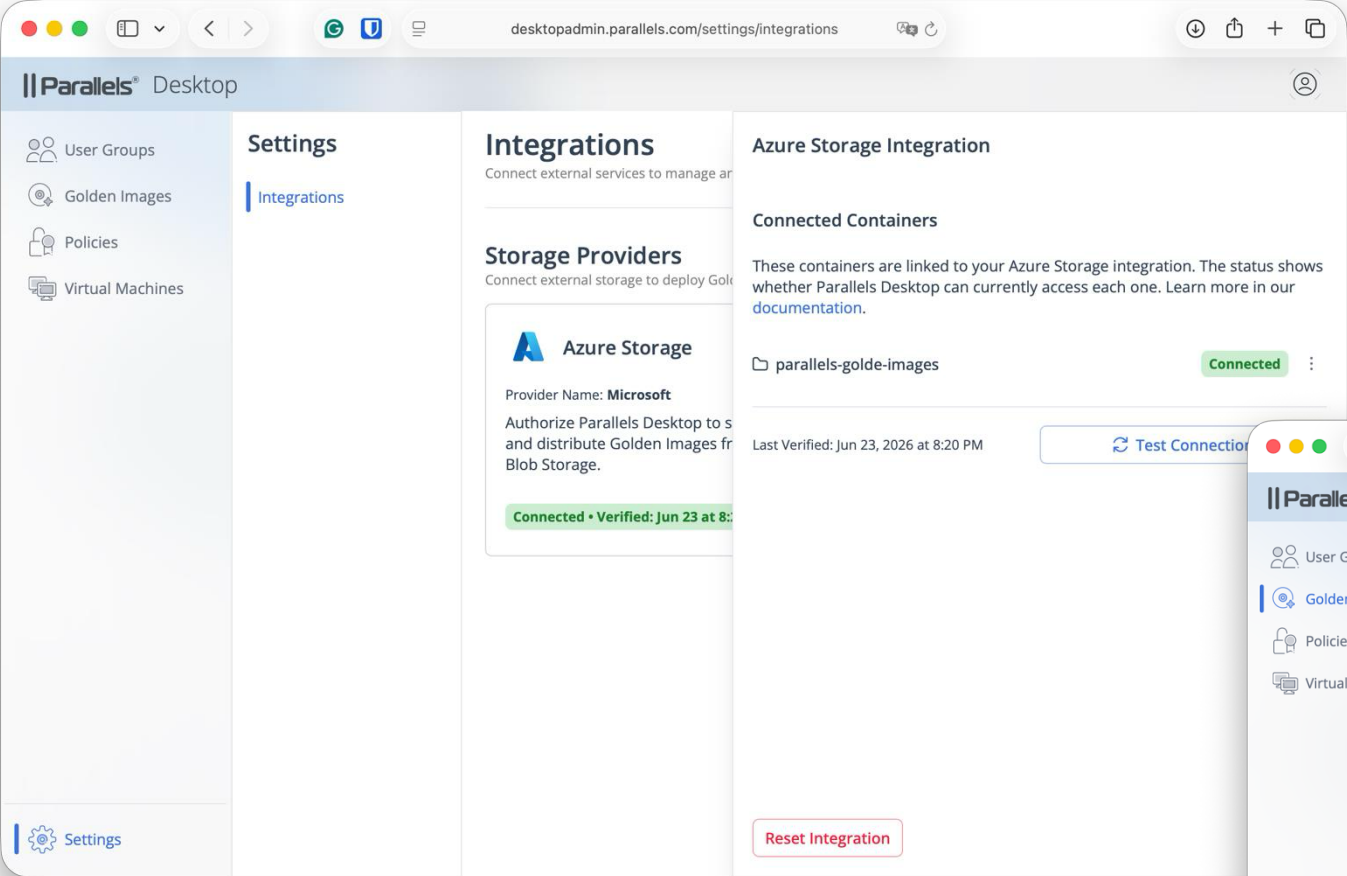
Secure



Parallels Desktop for Enterprise

Features loved by customers today

Secure Golden Image Delivery from Azure Storage



Declarative Deployment of Golden Images



Parallels Desktop

User Groups

Golden Images

Policies

Virtual Machines

Settings

Create Golden Image

Installation source

Windows Enterprise Custom ISO

Download latest Windows 11 Enterprise from Microsoft

Installation options

How is Windows set up and enrolled during provisioning?

☒ Don't configure unattended installation

Use this option when deploying a custom ISO with its own unattended configuration.

☐ Set up language and keyboard only

Windows is set up by signing in with a work or school account; the provisioning package is applied after sign-in.

☐ Automatic setup with local account

A local admin account is automatically created; the provisioning package is applied automatically; no user input required.

☐ Automatic setup with provisioning package applied before sign-in

Windows is enrolled in Intune and configured before the first sign-in. The user then signs in with their work or school account.

Provisioning package

Upload URL

Enroll Windows into Intune with Provisioning package.

How to configure a provisioning package?

Cancel

Add

Get Windows from IT

Windows for Employees

Package size: 8.68 GB

Pre-configured Windows virtual machine with essential applications and settings for your work.

Other Options...

Download and Install

Control VM settings via Parallels Policies



The screenshot shows the 'Add Policy' window in Parallels Desktop. The left sidebar contains 'User Groups', 'Golden Images', 'Policies', and 'Virtual Machines'. The main area has tabs for 'General', 'Golden Image', 'Security', and 'VM Settings'. The 'VM Settings' tab is active, showing a table of settings for 'Provisioned VMs: Contractors Image'. The table has columns for 'VM Type', 'Controlled by policy', and four platform icons (Windows, Apple M, Apple Intel, and ARM). The settings include 'VM startup and shutdown' (Manual), 'Network source' (Shared Network), 'Isolate VM from Mac' (unchecked), 'Disable sharing smart card readers with VM' (unchecked), 'Do not allow external devices' (unchecked), 'Always lock VM on suspend' (unchecked), and 'Do not allow changing VM configuration' (unchecked). At the bottom are 'Previous', 'Cancel', and 'Add' buttons.

VM Type	Controlled by policy	Windows	Apple M	Apple Intel	ARM
Provisioned VMs: Contractors Image	☒				
VM startup and shutdown	Manual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Network source	Shared Network	✓	✓	✓	✓
Isolate VM from Mac	☐	✓	✓	✓	✓
Disable sharing smart card readers with VM	☐	✓	✗	✓	✓
Do not allow external devices	☐	✓	✓	✓	✓
Always lock VM on suspend	☐	✓	✗	✗	✗
Do not allow changing VM configuration	☐	✓	✗	✓	✓



Parallels Desktop App Delivery

Coming soon to a Mac near you!

VM Delivery: VM + OS + App

CURRENT · VM-FOCUSED



Parallels Desktop

User Groups
Golden Images
Policies
Virtual Machines

Create Golden Image

Name: Corporate Windows

Description: Pre-configured corporate Windows 11 image

Deployment method
Declarative VM image

Windows ISO installation using an unattended.xml file or a provisioning package.

Installation source
Windows Enterprise Custom ISO

Download latest Windows 11 Enterprise from Microsoft

Install options
☐ Enable unattended installation based on Mac user data
☐ Configure OOB from macOS information
☐ Create local user account based on macOS

Provisioning package
Upload URL

Enroll Windows into Intune with Provisioning package.

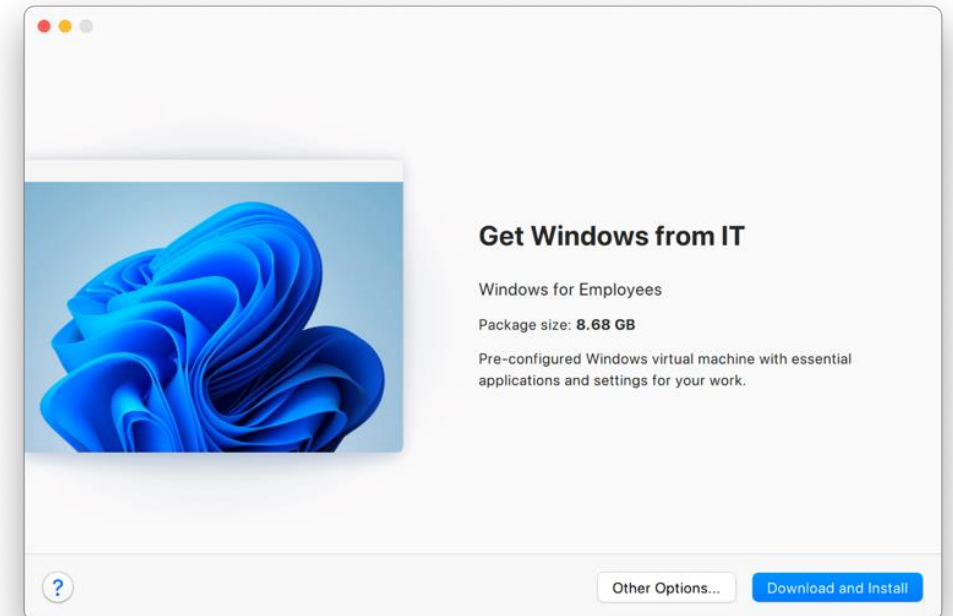
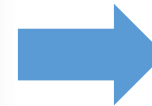
No file chosen [+ Choose File](#)

.ppkg format, up to 100KB

Provisioned in

Configure a policy to assign this Golden Image and provision it to your users.

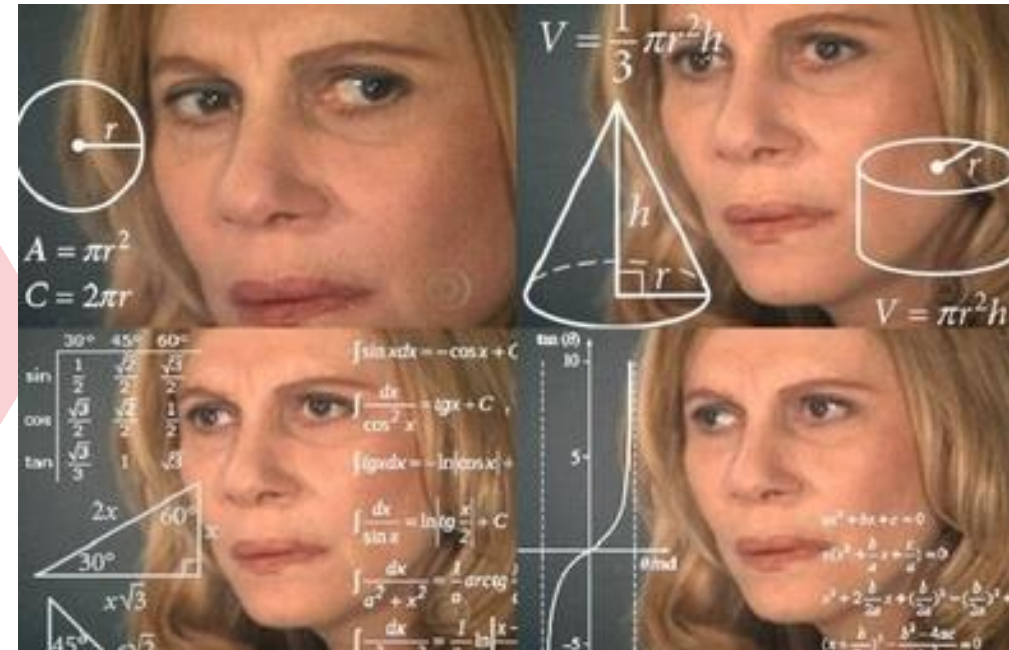
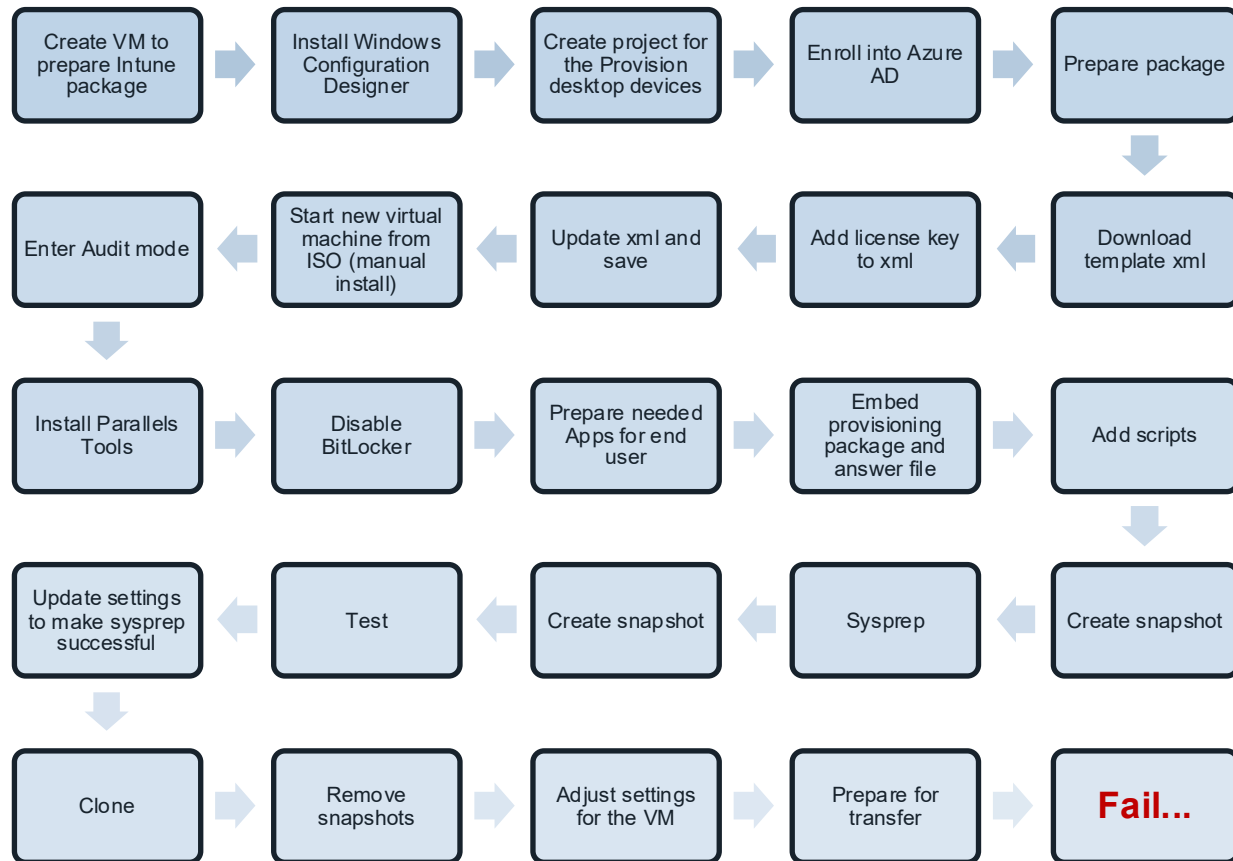
Cancel Add



Admins must prepare a VM, think about managing PD and VM installations.

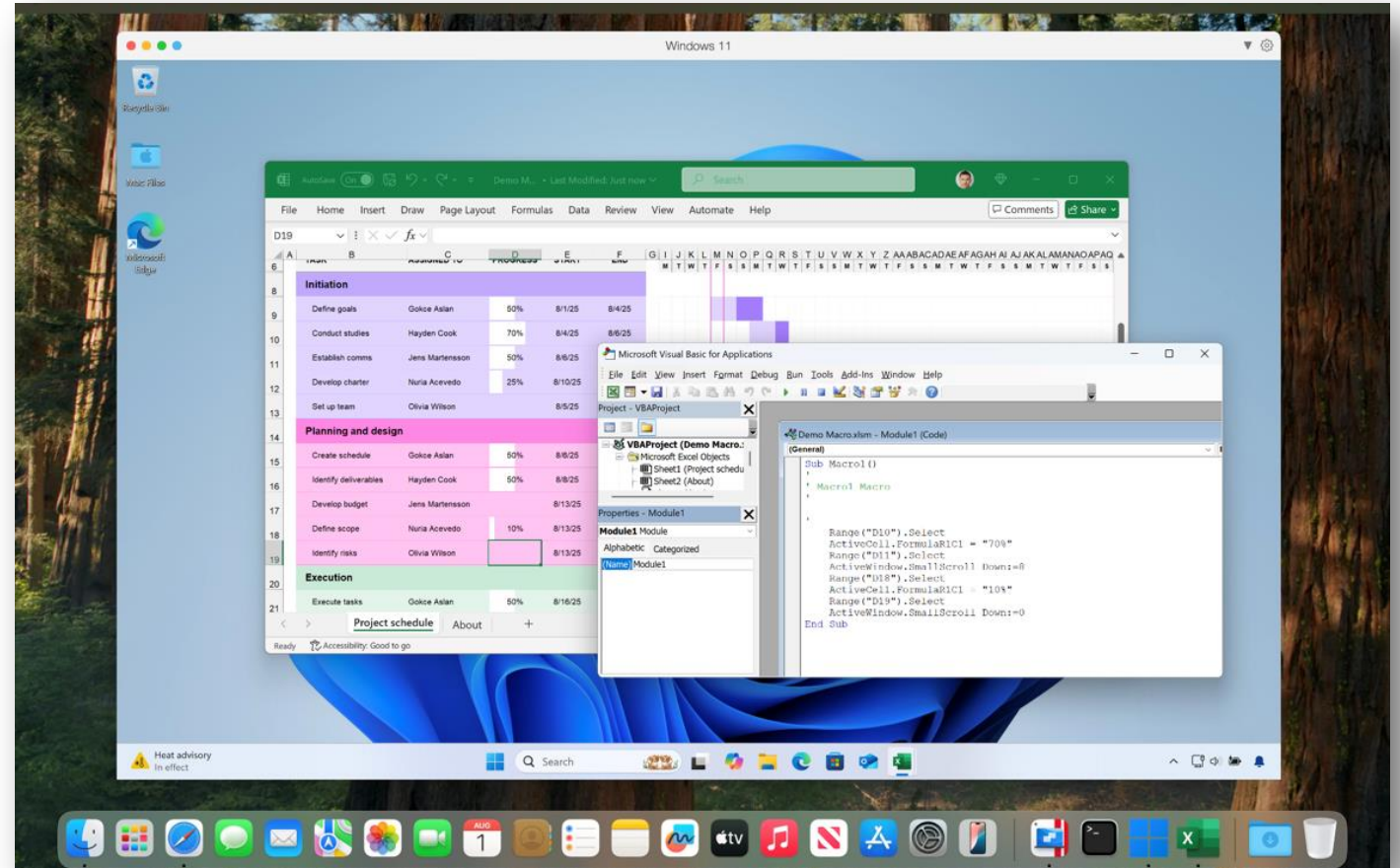
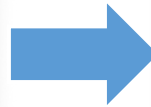
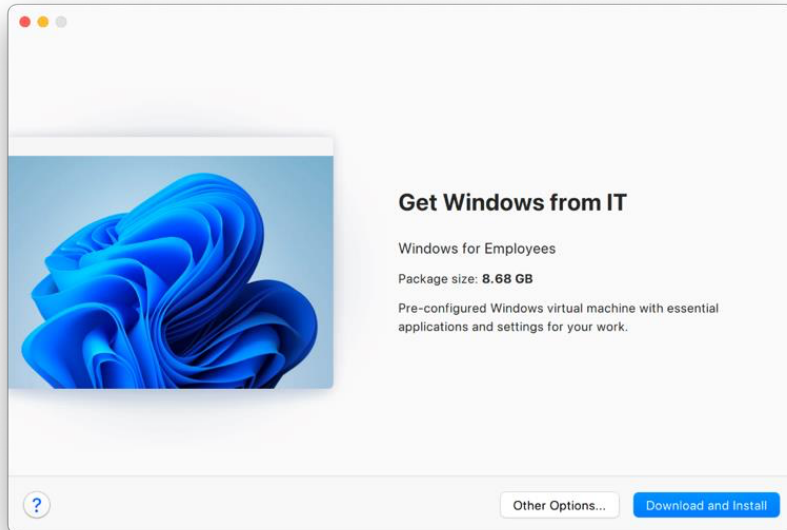
Windows Apps Provisioning

Manual process/Past



VM Delivery: VM + OS + App

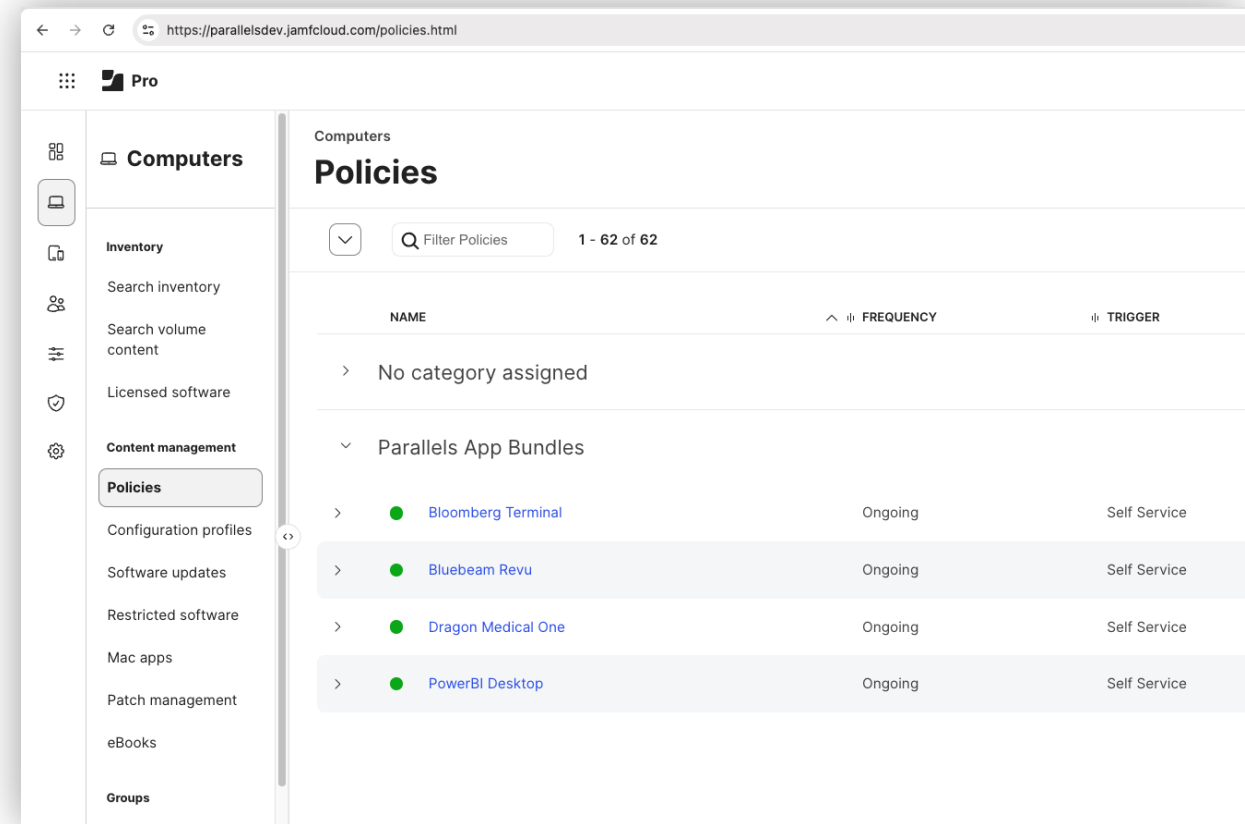
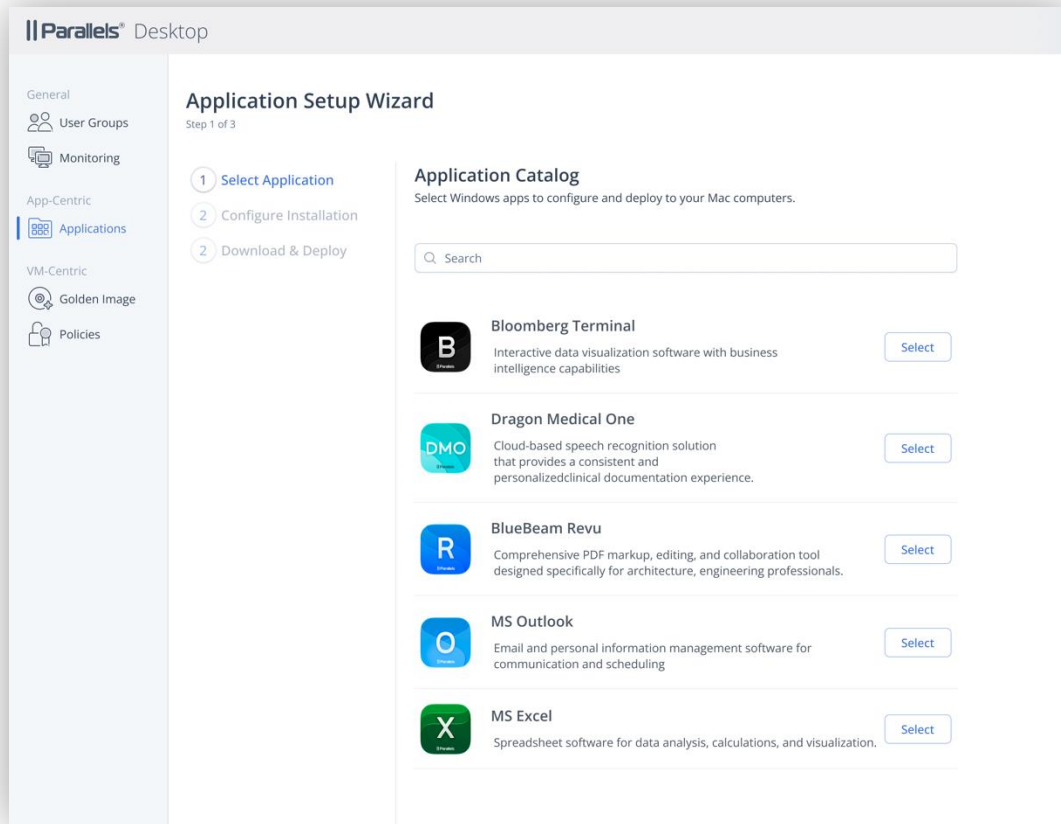
CURRENT · VM-FOCUSED



Users are often exposed to a whole Windows desktop — taskbar, Start menu, every app.

App Delivery: Admin experience

FUTURE · APP-FOCUSED

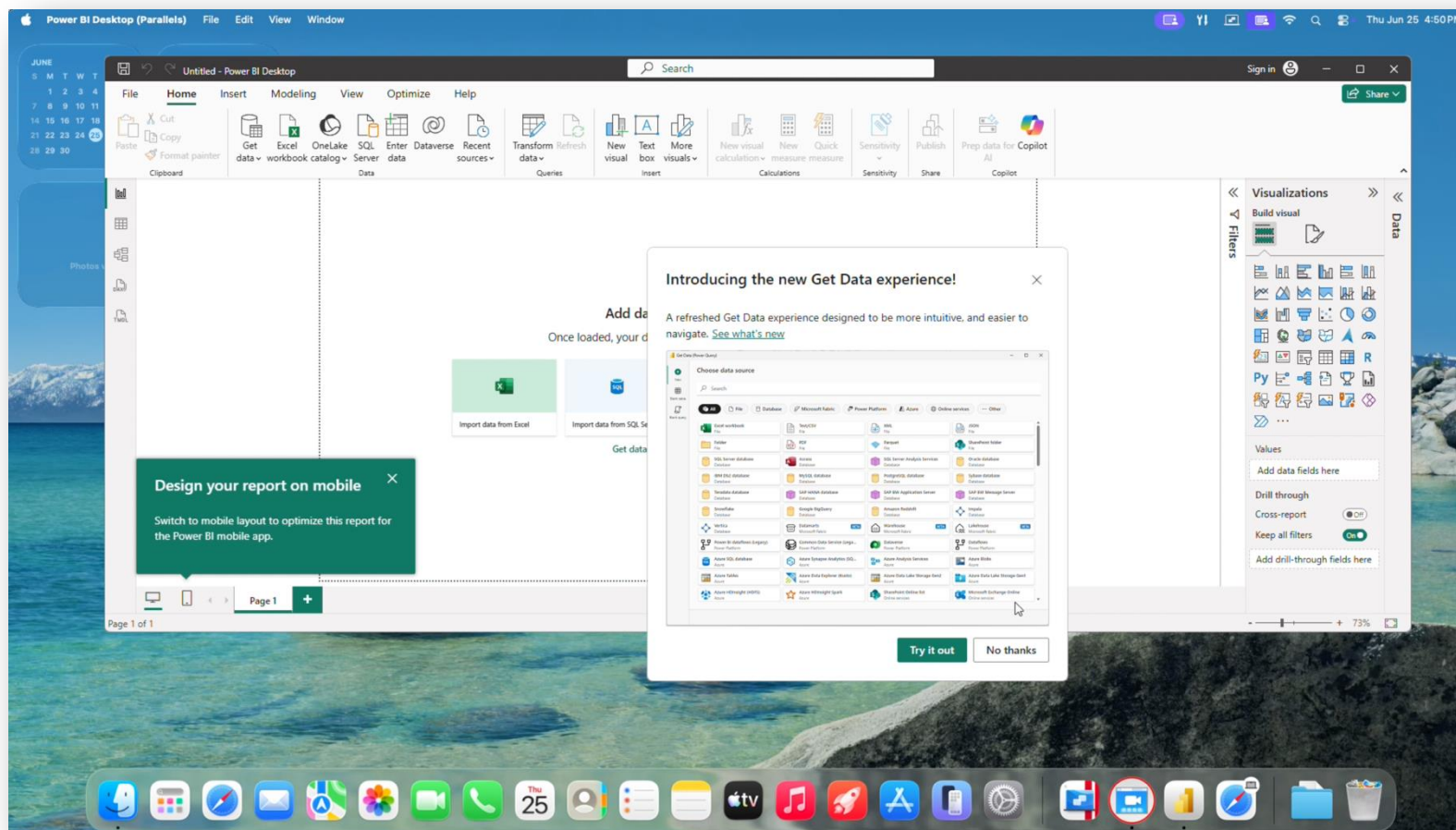


Deliver a Windows app package through Mac MDM like any macOS app.
The package will take care of setting up the environment and the app for users.

New!

App Delivery: End-user experience

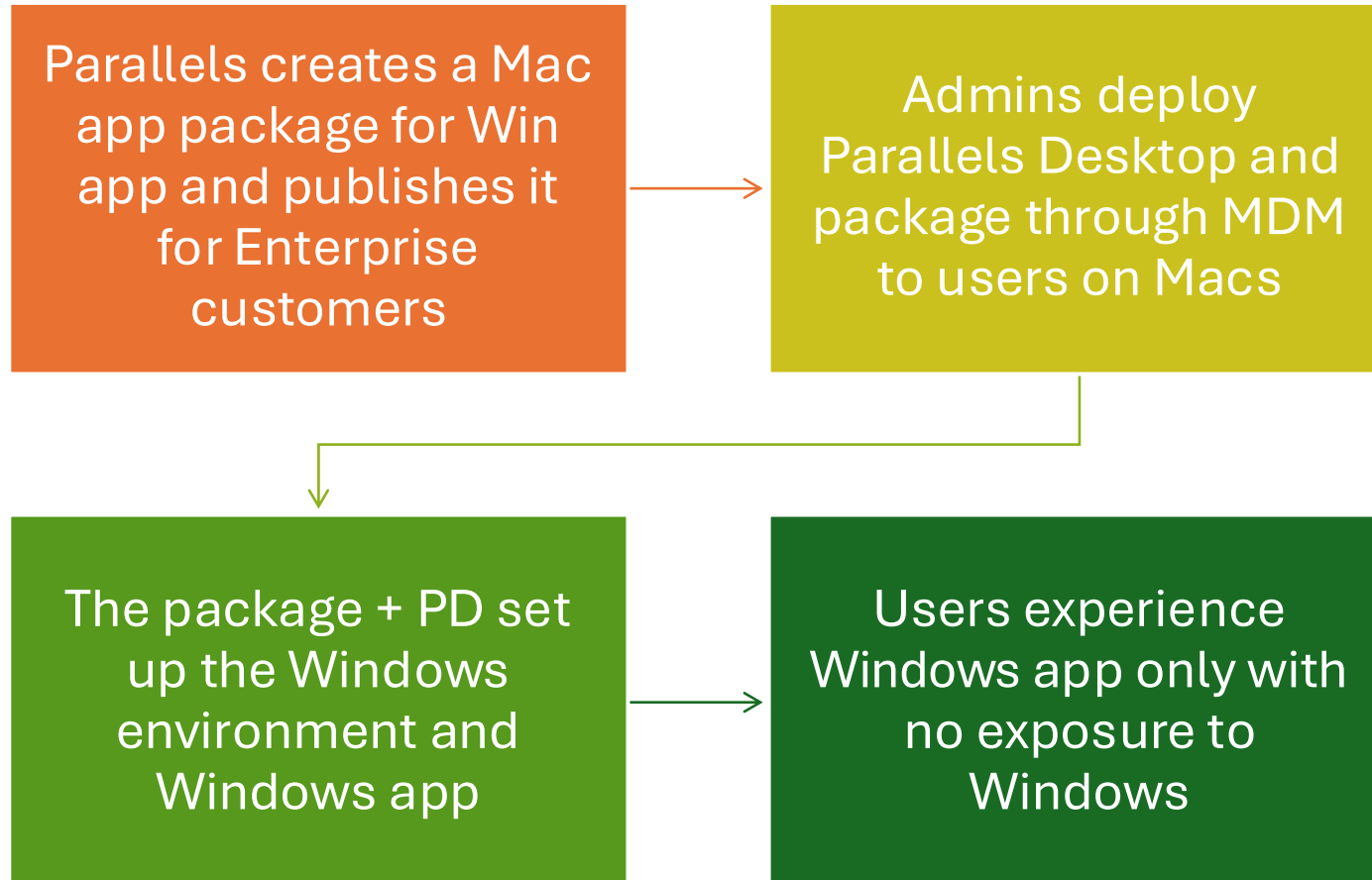
FUTURE · APP-FOCUSED



Just launch the Windows application like a native macOS App.
No Windows desktop — the VM runs hidden underneath.

New!

Parallels Desktop App Delivery



Windows Application Delivery Lifecycle



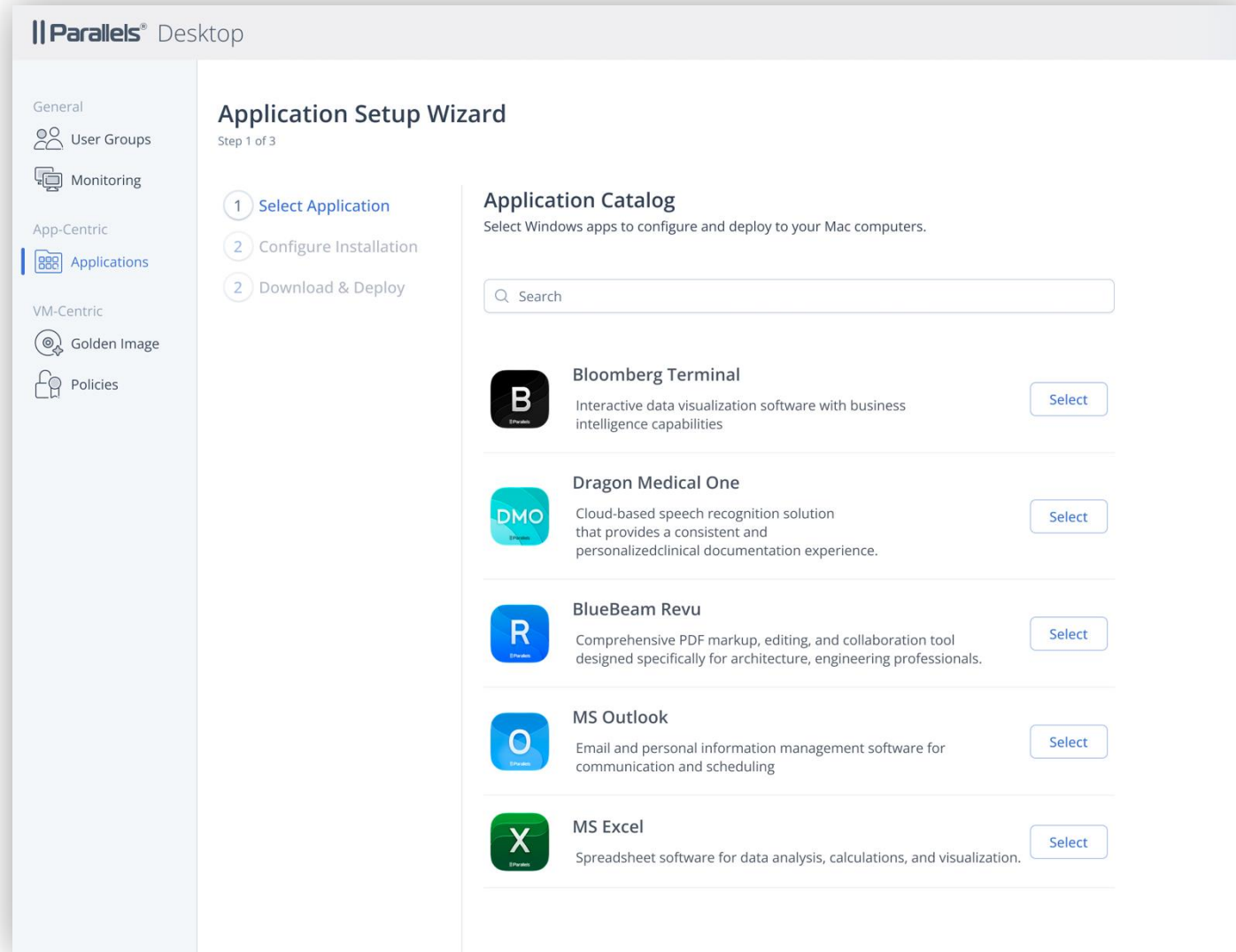


Admin Experience

Parallels Desktop for Enterprise

Windows Apps Collection by Parallels

Collection of pre-built Windows app Mac packages



Parallels creates a Mac package for Win app



The package published on PDE MP

Windows App installation configuration

App package configuration for installation (scripts, configuration files, etc)



Parallels® Desktop

General

- User Groups
- Monitoring

App-Centric

- Applications**

VM-Centric

- Golden Image
- Policies

Application Setup Wizard

Step 2 of 3

- 1 Select Application
- 2 Configure Installation**
- 3 Download & Deploy

Configure Bloomberg Terminal

Configure settings for Windows application installation before deploying Application package to your users.

Application Details

Application Name*

Give the application a unique name to distinguish it from other deployments of the same app

Application Version

V 11.5 (always deployed on latest).

Installation Scripts

Installer Parameters

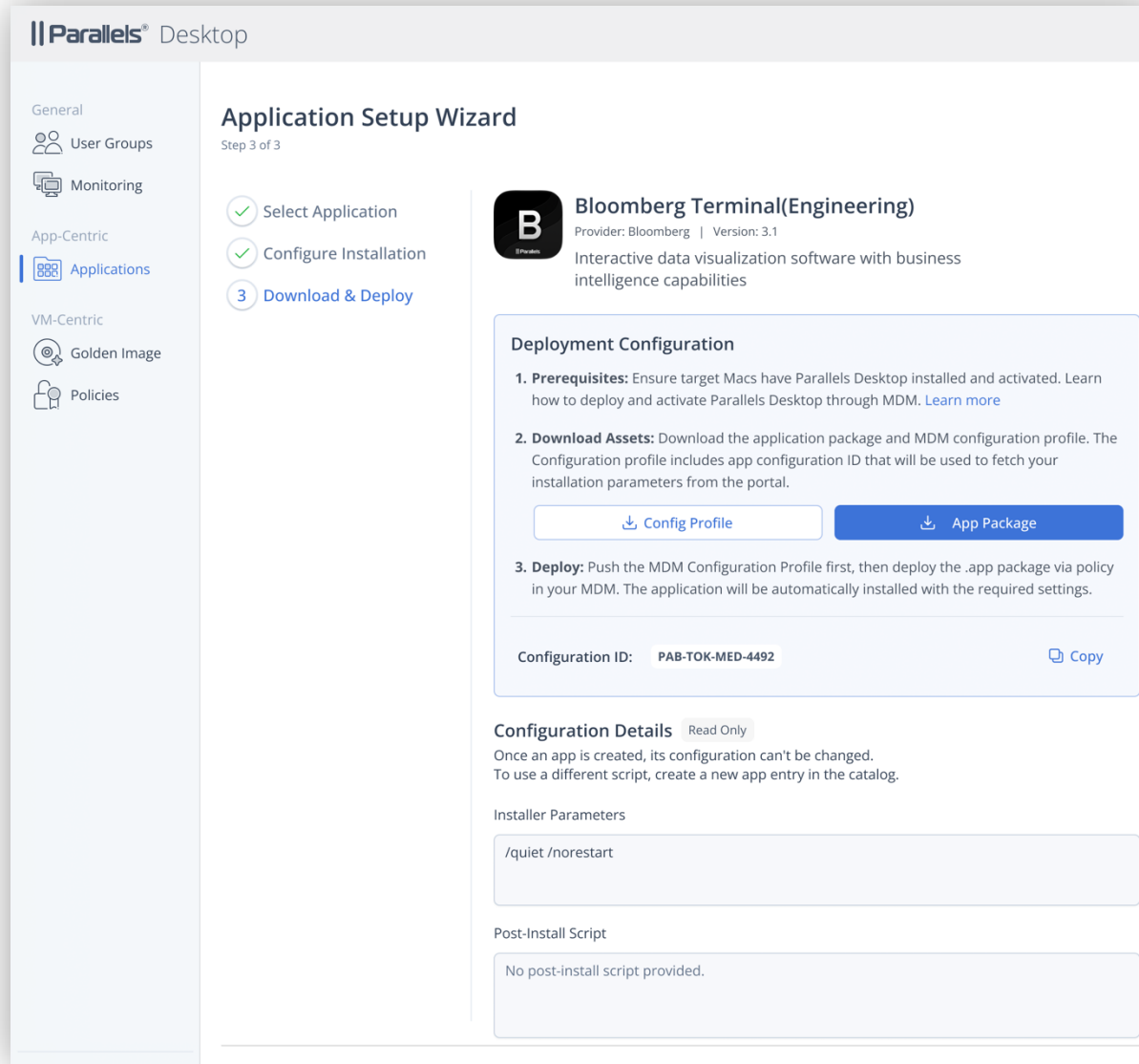
Post-Install Script

Manual Input Upload

Admin sets up
package settings
and downloads
PKG

Windows App Assets

Deployment content: Mac app package + configuration information via profile



Admin sets up app
package settings
and downloads
PKG



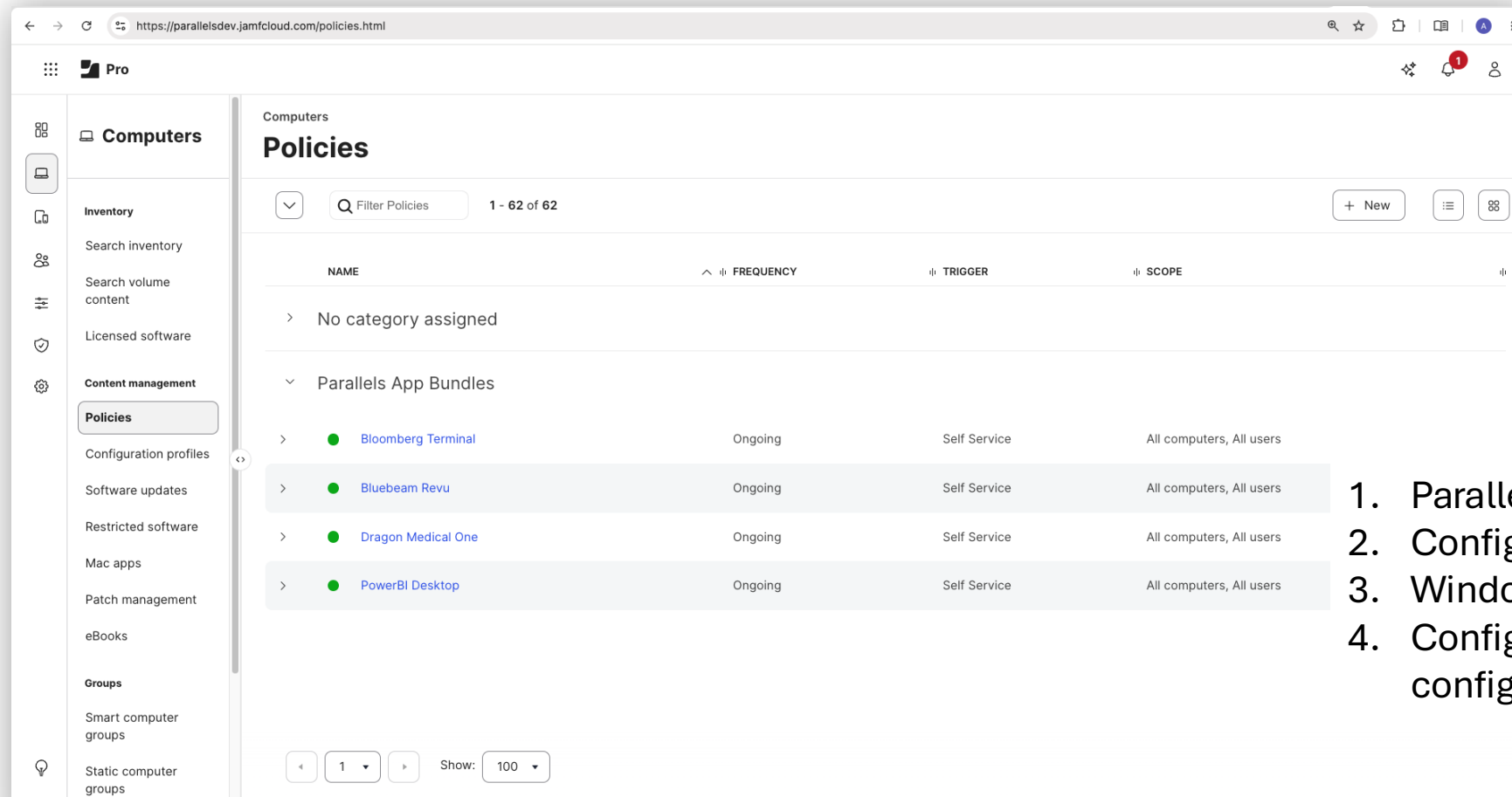
Bloomberg Terminal
(Parallels)-0.0.0-73.pkg



BloombergTerminal_configuration1
D.mobileconfig

Windows App deployment via MDM

Deploy Parallels Desktop + Mac app package + configuration profile to your users



Admin adds PKG to their MDM and deploys to users (+ Parallels Desktop)

1. Parallels Desktop via app catalog
2. Configuration profile for activation
3. Windows App package via policy
4. Configuration profile for Windows app config

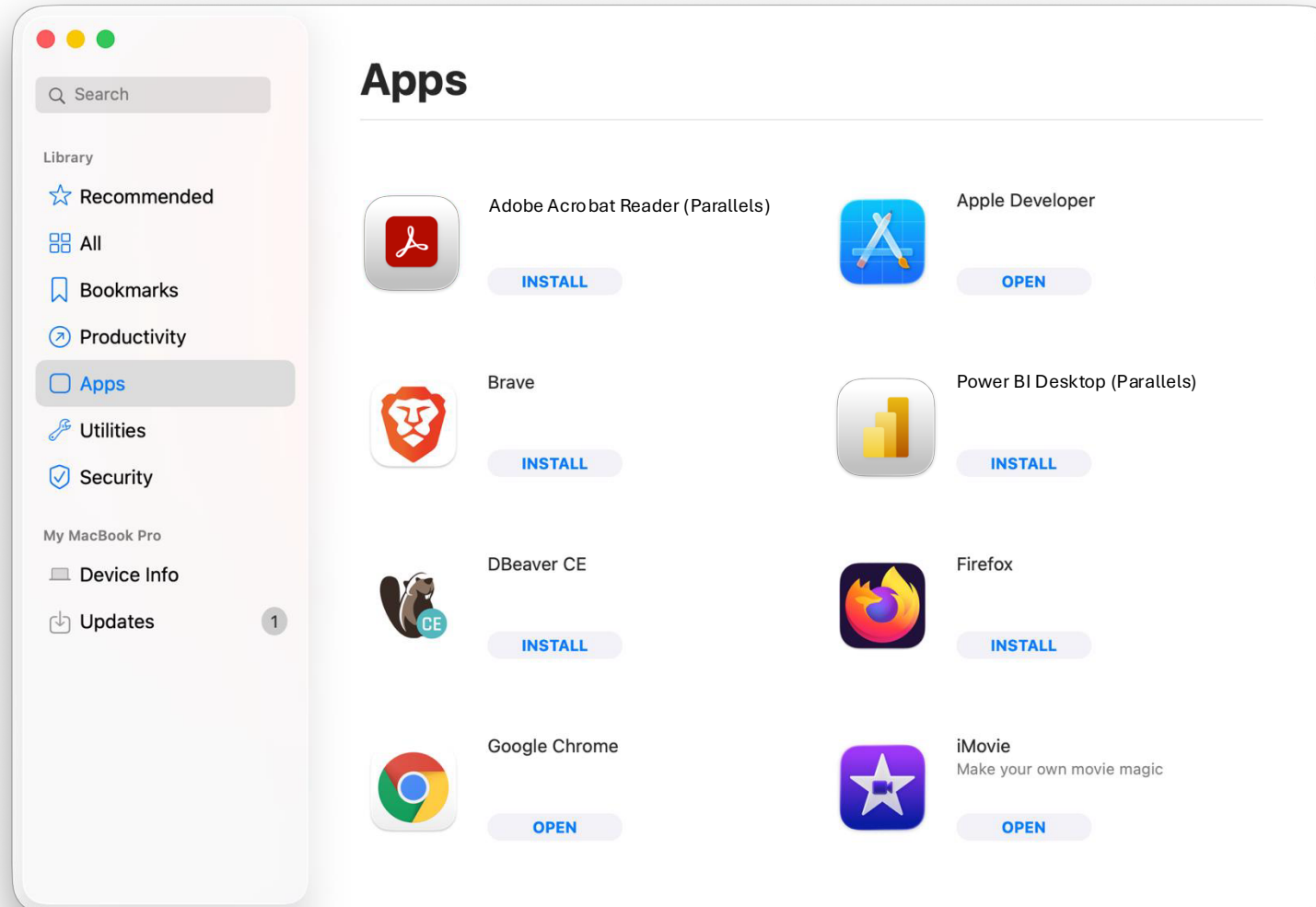


End-user experience

Native experience, invisible Windows

App package endpoint delivery

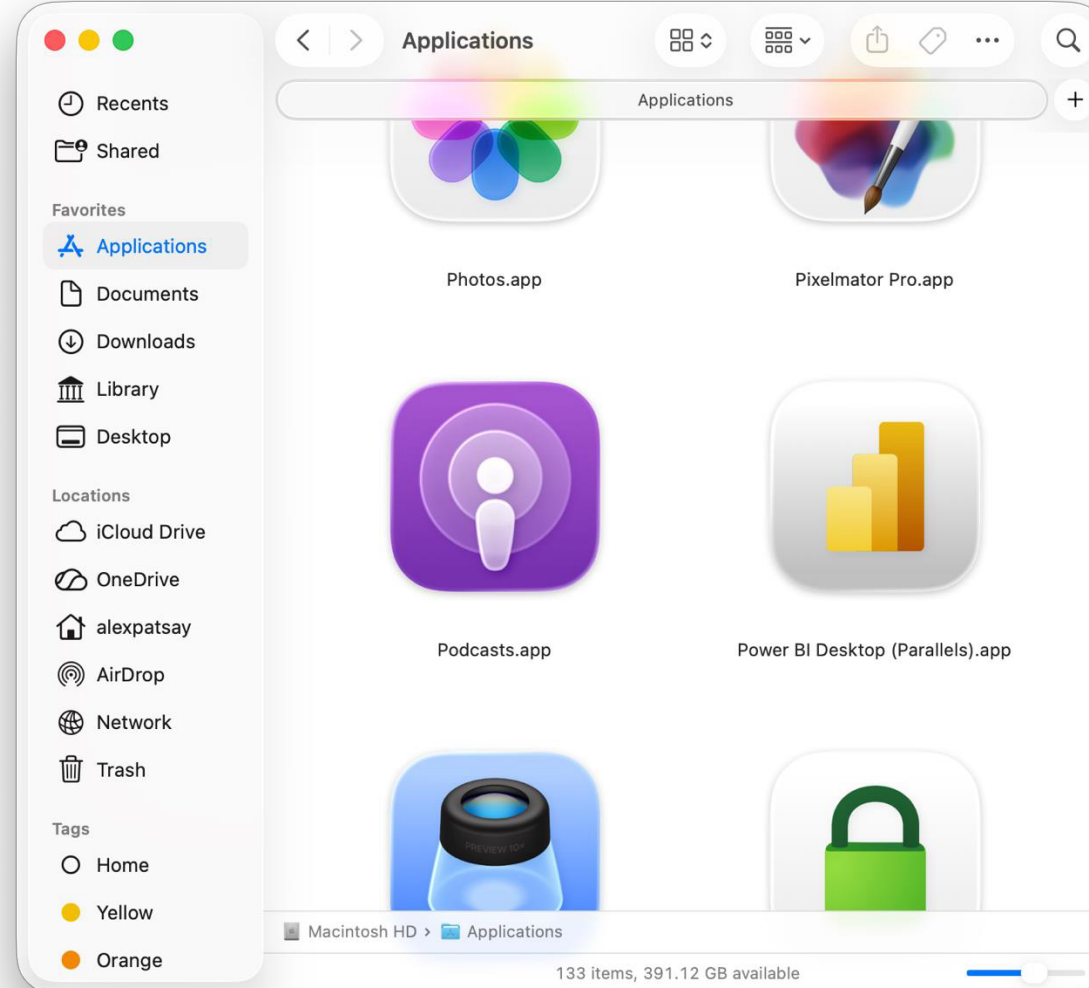
Deliver as package+policy or deploy (install) the package (or let users self-install)



Packaged Mac app is installed on a Mac

macOS application installed as a result

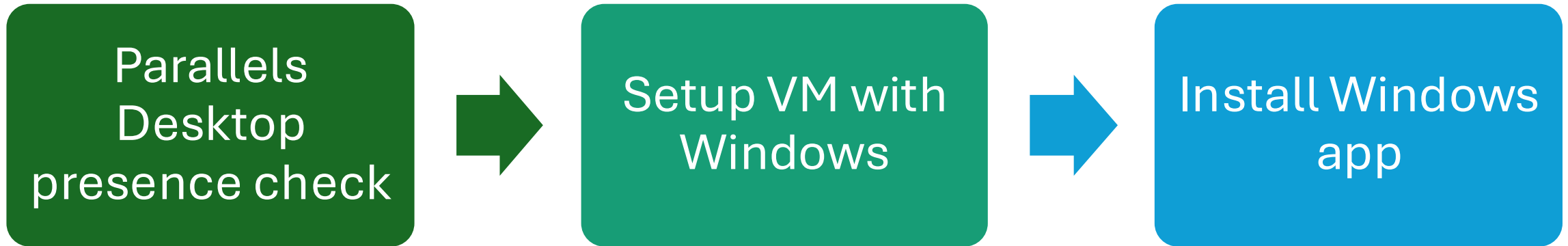
Parallels App Package installed in /Applications w/icon in Dock and ready to be launched



Packaged Mac
app is installed on
a Mac

App Delivery environment setup

Things required to run a Windows app



App Delivery: first launch + setup

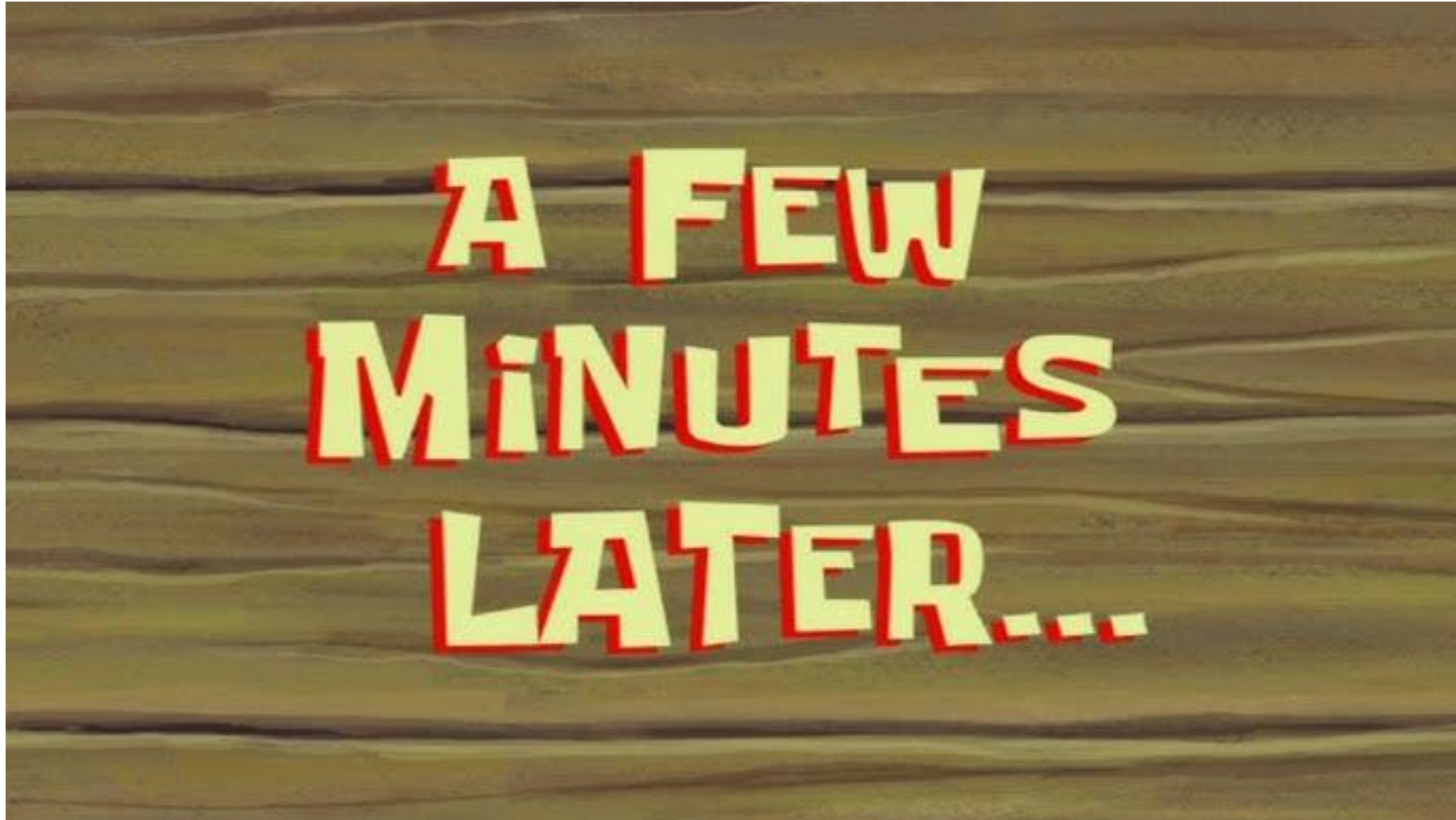
Installation and configuration information obtained from Parallels backend



Parallels Desktop
creates a VM and
installs Windows
app

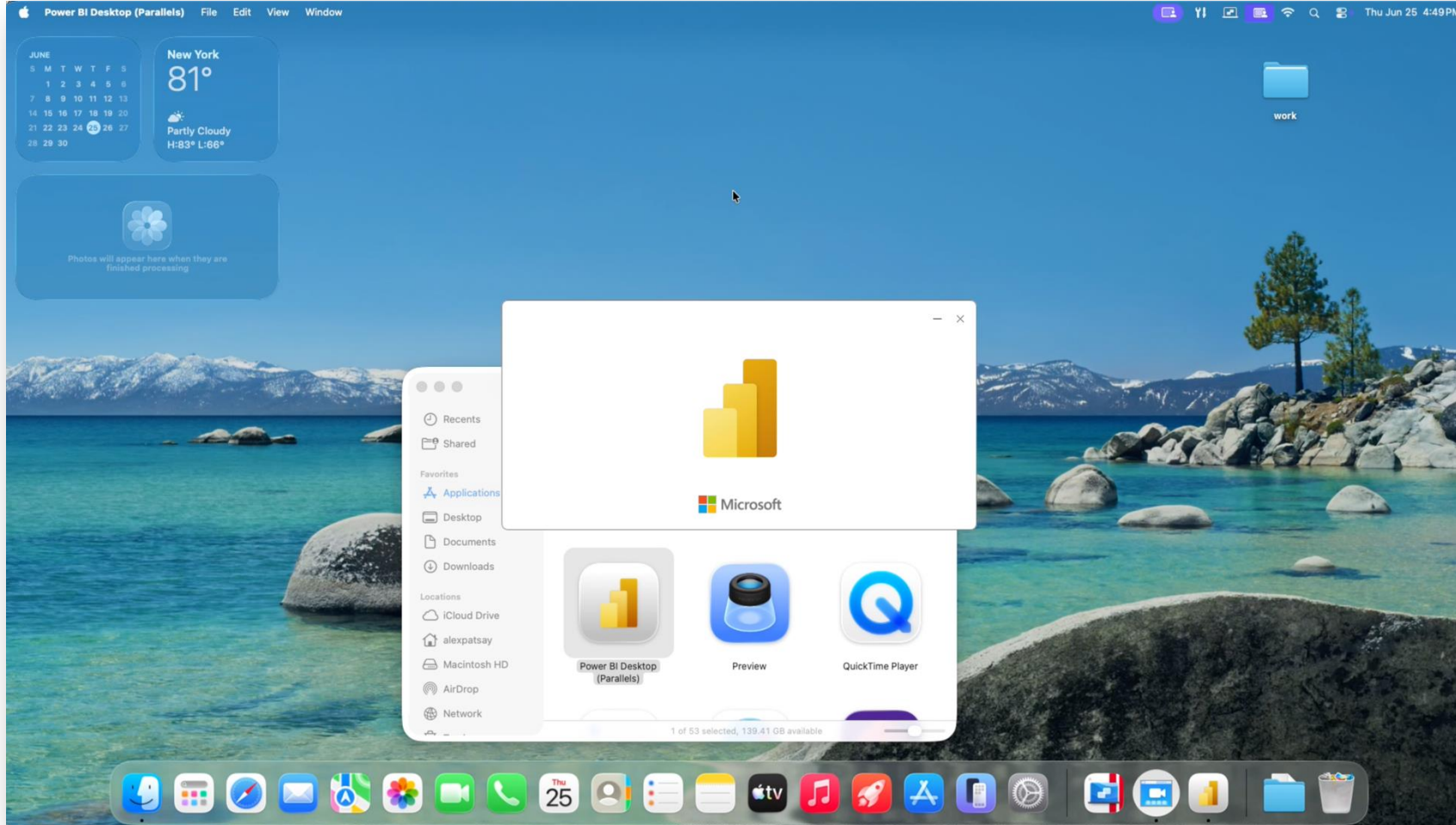
App Delivery: first launch + setup

Windows installed and set up, app installer downloaded



App Delivery: first launch + setup

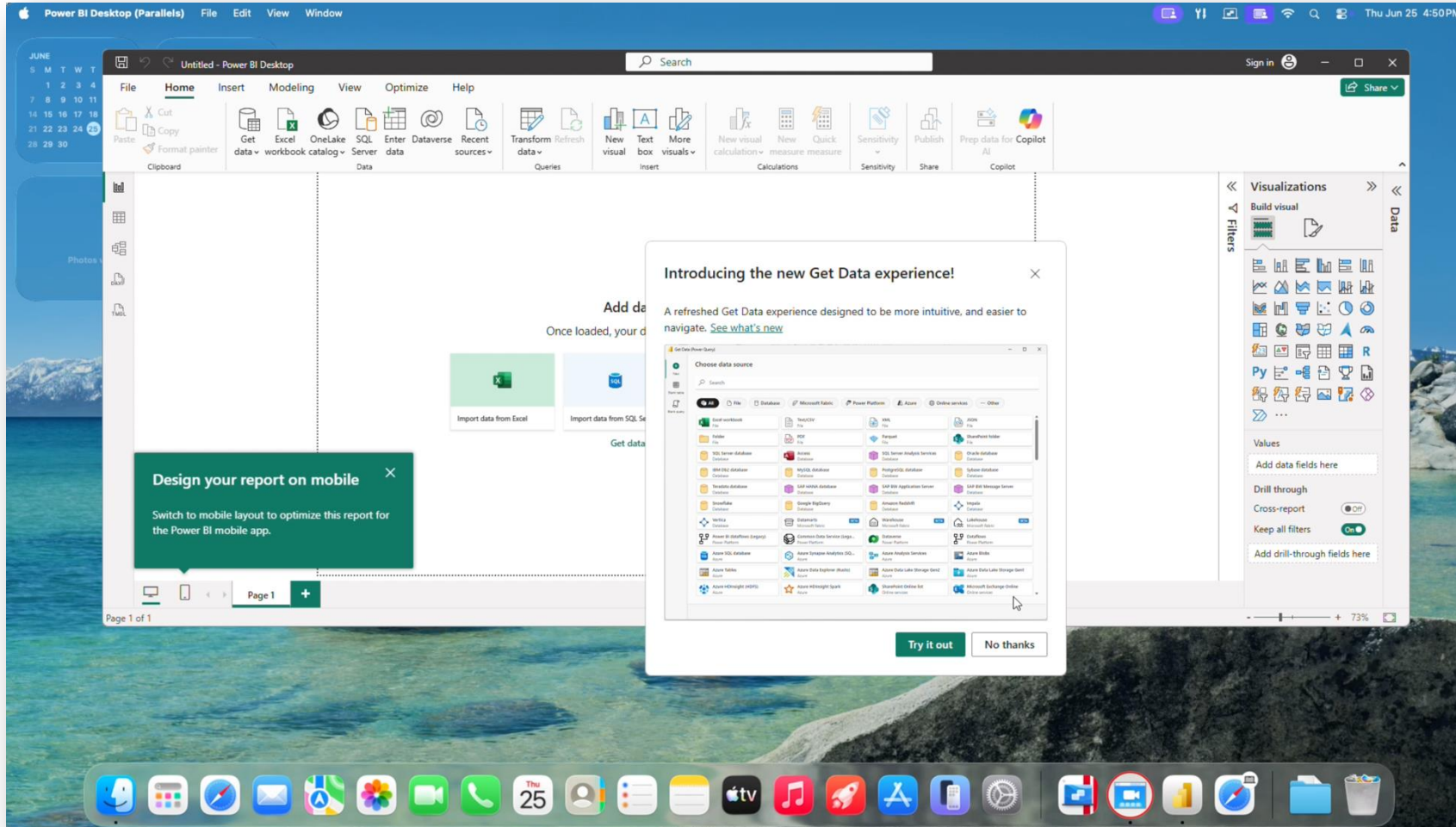
The end result of the initial setup — installed guest app in Coherence mode



Windows app
launches in
Coherence mode

App delivery: first launch + setup

The end result of the initial setup — installed guest app in SAM/Coherence mode



Windows app
launches in
Coherence mode

App delivery: installing a second app

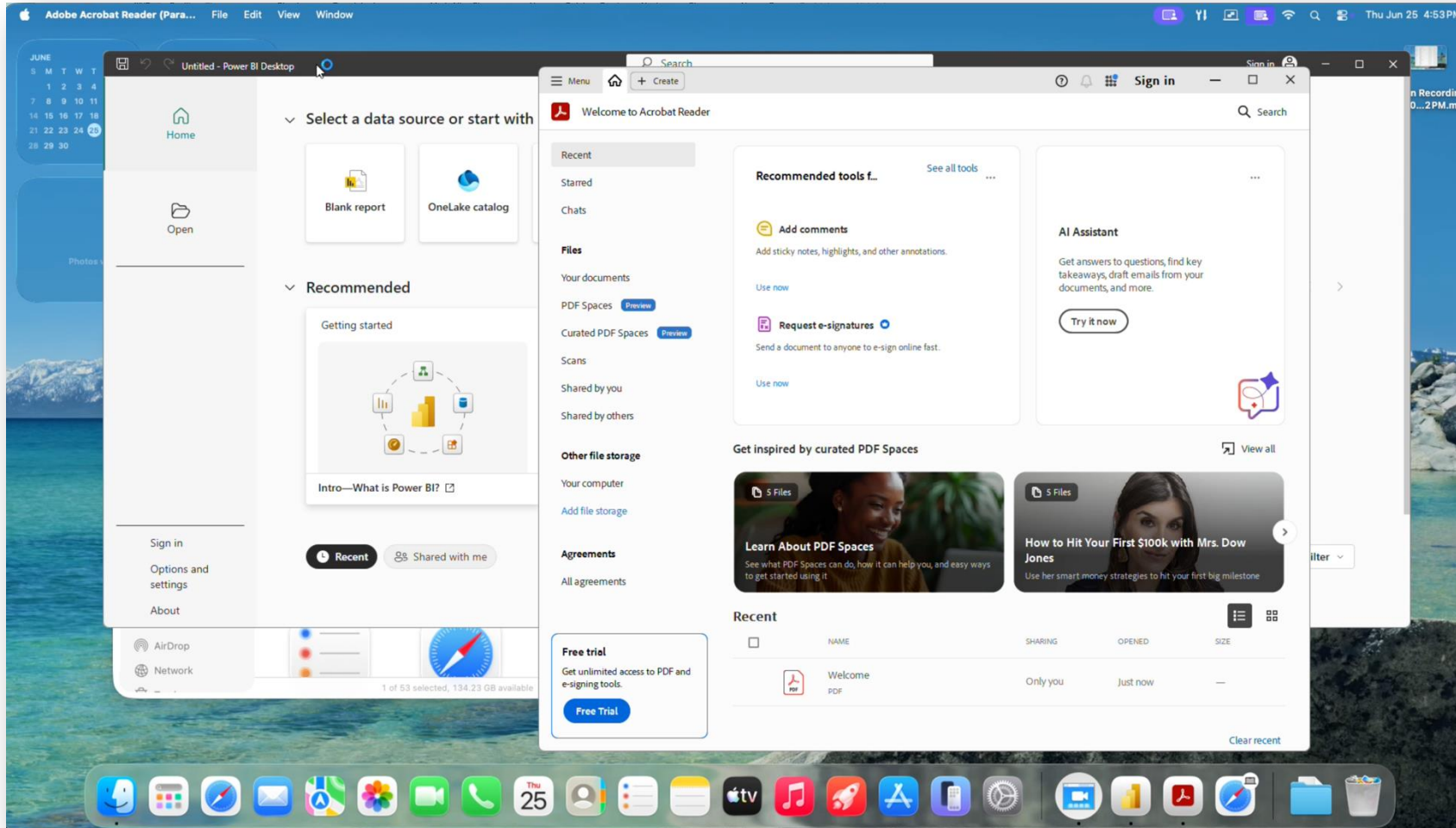
No need to set up another VM, only the app gets downloaded and installed



Second Windows
app is installed in
the same VM

Post-install Windows app launch

Users can use icon in the Applications folder/the Dock to launch app as any other native app



Both Windows apps working in Coherence mode side by side

Monitoring for deployed App packages

Separate reporting for the deployed app packages



Parallels® Desktop

General

- User Groups
- Monitoring**
- App Delivery
 - Applications
 - Windows OS
 - Windows Policies
- VM Delivery
 - Golden Image
 - Policies
- Settings

Monitoring

Unified view of all devices, VMs, and PAB deployments.

Users 10 VMs 10 **Apps 12**

Basic 6 Deployment 3 Windows info 2

Search applications Columns 11 of 11

☐	Application	Version	Configuration ID	Deployed	Installed	Failed	Running	Last reported (UTC)
☐	Bloomberg Terminal (Finance)	2024.1	PAB-TOK-BBG-1001	324	320	1	289	03-04-2026, 14:30
☐	Dragon Medical One	1.25	PAB-TOK-MED-4492	245	238	2	196	03-02-2026, 14:23
☐	Power BI Desktop (Finance)	2.4.5	PAB-TOK-POW-4478	87	86	0	64	02-28-2026, 09:12
☐	Power BI Desktop (Engineering)	2.4.5	PAB-TOK-POW-4479	124	122	0	95	02-28-2026, 09:18
☐	BlueBeam Revu	14	PAB-TOK-BLU-4478	56	55	0	42	03-01-2026, 11:30
☐	Cisco AnyConnect	5.85	PAB-TOK-CIS-1157	412	408	1	380	03-03-2026, 16:45
☐	Adobe Acrobat Reader	24.1.0	PAB-TOK-ADB-2241	521	519	0	410	02-25-2026, 10:14
☐	Google Chrome Enterprise	122.0.6261	PAB-TOK-CHR-3015	612	605	2	558	03-04-2026, 08:00
☐	Slack	4.36.140	PAB-TOK-SLK-5521	612	0	612	0	03-04-2026, 14:22
☐	Zoom Workplace	6.0.2	PAB-TOK-ZOM-4412	488	482	2	360	03-02-2026, 12:30
☐	Microsoft 365 Apps	16.0.17328	PAB-TOK-M365-7821	612	608	1	590	02-29-2026, 18:00
☐	Docker Desktop	4.28.0	PAB-TOK-DCK-6201	42	0	0	0	03-04-2026, 09:30

12 of 12

<< < 1 2 > >>



Managing the Windows Layer

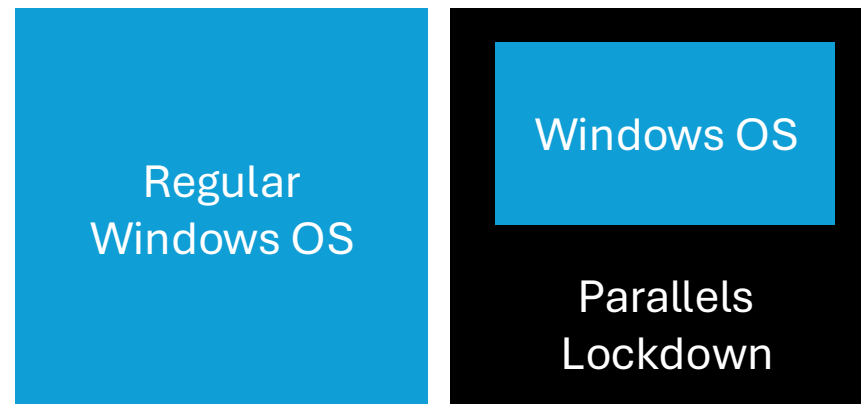
Lockdown, activation, updates, and monitoring

Windows as a runtime, not an endpoint.



Parallels Apps Delivery technology executes Windows apps on Mac **without exposing Windows as a general-purpose OS.**

The next slides outline the architecture, configuration baseline, and security ownership model, so you can assess whether this constitutes a new endpoint that requires an independent management scope.



Core idea:

Given the isolation and lockdown described on the next slides, we believe the Windows layer may require MINIMUM independent EDR, patch management, and audit coverage, and the existing macOS security posture will cover it.

Windows lockdown

Minimize, secure, and hide the managed Windows installation



THE FOUR LEVERS

Performance

Stop indexing, Superfetch, P2P updates & telemetry timers

WSearch / SysMain → **Manual** stop background indexing and Superfetch pre-allocation.

DODownloadMode = 99 disable peer-to-peer Delivery Optimization bandwidth sharing.

CDPSvc / CDPUserSvc → **Disabled** kill Connected Devices Platform background activity.

NoDesktop · blank wallpaper · **DisableSearch** clean, distraction-free surface.

Suppress update & crash dialogs no user-facing interruptions during sessions.

Lockdown

Block shortcuts, Task Mgr, Control Panel; hide C:, bypass WinRE

NoWinKeys = 0xffffffff disable all Windows-key shortcuts (Win+R, Win+X, Win+D...).

DisableTaskMgr · NoControlPanel block Task Manager and Control Panel / Settings.

NoDrives = 4 hide the C: drive from Explorer and file dialogs.

Disable HKCU/HKLM Run · AutoRun off no unsupervised auto-start or autorun.inf vectors.

NoConnectedUser · IgnoreAllFailures local-account only; bypass recovery environment.

Bloat removal

Strip 32 apps, 12 capabilities, Edge & OOBE reinstalls

32 AppX packages deprovisioned Xbox stack, Bing apps, Store, Teams (consumer), Copilot...

12 optional capabilities via DISM WebView2, IE shim, WMP, PowerShell ISE, OneSync...

Edge actively removed scheduler, registry DACL, RunOnce uninstall command.

UScheduler OOBE queue cleared prevents reinstallation after imaging.

DisableWindowsConsumerFeatures = 1 no silently-installed promoted apps.

Privacy / Telemetry

Disable DiagTrack, appraisal, usage insights, health svc

DiagTrack → **Manual** disable the main Microsoft telemetry pipeline.

wuqisvc → **Disabled** stop Usage & Quality Insights data collection.

InventorySvc / whesvc → **Manual** halt inventory/compatibility appraisal & Windows Health.

PcaSvc / DPS → **Disabled** remove Program Compatibility & Diagnostic Policy pipelines.

Feedback Hub removed no diagnostic data or feedback sent externally.

Detection and control already operate on the Mac host, not inside Windows.



LAYER 1 · macOS HOST — the managed endpoint

EDR file scanning, macOS TCC privacy enforcement, and MDM policy run here

Files live on macOS (not inside Windows) via Shared Folders. EDR scans file content at rest.

Note: process attribution is limited — file I/O from Windows apps surfaces as a Parallels process on macOS. TCC governs camera, mic, and peripherals independently of Windows.

EDR · file-at-rest scan

macOS TCC · privacy

MDM / Jamf / Intune

Network firewall · NAT

LAYER 2 · PARALLELS CONTROL PLANE — delivery and mediation gate

Controls which macOS folders Windows apps can access; gates all app delivery

Shared Folder scope is policy-configurable per "App" — a defined working set, not the full Mac filesystem. Other macOS app sandboxes are not visible to Windows. Apps reach Windows only as signed "Apps" via the Orchestrator.

App Orchestrator · PAD-only

Protection Controller · folder scope

Runtime maintenance · Parallels-owned

LAYER 3 · WINDOWS RUNTIME — sealed execution environment

Executes approved app binaries. NAT network. No desktop, no shell, no user access to OS.

No browser · no email · no cloud sync · no scripting · no app store · NAT-only outbound · no inbound network exposure → exfiltration surface inside Windows is structurally narrow.

Windows sees only the files Parallels grants it. The Mac host remains the managed endpoint boundary.

Windows security tools

The screenshot displays the Parallels Desktop Security Tool Setup interface. The main window is titled "Security Tool Setup" and shows "Step 1 of 3". The left sidebar contains navigation options: General, User Groups, Monitoring, App-Centric, Applications, Windows OS, VM-Centric, Golden Image, and Policies. The main content area is divided into two sections: "Security Tool Collection" and "Application Details".

Security Tool Collection

Select Security Tool to configure and deploy to your Mac computers.

Search

Sysmon
System Monitor — logs system activity to the Windows Event Log including process creation, network connections, and file changes. Essential for threat detection and...

NXLog
High-performance log collection and forwarding agent. Collects Windows Event Logs and forwards them to SIEM platforms such as Splunk, Elastic, or Microsoft Sentinel.

Application Details

Configuration Name*
Sysmon
Give the tool a unique name to distinguish it from other deployments of the same app.

Assign Group
Select a group
Choose which user group this security tool will be deployed to.

Binary Checksum (SHA256)
e.g. 5f1a7e5b2a4e...
Used to verify the integrity of the downloaded binary before installation.

Installation Parameters

Installer Parameters

Configuration File
No file chosen + Choose file
Upload a tool-specific configuration file (e.e. a sysmon XML config or NXLog.conf). Refer to the official documentation for the expected format.

Security & Certificates

Certificates (optional)
No file chosen + Choose file
Upload signing or authentication certificates required by the security tool. Multiple files are supported.

MAK-based Windows activation automation

Support for Windows activation (COMING LATER)



Parallels® Desktop

EN

GENERAL

- User Groups
- Monitoring

APP-CENTRIC

- Applications
- Windows OS**

VM-CENTRIC

- Golden Image
- Policies

Windows OS

[Licensing](#) Maintenance & Updates Additional Tools

[Save changes](#)

Windows activation

Applies to all VMs in this group

✓ Activated

MAK key XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX-XXXXX

Activations used 43 / 100

Need more licenses?

Purchase additional Windows seats through Parallels

[Buy licenses →](#)

Windows updates management

Control updates applied to Windows (COMING LATER)



Windows OS

Save changes

Licensing Maintenance & Updates Additional Tools

Sequential stages — each begins after the previous period elapses.

Days 1–7

Days 8–14

Day 15+

Stage 1 — Silent

Stage 2 — Notify

Stage 3 — Force

Stage 1 Silent update

Duration 7 days

Install updates silently when Windows apps are not in use or outside business hours.

Business hours 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Stage 2 Notify & defer

Duration 7 days

Remind users daily. They can defer till the next day.

Notification cadence Daily

Stage 3 Force update

Grace period 30 minutes

Block access to all Windows apps until updates are installed.

Running Windows apps will be force-quit after the grace period. Unsaved work may be lost.

Summary



New delivery model

Windows apps reach Macs as single apps, not full VMs to hand off



A native experience

Users launch apps from the Dock; Windows runs hidden underneath



No new tooling

Package and deploy through your existing MDM, like any Mac app



macOS stays the managed endpoint

Windows is a sealed runtime, not a second OS to patch or audit

Windows as a **runtime**, not an endpoint.

Q&A

Mac Admins Slack: [#parallels](#) channel
[@LubaKulakova](#) and [@Alex Patsay](#)



Raffle



The Mac-Native Way to Deliver Windows Apps, Powered by
Parallels Desktop

Session Feedback



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