

MSIX app attach integration

- Parallels Remote Application Server 19.0
- Parallels Remote Application Server 19.1

Description

MSIX app attach is a Microsoft application layering solution that allows you to dynamically attach applications (containerized MSIX packages) to a user session.

Parallels RAS now makes it even easier to streamline the administration of a virtual application or desktop environment, regardless of whether it is on-premises, hybrid cloud, or multi-cloud.

Parallels RAS 19.1 extends MSIX app attach application delivery to virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI)

Parallels RAS 19.2 extends MSIX app attach application delivery to AVD (Azure Virtual Desktop)

Prerequisites

• Parallels Remote Application Server v19 with Windows Server 2022 as a *RD session host* or Windows 10/11 *VDI* machine or AVD(Support from v19.2)

Network share where the MSIX images will be stored. Storage requirements and recommendations are highlighted here https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-desktop/app-attach-azure-portal

- All computer accounts must have read permissions on the network share where the MSIX images are stored.
- MSIX image located on a network share

Configuration

Note: In Parallels RAS 19, MSIX app attach applications can be deployed and managed directly from the Parallels RAS console only when using Windows Server 2022.

To enable the Application Packages feature

- 1. Navigate to **Farm > Settings** and select the **Application packages** tab.
- 2. Select the Enable Application Packages feature option.

Note: You can mark specific versions of packages with tags to simplify the package update procedure. There are three pre-defined tags: **Production**, **Pre-production**, and **Custom**. Tags cannot be added or deleted, but you can rename them.

To assign a tag to a package, navigate to Farm > Application packages > right-click your application package > Properties > General > Version tag. You can also enable the automatic installation of certificates on RD Sessions hosts at Farm > Settings > Application packages > Provision package certificates automatically.

To add an MSIX application package to Parallels RAS

- 1. Navigate to **Farm > Application packages**.
- 2. Click **Tasks > Add** (or click the [+] icon) to open MSIX Image

wizard.

3. In the MSIX Image path field, click the ... (Browse) button to select a file from a network share. A UNC path to the file is required, for example, \\SERVERNAME\\SHARENAME\\DIRECTORY\\FILENAME. You can install packages from VHD, VHDX, and CIM

images.

- 4. In the Package drop-down list select the package that you want to add.
- 5. In the **Display Name** field specify the name that will be used for this package in Parallels RAS. After that, the rest of the fields will be populated automatically.
- 6. Click Finish.

To add a package to an RD Session Host:

- 1. Navigate to Farm > RD Sessions Host/ Farm > VDI Pools/Desktops
- 2. Double-click an Session Host/Pool/Desktop this will open the Properties

dialog	
3. On the Application Packages tab, clear the Inherit default setting	, click Tasks > Add (or click the [+] icon). If these icons are grayed out,

option

- 4. In the first column to the left, select the package you want to install on the RD Session Host.
- 5. In the **Version** column, select the version of the packages. It is recommended to use the latest versions of the packages. If the selected packages have dependencies, you will see a warning that lists all of them.
- 6. Click **OK** to finish the configuration.

To add a package to an Azure Virtual Desktop:

- 1. Navigate to Farm > Azure Virtual Desktop > Host Pools
- 2. Double-click an **Host Pools** this will open the Properties dialog
- 3. On the **Application Packages** tab, click **Tasks** > **Add** (or click the [+] icon). If these icons are grayed out, clear the Inherit default setting option
- 4. In the first column to the left, select the package you want to install on the Azure Virtual Desktop.
- 5. In the **Version** column, select the version of the packages. It is recommended to use the latest versions of the packages. If the selected packages have dependencies, you will see a warning that lists all of them.
- 6. Click **OK** to finish the configuration.



Note: The MSIX containers need to be stored somewhere that the VM has access to - which will typically be a share on another VM, or an Azure File Share. The process for Azure AD Joined hosts may differ(https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-desktop/app-attach-file-share)

The process of expanding the MSIX into the container is done by a tool called MSIXMgr. You can download this from https://aka.ms/msixmgr

Parallels Tech Partner appCURE can also be used to support application modernization to MSIX AA with a link to https://www.parallels.com/static/pl/fileadmin/res/doc/ras/datasheet/RAS joint solution brief appcure letter EN.pdf

Once you've got your VHD file, save it to the file share you created earlier

Known Issues and Limitations

- It is only possible to attach MSIX apps to RD Session Hosts running Windows Server 2022 as well as Virtual Desktop Machines running Windows 10/11, as well as AVD Windows 10 Enterprise and Windows 10 Enterprise Multi-session, versions 2004 or later, as detailed in https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/virtual-desktop/app-attach-faq.
- CIM package images discovery requires RAS Connection Broker installed on Windows Server 2022.
- To successfully add a package from a CIM package image, the network share must be located on a server other than the *Primary Connection Broker* or *RD Session Host*.
- MSIX app attach doesn't support auto-update for MSIX applications.
- In the current release, Parallels RAS Console does not manage MSIX app attach on Remote PCs.

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