

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

Rand Corporation Relies on Centrify to Integrate Macs, Linux and Solaris in Active Directory

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- Dan O’Donnell, information systems security officer at RAND.

The Challenge – Integrating Macs and other platforms into Microsoft Active Directory

Letting people have their system of choice is important at a company in which skilled experts makeup the heart of the work force and bring in the bulk of the income, said O’Donnell.

As a result, Macs have rebounded at RAND, aided by the organization’s cross-platform end-user strategy that affords equal stature to Macs, Windows, Solaris and Linux.

To integrate Macs in its corporate environment, RAND is using Centrify DirectControl to authenticate Macintosh and Linux systems with Windows Active Directory.

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One technology that is aiding multiplatform deployments as well as the Mac resurgence in the enterprise is desktop virtualization. RAND is using VMware Fusion and Parallels Desktop for Mac so that users can run Linux and Windows in virtual machines on Mac OS X systems. Doing so lets them move back and forth among Windows, Linux and Macintosh applications as they please.

Finding Enterprise Support for the Mac Outside of Apple

O’Donnell finds it encouraging that the [Enterprise Desktop Alliance](#) was formed in June 2008 by Mac ecosystem vendors including Centrify and Parallels, with the purpose of fostering easy interoperability and support for cross-platform desktop environments. “I think I will benefit from it, and they will benefit from joining forces,” he said.



Rand is a think tank specializing in top-secret studies for the military. The company also does research in the area of health, education, labor, aging, employment and the arts.

The environment: Users are experts in their fields and frequently require specialized software. Users get their choice of platforms from among Solaris, Linux, Windows, Mac.

Around 400 of nearly 2,000 employees use Macs.