Migrating Citrix Policies to Parallels RAS

# Exporting from Citrix

To export Citrix policies from CVAD 7.x, a module is required which is available on Delivery Controllers. Launch a PowerShell prompt as a user who has permission to read Citrix policy objects and run the following:

Import-Module -Name "$env:ProgramFiles\Citrix\Telemetry Service\TelemetryModule\Citrix.GroupPolicy.Commands.psm1"

New-PSDrive -PSProvider CitrixGroupPolicy -Name LocalFarmGpo -Root \ -Controller $env:COMPUTERNAME

Export-CtxGroupPolicy -FolderPath "H:\Citrix Policies Export"

A black screen with text on it

Description automatically generated

The folder passed to the -folderPath parameter will be created if it does not exist and will be populated with three files

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

Note that the files produced are CLI XML format and as such should be ingested by PowerShell using Import-CliXML as opposed to treating them as XML.

The deprecation warning for New-PSDrive can be safely ignored – the replacement cmdlets have only recently gone live and a date for their removal, let alone their deprecation, has not yet been announced so it was decided to use the “legacy” approach in order to provide as much backward compatibility with older CVAD releases as possible. The script development and testing was performed with the 2406 and later the 2411 release.

# Importing to Parallels RAS

The PowerShell script that processes the policies exported from Citrix, referred to as the “generator script” forthwith, reads those files and outputs PowerShell that can be run on a Parallels RAS Connection Broker as it requires the RASAdmin PowerShell module. The generator script must also be run where the RASAdmin module is available and must be run in X64 (AMD64) PowerShell – it will not work with ARM64.

The generator script is called “Citrix Policy conversion to RAS.ps1” and should be invoked thus where C:\Parallels is the root folder where all GitHub assets for this have been placed. It does not need to be run as a user with access to the destination RAS farm:

& 'C:\Parallels\Citrix Policy conversion to RAS.ps1' -mappingFile "C:\Parallels\RAS Policy Mapping.csv" -citrixPolicyFolder "H:\Citrix Policies Export"

A screenshot of a computer program

Description automatically generated

This will produce a file called “CreateRASPoliciesFromCitrix.ps1” (referred to as the generated script) in the current working directory for the PowerShell session which can then be run as a user who has permission to create RAS policies where it will prompt interactively for the password for the account running the generated script. A different output file can be produced by using -outputFile.  
A computer screen with white text

Description automatically generated

Warnings will be shown for elements that cannot be migrated to RAS, generally because RAS does not have an equivalent setting to that in Citrix.  
In addition, a -prefix parameter can be used which will prefix all newly created policy names with the string that is passed to this parameter such as “\_\_”.

All policies will be created in the disabled state unless the -enabled parameter is used which is not advised if the RAS deployment is in production with active users.

A close-up of a computer screen

Description automatically generated

If policies already exist with the same names when the generated script is run, it will error and abort. Either delete the clashing policies in the RAS console, having backed them up first, or use the -prefix parameter to the generator script to produce different policy names.  
A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

Citrix policies are sorted in policy order by the script before being processed such that the order they are created in RAS in the same order that they were in Citrix, thus maintaining the correct priority.