



Case Study:

Mobile County District

Attorney's Office



City of Mobile, District Attorney's Office

CrossOver offered a way to use Internet Explorer, without Windows.

Overview: Mobile, Alabama, runs its District Attorney's Office completely on Macs. Up until recently they also had to run Parallels, entailing a full copy of Windows for each Mac desktop. But with CrossOver Mac, this is no longer the case.

John M. Tyson, Jr. took over the State of Alabama's 13th Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office in 1994. He immediately set about modernizing the Office's IT infrastructure, introducing Mac desktop machines, and beginning to build FileMaker Pro applications to handle its caseload. Since that time, the Office has remained a Mac shop, and as of 2008 has around 100 Macs in its inventory.

At the same time, however, the DA's Office has to interface with the State of Alabama, many of whose systems are developed on Windows. In particular, a set of applications the DA's Office needs from the State are deployed via the Web, and requires the use of MS Internet Explorer. This was a problem, in that there is no Mac-native version of IE. This, in turn, required some sort of Windows compatibility solution.

When the Office purchased a new batch of Intel-based Macs in 2007, the Office's technology Director, Lisa Lemler, selected a well-known Windows/Mac emulation package as the solution to the IE dilemma. This software, however, had several drawbacks. First, it required a full copy of Windows be installed on the Mac. In Lemler's words, she'd "Have preferred not to have sullied my poor Macbook with a copy of Windows," but there seemed to be little choice in the matter. Furthermore, the emulator's performance was not exactly snappy.

The notion of running Windows applications without Windows sounded too good to be true. But it wasn't.

Then, at the MacWorld 2008 show, Lisa came across the CodeWeavers booth. At first, she thought the notion of running Windows applications without Windows was a little too good to be true. However, she took the demo version of CrossOver Mac home to try out. She found that installing CrossOver and then IE was quite straightforward. The real test, however, would be whether or not CrossOver would run the State of Alabama's IE-only applications. The initial tests were promising. Yes, there were some glitches. But by and large the applications ran. She

contacted CodeWeavers to see what could be done to make the applications run more perfectly.

**CodeWeavers delivered
timely engineering
support.**

The result was a professional services engagement with CodeWeavers to fix the remaining problems. This meant fine-tuning Wine support for several ActiveX controls. However, CodeWeavers was able to do this relatively quickly. Likewise, during deployment, when issues occurred with printing out of IE, CodeWeavers personnel jumped on the problems quickly. In each case, Lemler “was impressed with the timely turnaround on the issues.”

Furthermore, in some cases CrossOver is performing better than native Windows, particularly when it comes to viewing video files. As part of its normal activities, the DA's Office receives a variety of video files from the host of local law-enforcement agencies it interacts with—interviews of suspects, tapes of crime scenes, etc. “We get a lot of weird formats,” said Lemler. “There's no standardization of Codecs; we get it all.” Through hard work, CodeWeavers was able to make almost all of these video formats play under CrossOver, to the point where Lemler often notices she can view the files under CrossOver, but not under Windows!

The result is that CrossOver has now replaced the previous emulation software within the DA's Office. CrossOver Mac runs all the needed State applications, and has allowed Lemler to remove Windows from all her Macs. This not only makes her happy, it makes her boss happy. “I'm pleased to report that every recommendation I made from the MacWorld 2008 show, including implementing CrossOver, has occurred,” Lemler noted. “Mr. Tyson values my opinion, and my opinion is that CrossOver *rocks*. We are very happy and loyal customers.”