Providing a true Mac experience in the cloud

Mac technology delivered via the cloud provides a rich environment for app development and general office use

Chris Chapman

MacStadium

To support remote work and application development in the best way possible, agencies need a large-scale, flexible pool of resources that can be anywhere and everywhere. A multi-cloud environment provides that scale and flexibility, and it also eliminates single points of failure and single dependencies. Such an ecosystem enables agencies to provide a wide range of technologies for employees and develop innovative mobile apps for citizens.

However, large cloud platforms often overlook the importance of incorporating Mac technology, or they might offer limited capacity in the form of a hosted bare-metal box on the internet — an approach that is not very cloud-like compared to the rest of their offerings. That omission can make it difficult for agencies to develop apps for the iPhone, which is the most prevalent mobile device in the U.S., because Apple requires that software for Mac devices be built, compiled and delivered on Mac hardware to ensure that its users have the best possible experience.

Purpose-built technologies for virtualization

At MacStadium, we focus completely on Mac hardware and Mac as a platform for the cloud. We deliver bare-metal Mac experiences for agencies that have specialized or dedicated hardware needs, and we have created a virtualization technology called Orka that allows government development teams to orchestrate macOS in a cloud environment using Kubernetes on genuine Mac hardware.

People enjoy the Mac experience and are using more and more macOS-based tools, but they often don't have remote access to Mac hardware for their jobs. As agencies continue to provide support for remote workers, they must consider how to provide access to Macs for the employees who rely on them for development, design or general office use. Some IT teams set up a physical Mac in a data center and create a network to attach to it, but creating remote access to a machine that's far away makes it hard to fix problems when they arise.

Instead, MacStadium has developed purpose-built technologies that create cloud-based Mac desktops. Cloud Access delivers high-performance remote desktop experiences from the MacStadium cloud to any device. And this year, we are adding Orka Workspaces, which enables high-performance desktop access to cloud-hosted macOS resources via a browser from any workstation or device. Those scalable, flexible technologies can be pushed out on demand to achieve a true Mac experience.

The workhorse behind the Mac cloud

In addition, MacStadium's Cloud Connect streamlines the process of integrating a Mac cloud with an agency's existing cloud environments.

Adrien Olichon

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Cloud Connect allows us to create dedicated cloud capacity via a private, secure connection that's simple to set up. The results are overlapping virtual private networks, consistent role-based access and control across the clouds through a web-based interface. We also create custom platform-as-a-service integrations. For example, we're the backing technology for the macOS

build environment offered by the DevOps platform GitLab.

MacStadium is explicitly designed to focus on Mac all day every day, and we see ourselves as the workhorse behind the Mac cloud. For agencies that have any kind of Mac need, whether for front-end desktop users or backend development teams, MacStadium is the premier partner in this space. We excel

at creating cloud-based solutions and delivery platforms for specialized or general work, and we encourage agencies to check out our virtualization and cloud technology options. ■

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