Parallels announces Parallels Desktop 12 for Mac-- an update featuring macOS Sierra support-- together with Parallels Toolbox, a standalone app allowing users to perform simple tasks not tied to virtualisation.



Additions to Desktop 12 include "always on" Windows 10 in the background, instant Windows app launching, incremental backup and Windows update scheduling, improved Microsoft Edge, Outlook and Office 365 integration, the ability to assign special behaviours to Windows apps and Xbox app support. Another feature involves a partnership with Blizzard with support for the hit multiplayer shooter Overwatch.

Parallels also claims the update offers 90% faster snapshot creation, 60% faster VM suspension, 25% faster shared folder performance, 25% faster Visual Studio project compilation and up to 10% improvement in battery life for "certain environments."

Meanwhile Parallels Toolbox places a drop-down menu in the Mac menu bar allowing users to do certain tasks faster. Tasks include recording the screen, taking screenshots, recording audio, file archiving, video conversion and downloads, and screen locking, among others.

Existing Parallels Desktop 10 and 11 users can upgrade to version 12 now. The software is also available to first-time users from 23 August 2016.

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