

Time Machine® Enables Successful Exadata Migration for Largest Broadcasting Company in the World

Quote

“With Time Machine’s ability to set virtual clocks, we save tremendous time and effort testing our programs in an Oracle Exadata environment. While building the largest database system in the UK, Solution-Soft’s Time Machine has been a lifesaver to keep our project on time and on budget.”

Capita Systems -

Integration Principle Oracle Applications DBA

About The Customer

The largest broadcasting organization in the world, our customer provides services from the U.K., including 8 national TV channels plus regional programming, 10 national radio stations and 40 local radio stations. They also broadcast to the world on radio, TV and online, providing news and information in 32 languages.

About Capita Consulting

Capita Consulting is the management consultancy arm of The Capita Group Plc. Capita is the U.K.’s leading business process outsourcing (BPO) and professional services company, delivering back office administration and front office customer contact services to Private and Public Sector organizations across the U.K. & Ireland.

Success Overview

As a longtime satisfied customer of SolutionSoft Systems, this broadcasting company has relied on Solution-Soft’s Time Machine for numerous application deployments and testing for over 5 years as they have launched new applications for all customers.

Beginning Q4 of 2010, they started a migration to a new system for their TV Licensing Applications which would end with them building the largest database environment in the UK, powered by Oracle Exadata servers.

With millions of TV subscribers dependent on the success of the migration to their new Exadata environment, the high risk of manual date testing reaches the point of being unacceptable for the broadcasting company. The chance for database and environment corruption increases alongside with days lost in time.

With Time Machine, not only can efficient date testing be performed on such large Exadata environments, but it can guarantee no environment corruption. Time Machine also allows multiple instances of virtual clocks to be set, saving hardware costs and decreasing time required for full application testing, leading to reliable and on-time deployments and migration.

Challenge: Effective Date Testing on Exadata and Sun Containers

The broadcasting company’s main challenge was the inability to perform iterative testing of marketing campaigns in their highly complex, integrated environment. The environment consists of multiple Logical Domains (LDOMS) and Containers

About Solution-Soft

Solution-Soft is the leading provider of Intelligent Data Optimization (IDO) solutions, which address the urgent need for management of business-critical applications and data.

The flag-ship Time Machine product is a proven solution for enterprises to ensure mission critical applications are delivered on time and within budget. Solution-Soft works closely with consultant and strategic partners around the world in all industries to achieve clients' business objectives with ultimate ROI.

Founded in 1993, Solution-Soft is privately held and based in Silicon Valley, CA, USA.

Contact

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running concurrent Oracle and Siebel software stacks ranging across several Sun servers with encapsulated zones all communicating to Exadata servers storing the backend databases. Their TV Licensing Marketing Campaign application is one of many in this environment; however it requires constant recurring date testing. Resetting the system clock to perform this date testing is not a realistic option as the risk is too high for possible environment corruption, and doing so requires coordination across multiple teams that would take days to execute and time, which they do not have to lose.

This need for constant, high volume date testing paired with the complexity and size of their environment, makes it practically impossible to perform data testing efficiently.

Time Machine Solution

The broadcasting company's answer was to use Time Machine as their testing solution in their Exadata environment, specifically on their LDOM configured application tier. The main usage of Time Machine came by allowing testers to efficiently test their marketing campaigns by providing them with virtual dates instantaneously without testers having to be concerned with DB restarts, corruption, or system reloads. All testing is done with a virtual date which doesn't affect the underlying environment. In such a dynamic and fast-paced field of marketing, they were able to gain an edge by being able to quickly deploy campaigns with the assurance that each campaign is fully tested and save operation costs in the process. The broadcasting company's next step is to install secondary instances of their application stack so teams can execute their testing twice as fast by having Time Machine set multiple virtual dates across both instances.