Solution-Soft

# U.K. Bank Saves Time and Money Using Time Machine®

> "Without Time Machine, this testing would have simply been impossible to accomplish without expending tremendous resources and cost to the bank."
>
> – Richard Hallick, our customer's key developer

## 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. IDO solutions facilitate application deployment, automated data compression, secured data transfer and migration that optimize cost, availability, scalability, and performance. The flag-ship Time Machine product is a proven solution for enterprises to ensure mission critical applications such as ERP and CRM are delivered on-time and within budget. Solution-Soft works closely with top-tiered consultant partners around the world in all industry to achieve clients' business objectives with ultimate ROI. Founded in 1993, Solution-Soft is privately held and based in Silicon Valley, CA, USA.

## Contact

For more information about Solution-Soft's products and services, call the Solution-Soft Sales Hotline at +1.408.346.1424, or toll-free at +1.888.884.7337.

For general information, call +1.408.346.1400. To access information online, visit us at www.solution-soft.com.

## About Our Customer

One of the UK's major financial services groups, which offers a broad range of financial services to personal and commercial customers, recently came to Solution-Soft for help with testing a major application roll-out.

## Challenge: Synchronizing Date Testing between Mainframe and Windows Active Directory Systems

As do most banking companies, this company performs regular update and maintenance on their applications. These applications include their core processes such as Mortgage Sales, Loan Processing, Life Insurance, Household Insurance, etc. Other secondary applications within their environment include an Experian credit score system, a sales processing system, and an insurance processing system.

These applications have various components that reside on a combination of Windows 2003 servers in an Active Directory domain as well as a Unisys mainframe environment, which contains several key legacy banking applications.

As part of the update process, they test their applications using future dates to ensure proper behavior. In order to perform these tests properly, both the mainframe applications and the Windows based applications must all be running on the same test date.

The problem they faced was that while the mainframe applications run fine using a future date, they cannot change their Windows system dates to a future date. If they do change their Windows server dates they create an Active Directory security problem**, which locks their testing servers out of the domain thus preventing access to any network servers or resources.

## Time Machine Solution

The solution is to use Solution-Soft's Time Machine for Windows to provide the simulated dates. With Time Machine, they provide a virtual clock to individual user ID's without changing the actual server's system clocks. This means the tests can run using a virtual date and the server is no longer locked out of the domain.

Using Time Machine, this customer is now able to accomplish the needed testing on this highly complex and sophisticated mortgage, banking, and insurance system running on both their Windows domain as well as their legacy Unisys environment.

According to their key developer, Richard Hallick, "Without Time Machine, this testing would have simply been impossible to accomplish without expending tremendous resources and cost to the bank."

---

**Windows Active Directory utilizes a form of Kerberos Authentication, which requires all systems running within the network domain to have a system date set within 5 minutes of the Primary Domain Controller Clock. Any systems running on dates beyond this limitation are locked out of the domain. Microsoft officially recommends Time Machine, which is the only date-time testing tool available for Windows systems.

CS- 080926