Solution-Soft

U.S. State Eliminates Active Directory Road Block in Mission Critical Project by Using Time Machine®

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>
> — Mike McCormick, Sr. IT consultant

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 The Customer

This State Entity is a nationally-recognized, collaborative initiative of state and local government agencies and an important part of a digital government strategy. Their electronic filing services offer businesses a time- and money -saving online filing and payment system that helps simplify business' relationships with government agencies. Businesses can file and pay selected forms and taxes with the state's Department of Taxation, Bureau of Workers' Compensation, Department of Job and Family Services, and the Department of Commerce. This entity also partners with local governments to enable businesses to file and pay selected municipal income taxes electronically.

Their Challenge

The technical design at this customer site called for the use of Microsoft's Active Directory environment to take advantage of the simplified management and enhanced security features that come with it. By implementing Active Directory, the project team was able to have a single, consistent point of management for users, applications, and devices, provide their users with a single sign-on to network resources and provide their administrators with powerful and consistent tools to manage security services for internal desktop users, remote dial-up users, and external e-commerce customers.

As the project approached the testing phase, one of the requirements was that the application be tested for specific dates in the future to verify that the program would successfully process returns filed at these points in time. Upon initial tests it was discovered that using Microsoft's Active Directory would not function properly if the system date on test machines was simply moved forward in time. The fundamental issue that the IT team on-site discovered was a side effect of the Kerberos security method integral to Microsoft's Active Directory. This side effect, in fact, prevented the team at the State from successfully conducting their future date testing.

Time Machine Solution

To solve this date testing problem, the state group turned to Solution-Soft's Time Machine, a Microsoft-certified utility for testing date sensitive applications within Active Directory. Using Time Machine, the testers are now able to perform their future date testing without having to change the actual system clock and still participate in the Active Directory network. Once Time Machine was in place they were able to freely and efficiently simulate how the project's processes would perform out into the future. Mike McCormick, a senior IT consultant with this customer, said that "Time Machine is definitely a worthwhile product. It has an important and valid use and we were able to get it to work successfully with our entire application, both the online portion and the batch portion."