



Testing Beyond Y2K with Time Machine®

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- Jerome Gauvrit, IT Manager, Bodet

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.

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About Bodet

Bodet is the leading French manufacturer of clocks and temperature panels for street crossings and train stations. An HP3000 customer for years, Bodet runs many applications, including some that are home-grown, with MM3000 at the heart of their IT strategy.

Time Machine Beyond Y2K

When Bodet first purchased Time Machine, their initial intent was to facilitate year 2000 testing. Time Machine was selected because it helped expedite the testing process by avoiding the need to modify each program by hard-coding the date — a time-consuming exercise that is prone to human error. In addition, Time Machine eliminated the need to reset the system clock at a specified date. This limits all users and developers to working within the same date.

Time Machine as a Testing Tool

With Time Machine, every user can run his own program(s) with his own date without interfering with others on the same system. Time Machine can set up to 200 different dates on a single system. Users can set up a unique virtual date per session without affecting users from other sessions.

Jerome Gauvrit, IT Manager at Bodet explained how they are using Time Machine regularly beyond Y2K testing. “Beyond Y2K testing, we learned that Time Machine could add flexibility to our business. When asked for statistical results from a past period, we were able to utilize Time Machine to run the application at a specified date. We learned that Time Machine could help complete time-sensitive tasks without modifying batch jobs or source code.”

According to Gauvrit, sometimes Bodet would change discounting rules to determine their effect on a past period. They would restore the previous environment to tape, then use Time Machine to rerun the application at the past date. Some months Bodet likes to create payroll documents before the end of the month that need to reflect the last day of the month. Time Machine enables them to set up the desired date prior to running the application. When an error occurs with a production application, they run the application on their test machine using Time Machine to set the date when the error occurred. “We can input the same data and reproduce the problem as many times as needed to correct the bug,” said Gauvrit. “Time Machine was great for Y2K testing, but it’s not a one-shot tool. We’ve used it regularly to increase the efficiency of our normal operating environment.”