Solution-Soft

Time Machine® helps large U.K. Energy Customer achieve On-Time Delivery and Cost Savings for all major SAP Expansion

About the Customer

One of the largest utility companies in the U.K. supplying gas and electricity to millions of residential and business customers, providing central heating and gas appliance installation and maintenance, and low carbon and energy-efficient products and services.

Challenge:

The customer runs a very large, three-tiered SAP environment that is constantly being extended to include new features, and has over the years been migrated to newer operating systems to allow for better performance. Due to the scale and complexity of their SAP system, this company has set a strict goal of creating and maintaining the highest quality assurance level possible to cover the complete breadth of integration and modernization changes to their constantly enhanced implementation of SAP.

Time Machine Solution

The customer, a long-term Solution-Soft customer, uses Time Machine® on all their HP Itanium systems to verify that any changes made to their SAP environment will function accurately.

Implementation

Some years ago when Time Machine was first implemented, it was to validate the business logic within their SAP IS-U (Industry Specific Solution for Utilities) development environment, which at the time consisted of HP-UX 11.11 and SUN Solaris systems. Using the Solution-Soft utility they were able to confirm that all IS-U transactions behaved correctly as the date was changed dynamically and iteratively, rolling forward in virtual time. This ability gave their quality assurance group and SAP Basis team the ability to perform the necessary tests to implement their R3 enhancements.

According to their on-site consultant, James Fish, "Our client, one of the largest gas trading companies, is very happy with Time Machine. Without it, it would have been extremely cumbersome, resource intensive, and costly to do the same type of SAP application testing and certification."

Later the customer expanded their use of Time Machine onto HP-UX 11.23, combined with a purchase of a number of Itanium-based servers

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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to upgrade their SAP suite. This change included moving to SAP ISV ERP 6 version on SAP R3. This application migration was successfully completed through the use of Time Machine running on HP-UX in a transitional combination of HP-UX v11.11 on PA RISC and HP-UX v11.23 on Itanium processors.

After finishing this migration, they then saw they could continue to use Time Machine's simulated date features to provide end-users of the new and enhanced SAP system with date and time expiry-based event training. Using Time Machine, they can effectively simulate an entire transaction life cycle within a matter of minutes, making training curriculum far more efficient and effective.

Using Time Machine, they are able to effectively test all pre- and post-production changes to the SAP system, and in addition leverage virtual dates to provide condensed time-based training to their end users.

The use of Time Machine has given them the means to achieve a timely implementation of changes to their multiple SAP modules by significantly speeding up the usually lengthy test-fix-test cycle typical to deployments of SAP. Using Time Machine to condense test cycles combined with HP Itanium servers to achieve consolidation and scalability, they have achieved a huge increase of ROI.

Time Machine has become a standard for implementation and ongoing modernization of SAP IS-U in numerous large utility companies across the world. With Time Machine, testers can easily simulate future dates as required for their rollout & periodic application update testing.