Case Study

AIG

Solution-Soft®

Time Machine Framework for Oracle and AIG/SunAmerica

About AIG

SunAmerica is an annuities division of American International Group, Inc. (AIG), a leading global insurance organization serving customers in 100 countries and jurisdictions. AIG companies serve commercial, institutional, and individual customers through one of the most extensive worldwide property-casualty networks of any insurer. In addition, AIG companies are leading providers of life insurance and retirement services in the United States. AIG common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange and the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

History

SunAmerica/AIG began leveraging Time Machine in 2005 to test their Policy Administration System, Navysis, so they can time travel to different policy life cycle time points quickly. Time Machine continues to be a productive addition to their test environment as the application has migrated to new OS platforms including Windows, Solaris, AIX, and Linux. The new project is to migrate it to a shared Oracle Exadata environment and later on to Oracle Cloud with Exadata.

Current Project/Challenge

SunAmerica had a goal of consolidating all Oracle database functions into one powerful Exadata server. There are hundreds of Oracle instances and PDBs running on the Exadata system which serves a variety of applications by multiple business units. One instance is for policy management, which requires time-travel when testing. The challenge was they wanted only the Policy Management instance to time-travel, while the rest of the Oracle instances should continue seeing the system time.

Option #1

The traditional approach to time-travelling applications is to adjust the server system clock, but this will time-travel all applications and processes on the server. Any user working on another application, or Oracle instance, would have to stop and wait until the clock is reset to current time. This approach was not acceptable. Changing the system clock also would void Oracle Exadata support, so it is a non-starter.

Quote

"Our exadata system is shared by multiple business units and hundreds of applications. Time Machine Framework for Oracle enables us to isolate a particular application to time travel without impacting other applications and instances is a game changer for us."

-AIG/SunAmerica

Option #2

Another alternative approach is to dedicate a separate box to serve the policy management database instance and utilize Time Machine to time travel, but that would require an additional investment in hardware and software. This defeats the goal of the project to consolidate all Oracle database instances into one system, and is not an efficient use of resources. Plus, they would not to be able to enjoy the power of the Exadata system. This approach was not acceptable.

The Time Machine Solution

Solution-Soft provided SunAmerica with Time Machine and Time Machine Framework for Oracle. This framework's unique capability allows selected Oracle users to time-travel individual databases within an instance, without affecting any other database users, or database instances, running on the same server. SunAmerica is now able to migrate data, and test within Oracle database instances accurately and efficiently. The result is an increase in test productivity, valuable budget dollar savings, and accelerated application releases.

Recently, SunAmerica wanted to migrate the Exadata server to the Oracle Cloud to gain further efficiency and flexibility. AIG is happy to learn that SolutionSoft is an early adaptor of Oracle Cloud and is featured in Oracle Cloud success story and white paper. In fact, the enabler in this case Time Machine Framework for Oracle and other Time Machine suite products are developed and tested in Oracle Cloud. As expected, Time Machine and Time Machine Framework for Oracle perform faultlessly in the Cloud and enable AIG to isolate specific PDB to time travel and test them as easily as if they were on premise.

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