Solution-Soft

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

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' relationship 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 I.T. 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.

The Solution Provided by Time Machine:

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 *"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."*

About Solution-Soft

Solution-Soft is the leading provider of Intelligent Data Optimization (IDO) solutions, which address the urgent need for automated management of data in complex networking environments. IDO solutions facilitate automated data selection, movement and redirection that optimize high availability, storage scalability and system performance. The company has developed robust data and information life-cycle management software solutions for corporate data centers and storage system vendors. Solution-Soft boasts more than 1,500 customers, including 3M, AT&T, Boeing, Ford, French Telecom, Hewlett Packard, Merck and UMC. Solution-Soft's market presence is bolstered by partnerships with Citrix Systems (NASDAQ:CTXS), FalconStor. (Nasdaq:FALC), Fujitsu Siemens, Hewlett-Packard (NYSE:HWP), IBM (NYSE:IBM), Microsoft (NASDAQ:MSFT), Netapp (NASDAQ: NTAP), Red Hat, Inc. (Nasdaq:RHAT) and Sun Microsystems NASDAQ:SUNW).

Founded in 1993, Solution-Soft is privately held and based in Santa Clara, California, for more information, visit www.solution-soft.com or call +1.408.346.1415.

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