Case Study

Nationwide

Solution-Soft

Nationwide Selects Time Machine® as an Integral Solution in Transitioning to Windows 2000 Active Directory

Quote

"Time Machine provided a quick and efficient way to date forward servers without having to build a solution or change application code. The product (Time Machine) has worked out as advertised and we do not have any issues. It simply works!"

- Doug Rowe
  Manager of Distribution Solutions

About Nationwide

Nationwide is one of the largest insurance and financial services companies in the world, with more than $148 billion in statutory assets. Nationwide Insurance ranks 118th on the Fortune 500 list. The company provides a full range of insurance and financial services, including auto, homeowners, life, health, commercial insurance, administrative services, annuities, mutual funds, pensions and long-term savings plans. To maintain the high level of reliability their customers have come to expect, the business applications they use to manage their various auto, property and commercial insurance products are required to pass extensive and exacting testing before deployment in their production environment.

Challenge:

In early 2004, the test environment at Nationwide was transitioned from a Microsoft NT 4.0 domain to Windows 2000 Active Directory. This was done to mirror the now more secure Active Directory-based production environment for exact environment testing. The application software used by Nationwide depends on rate schedules, and as these schedules change over time, so do the results of its calculations. These applications therefore must be tested for rates 30, 60, 90 or even more days out into the future to guarantee that their applications would provide correct results. In the NT 4.0 domain, testing dates into the future was accomplished by simply moving the system date forward, putting in the appropriate rate tables and then seeing how the applications being tested would perform. The newly installed Microsoft Windows 2000 Active Directory domain, however, was not as accommodating. Active Directory's Kerberos security authentication protocol prohibited the movement of the system time or date. Changing the actual date on a system's clock disables the machine from authenticating with the domain rendering the machine physically unable to communicate with any other machine in the network.

Nationwide's need to test the effects of rate changes as well as testing frequent system and application performance modifications inspired them to search for a solution that would allow them to continue the future date and time testing which had previously always resulted in successful application delivery to their customers.

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

For more information about Solution-Soft's products and services, call the Solution-Soft Sales Hotline: +1.408.346.1415 or +1.888.884.7337.

For general information, call +1.408.346.1400. To access information online, visit us at www.solution-soft.com.

Time Machine Solution

Relatively quickly they discovered Time Machine from Solution-Soft. Time Machine allows applications to run in virtual time containers of past, future and even frozen time without having to change the actual system clock. This allows the machines to log into to the Active Directory domain and concurrently test applications in some alternate date. After following their own thorough evaluation and considerations of "build vs. buy" Nationwide chose Time Machine as their most desired solution for five out of six areas of business that require time forward testing. Now members of Nationwide's testing group can move their virtual clock forward, 30, 60, 90 or more days, put in the appropriate rate table, and test rate schedules exactly as they had done in the past. One year into utilization of Time Machine, Doug Rowe, Manager of Distribution Solutions, does not hesitate to say "Time Machine provided a quick and efficient way to date forward servers without having to build a solution or change application code. The product (Time Machine) has worked out as advertised and we do not have any issues. It simply works!"