



France Telecom Maintains Reduced Development Costs by Implementing Advanced Date and Time Testing Tool.

Time Machine® classified as a long-term strategic must-have product for ongoing application development and data simulation requirements.

About France Telecom

France Telecom provides fixed-line and wireless voice and data services, as well as cable TV and corporate and wholesale telecom services to over 100 million customers around the globe.

France Telecom has been using Time Machine for their Accounts Receivable (AR) development and test environment since 1999. This environment consists of 10 Hewlett Packard UNIX servers each with 1 to 4 processors that they use for continued development of their AR invoicing system.

Additional information about France Telecom is available at www.francetelecom.com/fr/.

About Ares

Ares is France's leading player in terms of medium and large-sized server sales, maintenance and consulting, and works alongside most French manufacturers and publishers. Through close commercial and technical relationships with its various partners, Ares ensures the coherence of the architectures it recommends in UNIX, Windows and LINUX environments. As the group's commercial driving force, the ISO 9002-certified Architectures & Infrastructures Business line advises users in their choice of computer resources (hardware and software) as well as performing the installation and implementation.

Issues Encountered with Date and Time Testing

After their initial AR Invoicing solution development and rollout, France Telecom needed to perform time sensitive tests to certify their critical Accounts Receivable system would perform accurately at each end of month, end of quarter, end of fiscal year and end of calendar year event. This meant changing the system date between tests to simulate the date changes into the future.

The process of changing the development system date required bringing down all date sensitive processes within their development system. Only when these processes were stopped could they change the system date. Once the system date changed, they would then bring the various application and database servers back up, and restart the numerous accounting modules.

France Telecom's Problem

This cumbersome date change process meant all application testing and development work stopped whenever they needed to perform the next set of application date testing. Additionally, only one time sensitive process could be tested at a time, which meant a significant delay in the deployment timetable.

They briefly considered implementing multiple duplicate environments to accelerate their time testing process but this meant a tremendous capital investment in hardware, software licenses, and IT resources. Neither of these alternatives was an acceptable solution. To help solve this problem, France Telecom turned to their long time consulting solution provider Ares.

The Solution

Ares knew from numerous prior engagements with other customers that Solution-Soft's Time Machine could provide France Telecom with the ability to run multiple time offsets based on user logins within a single system. This meant that within a single environment, one developer can test processes for end of fiscal year accuracy while another developer could simultaneously complete testing the same processes a quarter into the future, while yet a third developer continued to develop and modify other parts of the application in the current time.

With a dozen developers working on individual parts of the project, the cost to purchase the required number of complete environments would have been astronomical.

Using Time Machine, they are able to perform each of these tasks in as many different times and dates as needed all within a single application development environment.

"Because of this unique ability, France Telecom has saved hundreds of thousands of Euros in Development man-hours, hardware, & software licensing costs." Jean-Yves Martin, Commercial Group Director, Ares.

After completion of their initial deployment France Telecom classified Time Machine as a strategic and long-term, must-have product for ongoing application development and data simulation requirements.

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-management software solutions for corporate data centers and storage solution providers.

Solution-Soft boasts more than 1,500 customers, including 3M, AT&T, Boeing, Cable&Wireless, French Telecom and UMC. Solution-Soft's market presence is bolstered by partnerships with Citrix Systems (NASDAQ:CTXS), FalconStor (Nasdaq:FALC), Hewlett-Packard (NYSE:HWP), IBM (NYSE:IBM), Microsoft (Nasdaq:MSFT), NetApp(Nasdaq:NTAP), Oracle (Nasdaq:ORCL) Sun Microsystems (Nasdaq:SUNW) and Synopsys, Inc. (Nasdaq:SNPS).

Founded in 1993, Solution-Soft is privately held and based in Santa Clara, Calif.

For more information, visit www.solution-soft.com or call +1.408.346.1400.

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