



Time Machine® Saves Time & Resources During An SAP Rollout

ABOUT DELOITTE CONSULTING OUTSOURCING

Deloitte Consulting Outsourcing is one of the world's leading consulting firms, helping our clients to translate leading ideas and technologies into sustainable competitive and strategic advantage. Deloitte Consulting professionals are uniquely known as the industry's only authentic consultants. We work collaboratively with clients to marry strategy to technology, driving complex change initiatives that deliver real value.

SAP TESTING REQUIREMENTS

As part of his SAP testing procedure, Pooven Govender of Deloitte Consulting Outsourcing, simulated date changes to test Payroll and other related HR functionality in the client's upgraded release of SAP R/3.

As part of their SAP certification process, the system needed to be tested on multiple dates in the future.

This meant resetting the system's hardware clock to simulate a future date. While seemingly simple, resetting a systems clock entailed a long and complex procedure including...

- 1) Shutting down all applications running on this system (SAP R3, Oracle, etc.)
- 2) Resetting the system's clock
- 3) Rebooting the system
- 4) Restarting each application
- 5) Verifying each application worked properly.

DELOITTE CONSULTING'S CHALLENGE

Although the above process was easily achievable, it meant that the environment needed to be restored to its original state each time as each test/simulation started from the same date. This process required experienced Unix Administrators and SAP Basis resource, and at least 2 days to achieve. To further complicate matters, there were many date simulations, which would have resulted in many system outages. Because of these difficulties, they were looking for an effective method to optimize this process.

Time Machine allowed them to dynamically change both the time and date seen by their SAP application without having to shut down, reboot, and restart the system and various applications each time. Additionally no system administrators (Database, Application, etc.) were needed during these changes since no re-boots or system recoveries were needed and the only user(s) affected were those defined within Time Machine.

Using Time Machine, they were able to test all the scenarios in the allotted project time, and save money on system administrator resources.

OFFSETTING SYSTEM TIMES USING GRANULAR CONTROLS

Time Machine allows administrators to offset the system time based on specific applications, and specific users. This means Time Machine is able to granularly control which application and which user is affected by a defined offset. Non-specified users will continue to see their normal system time.

This ability makes Time Machine invaluable to its users at Deloitte Consulting.