

Worldwide Health Services Corporation Performs Enterprise-Time-Travel (ETT) with SETS (Softdate Enterprise Time Synchronization)

Background

A worldwide health service corporation with 95 million global customers and more than 40,000 employees needed high quality, enterprise date and Time-Travel testing to ensure their data was correct and would stay correct into the future. As a partner in health, this corporation is available 24/7 with an expansive network built to help clients meet their health goals. They are “on a mission to improve the health, well-being and peace of mind of those they serve”. With such a large client portfolio, the company had a need to ensure that its critical applications would always function correctly across all of their enterprise systems that include IBM iSeries (AS400), Linux, Microsoft Windows and IBM z/OS.

This corporation provides sophisticated solutions helping customers stay well, acquire health insurance, prevent sickness, obtain access to health care, recover from illness or injury, return to work and provide for customer families.

Challenges and Requirements

Their International application development teams, based in both the USA and Overseas, needed a user-friendly solution for Enterprise-Time-Travel (ETT) testing application functionality by simulating dates and times to ensure risk-free, accurate date and time logic in every transaction. This would enable them to ensure that applications with date-dependent logic (e.g. health insurance, Medicare options and insurance supplements, dental insurance, disability insurance and a wide variety of other benefits) would function correctly, improving application reliability and increasing user satisfaction. They also needed integration with their increasing range of modern whole person health care customer services creating a flexible, open and connected model across the diversification of their apps across a variety of IT platforms.

All of this ETT testing functionality needed to be available from single user Windows workstations to access the whole enterprise environment, which the incumbent z/OS, iSeries, Windows and Linux tools could not provide.

Solution

They installed Softdate from DDV Technologies (IBM z/OS), TimeShiftX-Broadcaster from Vornex (Linux and Windows) and AnyDate from HelpSystems (iSeries). By using the Softdate integration option SETS (Softdate Enterprise Time Synchronization) extensive QA testing was proven from single workstations where all integrated products met all of the system-level and business requirements. Under z/OS, Softdate was fully backward compliant and superseded the then incumbent [MVS] product - where both could be run concurrently in the same z/OS LPAR(s), greatly easing conversion and changeover.

User adoption of features was very fast. Users quickly learned how easy it was to switch from the existing tools to the new integrated, ETT. They then moved onto their very modern “whole person healthcare” environments by ETT QA testing all of their apps in cohesion with full integration across all platforms.

The end result was accurate, risk free dates and time logic and data in all their enterprise-wide web applications. Complete end-to-end cross-platform integrated testing was accomplished, enabling them to provide higher quality “whole person healthcare” service to their clients by using the integrated and unique Softdate-TimeShiftX-AnyDate ETT solution.

Benefits

The Softdate-SETS, TimeShiftX, AnyDate integrated ETT features enabled them to evaluate, correct/fix and check the progress and quality, now and the future! By performing full QA ETT of all the SOA app suites the Big Data on all platforms (e.g. backend DB2, IMS and Oracle databases) was now guaranteed by the combination of three fully integrated products resulting in one excellent solution.

They were also able to significantly reduce the CPU load (MIPS/MSU's) on their z/OS systems thanks to the Softdate “minimum impact” design which means that there is no impact on jobs that are not using Softdate, whereas the incumbent z/OS product intercepted every system date or time request issued by all workloads across the associated LPARs, resulting in constant high background CPU overhead.

Softdate functions as a virtual time machine across all apps and databases under IBM's z/OS batch, CICS, IMS (including FastPath), DB2, UNIX Systems Services, WebSphere Application Server and TSO environments. TimeShiftX functions with every variety of Linux, Unix and versions of Microsoft Windows. AnyDate supports IBM iSeries (AS400). These Time-Travel solutions minimize the potential for enterprise data errors and data corruption that could otherwise escalate with exponential growth out of customer systems and into the lives and businesses of many customers. Under Softdate-SETS, the most advanced testing of date and time application logic is provided, supporting both future and past ETT with no need to change the system clocks.

The Softdate-SETS integration allowed this corporation's Developers and Testers to thoroughly test their most advanced enterprise application suites, including the latest whole-person healthcare apps in the opening up of z/OS and integration with non-z/OS, enabling them to providing better service for their large number of clients.

About DDV technologies, Vornex Inc. and HelpSystems

All three companies are committed to extending a better global and Enterprise-Time-Travel development, testing and production experience. We combine decades of z/OS and Open systems expertise with the proven Softdate ETT solution and unmatched customer support teams. We deliver, helping application developers and production support create reliable high-quality enterprise applications faster and with ease. With our already established global reach you can count on tools that work as promised with knowledgeable support teams available 24/7 to answer questions.

PLAN FOR NOW AND THE FUTURE - WITH US.

To deploy the Softdate and TimeShiftX ETT solution, please call your local representative or go here and send an email to both or to either:

info@vornexinc.com

Softdate@ddvtechnologies.com