

CONNECT
nonSTOP
Symposium & Expo 2010

Time-Zone Simulation Helps Royal Bank of Canada Consolidate Data Centers

Grant Lowe, Royal Bank of Canada
Jack Di Giacomo, TANDsoft, Inc.



Introducing Grant Lowe



- **Manager, HP NonStop Systems Support Team for Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)**
- **Developer for 2 years**
- **With RBC for 21 years**
- **2004: ASE-Certification**
- **Program (TAL and C): NetBatch Monitor, PCGEVE, DTECT, PCGALTPR, PCGSTOP**



Royal Bank of Canada



- **Largest bank in Canada as measured by market capitalization (*\$68 billion USD*)**
- **Among the 20 largest banks worldwide**
- **78,000 employees; 18 million customers**
- **Operates in 46 countries**
- **A NonStop shop since 1987**



NonStop Systems Support Team



- **Team of 4 has average experience of 18 years at RBC and 22 years on NSK**
- **Manages 9 HP NonStop Systems**
- **Installs operating system and 3rd party tools**
- **Automation and EMS filtering**
- **Trains operations staff**
- **24/7 on-call 3rd level support**



RBC and NonStop



Hardware



4 Production Systems

- 2 S88010
- 2 Itanium NS16012 (*highly available*) - one in central site, one in DRP site
- 1 XP10000 (*Itanium system*)



2 Disaster/QA Systems in DRP Site

- 2 S88010
- 1 XP10000 (*Itanium system*)



3 Test Systems in DRP Site

- 2 NS1000 (*4-way and 2-way highly available*)
- 1 S7204 (*development*)



RBC and NonStop



Applications

- **ACI BASE24 for ATM (SCD) and POS**
Montreal (GMT-5), Toronto (GMT-5), and Vancouver (GMT-8)
- **Logica (*Bess*)**
- **Capital Markets (*3 in-house applications*)**
- **Wealth Management (*1 in-house application*)**



RBC Decides to Consolidate



Originally

ACI BASE24 ATM and POS

3 Production Sites

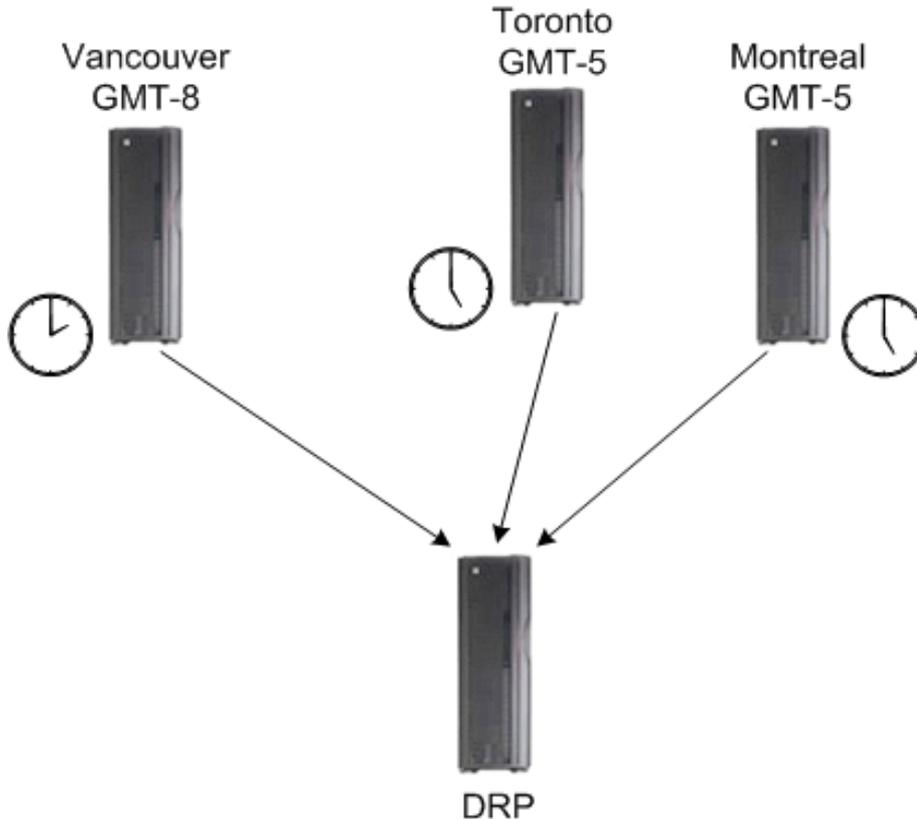
2 Time Zones

Objectives

Consolidate to 1 Production Site, 2 Time Zones

Seek Active/Active Solution

Reduce Planned Outage Time to 20 Minutes





RBC Decides to Consolidate



Drivers

- **Cost initiative**
- **Wasted capacity**
- **Time to market**
- **Expertise in remote sites**
- **DRP system had to be sized to the biggest production system**



RBC Decides to Consolidate



Challenges

Hard-coded TCP/IP Addresses

HP NonStop System Moves Before Mainframe

- Bandwidth between data centres

Communication Costs

- Internal (*POS devices*)
- External clients (*merchant-owned lines*)

Application Databases Consolidation

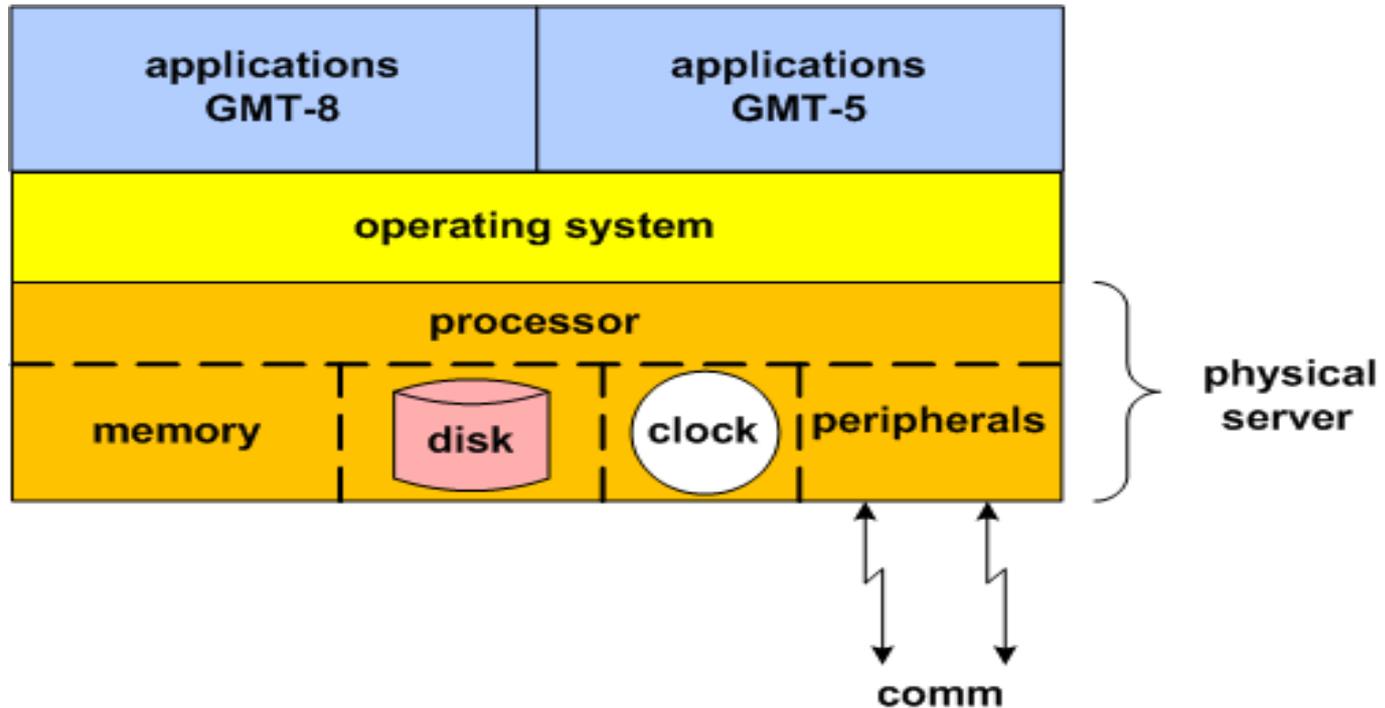
Simulate PST (*GMT-8*) on an EST (*GMT-5*) System



RBC Decides to Consolidate



RBC Faced a Time-Zone Challenge



One system clock. One current time. Multiple time zones.



Time-Zone Simulation



A Consolidation Challenge

Time-sensitive applications cannot be constrained by...

...one system clock. one current time. multiple time zones.

How do you support the hosting of multiple applications with different date/time requirements on the same platform...

...without constantly resetting the system clock?



Introducing Jack Di Giacomo



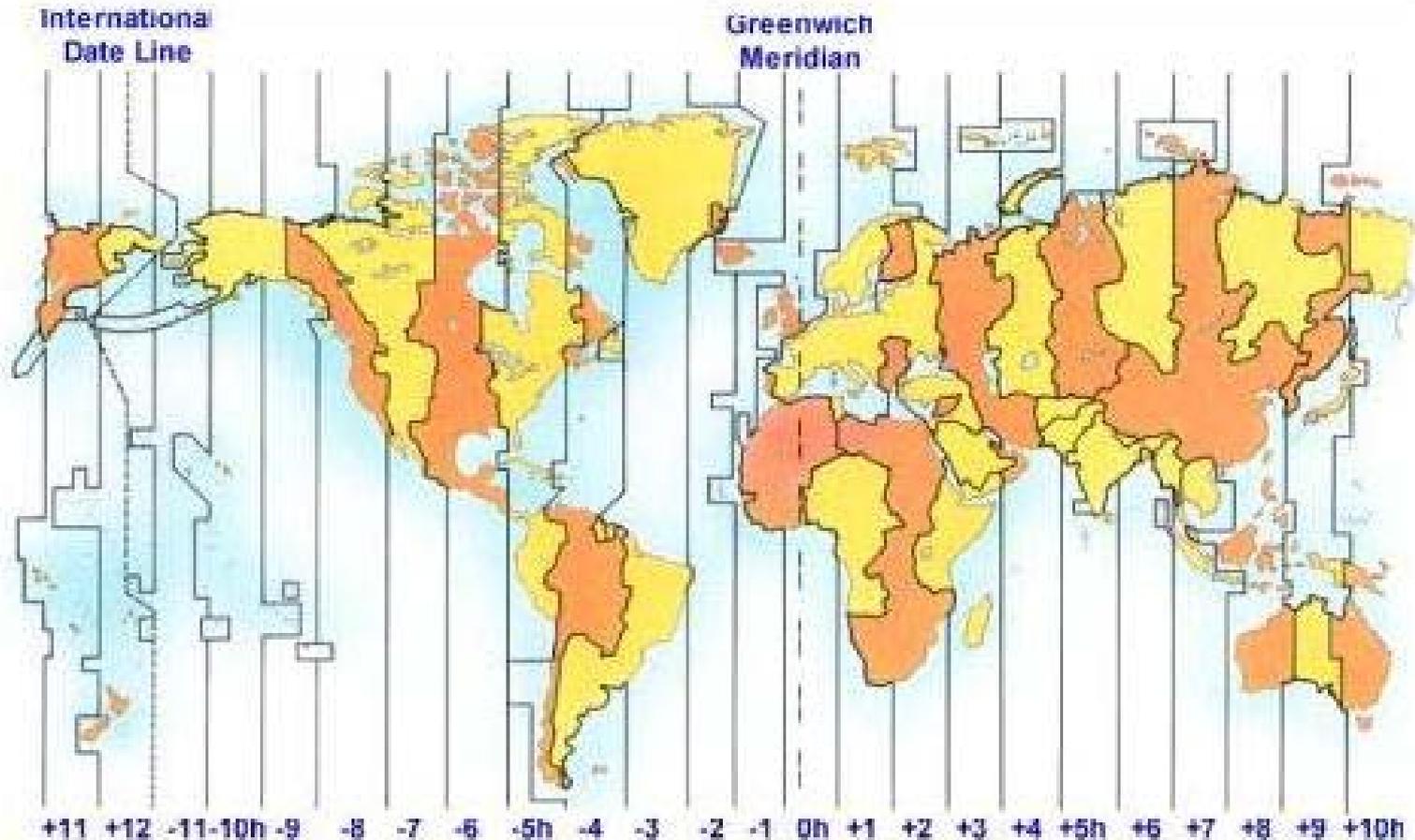
- **President, TANDsoft, Inc.**
- **20+ years experience with NonStop systems**
- **Former Tandem instructor**
- **Specialist in intercept technology**



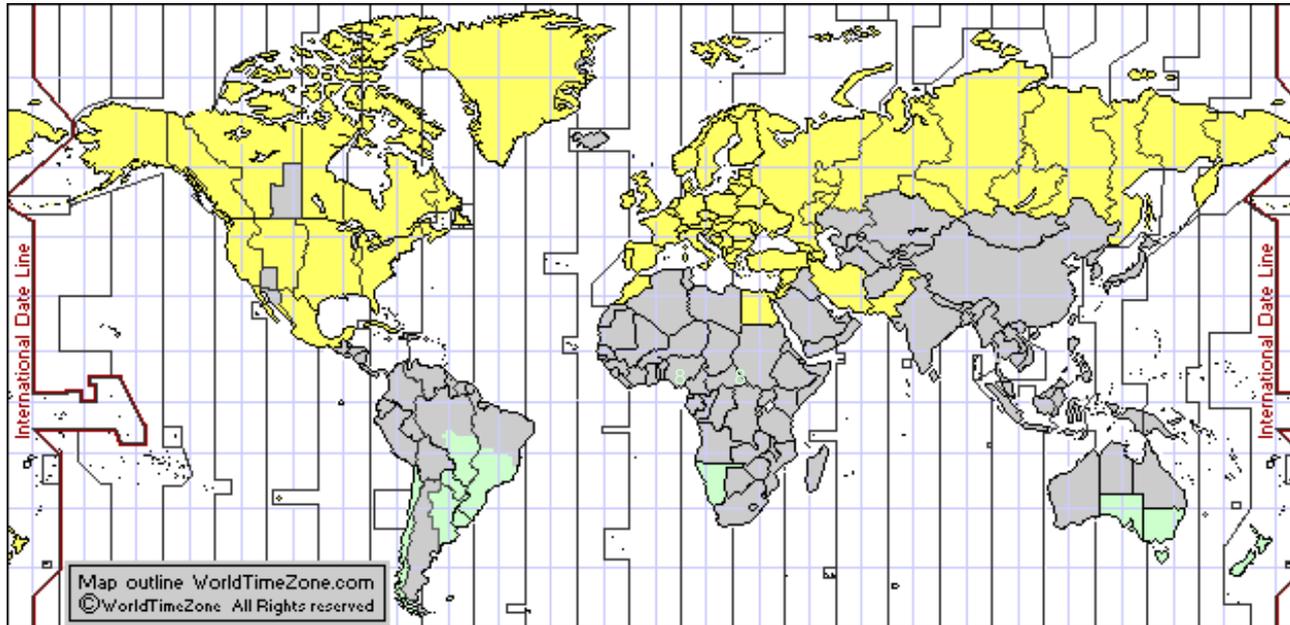
Time-Zone Simulation



How Does Time-Zone Simulation Work?



How Does Time-Zone Simulation Work?



Countries and territories operating Daylight Saving Time (2008/2009) (Note: Many countries/territories change days of transitions to DST from year to year.)			
- Countries / Territories operating DST		- Countries / Territories do not use Daylight Time	

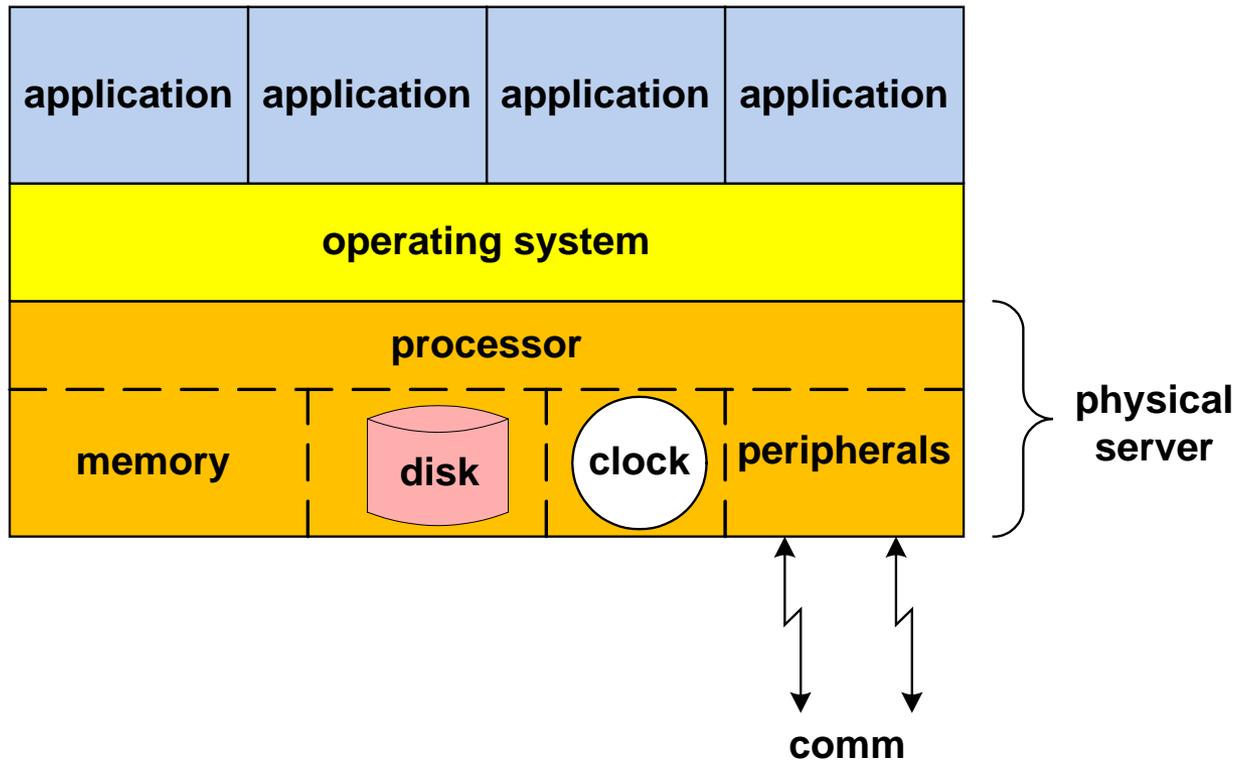
Daylight Saving Time (DST)



Time-Zone Simulation



Typically, all applications run off system clock



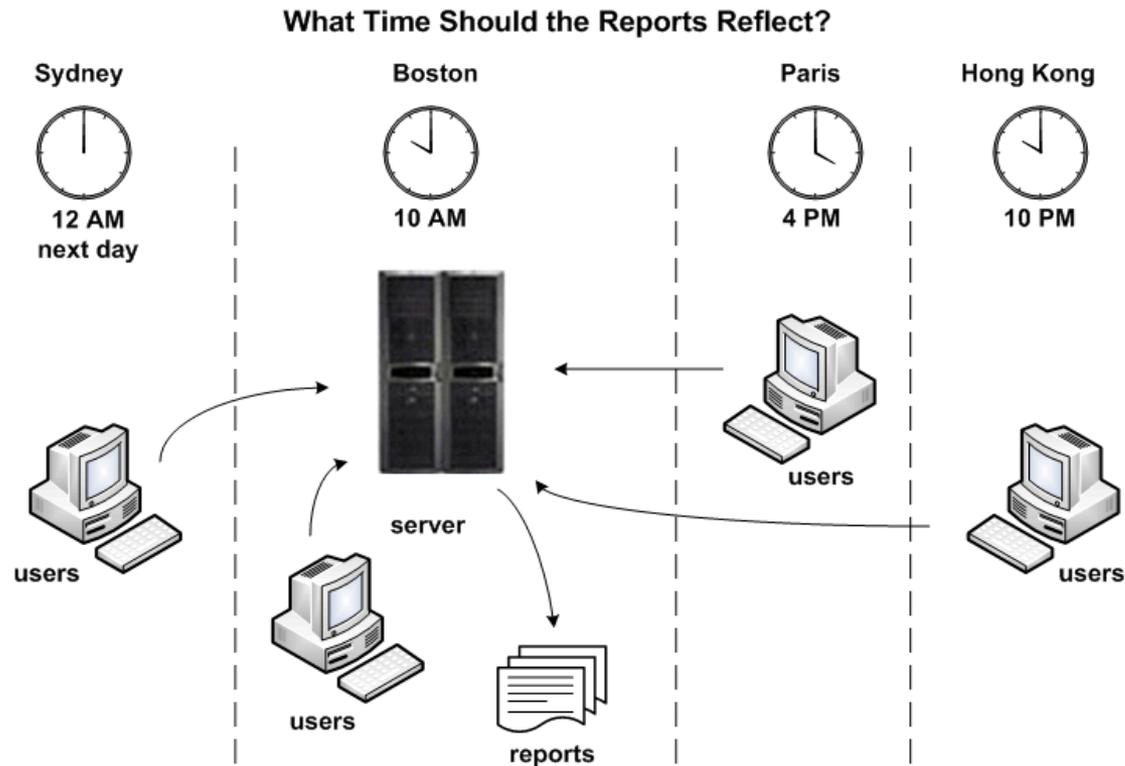
One system clock. One current time. One time zone.



Time-Zone Simulation



Consolidation requires virtual time zones



One system clock. One current time. Multiple time zones.



Time-Zone Simulation



Here's the challenge!

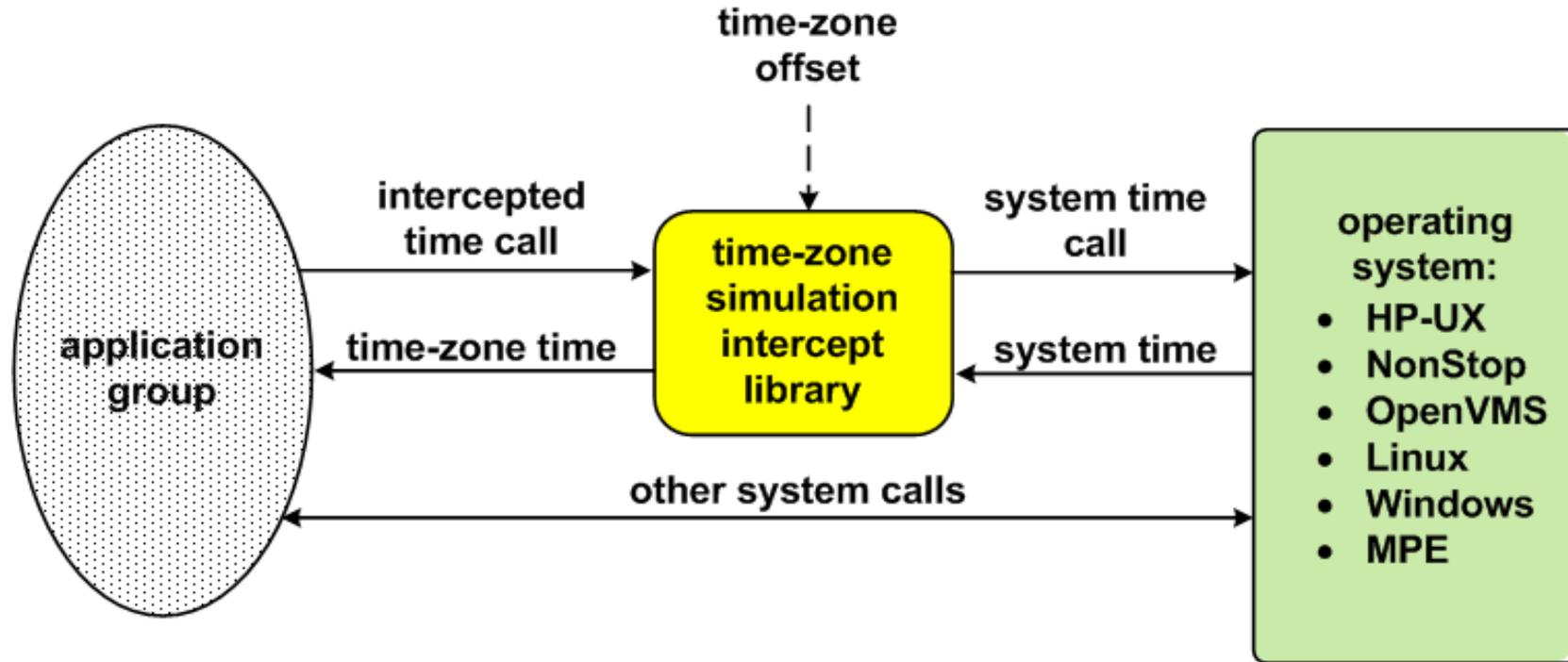
What must you do to accommodate applications that need to run in user time, not system time?

One system clock. One current time. Multiple time zones.



Time-Zone Simulation

Here's the solution!



Typical Time-Zone Simulation Architecture

One system clock. One current time. Multiple time zones.

No Problem!



Time-Zone Simulation



Time-Zone Simulation

Creates virtual time zones that allow existing production and backup systems to support worldwide consolidated environments.

One system clock. One current time. Multiple time zones.



Resolving the Time-Zone Dilemma



Option 1: Don't consolidate. Maintain servers in each time zone affected.

Expensive, Expensive, Expensive

- **Massive costs**
- **Loss of consolidation benefits**



Resolving the Time-Zone Dilemma



Option 2: Allow applications to be GMT-dependent. Don't convert to local times.

Disgruntled Users

- People think in local time
- Customers want local timestamp, not GMT on
 - bills • statements • receipts
 - email • reservations • reports



Resolving the Time-Zone Dilemma



Option 3: Create a custom time-sensitive solution

Expensive, Risky

- Source code required. Do you have it?
- Potentially huge programming effort
 - Expensive
- Why risk damaging an application that works well?



Resolving the Time-Zone Dilemma



Option 4: Use off-the shelf product

Does one exist for your environment?

If so, they are usually

- **user friendly**
- **easily installed**
 - **cost-effective**
- **require no application modifications**



RBC's Consolidation Challenge



RBC Considered Several Options

Option 1 – Don't Consolidate (*variation*)

Maintain separate system for each time zone in Toronto

Maintain 4 systems – 2 production and 2 DR systems

Option 2 – Application Defined as GMT

Not an option for users



RBC's Consolidation Challenge



RBC Considered Several Options

Option 3 – Application Changes

Costly to Maintain

Option 4 – Use Off-the-Shelf Product

Most Desirable option



RBC's Consolidation Challenge



RBC Opted Against Option 1

Instead, consolidated sites and systems.

Savings

Hardware, building, power and cooling, software license, capacity



RBC's Consolidation Challenge



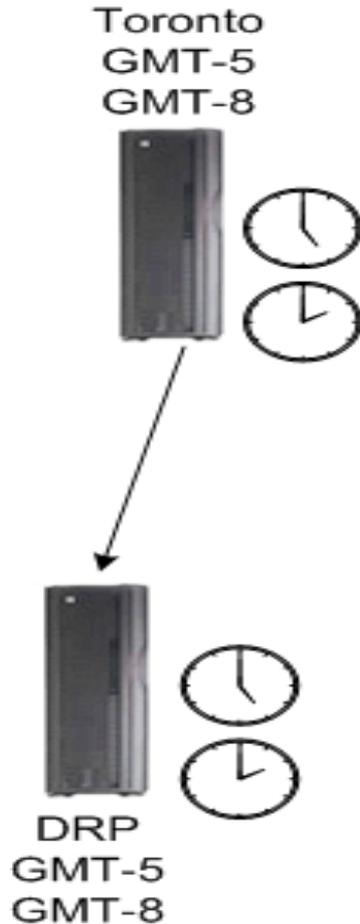
RBC Chose Option 4

Use off-the-shelf time-zone simulation product

- **Cost-effective alternative to Options 1, 2, & 3**
 - **Permits ease of operations**
 - **Permits ease of maintenance**
 - **Permits faster failover**



RBC Decides to Consolidate



Consolidated System

Production Site with 2 Time Zones

DRP Site with 2 Time Zones



RBC Futures



Migrate from Integrity to Blades

Upgrade to XP12000



Thank You For Attending



Any Questions?

Ask them now, or contact us later at

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