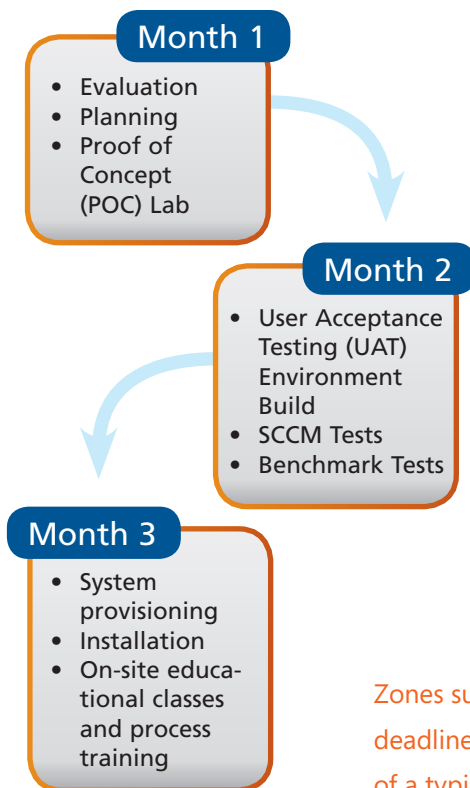# Zones completes year-long project in three months

A lofty goal, an aggressive timeline and a multi-state implementation are the challenges that brought one of the nation's leading transportation services companies to Zones. The client's IT organization set a new goal of imaging 18,000 computer systems during the upcoming year. This translated into an imaging volume of 250 new units per week—a 500 percent increase over the existing deployment rate. The standard timeline for a developing project of this scope is typically six months to one year. But to meet the client's goals, the configuration solution had to be in place within three months.

Month 1
- Evaluation
- Planning
- Proof of Concept (POC) Lab

Month 2
- User Acceptance Testing (UAT) Environment Build
- SCCM Tests
- Benchmark Tests

Month 3
- System provisioning
- Installation
- On-site educational classes and process training

The process

Zones and the client's IT organization put together an initial execution plan and high level topology with a goal-oriented timeline.

It was decided that the configuration solution would feature Microsoft® System Center Configuration Manager (SCCM). It provides key management capabilities around inventory, operating system deployment, update management, assessment, and settings enforcement that make it possible to enable productivity amidst device proliferation— while also reducing costs.

To support the high imaging volume of 250 units per week, SCCM would make day-to-day tasks easier by organizing administrative tasks by role and making it possible for administrators to define an application one time for delivery across multiple devices.

Zones successfully met the client's 3-month deadline by flawlessly executing each stage of a typical 6- to 12-month project.

Working both at the client's site and remotely, Zones completed a hands-on implementation of an isolated proof of concept (POC) environment. Through controlled testing and configuration management, the POC lab produced positive and repeatable results. This was conceptual proof that the Zones recommended solution would successfully meet the client's imaging capacity goals.

Creating an onsite User Acceptance Testing (UAT) environment that emulated the final production system was the next stage of the project plan. Testing addressed image load times with integrated Microsoft System Center Configuration Manager (SCCM) software, hardware inventory, package creation and installation, and stand-alone, bare-metal automated imaging. Zones adopted an effective strategy for timely completion of this stage of the project. After this successful testing phase, Zones received the go-ahead to provision for the fully integrated deployment of Microsoft SCCM on Windows 2008.

Client:
National rail-based transportation services company with subsidiaries

IT Project:
Workstation configuration management system

Zones Solution:
- On-site and off-site services: planning, proof of concept, testing, provisioning, and deployment
- Ongoing project consultations
- Hands-on technical resources
- On-site educational classes and process training
- Software Implementation: Microsoft® Systems Center Configuration Manager (SCCM)

Microsoft®
System Center

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A successful Microsoft deployment

In a mere three months, automated Zones SCCM configuration solutions were deployed over a multi-state area enabling the client to increase their imaging capabilities as planned.

Teamwork and planning, along with Zones expertise and experience, resulted in a SCCM solution that continues to successfully deliver precision-configured workstations and provide impressive benchmark workflow metrics for the transportation company.

The client company is meeting their annual imaging goal and seeing several other outstanding results from the project including:

- Ongoing management of image versioning and license processes

- Reduction in manual processes

- IT staff freed up for other projects

- Extending value of on-hand inventory through re-imaging and re-purposing

Zones connects business to technology

Zones will duplicate the success of this Microsoft System Center Configuration Manager solution as well as other Microsoft software deployments. Zones Deployment Planning Services provide expert guidance to plan and manage software deployments and are available through Microsoft Software Assurance. Planning experts work on-site to help evaluate how best to deploy solutions including Microsoft Office and Windows, Microsoft SharePoint, in addition to Microsoft Lync and Exchange.

Zones services delivery process follows IT industry best practices methodology. Zones works collaboratively with clients to apply business insights to complex business challenges and develop innovative, cost-effective solutions. Zones plans, delivers, and supports the management of licensing programs from software partners such as Microsoft, Symantec, and VMware.

Trust Zones for IT solutions that sustain a flexible, efficient, and connected business.

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