Optix.

Optimized for the Enterprise

SUCCESS STORY

BWXT Pantex and the Department of Energy's Pantex Plant

"Optix allows us to quickly respond to user needs.

We can design and deploy a new custom indexed application in only a few hours"

Stefanie Elsea
Systems Administrator
IT Applications Department
BWXT Pantex

The Pantex Plant is responsible for maintaining the safety, security and reliability of the nation's nuclear weapons stockpile. Located on the High Plains of the Texas Panhandle, 17 miles northeast of Amarillo, Pantex is a 16,000-acre site just north of U. S. Highway 60 in Carson County. The Pantex Plant is managed and operated by BWXT Pantex for the U.S Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration. Approximately 3,500 people work at Pantex.

BWXT Pantex evaluates, retrofits and repairs weapons in support of both life extension programs and certification of weapon safety and reliability. Weapons that are surplus to the strategic stockpile are dismantled at Pantex. Following weapons dismantlement, Pantex provides interim storage and surveillance of plutonium pits. BWXT Pantex also develops, tests and fabricates high explosive components.

All work at Pantex is carried out under these overarching priorities: the security of weapons and information, the safety and health of workers and the public, and the protection of the environment.

In order to support these operations, BWXT Pantex must maintain extensive libraries of both new and archival documents of all types, including administrative forms, test procedures, manuals, plant drawings, weapon records, and medical records. To assist it in this task, BWXT Pantex selected the OPTIX Document Management and Workflow System.

"OPTIX has been invaluable in meeting of our electronic document management, record management, and workflow needs," states Stefanie Elsea, System Administrator in the IT Applications Department.

Optix is deployed on two main IBM AIX/Oracle systems – one for classified documents and one for unclassified documents. The unclassified system supports 1,100 users distributed throughout the plant, and the classified system supports an additional 500 users. User workstations run Windows 98 and 2000.

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Documents are input electronically from user desktops and scanned from paper. The bulk of all paper scanning is performed using 15 Fujitsu 4097 scanners. These were recently used to scan 400 boxes of medical records in under six weeks. Special purpose scanners such as the Vidar Truscan handle tasks such as input of plant site drawings. All scanners are interfaced using Optix scanner drivers.

To date, over 1.5 million documents are being managed by the Optix system with the total growing rapidly. In addition to archival storage of critical documents, Optix supports routing of new procedures and administrative forms throughout the enterprise. One of these is a chemical approval form, required to authorize the purchase and storage of new chemicals at the site. "Previously, routing and approval of this form took about six weeks. Using Optix, that time was reduced to three days," says Ms. Elsea.

Optix was able to replace several legacy applications used to manage paper records storage at three physical centers. Because of the ease with which index data can be imported into Optix, warehouse index records pertaining to boxes and storage locations were easily integrated, providing a single point of query.

This ease of integration also proved valuable to support requirements for generating eye-readable microfilm records for long-term archival storage. By exporting TIFF images and index data to a Novell Net server, BWXT Pantex was able to output documents to a Kodak Digital Science Document ArchiveWriter. The spool and frame numbers output from the Archive Writer were then used to update Optix databases.

Optix use continues to expand throughout the plant. Future plans call for automating additional document approval processes using Optix Workflow, and expanding Optix's record center management tasks.

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