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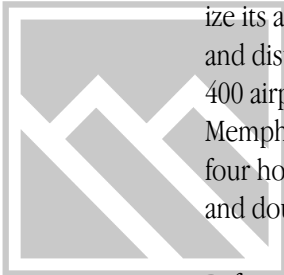
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# Northwest Airlines Completes OPTIX Installation

## *Manuals online for 15,000 maintenance personnel*



**November 16, 1998:** Northwest Airlines has become the first major airline to completely computerize its aircraft maintenance manuals. OPTIX software now manages the production, storage, revision, and distribution of several hundred thousand pages of maintenance manuals for a fleet of more than 400 airplanes. Northwest mechanics at Atlanta, Columbus, Duluth, Detroit, Newark, LaGuardia, Memphis, Minneapolis/St. Paul, O'Hare, Philadelphia, and San Francisco Airports use OPTIX twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Northwest Airlines plans to triple its number of OPTIX stations and double its number of OPTIX users by second quarter, 1999.

Before OPTIX, the Northwest Airlines Technical Publications department added Northwest-specific changes to vendor-generalized print documents, creating Northwest-specific manuals. The manuals were updated quarterly, with up to 30,000 updates per quarter. Mastered manuals were then duplicated in paper, microfilm, and WORM/CD-ROM formats for distribution to thirty-five domestic and eighteen international maintenance bases and stations.

To improve performance, reduce costs, and eliminate potential regulatory penalties, Northwest Airlines turned to OPTIX software to create a centralized computerized source of manuals, distributed to Northwest personnel through its internal TCP/IP network. Blueridge Technologies has worked with Northwest throughout the installation, helping to bring the system online with over half a million pages.

Today, Northwest mechanics can access the most up-to-date aircraft information on the company intranet using Windows workstations located in the hanger maintenance bays. With OPTIX Web software and a standard browser such as Netscape Communicator, mechanics can query the central server to retrieve information from the online manuals.

