

Case Study

Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Rulemaking Integrated Rulemaking Management Information System (IRMIS)

The Goal

The FAA Office of Rulemaking (ARM) wanted to develop a system to manage rulemaking documents, track projects and schedules, and enable all FAA rulemaking personnel to perform their duties using automated systems. The FAA ARM also wanted to achieve *efficiency*, *reduced cost*, and *uniform accessibility*.

To achieve *efficiency*, the ARM wanted all rulemaking documents to reside in one system, accessible through the Intranet by remote and local users. To *reduce costs*, the ARM wanted to simplify hardware/software configurations, standardize the variety of networks, improve communication speeds, and minimize system/user support. To ensure *uniform accessibility*, the ARM wanted to use browser technology to access the system and documents at the highest level of security.

The Solution

Network Designs has supported the ARM to meet its three-part goal and develop its concept of an Integrated Rulemaking Management Information System (IRMIS). IRMIS combines *three* document management elements into *one* Y2K-compatible system that is accessible through the FAA Intranet. By turning to their Intranet browser, not only can FAA rulemaking personnel track regulatory documents, but also, FAA officials can systematically evaluate rulemaking efficiency and reduce intra-agency site travel costs.

The Architecture

Network Designs worked with ARM to evolve the *three* components comprising IRMIS: the document management system, the rulemaking tracking system, and the project management objectives.

Document Management System (DMS)

Network Designs upgraded the Office of Rulemaking to the latest version of PCDocs on the client server, then implemented CyberDocs, a Web-based PCDocs application.

Rulemaking Tracking System (RTS)

Network Designs made this stand-alone database Y2K-compliant using Microsoft Access 97, then migrated the LAN application on the client server to a Web/Intranet application on Microsoft SQL Server 6.5.

Project Management

Network Designs automated rulemaking workflow, user and management reports, and management resources.

Network Designs has integrated the DMS and the RTS into *one* IRMIS rulemaking system, accessible to all FAA Intranet users through their Web browser. FAA rulemaking personnel use RTS to schedule and track projects and access the DMS to track items by docket number, federal regulation section number, or other data. IRMIS stores data in the Microsoft SQL Server 6.5 database that runs under Microsoft Windows NT Server 4.0. ARM rulemaking personnel work on a Microsoft Windows NT Workstation 4.0 to access IRMIS.

“Network Designs has helped us evolve the IRMIS project and meet ARM goals of system efficiency, reduced cost, and uniform accessibility.”

Nick Spithas, FAA, ARM

