Expert Provisioner

Accurate prediction and ordering of aircraft parts

Description:

- A knowledge-based provisioning support system.
- Removes mundane form processing and prevents misinterpretation of special codes.
- Brings together information formerly stored on paper forms and index cards.
- ♦ Prompts user to investigate where necessary.
- Developed and distributed on networked Windows PCs.

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Original order form

Benefits:

- ♦ Reduces the uncertainty of procurement budgets near financial year-ends.
- ◆ Reduces wastage through over-ordering.
- ◆ Takes advantage of price breaks for large orders.
- ◆ Maintains consistency of order processing.
- Easy to use and to understand.
- ♦ Estimated savings of £30 million per year.

Technical approach:

- RAF Logistics Support personnel trained in Al techniques.
- Intelligent provisioning used as a worked example.
- Management interest led to development of prototype using CLIPS rule-based system.
- Senior management interest in prototype led to development of full system.
- ♦ Visual Basic and MS Access used.
- Success through using the simplest technology adequate for the task.

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Order form in Expert Provisioner







