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System overview

The Advent Drawing Management System (DMS) manages large numbers of drawings within a computer network, where it is required to emulate the procedures of the drawing office. It controls the security of the database with automatic drawing archiving, provides protection by restricting unlawful access, manages the plotting of drawings and maintains information about the contents of drawings and their usage. This information can be used to generate management summaries and reports. The system is capable of extension and modification to suit particular user requirements.

Overall structure

The Overall structure of the DMS is that of a central secure database which contains all drawings. Any number of workstations, scanners and plotters can be linked to this database via a local area network.

Drawing creation

New drawings are entered into the DMS after they have been scanned on a scanning workstation, or read in from magnetic tape. Once a drawing has been scanned the user is prompted to fill in a data sheet about the drawing which is then permanently attached to it.

Drawing revision

Revisions to drawings can be carried out at any of the workstations provided the user has the necessary authority. When the drawing amendments have been completed, the DMS holds the revised drawing in a temporary storage area until signed off by a Supervisor. While a drawing is under revision it cannot be updated by another user.

Drawing information

Associated with every drawing is a datasheet containing information about the drawing. This information includes the drawing number and title, its size, scale, sheet number and revision, as well as details of who drew, checked and approved it, other information can also be stored if required.

Archiving and retrieval

At time intervals determined by the user, an archive of all drawings is made onto magnetic tape. In addition, a daily incremental archive can be made of all drawings that have been changed that day. Individual drawings can be archived or retrieved from these tapes at any time.

Management reports

All interactions that involve access to drawings are logged by the system. This information includes the name of the user requesting the access, the time of the request, the drawing number and its title. In this way it is possible to keep an accurate check of the revision history of all drawings. Enquiries can be made against this information to produce reports on drawing usage.

Plotting

A queue of plot requests is held by the DMS which instructs the plotter what drawings to print. If there is more than one plotter, the DMS determines to which plotter the drawing is to be sent. Any drawings that are under revision at the time of plotting are overprinted with a warning explaining its status.

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