

Multi-functional COPIERS

Why the need?

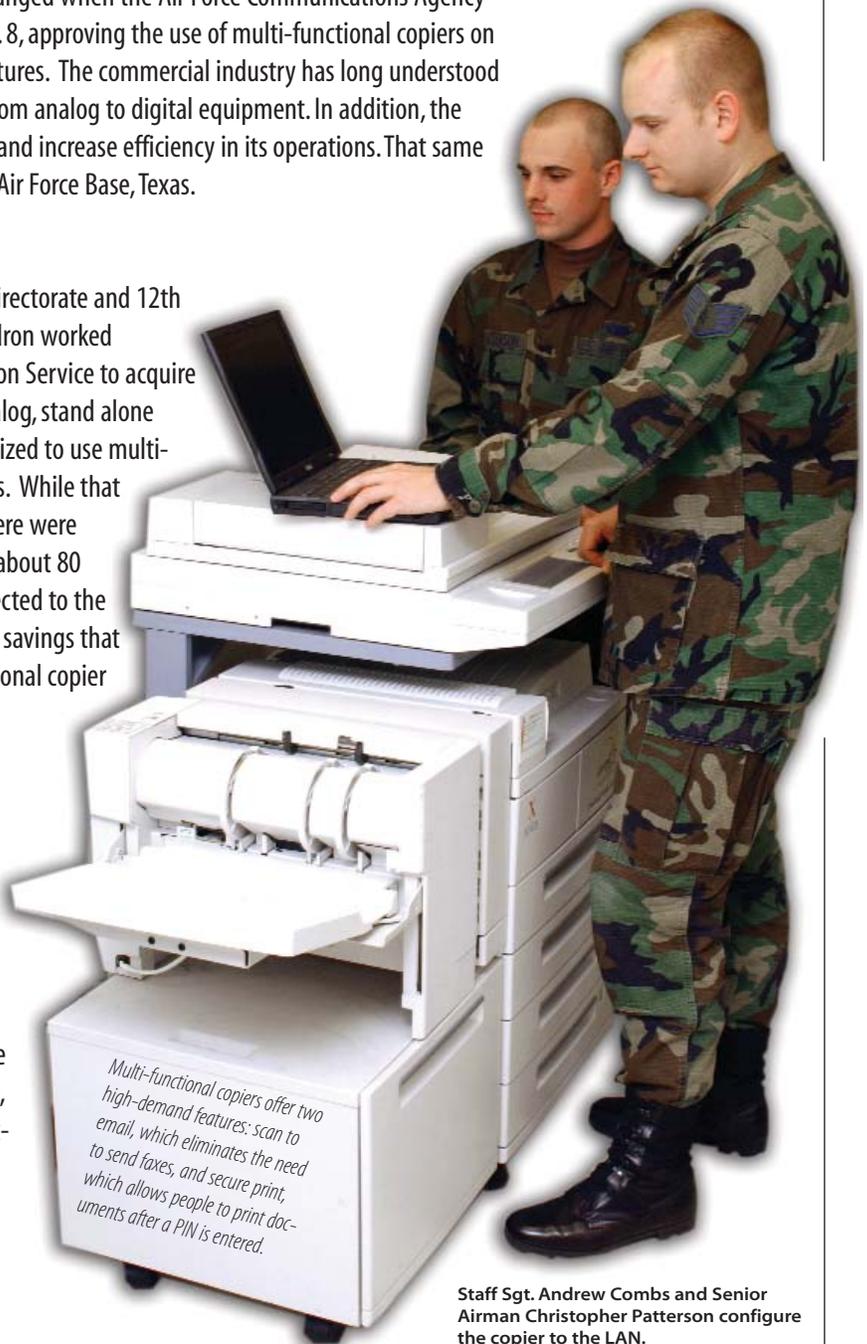
Until recently, Air Force security directives prohibited the connection of multi-functional (combined scan, fax, copy, and print) copiers to the base network. That policy changed when the Air Force Communications Agency released its new policy memorandum, dated Aug. 8, approving the use of multi-functional copiers on a network, including scan, fax, copy, and print features. The commercial industry has long understood and capitalized on the benefits of transitioning from analog to digital equipment. In addition, the industry continually looks at ways to reduce cost and increase efficiency in its operations. That same solution is now being implemented at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

What are the benefits?

The HQ AETC Communications and Information Directorate and 12th Flying Training Wing, and 12th Comptroller Squadron worked through the Document Automation and Production Service to acquire digital multi-functional copiers to replace old analog, stand alone copy machines. Initially, the base was only authorized to use multi-functional copiers as network printers and copiers. While that change reaped some cost savings, users found there were more potential savings to be captured. Currently, about 80 percent of 200 multi-functional copiers are connected to the 12 FTW network, and AETC is pursuing additional savings that may be generated by using all of the multi-functional copier features.

What's the future payoff?

AETC's goal is to reap these additional savings by drastically reducing or eliminating desktop printers, scanners, and fax machines for individuals by attrition. A cost analysis of AETC expenditures for printers, scanners, fax and copying requirements, based on analog, stand alone equipment showed a potential savings of \$650K per year by using the digital, multi-functional equipment. For example, when a desktop printer breaks, rather than replacing it with a new one, the workload is transitioned to the organization's centralized multi-function copiers. The savings can now be used for other high-priority items.



Multi-functional copiers offer two high-demand features: scan to email, which eliminates the need to send faxes, and secure print, which allows people to print documents after a PIN is entered.

Staff Sgt. Andrew Combs and Senior Airman Christopher Patterson configure the copier to the LAN.