

CASE STUDY

CUSTOMER FEEDBACK ON

NORTHERN



PRODUCT: QUOTA SERVER

COMPANY: ALLIANT TECHSYSTEMS

SUBJECT: WHAT A LEADING AEROSPACE COMPANY DID WHEN IT BEGAN
RUNNING OUT OF SPACE

ATK-Alliant Techsystems is a \$2.1 billion aerospace and defense company that employs approximately 11,500 people. In 1998, the company found itself facing two critical storage challenges. The IT group overseeing the Minneapolis location – home to over 1400 users – needed to find an efficient means of managing and tracking fast-disappearing disk space. Users were backing up their hard drives to the home server, which was quickly filling up. According to Lori Lippert, Computer Network Analyst responsible for server and network maintenance, managing disk space had become a major drain on resources.

It was then that they made the decision to implement Northern's Quota Server, a Windows-based storage management solution that enabled them to manage and track disk space on user hard drives and servers 24x7 with little administrative intervention. The application sent pages to users when they reached a preset threshold; it also directed users of the folder in question, giving them the option of archiving old data or requesting more disk space.

The second challenge was dealing with a rapidly changing workforce. As with many companies fighting to remain competitive in a tightening economy, there has been great flux in the employee population (layoffs, reassignments, departments consolidating, etc). ATK-Alliant needed a reporting tool that simplified the tracking of user folders, enabling them to quickly differentiate "live" from dormant folders, and efficiently managed an ever-shifting storage landscape. It is here where they found the reporting tools in Quota Server to be most useful, providing a quick snapshot for up-to-the-minute status and projected usage trends on all "live" user folders and storage points.

Having an automated tool in place to enforce storage quotas and monitor storage points freed up valuable time, enabling the IT staff to extend its support and maximize its resources – critical factors in an economy forcing companies to do more with less. In sum, the deployment helped ATK-Alliant contain all costs associated with storage, while making the IT organization more efficient and effective.

To see how Quota Server can address your storage challenges and provide an efficient, cost effective solution; call a NORTHERN account executive at 800.881.4950. For more information on NORTHERN and its family of network software solutions, visit us at www.northern.net.