



Success Story

Rocketdyne stores and retrieves all critical testing records of the SSME rocket engine with the use of Pegasus InveStore Software!

Rocketdyne, established in 1955 in Canoga Park, Ca., which became part of The Boeing Company in 1996, was created to build rocket engines in support of national defense and U.S. involvement in space. Throughout the 1960's, Rocketdyne built the engines that put the U.S. in space--from the Mercury launches to Apollo. The Space Shuttle Main Engine has been a Rocketdyne business since 1971. The three engines on the shuttle orbiter provide the majority of the total thrust required to obtain near-orbital velocity. All data from the testing of the SSME engine and other rocket engines, whether in laboratory simulations or actual flight, are kept and monitored by the engineers in Canoga Park, CA. Initially, the data was stored on a VMS computer and a 12" optical Cygnet library. Optical storage technology was selected instead of raid arrays for the permanent storage features optical offers.

Pegasus InveStore -- Easy to Implement & Met Budget Requirements

When a decision was made to switch to a Windows platform, James Quan, Computer Analyst for Boeing/Rocketdyne engineering division, looked into a system that would run under this platform. He consulted Robert Abadia, currently of Intelligent Data in southern California, a value added reseller, who has expertise in working with the government and military. Intelligent Data searched for both hardware and software with the best performance and price. Robert Abadia presented the Plasmon and several other storage management software solutions as well as Pegasus InveStore software to Mr. Quan. After reviewing the information provided by Mr. Abadia, Mr. Quan approved the Plasmon libraries with 258-slots and Pegasus software. Mr. Quan felt that Pegasus was easy to implement and got the job done within his budget.

Pegasus API Used to Design in Security

According to Mr. Quan, there are four or five tests performed per week and the size of the data can be anywhere from 2.6GB to 5GB, depending on the engine tested and length of the test. Mr. Quan said, "we like optical because of the capacity. It is removable for storage and the media can be distributed internally and externally if necessary for further engineering review and analysis." Mr. Quan indicated that the engine test data collected is used for comparisons to improve and modify new engine designs. With the Pegasus API, security was designed in to prevent unauthorized access. Only engineers who have prior approved access can retrieve the highly confidential data.

InveStore Best for WORM Applications!

Rocketdyne needs additional jukeboxes with Pegasus software every two years or so due to the tremendous volume of the data that is kept. Currently, a total of four Plasmon libraries with Pegasus InveStore software are in operation at Rocketdyne to store the data that is created from each engine test. Mr. Quan indicates that Pegasus software was chosen because it was the best software for WORM (write once read many) applications.