

Computerized Maintenance

A very affordable maintenance management software package called EZ Maintenance offers lots of benefits.



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I don't remember just when it was that I was first asked by someone hoping to send some material immediately, "Do you have a fax machine?" I do remember, however, that it was very shortly afterwards that the question became, "What is your fax number?" It was that fast that fax machines became commonplace in the office.

Surely this experience influenced my assuming, all too quickly, that most fleets had, because of the efficiencies they offer, embraced computerized maintenance systems. I was surprised, therefore, to read in an article written by Carl Kirk, executive director of the Technology and Maintenance Council, that 80 percent of fleets have not yet adopted maintenance or parts management software systems in their operations. Was it serendipity then that I got a call later that day from a friend telling me about a very affordable maintenance management software package called EZ Maintenance? He told me of a tour of the product available through www.ez-maintenance.com/FMMS. Of course I tried it.

First, let me say that my friend failed to do justice to the program. His primary interest is in the management of vehicle maintenance, and EZ Maintenance seems to offer that capability in spades. I, however, also happen to be concerned with the maintenance of the kind of equipment mounted on utility and municipal vehicles. I was pleased to see, therefore, that EZ Maintenance handles the management of maintenance

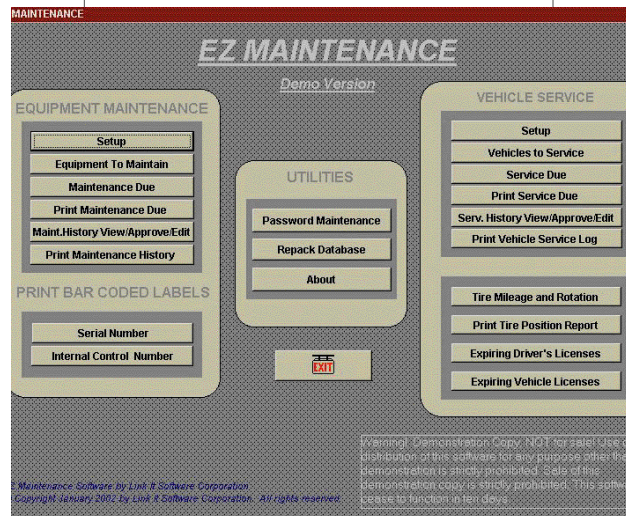
for this kind of equipment as well as it does for vehicles.

If you're among the majority of fleets not yet utilizing computerized maintenance management software, I suggest that you take the tour. If you like what you see and contact the supplier, you should ask how to access a demo version of the program, which I also tried. With a broad band Internet connection, the demo downloads very quickly. If you still dial up, as I do at home, it

separated in a number of ways making it easy to analyze data in the future. Several levels of password protection allow managers to control exactly who is able to access or change information in the database. This, of course, is a one-time commitment. Regular maintenance of the information is obviously necessary to keep reports current.

You're now in a position to reap the benefits of investment. Scheduling both routine and non-routine maintenance for specific vehicles or classes of vehicles is simple and easy. If desired, work orders can include both step by step instructions on how to perform a particular procedure as well as all the parts that are likely to be need on the job. Depending on how password protection was originally setup, the work order can be closed by the technician, the shop foreman or maintenance management.

Although I've pretty well run out of space, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that EZ Maintenance also offers vehicle license tracking, driver information and incident tracking, tire tracking and control along with over 80 report formats. No, this is certainly not the only product available that will help you manage your maintenance operation, but it does offer a great deal of computing power for a very reasonable price. More information is available by calling (904) 287-8085, by visiting www.ez-maintenance.com or contacting wcwhite@attbi.com. •



will take almost a half hour before you can start playing. It's worth the wait!

Whenever a manual management process becomes computerized, a commitment to enter basic information is required. EZ Maintenance is no exception. The process is straight forward and requires all fleet information, on vehicles and maintenance procedures and schedules, to be entered into the database.

Vehicles and equipment can be