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Distributed Support Services (DSS) announces the launch of Web-based software purchasing

While not yet completely paperless, DSS has developed a model that will ease the process for faculty and staff members who order software through Northwestern University's site-licensing programs. The new site, http://software.northwestern.edu is based on the shopping-cart model found on many consumer Web sites.

In the past, individuals would look for information about software on the IT Web site, fill out an order form by hand, and then fax the signed and approved order form to DSS. DSS then manually recorded the ordering information.

The new site allows for easy browsing and selection of software, elimination of handwritten product data (part number, price, etc.), electronic approval, and automatic recording of all relevant data throughout the process. Currently, auditing practices still require the printing and faxing of a signed online order form, but automation has eliminated many of the potential service pitfalls inherent in the previous manual process.

Further enhancements to the site, based on customer feedback, are planned for the near future. Comments or questions about the site can be directed to Charlie Jensen, Manager of Distributed Support Services.