

TCToolbox Airline Edition - Enhancing aviation safety

The safety requirements in aviation are rigorous, and the aviation authorities' regulations are strict and comprehensive. TCToolbox Airline Edition helps airlines to create, manage and publish aeronautics manuals of any kind. Traceable processes that are recognised by the supervisory authorities form the basis of audit-ready, fault-free manuals generated automatically on demand.

TCToolbox Airline Edition is a package tailored specifically to the needs of airlines. It comprises a TCToolbox-based management system, TopLeaf-based PDF generation, and EB.Suite-based electronic publishing.

Practical application: TCToolbox used by Germania

This independent German airline, based in Berlin, has been servicing various national and international destinations for more than 30 years.

Germania also ranks among the top names in international leasing. For example within the framework of wet lease agreements, Germania serves Air Berlin routes.

In this case the airline not only provides its aviation equipment, technology and crew, but also its operational business personnel.

Germania flies to German and international airports under its own name, safely taking millions of passengers to their destinations in 15 Boeing 737 aircraft.



“Managing data media-independently in XML was especially important for us because we have to provide electronic documentation on board as well. Our pilots and aircrew need to have easy access to the manuals via an Electronic Flight Bag System.”

Lutz Kohlert, project manager at Germania.

About Ovidius

Ovidius is based in Berlin, Germany, and specialises in XML and SGML software solutions for creating, managing, and publishing of technical and scientific information. We help companies with complex documentation requirements, e.g. automotive, mechanical engineering, software manufacturers, aviation and defence, medical engineering and IT companies.

Requirement for a more automated approach

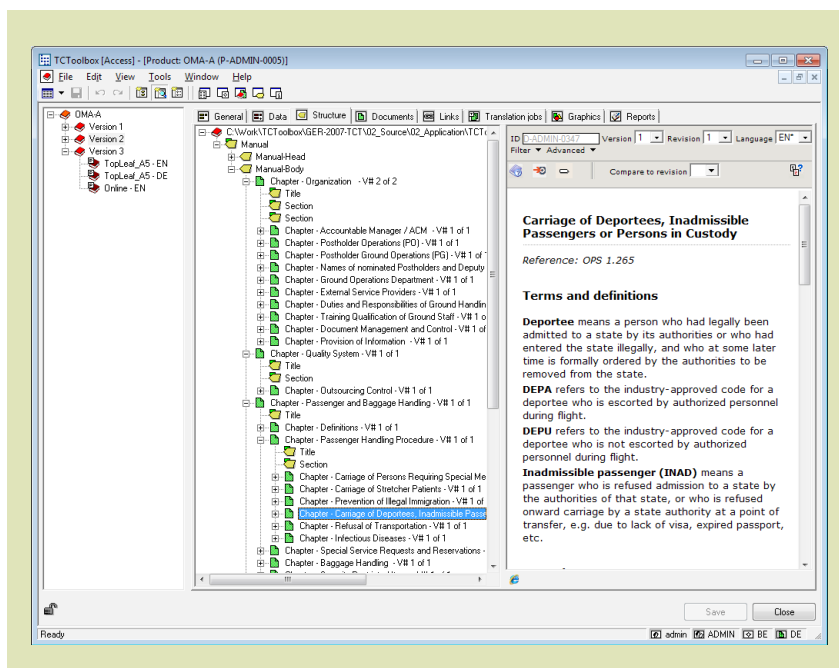
Operations manuals are the key to traffic safety. All airlines are required to provide such service documentation to their aircrew. These several hundred page manuals need to be managed efficiently and, most importantly, in a way that is legally compliant, since some of the manuals are subject to the civil aviation authorities' approval. This also applies to any revisions and changes made to the manuals.

Germania used Microsoft Word to create its extensive documentation. The authors regularly faced major problems handling the complex structure and complicated layout specifications of its manuals. Germania also has no technical writers, so all technical documentation is drawn up by experts from the various departments. Moreover, coordinating processes were not defined by a fixed workflow, which implied a general potential for errors.

New documentation processes

Germania decided on a content management system based on XML (Extensible Markup Language) to solve the problem.

For one thing, this solution promised a better workflow and simplified release processes. Most of all, however, Germania wanted a future-proof system which would easily enable the airline to publish documents in various output formats. The advantage of XML is that it allows a clear separation of content and structure.



TCToolbox - User interface

With the introduction of TCToolbox from Ovidius, Germania's documentation processes have been completely restructured.

The new solution is proving its worth in the airline's day-to-day business: processes have become considerably simpler, and many of the processing steps are regulated by the system itself.

Authors enter content into a predefined structure which is the same for all manuals. This saves a great deal of time and eliminates potential sources of error.

The system manages all content in the form of information modules that are compiled as required and that can be edited by several persons at the same time. The completed documentation is automatically forwarded to staff authorised to sign for release.

Intelligent version management creates greater transparency

TCToolbox even solved Germania's greatest problem, which had been furnishing proof of changes to their manuals. The content management system's differencing view makes the complete version history of each manual transparent.

Current versions can be compared to previous ones, changes between two versions are automatically highlighted.

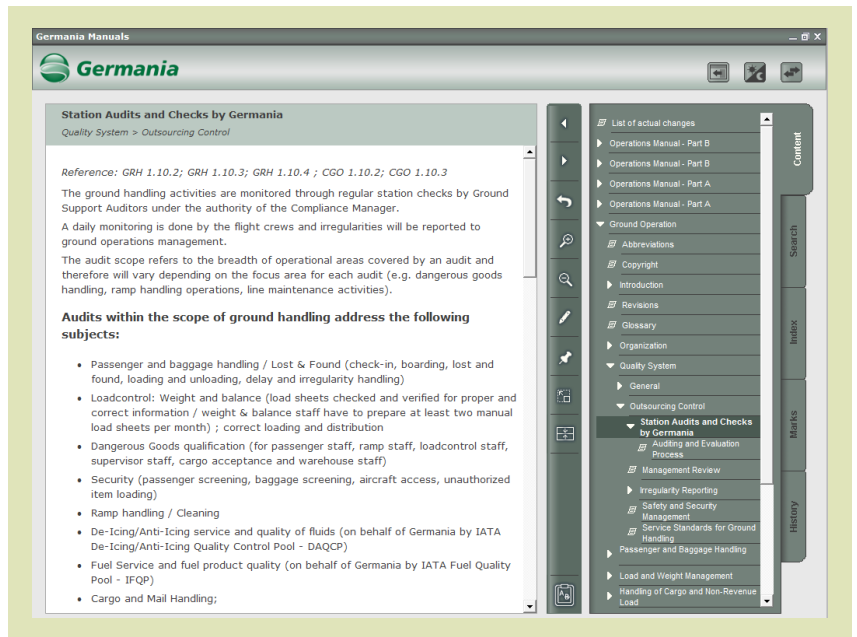
The system indicates even small changes and allows readers to understand why changes were made and by whom.

When revisions are required, Germania no longer needs to generate a completely new edition of its manual, but can have the revised pages published automatically.

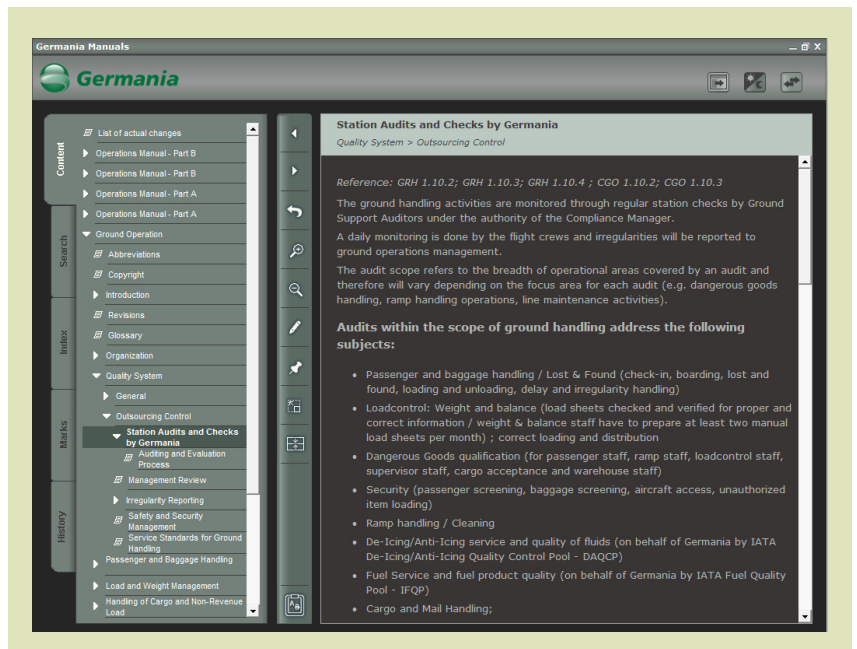
The software's integrated typesetting system collects these pages in a PDF document. With the printout being sent to the aviation authorities, the latter always have the very latest version of manuals for approval.

Meanwhile these revision packages are the only paper publications issued by the Berlin airline.

The dream of the electronic cockpit has become reality! The required information is always up-to-date and readily accessible on board via Tablet PCs.



Day-Mode



Night-Mode

TCToolbox Airline Edition at a glance

Approved and robust Content Management System (CMS)

- SGML-/XML-based CMS
- Versioning, access control
- Rights management
- Supports any graphics format
- Importing of Excel tables
- Re-use of information modules and graphics
- Automatic generation of change marks

Powerful typesetting system

- Automatic generation of PDF files and revision packages

Electronic publishing for use in cockpits or as a web variant

- Powerful search options
- Optimised for Tablet PCs
- Automatic database updates
- Bookmarks, notes
- Daytime/nighttime mode
- Online updates
- Information stored in databases
- Installation-free usage

About TopLeaf

TopLeaf is an XML publishing tool from Turn-Key Systems based in Sydney, Australia. It provides an intuitive GUI for setting up PDF output styles, and a Server API for automatically generating finished documents from source XML/graphics.

See www.turnkey.com.au for further information.

Turn-Key systems

About EB.Suite

EB.Suite is a sophisticated and flexible solution for electronic publishing from EasyBrowse GmbH with headquarters in Schwerin, Germany. EB.Suite allows the generation of any kind of electronic publication with output options to CD, DVD or USB memory sticks to Intranet, Internet or portable devices.

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