

# Perry County Office builds its digital archive one land survey at a time



## Challenge

The cost of photocopying land surveys was taking a toll on Ohio's Perry County Office. In one year, staffers would fulfill up to 8,000 requests for copies of surveys. But as the cost of leasing, servicing and using its photocopier continued to grow, the staff at the County Office wanted a better solution.

## Solution

Digitally capturing the maps and drawings was an attractive option for the County Office. With each scanned document, the County Office could also build a digital archive. The County Office purchased a Contex large format scanner with Nextimage Repro. The scanner is connected to an existing HP large format printer for hard copies.

## Results

Since most customers prefer digital versions of land surveys at the Perry County Office, the Contex large format scanner is in constant use. The powerful scanner is fundamental in helping to build its digital archive of maps, while protecting aging documents from becoming lost or damaged.

## Summary

Since land surveys play a vital role to a variety of parties, from landowners and buyers to architects and construction firms, municipalities like Ohio's Perry County Office, can get busy processing these documents in timely and efficient manner.

So when demand for the land surveys significantly increased, along with the cost-per-copy, the staff knew it was time to switch from photocopying to scanning. By digitizing every document that came in and out of their office, they would have better control of these valuable assets.

The scanner did more than just speed up the process, it also impacted the bottom line. The County Office's financial gains were notable, and so were its immediate

**“We didn't anticipate the huge savings in time and resources we would get from a scanner.”**

Jason Fulk, GIS Specialist  
Perry County Engineer's Office

One of the top priorities for local county offices is to fulfill requests for copies of land survey maps in a timely and cost effective manner. However, when the volume of requests increases, along with the cost-per-copy, so does the pressure for government staffers to find more efficient solutions.

## Perry County's tipping point

In Ohio, the Perry County Engineer's Office reached a threshold when annual requests for copies of land surveys surpassed 8,000, and the cost of maintaining a copier reached nearly \$3,500 annually. Jason Fulk, GIS Specialist, knew it was time to find an a better solution.

The team at the County Office wanted to digitally capture all the new maps and drawings coming into the Office, as well as leaving it. The team opted for a Contex 44-inch large format scanner to capture large maps and documents quickly and efficiently. It also enables the County Office to build a digital archive.

## Scanner saves expenses

A digital archive preserves the information from delicate originals, and helps to manage the flow of survey data to and from the County Office. Currently, the team manages tens of thousands of documents its hard copy archive. "The primary reason we purchased a scanner is to make surveys available digitally. We also wanted to protect the documents as they aged and became more fragile," states Fulk.

The documents, which date back to the 1800s, were sometimes damaged during retrieval and copying. A digital archive eliminates this risk to irreplaceable historical records, preserving delicate originals and managing the flow of survey data to and from the County Office.



## Each scan builds digital archive

Thanks to the elimination of the photocopying expense, the new scanner paid for itself in two years.

"The scanning capabilities has encouraged customers to bring in maps for scanning, increasing the catalog of maps," comments Fulk.

An added benefit is environmental. The Contex wide format reduces the Office's annual consumption of paper, toner, and supplies. Perry County Office has not purchased paper for more than a year.

Eliminating these photocopying costs also means that the Perry County Office can afford to provide digital copying as a service to the community. The Contex scanner is connected to an existing HP large format printer, should a customer request hard copies.

"Each scan builds our archive," explains Fulk. "By eliminating the costs associated with the servicing and supplies of a photocopier, the Contex scanner quickly paid for itself."

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Jason Fulk, GIS Specialist  
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