Computers At Sea: The Naval Tactical Data System

One of UNIVAC’s enduring successes is the Naval Tactical Data System (NTDS). Begun in the 1950s when the company was still ERA, the computers used transistors instead of vacuum tubes which made for a smaller unit. Winning a contract with the U.S. Navy, the company began designing computers to be used on ships and submarines.

While the name of the company changed over the years, designing NTDS computers remained a constant. They followed up the first computer with a second, third, and eventually fourth generation.

The NTDS shipboard system involved linking multiple computers together to work cooperatively.

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