Scenario
A GA pilot is planning a flight from **Orlando Executive Airport (ORL)** to **Tampa International (TPA)**. On the day of departure, there's a **temporary runway closure at ORL** and a **restricted airspace activation near Tampa**.

Legacy NOTAM System (Old)
Pilots would see something like this in their briefing:
ORL RWY 07/25 CLSD 1200-2000Z DLY 12/07-12/10
TPA AIRSPACE RSTRD ACT 1500-2100Z 12/07

- **Problems:**
    - Dense abbreviations (RWY, CLSD, Z, DLY).
    - Dates and times buried in text.
    - No prioritization — critical runway closure looks the same as minor notices.
    - Requires mental decoding and cross-checking with charts.

NOTAM Management Service (NMS) (New)
The same briefing under NMS would look more like this:

⚠️ Orlando Executive (ORL)
- Runway 07/25 CLOSED daily from 12:00–20:00 UTC, Dec 7–10, 2025
- Reason: Maintenance work

⚠️ Tampa International (TPA)
- Restricted Airspace ACTIVE from 15:00–21:00 UTC, Dec 7, 2025
- Location: 5 NM west of TPA
- Reason: Military training exercise

- **Improvements:**
    - Clear headings by airport.
    - Plain language ("Runway CLOSED" instead of "RWY CLSD").
    - Dates and times in standard format.
    - Context provided (maintenance, military exercise).
    - Critical notices highlighted with icons and structured formatting.

Pilot Experience Difference
- **Old System:** The pilot spends extra time decoding abbreviations, checking charts, and ensuring they didn't miss something critical. Stressful and error-prone.
- **NMS:** The pilot immediately understands the closure and restriction, adjusts their plan, and feels confident they haven't overlooked anything.

Bottom Line
Under NMS, pre-flight briefings shift from **cryptic puzzle-solving** to **clear, actionable information**, saving time and reducing risk.

The new NOTAM Management Service (NMS) dramatically improves pilots' daily workflow by making notices clearer, faster, and more reliable compared to the legacy NOTAM system.

Key Day-to-Day Differences for Pilots

1. Clarity & Readability

- **Legacy System:** Pilots often faced cryptic, text-heavy NOTAMs filled with abbreviations and clutter. Important safety details could be buried in long lists.
- **NMS:** Provides **standardized, user-friendly formatting** that highlights critical information first. Pilots can quickly scan for runway closures, airspace restrictions, or hazards without wading through irrelevant details thethriftypilot.com soaringskyways.com.

2. Reliability & Availability

- **Legacy System:** Outages were a recurring frustration, most notably the January 2023 system failure that grounded flights nationwide.
- **NMS:** Hosted securely in the **cloud with resilient architecture**, reducing downtime and ensuring notices are always accessible AeroTime [nms.aim.faa.gov](nms.aim.faa.gov) ExecutiveGov.

3. Speed of Updates

- **Legacy System:** Updates could lag, meaning pilots sometimes worked with outdated information.
- **NMS:** Offers **near-real-time data exchange**, so changes like sudden runway closures or new airspace restrictions are reflected immediately [nms.aim.faa.gov](nms.aim.faa.gov) ExecutiveGov.

4. Integration with Modern Aviation

- **Legacy System:** Built in the 1980s, it wasn't designed for today's aviation environment, especially unmanned aircraft systems (drones).
- **NMS:** Supports **drone operators and modern digital platforms**, ensuring all stakeholders—from airlines to GA pilots—get synchronized information [nms.aim.faa.gov](nms.aim.faa.gov) soaringskyways.com.

5. Workflow Efficiency

- **Legacy System:** Pilots often had to cross-check multiple sources and manually interpret notices.
- **NMS:** Consolidates everything into a **single authoritative source**, streamlining pre-flight planning and reducing the risk of missing critical alerts AeroTime ExecutiveGov.

📊 **Side-by-Side Comparison**

Feature	Legacy NOTAM System	New NMS
Clarity	Dense, cryptic text	Standardized, user-friendly format
Reliability	Frequent outages	Cloud-based, resilient
Update Speed	Delayed updates	Near-real-time
Integration	Limited, outdated	Supports drones & modern platforms
Workflow	Multiple sources, manual checks	Single authoritative source

🛫 **Practical Impact on Pilots**

- **Pre-Flight Briefings:** Faster, clearer, and less stressful.
- **In-Flight Awareness:** More confidence that information is current.
- **Safety:** Reduced risk of missing critical alerts.
- **Efficiency:** Less time deciphering notices, more time focusing on flying.

In short: Pilots move from a **fragile, confusing system** to a **modern, streamlined platform** that saves time, reduces stress, and enhances safety. By spring 2026, when the migration is complete, NMS will be the single trusted source for all NOTAMs nationwide AeroTime nms.aim.faa.gov ExecutiveGov soaringskyways.com.