

## Text message just the ticket in airport security line



Glen Stubbe, Star Tribune

Special devices at the airport are able to read the boarding passes on cell or PDA screens. So far, about 40,000 NWA passengers have used the option.

## NWA passengers are able to receive boarding passes directly to their cell phones or PDAs.

By **STEVE ALEXANDER**, Star Tribune

Last update: May 29, 2009 - 11:11 PM

In yet another use for cell phones, airline and federal officials are using them to more carefully screen who gets aboard planes.

An optional service called the "e-boarding pass" has been used by about 40,000 Northwest Airlines customers boarding nonstop flights the past six months at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

### Featured comment

"The e-boarding pass improves security because it 'cannot be manipulated or duplicated.'"

That's quite a bold statement. I suppose this is ... [read more](#)

[Register or log in](#) to comment

The e-boarding pass is an e-mail or text message that the airline sends to a passenger's cell phone or personal digital assistant (PDA) instead of issuing a paper boarding pass. The message includes a special bar code containing passenger and flight information; the bar code can be read only by a special scanner at an airport security station. Customers can request an e-boarding pass when they check in for a flight at [NWA.com](http://NWA.com).

The e-boarding pass should not be confused with an e-ticket, an electronic replacement for the printed airline ticket that was introduced in the late 1990s. Even with e-tickets, consumers still used paper boarding passes.

Delta, the corporate parent of Northwest, says it's a convenience for passengers, who no longer need to obtain a paper boarding pass -- or risk losing one. And it reduces paper use.