

Leveraging thousands of design files

Pella Corporation boosts CAD efficiency with integrated product data management

Siemens PLM Software

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► Issues:

Leverage CAD data created by 3D assembly modeling

Reduce design time by managing design data as quickly as it is created

Minimize data management costs, training and implementation times

► Approach:

Integrate data management with the CAD tools designers use every day

Use standard Microsoft technology as a foundation

Include data management in the CAD system at no additional cost

► Results:

Web storage system provides a managed CAD data vault

Data management and synchronization is transparent to CAD users

No delays in using the latest CAD and PDM technologies

PELLA CORPORATION

- To leverage CAD data, Pella Corporation knew the next step was PDM, but remained concerned regarding implementation, training, integration, IT resources and usability issues.

Volume of CAD data limits Pella's design efficiency

Pella Corporation designs premium-quality commercial and residential windows and doors, as well as the machinery that manufactures them. Pella began implementation of Solid Edge® CAD software early this year and is pleased with the results of the CAD package. The challenge now is how to manage all of the design data.

“We have already produced thousands of valuable design files,” says Bryce Renaud, engineering information supervisor at Pella. “To leverage that data and increase our productivity, we began searching for a product data management (PDM) system. In a CAD system where part and assembly design files are intricately associative with each other, PDM is mandatory. We are starting to see CAD efficiencies level off due to the sheer volume of data.”

Solid Edge Insight technology: an innovative PDM alternative

Like many other companies, Pella has evaluated PDM software programs, but has been hindered by issues such as long implementation times, software costs, training costs, CAD integration level, required internal IT resources and complaints from designers who don't have the time or desire to use these systems.



Solutions/Services

Solid Edge
www.siemens.com/solidedge

Client's primary business

Pella Corporation designs premium quality commercial and residential windows and doors, including the machines that manufacture them. Pella is the parent company of Pease Industries, Viking Industries and Cole Sewell Corporation.
www.pella.com

Client location

Pella, Iowa
 United States
 Six manufacturing facilities
 nationwide

Fortunately, Pella and other Solid Edge CAD users now have a remarkably easy, cost-free solution in Insight technology, which integrates data management within the CAD system. "The benefit of Solid Edge's solution is its simplicity," says Ken Grundey, CAD Manager at Pella. "Because it's part of the existing Solid Edge CAD structure, our users won't have to think about PDM because it's automatic and immediate."

Pella also was concerned that choosing a separate PDM package would require the company to delay implementation of the latest CAD tools. Users of separate CAD and PDM systems typically wait two to six months after a CAD release to load the latest design tools because the PDM vendor hadn't released its update yet. "To continue to improve our design productivity, we need to be able to start using new modeling features as soon as they are released," Renaud says.

Unobtrusive PDM

Solid Edge Insight builds upon the document management functions of the Microsoft SharePoint portal server, adding critical tools for managing product structure and the complex relationships among CAD files. Fully integrated with Solid Edge CAD functions, the design data management tools work unobtrusively in the CAD modeling and drafting process.

"While it's invisible to the designers, Insight technology performs all of the critical functions our engineering organization needs to ensure the integrity and efficient access of our Solid Edge data."

"The benefit of Solid Edge's solution is its simplicity."

Ken Grundey
 CAD Manager
 Pella Corporation

► For more information, contact your local Solid Edge representative:

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