SOLIDWORKS PDM

OBJECTIVE

SOLIDWORKS® PDM (Product Data Management) solutions provide an easy way for designers to collaborate on product designs without worrying about version control or data loss. They can store CAD models and supporting documents—anything from emails to images—in an indexed central repository that tracks versions and automates workflows. This reduces time spent searching for data and eliminates the duplication of effort.

OVERVIEW

SOLIDWORKS PDM is a mainstream data management system that stores and organizes engineering CAD data and other documents in a central vault that has a relational database to manage all the information about the files and references, users and group permissions, electronic workflow processes and more. SOLIDWORKS PDM is built into Windows® Explorer so users work in a familiar environment but with much more information and control.

SOLIDWORKS PDM uses an organized local cache where files are automatically retrieved from the central file server (Archive Server) and placed in the user's local cache on their hard drive. This vastly increases performance over opening and saving files on network shared folders. If a file needs to be edited, the user will check out the file which gives them rights access to it. After editing is complete, the file is copied back to the Archive Server via the check-in process. The check-in process automatically creates a new version of the file.

BENEFITS

- Saves time searching with a secure centralized location for all design documents and utilization of configurable search cards which make it easy to enter search criteria.
- Controls access to data so the right users have access at the right time based on where a file is in the approval process.
- Effective version control helps avoid rework and scrap caused by working from the outdated versions of 3D models and drawings .
- Enables remote design locations to receive real-time updates on design changes coupled with automatic notifications.
- Avoids having to spend time looking for or recreating documents that have been, moved, renamed, misplaced, or mistakenly deleted by unauthorized users.

CAPABILITIES

SOLIDWORKS PDM Standard

SOLIDWORKS PDM Standard is the ideal data management application for smaller, single-site SOLIDWORKS customers that want an easy-to-use solution that can be easily upgraded to SOLIDWORKS PDM Professional when their needs change. SOLIDWORKS PDM Standard includes many of the high-powered features of SOLIDWORKS PDM Professional such as electronic workflow, built-in notification system, and Windows Explorer integrated search.

Now SOLIDWORKS PDM Standard offers automated PDF creation. Users can convert a SOLIDWORKS Drawing file to PDF during a workflow transition using the same task technology used in SOLIDWORKS PDM Professional. A relationship between the SOLIDWORKS Drawing and the PDF is also created.

SOLIDWORKS PDM Professional

An all-inclusive application so there are no extra modules or database applications to purchase. SOLIDWORKS PDM Professional utilizes Microsoft® SQL Server Standard Edition to provide high performance and scalability and is included along with integrations SOLIDWORKS products, various third-party CAD systems, and other authoring applications including Microsoft Office®.

SOLIDWORKS PDM Professional now has a much-improved process for handling various design change scenarios including multiple design improvement approaches, engineering change requests, and working with external design consultants. Using this new capability, users have the option of creating complete or partial (keeping existing references) copies of a file structure and placing them in a single or multiple folders. This enables editing of the copied or branched files while leaving the original files in their current state and permission status. If edits are approved, then new versions of the originals can be made. If edits are not approved, then the branched files can either be saved or deleted.

A FEATURE NEW TO BOTH VERSIONS OF SOLIDWORKS PDM

Both versions of SOLIDWORKS PDM enable users to read and write values from/to a SOLIDWORKS revision table. Information such as revision date, description, and approver can be automatically added to a new row in the table or can update the last (newest) row. The values in the table are updated when mapped variable values from the file's data card are changed. This can be done automatically via set variable transition actions, or manually by editing the revision table which will update the data card, editing the data card which will update the revision table, or via the Set Revision function. This new functionality will make it easier to keep revision data up-to-date and provide similar functionality that was present in Workgroup PDM.

Both SOLIDWORKS PDM Standard and SOLIDWORKS PDM Professional offer three license types:

- SOLIDWORKS PDM Standard/Professional CAD Editor is a Windows-based client for engineers and designers who work with SOLIDWORKS, DraftSight®, and other popular design tools. It provides application-specific integrations to manage the complex file relationships and file properties. The CAD Editor client for SOLIDWORKS PDM Standard is included with each license of SOLIDWORKS Professional and SOLIDWORKS Premium 3D CAD software.

- SOLIDWORKS PDM Standard/Professional Contributor is a Windows-based client primarily for non-CAD users that create and edit other product-related files (Word, Excel) and participate in workflows.

- SOLIDWORKS PDM Standard/Professional Viewer is a Windows-based client for users who need to search, view, and print documents. Users can also participate in workflows using a Viewer license which makes it a good fit for project leaders and manufacturing personnel who do not need to add or edit data.

SOLIDWORKS PDM Professional also has bundled licenses (PSLs) that can be accessed by any of the above client types. All licenses allow users to participate in electronic workflow processes. In addition, users can access data via the browser-based UI when traveling or are away from the main office.

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