

# DISTRIBUTED DATA MANAGEMENT

SIMPLIFYING DATA MANAGEMENT WITH SOLIDWORKS MANAGE



## UNTANGLING THE COMPLEX WEB OF DATA MANAGEMENT

At its heart, a product development ecosystem is about enabling better communication at every step of the process. Managing product development is complex because the process involves almost every area of the enterprise—from design, engineering, and manufacturing to purchasing, marketing, and sales. It doesn't help that each team has its own set of project management tools, files, images, and needs for dashboards and reports. This complexity presents the biggest hurdle to enterprisewide data management and a smarter manufacturing approach.

## DISTRIBUTED DATA MANAGEMENT—AN ENTERPRISE-WISE SOLUTION

Distributed data management enables both internal and external users to access and edit the most up-to-date files, including Bills of Materials (BOMs), project timelines, and processes, from anywhere and on any device with a browser and internet connection. With the introduction of SOLIDWORKS® 2018, distributed data management is now an integrated part of the extended SOLIDWORKS ecosystem.

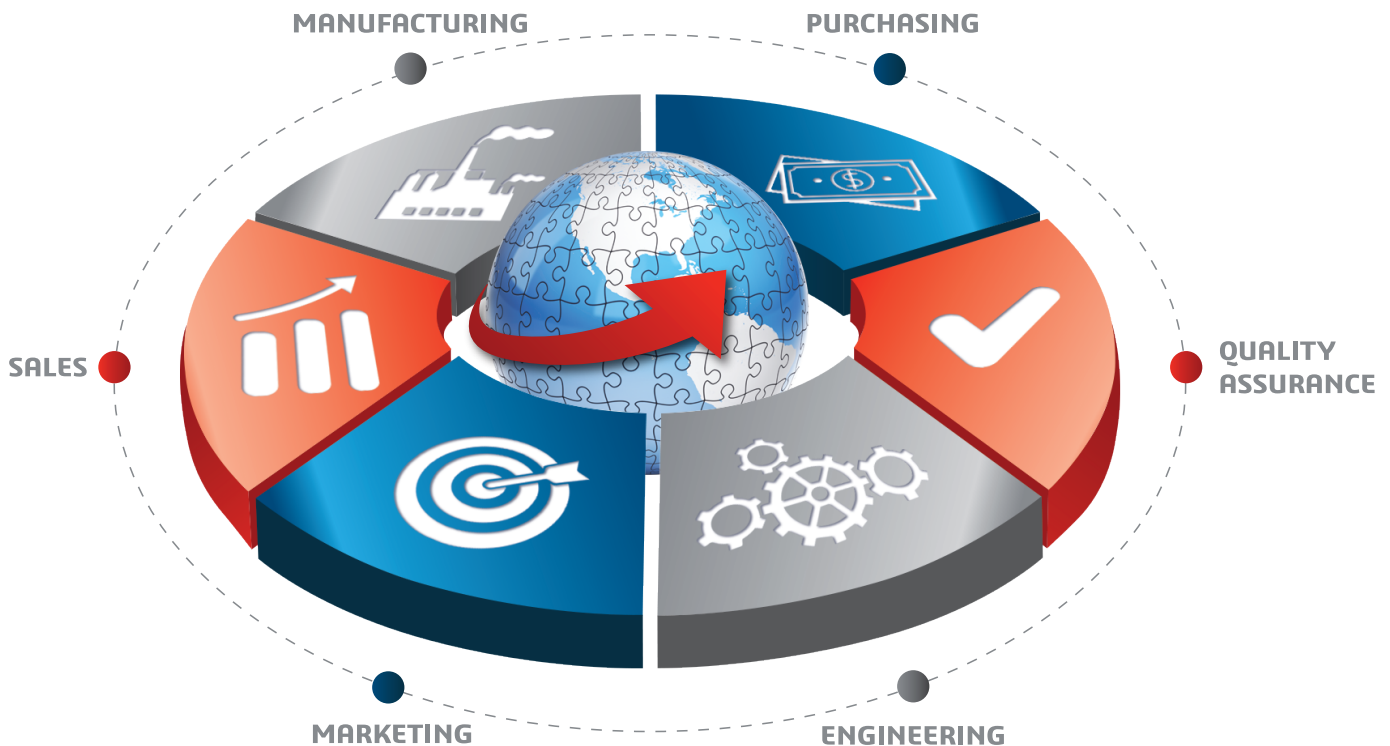
SOLIDWORKS Manage combines the ease of use and familiar Windows® Explorer interface of SOLIDWORKS PDM with advanced capabilities that allow teams to manage project timelines and resources, complex business processes, and advanced item management.

SOLIDWORKS Manage takes the place of the separate disconnected tools that an organization might use to manage engineering resources and processes. It is compatible with many existing tools, and works to more efficiently and effectively maintain the integrity of enterprise information.

With SOLIDWORKS Manage, organizations can now plan each stage of a project, assign resources and tasks, and attach required documentation within the same ecosystem used to design. When users complete their tasks, project progress is automatically updated. And, project managers can take advantage of powerful dashboard capabilities to see critical information in a single, easy-to-understand interface.

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Data distribution management offers businesses advantages by encouraging innovation, reducing costs, eliminating errors and redundancies, and speeding time-to-market. And it's easy to adopt and use across the enterprise. SOLIDWORKS Manage has its own UI but also uses Windows® Explorer integration from PDM Professional. SOLIDWORKS Manage's Windows Explorer integration makes accessing and working with file data as simple as browsing a folder.



## WHY IS DISTRIBUTED DATA MANAGEMENT A PREFERRED SYSTEM?

### IT'S A SINGLE SYSTEM TO STORE AND MANAGE DESIGN DATA

For manufacturers using a Product Data Management (PDM) system, it isn't unusual to supplement it with other systems or applications, like Excel, to manage BOMs or project data. This fractured approach is messy and error-prone and can easily result in lost data or specs. SOLIDWORKS Manage addresses this problem by providing a single system that connects file-based product data with more advanced capabilities.

Manufacturers invested in broad Product Life Management (PLM) solutions to help bridge the gap, but have found their investment isn't paying dividends because of the high cost. SOLIDWORKS Manage is an ideal alternative to underutilized PLM systems, because it provides a simplified data management toolset that's easy to implement and use. For current SOLIDWORKS PDM users, the transition to SOLIDWORKS Manage is quick and easy because there are no data migration hassles.



“SOLIDWORKS Manage provides all of the tools and capabilities needed to support the product development process. It combines easy-to-use management with powerful tools to manage projects and change processes.”

### IT'S A BETTER WAY TO REVIEW PROJECT TIMELINES AND RESOURCES

Many companies run time-based projects to develop new products or implement initiatives that take place over many days, weeks, or months. Or they use products like Microsoft® Project, Excel, or Primavera to help manage projects. Since these are separate systems, it is very difficult to associate active design data and provide users with an overall view of the work they need to complete. SOLIDWORKS Manage integrates these separate functions into a single view, making it easier to see what still needs to be done.

### IT CAN CREATE A COMPREHENSIVE AND ACCURATE BILL OF MATERIALS (BOM)

When a BOM is created inside a CAD tool, it may not represent the complete product because elements such as packaging, labels, software, or instructions are very often required for a complete BOM. Some companies use MRP/Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems to build the complete BOM for a product. Others electronically connect PDM or PLM systems to the ERP to push BOM information. In other cases, data is manually entered into the ERP system. With SOLIDWORKS Manage, a complete BOM can be created and edited using CAD and non-CAD file data, along with items that do not have a file associated with them.

## IT HAS EASIER-TO-UNDERSTAND DASHBOARDS AND REPORTING TOOLS

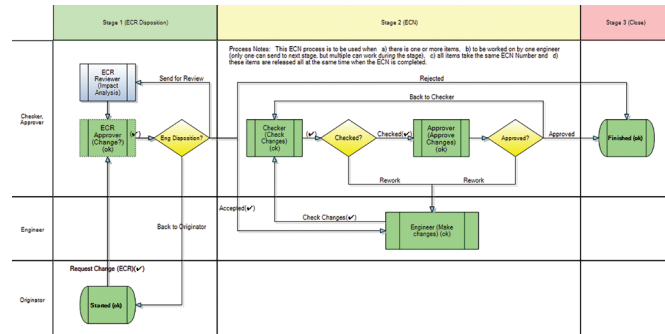
PDM systems, like SOLIDWORKS PDM Professional, often have electronic workflow capabilities, which are mainly focused on document (drawing) approval and engineering changes. Of course, manufacturers may have more complex needs for engineering change requests, orders, and notices that include ad hoc approvers, user tasks, effectivity dates, and external participants. If this is the case, the powerful process management capabilities in SOLIDWORKS Manage may be an answer to time-consuming data gathering. With powerful dashboard and reporting tools built in, SOLIDWORKS Manage can pull data from every aspect of the system and present it in a very easy-to-consume way.

## SMARTER DATA MANAGEMENT

As manufacturers look to stay competitive in the 21st century, new ways to build, manage, and communicate are required. That's where the concept of "Distributed Data Management" comes in. Emphasizing communication and collaboration at all levels, it looks at the bigger picture to streamline processes and improve the movement of information.

One of the easiest ways to start building a distributed data management ecosystem is to incorporate sophisticated yet simple management software. By bringing planning, tracking, and information-sharing onto a single system, SOLIDWORKS Manage is just that, it enables projects conducted both inside and outside of the enterprise to be completed with greater confidence and speed. It's more than just a new tool, it's a smarter way to capture, share and federate data across the entire organization.

Learn more about SOLIDWORKS 2018 and all our Solution Processes by visiting <https://launch.solidworks.com>



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