

Case Study - Dave Asplin

1. What benefits has DesignDataManager brought to your organisation?

Although we have only recently moved to DDM from Pro/INTRALINK 3.1, the benefits of ease of use are already obvious. We have been able to make the information that traditionally was only available via a Pro/ENGINEER seat available to non-Pro/ENGINEER users using DDM Standalone. This is a great asset to the way we work at CFM Europe. The ease of searching has also been a great benefit. To be able to search using part of a number, description or any number of other parameters is saving loads of time. Also with the preview being on the same screen as the description, you can be more confident that you have selected the model you want.

2. What influenced your choice to choose DesignDataManager over alternative PDM systems?

As I have already said, we were currently running Pro/INTRALINK 3.1. For the number of Pro/ENGINEER seats we have (currently 5), Pro/INTRALINK was too complex to use as a true data management tool and was not really cost effective. As a result it had simply become a 'glorified folder'. Due to company expansion we need to be able to get the 'information to the masses' easily. This means user-friendly interfaces, simple but effective interrogation tools and preview abilities. DDM has all this at a fraction of Pro/INTRALINKS costs.

3. Has DesignDataManager directly influenced decreased development timescales at your company?

It's a bit too early for us to say, but if it doesn't I will be very surprised.

4. Could you envisage working without data management? Please expand on this if you wish?

Not really. I can't see why you would want to. As soon as you go past one project the benefits exceed the reasons why not to have data management. The key is to look past the confines of the design office. DDM can put the information into the hands of all the people in the organisation, if you want it to.

5. Please make any additional comments that you feel appropriate regarding DesignDataManager or of the CSI organisation/people.

During the decision process, we had a few concerns, particularly with our legacy data being imported. CSI were always ready to demonstrate the ways through any issues we had. Since going live, we have had a few teething problems, as expected. In every case CSI have come back with the solution within hours. I have found all the staff at CSI very knowledgeable about the product. At last, a company that makes the customer feel valued even after they have paid!!! Also we have just moved to DDM from Pro/INTRALINK and have a lot of legacy data. We had in excess of 1900 AutoCAD drawings that were not stored in Pro/INTRALINK but that we wanted to be controlled by DDM. We used the drag and drop functionality to do this. It was no more complex than moving files from folder to folder within windows. We simply selected the 1900 AutoCAD files, dragged them to DDM and watched them all import into DDM without a problem. It only took about 5 minutes for the 1900 AutoCAD files to be imported.



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