

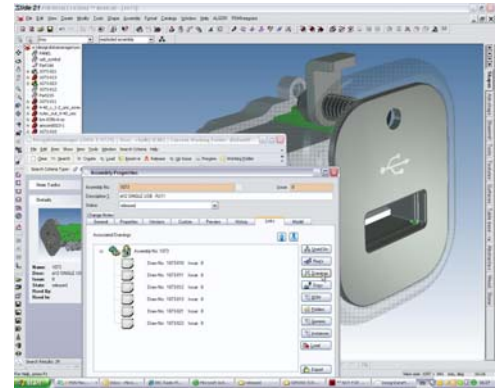
DDM White Paper: The real benefits DesignDataManager brings to the IronCAD User

“Response Associates: IronCAD Partner and Engineering Consultant.” - John Wright.

IronCAD is an exceptional 3D design system providing the most intuitive, design orientated tools available today. It enables Response to service customers as divergent as pro audio suppliers to aircraft passenger interfacing, radiation monitoring to MOD flight simulator control systems. IronCAD provides all the tools necessary to build a coherent design strategy - however, this is limited to the 3D and 2D data produced by IronCAD. At Response, as in any organisation, this data comprises only part of the information associated with any one job. DesignDataManager bridges the gap between pure design related data and all the other project related data in a single, easy to use and manage project control system.

Time: The biggest aspect I can relate to here is the effect on time - time to find a part, time to track where a part is used, time to find that a part is in the process of change. Time to find out why something has been changed - even in a single user environment DDM provides very real time saving benefits. Everything here relates to time - which has to be good as at least things can be quantified against finance then - the bigger the company the easier to justify - surely.

Versions - security of data through the design process: One of the key things for me is being able to rely on DDM to keep a watchful eye on what I am doing with the use of versions. This is something that IronCAD sorely misses - once the file is saved, it's saved and you cannot go back! - and how many times does a designer hear 'can you just go back to ...'



Finding Parts and Assemblies: I no longer have to have data sets in customer folders and name the parts in any way to reflect the state of design that is only meaningful at the time of saving. Using DDM I can very quickly and easily see what my latest revision is. I can use the system to up-issue easily and keep track of issues states - it doesn't matter if they are prototype, pre-production or production - the up-issue and release state manager does its job very well.

Backing up: Everything is in one central storage location; a single backup secures the data, the link data and the part information. And let's face it there is no body of people worse than designers for not securing data, especially on their own machines. A combination of up-issuing and release states ensures that your data is always traceable and secure. Standard file system backups do not detect if a file is deleted or incorrectly overwritten, you only know when you next need it and if you're backup cycle is less than the elapsed time using the file you have a real problem.

BOM - Time and Data Security: IronCAD provides BOM information - however, without manual entry and work arounds, it cannot track process requirements and non drawn parts such as oils, grease, adhesives etc. Furthermore, in IronCAD the user has to go into the part and add supplementary info at the part level - which a lot of people don't do - or can't be bothered too. The standard IronCAD BOM does not present issue info or anything like that - it doesn't track if the assembly is using out of phase parts or anything.

File Locking, release status: IronCAD provides a simple level of file locking - or should I say Microsoft does. If the file is open on another machine, IronCAD will report that the file is in use by another user or application. It has no way of locking the file to another user and reporting that some action is being taken - so the user has to guess where and who is working on the part.

Up-Issue - time and traceability: IronCAD has no way of up-issuing a part or assembly or the associated drawing, knowledge of the drawing or part relationships is required. You can get to the part from the drawing but not the other way round (if you forgot what you called the drawing you're going to struggle). The DDM latest issue function is really very good and gives excellent control and clear traceability to the whole system.

Conclusion: Absolutely brilliant tool, easy to use, easy to manage and I should use it for everything! DDM adds essential control to not only IronCAD data, but all project based data enabling me to manage designs and associated documentation easily and, due to its simplicity and low cost, the financial overhead of using DDM is negligible. Our next step - as our design customers and support customers are spread across the globe, we will shortly implement DDM Web so that our customers can reap the benefits of our DesignDataManager implementation