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1. What benefits has DDM brought to your organisation?

Prior to the implementation of DDM, DCA did not have an automated PDM solution. We relied upon our own internally generated system based on a customised filing structure created within Windows Explorer and a series of computer spreadsheets, drawing records and registers. Although this approach worked well, it did require a degree of self-discipline and the overhead of continual maintenance through manual intervention. DDM has provided us with a cost effective means of storing all CAD data, both SOLIDWORKS® and Creo Parametric® in one central location. Data is accessible through an intuitive interface, providing part numbers, descriptions and a range of functionality not otherwise available within a standard Windows filing system. DDM has also proved invaluable as a marketing tool with our clients, who are keen to know how we store and control our data. <http://www.dca-design.com>



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

DDM was chosen as a cost effective and efficient means of managing both Solidworks and Pro/ENGINEER CAD data. A PDM tool was required that would integrate into our existing design process and allow concurrent working practices, whilst preventing users from editing the same object simultaneously. DDM enables us to achieve this. Furthermore, DDM has the functionality to implement issue control on our CAD data providing a means of tracking an objects history throughout the design process.

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

Inevitably we have experienced a slight overhead when creating and storing new data to the database. However, this has more than compensated for the significant reduction in the time spent searching for data on our system. The system has provided us with improved handling of large assemblies and an efficient means of issue control within a CAD environment. The positive time savings associated with improved team working and data access increase dramatically as project size and complexity grows.

4. Could you envisage working without Data management?

I certainly could not see us without a data management tool such as DDM, especially as we continue to work with large assembly models. In this area we are finding that DDM is coming into its own as an efficient means of managing and working with CAD data within a large project team.

5. Please make additional comments that you feel appropriate regarding DDM or of the CSI organisation/people. Please expand on the quality of the support you have received from CSI.

We have found DDM software easy to implement, administer and use. The technical support is second to none. The CSI team are friendly and helpful, support calls are normally responded to within an hour. The CSI team are also open to enhancement requests for their product and compared to other software manufacturers we deal with, are responsive in actioning these within a relatively short period of time.

About DCA

Founded in 1958 and with over 46 years of creativity and design and development practice, DCA is one of Europe's leading product design consultancies with an expert design team, working with market leaders and progressive companies across the world. Our 70 strong team of multidisciplinary design specialists work closely with clients and end users, in a range of markets, applying exceptional skills and robust processes to deliver outstanding results from research, creative design, detailed development and industrialisation.