Tech-Clarity

Practical CAD Collaboration
for Small Design and Engineering Firms

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*This is an abbreviated version. A link to download the full eBook is available on the Tech-Clarity website, **www.tech-clarity.com**.

If you have difficulty obtaining a copy of the report, please contact the author at **jim.brown@tech-clarity.com**.

Can Small Engineering and Design Firms Afford CAD Collaboration?

Small design firms, freelancers, engineering consultants, and independent contractors play an important role in the engineering and design community. They're part of our more collaborative world where ad-hoc teams come together as needed to staff up projects.

These small firms need to iterate and collaborate when their virtual teams come together for a project or contract. They have to share files and get feedback from their customers, other engineers, and their own teams.

Smaller firms compete through agility and productivity, though, and **can't afford the time, cost, and overhead of a "big" data management solution**. But, they need CAD collaboration basics to efficiently share designs, get feedback, and prevent errors.

Can cloud tools help? Yes and no. Read on…

"I've worked in major corporations with completely over the top documentation, but now I just need a lightweight way to get revision control and let the people I work for see the CAD."

Zack Monninger, Owner, Zalaco, LLC

"A simplified, cloud-based CAD data management approach can provide important benefits with significantly reduced investment."
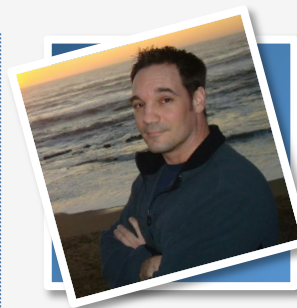
The Basics of Managing CAD

CAD-Centric Collaboration in the Cloud

"Because our cloud CAD collaboration tool is so inexpensive and easy to join, I don't have any question about asking a client to sign up. Even my least tech-savvy customers can just follow the link and start using it."

Adam O'Hern, Designer, Mechanical Color

Cloud-based CAD collaboration tools can provide the best of both worlds for smaller firms. They offer the basic Control – Access - Share features you need with the ease of use of personal file sharing tools. Look for low-cost (or even free) tools to engage customers and partners around CAD files save time, get better feedback, eliminates errors, and reduce risk. Don't settle for tools built for different uses or other people.

"Our cloud CAD collaboration tool let's us revise real time, lock files, and markup easily. It allows real-time collaboration. And it's low overhead. For someone like me, that's the key. I can't afford the baggage."

Paul Hammerstrom, Owner, Paul Hammerstrom Design

"Consider cloud-based solutions that combine the ease of use, reduced risk, low cost, and reduced need for resources but are designed with CAD data management in mind."

The Basics of Managing CAD

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About the Author

Jim Brown is the President of Tech-Clarity, an independent research and consulting firm that specializes in analyzing the business value of software technology and services. Jim has over 20 years of experience in software for the manufacturing industries. He has a broad background including roles in industry, management consulting, the software industry, and research.

Jim's experience spans enterprise applications including PLM, ERP, quality management, service lifecycle management, manufacturing, supply chain management, and more. Jim is passionate about improving product innovation, product development, and engineering performance through the use of software technology.

Jim is an experienced researcher, author, and public speaker and enjoys the opportunity to speak at conferences or anywhere he can engage with people with a passion to improve business performance through software technology.

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