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The Demise of SolidWorks

Many of you may have had to deal with the cultural pressures of what design tool to use when deciding between Product Design Suite (Inventor) or SolidWorks...well that decision may have just become much easier to make with the decision of Dassault Systemes to cap the development of SolidWorks. Thus signaling an end of life as it goes for software products.

One sure thing to count on is Autodesk's strength and commitment to continue developing the fullest set of manufacturing and design tools.

If this is the first you have heard of the news, here are links to SolidWorks blogs that will help explain.

[Bernard Charles, CEO of Dassault, regarding SolidWorks: "We're Going To Drop Parasolid"](#)

[SolidWorks Clarification: "We Don't Have A Plan"](#)

SolidWorks Mechanical Conceptual (CATIA Lite) is a downgrade in functionality:

- Subset of CATIA V6 design functionality
- CGM kernel (V6 architecture)
- Direct modeling/editing
- Database (Not File) structure - requires ENOVIA for PDM/PLM
- Cloud delivery and cloud storage
- Leaves SolidWorks EPDM and Simulation behind
- Transition from SolidWorks partner program
- Will require migrating from SolidWorks current generation
- Substantial cost increases(Announced at SolidWorks World)

If you feel the need to discuss it further, feel free to call us.

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Workflow Automation Series - Continual Process Improvement

Do you pay for manual effort to translate engineering design work into other forms? Other forms like PDF, DXF, SAT, Excel, ERP Data, Work Orders, etc? If so, D3's Robotic Services (we call them Bots) run in the background to eliminate that manual effort and disband your company's Department of Repetition Department.

What's required:

- Vault Workgroup or higher, can vary based on Bot feature
- An available seat of that Vault license and a CAD seat
- Access to the internet

What you get for a monthly or annual fee:

A locally installed toolset that crunches out your operations. Periodically it will reach out to check for current license status and updates. Turn it off when you like or add features when you need.



SUMMARY

What used to take days with many manual touches, now can happen in a few minutes with the click of a button.

D3 Technologies embraces a very simple but structured approach to help companies evaluate where they are and where they need to be. We then craft a solution path that allows you to incrementally tap into the benefits to be had. Let us know if you are looking at process improvements and have an interest to invite a partner in to help provide a 3rd party perspective. Take the opportunity to pick our brains on what is working best for others facing similar challenges.

[Contact Us](#) if you would like more information.

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The Struggles with Product Development: #2 of A Multi-Part Series

Recently, we partnered with Accuer to bring their product (Relay) to our clients. It consists of a very powerful communication tool (a dashboard) and is backed up by a methodology that is breathing new life into the hopes of what is possible for reducing cycle times. Specifically, it is turning the traditional approach to cycle times UPSIDE-down and causing many to rethink what they held to be true. Not surprisingly, your current beliefs are your biggest obstacle for this to work for you.

In our December issue we dove into the economics of **Life Cycle Profits** and the **Cost of Delays**. We also raised the concern of the effect of a Stage Gate, if you don't measure its economical impact. This issue we will cover **Phased Requirements**.

Queues: Do you manage your product development queues effectively? Most do not even realize that they have queues and are limited to just the information plotted in MS Project vs. a tool like Relay that behaves like a Project Dashboard. Added visibility will help to speed up your **Feedback Loops**.

The problem of being blind to queues begins when you fail to recognize **Design in Process (DIP) as inventory**. This occurs because it is not visible or tangible like normal inventory and in every manner is ignored. DIP can increase variability, risk and cycle time and decrease efficiency, quality and motivation. So, how big are your queues? What is the cost of these queues?

Without knowing the true **Cost of Delay**, queues appear to be free and therefore unworthy of attention...a costly mistake that you can remove.

Next issue we will cover **Risk** as it relates to **Early Learning** and **Variability**.

D3 Technologies embraces a very simple but structured approach to help companies evaluate where they are and where they need to be. We then craft a solution path that allows you to incrementally tap into the benefits to be had. Let us know if you are looking at process improvements and have an interest to invite a partner in to help provide a 3rd party perspective. Take the opportunity to pick our brains on what is working best for others facing similar challenges.

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Tech Tip: Upgrading to the Latest Autodesk Software Release

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Time has come around again when the latest edition of your Autodesk software is released and you are ready to upgrade. In order to upgrade, you must first download the software. This can be a daunting task due to the time it takes to download the large files. Here are a few tips that will make the download process go a lot smoother.

[Click Here](#) to download the PDF tutor



Position at D3:

Aaron has been with D3 since late February performing a wide range of marketing activities and is looking forward to bringing his skill set to drive the company's marketing success.

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Employee Spotlight: Daryl Price

Meet Daryl Price, Sales and Marketing Director at D3. Daryl works at D3's Springfield, MO office and has been with us since 2006.



[Click Here](#) to learn more about Daryl and read the interview.

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Introducing the New ProJet 3510 Series 3D Printers

Continuing our advancements and innovation, we announced earlier that the new improvements and new look recently introduced in the ProJet 3500 HDMAX and CPXMAX 3D Printers have been implemented across the entire ProJet 3500 printer family. These printers provide new levels of performance with revolutionary ease-of-use, greater utility and enhanced reliability that was previously introduced in the Max models. These new printers are now in production and available for immediate shipment.



Watch this short [video](#) to see some of the capabilities of the ProJet 3510 Series' Professional 3D Printer.

For more details, please contact [Barbara Miller-Webb](#).

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Global Field Promotion "Level Up II"

We are pleased to announce the Global Field Promotion (GFP), which is focused on the latest Autodesk Design & Creation Suites. Customers have the opportunity to move into a higher level suite, or a current M&E product and receive:

- 20% off upgrade SRP from all previous releases (0-6x) to all Autodesk Design & Creation Suites with Subscription (10% off without Subscription)
- 15% off upgrade SRP from all previous releases (0-6x) to Autodesk 3ds Max 2014, Autodesk® 3ds Max Design 2014, Autodesk Maya 2014, and Autodesk® Softimage® 2014 with Subscription (5% off without Subscription)

See the "Level Up II" Promotion's [Terms & Conditions](#) document to help determine whether your software qualifies for this promotion. If you have any questions about the Global Field Promotion or the Autodesk pricing policy changes, please [contact](#) your local D3 representative.

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Autodesk Financing: Take it to the Next Level

For a limited time, customers can benefit from low financing rates of 2.5% for 24 months or 3.5% for 36 months on all Autodesk software. Taking advantage of this offer will enable customers to:

- Keep up with the latest Autodesk software without disrupting cash flow

- Increase software purchasing power with no money down
- Meet anticipated growth needs with minimal increase in monthly payments

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS

The financing offer is valid from May 7, 2013, through July 25, 2013, or until \$8 million in funding is allocated (whichever occurs first) as determined by Autodesk. This promotion is valid in the 50 United States and Canada only, and is subject to approval by one of the identified financing partners; void where prohibited or restricted by law.

See the "Take it to the Next Level" Promotion's [Terms & Conditions](#) document to help determine whether your software qualifies for this promotion. If you have any questions about financing your software, Autodesk promotions, or the Autodesk pricing policy changes, please [contact](#) your local D3 representative.

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AutoCAD LT Instant Rebate

Save now on the professional choice in drafting and detailing software. For a limited time, you can save \$200 instantly upon purchase of a new seat license of AutoCAD LT® 2014 software.

You can also receive a 30% instant rebate off upgrades from current and previous releases (0-6x) to AutoCAD LT or AutoCAD Inventor LT Suite.

Why wait any longer? There's never been a better time to get the latest release and stay competitive. But act soon, this offer expires July 25, 2013.

See the "AutoCAD LT Instant Rebate" Promotion's [Terms & Conditions](#) document to help determine whether your software qualifies for this promotion. If you have any questions about the the rebate, Autodesk promotions, or the Autodesk pricing policy changes, please [contact](#) your local D3 representative.

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Upcoming AMUG Meetings

D3 will host AMUG meetings on **June 20th** in both our Wichita and Kansas City locations. AMUG meetings are an opportunity to network with your fellow Autodesk software users and pick up tips and tricks of the trade.

If you'd like to see photos from past AMUG meetings, visit our [Flickr](#) page.



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About D3 TECHNOLOGIES

D3 TECHNOLOGIES is an engineering & design technology consulting firm that provides solutions to increase engineering efficiency in the manufacturing, plant, and process industries. D3 is an Autodesk Gold partner and maintains training centers at each of its locations. Our goal is to provide clients with high quality service so they may receive an improved return on their investment.

If you would like to know more about us, please visit our website:
<http://www.d3tech.net>



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