



# CONTACT WORKSPACES

Products

## A new reference for CAD data management and collaborative product development

Engineers rely on flexibility and teamwork in product development, while companies rely on reliable data and coordinated processes. Workspaces and Workspace Manager are the perfect tools for these requirements, enabling development teams to work together more quickly and in a coordinated and self-organised manner. At the same time, they also provide the company, its partners and vendors with current and complete development data and documents at any time, directly from the development process. CONTACT Workspaces provides high-performance multi-CAD data management and connects authoring systems seamlessly with the PDM and ERP backbone of the company.

Workspaces increase our capacity for innovation during product development. We can now process our CAD data locally and much faster. This, and the transparency that Workspace Manager provides allow our engineers to concentrate on the most important aspect of their work: innovation.

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## Open architecture

Workspaces are the new benchmark for CAD data management and collaborative product development. For the first time, designers and CAD developers now have access to a tool that perfectly combines self-organisation, teamwork and integration in the development process.

At the same time, the open architecture provides outstanding functionality, enabling cross-company cooperation with partners and suppliers. For companies with value creation spread along the entire engineering supply chain, this software is the key to simple and smooth exchange of product data.

Workspaces do away with the conventional approach of centrally-organised ERP and PLM systems, where the user is subordinated to the system and restricted to data input and predefined processes. Workspaces envisage product development as „Work in Progress“ and combine creativity with integrity of data and processes.

## Workspaces: universal product data containers

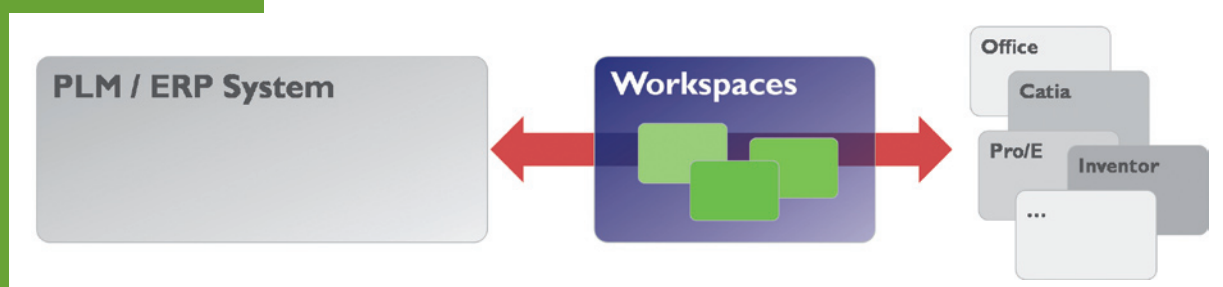
Workspaces are clearly-structured containers for product data that developers and teams can setup quickly and easily according to their own requirements. A single workspace reflects and structures the often complex product data from design spaces, large CAD assemblies and Office documents, making it easier for users to maintain an overview.

Users can create and use as many workspaces as they like in order to distinguish between customers, products, projects, variants or other characteristics, so they can always work in a dedicated personal context.

As a universal container format connected to an electronic table of contents, workspaces are perfectly suited for synchronisation of product data within a team, as well as for continuous product data exchange with partners and vendors.

## Workspace Manager: developer's cockpit

Workspace Manager is the ideal tool and cockpit for organising workspaces and workspace content while also keeping them up-to-date at all times. One example is the Snapshot functionality: at the press of a button, the user can freeze the current status of a workspace, making it possible to document situations such as the exchange of an assembly with a supplier. This documentation can then be used for comparison at a later date when commissioned modifications flow back through the system. The open architecture of Workspace Manager means that new functions such as the automatic creation of mirror-symmetrical parts can easily be integrated via a defined interface using plug-ins.



## CAD and multi-CAD data management

Workspace Manager integrates leading CAD systems such as Catia, NX, Inventor, Pro/E etc. and takes on the tasks of CAD data management. The specific characteristics of each CAD system are reflected in its interface. This means that, especially in multi-CAD environments, companies benefit from a uniform interface, less time and money spent on training, and function expansions that take immediate effect throughout the application. Users of a specific CAD system benefit from the ability to expand the product view in their workspace with Office documents, product structures, etc.

Major advantages are

- *CAD integration:* Comprehensive interface to leading CAD systems.
- *PLM and ERP integration:* Direct CAD interface to the PLM and ERP system.
- *Work in progress:* Create and manage ideas, alternatives and iterations with minimum overheads.
- *Greater transparency:* Seamless representation of the Delta in the data stock as against that of the team and the company.
- *Offline support:* Supports scenarios such as on-site engineering in plant construction or working „on the go“.

## Teamwork with Shared Workspaces

Product development is teamwork. Starting points might include, for example, pre-defined requirements and specifications, an existing solution which requires modification or an installation space as a geometry context. Shared Workspaces is a solution that radically simplifies the management of such shared working contexts.

Major advantages are

- *Shared work context:* Shared Workspace as a blueprint for your own workspace. Automatic synchronisation of local changes and changes to the central Shared Workspace in the entire team.
- *Concurrent engineering:* Reservation of models and documents is visible to all. No „accidental“ changes. Optimistic and pessimistic blocking procedures.
- *Merge:* Clear representation of change conflicts and synchronisation functions.



## Data exchange: Complex easily synchronised

Globally distributed development cooperation is one of the greatest challenges to companies today. This applies increasingly to joint projects with customers, vendors and partners. The perceived ideal solution where everybody works in the same, central system actually requires rigid, inflexible processes and standards, preventing partners from cooperating at the same level.

Workspaces takes a different approach. Companies can use Workspaces to reflect their own requirements: as a simple content container, in conjunction with Workspace Manager, or linked with their own PLM and ERP system. Cooperation with other companies quite simply entails synchronisation of Workspace content.

Major advantages are

- *Suitable architecture:* Depending on requirements and the existing IT infrastructure exchange via e-mail, EDI, peer-to-peer networks, a portal or an SOA Access Point of the central PLM backbone.
- *Automatic import:* Assisted and automatic import process. Very simple operation, even with very large assemblies.
- *Delta update:* Identifies already-known models and new versions.
- *Assembly comparison:* Precise history of assemblies or installation spaces. Identifies new, deleted and replaced components and shows modified situation information for components.
- *OEM filter:* Supports OEM-specific processes such as, for example, VW/DAVOS, KVS etc., in the automatic handling of model packages and file naming conventions.

## Solutions for collaborative product development

CONTACT Software is one of the leading providers of solutions for collaborative product development. Our customers include many well-known companies and market leaders in the areas of mechanical and industrial plant engineering, the automotive industry, operators of public infrastructures as well as high-tech industries such as medical technology and aerospace.



The core of the product portfolio consists of the following solutions:

- **CIM DATABASE** for product data and product lifecycle management (PDM/PLM),
- **CONTACT Project Office** for 360° project management of product development projects
- **CONTACT Workspaces** for CAD data management and collaborative product development.

CONTACT supports customers in designing and implementing installations, as well as in replacing previous systems and extending existing installations to meet growing requirements. Hundreds of customer projects, many years of industry and process experience, as well as excellent employees are the basis for our excellent and competent services, resulting in excellent references from our customers.

As a single-source provider, CONTACT supplies one-stop, complete solutions consisting of carefully-tailored consulting, implementation and technology.

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