

Selecting the Right Data Management Solution

Choosing the best data management solution depends on your team's size and the specific functionalities required to support your business processes. At CAD Micro, we offer a wide range of customizable options and the expertise to help you make the right choice. Whether you need simple revision control, process automation, or advanced project management capabilities, we have a solution tailored to you.

Here's a brief overview to help you find the perfect fit:

SOLIDWORKS PDM STANDARD

- Ideal for small teams, SOLIDWORKS PDM Standard is included with every license of SOLIDWORKS Professional or Premium on subscription. It provides essential tools for data security, revision control, and easy reuse of design data.

SOLIDWORKS PDM PROFESSIONAL

- Designed for larger teams handling vast amounts of data, SOLIDWORKS PDM Professional offers a customizable and robust toolset. It includes advanced features like workflow design, automation, remote access, and more, making it a significant upgrade from PDM Standard.

SOLIDWORKS MANAGE

- For teams requiring extensive project management capabilities, SOLIDWORKS Manage adds powerful features to your existing PDM environment. This solution builds on SOLIDWORKS PDM Professional by incorporating project management, process management, item management, user tasks, dashboards, and reports.



**SOLIDWORKS CLOUD SERVICES
(3DEXPERIENCE PDM)**

- For those who prefer not to manage a PDM system on their own, the “Cloud Services” suite, which is included with the new SOLIDWORKS 3D CAD licenses, offers a cloud-based alternative via the 3DEXPERIENCE Platform. These integrated tools handle everything from CAD sharing and markup to cloud storage and comprehensive change management, without the need for in-house PDM maintenance.

The Pros and Cons

SOLIDWORKS PDM STANDARD

PROS

- Included with SOLIDWORKS Professional and Premium
- User-friendly with Windows Explorer integration
- Seamlessly integrates with SOLIDWORKS
- Easy upgrade path to PDM Professional

CONS

- Limited to one workflow with 10 states
- No replication for remote offices
- Lacks active directory login integration
- No API for external integration
- Limited scalability (relies on SQL Server Express)
- Requires a physical server, on-premise or via a third party

SOLIDWORKS PDM PROFESSIONAL

PROS

- Compatible with most major CAD programs
- Unlimited workflows and customization options
- Documented API for extensive system integration
- Supports archive and database replication for remote offices

CONS

- Document-centric rather than item-centric
- Requires a separate Microsoft SQL Server Standard (or higher) license
- Needs a physical server, either on-premise or through a third party



SOLIDWORKS MANAGE

PROS

- Item-centric data management
- Includes process and project management features
- Provides detailed reports and custom dashboards
- Supports multiple bill of material variations
- Integrates with PDM Professional for comprehensive document and data management

CONS

- Requires a separate Microsoft SQL Server Standard (or higher) license
- Hosted on a physical server, either on-premise or by a third party
- Steeper learning curve compared to PDM Professional due to added features

3DEXPERIENCE PLATFORM

PROS

- Minimal setup needed
- Cloud-hosted
- No client-side installation required
- Accessible from any internet-connected device
- Integrates with SOLIDWORKS and Microsoft Office

CONS

- No workflow customization available
- Dependent on an internet connection
- No integration with ERP systems
- Limited configurability
- Supports revisions only, not versions



What License Type(s) Fit Your Company Needs?

SOLIDWORKS PDM and Manage offer three license levels to fit various user roles. This allows you to allocate access appropriately, ensuring that users who only need to view data aren't using licenses that your designers require, which helps reduce licensing costs.

SOLIDWORKS PDM VIEWER

- Basic license for viewing, reading, and printing files from the PDM vault.

SOLIDWORKS PDM CONTRIBUTOR

- Adds the ability to check files in/out, use the web client, and work with all file types.

SOLIDWORKS PDM CAD EDITOR

- Includes Viewer and Contributor features, plus access to PDM within SOLIDWORKS CAD.

SOLIDWORKS MANAGE VIEWER

- Allows viewing, searching, and printing within Manage, covering documents, data, dashboards, BOMs, and more.

SOLIDWORKS MANAGE CONTRIBUTOR

- Builds on viewer capabilities, adding management of processes, tasks, workflows, and non-CAD data.

SOLIDWORKS MANAGE CAD EDITOR

- Grants full access to all areas of SOLIDWORKS Manage, including CAD data creation and editing.

Have Questions about SOLIDWORKS Data Management Solutions?

Contact us today to get in touch with one of our SOLIDWORKS experts.

[CONTACT US NOW](#)

