THE SOLUTION

EXALEAD OnePart is a business discovery application that accelerates reuse of parts, designs, specifications, standards, test results, costing, manufacturing instructions, inspection checklists, and related documentation—helping manufactures gain rapid visibility into information hidden anywhere inside the organization.

Let’s look at an example of a manufacturing director.
MY ROLE
I am a manufacturing director at a leading supplier of industrial machinery and machine tools where my primary responsibility is on-time and on-budget production of customer orders. I oversee teams involved in production planning, manufacturing execution, and production control, including routing, workflow, and shop floor activities. I am called upon to help identify replacement parts needed in production and to work with Engineering and Purchasing to estimate and quote new jobs and production materials.

My company designs and manufactures a wide range of machine tools (for cutting, milling, shaving, grinding) and produces specialized molds used to create standard parts found in thousands of different industrial equipment product lines. A very important customer urgently needs to replace a mold we sold them in order to produce parts for a large job they recently received.

MY GOALS
One solution to capture, visualize, and reuse latent data and knowledge located in various systems spread around the enterprise is vital for:

- Quickly locating and reusing all design data and documentation related to this mold and building it rapidly for the customer. Many of our molds were created by different teams, using multiple CAD formats with information stored in a variety of locations.
- Comparing designs to decide what could be substituted and reused to keep production running on schedule. A substantial percentage of the tools, molds, and parts we make are similar in design.
- Accurately identifying and reusing IP based on the 3D model, related metadata, and associated documentation.
- Reusing process plans, routing sheets, fixtures, jigs, and tooling information efficiently.

MY OPTIONS
- More back and forth requests to Engineering for early visibility on new data: Inefficient approach that doesn’t address the real issue of the need for greater data transparency
- Create substitute tools and molds from scratch: While a new design might be made quickly, it leads to costly and time-consuming work downstream, and could introduce quality risks and delays
- Search company files for all production information needed (CAD, PLM, PDM, MES, ERP systems...). Searching these systems individually could yield what I’m looking for, but they’re not all easily accessible and I’d need to search each one for all files related to the part or process
- Contact other colleagues: It is unlikely that my colleagues know exactly where to find a similar part or process material; they may have been hired after the part was produced, or may have retired from the company

WHAT I REALLY NEED
One high-performing solution to access any 3D model, 2D drawing, process documentation, tooling designs, NC programs, inspection reports, quality certifications, ERP (part costing and supplier data), and all downstream information used to make a part or configure a process.

ONEPART CAN HELP MY COMPANY:
- Proactively unlock and reuse legacy IP knowledge
- Achieve on-time and on-budget production objectives
- Decrease production line shutdowns by locating substitute parts
- Drive process simplification, standardization, and more best practices
- Facilitate collaboration between Manufacturing, Engineering and Procurement
- Boost competitiveness and continuous improvement

HOW IT MAKES MY JOB BETTER
- Less time searching, more time leading
- Dramatic increase in productivity and efficiency
- Dynamic faceted navigation to mine data my way (e.g. via material, mechanical feature)
- Side-by-side comparison of tools, molds, or parts speeds reuse decisions
- Match manufacturing and assembly documentation with a reusable part
- Social tagging of master or obsolete parts for cross-functional collaboration

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