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 to the automotive industry where my primary responsibility is automotive parts manufacturing and raw material processing. I oversee production planning, manufacturing execution, and production control (including routing, workflow, and shop floor activities). I work on a number of different programs concurrently, and operate between several facilities ensuring production targets are achieved. 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 products, specializing in high-volume standard parts (gears, bearings, springs, ball joints, clamps, brackets, hoses, handles, etc.) used throughout an automobile. The company manufactures parts using many different materials depending on requirements, and utilizes a variety of cutting, milling, shaving, and grinding tools. Because the company is experiencing solid business growth with many new orders, leveraging our lean production methods and driving more usage of standardized common parts are crucial to successfully delivering orders and keeping profit margins high.

MY GOALS

One solution to capture and reuse latent data and knowledge located in various systems spread around the enterprise would be extremely useful for:

- Gaining early visibility into engineering data on parts we build.
- Accurately identifying and reusing substitute parts for production based on the 3D model, related data, and associated documentation.
- Locating and reusing similar process plans, routing sheets, and associated tooling/fixture information quickly and efficiently.
- To help bring newly designed parts into production faster, while identifying ways to simplify manufacturing and assembly of parts.

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 parts 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 (CRD, 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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