



## Where Did The Time Go?

### *The 3 Most Frustrating Time Wasters in CAD Collaboration and How Your Product Design Team Can Overcome Them*

Managing an engineering team is more complicated than ever. You're dealing with distributed teams, changing technologies, demanding customers, stricter quality requirements and global supply chains – and your team is being asked to complete projects faster and faster. You need to get the right product design, built and shipped, on time and under budget.

So here's a stunning statistic: **75% of manufacturers** say they have wasted time making a prototype or a doing a production run of **the wrong version of a CAD file**.

This isn't the only surprising time waster. We surveyed our community of engineers and designers and found that managing and sharing CAD files are enormous time wasters for teams everywhere.

#### **It's not just you.**

Here are the biggest culprits:

### The 3 Most Frustrating Time Wasters in CAD Collaboration

1. Taking screenshots for non-CAD users.
2. Reconciling multiple versions of designs.
3. Project or sale delays waiting for IT to set up an FTP site.

Do any of these sound familiar?

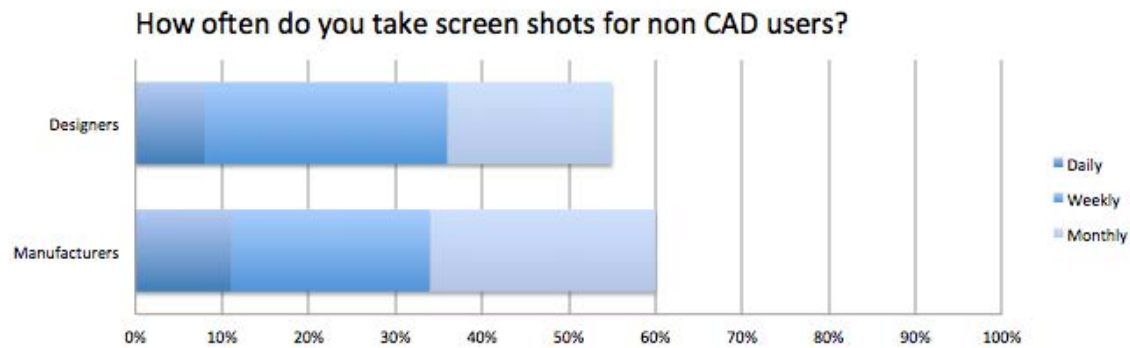
### Survey Results: Where Does The Time Go?

The [pains of CAD collaboration](#) are easy to find in user forums and everyday conversations with colleagues, but we wanted to gather some quantitative data on these frustrations. While CAD tools themselves have come a long way in the past 30 years, there have been few substantial advances in managing CAD files.

Inexplicably, highly-paid engineers are wasting time sharing low quality images of files and are accidentally duplicating each other's work. The inefficiencies of internal and external collaboration remain an ongoing challenge in product design.

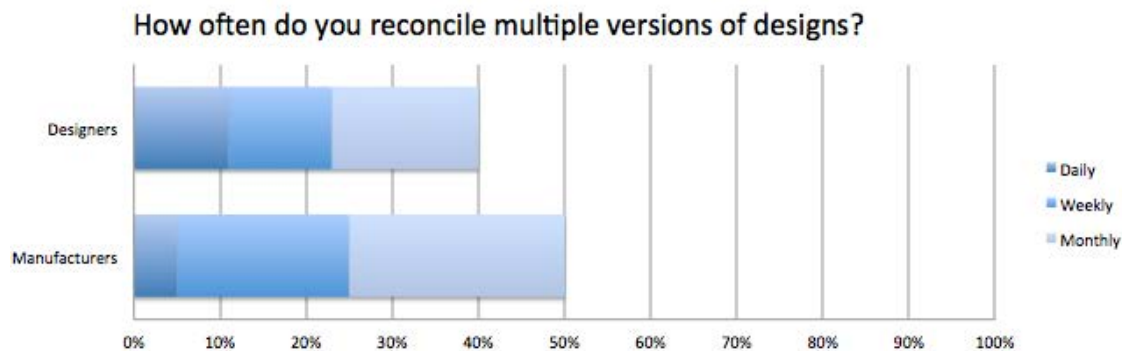
Here are the top three time sucks our users identified:

## #1. Helping non-CAD users



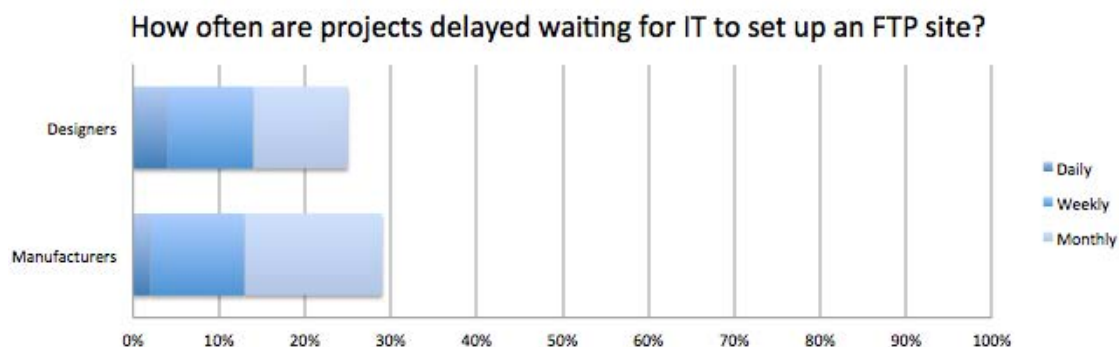
Products are the heart and soul of a manufacturing company, which means that everyone from sales to marketing to customer support needs access to high quality images of products. And since generally only engineers have access to CAD models, this means asking the engineers to take screenshots and send them around.

## #2. Fighting with versions



As soon as you have more than one engineer, you have more than one person making changes to CAD files, which means version conflict. Engineers hate the time they spend trying to sort out who made what change to which version - that's time they're not designing great products.

## #3. Waiting for IT



If your organization uses FTP sites to share data with partners, then your engineers know the joy of waiting for IT to set up / configure / change permissions / fix the FTP site.

## Other fun time wasters

In addition to the three activities listed above, respondents revealed that:

- **88%** have done rework on a product design because a client didn't give feedback early enough in the process.
- **80%** spend time every month trying to reconcile two versions of the same design after someone else unexpectedly made changes.
- **73%** of designers have had frustrated clients who couldn't stay up-to-date on their design because they don't have CAD.
- **71%** of engineers and designers have spent time working on a model while unaware that someone else recently made changes.
- **39%** of manufacturers report missing delivery dates every month because they are waiting for a supplier to confirm a drawing.

## Reallocate your time to what matters most

If you're experiencing CAD collaboration roadblocks, you're hardly alone.

Imagine what your team could deliver if you were spending time on productive tasks rather than workarounds and needlessly duplicated work. What would you do with all that time (and money) saved?

You could hire new talent, pick up another client, or add that extra finish to a project.

So how do you get rid of these annoying time wasters?

### **You need a PDM tool that works the way you do**

Traditionally, companies have purchased Product Data Management (PDM) or Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) systems to enable multiple engineers to work together on the same files without tripping over each other.

Both systems offer strong file locking, version control and search capabilities, while PLM includes additional flexible workflow tools that allow you to track document approvals throughout your organization.

However, traditional PDM and PLM software have two significant weaknesses:

1. Cost of Ownership – PDM and PLM are typically expensive, with high upfront license fees and ongoing maintenance costs that put them out of reach for many mid-size companies.
2. Lack of Support for Collaboration – Traditional file management tools don't match the way engineers work today. Design teams are constantly sharing CAD files with internal and external partners -- many of whom don't have CAD systems for viewing.

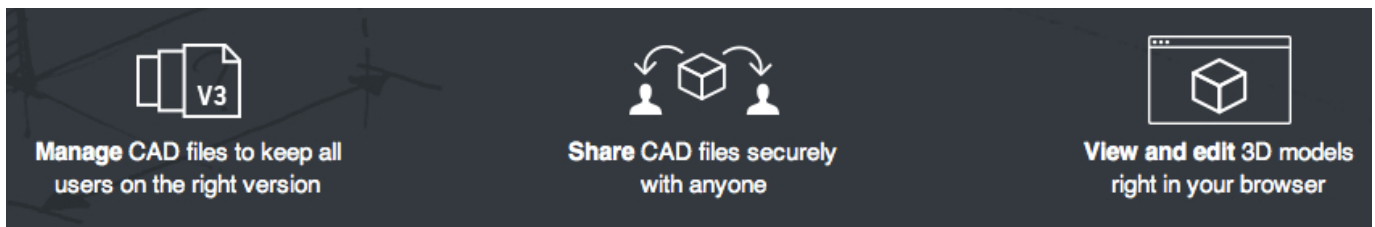
These reasons may explain why more than 60% of engineers today are not using PDM or PLM.

## You need cloud-based PDM

Cloud-based PDM is a new breed of solution that addresses the major CAD collaboration pains experienced by engineers and designers. The SaaS approach provides a seamless way for internal and external project contributors to manage, share and view CAD files.

Some reasons you might consider cloud-based PDM to improve your workflow:

- It works how you work – A solution shouldn't require you to move all your files or change your daily process.
- It doesn't create extra work - CAD file management doesn't require filling out a form to accomplish daily tasks. When an engineer opens a file, others will know not to work on it.
- It makes secure sharing easy – Engineers often need to share CAD with non-engineers, inside and outside their company firewall.
- It's more cost effective – The upfront expense and ongoing IT requirements for traditional PDM and PLM systems make them unsuitable for many companies.



[Workbench](#) is the cloud-based PDM solution from GrabCAD.

You can [try it for free](#) and experience a rather desirable problem:

**What will YOU do with all that extra time?**