



## Enabling Application Lifecycle Management as part of your PLM Journey

As we venture further into 2020 and we figure out how to get a handle on COVID-19, we always need to keep our family and friends top of mind. Once we have this unimaginable and horrific attack on human life understood and starting to retreat, we need to start thinking about what's next for our organization. How do we get ahead of our competition? What can we do to get our new product to market faster? With better quality? These and other questions will need to be answered.

One thing is for certain, we need to ensure our products become platforms. Platforms that can bring continuous and enhanced capabilities quickly and efficiently. As we rationalize through this thought process, it quickly becomes apparent that to be able to make this a reality, our company's product hardware needs to become our product platform. The product's software enables us to frequently and quickly enhance our product's capabilities.

To do this we need to create our company's innovation and product development systems environment that meshes both the hardware and software development process into a single configured product information asset. To achieve this, we will need to integrate a company's Application Lifecycle Management (ALM) process and data with the Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) process and data.

These environments, processes and data need to be integrated around the product's configured Bill of Material.

The work that needs to be performed is in **three** main areas.

### 1. Integrated Bill of Material (BOM)

The company's Bill of Material needs to be architected to include all hardware and software components and part numbers. This includes the need to integrate both, hardware and software components, into the product release process and released product configuration.

### 2. Development Process Integration within the Innovation/Product Development Systems Environment

Both the ALM and PLM systems need to convey the "context" of the information they are providing. What this means is that your development process needs to be embedded within your ALM and PLM systems. For example if within your development process you have "Concept", "Design" and "Validation" phases, ensure you have these release processes so that anyone that creates, views and utilized this data will be able to understand the information's maturity and context. This is key to driving information clarity and process efficiency.

### 3. Integration of a full Software Development Lifecycle (SDLC) within your ALM environment

**ALM** needs to include your company's full software development lifecycle, inclusive of development, governance, maintenance and decommissioning of software. Your ALM system environment needs to enable the needed Agile approach and methodology and provide a configured "single source of truth" for all software development assets.

These three areas are key to being able to go from a mechanical product, to a software driven product, to a connected Internet of Things (IoT) product. These elements are the basis of not only today's needed development systems environment but also what will make the difference in delivering continuous new product capabilities to market efficiently, quickly and reliably.

If you would like to talk about how to enable this in your company either reach out to us via email or give us a call. We can help you through this essential systems integration and enablement!

## Next Month: Competing in Today's Connected Product Revolution