## Developing an Enterprise Architecture that enhances the Benefits of PLM and ERP

Enterprise architecture is the process of standardizing and organizing the company's IT infrastructure to enable the organizations business goals. This aligns company strategies to digital transformation and the modernizing of IT technologies by rationalizing business architecture into Data / Application / Technology architecture.

Business Architecture
Data Architecture
Application Architecture
Technology Architecture
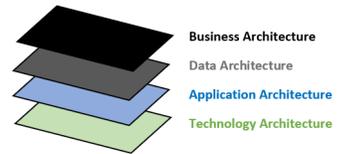
Two main enterprise systems in organizations that are centered around developing and delivering products to the marketplace are; **Product Lifecycle Management (PLM)** and **Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP).** These two enterprise systems are complimentary to each other and provide the needed data and technical backbone that enables the capabilities organizations need to deliver innovative products and improving manufacturing efficiency.

There are three main types of information that an organization creates and manages:

Portfolio and Project Information (PPM)

Product Information (PLM)

Transactional Information (ERP)

Yes, there are other systems that have emerged as essential enterprise systems such as Customer Relationship Management (CRM) - some include this within the ERP scope and others will argue that it is a separate enterprise software. For our conversation, we will concentrate on the integration of the PLM
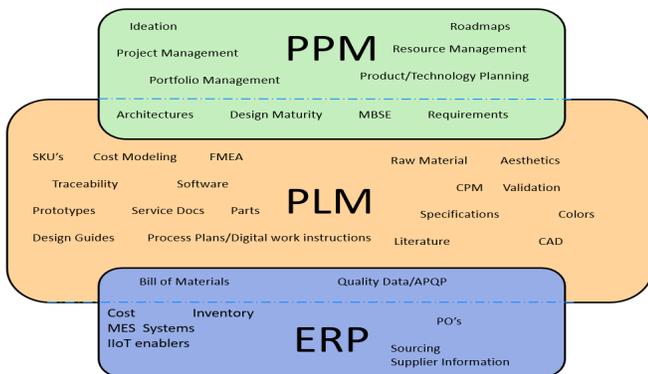
and ERP enterprise systems and the potential benefits that this integration provides for organizations.

Key areas of integration between PLM and ERP that benefit the overall company centers around the Bill of Material (BOM), the different views and maturity from the Engineering Bill of Material to the Manufacturing Bill of Material and if needed the Service Bill of Material. Along with this, is the information around the product items and the quality processes and information. This information also provides the context throughout the full lifecycle of the product. Typical lifecycle states are "Concept", "Design", "Validation", "Production" and "Obsolescence". The integration of this information along with providing its context in terms of the maturity of the data, is key as it is communicated internally and externally to your supply chain. With this integration, you gain the ability to integrate transactional information (e.g. Part Cost, Inventory, etc.) to part definitions enabling a single role based user interface that provides a "One Stop Shop" with all relevant information from the controlled systems of record (PLM or ERP) that eliminates searching, incorrect data use while providing increased productivity for your employees and partners.

At DRIVEN-4 we have the expertise and experience to deliver all of the capabilities needed to deliver an integrated PLM/ERP environment. If you'd like to discuss this further give us a call.

Next Month: Integrating your Software Release Process in your PLM System