

Genetec, Inc.

Replacing Open-Source PLM System Delivers Enhanced Functionality and Operational Savings

Customer

Genetec, Inc., located in Montreal, Quebec, Canada is a pioneer in the physical security and public safety industry and a global provider of unified IP video management security (VMS), access control and license plate recognition (LPR) solutions. Genetec has established itself as the leader in innovative networked solutions by employing a high level of flexibility and forward-thinking principles into the development of its core technology and business solutions.

Challenge

Functionality Limits with Existing Open-Source PLM System

As Genetec grew its business in the physical IP video surveillance industry, the company chose to transition its Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) system to Omnify Empower PLM for greater performance features and a turnkey solution.

The company had initially implemented a free open-source PLM solution that offered the flexibility to augment the open-source code however they chose. Unfortunately, the time spent by Genetec software designers to customize the tool was extensive and counterproductive. In addition, the free product required fees and consulting in order to access migration tools, receive technical support, and implement fundamental functionality to meet Genetec's needs such as: intelligent reference designators, redlining, Bill of Material (BOM) compare, and importing capabilities.

Quick Facts:

Company

- Genetec, Inc.

Industry

- Unified IP Video Management Security (VMS), Access Control and License Plate Recognition (LPR) solutions

Key Benefits

- Gained key features with out-of-the-box functionality
- Easy migration of data from existing PLM system
- Eliminated time consuming customizations
- Achieved operational savings
- Direct integration with **Altium Designer**
- Direct integration with **SolidWorks**
- Completely automated BOM, document and engineering change management



Genetec AutoVu License Plate Recognition



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Solution

Empower PLM Delivers Necessary Out-of-the-Box Functionality

The primary goal of implementing a new PLM solution was to fill the voids of their existing system in order to make engineering processes, such as new part creation, completely automated and more formal. “Mechanical and electrical change orders were still processed in Excel, even while using the open-source PLM system because it did not provide redlining functionality to easily visualize the details of product changes,” stated Danny Roy, Hardware Development Manager for Genetec, Inc.

It was important for Genetec to find a solution that offered the ability to catch product documentation problems early on, prior to manufacturing, with a complete history of the changes for accountability. They were also searching for a solution that provided easy integration with their existing engineering design tools (Altium Designer and SolidWorks) and with their ERP system- at a price that made sense for their organization. “As the company grew, we determined that our development teams required a more robust and cost-effective solution to manage our expanding product development information processes,” said Mr. Roy. “After a thorough review, we chose Omnify Software because we were impressed with its ease of use, functionality and competitive price.”

“We have realized huge organizational benefits compared to our previous open-source PLM/Excel process including time-savings, improved data with completely automated processes, enhanced communication, and traceability of product change history.”

-Danny Roy, Hardware Development Manager, Genetec, Inc.

Customer Success

Notable Improvements in Data Quality and Time Savings

“Migrating all of our legacy data from the previous system to Omnify Empower PLM went seamlessly with the help of our assigned Omnify project engineer,” said Mr. Roy. “We had minimal time to invest on our side and we were able to quickly import the data and start using the system with only one day of downtime.”

After implementing Empower PLM, Genetec saved substantial time and money by cutting out software customization and manual processes required by their previous open-source system. Design engineers are now able to import large electronic boards or mechanical assembly BOMs into Empower, easily and within seconds. Genetec’s previous PLM system required a cut and paste, item-by- item. Furthermore, Empower offers the ability to compare BOMs between different, but similar flavors of the product to quickly confirm that the new product version has been correctly implemented. Notable improvements have also been realized in data quality by removing data integrity issues commonly associated with hand entering information into spreadsheets.



Integration with Altium Designer and SolidWorks Provides Closed-loop and Efficient Engineering Processes

The integration with Altium Designer enables electronics designers to browse existing parts inside the Empower PLM database, directly from within their Altium environment. This promotes team collaboration by enforcing official library management for part symbols/footprints. Designers can now quickly determine if they need to create a new part in Empower and can get immediate access to it in Altium during the approval process. BOMs can be exported from Altium and imported into Empower quickly and easily. When a schematic is modified, an Engineering Change Order (ECO) is issued directly from a new BOM out of Altium and redlining on the existing products is automatically generated. “The loop is closed and efficient,” stated Mr. Roy. “Omnify feeds Altium with parts, then Altium feeds Omnify with design/assembly information such as BOMs and drawings, and Omnify confirms visually any change that was implemented in Altium at the schematics level.”

The process is similar with SolidWorks, except that parts are not browsed directly from within the SolidWorks environment. The process is performed via a BOM export/import and accurate field mapping. “We are targeting to reach full integration with SolidWorks in the next few months by using the Omnify CADKit, which will allow SolidWorks to push a BOM directly into Omnify,” said Mr. Roy. “Since the highest level BOM in the hierarchy is a mechanical assembly for most of our products, SolidWorks has control over the final end-assembly details through its native PDM vault for progressive versioning during development and once the design is ready to release to production, SolidWorks pushes this official released version to Omnify Empower and makes manufacturing documentation available to the production group.”

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