



SALES GUIDE

PDM Frequently Asked Questions

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AUDIENCE

This document is for people who are in search of a document management system and are in the process of evaluating solutions. PDM is the most comprehensive product of its kind on the market today. This document contains many of the frequently asked question and their answers.

PDM

Questions and Answers

McGraw Hill ReproMAX PDM project document manager helps you to serve and connect your entire project workflow. Share critical project information during the entire lifecycle of a project. This document contains many of the frequently asked questions as companies begin their search for a solution to address their issues.

PRODUCT INFORMATION

What is PDM?

Project Document Manager (PDM for short) is a full suite of products designed to manage documents throughout the project lifecycle from conception of a project all the way through completion and into operation of the facility. PDM is available in 3 flavors, PDM Bidding, PDM Pro, and PDM Enterprise. These solutions can fit a small GC doing local work and scale up to handle the needs of the largest global construction companies.

PDM is designed to manage all project related documents in one place and share them with the project team to streamline communication, improve accountability and keep the construction schedule on track. PDM is designed to interoperate with other systems and eliminate duplicate data entry, and maintenance of multiple databases.

How can PDM help my projects?

Without documents, a project cannot be built. As we like to say, the documents are the project. By having all documentation in one place, you are assured that everyone is looking at, working off of, and reading the same documents. This eliminates mistakes and costly re-work.

Can I run more than one project at a time in PDM?

PDM is designed to be the interface to see project related data on all of your projects in one place. Log in when you get in the office and log out when you leave work. All projects are available through a single interface.

How can my team use PDM during the design phase of a project?

PDM has the ability to check in and check out drawings, keeping a record of who changed what and when. With our AutoCAD plug in, drawings can be published directly from AutoCAD to your PDM system. The plug in not only captures the document but also captures key document attribute data. It also bundles all of the X-ref's and fonts so your drawings have a consistent look across all disciplines.

How can my team use PDM during the bidding phase of a project?

Build bid packages, send invitations to bid and review bid coverage are just a few of the things you can do during the bidding phase of a project. With the integration into the McGraw Hill Construction Network, you can pull project information and documents from Dodge into your PDM system to begin your bid process on a project. Subcontractors can view the documents and make sure the project fits their abilities before documents are ordered or printed.

How can my team use PDM during the construction phase of a project?

The construction phase is a crazy time in the document world. Submittals, RFI's, meeting minutes, and a whole host of other documents are exchanging hands and being reviewed daily. PDM provides the organizational and auditing capabilities to assure documents are never again lost or misfiled while providing an audit trail of everyone who has touched a document.

How does PDM work with my project management system?

PDM is built on an open architecture and we currently support integration with Meridian System's ProLog, and Primavera's Expedition / Contract Manager Project Management Systems. No more typing drawing logs or leaving your desk to find a drawing. PDM creates links to view the document you are looking for right from your application.

I already have project management software, isn't this the same?

No. PDM is designed to operate in conjunction with your project management software. Project management tools are designed to manage the process and provide timely information. From a document management perspective, they typically manage a log of relevant documents. PDM provides production document management including detailed tracking, revision control, multiple document capture options, advanced searching and support for multiple file types representing the same document. PDM can be synchronized with existing project management tools to provide significantly enhanced document management, optimized document capture and sharing.

How does PDM minimize legal problems?

PDM provides a number of proactive and reactive tools for reducing or even eliminating cost associated with litigation and legal activities. These include comprehensive tracking to dispute "I didn't get my document claims", customizable notifications to handle specific ITB instructions, automated current revisioning to assure the sub-contractors have the latest version of your documents as well as electronic closeout tools to significantly decrease the time required to find and research documents.

How do external project team members benefit from PDM?

External consultants and contractors have instant access to view documents as they are released. No more day or two lag time between the release of documents and having the team reviewing them. This also saves money on printing and shipping of documents for distribution.

Do my external team members have to purchase PDM too?

No, your external team members have access to view, order, and print, any documents you give them permission to see. All that they need is an Internet browser. When you want your external team members to add content to your site, you can give your consultants a license that allows them to collaborate with you.

How does PDM handle BIM information?

PDM is file format independent, and can host any electronic file. Most users are publishing 3-D files into the DWF format and posting to PDM. The stakeholders can then use the free DWF viewer to view, rotate, and manipulate the 3-D images.

How are print orders handled from your PDM System?

Through our partnership with ReproMAX, orders for hard copy prints can be fulfilled at over 350 locations throughout the United States, Canada, and the UK.

Do I need a subscription to MHC to use PDM?

No. PDM is your system designed to manage your project information and contacts. This information is not shared with McGraw Hill/Dodge unless you want it to be. Having a McGraw Hill subscription brings further value by being able to search for contacts and project information in their global directory and bring that information into your PDM system with the click of a button.

What type of contact management does PDM have?

PDM has a very robust contact management system built into the system. You can even use PDM to pre-qualify your sub contractors, track minority participation in projects, and allow subcontractors to update their information, keeping your contact database accurate.

Can I send notifications using PDM?

Yes, PDM can be configured to send a variety of notifications via fax, email, or both using standard templates such invitation to bid, invitation to pre-qualify, contract award notice, etc.

What do I need to run PDM?

To access PDM you need nothing more than an Internet connection and a web browser. PDM can be hosted on your server or on ours depending on the needs of your organization.

How much does PDM cost?

PDM is available on an annual subscription or a perpetual license basis. PDM has various levels designed to fulfill the needs of your organization. Contact McGraw Hill Construction at 1-866-239-4261 for more information.

TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION

Can I host PDM on my server?

Yes, PDM is designed to be deployed wherever it makes the best business sense for your organization. On your server, at a server farm, or on our server, our representatives work with you to decide which is right for you.

Do I have to put PDM on my server?

No, you can opt to have PDM hosted for you so you do not incur the expenses associated with a server, back up, and disaster recovery.

Can PDM talk to other systems in my organization?

PDM was designed to be able to interoperate with other systems that you have invested in. PDM has an open API (application programming interface) which enables PDM to exchange information with other systems.

What is the back end of PDM?

The PDM platform runs SQL server and is written in .NET technology which has become the industry standard for web enabled database solutions.

Do I need to purchase a license for every user of the system?

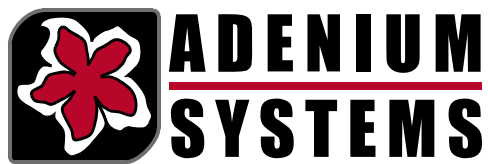
Only people who need to add content or edit documents need to have a license for PDM. Most people will be accessing the documents over the Internet through the web portal to find, view, and print documents. The people will not require a license.

What if I do not have an Internet connection?

PDM has off line capabilities to edit and create documents. This feature works great for tablet PC's in the field or for people who need to work while on an airplane.

How are upgrades handled?

Upgrades to PDM are included in your subscription license to PDM. Should you choose to purchase a perpetual license to PDM, the software maintenance covers all upgrades, bug patches and fixes.



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