



CASE STUDY

Modine Europe GmbH

Enhances CAD Data Exchange Process Quality and Reliability

Industry

Thermal Management

Challenge

Replace an outdated solution to improve CAD data exchange communication and workflow while automating repetitive manual processes.

Results

- Automated and improved the entire CAD design data exchange process
- Improved data quality and data security
- Enhanced communication with partners and customers, delivering a better user experience

Products

- Rocket® TRUfusion Enterprise
- Rocket® Eurex-c

Application

- B2B Supply Chain Integration

Company

Modine Europe GmbH engineers, tests, and manufactures thermal management products, components, and systems for heat transfer and storage technology, including the automotive industry. With more than 2,200 patents, Modine sets standards for efficiency, economy, and durability. Founded in 1916 on Arthur B. Modine's vision for excellence and innovation in thermal management technology, the company's solutions are at work around the globe in a wide variety of applications and markets.

Challenge

The company's European operations employees struggled with an outdated data exchange system that no longer supported common communication protocols associated with CAD data exchanges, such as Odette OFTP, ENX, and ENG DAT. In addition, administration and use of the system required labor- and time-intensive manual processes that placed a significant burden on company resources.

At a more granular level, operations identified specific trouble areas in the legacy system: TAR containers were being sent without the ".tar" extension; incoming Pro/ENGINEER files were renamed improperly by the system and could not be opened by the application; temporary files on the server were not automatically deleted; ENG DAT abstract files and the content of TAR and ZIP containers could not be viewed; and there was no transmission progress indicator. As a result, employees had no choice but to deal with these failings which equated to wasted time, unnecessary delays and reduced productivity.

Modine Europe hoped to enhance communication with its global partners and customers by implementing a new system that would support all of the common communication methods associated with CAD data exchange. To be effective, the new solution would have to significantly enhance the quality and reliability of CAD data exchange processes while eliminating the current manual steps.



Solution

After evaluating different solutions, Modine chose Rocket Software and a system based on Rocket® TRUfusion Enterprise and Rocket® Eurex-c solutions. Rocket TRUfusion Enterprise automates, controls, and manages product design file exchange activities with supply chain partners and customers. It connects disparate tools for authoring, managing, checking, translating, and exchanging CAD and related product design files, streamlining the process into one job. Rocket Eurex-c, a high-capacity communications solution for integrated file transfer, helps manage, control, and automate the transfer of engineering, product, and supplier technical data such as CAD, CAM, and PLM as well as commercial and logistic business data.

Results

Rocket teamed with Modine to implement Eurex-c specifically for CAD data exchanges, integrating with TRUfusion Enterprise to automate Odette OFTP-based data exchanges. The new system helped make the company's communication consistent for users who collaborated and communicated with one another through the user interface. It not only supported all common communication protocols, but also automated the entire process of design data exchange—including automatically choosing the appropriate protocol for different communication types, and the geographies to which communications were sent.

These new integrated software tools for viewing, translating, encrypting, sharing, and reporting with PLM and CAD systems helped Modine optimize workflow, enhance data quality, and improve data security. Instead of complex, manual methods, the company gained highly efficient, automated, processes that delivered a far superior user experience.

"We have enhanced the quality of our CAD data exchange considerably, and reduced the need for 'tracking control' in the area of data handling, data security, and the workflow between our customers and plants," stated Andreas Willmann of Modine Europe CAD Support.

Modine leveraged the TRUfusion Enterprise database to store and manage the data exchange process to ensure all key activities were tracked, and to guarantee secure data transmission from all points. With the Rocket solution, Modine automated former manual operations such as converting files to their correct formats, making certain that each file had the correct file extension associated with it. The company also ensured that outdated information or bad data files stored in digital workspaces were moved or deleted, to reduce user confusion.


"With the help of Rocket, we met the challenges we were facing with minimal risk, because we benefitted from deploying mature and reliable products that have successfully proven their value in our industry sector," Willmann explained. By working with Rocket, Modine was able to replace its legacy system with minimal training required for administrators and users to quickly take advantage of its new capabilities.

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