Rocket

Secrets of Fast and Secure Product Data Exchange
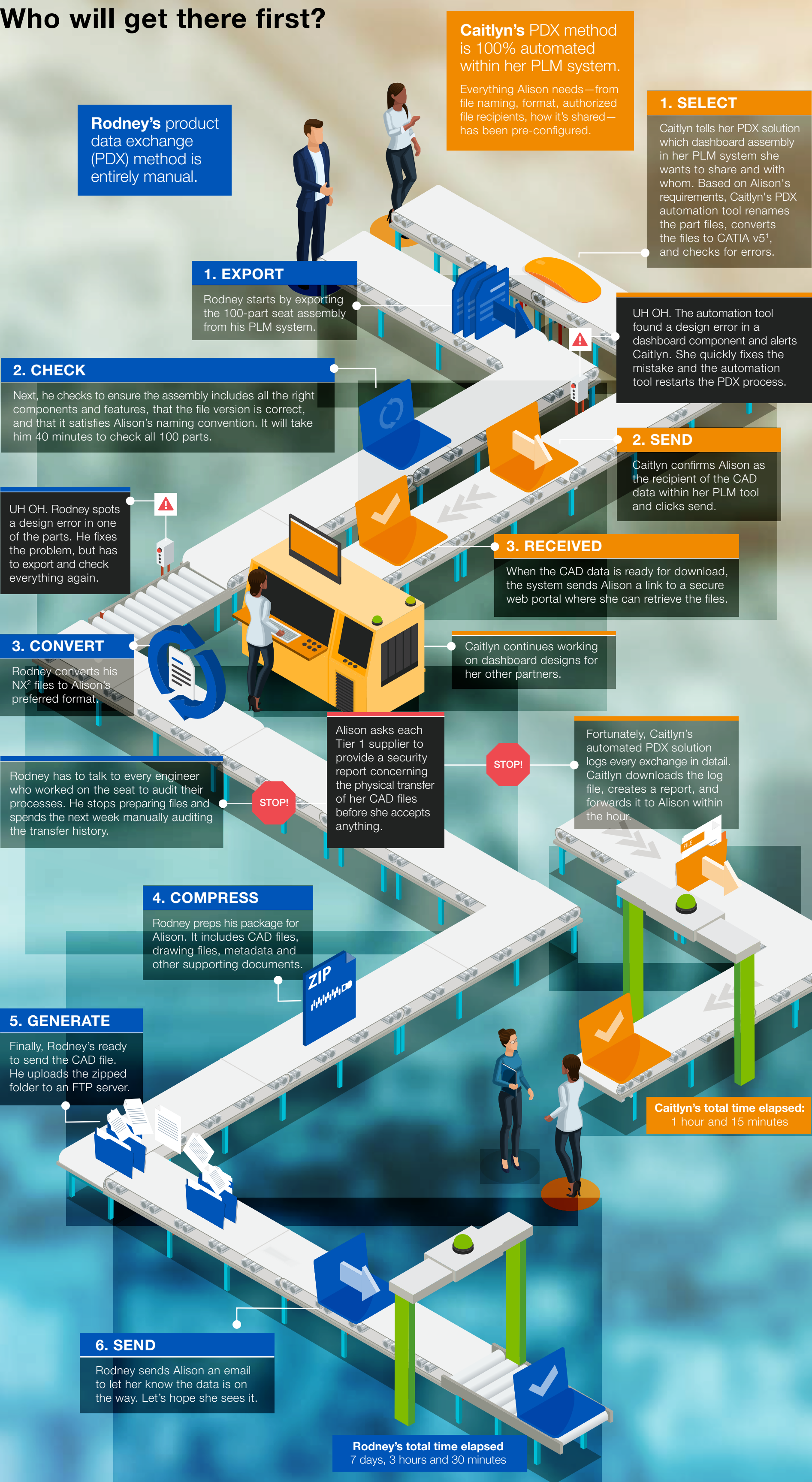
A short adventure with Rocket TRUfusion Enterprise

Alison is the lead engineer at a car maker in the US, working on a new model. She's responsible for coordinating design files with Tier 1 suppliers, and to meet her looming launch date, she must prevent delays at all costs.

Alison's Tier 1 supplier contacts are Rodney and Caitlyn. Rodney is the lead engineer at the partner manufacturing the car's seat, and Caitlyn is the lead engineer at the partner manufacturing the dashboard. Both need to prepare, package, and send their CAD data to Alison in the next 4 days so she can create the tooling needed for final assembly. There can't be any mistakes!

Who will get there first?

Caitlyn's PDX method is 100% automated within her PLM system.

Everything Alison needs—from file naming, format, authorized file recipients, how it's shared—has been pre-configured.

Rodney's product data exchange (PDX) method is entirely manual.

1. SELECT
Caitlyn tells her PDX solution which dashboard assembly in her PLM system she wants to share and with whom. Based on Alison's requirements, Caitlyn's PDX automation tool renames the part files, converts the files to CATIA v5[1], and checks for errors.

1. EXPORT
Rodney starts by exporting the 100-part seat assembly from his PLM system.

UH OH. The automation tool found a design error in a dashboard component and alerts Caitlyn. She quickly fixes the mistake and the automation tool restarts the PDX process.

2. CHECK
Next, he checks to ensure the assembly includes all the right components and features, that the file version is correct, and that it satisfies Alison's naming convention. It will take him 40 minutes to check all 100 parts.

2. SEND
Caitlyn confirms Alison as the recipient of the CAD data within her PLM tool and clicks send.

UH OH. Rodney spots a design error in one of the parts. He fixes the problem, but has to export and check everything again.

3. RECEIVED
When the CAD data is ready for download, the system sends Alison a link to a secure web portal where she can retrieve the files.

3. CONVERT
Rodney converts his NX[2] files to Alison's preferred format.

Caitlyn continues working on dashboard designs for her other partners.

Rodney has to talk to every engineer who worked on the seat to audit their processes. He stops preparing files and spends the next week manually auditing the transfer history.

STOP!

Alison asks each Tier 1 supplier to provide a security report concerning the physical transfer of her CAD files before she accepts anything.

STOP!

Fortunately, Caitlyn's automated PDX solution logs every exchange in detail. Caitlyn downloads the log file, creates a report, and forwards it to Alison within the hour.

4. COMPRESS
Rodney preps his package for Alison. It includes CAD files, drawing files, metadata and other supporting documents.

ZIP

5. GENERATE
Finally, Rodney's ready to send the CAD file. He uploads the zipped folder to an FTP server.

Caitlyn's total time elapsed:
1 hour and 15 minutes

6. SEND
Rodney sends Alison an email to let her know the data is on the way. Let's hope she sees it.

Rodney's total time elapsed
7 days, 3 hours and 30 minutes

In total, it took Caitlyn one hour and fifteen minutes to prepare and send the dashboard product data, including restarting the process after fixing the error. Alison is satisfied with the process and gives the all-clear to begin tooling for the assembly line!

With all the unexpected problems, Rodney gets the seat files to Alison three days later than planned. Alison is now late machining the tooling she needs, and she's worried her IP isn't secure. She questions if she should partner with him for future projects.

The secret to Caitlyn's success?

She automated her PDX process with Rocket® TRUfusion™ Enterprise.

Take the friction and stress out of collaborative design. Save your engineers valuable time, minimize errors, and reduce risk. Rocket TRUfusion Enterprise replaces disconnected and tedious manual data exchange tasks with a single automated process. It's a simple, cost-effective solution, enabling secure exchanges of CAD files and related product design data from within your PLM system.

Learn more about **TRUfusion Enterprise**

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