



Continental's Use of the MKS Integrity™ Requirements Interchange Format Adapter



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- Andre Radon.

Background

Much of the Automotive Group's development is in the form of electronics and embedded software enhancements, with many new features being safety related. Continental exchanges requirements specifications with OEM partners on a regular basis. This close collaboration in the specification phase is important to ensure timely delivery of quality products.

Executive Summary

Continental supplies electronic embedded systems to Automotive OEM partners. Product requirements must be exchanged back and forth between Continental and these partners in a collaborative development process. Because of the volume and complexity of requirements data, manual imports are time consuming, cumbersome and error-prone. To address this issue - common to many automotive suppliers - the OMG has released the Requirements Interchange Format ReqIF 1.0.1 (previously known as RIF). Continental is using the MKS Integrity™ Requirements Interchange Format (RIF) adapter to allow standard exchange of requirements and automated updates.

The Challenge

Manual exchange of static MS Word documents requires too much effort to support the cycle time requirements. Writing custom integration and import scripts is also time consuming and limited to the technologies and formats that they have been programmed. Since projects span multiple organizations, support for a common, secure data exchange format is an important element of an automated engineering platform. In addition, managing changes to OEM requirements becomes an even more significant challenge.

The Solution

RIF is a standard for exchanging requirement specifications using an XML based data format and describing exchange scenarios. It is now released as international OMG standard named ReqIF 1.0.1. Exchanging requirements data using RIF improves collaboration and communications between manufacturers and suppliers.

The MKS Integrity RIF utility allows requirements to be automatically exchanged with a variety of toolsets. This allows Continental to trace OEM requirements to their specifications and all the way down to the implementation level (e.g. Source Code)

Automated updates incorporate changes in OEM requirements efficiently and accurately. Using the MKS RIF adapter, Continental is not limited to a one-time import of the initial requirement specification. Automated updates are made without manually identifying the changed requirements, but through import of updated customer requirements specifications, saving time and ensuring consistency. Categorization and access permissions provided by MKS Integrity ensure that Continental's intellectual property is safe and secure and that only the required level of product detail is exchanged with partners.

The Results

- > time savings in managing the exchange of requirements
- > improved accuracy and completeness on initial import
- > Automated updates further reduce change cycle time and improves consistency
- > Secure data exchange protects intellectual property
- > Common data exchange format eases communication and collaboration across geographic boundaries and disparate technologies



North America 1 800 613 7535 | United Kingdom +44 (0) 1483 733900 | Germany +49 (0) 711 3517750

Asia Pacific +65 6830 8338 | Japan +81 3 5422 9503