Case Study

PTC®

Continental's Use of the PTC Integrity RIF-Adapter

CONTINENTAL AG

"Using the PTC Integrity Requirements Interchange Format adapter, Continental is not limited to a one-time import of the initial requirements specification. Updates are made automatically through import of updated customer requirements specifications; without having to manually identify the changed requirements, we save time and ensure consistency."

Andre Radon
VP of IT PLM, Continental AG

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 between Continental and these partners in a collaborative development process. Due to the volume and complexity of requirements data, manual imports are timeconsuming, cumbersome and error-prone. To address this issue – common to many automotive suppliers – the Object Management Group (OMG) has released the ReqIF 1.0.1 (previously known as RIF). Continental is using the PTC Integrity's 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 in which 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 requirements specifications using an XML-based data format and for describing exchange scenarios. It is now released as an international OMG standard named ReqIF 1.0.1. Exchanging requirements data using RIF improves collaboration and communications between manufacturers and suppliers.

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

Automated updates incorporate changes in OEM requirements efficiently and accurately. Using the PTC Integrity RIF adapter, Continental is not limited to a onetime import of the initial requirements specification. Updates are made automatically through import of updated customer requirements specifications; without having to manually identify the changed requirements, we save time and ensure consistency. Categorization and access permissions provided by 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 thoroughness on initial import
- Automated updates further reduce change cycle time and improves consistency
- Secure data exchange protects intellectual property
- Common data exchange format enhances communication and collaboration across geographic boundaries and disparate technologies

For more information on the PTC Integrity solution, please visit:
PTC.com/products/integrity

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