Conductix-Wampfler

SOLIDWORKS Refiling: Secure automation

About Conductix-Wampfler

The Conductix-Wampfler Group is a leading provider of systems for transmission of energy and data to mobile consumers. The Delachaux Group is represented in nearly all important developed countries by its own companies and numerous partner firms.

Conductix-Wampfler brings all of today's common technologies for energy and data transmission, such as cable trolley systems, conductor lines, cable carriers, spring cable reels, motorized cable reels, slip ring assemblies and wireless data transmission, under one roof. For customers, this means market-oriented and product-neutral advice, and the optimal technical implementation of each application.

The Situation

With its head office in Weil am Rhein, Conductix-Wampfler Germany's Design and Development works with the SOLIDWORKS CAD system from Dassault. The current version in operation is SOLIDWORKS 2012. Management of models is carried out in SAP PLM.

For many years, Conductix-Wampfler has used a solution from SEAL Systems to convert SOLIDWORKS models into a manageable, neutral format (PDF). This SEAL Systems solution also ensures a seamless and automated delivery of documents from the SAP document management system (DVS) for purchasing and production.

In the course of the life cycle, the demand to be able to open **older CAD models in a newer application version** has become more and more frequent.

A targeted migration of models with every CAD release change was too costly and not required for the majority of models. However when individual models underwent further targeted development, problems arose.

Problems can generally occur opening older files in one of the newer versions of the respective CAD system (in this case SOLIDWORKS), for example with Office programs as well, and should be taken into account.

If you want to load an older application file in a much newer version, it may be that this file cannot be loaded and processed without interactive adjustments, or the file will be displayed incorrectly/incomplete.

Conclusion: What was achieved?

Conductix-Wampfler now has at its disposal an ideal migration process for all SOLIDWORKS files: With automated processes, identification, assessment, version upgrade and refiling in SAP DVS are fast, secure and efficient.

IPT® (Inductive Power Transfer) and electric monorail conveyor from Conductix-Wampfler

The Solution

Conductix-Wampfler and SEAL Systems collaborated closely to design an automatic process which specifically updates the versions of the models managed in SAP DVS. These models are checked out of SAP, loaded into SOLIDWORKS, then and stored in the current version and reloaded in SAP DVS. Such a process is also called "**refiling**".

Over a standard tool from SEAL Systems DVS- XSA, documents can now be selected according to filter criteria like date, document type and status, and transferred to the refiling process. The refiling process on the SAP side basically acts like a server-based conversion process. The selected documents are always the headers of assemblies which are filed in SAP as parts lists.

These are always downloaded complete for refiling, meaning with all associated assembly components.

The automated refiling process runs outside the SAP system in a virtual runtime environment (SEAL Systems DPF - Digital Process Factory). The transfer of the relevant parameters tells Digital Process Factory which process should be used. Repeated processing, for example of documents which are already compatible with the current version, is effectively averted through different mechanisms.

In this way, unnecessary expenses and problems in processing "older" SOLIDWORKS files are prevented, ensuring a consistent, uniform document quality. Specific work steps like analysis, culling, notification and conversion can be performed simply over Digital Process Factory's workflow-based environment at any time.

Any other questionsleft ?

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