



BlueStar PDM/PLM

BENEFITS

- Consolidated Product Data for Consistent Data
- Prevents Data Fragmentation
- Increase re-use of existing items and product data
- Enhanced Collaboration & Increased Productivity
- Reduced Errors
- Saved Time

KEY FEATURES

- Microsoft Dynamics AX Integration
- Advanced Document & Data Management
- Easy File Import & Export
- Engineering Change Order
- Item Relationships
- Backwards Compatible Items
- Hierarchical Classification Tree
- BOM Configuration Management
- BOM Release Management
- BOM Reports
- Revision Control with Complete Audit Trail (ISO9000, FDA, Aqap, Hascp, & OSHA Compliant)
- Lifecycle Status Management
- Item Sign On/Sign Off
- Secure Access
- Object Link System
- Event Logging Tool
- Secure Access

BlueStar PDM/PLM enables manufacturers to centralize and securely manage product data originating from different applications inside Microsoft Dynamics AX. By providing a single repository of product related data along with a range of PLM tools, BlueStar PDM/PLM helps all functional departments leverage the same product data for enhanced corporate-wide collaboration, reduced errors and increased productivity.

Item-Centric Document & Data Management

Managing product data is difficult because there is a lot of it, it is used by many people in different departments and in different contexts. It often exist in multiple versions which may even be stored in different locations and have several relationships and meanings.

Discrete manufacturers therefore often make errors resulting from inconsistencies in product data. These errors lead to rework which increases costs and prolongs lead times.

BlueStar PDM/PLM provides a single access point for access to all item-specific product data and documentation by allowing documents and additional data to be linked to item records in Microsoft Dynamics AX. Access to data and documentation is securely managed by an easy-to-configure security system.

By enabling everyone within the company to access and work with the same product data, errors caused by data inconsistencies are prevented.

This saves time and money spent on rework and scrap while increasing productivity. It enhances collaboration and drives down lead times by saving the time spent on retrieving and cross-checking documentation between departments.

Revision Control

Without proper revision control, versioning of products and documents will rely on manual file naming which introduces errors and does not provide the traceability manufacturers need to be able to roll back to previous versions with confidence. With multiple authors and developers in play, keeping track of the latest versions becomes increasingly difficult and the risk of duplicate work is great.

BlueStar PDM/PLM features full revision control on items and documents along with extensive historic tracking capabilities.

By putting a stop to manual file naming, duplicate versions are prevented from emerging. This reduces costly errors and prevents product and document authors from wasting time on duplicate design and development work.

Lifecycle Management

Closely related to revision control, manufacturers have an inherent need to know which products and documents have been approved and which are still undergoing design. So, without quick and easy access to such information, products which have not yet been approved may inadvertently end up being manufactured prematurely.

BlueStar PDM/PLM operates with lifecycle stage control on all objects, so that users are always aware of whether an object is undergoing design, has been checked, or has been approved for release. In addition, the system prevents approved objects from being



being changed in order to prevent unauthorized changes from being applied to approved objects.

As a result, unauthorized changes to approved documents and products are avoided by forcing users through a formal change procedure. Locking approved objects ensures ISO9000 compliance.

Engineering Change Order

Manufacturers consistently apply changes to finished products as well as product being designed. The reasons for the changes are many. Designers may want to improve a product, customer requirements may change, or purchasing may find a new supplier.

Regardless of the source of an engineering change, managing the change is tricky business. It involves an inter-departmental, and often inter-locational, coordination of change-related activities which will have an impact on data in many places within the company. To manufacturers, engineering changes are therefore a constant source of errors which puts a damper on productivity.

BlueStar PDM/PLM enables users to capture all change related information electronically in a central location, fully replacing the traditional paper trail that usually accompanies engineering changes.

BOM Configuration & Release

When designers are developing a new product, they will typically not include every nut and bolt of the design in the CAD model. Consequently, the CAD-generated BOM is technically incomplete.

BlueStar PDM/PLM enables users to tweak such BOMs by either adding items or updating item quantities in BOMs. Once a BOM has been properly configured, it can then be released to the Microsoft Dynamics AX Inventory and BOM modules.

When a BOM is released, it will be validated against existing items and BOMs in Microsoft Dynamics AX. New AX items are automatically created and item quantities are updated whenever needed.

This prevents the occurrence of incomplete BOMs in Microsoft Dynamics AX and ensures that all AX BOMs are ready for ERP transactions.

Item Relationships

Before making design changes, it is critical to determine and evaluate the entire impact of the change. As a result, designers spend a lot of time investigating where the design in question is being used, e.g. in other design structures.

BlueStar PDM/PLM features a relations management module which enables users to determine where an item is used by the click of a button, revealing parent and child relations.

This enables the designer to quickly evaluate the overall impact of a change and make a sound decision regarding whether or how to execute the change. This makes the designers work easier, saves time and increases the productivity of the designer.

BlueStar PDM/PLM is part of the
BlueStar Suite



For more information please visit
www.pdmtechnologygroup.com



Backwards Compatible Items

Since items are used in many different structures, a change to an item needs to be made to the item in every structure where it is used in order to maintain data consistency. This requires a cumbersome manual effort from the designer making the change.

BlueStar PDM/PLM operates with backwards compatible items, meaning that once an item is changed, the change is automatically propagated to all the structures which the item is part of.

Consequently, designers saves the time usually spent on manual changes to the same item in multiple contexts while maintaining perfect data consistency.

Hierarchical Classification Tree

Manufacturers have a clear need for incorporating existing parts, designs and documentation in new projects. If no formal and easy way of retrieving these data exists, engineers will either spend a lot of time trying to locate the data they need, with or without results, or they will re-create the data. This severely impedes productivity levels and does not allow manufacturers to capitalize on past engineering efforts.

BlueStar PDM/PLM comes equipped with a hierachical item classification tree which enables users to quickly browse through item categories containing the company's existing items and associated documentation.

With a formal retrieval procedure in place, engineers will spend less time looking for existing data, but more importantly, they will not attempt to re-create any existing data. By reducing the amount of duplicate design efforts saving time in the search for data, engineering productivity is improved, leading to shorter lead times and increased profits.

Item Sign On/Sign Off

With multiple data and documentation authors working on the same projects, preventing duplicate work is a challenge.

BlueStar PDM/PLM operates with sign on/off capabilities which enable users to take ownership of individual files/documents/products by signing on to them. Once a user has signes on to an object, other users are still able to view the object but the ability to edit the object remains the exclusive right of the signed on user.

This prevents duplicate work from occuring while allowing everyone who has the proper authorization to view documentation, even if it is being modified by another user. The obvious results are enhanced project collaboration capabilities.

Secure Access to Product Data

To protect the core competencies and know how which has been cumulated over years of doing business in an industry, manufacturers have a strong need for protecting sensistive product data. Unauthorized access to product data can therefore not be tolerated.

BlueStar PDM/PLM features an easy-to-configure security system which enables system administrators to assign different user rights to individual users and/or user groups.

This enables manufacturers to protect their intellectual property to the fullest and retain the competitive advantages which have been built up over time.

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