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For users of Pro/ENGINEER, Windchill, and other PTC affiliated products

Think Outside the Fishbowl

By John Myers, Connect Press Editor

Fishbowl Solutions have recently announced a number of new utilities for users of PTC products.

Fishbowl Solutions started back in 1999 when several employees left the PTC VAR they were working for, to start their own business.

“Through the years we’d done a ton of work on ProPDM. When Windchill launched we jumped on board and began creating third party solutions. We’ve been creating software tools to fill in the gaps left in Windchill and as the product has matured we started grouping them into utilities,” said Rick Passolt, senior account manager for MCAD sales for Fishbowl Solutions. “A lot of our utilities came out of a specific customer request. We then decided to group them together and offer them as software products.”

Fishbowl Solutions’ primary markets to manufacturing companies of all types. “We work with large companies and we work with small companies. We have customers in the automotive, medical, agricultural, and aerospace industries,” he explained.

Of the recently announced utilities Passolt said that linkPurge is easily one of the most popular. linkPurge allows users to delete viewables that may be building up in their vault, without deleting the objects associated with them. Passolt said that this can allow users to clear up roughly 20 percent of their available disk space.

linkTrigger, is another popular utility from Fishbowl Solutions that allows users to create a gate to enforce best practices through their Windchill implementation. “Customers are constantly evolving the way they implement their drawing formats. Often their formats become outdated,” said Ross Jessen, director of engineering for Fishbowl Utilities. “This can allow outdated or flawed drawings to be released in the final product.”



linkTrigger allows companies to ensure that the most up-to-date drawing is the one being worked on, by validating user check-outs against the format being used and the latest format. “Anyone who tries to sneak around the system gets a warning,” he added.

Another product in the company’s new announcement is linkRenumber. A tool designed to simplify the renumbering process outside of the regular auto numbering that is built into the Windchill interface. The tool validates any new number changes automatically and allows users to freely modify WTDocuments and EPMDocuments.

The next two additions to Fishbowl’s stable of products are Revision Updater and Attribute Updater. Both utilities are designed to help with the process of fixing the kinds of errors that occur frequently in large data migrations. To this end, Revision Updater allows users to re-assign revisions to the latest version of a product without creating a new iteration. Attribute Updater allows users to assign values to either WTDocuments or EPMDocuments.

Lastly, the future of Fishbowl Solutions will be heavily focused on marketing. “We get out and do a fair amount of marketing and we have a unique name which helps,” said Passolt. “Right now there is some awareness but communicating to our potential customer on a grand scale is always going to be difficult. So

we are always trying to improve our ability to get our name out there and reach out to business organizations to find out what we can do for them," he added.

John Myers is a journalism graduate from the University of New Mexico and is the editor for Proe.com.

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