

# Change & configuration management

## Best practice spotlight



With today's challenges of shorter time-to-market, more complex and configurable products and ever increasing regulatory demands, product changes can be both difficult and time-consuming...

### Do you effectively *manage* change and configuration management?

Successful manufacturers evolve their successful products, with iterations prolonging the profit-making opportunity for an SKU or brand. Executives at these companies also recognize that some products—having missed their market potential in their first iterations—can often re-emerge in slightly different, more appealing and profitable configurations.

With today's challenges of shorter time-to-market, more complex and configurable products and ever increasing regulatory demands, product changes can be both difficult and time-consuming, and many firms have trouble managing the process, information and data. These companies usually have change and configuration processes that poorly synchronize engineering, manufacturing and service BOMs (bills of material) and fail to coordinate and communicate changes across the organization—creating costly mistakes that get repeated as products move through iterative development cycles.

There is a better way: product development teams, design partners and suppliers efficiently managing the change process with a change and configuration management system. The system can support standardization and control how informal and formal changes to product configurations and data are proposed, evaluated, implemented and documented, allowing all product development participants to:

- Rapidly find and access accurate change-related documentation, including a record of proposed changes
- Identify the impact of proposed changes on reliability parameters, regulations and product costs
- Implement and track changes for the next cycle of iterations

Companies that adopt an automated, closed-loop change and configuration management process:

- Improve innovation by freeing up engineering time
- Improve product quality by allowing improvements early in the product lifecycle
- Reduce product cost by planning for effective changes to product configurations and minimizing product inventory
- Improve time-to-market by minimizing downtime due to poorly executed changes

Does your company efficiently manage change and varied configurations of your products?

To learn more about change and configuration management, visit:

[PTC.com/solutions/processes/change-configuration-management](http://PTC.com/solutions/processes/change-configuration-management)

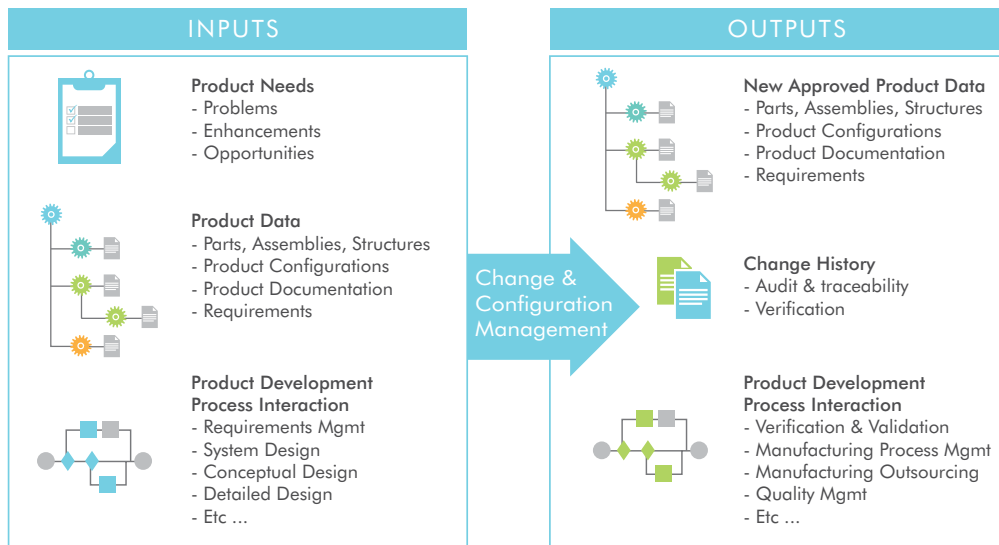


Figure 1: Change and configuration management is an orderly process for evolving a product from conception to retirement.

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