IBM Product Lifecycle Management Express Advantage for Business Integration

Business integration enterprise wide

Business integration through IBM Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) Express Advantage connects manufacturing and engineering teams to improve information flow, support product development and enhance business processes. We can help you accelerate innovation, reduce costs, and improve your competitive position in the marketplace.

Extend collaboration throughout the value chain

IBM Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) Express Advantage for Business Integration is designed to integrate your PLM and ERP systems. We can connect systems, processes and people across your enterprise utilizing Enovia SmarTeam, an IBM PLM solution developed by Dassault Systèmes, and IBM WebSphere® Business Integration Express middleware. And we can extend that connection throughout your value chain to enhance collaboration with your partners, customers and suppliers. This IBM Express Advantage offering provides a comprehensive business integration package designed for mid-sized manufacturers, offering fast and easy implementation, an affordable price and scalability to accommodate business growth.

Enhance the benefits derived from PLM and ERP

Product lifecycle management and enterprise resource planning can each individually provide significant benefits to a company. Integrating information and processes between these two systems can enhance the productivity of users in both areas, delivering an even greater overall benefit. Business integration from IBM can help you:

- Speed and improve decision processes by making material information easily available across systems.
- Automate business procedures prone to human error.
- Improve material data integrity and control between systems.
- Reduce cycle time to get products to market faster.
- Improve business agility and market responsiveness.
- Lower the cost of managing part portfolios due to increased part re-use.

- Increase productivity and lower training costs by reducing the number of applications employees must learn to use.

Communicate more effectively through business integration

IBM Product Lifecycle Management Express Advantage for Business Integration can improve communication and collaboration enterprise wide. Engineering can communicate product changes to procurement and manufacturing quickly and easily. Procurement can provide engineering with the latest product costing information for smarter design decisions. Sourcing personnel can share current information with suppliers and partners. The entire value chain can work together more effectively through better business integration.

Build on our successful implementations

IBM has worked with thousands of manufacturers of all sizes around the world to implement solutions designed to enhance product development and streamline manufacturing processes such as business integration.

- IBM employs more than 1,000 professionals dedicated to product lifecycle management.
- We have nearly 200 IBM product lifecycle management Business Partner organizations based in 50 countries around the world and employing more than 2,000 qualified product lifecycle management professionals.
- Offerings in the IBM Express portfolio are developed with input from IBM clients and IBM Business Partners to help ensure they meet the needs of mid-sized businesses.
- IBM WebSphere® Business Integration Server Express helps mid-size businesses quickly and easily integrate applications to better serve customers, partners and suppliers.
- IBM Financing Advantage, specifically designed for the mid-sized business marketplace, offers:

[1]PLM and ERP integration: Business Efficiency and Value, a CIMdata Report.

o   Industry-leading rates on both IBM and non-IBM products and services.
o   Streamlined credit decisions without client financial statements.
o   A simple two-page contract delivered quickly and conveniently.

Provide easy access to accurate information

IBM Product Lifecycle Management Express Advantage for Business Integration can help you improve business processes and build operational efficiency.

- Make product material information easily available across systems to improve business agility and market responsiveness.
- Provide engineers with easy access to key ERP information—such as price and inventory levels—to support the development of more cost effective product designs and promote part re-use.
- Enhance quality by integrating business processes to use consistent product data.
- Boost data integrity and control between systems by automating synchronization of part, document and Bill-of-Material (BOM) data based on product lifecycle events.
- Improve and speed manufacturing planning steps that are affected by engineering data and processes.
- Build collaboration capabilities across manufacturing projects and design teams, and throughout the value chain.

Potential for business integration points between product lifecycle management and enterprise resource planning include, but are not limited to:

- Part master data
- BOM data
- Enterprise or engineering change processes
- Supplier details
- Inventory and stocking information
- Cost data
- Manufacturing processes and routings
- Approved vendor and manufacturer lists
- Plant maintenance data
- Customer data
- Part and material availability

Improve decision making with for business integration

In this business integration scenario, a procurement manager sets the price for a part in the ERP system and the information is synchronized with the product lifecycle management system. When an engineer uses the product lifecycle management system to look up a part he's considering using in a new design, he is able to view the price information as well. This data helps him make smarter, more cost-effective design decisions. For example, he can choose to re-use this existing inexpensive part instead of creating a new one.

Information entered into the product lifecycle management system by engineering is also available to procurement, sourcing and manufacturing teams. They can use the enterprise resource planning system they are familiar with to access accurate BOMs and associated design documentation. This can help them make decisions, and keep the shop floor and suppliers informed of the latest product information.

Lower costs and increase revenue

IBM Product Lifecycle Management Express Advantage for Business Integration is designed to improve the bottom line for mid-sized manufacturers. We can help you:

- Increase revenue by reducing time to market.
- Improve profit margin by driving cost reductions, such as promoting part re-use and reducing the number of parts being managed.
- Reduce training costs of employees who will no longer need to learn multiple applications.
- Lower the cost of late cycle changes resulting from data entry errors.

Research of product lifecycle management and enterprise resource planning integration benefits showed the following[1].

- 75 percent reduction in the time, cost and errors associated with re-keying data entry from one system to another.
- 75 percent reduction in BOM error cost.
- 15 percent reduction in inventory costs.
- 8 percent reduction in scrap of materials.

Leverage automated business integration for improved efficiencies

IBM Product Lifecycle Management Express Advantage for Business Integration, designed for mid-sized manufacturers, is easily installed and requires limited resources. Automatically synchronize data across enterprise resource planning and product lifecycle management systems. Enable engineers, procurement and manufacturing teams to access more information, using the same application they use for other tasks. Help your company build efficiencies, reduce errors and limit waste through better business integration.

Benefit from an IBM Express Advantage solution

IBM Product Lifecycle Management Express Advantage for Business Integration is specifically designed for mid-sized companies, with easy installation, deployment and management. This solution is built on reliable, dependable technology and our vast experience implementing solutions for manufacturing companies around the world.

- Enovia SmarTeam, an IBM product lifecycle management solution developed by Dassault Systèmes, has over 3,000 customers worldwide.
- IBM WebSphere® Business Integration Server Express Plus is based on the market-leading WebSphere Business Integration Server, and offers a rich toolset, easy installation and proven technologies.
- IBM has completed more than 10,000 successful product lifecycle management implementations.

Build a business integration solution with proven technology

We offer a total solution for integrating your product lifecycle management and enterprise resource planning systems. Our solution can include:

- Enovia SmarTeam, a comprehensive suite of products that delivers enterprise-scale, real-time visual collaboration to distributed project teams in the manufacturing industry.
- Enovia SmarTeam Gateway, which provides a seamless, bi-directional data exchange between Enovia SmarTeam and IBM WebSphere Business Integration Server Express Plus.
- IBM WebSphere Business Integration Server Express Plus, which provides a suite of pre-packaged process templates to implement common mid-market business processes.
- Adapter Capacity Pack for IBM WebSphere Business Integration Server Express Plus,

which provides ready-made integration adapters for IBM WebSphere Business Integration Server Express Plus for common business applications, such as SAP and JD Edwards OneWorld.
- IBM Global Services and Business Partner implementation and integration services.
- IBM Electronic Customer Support Representative Enhanced Support, which provides enhanced support for problems, questions and issues, offering assistance with program-specific, task-oriented questions about the installation, administration and operation of Enovia SmarTeam.
- IBM System x servers which provide a set of advanced tools that help increase availability and minimize downtime, thereby helping to lower server costs throughout the lifecycle.
- IBM Financing Advantage Program, a suite of selected financing products, services, offerings and promotions for small- and mid-sized businesses.

See how business integration could work for you

In this scenario, an engineer uses a CAD tool to create drawings for new parts to fix several operational problems with a product. He stores the drawings as documents on the Enovia SmarTeam server. He also creates the parts and a Bill of Materials, linking the CAD drawings to each part.

Procurement and sourcing personnel using the ERP system need this production information to communicate it to suppliers and partners. The engineer is able to transfer the documents from Enovia SmarTeam to a temporary area. IBM WebSphere Business Integration Server Express Plus monitors this area and copies the new documents to a location the ERP system can access. When new information is entered into the ERP system is it also automatically synchronized to the product lifecycle management system.

Reduce costs and integrate applications quickly

IBM Product Lifecycle Management Express Advantage for Business Integration is designed to help mid-market manufacturers quickly and easily integrate applications with a low total cost of ownership. We can help you:

- Reduce the number and cost of ERP user licenses required for use by engineers.
- Lower the cost of writing and maintaining customized code running on top of applications.

This business integration solution is designed to significantly lower the total cost of ownership of

typical, non-EAI (enterprise applications integration) systems with:

- Reduced implementation costs.
- Lower upgrade costs.
- Decreased maintenance costs.