Siemens PLM Software Moves to DVD Distribution

Effective December 2005, and commencing with the distribution of NX4, all Siemens PLM Software product shipments are moving to DVD media if the kit exceeds a single CD. By moving to DVD, the large number of CDs can be reduced to a single DVD, easing installation. In addition, it will be possible to place multiple platform distributions (e.g. Solaris, HPUX, AIX) on a single DVD, further reducing the number of disks that must be managed.

This distribution strategy will require that customers have a DVD reader to install Siemens PLM Software products because a choice of media will not be offered. Siemens PLM Software will select either DVD or CD media based on product line and kitting requirements. We believe customers will benefit from this move by having fewer discs to catalog and juggle during installation.

In the event a DVD reader is not available, we have found them to be inexpensive and easily added to most systems. Based on feedback from GTAC, DVD media will be welcomed by most customers. If you do have concerns or issues with DVD media, please contact GTAC.

DVD Roll-out Plan

The following is an overview of important points regarding the DVD plan:

- The plan applies to all Siemens PLM Software product lines. NX and IDEAS are currently developing DVD kits. Other products would follow as necessary.

- Only one media type will be produced, either DVD or CD, depending on the size of the software distribution and other kitting requirements. There will be no option to select a media type. Product lines with smaller kits will continue to use CD. Also, a product that distributes a new release on DVD may distribute an update on CD. These decisions will be made by the product line for each distribution based on kit size and packaging requirements.

- DVD distribution will take effect in December 2005. The first planned DVD kits will be for the initial release of NX4.

- Contact GTAC with any questions and issues.

Software Kits Affected

At this time, the following software distributions will be impacted by this plan:

NX4   Initial release on UNIX platforms will be on DVD. Windows may be on CD or DVD (it still fits on a single CD, but it keeps growing). QRMs will be on CD. Future releases may consolidate platforms on a single DVD.

I-DEAS   I-DEAS V12, which is due in September 2005, will be distributed on CD. I-DEAS V12m1, planned for March 2006, will be DVD.

Teamcenter Teamcenter consists of several CDs so the plan is to move to DVD sometime in 2006. Actual release versions and dates for DVD have not yet been determined.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How come I don't have a choice of media type?

A: That would be ideal, but it is time consuming to develop and manage two kitting options. In addition to the development effort, SPD would then have to manufacture and stock both sets, increasing costs and complexity. Since many other software vendors use DVD and most systems already include a DVD drive, we feel this will work for most customers.

Q: What if I have a DVD and you provide CD media?

A: No problem. All DVD readers will also read CD media, so once you have the DVD reader, it should not matter what media Siemens PLM Software ships to you.

Q: Isn't this very short notice, I would like more time for the change?

A: We are giving users several months notice on NX4 and longer for other products. For those customers with a DVD reader, this is not an issue. For those currently without a DVD reader, this notice should be sufficient to upgrade a system for the new media.

Q: Why not ship everything on DVD only; it could be confusing to get a DVD or CD?

A: DVDs cost more than CDs and also take longer to manufacture. In addition, many of our products and distributions easily fit on a single CD, so DVD media does not always make sense. Since DVD readers will also read a CD, once you have the requisite DVD reader, you can install any Siemens PLM Software distribution.

Q: What about UNIX systems?

A: While almost all new sales are Windows based, legacy UNIX systems still remain at many larger customers. Most Unix systems, we believe, do not have DVD readers. However, most UNIX customers also have PCs in-house, by which the media can be loaded and files transferred for installation onto the UNIX systems.

Q: Does every system or workstation require a DVD?

A: No. Presuming you are networked, a single system with a DVD reader should be sufficient to move the kits to a server and then perform network installs.

Q: How do I get help if I have questions?

A: Please contact GTAC at 1-800-955-0000 (1-714-952-5444) option 2,6. They are familiar with the various platforms and how to most effectively and economically adapt to the DVD media.