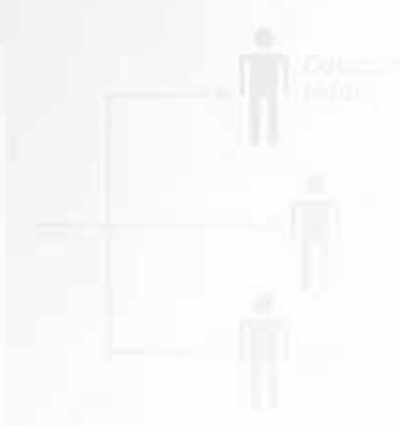


For purposes of outsourcing, bidding, collaboration, or manufacturing, you must share your technical files with an extended network of parties. When you share them without protection, you effectively relinquish control of these documents and they become subject to unintended or illegitimate use.



ed Info Sharing with Pinion Software

When you share your technical files with other companies...

Best Kept Secrets

How much do you value your company's technical expertise? Enough to prevent it falling into your competitor's hands?

How much of your company's assets are being squandered by sharing your technical data with other companies in a totally unsecured fashion? When you collaborate with your partners and suppliers in the Far East, how secure is the technical information you are sending them? When your technical drawings leave these shores, how much control do you have over them?

enterprises. Pinion's solutions can protect any type of sensitive information from executive communications, including emails and financial data, sales and marketing figures and prospect information, human resource data - and, of most interest to us - engineering data, such as product specifications, mechanical engineering drawings and illustration CAD files - as well as project management and other technical information.

Global manufacturing entails the distribution of high-value intellectual property in the form of CAD and other related documents. It has to be done as part of the design and manufacturing process. That means that it has to be passed on to manufacturers in countries where the moral and legal ethics of copyright protection are not as rigorously pursued as they are here.

Using the software, designers retain complete and continuous control over their technical documents, allowing collaborators to share files in their native formats. Even after the files have been received, the data is protected - even while the file is in use!

These issues have been addressed by Pinion Software, a private company set up in 1998, to protect the interests of engineers, manufacturers, and other institutions that regularly send out sensitive information over the Internet. Pinion has developed a set of tools to extend users' control over such documents throughout their life-cycle - even whilst the information is in use.

Pinion Software offers two solutions ideally suited for design engineers, Pinion Desktop Packager and Pinion Desktop Packager-Workgroup Edition. Both are PC based applications that allow users to control others with access to their current workflow, and still perform CAD calculations using real-time data without compromising the integrity and security of the information. Pinion Desktop Packager is a single user version for protecting market-leading CAD and business application files.

Pinion Software offers a flexible suite of solutions to meet the security needs of small and medium businesses, departments or workgroups, and large

The Workgroup Edition includes a 5-user license that enables workgroups and departments to secure email messages as well as a broader variety

of technical and business file types.

Both Pinion solutions allow users to control how partners, vendors, outsourcing contacts and manufacturers can use their intellectual property, providing in-house permissions for any function that may endanger your data. It can, for instance, allow you to dictate how long a recipient can work with a file before it automatically self-destructs from the recipients PC.

Activation dates can be added to the permissions to prevent users from opening the file until a certain date. Users may also be asked for password authentication before they are granted access to any part of the data. You are also able to control whether the recipient can print or forward the content to third parties. Clipboard facilities are controlled, preventing recipients from using the cutting, copying and pasting functions, and even screen capturing is disabled.

Upon expiration of the permissions, the files are permanently removed. The files also use federally approved encryption of secure content whilst in-transit. Pinion Software is also working on infusing their products with the capability to selectively allow recipients to edit and save changes to documents, thus opening the possibility for heretofore-unprecedented secure collaboration.

Besides standard business applications (DOC, PPT, XLS, PDF, MPP, BMP, TIF, JPEG, GIF), Pinion solutions allow users to work with native files in Autodesk (DWG, DXF, DWF), Bentley (DGN), Microsoft Visio (VSD, VSS) eDrawings and SolidWorks (EASM,

EPRT, EDRAW etc). PTC PRO-E support is coming soon. It can also handle animation and visualisation utilities, Quick Time player, Real Player and Windows Media Player (WAV, MP3, AVI, HTML, MPEG).

At the receiver's end, the recipients can download the free Pinion Receiver, which allows them to access the files and use them according to the originators' permissions. Besides enforcing the permissions and ensuring that the files remain secure, Pinion Receiver allows recipients to view and work with the protected content in the applications with which they were created or for which they are intended. Pinion Receiver is the only file security system that works at both OS and application levels to provide unparalleled security.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The content owner uses Pinion Desktop Packager or Pinion Desktop Packager-Workgroup Edition to select the files and assign them in-use permissions - very easily done by clicking on the permission that need to be enforced for each file and "packages" them. With Pinion Receiver, the recipient simply clicks either a link to the secure file or double-clicks the secure file itself. Pinion Receiver launches automatically to create the secure environment where the recipient may view and work with the file to the extent allowed by the permissions.

PACKAGER DEVELOPMENT KIT

Some companies already run their own document management systems, PLMs and other systems that will already

contain a degree of security - which, however, falls short of the depth of security that Pinion Software can provide. To develop a solution in-house that can be implemented within such systems, Pinion has provided the SecureShare Packager Development Kit - a comprehensive developer's toolkit that allows users to integrate Pinion's security benefits into existing corporate applications.

The SecureShare PDK "plugs" into the existing data management system, and the in-use security imposed travels with the files both inside and outside the corporate firewall to provide protection from unauthorised tampering or other unintended usage.

PROTECTING CDS AND DVDS

Pinion has extended its protection software to include large information payloads delivered as CDs or DVDs (information volumes). Many companies are using these media to communicate information to third parties. Hence similar protections can be imposed on the usage of volume information. Pinion SecureCD is the product that affords these protections to volume media, notably CDs and DVDs. CDs and DVDs can also be locked to specific users' computers.

CONCLUSION

The availability of a tool like Pinion Software is to be welcomed. What is alarming, however, is that it is unique in the market, implying that security issues that affect many companies trading globally have been cavalierly disregarded.

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