



SOME BUILDING PROJECTS WON'T MOVE AHEAD WITHOUT YOU

[LEARN MORE](#)

AMD

© 2021 Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. All rights reserved. AMD, the AMD Arrow logo, Radeon, and combinations thereof are trademarks of Advanced Micro Devices, Inc.

cadalyst



CAD Manager's Newsletter

STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS FOR THE REAL WORLD

By Robert Green

May 25, 2022
Issue #491

How Did Our Data Get So Messed Up?

Data and storage protocols are in worse disarray than before COVID-19 — what do we do?

As we emerge from COVID, doesn't it seem that two years of remote work would have made us all become more standardized in the way we work? After all, you can't manage far-flung work projects without standard storage protocols, tools, and processes, right? There's just no way we could all "wing it" by emailing files around, keeping files on non-secure devices, and letting anarchy rule, is there? Well for many companies, particularly mid-sized firms, it seems that winging it is indeed what happened and workflows have become more messed up and less standard as a result.

So, why is it that things have gotten worse and how can we make things better? These are the core questions we'll explore in this edition of The CAD Manager's Newsletter. Here goes.



Image source: [idspopd/stock.adobe.com](https://www.adobe.com/stock/idspopd).

Trends from Reader Feedback

Here are a few interesting comments I've collected from my Facebook group and reader emails over the last two years (slightly edited for brevity) that give clues to how things got off track:

- My boss insists that he can use his iPad or phone to manage files and store photos, but his files are often not uploaded in a timely manner and wind up being emailed, which makes it very hard to track work.
- I have users who say they saved their files in a DropBox account, others use OneDrive, while others use WeSendIt to send huge zipped files. CAD is no longer the problem—it's the other stuff that's the issue.
- When users try to open 100MB maps with millions of objects in them across our WAN, the network always crashes. So, users copy the files to their own machine and we lose control.
- Cloud storage and security is a big problem for us. Either I set things wide open so everyone can work with the files and risk data loss, or I tighten the security and it is harder to get work done.
- We are a small company and our owner makes us use some crazy cloud site because it's cheap, but it takes hours to sync files. We've overwritten a lot of files.
- Users need to understand that information is used and shared to support work goals — to accomplish something. This is very different than using Facebook or Twitter on your phone for private purposes.

What's the Underlying Issue?

What are the conclusions can we draw from the CAD manager feedback above? Here are my thoughts:

Collaboration. What really jumps out for me is that the problems are collaborative issues, not CAD issues. Nobody ever said their AutoCAD, Revit, or SOLIDWORKS program didn't create files, but many said that controlling those files was problematic.

Device issues. Added to collaboration is that more files are being managed outside the company environment on a variety of devices and apps that use communication methods that are hard to track — like text messaging. So, we aren't just worried about a user's computer, but also their phones, iPads, and apps which bring multiple operating systems and support burdens. In essence, these are bring your own device (BYOD) and bring your own app (BYOA) problems.

Bandwidth. Many times, users don't really want to cheat the system, but given how slow corporate WAN's can be, they sometimes feel they don't have a choice and thus copy files to a local device. In these cases, a lack of robust bandwidth and/or fast synchronizing tools isn't saving a company any money — it is costing money due to lost data and file overwrites.

What isn't mentioned. Notice that none of these CAD managers complained about training, the software, or even standards. Interesting, isn't it?

I often say that in CAD management, CAD is the least of our problems and this seems to have been especially true during the remote COVID era. Now we need to move on to solving the issues as work returns to a more normal environment.

First: Understand BYOD/BYOA Issues

Typically, managing devices and applications is the responsibility of IT but many smaller companies don't have formal IT departments and many larger companies don't have IT departments that understand CAD. Either way, it pays for CAD managers to be conversant in BYOD topics so you can communicate the problems to your management teams with a CAD-centric spin (as advised above).

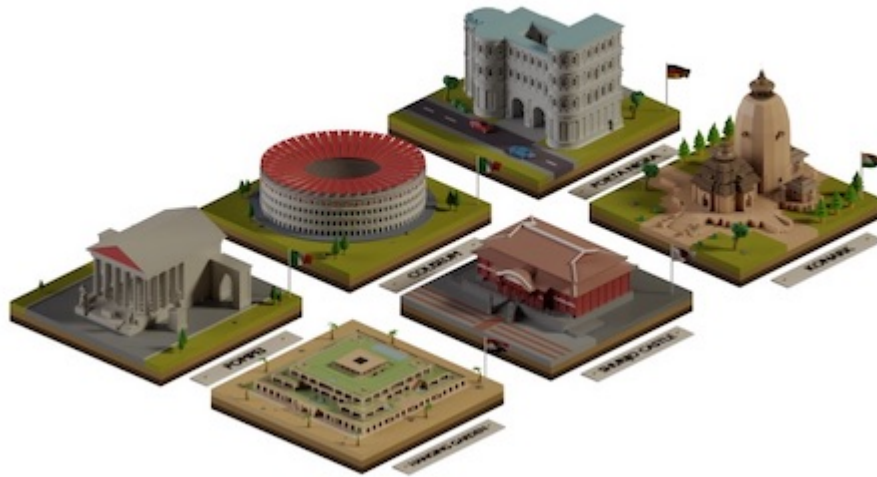
Digital Guardian's web site has a rich section on understanding the BYOD problem and how it can impact data security. The page has a variety of links targeted to IT professionals, but CAD managers with a working knowledge of IT should be able to follow along on the key points. As you read the articles, pay particular attention to the human resource and liability issues it brings up as these are topics many CAD managers may not be conversant in.

By familiarizing yourself with these issues, you'll be able to educate your leadership on the dangers of BYOD and have intelligent conversations with IT. But most of all, you'll have ammunition for how dangerous the situation is for your company CAD data. Let's see how.

Next, you must get management on your side. Do they understand the dangers of losing control of data? Learn easy steps you can take to start to gain control again.

[Read More >>](#)

Tools & Resources



Program Recreates Six Historic Sites in the VR

Next in Dassault Systèmes' "[The Only Progress is Human](#)" campaign focused on the themes of heritage and future. Using virtual twin technology, "Living Heritage" is a student program that enables current and future generations to experience six UNESCO World Heritage Sites as they may have existed in the past while nurturing skills to innovate for a more sustainable world. [Learn more >>](#)

Blog Watch

AutoCAD certification of AMD-based AWS G4ad VMs

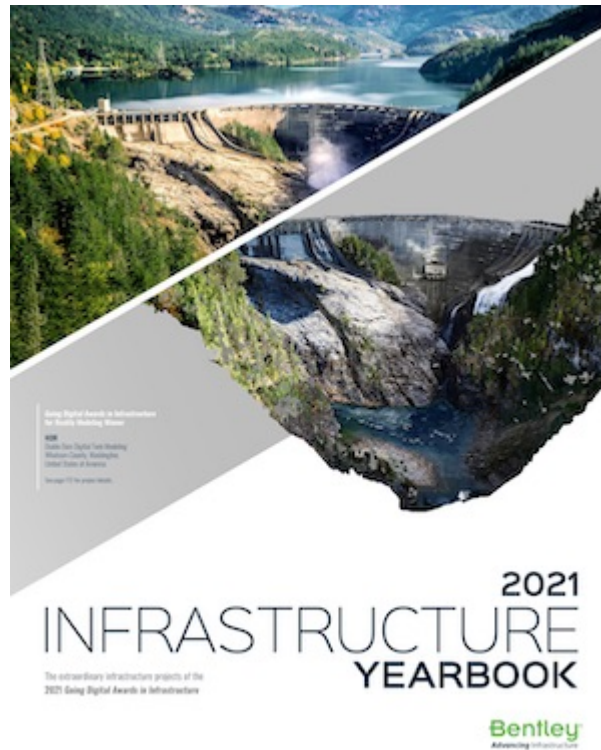
AMD's blog discusses AutoCAD certification of AMD-based AWS G4ad VMs to help free designers from their workstation. Amazon EC2 G4ad instances enable cloud-based support for graphic-intensive workloads. AMD states, "companies can lessen their reliance on pricey and often under-utilized, high-end workstations by offloading graphic-intensive workloads to the cloud." [Read the Blog >>](#)

Webinar:

Increase Safety and Productivity in Civil Construction with Reality Capture

Of all the new technology available to improve construction projects, reality capture perhaps holds the greatest promise. It covers a broad span of technology, from sophisticated laser scanning devices to the cameras on phones and the apps designed to better utilize the images they capture. Watch on-demand as Dr. Donna Laquidara-Carr, Industry Insights Research Director from Dodge Construction Network and Troy Dahlin, VP, Heavy Construction, Leica Geosystems, explore the findings of the study and discuss the most productive ways civil contractors are using this technology now and the most promising developments for the future.

[Watch on-demand webinar >>](#)



Bentley Systems' 2021 Infrastructure Yearbook

Bentley Systems' *2021 Infrastructure Yearbook* is a compilation of outstanding projects from the *2021 Going Digital Awards in Infrastructure*. The projects showcase *going digital* advancements and innovative uses of Bentley software in designing, building, and operating the world's infrastructure. Bentley users who want their projects included in next year's *Infrastructure Yearbook* should complete the nomination forms by June 6. [Read more >>](#)

What's New from Our Sponsors

A dark blue rectangular graphic with white text and icons. On the left, the text "NX Mold Connect" is displayed in a sans-serif font, with a vertical white line to its left. To the right of the text are three white icons of human figures standing on a horizontal white bar. Below the icons, the word "Collaborate" is written in a large, bold, white sans-serif font.

NX Mold Connect

Collaborate

Sponsored

The Equipped Mold Designer: NX Mold Connect Streamlines the RFQ Process

Access to faster, more accurate quotes ensures more timely production launch. Read the next installment of the Equipped Mold Designer Series. Follow one mold designer's path to success and find out how Siemens NX Mold Connect helps get products to market faster and easier. [Read more >>](#)

What's New at Cadalyst



Intel's 12th Generation Core CPUs

Mark an Inflection Point in Workstation CPUs

Herrera on Hardware: Alder Lake signals a departure for Intel in more than one way, as 12th Generation technology, performance, and market positioning all shift substantially from previous Core generations. *By Alex Herrera* [Read more >>](#)

Free Resources

From the editors of
cadalyst



Herrera on Hardware:

The Evolving Role of the Mobile Workstation


White Paper

Mobile vs. Desktop Workstations for CAD

The Evolving Role of the Mobile Workstation

It comes down to physics — a desktide can always outperform a mobile workstation. Cadalyst hardware expert, Alex Herrera, looks under the hood of both to break down the pros and cons of each form factor.

DOWNLOAD NOW



cadalyst Pro Tips #9

TRAINING CHECKLISTS FOR CAD MANAGERS

Conducting training can be overwhelming. Whether you're an experienced trainer or new to the process, it's easy to overlook details that you need to succeed. With a little guidance from CAD management expert, Robert Green, you can be sure you're ready.

Cadalyst Pro Tip:

Training Checklist for CAD Managers

Training is an essential task on every CAD manager's to-do list. But with all those little details to remember, preparing a clear, informative training session can ve overwhelming. Use this handy checklist from CAD management expert Robert Green to help you be successful.

DOWNLOAD NOW

More Digital Design Solutions

Product Design

Building Design

Civil Engineering

Prototyping

Design Testing

Conceptual Design

Reality Capture

Drafting & 2D



Cadalyst Magazine, 501 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02210, USA

[Unsubscribe](#) [Manage preferences](#)