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Navigate the world of design technology



March 22, 2023
Issue #509

No Authority — No Problem

If you're stuck in a "No Authority" CAD manager position, don't fret, you can still make effective change, AND bolster your chances for a management position down the road.

Over the years, I've spoken to many groups of CAD managers lamenting how little authority we sometimes have to do our jobs. In fact, the problem is so common that I refer to "No Authority CAD Managers" as a matter of course. As I've given more thought to the problem, I've devised some strategies that allow you to survive in a "No Authority" environment for now, while working toward gaining authority in the future.

In this edition of the CAD Manager's Newsletter, I'll pass along some of these strategies and tips for implementing them. Here goes.



Image source: Tierney/stock.adobe.com.

Be Good — Build Confidence

Whether you have authority or not, users always know whether you're good with CAD/BIM tools. If you're good at using these tools, users will trust you and ask you for help to solve their problems. Establishing this technical credibility will give you a de facto authority with users since they know how good you are. And, when senior management sees that you are widely respected by users in a variety of departments, they'll start to realize your value.

But, since your senior management team isn't giving you enough power or budget to really be a manager today, you'll need to create a base of users that can help you gain authority over time. Does this process take longer? Yes. Is it worth it? Yes.

So, how do you undertake this process? Let's take a look at some of the strategies I've used both personally and with client organizations.

Align with Users and Win

If management won't give you the authority you need, then make sure users know this and align your thinking with theirs. Examples might include:

Users need updated workstations. While your direct response is that you don't have the authority to dictate what IT purchases, you should encourage users to communicate with their management to build support for new workstations. Then, let your boss know that you're encouraging these communications for the betterment of the business.

Different departments use different CAD methods making it impossible to implement standards. When speaking to each department, let them know you understand the problem, but don't have the authority to dictate standards to other department managers. Then, ask the users who have the complaints to request that their bosses coordinate with other department managers to resolve the situation. And, again, and let your boss know you've done so.

You probably sense a pattern developing here, right? The goal is to understand the problem, understand the users' frustrations, and then enlist those users to voice their concerns to management since you don't have the authority to fix the problems directly. If user complaints do elicit action from various management team members, then you can fix the problem without ever having to be the bad guy.

Build a Bigger Base

Wouldn't it be great if you could share tips, ideas, and time-saving work methods with other users in your company? Further, wouldn't it be great if you could do so in an unofficial way without time pressures? Creating in-house user groups is a handy way of achieving these goals.

Start your user group meetings as a potluck lunch break once a month and ask members to share their best tips and tricks. Don't feel a sense of pressure to do anything but organize the meeting and encourage people to come share their knowledge. Even if nothing much comes from your user group, you will have still brought users closer together, expanded your user base, and will most likely have done at least some good in the process.

Note: When your management team sees you take on leadership initiatives, they're more likely to deem you worthy of managerial authority.

Make Troubleshooting Work for You

From time-to-time, software problems will arise that require expert troubleshooting. Chances are you find yourself in the middle of these experiences daily, but are you turning the experience to your advantage by building respect with your users? If not, you should be.

Find out how to utilize these day-to-day problems to build your reputation as a problem-solver and then how to become "The Optimizer" in the office — the person to call for solutions.

[READ MORE >>](#)

Tools & Resources



Case Study: AMD and FloMark

In this case study, read how FloMark leveraged the Dell Precision 3650 workstation with AMD Radeon PRO W5700 GPU to increase its ability to meet client expectations through multitasking, running its most demanding design, collaboration, and project management workloads simultaneously to get more high-quality work done, according to the company. [Read more >>](#)

Online Event: What's neXt for CAD in DWG?

13 April 2023, 9am PST/12 EST/6pm CET. The Graebert neXt online event is a free 3-hour online event for 2D/3D CAD users, CAD managers, engineers, and IT executives, including ARES users and users of other CAD software, such as AutoCAD. Learn about the latest innovations for 2D/3D CAD in DWG. Hear about Graebert's top new features for CAD, BIM, mechanical, cloud CAD, and mobile CAD. [Learn more >>](#)



Infrastructure Awards: Nominate Your Bentley Project!

Bentley Systems is accepting infrastructure project nominations from all over the world for its annual Year In Infrastructure & Going Digital Awards. Since 2004, the awards program has recognized more than 4,700 of the world's most outstanding infrastructure projects. Open to all Bentley software users, it is a unique program that is truly global in scope and comprehensive in categories covered. The award categories encompass all forms of infrastructure projects and stages — from design, to construction, to operations. All finalists will present their projects at the *Year in Infrastructure and Going Digital Awards* event, held in Singapore this October. **DEADLINE: MAY 8, 2023.** [Submit your project >>](#)



Workstation Watch: Lenovo's New Line

Lenovo announced the launch of the ThinkStation PX, P7 and P5, these new workstations feature the latest processor technology from Intel ranging up to 120 cores and support for high-end NVIDIA RTX professional GPUs. The new workstations boast all-new chassis designs co-designed with Aston Martin, the automotive manufacturer, and advanced thermals, as well as BMC capabilities for streamlined remote system monitoring, according to the company. Lenovo states that the ThinkStation PX, P7 and P5 workstations will be available starting in May 2023. [Learn more >>](#)



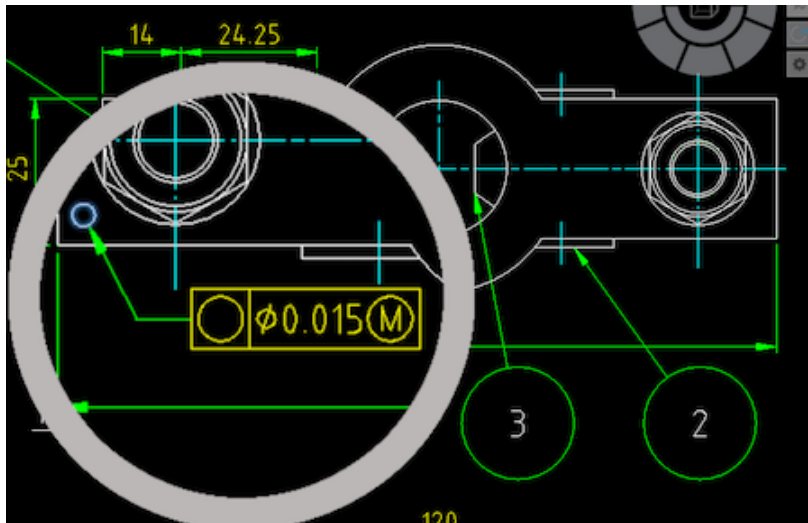
Large-scale Printer: Epson SureColor T-Series & P Series

Epson announced several new production-class SureColor T-Series printing solutions. The new SureColor T-Series printing solutions, including the new 24" SureColor T3770E, SureColor T3770DE, SureColor T3770DR, 36" SureColor T5770DR, and 44" SureColor T7770DL feature PrecisionCore MicroTFP printhead technology to produce posters at speeds up to 300 sqft/hr, and A1/D-size technical prints in as little as 16 seconds. In addition, the SureColor P-Series features printers of the same size all with a flattop design. They print on a wide range of media, including photo, fine art, canvas, and rigid posterboard up to 1.5 mm thick. The 44" SureColor P8570DL includes high-capacity 1.6L ink bags to reduce cartridge changes. [Learn more >>](#)

Mobile Watch: Xi's PowerGo XT Laptop, 13th Gen Intel i9-13900HX & NVIDIA GeForce RTX 40 Series GPUs

Xi Computer's Xi PowerGo XT (starting at \$2,836) offers the 5.4GHz Turbo Boost Max clock speed of the 24-Core Intel Core i9-13900HX, sided by the latest 3D graphics card NVIDIA GeForce RTX 4080 12GB and RTX 4090 16GB. According to the company, performance is at par or better than a desktop workstation. It can manage three external monitors, multiple pointing devices, and an optional docking station. The company claims it is designed for demanding 3D CAD packages such as AutoCAD, Civil 3D, Inventor, Revit, Photoshop, and PTC Creo among others. [Learn more >>](#)

What's New from Our Sponsors



2D Mechanical Drawings in DWG:

ARES Mechanical 2024 Tames Your Tedious Workflows

Technology analyst Randall Newton reviews ARES Mechanical features that automate time-consuming manual tasks and help users work with legacy files from AutoCAD Mechanical. *By Randall S. Newton, March 20, 2023.* [Read more >>](#)

What's New at Cadalyst



CAD Manager's Column

by Robert Green, March 2023

Your Personal Learning Plan, Part 1

As a CAD manager, it's as important to stay on top of new technology and processes as it is to manage your workload. How to start? Make a list of what you need to know to help you and your team perform and get management's approval. [Read more >>](#)

Your Personal Learning Plan, Part 2

To get your training approved, do your homework and find out the ROI on learning the new skills. [Read more >>](#)

CAD Programming: Combining Python and .NET

Automate AutoCAD using two different programming platforms — one for the program and the other for the GUI. *By Andrew G. Roe.* [Read more >>](#)

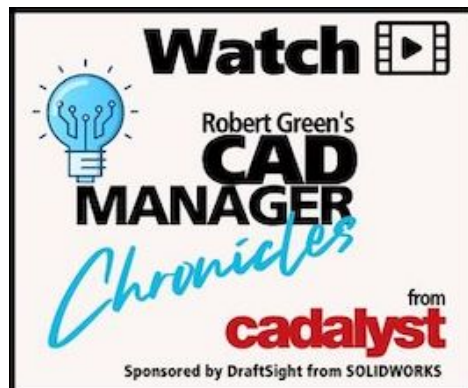
Free Resources



Additive Manufacturing 101

Find out more about additive manufacturing technology and the companies who produce AM products. Plus, read two case studies on how companies are using this technology to bring products to market faster and save money! *By Cadalyst Editors*

[DOWNLOAD NOW](#)

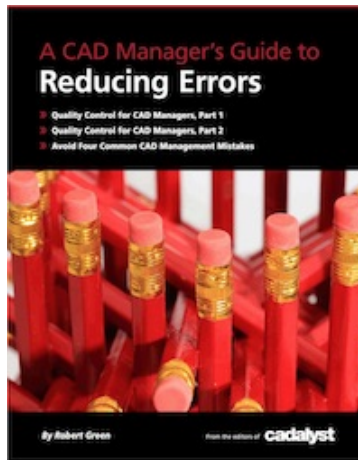


CAD Manager Chronicles Video Series

Episode 4: Making Upgrade Decisions

In this fourth episode of Cadalyst's CAD Chronicles, Robert Green discusses how best to make decisions around upgrading your software. When, what, how much, which seats? Find out how to make the best decisions for your work place. *By Robert Green*

[WATCH NOW](#)



A CAD Manager's Guide to Reducing Errors

Whether your problems stem from users who ignore standards, a company culture that doesn't prioritize quality, or self-sabotaging management techniques, this guide will set you on the path to greater efficiency, fewer mistakes, and better results. *(Compiled from Robert Green's CAD Manager's Column.)*

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