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CAD Manager's Newsletter

STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS FOR THE REAL WORLD

By Robert Green

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Issue #513

Stop Chaos Before It Takes Root

Get your team back on track if they start to ignore standards, file management rules, and other key management tools.

One of the great truisms of any organizational endeavor is that it is **very hard** to get organized and yet **very easy** to become disorganized. The universal power of entropy works against keeping things organized and CAD management is a prime example. After all, is it easier to get everyone following standards or easier to just not worry about it until later? Of course, we all know that ignoring standards will only create more problems in the end, but sometimes others in the company may not understand this fact.

In the next two editions of *The CAD Manager Newsletter*, I'll endeavor to show you how to spot problems before they become chronic, how to use the occurrence of these problems to illustrate the importance of CAD management, and, finally, to make your senior management understand why it's important. In this edition, we'll start by turning our attention towards dealing with the chaos caused when CAD management isn't a priority. Here goes.



Image source: [gustavofrazao/stock.adobe.com](https://www.adobe.com/stock/119814629698/gustavofrazao).

Overview

To start the discussion, let me list the types of problems I encounter most often in offices where CAD management has been neglected. You may not recognize all these problems in your environment but my bet is that you've noticed at least a few of them during your tenure as CAD manager:

- “Just get it done” trumps “Do it right.”
- Basic file management problems.
- Standards no longer followed.
- Software configurations devolving.
- “Just get to work” with no pre-project coordination and planning.
- Output plots, PDFs, etc., become harder to generate.
- Things that used to just “work” no longer do.

I'll expand on the most egregious topics in this edition and tie them together with some conclusions and recommendations as I go. In the next edition, I'll cover more.

Just Get It Done

CAD management is, at its core, an organizational undertaking. The entire justification behind CAD management can be summed up this way: By thinking about how we work and devising ways to work better, we can coordinate our environment, reduce errors, and make every project flow more smoothly through our company. And, as CAD processes become more standardized, the error rate will drop even more, allowing the company to do more projects faster than before.

If CAD management is ignored, there is no more unifying effort to coordinate and optimize work processes and a “just get it done” mentality takes hold. As this mindset becomes entrenched, all manner of problems will start to crop up — almost all of them avoidable. And, make no mistake, these errors cost your company money in terms of schedule delays and CAD man hours to fix problems that never should have happened.

Do you see this attitude developing in your company? If so, try this tip:

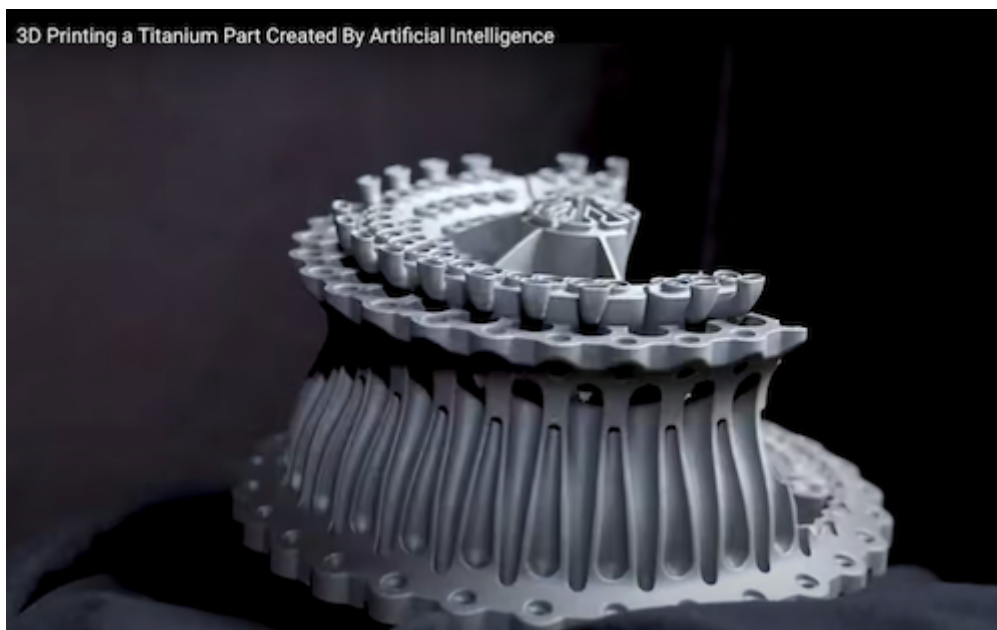
Tip: Tell your senior management that you see the “just get it done” mentality taking hold and it concerns you greatly because you don’t want to see expensive mistakes start to pop up in projects. Be proactive, be positive, and stay focused on getting work done quickly and accurately. Do not whine as you have the conversation, rather convey your concern. Of course, there’s no guarantee that management will listen until they start to see the mistakes, but at least you’ll build credibility by pointing out the issue early.

File Management Problems

One of the first problems I notice as the “just get it done” mindset takes hold is a lack of basic file management. The first tip off will be server drive space filling up as project folders fill with redundant directories of models, drawings, and project documentation. For example, I’ve seen many companies with 5 or 6 folders under a single project directory that contain the same drawings.

Why does this matter? If file management is a problem, then standards are soon to follow. Find out how best to handle these issues and keep your team working together like a well-oiled machine! [READ MORE >>](#)

Tools & Resources



Video Watch: 3D Printing a Titanium Part Created by AI

Trevor from Titans of CNC Machining walks us through the process of metal 3D Printing a Titanium part on the TruPrint 2000. The ONA AV35 was used cut this part off the build plate (which was also Titanium). This part is different from previous prints because this part not designed by a human, but instead an A.I.

[Watch Video >>](#)



Product Watch: @Xi Computers PowerGo XL Mobile Workstations

@Xi Computers announced its new mid-range professional CAD/3D modeling mobile workstations now powered by the 13th Generation Intel Core processors and fueled by the Nvidia RTX Ada Professional Video Cards as the RTX A2000 Ada 8GB VRAM, RTX A3000 Ada 8GB VRAM and RTX A5000 Ada 16GB VRAM GPU. The refreshed Xi PowerGo XL sports a 16" QHD+ 2560x1600, 17" QHD+ 2560x1600 or 17.3" UHD 3840x2160 4K displays and is capable of driving up to two external monitors depending on the GPU selection. With the mobile Intel Express Chipset power-efficient micro architecture it also supports up to 128GB DDR5 system memory, Integrated Wireless + Bluetooth 5 module and one 1TB or 2TB NVMe M.2 SSD PCIe Gen 4.0 x4, according to the company. The 13th Gen Xi PowerGo XL with an NVIDIA RTX Ada Professional Graphics are available now.

[Read more >>](#)

Webinar Watch: AMC Bridge Executive Series: Construction Digital Twins – Just how far does scanning technology get you?

The construction industry is rapidly moving towards digitalization, and the concept of digital twins is considered a groundbreaking development with enormous potential. One of the key elements of digital twin implementation approaches is scanning technology, which has become the backbone of the process. To delve deeper into the possibilities and roles of scanning technology in digital twin implementation, AMC Bridge hosted a new expert panel discussion session. Experts from Ericsson, Leica Geosystems, Haskell, Bentley Systems Taxal Limited, and AMC Bridge explore the potential and functions of scanning in digital twin implementation. The highlights from the webinar might be useful to your audience as they shed light on the following questions: The roles of AI and AR in scanning and constructing digital thread; the Scan-to-BIM concept and its role in the construction industry; scanning technology accuracy, limitations, and challenges; best practices; and scanning technology future. [Watch the webinar >>](#)

Product Watch: Clarity 2024 from IMAGINiT

IMAGINiT Technologies launched IMAGINiT Clarity 2024 offering new features and refined task automation processes to significantly reduce time spent on manual, low-value tasks. Increased workflow efficiencies and enhanced task reliability, usability and integration give BIM Coordinators greater ability to automate processes across projects, potentially saving more than 200 hours per project annually, according to the company. IMAGINiT Clarity 2024 is compatible with Autodesk Revit 2024 and fully supports versions of Autodesk Revit and Autodesk Revit Server back to 2020 with limited support available for Autodesk Revit 2019. [Watch webinar >>](#)

Upcoming Trade Show: IT Conference for Construction Professionals
August 22–24, 2023, Chicago. Engage with fellow IT professionals within the construction industry to dialogue about the future, and address technology problems you are currently facing. [Read more >>](#)

What's New at Cadalyst



Herrera on Hardware: Nvidia Kicks Off the Ada Generation of Visual Processing

Starting at the high end, Ada's prowess in 3D graphics, rendering, and compute acceleration is poised to push CAD workflows forward. Find out how Ada gen stands up against other technology. *By Alex Herrera* [Read more >>](#)



Viewpoint: Key Trends Driving the Architecture, Engineering, and Construction Industry

A call to the AEC industry to help solve the climate emergency using carbon lifecycle assessments, collaboration, and innovation. *By Brenden Roche* [Read more >>](#)

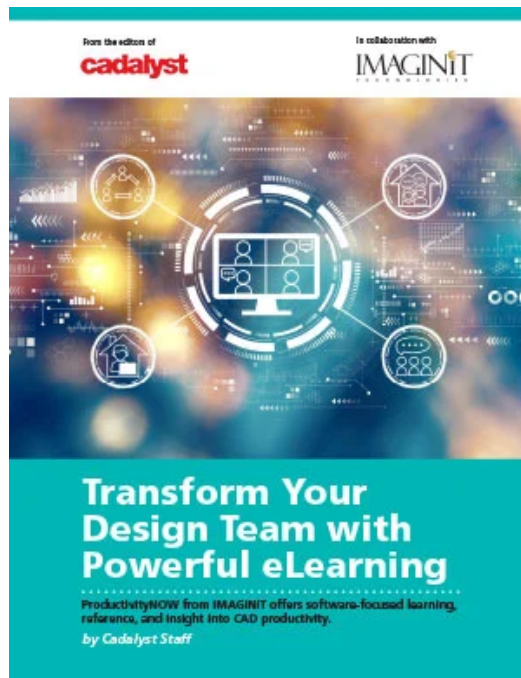
CAD Cartoon



By [Roger Penwill](#)

[Keep 'em Laughing!](#)

Free Resources



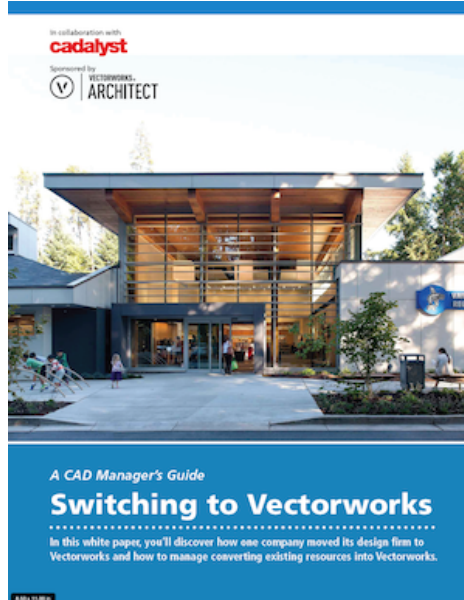
Transform Your Design Team with Powerful eLearning

Training your workforce continues to be one of the most important pillars to forming a strong and efficient team. The challenge becomes making sure your staff are using their design software to the best of their abilities and following your CAD

standards. How do you build this foundation and continue to invest in your employees?

Find out how ProductivityNOW from IMAGINiT offers you software-focused learning, reference, and insight into CAD productivity. *By Cadalyst Staff*

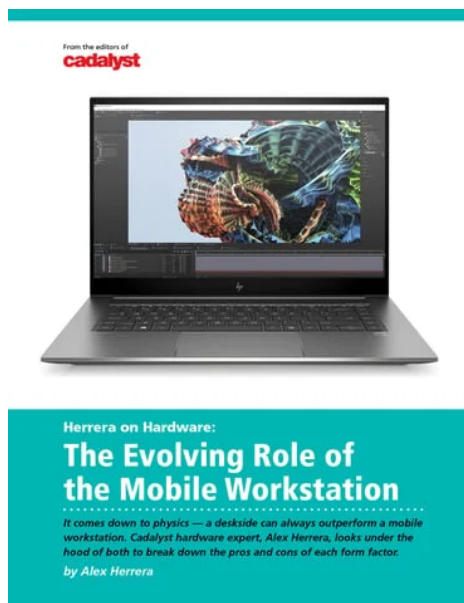
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A CAD Manager's Guide to Switching to Vectorworks

Discover how one company moved its design firm to Vectorworks and how to manage converting existing resources into Vectorworks.

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The Evolving 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. For the bulk of CAD professionals, a mobile workstation makes the ideal complementary computing device. For some, it can suffice as the one and only workstation. *By Alex Herrera*

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