

FTP Pain Point / PDM PRO Solution

FTP Pain Point:

FTP Sites need to be maintained by the owner and User Names/Passwords need to be generated and distributed. These are easily shared, taken by contacts when they move to other, possibly competitive, organizations. FTP Site Roles are difficult to manage. Document Level access is extremely difficult to determine and maintain.

PDM PRO Solution:

- PDM Allows for single point of contact management, role based security and permissions, self-contained address books, total reporting capabilities on all document access including date/time.
- SSO Authentication allows users to be modified and or deleted when they leave an organization.
- Permissions are granted automatically via the system and can be removed by changing roles or individuals.

FTP Pain Point:

FTP sites have the expense of the Host Server, Bandwidth, IT Staff and Email/User maintenance. Permissions are generally manually set this equates to an incredible cost in time and resource power.

FTP Pain Point:

FTP sites that allow uploads generally do not have any version control functionality and often run into the last in only document problem where the user who uploads a file last wins.

PDM PRO Solution:

PDM offers document and version controls that maintain every version ever uploaded, trackable and reportable by User, Time, Date, etc.

FTP Pain Point:

Most FTP sites contain absolutely no Meta data for any content and can be extremely difficult to search.

PDM PRO Solution:

PDM offers complete, customizable index fields for quick and easy searching.

FTP Pain Point:

FTP sites do not allow for two-way communications

PDM PRO solution: There are many different tools within PDM PRO that allow for two-way communication between the GC and the sub/vendor that make everyday tasks a much more productive and streamlined process....

- With the collaborator license functionality
- Submittal workflow in PDM PRO offers collaboration through document sharing
- Communicate through with subs/vendors through online prequalification tool

Frequently asked questions:

What is the purpose of FTP site: FTP was designed to allow a user to push files from their local computer to a remote computer and to download files from a remote computer to their local computer.

Why should I use PDM when I have a well-developed workflow using FTP?

FTP Pain Point:

When a user logs on to a FTP site, they will see a list of files and folders. The information available to the user about the files and folders are **the names of the files and folders only.**

This means that the user looking to download a specific set of files must have prior understanding of the folder structure or take time to search through the files and folders to which they have access.

PDM PRO Solution:

With PDM, you can organize files by project, package, addendum, folder, etc. This is different from a traditional folder because the files themselves are not stored on the hard drives in this structure, but rather linked to the structure through the database. This has several advantages.

- If a file needs to be in more than one folder this can be done without making a new physical copy of the file. This reduces the amount of storage space needed to have the file in multiple locations.
- With the use of the Current Set feature, you can easily update a package with new files without the tedious task of moving files around.
- Simply upload the new file and the PDM system recognizes the file is new, flags the previous file as Not Current and then places the new file in the Current Set Folder.
- **IS THIS MORE EFFICIENT? YES,** it eliminates the manual process of moving, copying and deleting files and reduces room for error.

FTP Pain Point:

Most FTP Servers provide the ability for logging user activity, however; this is usually in the form of archaic log files that are difficult to understand and capture workflow.

PDM PRO Solution:

PDM comes with a variety of reports designed to capture what files users have accessed. Updating files and sending addendum notices is more streamlined with pinpointed accuracy.

- Notifications to the project team, bidders, suppliers, manufacturers are personalized and include a link with direct access to the updated files...**no more guessing and spending valuable time searching where to find the updated files!**
- PDM allows complete transparency...you can see if the recipients of the notification have logged in after receiving the notification.
- Through permissions, multiple administrators can have access to the notification list. **Why is this important? With PDM, administrators can check the status of the recipients (It does not matter that Jane Doe sent out a notification right before vacation and no one has access to her email).**

The major benefit of PDM vs. FTP sites:

PDM offers a central repository where the user can manage many aspects of their projects and files.

Example: You can manage users, their information including their area of interest, project details, ITB packages, addendums, notifications and files.

1. No more having one person manage users for the FTP server.
2. No more having the one person manage the files on the FTP server.

Why is this important?

This reduces your effort to

1. manage files on the hard drive of the server
2. manage users on the FTP server
3. manage who sent out the notification
4. manage who has downloaded the updated files

Why PDM PRO?

Having all these things manageable in one location allows you to divide the tasks of managing your projects based on the project, **not on what task needs to be performed.**

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