2D or not 2D

Nobody doubts that 3D modelling increases productivity. As a consequence, drawing didn’t stand up very well to the test of time. On the opposite, 3D tends to become even more hype. Probably, due to the facts that it evokes better all aspects of a product development.

If 3D provides brilliant and real advantages, this now current use unfortunately makes out of fashion all the data usually classified as “2D data”. However, it would not come to anybody’s idea to work without the very essential cotation, hatching, texts, bill of material, views, drawing templates and all information they included or data such as FD&T. Last but not least, remember the contractual character of the 2D drawing that formalizes mutual commitment of companies.

At a very first glance, visualization is a typical 3D application. Nevertheless Actify, the worldwide leader in client-server design visualization and collaboration solutions does not hesitate to communicate on the advantages that offer 2D, as a supplement to its 3D tools. That way, it demonstrates its consideration to this type of data and reminds its wish to ease access to all formats available on the market.

Randy Ochs, CEO and president of Actify, has recently declared « we consider of great importance to enable easy and secure access, communication and distribution of multiple 2D/3D Cad file formats and related documents, throughout global enterprises and worldwide supply chains, without requiring access to native Cad systems ».


Datakit is unique among some rare data exchange specialists in the world, that knows how to make “native 2D translators”, explains Francis Cadin, CEO of the company.

" We began to speak about our collaboration with Actify in Chicago during IMTS. This project is then spent at the stage of the realization, and we committed ourselves to keep up with delays, with a progressive reading of the 2D data and of the FD&T. Today, we launch these tools on the market with the assurance that they surely are going to arouse customers’ interests ".

Thanks to these 2D additional translators, Datakit still strengthens its closed realtionships with the software companies and its willingness to develop its market share on very different fields.
Francis Cadin concludes, “we have a real request for taking the native 2D data into account, in particular for CatiaV5 and UG. According to us, this could be explained by different reasons. First of all, there is an enormous variety of entities. Think only about the number, type of hatchings which one can find, or about the arrows, each time they are managed differently according to their uses.

In addition, since customers well manage 3D data, they require to go further and from there, demand to recover 2D data.

As you can imagine, the task is not always easy when it deals with the methods of decompression of UG, tables of cotation, of coordinates, or holes of CatiaV5, but we have the support from many of our partners, software companies, whose pressure is the engine of our developments.”