

## Key Challenges

- Integrating the product lifecycle management process

## Solution

- Moving from multiple disconnected databases to an integrated, cloud-based Autodesk Fusion Lifecycle PLM solution

## Benefits

- Improved document control
- Automating manual processes
- Single source of information
- Streamlined item/BOM creation and ECO process

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# Lytron Implements PLM with Autodesk Fusion Lifecycle and Razorleaf



Lytron is a Woburn, MA based company with more than 55 years of experience in designing and manufacturing high-performance cooling products used in medical, military, semiconductor, and other high-technology markets. The company focuses its engineering, quality, operations and customer service teams on delivering thermal management solutions to protect

expensive sensitive equipment, electronic & otherwise, that performs mission-critical work, from the harmful effects of heat.

Lytron historically relied on direct access to their BPCS ERP system and a series of manual processes from stakeholders in many areas of the organization to manage their PLM process. To expand their capabilities and become more efficient as a growing business, they wanted to standardize and improve control of their item creation, BOM management, Engineering Change Order (ECO), New Product Introduction and Non-Conforming Material processes.



## The Challenge

“We had a set of robust processes in place but they were decentralized and more manual than we would have liked,” stated David Olds, VP Engineering at Lytron.

“Our existing tools helped in the process of creating an item, and selecting the correct attributes and properties,” adds Bob Wing, Lytron’s Business Process and IT Development Manager. “But the output was an Excel spreadsheet which required manual entry by Document Control. That was one specific area we wanted to improve.”

Another critical objective of Lytron's PLM migration initiative was to improve its organizational efficiency by migrating separate databases for project status, information lists, tooling, training and non-conforming materials records into an integrated, go-to source.

"We wanted to improve communication to and between all users, and ensure that information was readily available when all of our various team members needed to access it," said Olds. "Lytron is focused on becoming a more valued supplier and growing within our target markets, and in order for us to be successful the need for a PLM solution was evident."

## The Solution

Lytron evaluated four or five midrange PLM solutions from different vendors before deciding on Autodesk Fusion Lifecycle.

"Autodesk had a scale and experience level we reacted to," said Olds. "We just had a belief that Autodesk is always investing in this type of area."

Fusion Lifecycle also met Lytron's other criteria.

"We wanted a cloud-based solution that wouldn't burden our internal IT resources," said Wing. "We felt it would be best to avoid on-site servers, IT integration, and security issues. With a

cloud-based system we could manage the platform on our own. We were also pleased with the Jitterbit integration middleware and Fusion Lifecycle's Javascript capability."

Lytron chose Razorleaf to help implement the Autodesk solution.

"One of the key topics we discussed was the BPCS integration," says Wing. "Razorleaf had experience there and that was important."

The Razorleaf team worked with Lytron to implement several Autodesk Fusion Lifecycle business processes including Items and BOMs and Change Management. They helped set up the data structure for classifying items, building item descriptions, and setting up item numbers. Razorleaf was also key to the success of the project by handling the scripting capture the business logic needed for the applications.

"Razorleaf was extremely helpful as the bridge to the information in our ERP system in terms of addressing, fields, other required manipulations, and data synchronization

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issues,” says Olds. “They were able to work with our IT department in a way that allowed the PLM implementation to be successful.”

Razorleaf was also instrumental in translating Lytron’s requirements into actual functionality in the Autodesk Fusion Lifecycle platform.

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## Business Benefits

Lytron is enjoying several key benefits from the Autodesk Fusion Lifecycle implementation and business system integrations:

- Improved document and quality control of newly created items before they are entered in ERP.
- Time savings with the elimination of several manual processes.
- Increased item accuracy via the traceability and data capturing features.
- Simplified item and documentation revision cycle with use of the Change Management application

“Before Autodesk, Lytron’s processes involved multiple manual steps creating greater risk of error,” said Wing. “However, with Autodesk, we enter information once, and it travels through the approval process and directly into ERP. We are experiencing improved document control and a more streamlined process.”

Lytron is also saving time by implementing a BOM cloning process. This is much more efficient than creating new BOMs from scratch for each new item number.



“We have restructured how we want information to be stored and accessed within Lytron as the company grows,” says Olds. “Each product will have its own workspace and attribute information. Additional items such as user manuals and any kind of product related information whether technical or commercial will be housed under that structure. We consider

this implementation to be a significant milestone, and are pleased with the way this breadth of information fits within the Autodesk Fusion Lifecycle.”

Lytron continues to extend its adoption of the Autodesk Fusion Lifecycle solution to all users, and is well on the way to implementing additional workspaces for Supplier Management, New Product Introduction, and Quality Management.

## Razorleaf's Performance

Lytron was pleased with the agile type implementation method taken by the Razorleaf team. The approach closely sticks to the Map It, Build It, Use It strategy so often referred to by Autodesk around its PLM solution.

“The mapping describes what you want to accomplish in the context of the software,” stated Olds. “The building out of it would be the actual coding of bringing that to life. Razorleaf would come back and confirm it was what we wanted. I think that approach of engaging with people who could only describe what they wanted and then actually have it happen was tremendous.”

“The on-site Razorleaf team performed well in their role,” said Wing. “I was amazed at how quickly they would do what they were tasked to do. I think they were terrific.”

“They needed to know more than just how to write code,” Olds adds. “They would listen to our back and forth about what we were trying to accomplish and then they would thoughtfully interject their ideas. That helped in getting the best solution.”

## About Razorleaf

Founded in 2000, Razorleaf is dedicated to helping clients bridge the gap between PLM technologies and business problems to deliver greater value from their technology investments. Razorleaf's technology expertise spans PLM, Product Data Management (PDM), Design Automation (DA), Process Management, Business Intelligence, and Systems Integration and Migration. Razorleaf works with many PLM/CAD platforms including Aras, Dassault Systèmes, Infor, Autodesk, SOLIDWORKS, DriveWorks, SharePoint and more. Razorleaf was named in the Top 20 Most Promising PLM Providers 2016 by CIO Review and was named a Weatherhead 100 company in 2017. For more information, visit [www.razorleaf.com](http://www.razorleaf.com).

