

Steelcase Answers to WC User Group Questions 24Apr2019

Question: How many plants do you currently manage in Windchill?

Steelcase Answer: We currently manage 22 plants (19 are active, 3 are maintained for historical purposes) We have a 3 level view architecture Design > Manufacturing > 22 Plants

Question: What are the types and volume of attributes you currently manage in Windchill?

Steelcase Answer: For WTParts, we have many soft types, but the primary mechanical part has 16 **additional** attributes over the standard WTPart Global attributes (5 String, 9 Real with Units, and 2 Boolean) For WTPart Usage we have 3 **additional** Global attributes (3 String). For View-specific Enterprise Data we have a single attribute which is significant to us and it is a Made By attribute which we use to track an internal interplant shipment OR indicate an external supplier.

We have a backlog item to move many of these attributes to Standard attributes.

Question: Do you currently manage Alternate or BOM types in Windchill? Do you have use case for future?

Steelcase Answer: Not currently, but we have a use case for Service BOMs and, if we implement process planning, we will likely have a need for Alternate BOMs as well.

Question: How important do you see having plant information managed in upstream system like Windchill MPMLink?

Steelcase Answer: We believe it is critical for the implementation for concurrent engineering (concurrent product and process development). Many issues exist where we cannot begin work until a plant is assigned in a formal system. We have traditionally solved many of these issues with Ad-hoc processes, but have been using downstream equivalent parts to enable these capabilities.

Question: How do you manage the supply chain (internal versus external)?

Steelcase Answer: Supply chain is done out of SAP. We only manage suppliers inside of Windchill for electronic components and assemblies. However, on our plant-specific enterprise data, we have a single attribute, Made By which indicates an internal interplant shipment (internal supplier of another plant) or an external Supplier (non-specific). We have a supplier portal application, called Supplysync, which manages supplier access to appropriate published design data and we also are using Windchill Packages.

Question: What are the main GAP's you see in Windchill MPMLink in that area?

Answer: Not quite sure.

1. We have a use case for external processing of a component where we send a part out to a supplier for a process step, but we are responsible for fabrication and then finishing. Without process planning, I'm not sure how we do this.
2. We have several regional ERP systems with different export compliance regulations between countries. In this situation, we often use different part numbers for our interplant shipments. We call this concept Global Parts and Windchill structures are unaware of the swapping of part numbers which is managed inside of SAP. It might be nice to have a mechanism to work through this.