

# Adobe solutions for digital rights management

Enabling secure collaboration, protecting sensitive information, and managing version control across the manufacturing supply chain



In order to stay competitive in today's global economy, manufacturers must produce better products faster and more cost-effectively. They must communicate earlier in the manufacturing process with more partners and suppliers than ever before. To achieve this imperative, manufacturers must share sensitive information with stakeholders all over the world. Some of these suppliers operate in emerging economies where it's possible to deliver quality products at a lower cost. However, many do not adhere to the same intellectual property laws that are common in developed countries. Collaborating electronically in an age of outsourcing carries the risk of theft or misuse of proprietary information, which can result in costly consequences for the manufacturer and its ability to compete and be profitable.

Adobe digital rights management solutions, leveraging Adobe LiveCycle® ES Rights Management technology, enable secure collaboration by helping to maintain control over processes such as design collaboration, request for proposal (RFP), work instructions, engineering change management, and field service delivery. They help safeguard sensitive information against theft and misuse as manufacturers build a network of trusted suppliers and partners with whom they can exchange information.

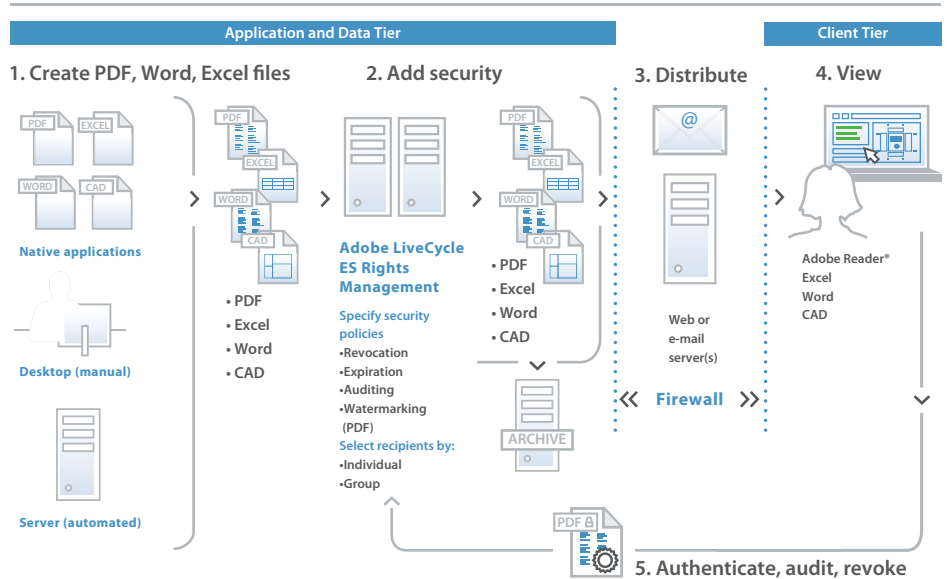
The solutions empower manufacturers to use, manage, and control sensitive files and apply tailored policies that are designed to enable persistent protection. Manufacturers can control access to designs or sensitive business information anytime and anywhere, regardless of where the information is stored or how it has been distributed. Adobe solutions also integrate easily with existing information systems and workflows, which helps ensure cost-effective, centralized, and efficient document security and administration.

With an Adobe digital rights management solution, manufacturers have a distinct competitive advantage. They can share designs, communicate work instructions, answer RFPs, and collaborate in other efficient ways with their supply chain.

**With Adobe solutions for digital rights management, manufacturers can:**

- Reduce the risk of theft and the misuse of intellectual property
- Collaborate with confidence and increase supply chain agility
- Protect, manage, and monitor the use of sensitive documents outside the firewall
- Eliminate costly design errors through revision control during the design process and across the supply chain

**Adobe LiveCycle® ES Rights Management Software**



**Maximizing supply chain competitiveness**

With Adobe solutions, manufacturers can accelerate development cycles and engage in electronic document-based processes confidently. The solutions enable persistent rights management policies that specify who has access to a document, when the access rights will expire, and how the protected document can be used. This includes whether the recipient is allowed to print, extract, or copy and paste its contents. Manufacturers can even disable the functionality of certain features to prevent the misuse of shared content. These access and usage rights can be revised or revoked at any time, even if the document has been distributed outside the organization. This provides greater assurance that only authorized individuals can access and use manufacturer information.

**Promoting the proper use of sensitive information**

Adobe solutions complement and leverage manufacturers’ existing document management and security infrastructure by extending their ability to control and monitor document usage at all times outside the firewall. Manufacturers can monitor who is using their design or work instruction documents, for example, and capture all activity in detailed audit logs, including when the documents are opened, printed, and saved. They can generate reports on how sensitive information is used. And if they suspect that someone is using the files inappropriately, they can revoke that supplier’s access to the files.

**Eliminating costly design errors**

Adobe digital rights management solutions enable manufacturers to track and manage versions throughout the design process and across the entire supply chain, no matter where the documents reside. This is especially beneficial for distributing engineering change orders. When management issues a new engineering change order, for example, the system can revoke access to the outdated file and provide a link to the updated version. So, when collaborators request access to the outdated file, they are redirected to the current version of the document. This helps manufacturers avoid potential costly design errors and changes that result from designing according to outdated specifications.

### **Collaborating with confidence**

Because information has been difficult to protect in the past, manufacturers have not been able to optimize their partner relationships. Adobe digital rights management solutions allow them to break this barrier and build stronger ties by controlling sensitive information and processes outside the enterprise, which results in a sustainable competitive advantage.

Digital rights management is designed to protect sensitive information against theft and misuse, which gives manufacturers greater assurance that only authorized individuals can access and use information as prescribed by preset usage rights. It also enables manufacturers to manage document availability and provide up-to-date information. With a rights management system in place, manufacturers can engage and collaborate with suppliers and partners around the world more securely, efficiently, and confidently.

### **Improving bottom-line results**

Manufacturers can use Adobe solutions for digital rights management to confidently exchange sensitive information with partners and suppliers globally and to increase supply chain agility. The solutions reduce the risk of theft and misuse of sensitive information by allowing manufacturers to protect, manage, and monitor the use of business documents outside the firewall. They can also eliminate costly design errors by extending version control beyond the enterprise and throughout the supply chain. With Adobe solutions for digital rights management, manufacturers are free to develop stronger and more effective ties with partners at every step in the supply chain, enabling better products, faster time to market, and a competitive advantage.

#### **For more information**

To learn more about Adobe solutions for digital rights management, visit [www.adobe.com/products/server/policy](http://www.adobe.com/products/server/policy).

To learn more about Adobe solutions for Manufacturing, visit [www.adobe.com/manufacturing](http://www.adobe.com/manufacturing).



**Adobe**

**Adobe Systems Incorporated**  
345 Park Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95110-2704  
USA  
[www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)

Adobe, the Adobe logo, LiveCycle, and Reader are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Adobe Systems Incorporated in the United States and/or other countries. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

© 2007 Adobe Systems Incorporated. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA.

95010080 11/07