

ProductCenter™ Workflow

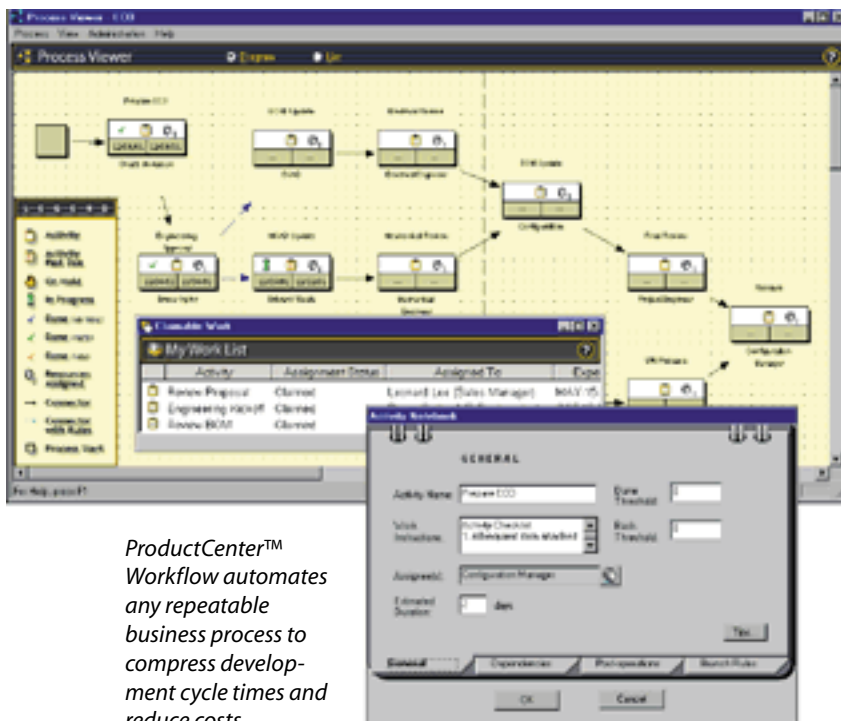
Build, Release, and Distribute Product Configurations with Automated Processes

ProductCenter™ Workflow may be just what you need to automate your product development processes. Automated workflow improves process efficiency and accuracy considerably, and therefore time-to-market, while providing the necessary controls and audit trails for regulatory compliance.

Automating just one process, such as the engineering change process (ECOs, ECNs, and ECRs) through ProductCenter Workflow has helped companies reduce product lifecycles by as much as 60% or more for significant cost and time savings, and resulting competitive advantage. You too can reap these benefits through the flexible process automation that ProductCenter can provide in many areas of your business.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **User friendly workflow tools allow easy, fast creation and automation of complex business processes**
- **A mouse click routes work requests or forms with supporting data to individuals, groups, or role assignments**
- **Access work assignments, process status, audit trail history, and comments; perform item, process or activity queries to check status**
- **Workflow activity reports to better manage and summarize project status**



ProductCenter™ Workflow automates any repeatable business process to compress development cycle times and reduce costs.

organization and supply chain. With processes consistently repeatable, and all needed information linked to an assignment, there's no question what to do next, who is responsible, or where they are at with the assignment, helping projects move through to completion much faster.

Identify and Eliminate Bottlenecks

Where before you may have needed to track down individuals to check on an activity such as an ECO, up-to-the-minute status can be checked or reports run on any item or workflow process in seconds.

Regulatory Compliance

ISO and FDA not only require documenting your processes — but also adhering to those processes each and every time. ProductCenter Workflow supports compliance, automating controls and audit trails to prevent potential costly delays or problems.

Design and Modify Processes with Graphical Process Editor

Use point and click flowcharts to create, position, and connect activities to define workflows. Define processes and create forms tailored to

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ProductCenter Automates & Streamlines

Optimize Process Efficiency and Accuracy

Almost any cyclical business process can be made more efficient with ProductCenter Workflow — engineering change management, design release management, quality procedures, bid and purchasing preparation, customer service tracking, to name just a few. There are likely many manual processes that exist within your company that could benefit with workflow automation.

Enhance Collaboration

ProductCenter automates and streamlines the flow of work from person to person and team to team, documenting approvals and comments, enhancing communication and collaboration throughout your global

IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT OF DATA THAT DRIVES YOUR PRODUCT SUCCESS...

match existing processes or create customized processes to gain new efficiencies in other areas of your business.

Flexible Assignment of Tasks

You can direct assignments to individuals, user roles, or group roles, while setting triggers linked to other workflow activities, such as time limits for responding.

Route Items or Use Forms for Your Process

Associate processes with an on-line form (form-based), such as an ECO form, or allow users to route specific items (route-based), such as a Microsoft® Word document.

Process Management

Once defined, save processes under a unique file name in a desktop folder. Process definitions are also automatically versioned when changes are made to maintain control and make sure individuals are launching only current processes.

Automatically Validate Process Definitions

Before allowing you to save, ProductCenter Workflow checks your process definition for errors, providing message warnings, if there are problems or to catch basic logic errors, such as activities unassigned resources or multiple activities with the same names. Test processes can be saved with distinct file names and tested prior to release.

Assigning Activities and Approvals

Assignments appear in the targeted individual's *My Work List* window or can be claimed by the next available authorized person from a general *Claimable Work List*. Once claimed, the item can be approved by the user (sent forward), disapproved (sent backward), or placed on hold. Approvals can require electronic signatures, consisting of a user name and protected password, and include comments, if desired.

Define "Voting" Thresholds for Approving Activities

Administrators can design activities that go forward when a certain subset of assigned users have approved, specifying which users have more "authority" or voting weight than others.

Data Driven Branching

Support for branch rules using Boolean expressions allow you to specify requirements under which one, a certain number, or all conditions must be met before proceeding. So, for example, you may specify a branch requiring a higher-level approval on ECOs for part replacements that exceed a certain dollar value.

"Before implementing ProductCenter Workflow, approvals could take weeks or more. Review cycles have been compressed now to just days or less and are repeatable ECO after ECO"

■ Gregg Wilder,
Kollsman Manager of Design Engineering

Post-operation Activities and E-mail Notification

Post-operations such as e-mail notification, report generation, or an update of your ERP system can be invoked automatically following successful completion of a workflow activity. A practical application would be to provide a 'heads-up' email notification to manufacturing engineering of an impending assembly change requiring new tooling, as soon as the ECO is signed off by engineering.

Examine Processes with Graphical Process Viewer

The ProductCenter Workflow *Process Viewer* allows you to check the status of a process, viewing the process graphically or from a list. From here, you can see if an activity is completed, in progress, or yet to be started or claimed. From the Process Viewer an administrator can also call up a process audit trail, as well as cancel, delete, or suspend a current process.

Keep Informed with Audit Trails and Flexible Reporting

ProductCenter records all events in the lifecycle of a process and maintains an audit trail that you can view and print. You can also run reports to show all active processes and create your own custom reports on items or workflow processes or instances with ProductCenter's flexible *Report Editor*, maximizing information in more useful ways.

ProductCenter™ SPECIFICATIONS

Version: 8	Web Client: Netscape®, Microsoft® Internet Explorer.
Client: Microsoft® Windows® 2000/NT/XP, Sun Solaris™, HP-UX	Web Server: iPlanet™ Web Server, Microsoft® Internet Information Server, Apache™ Web Server
Server: Microsoft® Windows® 2000/NT, Sun Solaris™, HP-UX	Database: Oracle®



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