

New Generation CAD/CAM Software

Improving your bottom line

Anne Charlton - Integrated Joinery Solutions Pty Ltd Supplier Mar/April 2014



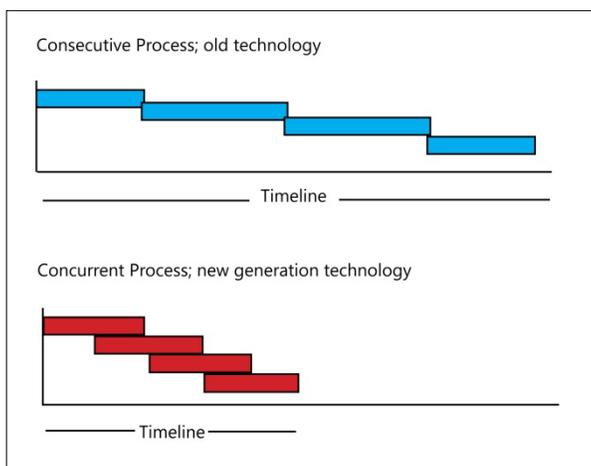
INTEGRATED
JOINERY SOLUTIONS

As CAD/CAM software continues to advance, new generation CAD/CAM solutions can result in a better bottom line for your business. These advanced solutions can save your business time & money and provide you with distinct competitive advantages. Investing in these new generation solutions could well be the key for your business to minimise expensive manual processes and costly errors and wastage

Time to Market

The industry is dealing with shrinking lead times and time to market has become a key advantage the local industry has over imports.

New generation software can decrease time to market by supporting a concurrent, not consecutive, approach to your drawing, machining & production processes.



In effect, the aim of the new generation solutions is to allow for several processes to overlap, rather than having to be done one after the other.

For example, drawings purely for approval purposes become an outdated concept. Your approval drawings can now contain all the information needed to go to production.

This can only be done with new generation solutions which do not require the unit to be redrawn from scratch if any changes are required to the model.

This approach also allows for one setout operator to be responsible for multiple processes (eg drafting, cutting lists & machining), rather than having an operator responsible for each specific function.

Design Changes

All manufacturers are in the business of change management. Each and every time the client, designer or architect makes a modification to the design you stand to lose money if you have to waste valuable time redrawing the design from scratch to the new specifications.

New generation 3D CAD/CAM software solutions operate on the premise that users need to perform changes cost effectively, without having to redraw the unit every time.

Known as 'exact parametric modellers' these solutions provide you with the ability to quickly & easily make all dimensions parametric; length, width & depth. This allows you to make changes to designs in seconds, even complex units & curves, freeing up setout resources to move on to the next project.

And being fully associative all the workshop drawings, plotsheets and machining information are automatically updated with any changes to the model.

Data Errors

With old technology it is possible for up to four different software solutions, from different developers, to be involved in the process from design through to machining in your business.

Using multiple software solutions requires the transfer of data between different programs.

Every time this happens there is the conversion of data via an interface or sometimes even a manual process.

Each point where data is transferred between programs the chance of data errors increases. Data errors lead to wastage of both time and materials, eating into profit margins.

New generation solutions are fully integrated CAD/CAM systems which remove the need for multiple interfaces and manual processes reducing errors and wastage.

Double Handling

With recent advancements in technology there is no longer a need for businesses to operate multiple softwares for different work streams.

Many joinery businesses work in a range of markets and produce both standard and custom units.

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Previously software solutions have tended to specialise in either standard or custom work. Or indeed in specific market niches such as kitchens or wardrobes or commercial joinery.

The new generation of software solutions handle ALL work streams with ease. This has numerous benefits to your business:

- one system to purchase
- one system to learn
- one process for your team to follow
- one contact for technical assistance

Wastage

With the new generation of solutions that adhere to a Design to Build philosophy, wastage can be cut considerably.

New generation solutions now offer visual machining, with full production information attached, allowing the user to see exactly what is going to be manufactured. Errors can be spotted on the screen, before going to production.

This ensures that businesses can be confident that what is on the screen is what is going to come off the machine.

Some cutting edge solutions go as far as to allow the user to see a video preview of the machining process in action. What better way to ensure 100% accuracy.

Be mindful of solutions that only offer a visual representation of machining. This will provide you with a nice image on the screen, but with no production information attached it does not guarantee increased accuracy.

True shape nesting provides further opportunity to save on wastage as it provides for maximum usage of board.

Interface Functionality

New generation software recognises the need for you to import and export files amongst your network.

An incredibly useful feature is the provision of multiple interface formats for import and export. The more file formats offered the better.

This interface functionality offers genuine time saving benefits as it can offer the ability to open work directly from other CAD solutions in 2D and 3D. As the files maintain maximum integrity your workload in getting these files production ready is minimised.

User Control

The most advanced solutions actually hand control back to you. No-one knows your business better than you do. By having control, you can easily change:

- construction methods
- hardware
- fixings

reducing time to market.

Joinery Specific Functions

No longer does the joinery industry need to rely on software that has been adapted to the industry. You can now access solutions that have in-built joinery functionality.

These systems provide users with the ability to quickly:

- interchange assembly methods (eg screws, CAM, dowels etc),
- apply wood operations such grooves & rebates directly from the tool bar
- select various panel processing functions such as edge banding.

This saves considerable time in the setout process, again freeing up resources to move on to the next project.

Sound Investment

Businesses continue to invest large amounts in CNC machinery to increase production capability, and rightly so.

However, CNC machines need CAD/CAM software to run efficiently. And with software only a fraction of the cost of machinery, software represents great value for money.

Software is the brains of the modern joinery operation. The right software is a worthwhile investment, providing the continuous process improvement needed to remain ahead of the competition.

Investing in the new generation software allows you to break away from the competition. And your investment will be repaid many times over.