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Engineering Documentation Control Handbook, Fourth Edition: Configuration Management And Product Lifecycle Management



Synopsis

In this new edition of his widely-used Handbook, Frank Watts, widely recognized for his significant contributions to engineering change control processes, provides a thoroughly practical guide to the implementation and improvement of Engineering Documentation Control (EDC), Product Lifecycle Management and Product Configuration Management (CM). Successful and error-free implementation of EDC/CM is critical to world-class manufacturing. Huge amounts of time are wasted in most product manufacturing environments over EDC/CM issues such as interchangeability, document release and change control – resulting in faults, product release delays and overspend. The book is packed with specific methods that can be applied quickly and accurately to almost any industry and any product to control documentation, request changes to the product, implement changes and develop bills of material. The result is a powerful communications bridge between the engineering function and “the rest of the world” that makes rapid changes in products and documentation possible. With the help of the simple techniques in the handbook, companies can gain and hold their competitive advantages in a world that demands flexibility and quick reflexes – and has no sympathy for delays. The new edition sets EDC/CM in the context of Product Lifecycle Management (PLM), providing guidance on choosing, purchasing and implementing PLM software systems. Watts guides the reader to harness these tools and techniques for business objectives including Process Improvement and time-to-market. Solid, pragmatic ideas for real product and process cost reduction. According to one reviewer: “most books focus on the basics without examining all facets of each process area or functional area. This may be good for quickly learning, but it will only take the reader so far. Mr. Watts imparts the same information, but invites the reader to think and to consider strengths and weaknesses of processes and procedures. The copious examples, illustrations and breadth of topics covered make this book “the” reference on EDC and CM.” Strategic emphasis shows how processes may be integrated and tears down the “wall” between Engineering and Operations. Thorough description of Product Lifecycle Management software tools

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Customer Reviews

Frank Watts has over forty-eight years of industrial and consultation experience as a design engineer, industrial engineer, manufacturing engineer, systems analyst, project manager, and in management. He founded his own specialist configuration management company to provide specific expertise in product release, change control, bills of material and other engineering documentation control issues. Formally a director of engineering services, a director of operations and a director of manufacturing engineering, Watts has worked for Caterpillar, Collins Radio, Control Data, Storage Technology, UFE and Archive. He has guided the development of engineering change control processes at numerous companies and made significant contributions towards improving new product release processes, installing MRP/ERP systems and new numbering systems, as well as helping companies attain a single BOM database and guided reengineering of CM processes. He is an NDIA Certified Configuration and Data Manager, author of several magazine articles and author of the Engineering Documentation Control Handbook and CM Metrics.

The author does a great job showboating his immense knowledge in this important subject, and also with building up excitement early on with all the wonderful benefits that a good documentation control system will bring, but upon completion of this book, I just didn't see the grand utopia come together that was described early on. The sections on Bill of Materials was disappointing as well as the example engineering drawings. If I were to use the same Title Blocks shown in the book, my boss would laugh at me and as far as the BOMs, they just seem better suited to a past generation -- BOMs I am used to seeing are much more complete and descriptive than the examples here. Also, there were examples on dealing with revised circuit cards and this was just very confusing where the author makes a case of a revised card being able to work in the system it is used in. If I were to

plug a revised card in the system I work on, I would cause a plane crash. Maybe other technical fields will find this book helpful, and if it helps you, that's great, but for my case working in a small R&D company, I think I'll just figure out my own system.

I reference this book all the time. It has great insight into setting up and maintaining document control processes.

Even the older versions will get you up to speed.

Bought this book when I first got into documentation control and configuration management. Best buy I ever made. I constantly refer to it when explaining the subject. Very well written. I highly recommend this to anyone who wants to know how this stuff works.

Great

Great book. A must have for engineers.

...but not for Software CM. As the title says, this is an Industry CM book. If your need is for Software CM, this book can be used for general CM concepts and background (and to develop a strong understanding of CM principles), but no more (get a software-specific CM/release management book instead). Only a few brief mentions of application of these concepts to software CM. If your need is for doc. control/industry CM, then this is probably an ideal book.

I bought this as a reference book to help resolve document control situations/issues between Engineering & Plant Manufacturing in our small company (everyone seems to have their own idea of how systems should be organized). I find for the most part the text is very understandable in its explanations, well-organized & informative. As I read through it, the examples & information deals with documentation control across the whole product lifecycle which I hope will help to "bridge" the communication & process "gaps" in our organization & will hopefully help us to be more effective & efficient overall.

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