

Long-Term Plans Short-Term Results



Robert Green
CAD-Manager.com

Quick bio ...

- Mechanical engineer turned computer geek
- Private consultant since 1991
- Focusing on standardization, customization and management of CAD
- Cadalyst Magazine contributing editor
- 14 year AU speaker

rgreen@CAD-Manager.com

Roundtabling – How it Works

- I'll moderate, suggest, keep time and referee
- You'll drive the discussion
- Keep comments brief – don't monopolize the conversation
- No “rabbit holes” – keep topics relevant for all
- Session will be recorded so speak up!
- Let's go ...

Major Themes

Plan long but achieve now
Hardware purchasing strategies
Software purchasing strategies
Getting the most for your money
Staging/Staggering training



Balancing long term requirements with current needs

- You obviously know your current needs.
- How do you know what your long term requirements are?
- What time frame do you think in? 2, 3, 4, 5 years?
- How do you harmonize short term and long term?

Ideas

- Ask management for guidance on long term
- Use pilot projects to plan for future resource needs
- Buy hardware and software based on pilot results



Hardware purchasing strategies

- Buy new workstations per project, per month, per year?
- How long do you keep hardware? Two, three or more years?
- Do you rotate today's CAD workstation to tomorrow's clerk?
- Do you upgrade hardware or buy new?

Ideas

- Just in time hardware purchasing
- Make hardware evaluation project driven
- Let SW requirements dictate HW – not IT!
- Cores! Clustering



Software purchasing strategies

- All single user, all network or a hybrid mixture?
- Upgrade at every version, per project, every other year?
- Do you synchronize hardware purchases with software upgrades?
- Are you doing any cloud or software centralization?

Ideas

- Hybrid licensing seems to work well in most cases
- Private clouds serve shared users well
- If you can't run the SW well what's the point?



Training

- Do you train users with an eye towards the future?
- Do you train for only current project demands?
- Do you train all at once or just in time?

Ideas

- Stagger training – small and bite sized
- Training must deliver results now
- Train with “vision” to communicate future concepts



Summary - Getting the Most for Your Money

- Make sure every short term action supports a long term goal.
- Constantly evaluate your long term goals.
- Always think long term.
- Build a HW/SW environment that allows easy forward migration.



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