

Automation That Delivers More Than Time Savings

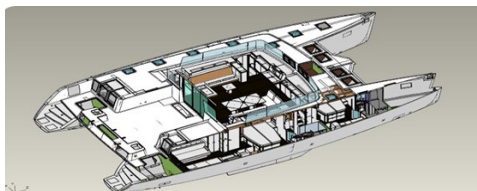
Driving Best Practices and higher quality through reliable, easy-to-use Automation

The Client: Groupe Beneteau

Groupe Beneteau, a French sail and motorboat manufacturer, is a pioneer for recreational boating. As a global market leader, Groupe Beneteau has 8 brands, offering nearly 180 recreational boat models serving its customers' diverse navigational needs and uses, from sailing to motorboating, monohulls and catamarans.

The Challenge: Flexible Design Automation and Standardization

Groupe Beneteau group's design department was successfully using Creo Parametric, but lacked some CAD tools necessary for a complete boat design (e.g., cabinetry, deck equipment, composite structure, plumbing, electrical systems).



The challenge was finding an out-of-the-box tool that would follow their unique design and manufacturing specifications. The tool also had to be intuitive enough to use without a large

learning curve. Creating specific custom applications would be costly, and even more costly to maintain.

The Solution: SmartAssembly for Creo Parametric

SmartAssembly is a process capture tool that allows users to focus on the design process, instead of repetitive and tedious design tasks. By eliminating the non-value added engineering work, Creo Parametric automation allows engineering to better utilize design efforts.

SmartAssembly allows companies to complete customer requirements faster through increased design agility, automatically generating all Creo Parametric deliverables (model files, BOMs, drawings, DXF, route sheets, manufacturing data, etc.) regardless of the methodology a company uses in Creo Parametric.

It can automatically drive configurations in Windchill and ERP systems such as Oracle, SAP, etc. to engineer deliverables in Creo Parametric. Additionally, SmartAssembly builds parts on the fly following the same methodologies by leveraging design rules.

The Results: Interactive Creo Parametric Automation

Groupe Beneteau partnered with SIGMAXIM to create a tenon and mortise proof of concept application. M. Wilfred Cadiou, Principal CAD/PLM Engineer who led the automation efforts, saw the great potential of SIGMAXIM SmartAssembly.

INDUSTRY

Sailboat Manufacturer

CHALLENGES

- Needed to capture engineering design process best practices for a complete boat design using Beneteau's unique design and manufacturing specs
- The tool had to be intuitive and result in improved quality across the board

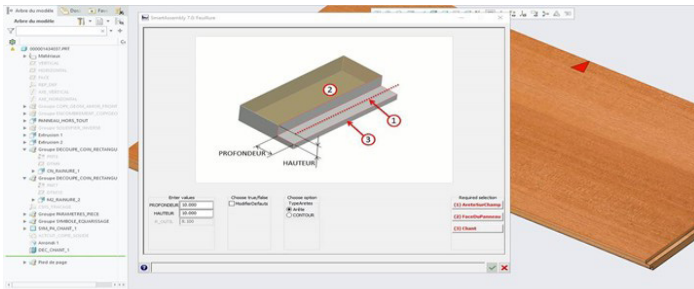
SOLUTION

SIGMAXIM SmartAssembly

BENEFITS

- Daily, routine tasks are now done automatically and are error-free
- Checker application automatically ensures the completed design meets their high standards and Best Practices
- Can design a complete ETO boat interior in a fraction of the time, with no ECOs

"It took a Creo user 5-10 minutes to create the parts, but now with SmartAssembly, it takes just a few seconds."
On any given day, this task is executed many times by multiple engineers. Now it is done automatically, saving time and error-free each time.



With one successful automation completed, Groupe Beneteau began building more functionality to the existing automation. Today, Creo Parametric users can interactively design complete Engineered-to-Order boat interiors in a fraction of the time.

A checker application was added to the automation to ensure the completed designs meet Groupe Beneteau group standards. Cabin interior designs successfully pass through the manufacturing process without ECO's thanks to the new automation.

Increased Best Practice Adoption with SmartAssembly

Groupe Beneteau's designers now follow standards and best practices because it happens automatically. Less experienced designers are more productive with automation since the learning curve is minimal.

"Of course we are saving time, but the quality is better with SmartAssembly," says Cadiou.

After only a short training, design users have taken over the administration of the solution to perform updates and additions to the rules library. They are autonomous, and not dependent on SIGMAXIM for most of the evolutions.

The SIGMAXIM Advantage

SIGMAXIM has been the leading Creo automation solution provider for over 20 years with a global customer base. Groupe Beneteau feels more secure leveraging their design initiative with an experienced PTC partner.

"We have been using SmartAssembly applications since Wildfire, and the applications are still working reliably with each new Creo Parametric upgrade. Looking at common history from Pro/Engineer Wildfire 2 to Creo Parametric 7, we have no doubts about future migrations".

Gaining Momentum

Groupe Beneteau has moved beyond wood products and deployed solutions for plumbing, electrical, boat fitters and most recently, a tailored solution for the design and manufacturing preparation of composite materials for boat hulls and decks. They are convinced automation will be a success in many areas of engineering.

Cadiou concludes, *"With SmartAssembly, because the business and methodological design rules of the CAD tool are captured by the rules engine, it is the company that capitalizes, not the individual. The company becomes less sensitive to the departure of its employees, and the leakage of know-how is kept under control".*

"Of course we are saving time, but the quality is better with SmartAssembly"

M. Wilfred Cadiou
Principal CAD/PLM Engineer
Groupe Beneteau

ABOUT SIGMAXIM

SIGMAXIM has been the leading global expert in Creo automation solutions for over 20 years. We partner with companies of all sizes to deliver low risk, efficient automation solutions for both standardization and product configuration initiatives.

CONTACT US

Learn how SIGMAXIM's Creo Automation platform can help automate your Engineer-to-Order products without adding headcount.

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