




Accelerate Innovation with Windchill+

PTC's award-winning PLM for the digital thread is now available as a service. Enjoy all the features and functions of Windchill while enabling rapid adoption, frictionless collaboration, and built-in security.





Manufacturers are facing an onslaught of challenges. Products are increasingly complex and customizable, customers expect more features and reliability, supply chains are being disrupted, competition is fierce, and operations are threatened by evolving cybersecurity threats. All the while, the teams solving for these are increasingly distributed and global. With all these headwinds, legacy technology no longer guarantees the necessary speed, agility, and security. Keeping pace with modern challenges requires modern software that moves faster.

Meet the new, SaaS-enabled Windchill+

PTC redefined product development collaboration across teams and geographies with Windchill, the first web-based enterprise product lifecycle management (PLM) solution. Manufacturers enjoyed unprecedented connectivity and integration, out-of-the-box functionality, an optimized user experience, and the potential to enable collaboration across global teams.

Now PTC is revolutionizing collaboration again with Windchill+, SaaS PLM that delivers an even faster ROI today, while laying the foundation for future innovation. Windchill+ marks the first release as part of PTC's initiative to combine the functionality of our best-in-class software with the benefits of a modern SaaS architecture and delivery model. This SaaS strategy has a force multiplier effect on the digital transformation power of PTC's entire portfolio of CAD, AR, IoT, and PLM.

What sets Windchill+ apart

Windchill+ shares the same codebase as Windchill's market-leading PLM solution and offers the same best-in-class features, functions, and usability. At PTC, we've managed thousands of Windchill cloud instances. This expertise informs how our SaaS PLM offering can drive greater collaboration and adoption of PLM users and capabilities. With a proprietary cloud architecture and pre-built best practices that emphasize security, performance, and interoperability, Windchill+ accelerates time-to-value.

What's new in Windchill+

- 100% of the capability available from Windchill on-premises with customizable workflows, change management processes, bills of materials management, plus more
- Ability to securely scale up when you need it and scale down when you don't, with workload management and orchestration
- Frictionless ability to expand new users and modules
- Built-in automation, including:
 - Build and deploy
 - Re-host
 - Snapshot and restore
 - Always on the latest version – no notion of downtime to upgrade

The Windchill+ effect on your business

Feature-rich SaaS PLM unlocks capabilities previously unavailable through traditional software architectures and deployments. Windchill+ benefits both IT administrators and end users by simplifying and accelerating business, administrative, and functional processes.

Modernized IT administration

System configuration, administration, and support is a huge undertaking and challenge to achieving the full value of PLM. IT spends significant time and resources setting up existing processes—many times based on inefficient paper or legacy tools.

Over time, PLM customizations become a barrier to keeping pace with business demand changes and improvements to PLM, adjacent technologies, and onboarding of new teams and partners. Underpinning all of this is the need for enhanced security.

Frictionless expansion of PLM capabilities & group adoption

Windchill+ makes expanding PLM frictionless and enables IT teams to respond more effectively to the needs of the business. IT can rapidly make PLM available to additional product development functions, turn on advanced PLM capabilities, and securely onboard users outside of the firewall—including partners, suppliers, and customers.

This speed to capabilities and value is accelerated further with zero downtime upgrades and updates. All Windchill+ upgrades & updates are compatible and no longer require lengthy, complex procedures. Instead, PTC automatically handles the seamless rollout of upgrades & product enhancements with minimum additional validation. With PTC handling these product enhancements, administrators are free to focus on adding value in other ways.

Powerful, ubiquitous performance

IT teams should rest assured that moving to a SaaS PLM solution can improve system performance. PTC provides the full application stack with contractual service level agreements and a seamless user experience supported by standardization and system automation. The result is much higher performance, capacity, and scalability for accelerated workflows and real time collaboration.

Built-in, full stack security

For organizations concerned about protecting their IT infrastructure and IP assets, Windchill+ provides up to date, integrated, full stack security including certifications, compliance, audit, penetration testing, and environmental scanning.

Optimized IT support effort and costs

Windchill+ is a full stack service designed to minimize operational resources. Typical IT responsibilities such as maintenance are packaged into the service where economies of scale can decrease the overall cost impact. For other administrative activities such as managing configurations, Windchill+ utilizes automated tools and streamlined self-service capabilities to eliminate work and make the rest easier for administrators. Finally, an open architecture and out-of-the-box integration tools minimizes the cost to support vital integration with third-party software (including SAP, Microsoft Office, Java server, and other third-party solutions).

Fully supported transition to the cloud

Windchill+ is a powerful solution for companies new to PLM, but it is also an easy transition for existing Windchill customers. To support a smooth transition, PTC has industrialized a process for safely and rapidly moving Windchill users from on premises to a SaaS-based PLM solution when the time is right for their business. See below for more detailed information on implementation guidance.

A future-proof foundation for digital transformation

PLM is often associated with engineering functions, but its potential value goes far beyond product design and development. As the backbone of a digital thread, PLM can capture, manage, and orchestrate data between many different teams and functions across the enterprise. From engineering, manufacturing, and quality/compliance, to service, customer operations, and sales and marketing—PLM can share key data and unlock valuable new capabilities and processes.

This represents tremendous opportunity, but also incredible complexity. The value of expanding PLM's role doesn't need to come at the expense of overwhelmed IT resources. Windchill+ reduces the technical burdens of administration, configuration management, and support—helping organizations achieve their digital transformation goals.

Out-of-the-box best-practices for faster, reliable ROI

Pre-configured, out-of-the-box best-practices not only mean less work for IT teams, but they also represent better work and more effective processes for users. With Windchill+, PLM users can replace cumbersome, customized processes with industry standards. These aren't just an immediate improvement; they are designed with complexity and third-party apps in mind so they can continue to improve as the needs of projects, departments, or industry standards shift. This ensures that users always feel empowered rather than impeded when interacting with their PLM.

Faster implementation of new capabilities

Zero-downtime upgrades eliminates headaches for IT, but for users it means regular roadmap enhancements without fear of disruption. By eliminating this barrier to upgrades, software driven innovation shifts from something that can happen only when the cost-benefit analysis calls for it, to a continuous opportunity. This is especially critical now that digital technology often advances faster than the typical upgrade cycle of traditional PLM implementations.

Extended collaboration across key partners for greater value

The value of PLM isn't limited to internal departments. By including suppliers, strategic partners, and foreign subsidiaries, users achieve new levels of efficiency, reduced errors, and improved product and service quality. But traditional PLM offerings make that level of integration and collaboration difficult; extending access outside the organization requires coordination between different IT teams and poses risks to security and compliance. Windchill+'s SaaS-based permissioning and onboarding capabilities eliminate these roadblocks for administrators so that collaboration between users is easy, seamless, and secure.

Making the move to SaaS

As the leading PLM solution for decades, Windchill has a tremendous number of out-of-the-box features to support your business. However, if you're an existing customer then one key factor that likely played a role in selecting Windchill over any other PLM system is the ability to tailor it to fit your processes and needs.

Over time, though, this customization flexibility has probably increased your maintenance cost and support complexity. It may also be limiting your ability to upgrade quickly, which translates into a higher total cost of ownership.

On the other hand, SaaS solutions cannot be as open as on-premises solutions, due to security and operational reasons. With Windchill+, PTC provides new guardrails that will help manage your customizations in a secure, effective, and controlled way.

Change is always hard, and transition projects can seem overwhelming, lengthy, and fraught with obstacles. That's why PTC is here to support you: we want to eliminate the barriers and help you transition to Windchill+ with minimum disruption to your IT team, your end-users, and, ultimately, your business.

This desire for a seamless experience is why we created the Windchill+ conversion offering. It is a practical process that will take care of moving your on-premises system, its data, its customizations, and integrations to the latest Windchill+ version available in a matter of months.

Next Steps

The time is now for Windchill+. Get to value faster via pre-configured best practices, frictionless PLM expansion, & zero downtime upgrades. SaaS is at an inflection point for accelerating product development maturity, increasing security, and reducing IT support costs/risk.

To learn more about Windchill+, and SaaS PLM, get in touch with a PTC Windchill+ expert.





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