PLM Interest Group

Compendium of PLM Ideas

For more almost 15 years, the PLMIG published thought-provoking material for its members in the *PLM Journal* and the *2PLM* e-zine.

This Compendium is a compilation of the best, structured into sections for an easy read. It is an ideal document for expanding and challenging your ideas about PLM.

Roger Tempest, PLMIG Co-Founder

Executive Summary

For almost 15 years, the PLMIG published thought-provoking material for its members and for the wider PLM industry in the *PLM Journal* and the ***2PLM*** e-zine.

When the PLMIG was formed in 2004, nothing existed that might be thought of as a Body of Knowledge about PLM. "PLM" was a relatively new acronym, and a relatively new subject. When PLM practitioners met, they found that they shared some common experiences and problems, but these had never been written down or formalised.

The PLMIG changed this. Formed as "a proactive organisation that should aim to have an impact on PLM", it published articles, ran initiatives and developed tools that have become the largest body of neutral PLM working material.

Much of this has been published in the form of Handbooks and Manuals for specific areas or tasks of PLM, but sometimes you just need ideas rather than instructions.

This Compendium is a compilation of the best articles in the PLMIG's long history. It brings together an enormous amount of structured, well-directed PLM material, all of which was written to enthuse PLM practitioners of the time with the most advanced thinking. In many cases, these articles were the first in which the new ideas were expressed.

Bringing it together allows a structure to form, and with 27 Sections (plus Appendix) it is easy to follow and expand a train of thought.

Ranging from pure theory (why are there 3 different ways to define PLM?) through to where PLM could go in the long-term future (Level 6 and the 2022 Vision) the articles cover the whole scope of PLM.

How has PLM evolved? How do you adopt it effectively? How do you involve stakeholders, and what are the pitfalls? There is information here. How do you create a Vision and understand Best Practice? What is the scope for standardisation and Reference Models? There is information here. How do you approach the technicalities of PDM, PLM-ERP and the Digital Wave? How do you establish Governance and Metrics? How do you quantify the Financial Value, and get what you pay for? There is information here.

The PLMIG has run initiatives to form User Communities; to move the industry towards a PLM Profession; and to enable academia to carry out the most advanced research. The story is here, in over 500 pages of structured thought.

Whether you are new to PLM, and need some good background reading to expand your understanding: or have been working in the same company or field for years, and need something to refresh your thinking; this document is an invaluable reference.

This is not an instruction book - it's a vast collection of ideas. First, read what you want to read; then browse around the subjects; then dip into it again and again. An email address is provided for questions, feedback, or even disagreement. The ideas are presented for you to think about, and where that takes you is up to you.

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About This Document

Introduction

PLM practitioners tend to be thirsty for ideas on the subject. Pundits have catered for this for many years, discussing the issues of the moment. But blogs lead only to more blogs - sometimes to insights, but usually to more confusion.

In the first decade of its existence, the PLMIG produced the *PLM Journal* for its members. Initially it was published monthly, and then quarterly as the articles gained more depth. It ran for 52 issues, containing over 300 articles on developing themes.

Over a similar period, the PLMIG produced published shorter, 'sound-bite' articles in John Stark's ***2PLM*** e-zine.

This amounts to an enormous amount of structured, well-directed PLM material, all of which was written to enthuse PLM practitioners of the time with the most advanced thinking.

Not all of it is still useful. Some of it was promotional, such as setting up workshops: and some of it is just out of date. But most of it isn't. The vast majority of the articles, survey results and white papers are still as relevant now as when they were written. The underlying logic, and the principles and aims, are still accurate.

For PLM practitioners, thirsty for ideas on the subject, this represents a wealth of neutral reference material that is available nowhere else. That large body of informed PLM thinking has been brought together in this *Compendium*. Bringing it all into one place reveals a hidden structure, as articles fall naturally into Sections that can be read as miniature 'stories'.

Document Purpose

This document is for practitioners from all parts of the industry. It is for the person who is told "you are now the PLM Manager", and is desperately hunting for information to get up to speed. It is for experienced practitioners looking for stimulating ideas, or wider views on PLM to refresh or challenge their thinking. It is for vendors who want to know how to expand the industry; integrators who may want to cross-check the latest theory; and academics who want to do truly advanced research.

In fact, anyone who is genuinely interested in PLM.

How To Use This Document

This is not an instruction book. Its contents are intended to give you ideas, which you can then think about in the context of your own PLM environment and decide whether they are useful.

You can browse, read up on a particular subject, or go straight to a specific issue that is currently live for you. Every article has a unique Reference Number in [square brackets]. If you then have further questions, use the Q&A link below.

PLMIG Q&A

If you have any comment, questions or feedback about any of the articles you can send them in via compendium@plmig.com, quoting the Reference Number(s).

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