



# How a Global Manufacturer Boosted 3D Workflow Efficiency and Reduced Costs with **Foxit PDF Editor's Advanced 3D Tools**



CASE STUDY

## The Challenge:

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Staying ahead of the competition in global manufacturing requires unrivaled efficiency and flexibility. One of the leading global manufacturers encountered a hurdle as it expanded its operations: managing the complexity of its 3D workflows. With production facilities spanning multiple countries, this company needed the ability to swiftly reconfigure spaces and optimize production lines to keep up with the growing market demands. Unfortunately, the tools they used to review and approve their 3D floorplans started dragging them down.

As the company expanded its operations, it became evident that its current tools, mainly AutoCAD, were causing obstacles that hindered operational efficiency. The company realized they needed a more seamless and cost-effective solution for handling their 3D workflows to stay ahead in the industry and prepare for future growth. This pursuit for a better tool brought them to Foxit PDF Editor, a solution that streamlined their document review process, reduced operational costs, and facilitated faster, more collaborative workflows across the organization.



## Overcoming Complex 3D Workflow Challenges

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This global manufacturing company operates in multiple regions, overseeing numerous production lines that frequently evolve to keep pace with changing product demands. Their production spaces are continually reconfigured to accommodate new technologies, products, and operational processes. The company's engineering team expertly uses **Computer-aided design (CAD)**, specifically AutoCAD, to create detailed 3D floorplans, ensuring precision in the layout and organization of production facilities. However, when the company's legal and executive teams reviewed and approved these plans, they encountered significant roadblocks. AutoCAD is expensive and overengineered for reviewing floorplan diagrams – like renting out an industrial kitchen to make breakfast for two.

Despite its powerful design capabilities, AutoCAD proved too convoluted and unmanageable for non-technical teams reviewing layouts. The software's advanced features were excessive for simple 3D diagram viewing and annotation, and the associated high costs were indefensible for requiring the full suite of AutoCAD functions. Each review cycle entailed grappling with large, intricate files, navigating a challenging interface, and shuttling documents back and forth via email. This process impeded the review cycle and introduced errors, as team members frequently contended with outdated or erroneous document versions.



The company quickly realized that using AutoCAD for non-engineering tasks could be an inefficient allocation of resources. The legal and executive teams, specifically, were expending valuable time on software-related troubleshooting rather than concentrating on decision-making. Adding to the problem was the considerable expense associated with AutoCAD licenses. Each license costs over \$2,000 per user annually, and this expenditure rapidly accumulated for a global company with numerous employees involved in evaluating and endorsing floorplans, such as the legal and executive teams. Moreover, each AutoCAD license provides only single-user access – **since August 7, 2020, multi-user licenses of AutoCAD are no longer offered.** The company acknowledged that they were expending excessively on underutilized software, with no apparent straightforward resolution.



## Industry Trends Driving the Need for a Better Solution

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The need for a more efficient and cost-effective solution is not unique to this manufacturer—it is part of a more significant trend sweeping through the industry. According to a recent Gartner survey, **89% of manufacturing companies** have identified improving operational agility as a top priority. As the industry continues to embrace digital transformation, more and more companies are adopting tools that enable faster workflows, reduce manual processes, and eliminate costly inefficiencies. In fact, **56% of companies** believe that increasing automation will make onshore manufacturing more economically viable.

The ongoing digital transformation efforts within the manufacturing industry have led to the broader incorporation of intelligent software solutions, consequently decreasing the reliance on manual processes and outdated tools. These developments have accentuated the importance of maintaining competitiveness for a global manufacturer. The escalating need to reduce expenses, enhance workflow efficiency, and minimize errors prompted the realization that the continued reliance on AutoCAD for non-design purposes was unsustainable in the long term. Bearing these industry pressures in mind, the company embarked on a quest for a more streamlined and cost-effective solution that would align with these digital trends.

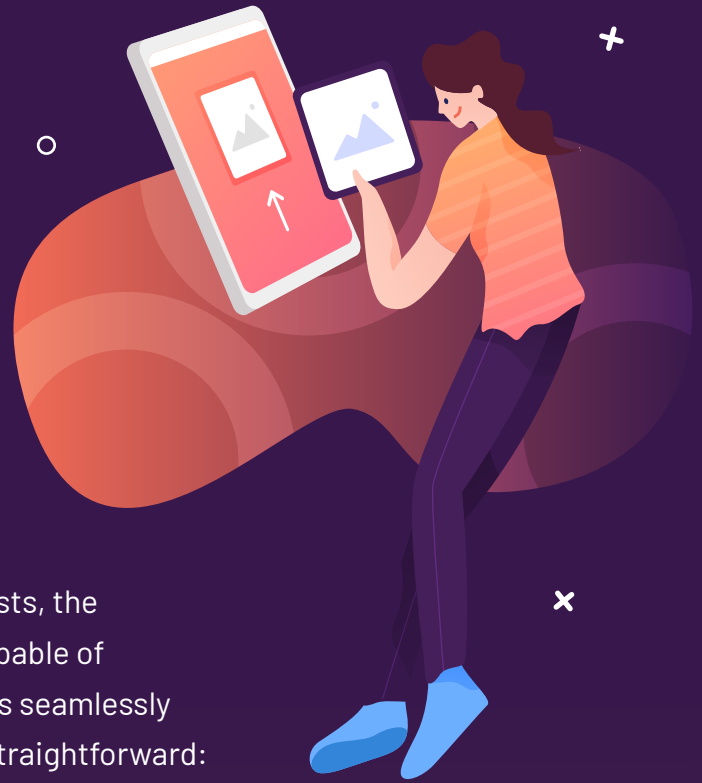
## Seeking a Simpler, Faster Solution

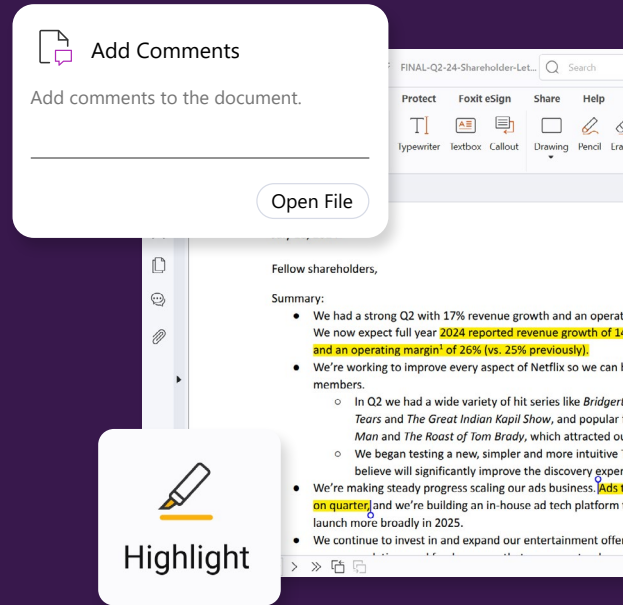
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In response to growing inefficiencies and escalating costs, the company launched an extensive search for software capable of enabling its non-technical teams to review 3D floorplans seamlessly without relying on AutoCAD. Their requirements were straightforward: the solution had to be user-friendly for non-engineering users, facilitate smooth collaboration, and deliver substantial cost savings without compromising functionality.

After considering various alternatives, the company identified Foxit PDF Editor as a valuable solution. The 3D PDF features provided by Foxit enabled non-technical users to quickly review, annotate, and work together on intricate 3D designs, all through a user-friendly PDF interface. Additionally, the capability to export floorplans from AutoCAD to PDF allowed the engineering team to maintain familiarity with their preferred tools while enabling non-technical teams to fulfill their review responsibilities using Foxit effectively.

Foxit PDF Editor's robust collaboration tools enable team members to work on the same document simultaneously, streamlining the review process significantly. This approach reduces the time spent on approvals and makes the entire process more transparent and accessible for all departments.





## Streamlining 3D Reviews with Foxit PDF Editor

The switch to Foxit PDF Editor immediately and profoundly impacted the company’s operations. The engineering team continued using AutoCAD to create and edit floorplans, but once the designs were complete, they were exported to Foxit PDF format. This change allowed the executive and legal teams to interact with the 3D diagrams in an effective and efficient way without the need for overly complicated and unnecessary functionality.

Foxit’s exceptionally intuitive interface significantly reduced the intimidation factor for non-technical teams during the review process. For instance, when working with AutoCAD, files needed to be repeatedly downloaded, loaded in AutoCAD, redownloaded after commenting, and transmitted every time a new employee reviewed the floorplans. Instead of grappling with AutoCAD’s intricate menus and commands, users can effortlessly open the PDF, manipulate the 3D models, and add comments directly within the document. This transformation has expedited the review process and enhanced the overall precision of the feedback.



**3D Viewing and Annotation:** Foxit’s 3D capabilities provided team members with enhanced tools to interact with the diagrams, offering new possibilities previously found only within AutoCAD. This included the ability to rotate the models, zoom in on specific details, adjust the appearance of 3D content, save preferred views, show or hide specific 3D components, and make transparent and easily interpretable annotations, resulting in a significantly streamlined feedback process for the engineering team.





**Real-Time Collaboration:** One challenge encountered in the company's previous workflow was the lack of real-time collaboration. This was effectively addressed by implementing Foxit's collaboration tools, enabling multiple users to review and annotate documents jointly. Foxit PDF Editor supports web and mobile environments, allowing real-time sharing and collaboration on PDF documents. It also **integrates** with popular content management systems (including Office, iManage WorkSite, Content Suite, and OpenText Documentum), cloud storage services (including OneDrive for Business, Google Drive, Egnyte, and Dropbox), and SharePoint. As a result, the process became more efficient, allowing for simultaneous edits from all team members and expediting approvals.



**Cost Efficiency:** Foxit PDF Editor proved more manageable to use and significantly more cost-effective. Foxit PDF Editor retails at \$159.99 for an annual license, and subscriptions can be even cheaper with **volume licensing**. This solution is even 15%–30% cheaper on average than Adobe Acrobat, another leading PDF editing application. By eliminating the requirement for AutoCAD licenses for non-technical users, the company significantly reduced software expenses, resulting in annual savings of thousands of dollars. This freed up substantial funds that could be redirected towards other vital business areas, facilitating investments in new production technologies.



**File Compression:** The company encountered some difficulties with the size of the 3D files when using AutoCAD, as it often resulted in prolonged load times and complex file-sharing processes. Thankfully, Foxit PDF Editor's file compression tools effectively decreased the size of these documents without sacrificing quality, significantly simplifying the sharing, reviewing, and storage of the floorplans.

## How the Company Drove Speed, Efficiency, and Cost Savings Using Foxit PDF Editor

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Faced with the challenge of inefficiencies hindering its growth, the company took bold steps to revamp its workflow, using Foxit PDF Editor as the catalyst for change. By recognizing the potential for a more streamlined process, the company spearheaded an initiative to overhaul its 3D review and approval system, transforming it into a model of speed and precision.

The impact of their decision was immediate and transformative. The company achieved a staggering increase in workflow speed, allowing its teams to accelerate critical review and approval processes. No longer bogged down by version control issues, cumbersome email exchanges, or the complex requirements of AutoCAD's non-design tasks, they erased the bottlenecks that had previously slowed them down. This marked a significant success for the company, showcasing its ability to adapt quickly and effectively to operational challenges.

The financial benefits were equally impressive. By reducing their reliance on expensive AutoCAD licenses, the company slashed software costs, freeing up valuable resources that could be redirected toward growth-oriented initiatives.



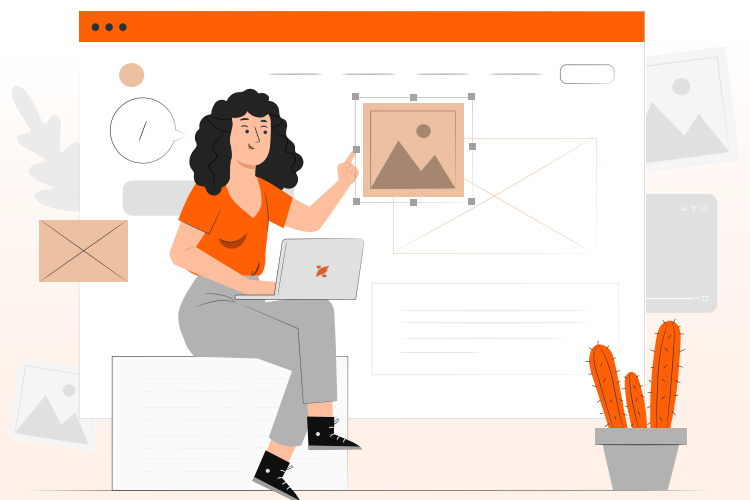


With thousands of dollars in annual savings, the company reinvested in expanding production capacity and upgrading equipment, further fueling its competitive edge in the market. This bold strategic shift showcased their forward-thinking approach to managing resources and boosting operational efficiency.

But perhaps most critically, the company's focus on improving accuracy paid off. Implementing Foxit PDF Editor has eliminated previous challenges stemming from errors and miscommunications due to inadequate tools. The intuitive interface and precise annotation tools have not only eradicated errors but also facilitated more accurate feedback and faster approvals. This heightened precision has significantly reduced costly delays in the production process, guaranteeing swift and precise implementation of floorplan changes. This serves as a testament to the company's dedication to operational excellence.

Through real-time collaboration features, the company completely transformed how its teams operated. No longer restricted by silos or outdated file versions, the legal, executive, and engineering teams could now work together on the same designs simultaneously. This strategic shift promoted cohesion across departments, guaranteeing consistent feedback and seamless communication.

The company significantly enhanced teamwork by dismantling these barriers, refining its review process, and demonstrating leadership in driving organizational innovation.



## A Future Built on Smart Solutions

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The implementation of Foxit PDF Editor immediately led to impressive results, but the company's real success stemmed from its ability to strategically position itself for sustained growth. By seizing the opportunity to adopt a solution that catered to both current and future needs, the company ensured its readiness to scale alongside its expanding needs. Foxit PDF Editor transcended being just a tool and emerged as a critical enabler of long-term success.

The company now had a scalable solution that could grow with it, seamlessly integrating with its ever-evolving business landscape. Whether incorporating new project management software, aligning with compliance systems, or streamlining onboarding processes for new employees, Foxit's flexibility gave the company the adaptability it needed to continue thriving. This strategic foresight demonstrated the company's commitment to not only solving today's problems but also anticipating tomorrow's needs.

As the company further expanded its workforce to meet growing market demand, Foxit's interface's straightforwardness proved indispensable. New employees were able to undergo rapid training on the software, eradicating the necessity for lengthy onboarding or technical support. This ease of adoption played a pivotal role in scaling up their operations without compromising productivity. By prioritizing intelligent and user-friendly solutions, the company guaranteed efficient growth while upholding its rigorous standards for quality and performance.

Foxit's integration capabilities have been instrumental in driving the company's sustained success. By seamlessly incorporating the software into various facets of its operations, such as compliance reviews, document management, and project approvals, the company has achieved heightened levels of efficiency across the board. Foxit's adaptability has become an indispensable component of its workflow, empowering it to optimize every aspect of its business. This strategic integration has resolved immediate challenges and established a framework for continuous improvement and innovation, thus ensuring its long-term competitiveness.

By embracing the formidable capabilities of Foxit PDF Editor, the company showcased its knack for selecting the perfect tools and tactics to drive its business to new heights. Through harnessing technology as a catalyst for progress, they revolutionized their processes and emerged as a front-runner in efficiency, adaptability, and ingenuity. The horizon appeared promising, all thanks to their proactive problem-solving approach and steadfast dedication to achieving excellence.

***As the company forges ahead with innovation and growth, Foxit PDF Editor will continue to be a vital component of their toolkit, enabling their teams to operate more efficiently, collaborate seamlessly, and propel future expansion.***





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