

3 CAD Trends That Will Drive Your Industry This Year

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According to new research, the global CAD market is expected to grow by just over 10 percent from 2017 to 2021. There are a number of advancements that are sure to affect CAD-related industries, but which ones should engineers focus on this year?

We've highlighted the top three trends that we're seeing, which include cloud-based CAD, 3D printing integration and the demand for engineers to be more focused than ever before.

1. Cloud-Based CAD Will Become Even More Popular

Today's workforce has shifted in such a way that remote work and increased collaboration are top priorities for both employers and employees. For CAD professionals and engineers, this trend has made cloud-based CAD solutions a necessity in the workplace.

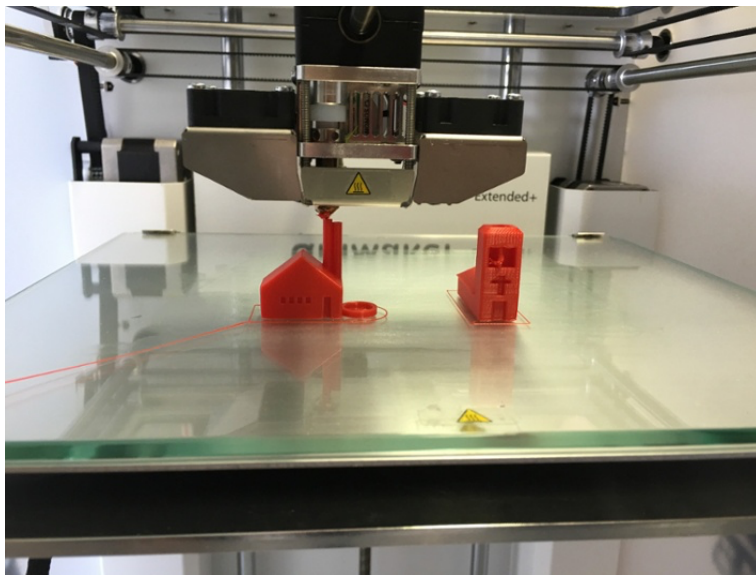
The adoption of cloud-based CAD systems by firms and companies is expected to grow by 164 percent in the next five years. So, what's the draw?

For starters, cloud-based CAD is traditionally less expensive than CAD software and requires little in the way of setup. This cuts down on IT costs and onboarding time for employees. It also allows seamless collaboration and the system can be easily accessed on multiple devices anytime, anywhere, making it a convenient fix for remote workers and international teams.

2. 3D Printing Will Become More Integrated in Different Industries, Processes

Businesses of all different industries are continuing to recognize the benefits of 3D printing, or additive manufacturing, and are looking for ways to integrate it within their own processes.

For instance, researchers at MIT recently designed graphene—one of the lightest, yet strongest, 3D-printed materials. Graphene could reshape the way aircraft, cars and other vehicles are designed.



Similarly, medical institutions are in search of ways to integrate 3D design and printing into their own processes and use 3D design to manufacture better and cheaper devices. 3D printing also allows for the easy customization of medical devices that would otherwise take months to develop with

traditional technology. Because 3D design and printing allows for quick prototyping, medical engineers have more room for innovation.

Other industries like manufacturing, aerospace and the auto industry are also warming up to the abilities that 3D design and printing have to offer. Some key benefits these industries are looking to cash in on are the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and production time. 3D printing requires a near 63 percent reduction in resources and cuts down on time to market by nearly 75 percent.

3. Engineers Will Need to Be Agile and Focused

A new year also causes many companies to seek out new talent. However, this year engineers will need to showcase both their agility and ability to focus in order to get hired. Both of these qualities were among the top four identified among employers as “must-haves” in potential new employees.

Agility—referring to one’s ability to adapt and find solutions to challenges quickly—is especially important for new engineers. Those new to the field may become quickly overwhelmed with new technology and an industry that changes each day. Rather than letting the frustration impact your work, engineers must show they can continuously adapt and keep up with the changes as they come.

Engineers will also need to sharpen their attention span and ability to focus, which employers hope will ultimately improve their time management skills and ability to deliver results quickly. Simple fixes like proofreading, checking and double-checking your designed models for errors will help show employers you have a keen eye for detail.

Smart Investments in Technology Are More Important Than Ever

In order to produce quality results quickly and efficiently, engineers must

make smart decisions when choosing what CAD hardware and tools to invest in. The [SpaceMouse Enterprise Kit](#) provides the best deal for engineers, as it includes every piece needed for a faster, uninterrupted design process and a more comfortable experience for users.

The SpaceMouse Enterprise Kit includes the SpaceMouse Enterprise 3D mouse, a CadMouse, a CadMouse Pad and a twin-port USB hub and the customizable 3DxWare 10 software driver. The combined power of the SpaceMouse Enterprise and a CadMouse results in a 21 percent productivity boost, which means your models are finished faster with fewer errors.

