PypeServer

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CASE STUDY:

PypeServer delivers a model-to-fabrication workflow for Silicon Valley Mechanical.

Q&A Interview: Jamie Garza, Detail Manager and Dean Garza, Piping Shop General Foreman at Silicon Valley Mechanical in San Jose, California.

About Silicon Valley Mechanical

Silicon Valley Mechanical is a full-service mechanical contractor, specializing in design-build commercial HVAC, plumbing, and service / maintenance, including 24-hour emergency services. The company is known for its industry expertise, providing quality service, and an approach to continuous improvement and collaboration that allows us to design and execute with high quality on even the most difficult projects.

What led to your decision to try PypeServer's workflow software?

We've been running PypeServer's Enterprise software for our Vernon pipe profiler since early 2021 and have been happy with it. Between its O-let handling features, part nesting, and labeling, Enterprise is giving us two to four times the productivity and higher cut quality from our Vernon. At the same time, we'd tried

Model-to-Fabrication Workflow

Advanced Automation for Pipe Profilers

several different workflow software packages from other vendors to get data from our VDC group to the shop, but nothing really worked to our satisfaction. We recently had a connectivity issue between another piece of software and the Vernon – it would just stall out for days with no help from the vendor. That's what led us to try PypeServer's Connect and Cloud workflow software, which is included for free with our Enterprise subscription for the Vernon.

What does your typical workflow look like now, from design through production?

The Detailing team works with engineered drawings in AutoCAD Fabrication CADmep to set them up for prefabrication. Once a

model is signed off and ready for build, we spool in Fabrication, select the parts we want to cut using the PypeServer Connect plug-in for AutoCAD, and send the cut lists to the Vernon using the PypeServer Cloud service to transmit the data and monitor progress.

You're one of the first users of PypeServer's full suite of workflow products, including the Connect add-ons for Revit and AutoCAD, the Cloud service, and PypeServer Enterprise for your Vernon MPM pipe profiler. Can you describe the implementation process?

Getting everything set up and working was much easier and faster than we expected. We worked with the PypeServer Support team to understand how information gets pushed through the system and how to configure PypeServer Connect and Cloud to send data to our Vernon. Installing the Connect add-on for AutoCAD is a breeze and it's simple to add users to our Cloud account. It literally takes only minutes to train someone new on the PypeServer workflow and they're pushing data to the shop in under an hour.

PypeServer's support team also helped us set things up on the shop side with Enterprise for the Vernon. The software lets us automatically customize O-let hole sizes, insert root gaps and make other fabrication-specific design tweaks, as well as printing labels.

Having the PypeServer team available for support has been huge. When we're up and rolling, we don't have days to stop if something goes wrong. We need to be back up and running within hours, and PypeServer has delivered.

How has your workflow changed with PypeServer and what savings in time, labor, and materials have you seen?

Our VDC group used to spend a lot of time adding decimal feet and inches to spool sheets for the shop. When you look at the number of spools we build, the time spent on that adds up fast. Now the Vernon pipe profiler gets the information it needs directly from the Connect AutoCAD plug-in, so the process has been streamlined from a page-by-page spool sheet review that could take hours to a quick five-minutes to send the data to the cloud, bring it into Enterprise, and double check that everything that needs to be fabricated was sent down to the shop from VDC.

The nesting feature of Enterprise is also a huge time and material saver. Now we can send all the parts to the machine at the same time and it'll cut them in one operation with minimal waste. This allows the operator to accomplish other tasks like prepping the ends of the pipe for the welder, organizing the pieces coming off the Vernon, and then loading new material to be cut.

Our workflow is now migrating toward pushing everything to PypeServer Cloud. We used to rely a lot on cut files that we'd put in specific folders on our computer network. Sometimes files accidentally cut things twice. With the Cloud, there are no lost files and the system keeps track of what's been cut, so you can monitor progress and can't accidentally cut something twice.

"It literally only takes minutes to train someone new on the PypeServer workflow."

- Jamie Garza, Detail Manager at Silicoin Valley Mechanical

PypeServer Enterprise for the Vernon easily paid for itself before we started using Connect and Cloud but now the efficiencies are extending up to our VDC group and we don't have to pay anything extra for those workflow tools.

CONTACT US

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