

# Secure Engineering Collaboration

Accelerate collaboration while protecting intellectual property and improving compliance with information sharing agreements



## SECURING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Intellectual property (IP) such as engineering designs, research documents, source code, parts specifications, engineering bill of materials (eBOM), and CAD drawings are a company's most strategic assets. When corporate IP is leaked, companies often suffer competitive disadvantage and lose product leadership, and could face legal action and reputation damage when partner IP is wrongfully disclosed.

Increasingly, product development is done globally in order to maximise competitive advantage and minimize cost of development. Multi-level design collaborations are common, making IP protection even more challenging. Not only must companies protect their own IP, they must ensure that partner IP is protected in accordance with information sharing agreements, and information barriers are enforced between teams of potentially competitive partners to avoid conflicts of interest.

These challenges impact enterprises across a broad industry spectrum, including companies in Aerospace and Defense, High Tech, Industrial Machinery and Components, Chemical, Energy, and Life Sciences. NextLabs® and SAP® have teamed to provide a solution that helps global enterprises protect their IP while accelerating collaboration. The solution helps reduce wrongful disclosure of IP and provides the audit trail required to demonstrate compliance with information protection agreements.

## SOLUTION HIGHLIGHTS

- Improve IP security and protection by actively controlling IP access
- Accelerate collaboration through central management of flexible access control policies
- Improve compliance with information protection agreements by centrally authorizing and tracking access to partner IP
- Improve visibility to IP access and sharing activities with centralized audit and reporting

## THE SOLUTION

The Secure Engineering Collaboration solution is designed to facilitate the agile collaboration required for global product development, while improving IP security. The solution uses NextLabs Information Risk Management to enable project teams to:

- Easily classify engineering data such as CAD drawings, engineering specifications, and eBOM
- Prevent misuse and improper disclosure of company or partner IP
- Enforce data security policies in accordance with confidentiality and information sharing agreements
- Centrally define and manage standards-based policies authorizing use of IP
- Automate user education on policies and procedures as part of daily use
- Provide centralized audit trail of access for compliance reporting

The solution automatically classifies IP throughout its lifecycle, and allows companies to centrally define standards-based policies authorizing access to IP. These authorization policies are then enforced and tracked as engineers and design partners collaborate. Information barriers can be effectively maintained to avoid conflicts of interest and prevent wrongful disclosure.

## SECURE ENGINEERING COLLABORATION WITH SAP AND NEXTLABS

The NextLabs Secure Engineering Collaboration solution is an SAP-endorsed business solution and integrates with SAP ERP Core Component (ECC), and SAP Product Lifecycle Management (PLM).

The solution extends SAP access control context to provide attribute-based access to SAP business objects such as Materials, engineering BOMs, Change Masters, CAD drawings and documents.

The solution can be configured to automatically classify SAP data by association or inheritance or based on location of storage. This greatly simplifies the task of IP classification and ensures that program data is properly identified for effective access control. The solution works seamlessly through the SAP GUI and SAP Portal to enforce IP access and sharing policies.

The solution can also be extended to protect IP after it is exported from SAP to provide end to end protection and tracking.

## SOLUTION DEPLOYMENT

NextLabs follows a proven method for implementing the solution by utilizing a combination of expert product knowledge and a services best practices methodology. When Secure Engineering Collaboration is deployed, clients will be assisted in identifying and classifying their IP, as well as in defining access control policies.

### Safer and Faster

With the Secure Engineering Collaboration solution, companies can enjoy the following benefits:

- Improve IP security and protection. Companies can prevent breach of IP and provide end to end protection across the partner network
- Improve contractual compliance. Prevent wrongful disclosure and protect IP according to confidentiality agreements
- Accelerate collaboration. Centrally manage all access policies and leverage fine grained policies for flexible access
- Monitor and audit access Centrally track usage of IP across the partner network and report wrongful disclosure

**NEXTLABS**<sup>®</sup>

Zero Trust  
Data-Centric Security



## ABOUT NEXTLABS

NextLabs<sup>®</sup>, Inc. provides zero trust data-centric security software to protect business critical data and applications. Our patented dynamic authorization technology and industry leading attribute-based zero trust policy platform helps enterprises identify and protect sensitive data, monitor and control access to the data, and prevent regulatory violations – whether in the cloud or on premises. The software automates enforcement of security controls and compliance policies to enable secure information sharing across the extended enterprise. NextLabs has some of the largest global enterprises as customers and has strategic relationships with industry leaders such as SAP, Siemens, Microsoft, AWS, Accenture, Deloitte, Infosys, and IBM. For more information on NextLabs, please visit: <http://www.nextlabs.com>.

## Zero Trust Data Security Suite

