

VisiSpecs - Case Study

The Visual Specification System

HDR has partnered with clients to shape communities and push the boundaries of what's possible for over a century. Our expertise spans more than 10,000 employees in more than 200 locations around the world — and counting. Our engineering, architecture, environmental and construction services bring an impressive breadth of knowledge to every project. Our optimistic approach to finding innovative solutions defined our past and drives our future. For more information, please visit www.hdrinc.com.



The Challenge: HDR developed and maintained its own custom, in-house specification production software system. First programmed in 1998, it was still being actively used in 2018. It was based on now obsolete technology, and its functionality was significantly falling behind commercially available software solutions. HDR's Master Specification Systems (MSS) team was scoped with finding a suitable replacement for HDR SpecManager. Requirements included ease of deployment, migration, user acceptance, and the ability for vendor supplied training, vendor support, and a feedback system that led to functionality updates. Data interoperability for BIM was also desirable.

The Solution: After an extensive evaluation of several solutions, HDR chose Chalkline's VisiSpecs specification solution based on its quick learning curve due to using Microsoft Word as the editing application, cloud-based deployment across many users within the firm, and the ability to integrate with BIM applications. The software was user friendly and technically capable for more advanced users. After pilot testing, HDR masters were easily integrated into VisiSpecs. HDR then developed a "bottom-up" rollout plan. This involved gradually making it available to those specification professionals that would make best use of it, while continuing to maintain the existing specification system. This plan led to many users "pulling" the application in, rather than a central authority having to "push" the system out. This reduced the need for overhead support and eased the acceptance for many users.

The Results: The implementation of VisiSpecs at HDR is highly successful. HDR has about 1,200 user installations, with almost 200 of those being "Project Administrators," those who lead the specification production efforts on projects. We have created almost 1,000 projects in VisiSpecs and usage continues to rise. Other project documents are easily imported for use in VisiSpecs, and the recent turn to working from home has shown the advantages of using cloud-based software for specification production. There have been almost no issues with staff switching from being primarily office-based to primarily home-based. Projects are still being developed and deliverables are being issued on time, which would not have been possible using HDR's old server-based software. The implementation has received positive user feedback, particularly noting the Double-Click Editor, Doc Outliner, QA reporting and Publishing as significant time-saving features. Chalkline's responsive product development/troubleshooting is impressive, immediately patching bugs and annually pushing out significant improvements. HDR is planning an integration of Specifications and keynotes to further expand the connection between drawings and Specifications.

"Using VisiSpecs has enabled HDR to easily roll out the software, with very high user acceptance, technical support is very low, and rapid response by Chalkline is helpful in deploying and supporting HDR's VisiSpecs implementation."

~ Eric Michnovez, HDR

Case Study Key Benefits

Enterprise Wide Deployment

High User Acceptance

Cloud Server Remote Access

Automatic Software Updates

Minimal Tech Support Needed

VISIONARIES IN TECHNOLOGY



Best in USA Award: **VisiSpecs**

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