

**Topic(s):**  
CAD &  
The Internet

## Investigation of Internet access levels in CAD/CAM using companies

### Internet - access for all?

With the CAD/CAM industry pushing the Internet as an enabling tool to get better products to market more quickly, *iCAD* takes a two-part snapshot into how manufacturers/engineers and other CAD/CAM using companies are currently using the Internet. We interviewed 253 CAD/CAM using companies in January 2001 from a cross section of industry sectors. In this issue, we look at some basics....

*iCAD* is produced by Business Advantage, a B2B research, business development and marketing consulting practice operating in the global IT, Digital and Telecommunication sectors.

- [What percentage of CAD/CAM using companies have Internet access?](#)
- [How far does this extend to CAD/CAM users within these companies?](#)
- [How many companies have websites?](#)
- [How many use an Intranet or Extranet?](#)

### What percentage of CAD/CAM using companies have Internet access?

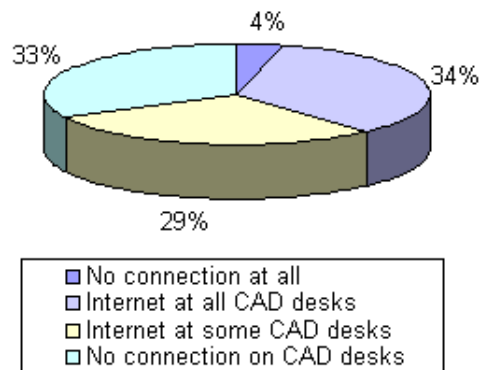
The vast majority - 96% of our sample - have at least one point of access to the Internet.

### How far does this extend to CAD/CAM users within these companies?

Among the companies with Internet access, over a third have access at all CAD desks, while a further third indicated that only some CAD desks have access.

**The final third stated that none of their CAD desks had Internet access.**

**Internet access among CAD/CAM using companies**



### **How many companies have websites?**

Four fifths of CAD-using companies said they do have a website, leaving nearly one in five yet to develop this facility.

### **How many use an Intranet or Extranet?**

Half of the companies have set up an Intranet, and just 7% have deployed an Extranet. However nearly half of our sample use neither of these facilities.

### **Conclusion**

There are signs in this brief survey that a large number of CAD/CAM using companies are poorly placed to consider the benefits from the type of collaborative, Internet-based solutions now widely available. A third of these companies have CAD/CAM users who cannot access the Internet at their desks. It's interesting to note that our previous research into the attitudes of CAD/CAM users to other 'new' ways of working\* has identified non-participating groups of similar size. Can we surmise that about a third of the overall CAD/CAM user market has a 'late adopter mentality' i.e. they won't move until they're pushed?

However it's interesting to note that half of our sample are well placed to share information internally through Intranets. In the next issue of *iCAD* we will look in more detail at what CAD/CAM users are actually using the Internet for.

[\\*Are CAD/CAM users buying over the Internet? \(December 2000\)](#)

[\\*CAD/CAM user attitudes to 3D solutions \(March 2001\)](#)

Do you need to know how your potential customers are using, or planning to use the Internet? Business Advantage's market research services can provide the solution. Visit our [market research services page](#) for more information, or call David Eaton on +44 (0)1689 873636.

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