

## “What’s this Vault, AVS, NEXUS, Concord Pro all about” Q & A

Note: This webinar regarding NEXUS / Concord Pro was presented 2 months after Altium decided to launch two product lines, Concord Pro (an out of the box solution) and NEXUS Enterprise (a customized solution). The answers provided are based on what was known as the time.

It is our opinion that Concord Pro and the baseline of NEXUS Enterprise will be the same moving forward. It makes no sense for Altium Inc to manage two different products, and it would be safe to assume that any NEXUS Enterprise engagement would start with Concord Pro and be customized from that start point.

Comment/Question	Answer/Response
The unofficial news from Altium is that NEXUS client and Altium Designer are one in the same from now on.	That is our understanding as well.
Can you show the differences between NEXUS client and Altium Designer? I never noticed any difference between the two.  The software team, essentially, admitted that it was the same exact tool except with a different compile flag to generate different icons.	The only differences that we have ever seen are the functions related to the creation or presentation of library files. By default, the components panel would not display any libraries that were external to the server.  Note: There is a way to override the default.
Integration? What element? [This question was in context to the history of NEXUS and Altium Design.]	When Altium Inc. rebranded the Vault into NEXUS, they required the user to make use of a client tool called NEXUS, which was essentially Altium Designer. To make use of the NEXUS client, it needed to connect to the NEXUS server. As for the rest of the PCB functionality, it is the same as Altium Designer.
But can't you just log into the Vault/NEXUS server in Altium Designer just like you do in NEXUS client? The only difference is that NEXUS client won't even let you use the tool unless you've got a Vault. I guess this forces you to use a company configuration?	Our understanding is that when NEXUS was rolled out, those who planned on using the NEXUS server had to use the NEXUS client. With the creation of Concord Pro, this is no longer the case. Altium Designer will be used to access Concord Pro.

<p>Is it true that one difference between Altium Designer and NEXUS client is that the later requires a CAL to run?</p>	<p>No, the CAL license is a license necessary to gain access to the server. There are three licenses involved when using vault/NEXUS/Concord Pro:</p> <p><b>Server License</b> - Allows the server to function</p> <p><b>Client Access License (CAL)</b> - Licenses available for the end user to gain access to the server. I.E. If there are five CAL licenses, and 10 users, the first five users would have server access. The other five users would have to wait for their colleagues to logout from the server.</p> <p><b>Altium Designer</b> - The tool used to access the server (AD itself or the NEXUS client) still requires an AD license.</p>
<p>With Concord Pro I won't work with files on my windows explorer, right?</p>	<p>This is generally correct. Files can be started external to Concord Pro, but this defeats the purpose of Concord Pro and makes it more difficult to manage files.</p> <p>Let's look at it from the three different file types that Altium handles.</p> <p><b>Libraries</b> – All components will be created within the editors provided in Concord Pro. The saving of these components while they are in the process of being designed will be saved in your local drive buried in the C: drive with a cryptic name. This is temporary and will be removed once the component is released to Concord Pro.</p> <p><b>Templates</b> – Handled in a similar fashion as libraries. Note: templates can be started externally or internal to Concord Pro. It is best that a template is started internal to Concord Pro.</p> <p><b>Project</b> – Because of the nature of GIT or SVN, a local copy must be saved on the user's hard drive. However, once the folder has been established, the creation of files should find their way into the appropriate project folders and placed under revision control.</p>

<p>Does any of this (NEXUS / Concord Pro) affect the Altium Content Vault?</p>	<p>None of this discussion regarding NEXUS and Concord Pro impacts the discussion. Altium's Content Vault is accessible by the user having an Altium Designer subscription. One can migrate specific components from the Content Vault to Concord Pro (or NEXUS).</p>
<p>Aren't there other things you can do like concurrent design, processes?</p>	<p>We aren't sure what "other" processes you are referring to. As for concurrent design, Concord Pro is capable of this feature. The introduction to Concord Pro on Altium's website makes this clear.</p> <p>(Note that the web link was cut in half in order to fit it)</p> <p><a href="https://www.altium.com/documentation/19.0/display/ADES/Altium+Concord+Pro">https://www.altium.com/documentation/19.0/display/ADES/Altium+Concord+Pro</a></p>
<p>Altium is only offering a 2-week demo, not nearly enough time for evaluation.</p>	<p>We agree. This is a different creature than a PCB design flow because there is an end to a PCB project whereas a tool like Concord Pro requires continual maintenance and upkeep. In addition, the setup effort is not trivial.</p>
<p>NEXUS Enterprise has been siloed as a business unit and is no longer transparent to the rest of the Altium Designer Marketing group.</p>	<p>This is also our understanding. Altium's NEXUS Enterprise group is targeting large organizations that need to integrate Altium Designer with major systems. This requires custom code specific to the company's workflow needs.</p>
<p>We have about 5 users on NEXUS/Vault currently, sounds like from the comments you made at the start we might be forced to switch.</p>	<p>If you wish to move forward with improvements and new functionality, you will need to switch to Concord Pro.</p>
<p>Currently, I release projects to containers in folders we created here that have source, fab and assembly files in the vault instead of a "Projects" folder/subfolder. Would I interact with Concord Pro in a similar way or is the preferred method to use the "Project Catalog" folder?</p>	<p>In Concord Pro you will still need to use the project catalogue folder. However, there are two views made available. The view that was shown in the webinar is known as the <i>project view</i>. The other view, which is being alluded to in the question, is known as the <i>classic view</i>. This can be changed by clicking on the top right cog in the explorer panel.</p>

<p>If you're familiar with this, we use the SOLIDWORKS PCB Connector for MCAD collaboration. With AD19 it tells you to use NEXUS to log into the backend server. With Concord Pro, do you know if you will you have to buy a license to use the SOLIDWORKS PCB Connector, which is its own license</p>	<p>If you are already using SOLIDWORKS PCB Connector, you have already purchased the license. If you are on a subscription, you should be able to receive a new license that will work with Concord Pro. Please contact the VAR that sold you the SOLIDWORKS PCB Connector for more information and assistance.</p> <p><b>Note: Nine Dot Connects is a national VAR for SOLIDWORKS PCB and SOLIDWORKS PCB Connector products.</b></p>
<p>I have SOLIDWORKS PCB Connector and AD17. Now with AD19, SOLIDWORKS PCB Connector does not work. Tried NEXUS and AD19 &amp; SOLIDWORKS PCB Connector but does not work. What is missing?</p>	<p>Versions must be kept the same. Keep in mind that the SOLIDWORKS PCB Connector is developed by both Altium Inc and SOLIDWORKS. If a new feature is added on the electrical side, the corresponding feature must be added to the mechanical side.</p> <p>The recommendation: if using AD19, you must use SW2019 SOLIDWORKS PCB Connector, 2019 SOLIDWORKS PCB services, and SW2019 SOLIDWORKS CAD.</p> <p>If you are using NEXUS or Concord Pro, you must use the SW2019 SOLIDWORKS PCB Connector and SW2019 SOLIDWORKS CAD. With that being said, the SOLIDWORKS PCB services cannot reside on the same server as NEXUS. In addition, you will need to obtain additional licenses (free of charge from Altium) for the connector to make use of the NEXUS/Concord server. In short, contact the VAR that sold you the SOLIDWORKS PCB Connector so that they can assist with the proper license.</p>
<p>Some of the stuff we were reading online suggested that Concord Pro might have extra features, especially including some MCAD integration.</p>	<p>Altium is providing capabilities to integrate with certain MCAD programs beyond SOLIDWORS CAD. According to the Altium website as of May 30, 2019, the MCAD platform can interface with Autodesk Inventor Professional and PTC Creo Parametric without additional cost.</p> <p>Note: Integration with SOLIDWORKS CAD requires a paid license. Contact Nine Dot Connects for more information.</p>

<p>Is the TMM method more MRP friendly?</p>	<p>To clarify, TMM stands for <i>Tesla Motors Method</i>. This is the name we have given to the process recommended by an engineer at Tesla Motors in which the companies database maintains the parametric information and Concord Pro maintains the graphical information. Depending on the MRP system, it may be easier to change the parametric data in the MRP than to do so in Concord Pro.</p> <p>From our experiences, it was far easier to create the component in a database and then reference it to a graphical representation than it is to maintain the data within Concord Pro.</p> <p>As demonstrated during the webinar, the DbLink was used to update the Concord Pro component with parametric information from a database (L9 Manager) in schematic editor.</p>
<p>What is the best place to put existing company part numbers for components? ID?</p>	<p>We recommend that the ID that is assigned to the component is kept independent of the company ID. That can easily be handled through a parameter. This allows for some flexibility in the possible event that the company created new part numbers due to mergers and/or acquisitions.</p>
<p>The early vault only loaded in 20-50 parts at a time. Is Concord Pro quicker?</p>	<p>We noticed that when we loaded 500+ components through the library migration tool, that the system would process batches of 25 components at a time before moving on to the next 25 etc. This can take some time depending on how many components are being migrated and the load on the network.</p> <p>Note: the issue isn't specific to the number of parts, rather whether the library and the migration requirements were set up correctly from the get-go. Nothing worse than trying to delete or modify 500 parts that were not migrated to one's liking or intent. We always encourage a small sample set to ensure the desired result prior to a major push because deleting parts takes a good bit of time.</p>

<p>Thanks for running this; however, really obscures the difficulty of bringing this system up. Altium's support is poor at best, the same with the documentation. I have lost a ton of man-hours following blind paths trying to bring this up and still it is not usable. Are there alternatives to the Vault/NEXUS/Concord Pro?</p>	<p>We believe the future of file management comes from the holistic view in which all design files, regardless of which design tool, reside in a single location, separated by project folders. This can be achieved with SOLIDWORKS PDM Pro. We at NDC are investing this concept. Several customers are asking the same question. We plan to demonstrate this in a webinar sometime in the latter half of 2019.</p>
<p>They are trying to migrate current NEXUS Server users to Concord Pro but they have removed some key features... That's important to cover.</p>	<p>The key thing that got removed was the workflow management. If you have made use of this feature, you will need to continue using NEXUS.</p>
<p>Does Concord Pro work with older versions of Altium Designer?</p>	<p>No. It will not. The older versions of Altium Designer would not have the coding necessary to interface with Concord Pro. Note: the software changes to AD18 and NEXUS 1.0 were substantial.</p>
<p>Will it (PLM) still work with Concord Pro? I presume it uses the same SOAP requests...</p>	<p>As of the writing of this response, no indication has been given by Altium as to an SDK (software developer kit) for Concord Pro. However, NEXUS did have an SDK and it is likely that the NEXUS SDK will work with Concord Pro since the baseline of Concord Pro 1.0 is NEXUS 2.0.</p>
<p>We are on NEXUS with an Oracle database (because IT would rather manage an Oracle database). I am not at all clear if the Concord pro option is going to be forced from Altium. They haven't said anything about it.</p>	<p>Based on what was posted on the Concord Pro introduction page, Concord Pro will continue to have support for the Oracle Agile PLM capability:        (Note that the web link was cut in half in order to fit it)  <a href="https://www.altium.com/documentation/19.0/display/ADES/Altium+Concord+Pro">https://www.altium.com/documentation/19.0/display/ADES/Altium+Concord+Pro</a></p>
<p>Is a detailed understanding of GIT necessary to use or manage Concord Pro?</p>	<p>No. From our efforts with GIT, we have not had a need to untangle any issues through a backdoor program like Tortoise.</p>
<p>Does Concord Pro provide any project revision control at all without using GIT?</p>	<p>In order to release a project into Concord Pro, it must be managed. A managed project must be under some type of prototype revision control system such as GIT or SVN.</p>

<p>What does GIT stand for?</p>	<p>No specific etymology. However, Wikipedia claims that Linus Torvalds, who created Linux and GIT, called it 'GIT' for both a humorous and logical reason. From a humorous point of view, the term <i>git</i> in British English is an individual who is unpleasant. In this case, Linus claims that he gives names to his software programs based on his personality.</p> <p>From a more logical point of view, Linux/UNIX has many short two and three letter commands. The term <i>GIT</i> had not been used and it was something pronounceable.</p>
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