

# How Sunfish's Distributed Team Uses Sibe PDM

**Case Study:** Running SolidWorks design reviews and releases without a server.



## About Sunfish

Sunfish designs and builds underwater submersible vehicles for inspection and water resource management, working with state water authorities and infrastructure clients. The engineering team is fully distributed across the United States — the designer in Philadelphia, the CEO in Miami, and engineering in Austin. The team runs every vehicle program in SolidWorks, using sequential part numbers and detailed file descriptions to find the right files. Sunfish uses Sibe PDM as its cloud product data management system.

**“We’re remote. The designer is in Philadelphia, our CEO is in Miami, and I’m in Austin. We needed a way to design, review, and release without everyone sitting in the same place — or even in the same software.”**

Alberto Lopez — Chief Executive Officer, Sunfish Inc

## The Challenge

Sunfish set out to run its own product data management and hit three obstacles:

- **Their own vault.** Sunfish shared a PDM vault with another company under a shared-IP agreement. As Sunfish grew into an independent operation, it needed its own system — full control of files, versions, and releases, separate from the parent setup.
- **Server and VPN overhead.** Sunfish ran SolidWorks PDM Standard on its own server. Remote designers connected over a VPN and pulled a license every time they opened the vault. Recreating that meant buying, configuring, and administering another server.
- **Reviews across a team that isn't all in SolidWorks.** The people who review a design — the CEO, the CTO, outside collaborators — don't all have a SolidWorks license. Reviews leaned on screenshots and slide decks, which slowed every iteration.

## Why Sunfish Chose Sibe PDM

Sibe PDM fit a distributed team with two capabilities:

- **Native SolidWorks add-in.** Engineers check files in and out directly in SolidWorks while Sibe tracks every version, handles assembly references, and keeps a local cache for offline work. No new server, no VPN, no license server to administer. Live in 30 minutes.
- **Universal browser viewer.** Reviewers open a share link and view the design in any browser, then leave comments directly on the model — no SolidWorks license needed.

## How Sunfish Uses Sibe PDM

Sibe PDM changed how the distributed team designs, reviews, and releases:

- **Design and release in SolidWorks.** Engineers work in SolidWorks and check their work into Sibe, which tracks every version and keeps the team on the right one.
- **Browser reviews across cities.** The designer in Philadelphia sends a link; the CTO reviews from Miami and comments on the model in the browser. The team iterates in one place instead of passing screenshots back and forth.
- **IP stays protected.** Sibe generates a separate, neutral model for the browser viewer — not the native SolidWorks file — so designs are shared and reviewed online without exposing geometry that could be reverse-engineered.

**“Ken gave me the demo and I got it pretty quick. I figured I could do all of this myself over a weekend instead of buying a new server.”**

Alberto Lopez — Chief Executive Officer, Sunfish Inc

## Conclusion

With Sibe PDM, Sunfish runs its own cloud PDM without a server or VPN, and its distributed team reviews and releases SolidWorks designs from anywhere. Setup took minutes instead of a new server build, non-CAD reviewers join in the browser, and every version is tracked.

No servers, no VPNs, no admin hassles.

Book a free demo with Ken — [sibe.io/demo](https://sibe.io/demo)

