



# **5 Signs Your PLM System is Outdated:** Upgrade to a Go-to-Market PLM for a Competitive Advantage

Enhance product development with a technological upgrade





# Table of Contents

- 03 Introduction
- 04 Definition of Product Lifecycle Management (PLM)
- 05 Importance of PLM in managing products from development to delivery
- 08 Advanced technology and infrastructure
- 09 Friendly user experience
- 10 Functionality including project and product portfolio management
- 11 Regulatory compliance built-in
- 12 Scalability
- 13 Configuration, not customization
- 14 Conclusion



# Introduction

Rapid market shifts challenge food & beverage (F&B), cosmetics & personal care (CPC), grocery and household products companies to effectively bring profitable goods to market. Product development by spreadsheets, email or inefficient legacy Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) software are roadblocks to innovation. Businesses reliant on these systems face manual processes, integration barriers, outdated data capabilities and slow decision-making. A modern solution like Centric PLM™ offers agile, scalable and real-time data that drives efficiency, accelerates innovation and sharpens competitiveness for the future.



# Definition of Product Lifecycle Management (PLM)

A PLM platform is a transformative solution that supports all critical aspects of product development for the food & beverage, cosmetics and household products market. PLM incorporates all the **iterative, collaborative** and **creative processes** that make up the vital elements of a product's lifecycle: concept, formulation, benchtop samples, plant trials, costing, nutrition labeling, ingredient list generation, specifications, packaging and commercialization. In short, all the processes that define the brand, engage the consumer and differentiate the company's products in the marketplace.

With an effective PLM solution in place retailers, brands and manufacturers can optimize new product development, drive cross-team collaboration, and make better, more strategic business decisions.





# Importance of PLM in managing products from development to delivery

The question often arises as to whether to upgrade a PLM or an ERP system first. Both are crucial to commercialization. To answer this, think of the old adage, “Garbage in, garbage out.” A bit harsh, but translated, that means that companies should make sure that all the data that is fed into their ERP systems is clean and reliable. To do that, a modern, dependable PLM solution is where to start. With an effective PLM solution in place retailers, brands and manufacturers can optimize new product development, drive cross-team collaboration, and make better, more strategic business decisions.





## Five signs of an old PLM system

How to determine if a PLM system is out-of-date? Following are 5 of the characteristics that outdated PLM systems embody:

01

### Old technology and infrastructure

Many older PLM systems are on-premise solutions that possess limited integration capabilities with other business and manufacturing systems, such as ERP and logistics. The tech stacks are often outdated.

02

### Poor user experience

Clunky interfaces are typical of older PLM systems. They can be arduous to navigate with steep learning curves, so people just won't use them. They end up going around the system, working in off-line spreadsheets, intending to enter the information into the system afterward. This leads to: either never entering the required data, or people saving it up and entering months' worth all at once, defeating the purpose; the data is missing or out of date. Access is usually also limited to desktop hardware so users have to be in the office to enter or extract data.

03

### Limited functionality and scope

Many legacy PLM systems are derived from heavy industry and not suited to the shorter and faster product development cycles that food, cosmetics and household products companies require. The scope is often product data management (PDM) rather than the entire product lifecycle. The collaboration tools are not up-to-date and may not mesh with today's communication programs like Slack and Teams. Document management is basic, data analytics for market trends and compliance are minimal or non-existent.



04

### **Lacking in regulatory compliance**

Speaking of compliance, with older systems, compliance regulation maintenance is manual as is tracking ingredient sourcing, with no built-in labeling functions.

If they do have these, they may not handle international labels or multiple process flows.

05

### **Limited scalability and high customization**

Legacy PLM systems can face challenges with scaling as business grows. Not necessarily in adding users but in handling complexity as products and processes diversify. In order to achieve the desired functionality in older systems, often requires high degrees of customization. Once that happens, the system can reach a point where upgrades are unwieldy due to the amount of customization.

### **The good news: Centric PLM, a go-to-market solution**

In contrast, modern PLM solutions encompass end-to-end product development and promote visibility with a centralized platform.

Transparency into product process from concept to commercialization ensures informed decision-making and corrective action. Next-gen PLMs enable cross-departmental collaboration, improving team effectiveness and efficiency for faster and more thorough outcomes.

# Advanced technology and infrastructure

Modern PLM solutions like Centric PLM™ are a completely different animal from the PLM systems of old. The new breed is cloud-based with enhanced integrations and links seamlessly to ERP, CRM, formulation systems like Genesis R&D, USDA Food Data Central, GDSN and a partnership with the global regulatory provider FoodChain ID/Decernis. Centric PLM makes use of AI and machine learning to find the best-match formulas and even least cost formulation (LCF) to give users a good starting formula, pulling ingredients from a company's libraries to deliver a formulation that meets specified requirements at the lowest cost.

"The gains are immeasurable. Before the Centric PLM implementation, it would have been necessary to update each spreadsheet for each product. Now we only need to update the raw material and all related products are automatically updated. This change would otherwise take months!"

•

**Luciana Dutra**  
**Research & Development and**  
**Regulatory Affairs Manager, Prodiel**



# Friendly user experience

Centric PLM has an intuitive and user-friendly interface. This is one of the most important aspects of a software program, because all the built-in functionality won't matter if the employees won't use it. The training process should be streamlined with easy onboarding. Mobile access to the data is important so it can be accessed while traveling or out in the field.

"What set Centric apart was the easy-to-use out of the box functionality that it is robust enough to give us everything we were looking for. And then, the speed of having it up and running in a short amount of time."

•

**Steve Staniszewski**  
**IT Director, Great Kitchens**

"Centric PLM is easy to use and has the advantage of being cloud-based. Centric Software has a strong track record in both the retail and cosmetics industries, and Centric PLM can adapt to a wide range of operations. By increasing the efficiency of our operations, we expect to be able to focus on more value-added tasks and product innovation."

•

**Masaki Moriya**  
**General Manager of Quality Assurance  
and Knowledge Management Division,  
Premier Anti-Aging**



# Functionality including project and product portfolio management

No need for separate project management tools—modern PLMs have comprehensive project management modules built-in. With advanced collaboration features like real-time feedback and shared workflows, teams have transparency to project status. Product portfolio management gets the right product to market at the right time. For the specialized requirements of the food, cosmetics and household products, Centric PLM has formulation, specifications, regulatory, nutrition, packaging and multi-level BOMs. Next-gen PLM also has robust analytics for market trends, customer preferences, and compliance tracking.

“Once one step in the process is done, you will automatically go to the next step and the next person to do their tasks will be notified. This will save us a lot of time searching for the status of processes and chasing after people.”

•

**Maaïke Renssen-Alberts**  
**Quality Assurance, Aviko B.V.**



# Regulatory compliance built-in

Automated compliance tracking and reporting with enhanced visibility for ingredient sourcing and labeling accuracy is a modern PLM advantage. Centric PLM has a partnership with FoodChain ID/Decernis which gives users access to 220+ country regulatory libraries and databases.

“Another point in Centric’s favor is the connector to FoodChain ID/Decernis, the global food safety and regulatory data company, which we plan to use in our compliance process to replace shared drives, spreadsheets and manual data entry.”

•  
**Karl Trepanier**  
**Chief Operating Officer,**  
**Illia Beauty**



# Scalability

It is important that a PLM can easily scale as business grows and markets change. With Centric PLM, emerging companies can begin with an affordable subscription model that has everything to start down this path, then seamlessly upgrade to an enterprise system when the need arises.

“It will make managing growing portfolios easier, especially when we open new markets and grow our international business. When data is stored in one place, project status is visible to everyone, and integrating external partners will be simple.”

•

**Janna Oksanen**  
**PLM Project Manager,**  
**MeEat**



# Configuration, not customization

Centric Software prides itself on not relying on customization; instead, the solutions are **configurable**. That is, all the functionality is built-in and companies can choose how to configure the elements they need for their unique process flows. Flexible configuration options can even be adjusted by users themselves. With proper preparation, implementation of PLM and other Centric solutions are typically fast, so there is little downtime.



“One word we heard frequently from Centric’s consultants during communication was ‘configuration.’ Many PLM functions are configured to meet our business needs, similar to building with LEGO blocks, assembling piece by piece.”

•

**Li Chenhong**  
R&D Director, Starpro



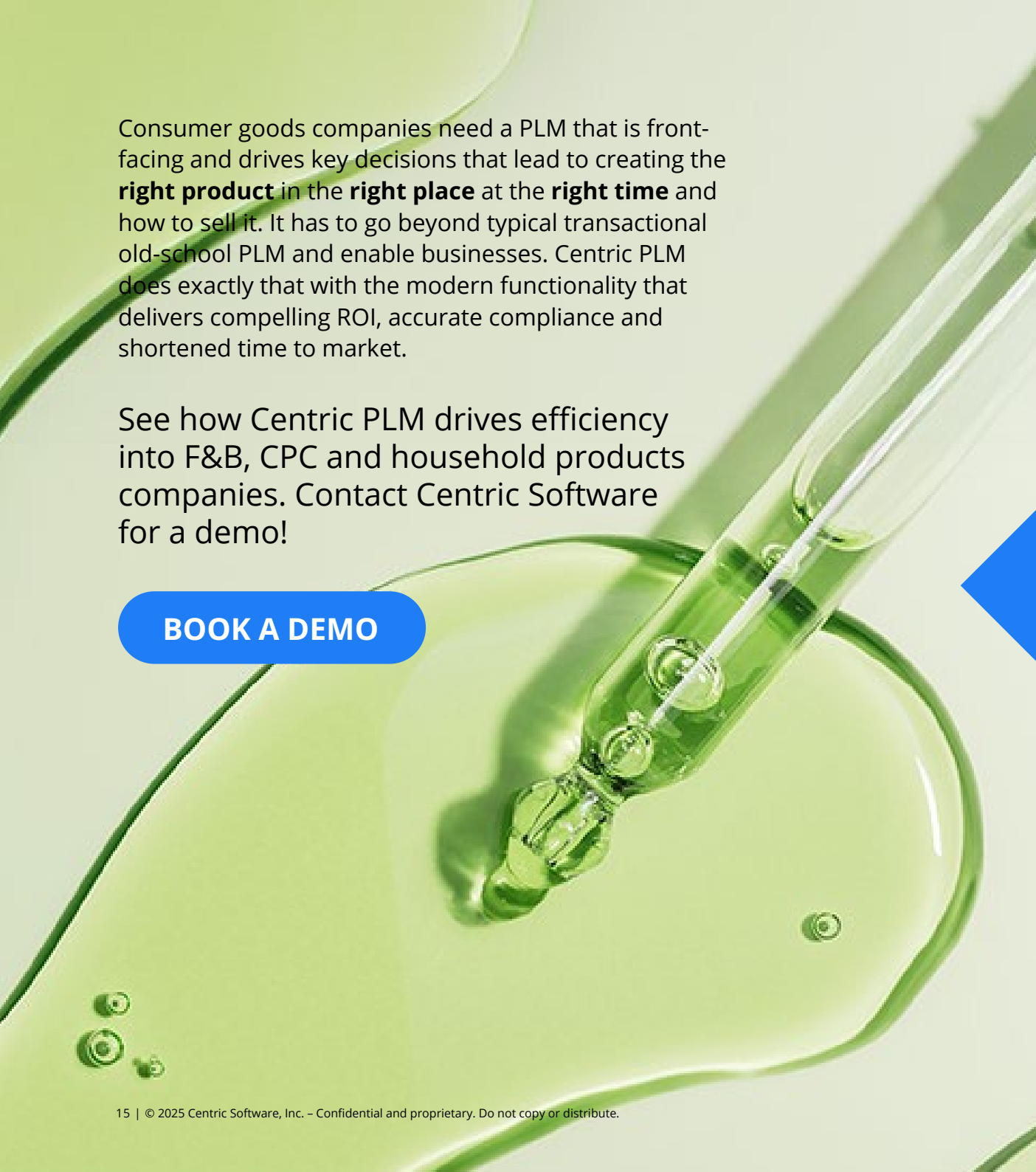
# Conclusion

The key differences between an old PLM and modern PLM are summarized in fig. 1, below:

Feature	Centric PLM	Old PLM Systems
<b>Technology and infrastructure</b>	Enhanced integration with other enterprise systems and regulatory databases, use of advanced technologies like AI	Limited integration capabilities, use of outdated tech stacks, no mobile access
<b>User experience</b>	Intuitive and user-friendly interfaces, easy onboarding, mobile remote access	Clunky interfaces, steep learning curve, limited accessibility (desktop only)
<b>Functionality</b>	Formulation, specification, regulatory, nutrition, packaging and multi-level BOMs, robust analytics for compliance, market trends	Lack of formulation, nutrition and other food, cosmetics and household goods-specific tools, minimal data analytics capabilities
<b>Regulatory compliance</b>	Automated compliance tracking and reporting visibility into sourcing and labeling accuracy	Manual processes for tracking ingredient sourcing and labeling
<b>Scalability</b>	Easy to scale with business growth and market changes with subscription model available	Challenges in scaling operations as business grows
<b>Customization</b>	Flexible configuration options and rapid implementation and deployment	Rigid customization options leading to inefficiencies

Figure 1 - Summary of the differences between out-of-date and modern PLM systems





Consumer goods companies need a PLM that is front-facing and drives key decisions that lead to creating the **right product** in the **right place** at the **right time** and how to sell it. It has to go beyond typical transactional old-school PLM and enable businesses. Centric PLM does exactly that with the modern functionality that delivers compelling ROI, accurate compliance and shortened time to market.

See how Centric PLM drives efficiency into F&B, CPC and household products companies. Contact Centric Software for a demo!

**BOOK A DEMO**

“PLM gives us more freedom for the development of new products, time for more research and innovation.”

•

**Amelia Muzzo Araus**  
**Food Products Engineer,**  
**Wild Foods SpA**



# About Centric Software

From its headquarters in Silicon Valley, Centric Software provides the market-leading AI-enabled Product Lifecycle Management platform for food & beverage manufacturers, grocery, brands and multi-category retailers. As experts in all fast-moving consumer goods, Centric Software delivers best-of-breed solutions to design, develop, source, buy, make, package, assort and sell products. Centric solutions optimize the product portfolio, harmonize product offers and streamline product development by speeding time to market and innovation while enhancing quality control and ensuring regulatory compliance.

**Centric PLM™** features integrated industry best practices and innovative, AI-enabled capabilities tailored specifically for food and beverage manufacturers, retailers and food service providers. Seamlessly manage the overall product lifecycle, from initial concept and formula development to packaging, quality, supplier collaboration, nutritional labeling, production, SKU rationalization and beyond. Results include up to a 50% improvement in productivity and a 60% decrease in time to market.

**Centric Visual Boards™** are a visually oriented top-down/bottom-up product portfolio optimization tool. Real-time data and imagery from multiple business systems are brought into a singular accessible workspace, creating a new, visual way of working for all teams to ensure robust, well-balanced global/regional product offers, dramatically decreasing assortment development cycle time.

Centric Software has received awards for excellence from Just Food, Just Drinks, Business Awards UK, Frost & Sullivan and many other regional accolades. Centric Software is proud to provide the best solutions, backed by the best team and to partner with the best customers.

Centric Software is a subsidiary of Dassault Systèmes (Euronext Paris: #13065, DSY.PA), the world leader in 3D design software, 3D digital mock-up and PLM solutions.

Centric Software is a registered trademark of Centric Software, Inc. in the US and other countries. Centric PLM and Centric Visual Boards are Trademarks of Centric Software, Inc. All third-party trademarks are trademarks of their respective owners.

[www.centricsoftware.com](http://www.centricsoftware.com)

