

An Internet Broker Service for Low Quantity Custom Machined Parts

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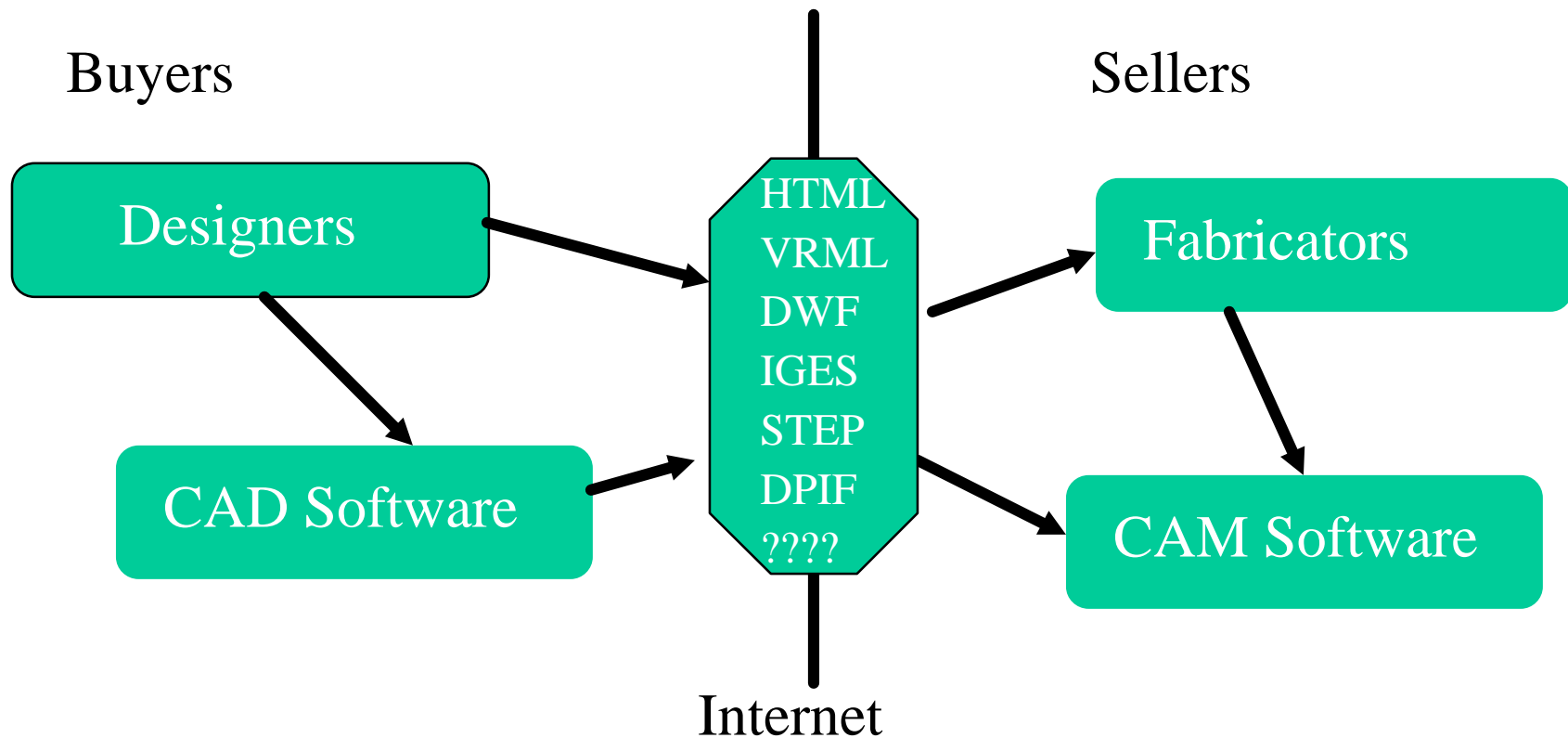
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Connecting Buyers and Sellers



The Data Exchange Problem

How do I get data from my CAD system to your CAM system?

- IGES - Initial Graphics Exchange Specification
- Solid Modeling Formats - SAT, XMT, STEP
- STEP AP224 - Machining Features
- DPIF - UNH Machining Feature Language

Today's Job Shop*

- \$25 Billion annual revenues
- Critical to country's economic health - create tooling, dies, molds, precision machined parts
- 14,000 individual companies with an average of 25-30 employees
- 670,000 skilled machinists
- Widespread use of CNC machines
- Use a wide variety of machine tools to cut or form material, usually metal to precise shapes and dimensions
- Usually geographically close to customers

*Source: National Tooling and Machining Association (www.ntma.org)

The Questions

- What is the best method for electronic communication of design information from the buyer to the seller?
 - DWF, native CAD, native CAM, IGES
- What is the best method for providing feedback from the seller to the buyer?
 - Markup, VRML
- What is the mechanism for connecting buyers and sellers?
 - bid process, payment, secrecy