Advanced Solutions Relies on Consistent Quality of ASCENT Training Guides

The Client:
Advanced Solutions, an Autodesk Platinum reseller and Authorized Training Center (ATC), provides integrated software solutions and services allowing clients to create more effective products and processes. The company serves the architecture, engineering, construction, manufacturing, material handling, retail and biomedical industries.

The Challenge:
With over 700 professionals taking software training on 15 different Autodesk products every year, Advanced Solutions was struggling to maintain and continually update their own in-house developed course materials. They also wanted to standardize on the content of their training guides, and start using Autodesk Official Training Guides to ensure staff and customers could obtain Autodesk certification at the end of a course.

The Solution:
Because ASCENT's guides are the official training guides authorized by Autodesk, Advanced Solutions moved to ASCENT’s paper-based guides as well as their eBooks. “As an Autodesk Training Center, we teach courses on 15 different Autodesk products and use over 40 titles from ASCENT,” said Robert Savage, Educational Specialist at Advanced Solutions. “Most of the guides come with companion instructor materials, making training easier to deliver for our ten instructors.”

ASCENT ensures training guides are in-step with new releases from Autodesk, which means our students are always learning the latest features and tools that make their job easier.
The Results:

**Structured learning reduces time to competency.** The way that ASCENT structures its guides mirrors Savage’s training process. “The guides present information, then gives students a chance to try out the feature, and then practice exercises are provided to reinforce what they learned,” said Savage. “This is exactly how I run my classes, so the guides help people learn in the same way I would teach them, but without me necessarily having to be right beside them. When we use the guides in a classroom setting, they help keep our classes on track.”

**Anytime, anywhere training.** In addition to classroom training, Advanced Solutions offers online training. “So long as a student has the software, we will ship out the appropriate training materials directly to them,” said Brittani Amos, Customer Support Administrator at Advanced Solutions. “This allows people to access training expertise wherever they may be, and in today’s increasingly mobile world that makes a lot of sense.”

**One stop shopping helps to reduce order complexity.** “We order books from ASCENT on a weekly basis,” said Amos. “Because they’re our prime supplier, we have a great working relationship with them and I can drop-ship titles to any of our locations which means we don’t have to store books centrally and distribute them ourselves.”

**Instructor materials provide focus.** The Instructor Tools that are available for purchase to supplement each training guide include suggested timelines for each topic and provide answers to questions posed throughout the guide. As well, many of ASCENT’s Instructor Tools include a slide deck with visuals to help in classroom discussion. “I find the timeline particularly useful,” said Savage. “It keeps me from getting off course, covering the appropriate information in the allotted time and prevents the class from getting sidetracked.”

**Keeping up with new software versions.** “ASCENT is very good about keeping up their courseware with the ever-changing, annual release cycles of the Autodesk software,” said Amos. “They ensure their training guides are in-step with new releases from Autodesk, which means our students are always learning the latest features and tools that make their job easier.”

“The materials from ASCENT are high-quality tools that help me do a better job,” said Savage. “I like using them because I teach so many different classes and they have a consistent, common language and structure, which means as students work through courses, the guides provide consistent quality regardless of the software being taught. They save me time, which I can use to answer questions as people run into challenging territory.”