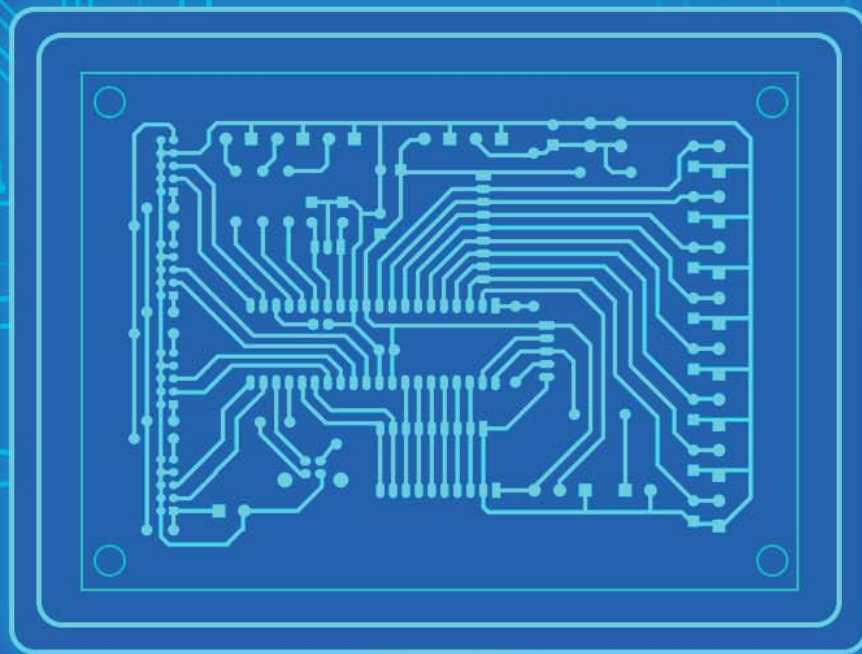


***Altium***<sup>®</sup>

# Unleash Your Creativity — With Training



**Mark Forbes**

Director of Marketing Content

# UNLEASH YOUR CREATIVITY — WITH TRAINING

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Imagine this: You are at home, showing a friend something on your computer. You take a few keystrokes when your friend says “You know, you could have done all that with a right-click?” At first, you’re a bit stunned; you’ve been using this software for several years...how could you not know that. Then, you realize that you have wasted quite a bit of time over the years with all the unnecessary keystrokes.

That scenario has probably happened to everyone who uses a computer. Software can be so complex that literally no one knows how to use all the features — or even that some of them exist.

Now, consider the software with which you make your living...are there features and capabilities hidden to you up to this point? The answer is almost certainly YES! And when it comes to your make-a-living software, in this case PCB design software, that time wasted because you’re unaware of a feature could make your life easier. It is also likely that it would save you time, which you could use to make your design more clever, more efficient, and generally, more cool!



*I get comments in every training session I teach how the students will apply the learnings every day in their work. It's very satisfying because that is precisely our goal. — Chris Jennings, Altium instructor*

Let's see, in a little more depth why you can't afford NOT to get more training.

## “I JUST DON'T HAVE TIME TO TAKE TRAINING”

Without a doubt, that is the most common reason given for not taking additional training. Of course, there is a lot of truth in that statement. Most people don't have the time. It's very tough in most people's schedule to carve out three or four consecutive days, putting all projects on hold. However, the smart ones realize that making time for training will be repaid in multiples in terms of time.

What if you went to a training session and learned just one new thing...a significant new thing? That hardly seem like it's worth several days away from your normal work schedule. But is it?

Consider that one new thing learned saves just 15 minutes per week. Each year that training session saves you 13 hours. With 13 hours, consider what new techniques you could use, what clever routing you would have time for, or you could write more design rules to help ensure that next project requires no respins. Plus, it's highly likely that you will not just learn one new thing...students typically report learning dozens of new tips, tricks and techniques. How much is that training worth now?

## LEARN NEW FEATURES AND WAYS OF DESIGNING

Literally every student comments on the features they either were not aware of, or were not fully aware of all the capabilities of those features. Often, jaws drop when they learn a feature that quite obviously will save them significant amounts of time.

*What I found most valuable was the overall power of Altium Designer. Hot keys speed up the design process, global editing, creating classes, and so much more. — Anonymous \**

This doesn't just occur with basic classes, but across the board from basic to expert.

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There is one more very important factor that greater efficiency and the resulting time savings can do for you: cut down on errors. When you're saving time every time you use your software, you can incorporate more error checking...double check those connections. And, eliminating errors without finding them in the prototype saves huge amounts of time.

*The best thing I took away was learning about using some of the non-obvious features. Big time savers. — Anonymous \**

## TRAIN WITH THE EXPERTS

When pilots train on a new airliner, they train with the aircraft manufacturer. Why train with a third party when the experts... the people who created the product, offer comprehensive, quality training directly to their customers? Only with Altium training are designers officially certified.

This is especially true for a software product. In the case of Altium Designer®, you can train with the people who not only educate people every day, but people who designed the software and people who use the software.



Often, Altium trainers are presented with real problems that customers experience. When a new problem needs a new solution, those trainers relay the details to Altium R&D engineers. Frequently, customer issues are incorporated to a later release of Altium Designer, and everyone benefits.

## 6 Reasons Training Saves You Money

### 1. Untrained Employees = Unhappy Employees.

Employees who feel inadequate, underachieving, or unsupported are unhappy. They aren't satisfied in their work, which will cause them to underperform, make mistakes, and not care about their work product. That costs the business in lost time and money.

### 2. Untrained Workers Have a Low Production Value.

The quality of their work is lower and of less value. The quality in performance is lower than it could (or should) be.

### 3. Untrained Workers Are Inefficient.

More time (and therefore money) and effort is spent when employees aren't fully or properly trained to perform their tasks or to fulfill their responsibilities. It takes them longer to do the work.

### 4. Lost Time/Money Due to Mistakes.

When an untrained worker makes a mistake, the time and materials used are lost. The work then has to be done again. Or worse, the inadequate product was delivered to the client.

### 5. An Increase in Miscellaneous Expenses.

These are more difficult to track or attribute to untrained workers, but they are there. Creating a CAD drawing incorrectly means reprinting the file. That means it takes more time to fix the mistake, more materials cost in paper and ink, and more time rechecking the work. If it were done correctly the first time, these costs wouldn't be there.

### 6. Lost Customers.

Untrained employees can cause many of the mistakes listed above, and those mistakes and inefficiencies can cause your business to lose customers. That is the worst possible scenario, but it can happen.

<sup>1</sup> Excerpted from <https://redshift.autodesk.com/importance-of-employee-training/>

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## INVEST, LEARN, AND HAVE FUN

Training can be thought of as an expense or an asset. When looking at the long term benefits, it is clearly an asset. Training generally leads to more efficient workflows with fewer errors. For you, the designer, that means that you have a bit more time to be more creative, double check for errors, and learn new methodologies.

Beyond that, the personal satisfaction of creating better, more reliable products is just plain fun! After all, didn't you become an engineer to let your creativity flow?



## REFERENCES

\* *These comments are from surveys completed by customers upon completion of a training class. Many of our customers indicate on their surveys that they do not authorize disclosure of their name or company. We always respect those wishes.*

<sup>1</sup> **Importance of Employee Training: 6 Reasons Why It Saves You Money**, Redshift, Autodesk, 9/3/14.

<https://redshift.autodesk.com/importance-of-employee-training/>

<sup>2</sup> **The Strategic Value of Workplace Training and Development**, eLeaP Software, accessed November 2016.

<http://www.eleapsoftware.com/free-training-resources/strategic-value-of-workplace-training-whitepaper/>