

OPEN VS. CLOSED SYSTEMS: The Pros and Cons

As digital technology has evolved, so have the strategic alliances that have been formed. The movement toward open architecture CAD/CAM systems has exploded. The growing number of manufacturers' systems being compatible with other companies' hardware and software gives users access to a wider range of indications—such as implant abutments, full-contour restorations and automated wax-ups—without requiring them to invest in new equipment.

Of the survey respondents who plan to invest in digital equipment in the next two years, 61% will opt for an open system. They're

excited about this trend because they think it makes the technology more affordable and accessible and that it gives them flexibility and more material choices.

Those who prefer closed systems like the total support of one company for materials and technical troubleshooting rather than having to deal with multiple manufacturers in the event of a problem. For example, if software compatibility or material issues arise, there's no question about who is responsible for diagnosing and solving the problem. **LMT**

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