

Appendix A: Design Sharing Platform Analysis

Primary function	Site	STATUS (Active, Static, Closed)	Makepedia must have										Makepedia nice to have				
			open access - no paywall	easy to use	mobile ease of use	flexible format, both of files stored and documentation	Variety of file formats?	supports comments/reviews/discussion	allow backup/archiving - no tie in to one organisation	provide some form of revision control	no user name required for basic access (eg download of a file)	supports conversion of file formats	platform is open source	user retains ownership of uploaded design / licensing	customisation - whether the design can be modified or configured through the platform	platform supports derivative designs, records collaborators on a design	articles/users
File sharing	Pinshape	Active	yes, need an account, sell	yes	appears simple	stl and obj design files	stl, obj, thing, scad, amf, dae, 3ds, x3d, blend, ply, dxf, ai, svg, cdr, ps, eps, eps2, psd, hprt	yes (contexts, blog)	individual design	yes (others can't modify)	yes	no	formlabs family	yes, DMCA support	no	no, just collections & new	200k+ users, 500k+
File Sharing	thingiverse	Active	free	yes but poor search	android and ios mobile app	Good documentation options, ok file handling		comments only	yes-with external code	limited	yes	no	no	yes	yes	limited	>900000
File Sharing	shapedo	Changed focus: now construction planning documentation tool	free	yes		Good documentation options, ok file handling	Not known	comments only	yes	excellent	yes	limited	yes	yes	no?	excellent tracking of history and collaboration	~100
File Sharing	3d content central	Active	free	yes	poor	not any more, restricted upload but provides conversion to many other formats. Limited documentation options	.oldprt, .oldasm, .sat, .step, .igs, .x_b, .x_t, .prt, and .asm	comments and ratings	no	limited	no	yes	no	yes	yes	none	>1300000
File Sharing	youmagine	Active	free	yes	moderate	yes and allows for some conversion. Ok documentaion options	stl, amf, scad, jscad, obj, etc.	comments and ratings	no	no	yes	no?	yes	yes	no?	none	>10000
File Sharing	TinkerCAD (formerly 123D's Gallery)	Active	payment allows commercial models	yes	moderate	possibly, aimed at 123d software. Limited documentation options	Not known	comments only	no	no	no	no?	no	yes	no?	limited	~300000
File Sharing	self hosted wiki	Active	free	ok for users, less obvious for content generators	n/a	yes but conversion between formats will be challenging	all files	ok	yes	yes	yes	challenging to implement	yes	yes	challenging to implement	challenging to implement	0
File Sharing	athub	active	payment allows private repository	intimidating	not known	no limit to files but not set up for 3D models. Very good for flexible documentation	all files	ok	yes	excellent	yes	no	yes	yes	no?	excellent tracking of history and collaboration	>20,000,000
File Sharing	wevolver	Active	free to view and/or open source hardware projects. For basic / W1	yes for viewing/downloading. Search only via web	viewable on mobile. Not practical to edit	good documentation options, ok file handling		no	only on a per project basis	allows cloning and version control by downloading onto	yes	no	open core: aspects are open source	yes	yes	yes, via cloning: mostly to form teams. Records changes made and who	1600 (active), +10-20%/yr
File Sharing	Fable	active	yes	ok for users, less obvious for content generators	not known	Good documentation file format restriction unclear		yes	no	limited	yes	no	yes-through github	yes	no	limited	?
File Sharing	MyMiniFactory	Active	yes	yes	good	not known	Not known	yes, need an account	no (own files, or	Potentially as a new	yes	no	not known	yes; retain 100%	no	no	200k+ users and 20k+ 3d
File sharing	Github	Active	yes	no	no	yes		yes	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	no, file uploads only	yes	yes	10m+ users, 49m+
File sharing	Shapeways	Active	yes	yes	good	DAE, OBJ, STL, X3D, X3DOB		no, but has forum	no	Potentially as a new	Can buy without account	don't think so, upload as	don't think so	yes	yes, co-creator model	no	printed and sold 1m+
File sharing	WikiFactory	in development	yes for public/open projects	tbd	tbd>>>>	is a goal		is a goal	is a goal	is a goal	not known	not known	wiki	not known	is a goal	is a goal	not yet live
File sharing	Traceparts	Active	for designers free	moderate	tbd	appears so, many CAD	yes	no	doesn't seem so across	no, however has direct	no, need account	doesn't appear so	no	appears so	no, need to download or	no	3.1M users / 100M parts