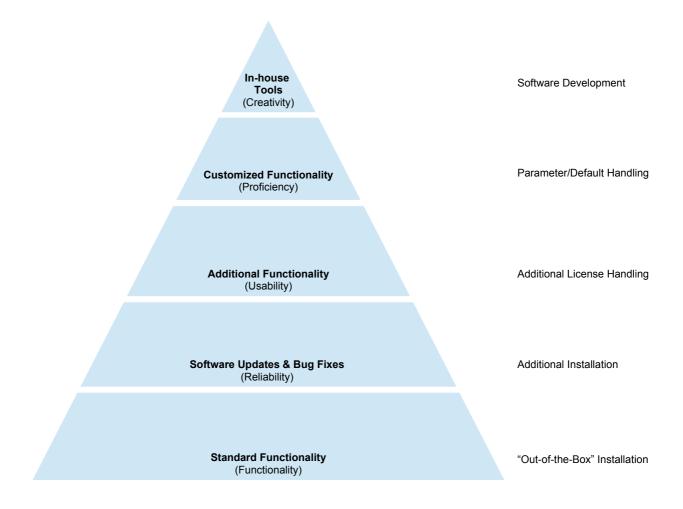The CAD/CAM Software Hierarchy of Needs is adapted from Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, which specifies that a design must address lower-level needs before higher-level needs can be addressed.

The original Maslow's needs are shown in parenthesis in the picture below.

An example CAD/CAM software activity for each corresponding need is shown on the right hand side of the picture.

A typical cost-effective goal is to achieve the biggest impact with the least amount of effort. This means using software development as a last resort, since it is very time consuming, expensive, and requires the most resources.

Pyramid Level	Example Activity
In-house Tools (Creativity)	Software Development
Customized Functionality (Proficiency)	Parameter/Default Handling
Additional Functionality (Usability)	Additional License Handling
Software Updates & Bug Fixes (Reliability)	Additional Installation
Standard Functionality (Functionality)	"Out-of-the-Box" Installation