



CitA BIM Gathering 2017, Croke Park, November 23rd & 24th, 2017

# breaking into the **black box**

- demystifying BIM data

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#### We are talking Data not Documents

Data, that may be ...

Used to create models

Abstracted from models

Organised in a database, searched, queried & analysed to generate meaningful information

Associated with other related data or documents

Computed upon and used to derive other data



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## Why is it a black box?

BIM lives in silos. Data is in many files and not in a database that can be queried.

Information in models is not complete, not trusted and not leveraged downstream.

In vast majority of cases, BIM has become just a better way to generate drawings and schedules





#### Model handover = Data gymnastics!



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## Data Management Challenges in AEC

- Design and construction data is highly inconsistent
  - Heterogeneous authoring tools for BIM and CAD
  - Inconsistent modelling practices across firms
  - Wide and varied taxonomies
  - Lack of adherence to standardised classification of building elements
- Authoring tools are not designed for data management.
- Off the shelf solutions to manage data, are limited if any. Bespoke solutions are expensive to build, maintain and tends to age quickly.
- Many firms lack a clear strategy for leveraging data in their workflows. A proactive approach is needed.



## Common Data Environment

- Many systems with disconnected databases needed to achieve wide and varied expectations of different personas from a Common Data Environment (CDE).
- Most CDE solutions have largely meant collaborative document management
- What does CDE look like, from a "data" perspective
  - Support the ability to abstract, collect, organize, aggregate, data from varied sources.
  - Enable data that can be searched, queried, associated, transformed and managed.
  - Be a hub for data that serves as a trusted system of record to drive digitisation through data-driven workflows.
  - Have verification and validation of data at the very core.
  - Democratize data access and entry accessible for non-BIM experts



#### A System for Integrated BIM



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#### ... Extend integrated BIM to a Digital Twin for operations



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## Conclusions

- Data flow between design, fabrication, construction and operations is disjointed, resulting in data silos. Delivering models with information aggregated across design, construction and commissioning, is challenging.
- BIM Level 2 has brought greater focus to data in models, driving a need for ...
  - Clear definition of Asset Information Requirements
  - Assignment of responsibilities to clarify who delivers what data, when and how
  - An automated system to verify and validate deliverables at each project milestone
  - A system to enable the supply chain to easily aggregate and associate data to model elements
- To fully leverage the "I" of BIM, it is essential to deploy a system for data management that will liberate data from the design environment and represent it in an extendable, associative and expressive database with verification and validation capabilities.
- Eliminating data silos and allowing unconstrained flow of data across the entire lifecycle of a project by integrating data from multiple sources will enable digitisation of work processes, improve productivity, reduce waste and enhance efficiencies.

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