

Vision 2021 – John Hale

It's all about maturity! This is the recurring theme, as I sit here trying to put thoughts into words. Eight years sounds like a significant amount of time but as I reflect on current BIM achievements it is a mere drop in the bucket. I find this to be a very sobering exercise to describe the successes that we anticipate over such a short time-frame. OpenBIM standards need to mature and gain wide spread acceptance.

The following view of 2021 is from an owner's perspective, and how BIM supports asset life-cycle management across its real property portfolio.

Enterprise Real Property Spatial Information Management

In 2014 we implemented phase 1 of the Enterprise Real Property Spatial Information Repository (RPSIR). The repository was implemented as a common information environment and was the authoritative source of information about our land, facilities and infrastructure. The key was to treat legacy drawings, specs and related asset data as reference data, and build a dynamic federated spatial data base, with an eye on implementing a future integrated solution.

In 2016, Phase 2 of RPSIR was predicated on OpenBIM and integration. An aggressive program was launched to create an inventory of IFC based building information models for our entire portfolio that could adequately satisfy reporting requirements. The keys to success were the open data standards, and information exchanges. Initially the LoD was basic with the promise that future projects employing refined information exchanges, and IFC6 would improve it.

A few (of many) key achievements derived from OpenBIM in 2021:

- Corporate Dashboard:
 - How are our assets performing? (Live data – energy performance?)
 - Real time situational planning etc....
 - Enterprise Resource Planning:
 - Tombstone data integrated from BIM that is accurate and validated.
 - Open standards / Open data: Data that can be consumed and manipulated for any ad-hoc purpose using the application of your choice.
- Etc....

Key success factors:

- NBIMS must exist in two forms:
 - Technical Requirements: The core reference standards are endorsed internationally and readily applied by the key software vendors. IFC needs to mature and become widely accepted. (these standards should be invisible to the practitioner)

- User Requirements: The key guidelines that will provide the industry with knowledge of how to do BIM.
- BIG Data: The spatial data that describes our built environment must be available in open formats that everyone can access and consume, and trust.
- The BIM Mandate (think UK). Someone in North America needs to officially recognize the value proposition and mandate BIM!