

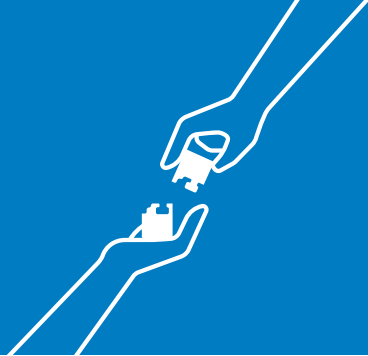
Collaboration for
**BETTER
BUILDING**

Five Ways the Construction Industry Can Work Better Together



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A blueprint for better collaboration

Architecture, engineering and construction (AEC) are fast-moving industries. An era of rapid digitalisation is upon us, and it's more important than ever in this globalised economy to leverage that technology toward smarter, easier collaboration. Here are five tips to get the most out of collaboration and communication, so that you can be more efficient and productive – allowing you to focus on what really matters: getting the job done.



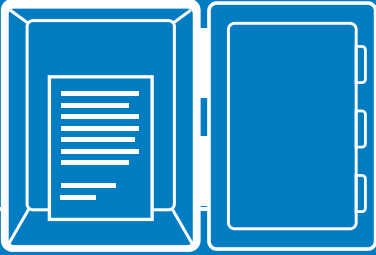
Communication

90% of construction professionals surveyed say it's important to collaborate digitally.

Collaboration can be an intimidating word. But really, it all boils down to communication. The construction industry is changing at a rapid pace and, along with it, the technology we use to build our world. But don't let the abundance of options out there bog you down. What you really need are tools that make communication easier. That's especially true in a global economy, where architects, engineers and builders often work together on one project across continents and time zones.

It's sometimes impossible to have all the stakeholders sitting down in the same room, which is why it's critical to take advantage of benefits like the Studio capabilities in Bluebeam® Revu®. Studio allows collaborators across the world to "sit down" in a meeting and talk with each other. All while looking at the very same document on their computer screens, in real time.

A recent survey by [Construction Manager Magazine](#) of nearly 200 AEC professionals found that fewer than 20% of respondents were confident in their company's ability to collaborate throughout the BIM process. Yet, 90% of the professionals said it's highly important to collaborate digitally. Studio in Revu helps bridge the gap, making it easy for firms to achieve BIM Level 2 compliance. Give your people the tools they need to succeed.



Single source of truth

Rework, on average, accounts for 9% of total construction costs. On a £5 million project, that's £450,000.

Working from a single reliable data source means that everybody on your project can access the most current, up-to-date information. Let's face it: though it's often a messy process, we're all used to emailing important information back and forth – whether that's project updates or the latest version of a drawing. But it's all too easy to lose track of things, and that leads to confusion, lost time and, in some cases, rework.

Having a single source of truth, such as a document set edited in Revu where all changes are tracked and logged, means that project partners can access the most up-to-date information without having to fish through long email threads. Building projects that can run into the millions or even billions of pounds are simply too valuable to risk having people on the wrong page, making changes to a floorplan or estimating takeoffs from an out-of-date document. Whether you've got a staff of two or 200, you know how miscommunication can throw a wrench into schedules and budgets. A [Navigant Construction Forum](#) research perspective entitled "The Impact of Rework on Construction & Some Practical Remedies" showed that rework, on average, accounts for 9% of total construction costs. On a £5 million project, that's £450,000 that didn't have to be spent. Having a single source of truth helps you find errors before they become costly.



Access anywhere, anytime

95% of respondents in the Construction Manager survey say it's important to be able to work whenever, wherever.

It's vital that team members can access the most accurate data, anywhere, anytime. From the office to the airport, the jobsite to the hotel room, 95% of construction professionals surveyed in Construction Manager said they need access that fits their schedule, so they and their [teams can be efficient and effective](#).

This can be especially important to the new generation of workers, which has grown up surrounded by mobile technology. With the UK construction industry facing a 20–25% decline in the AEC labour pool in coming years, you'll need to do everything you can to [attract the right talent](#).

Revu makes drawings, documents and data accessible anywhere, anytime, on tablet or laptop, in the field or on the fly. Plus, you save money on printing and shipping costs, and don't have to worry about where to store unwieldy drawings or try to read an elevation beneath layers of grime, coffee stains and pencil edits. Being able to work on the go often shaves weeks and even months off of project schedules. One [UK engineering firm](#) that embraced the collaboration capabilities in Revu achieved a 60% increase in efficiency in their production process. They've been able to streamline processes, edit markups simultaneously and maintain drawing quality at a level previously unimaginable.

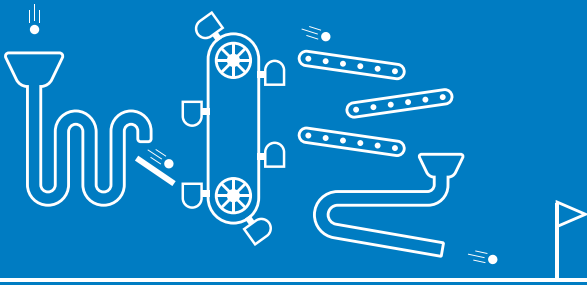


Universal file format

The trend toward PDF as the universal file format in AEC is a global movement.

In an industry where architects may use one very expensive software package while engineers and project managers use yet another, having a universal file format reduces the need for expensive licences and unreliable file conversions. Everyone from the architect to the engineer, the contractor and specialist contractor, the foreman and the owner, can be on the same page when using PDF. It's no coincidence that Sweden's construction industry has recently adopted a set of standards recognising PDF as the file format of choice – and Revu as the preferred PDF collaboration software. In the US, the Construction Progress Coalition is dedicated to establishing industrywide best practices, with a set of PDF guidelines at the heart of their effort.

It's fair to say the trend toward PDF as the universal file format in AEC is a global movement. Plus, PDF can help you win bids by making it easy for owners to view and share your proposals.



Establish protocols (and stick to them)

Digitalisation savings are estimated to grow to £905 billion in the next 10 years.

Standardise processes, protocols and projects. This drastically cuts down on those dreaded meetings about “process,” since you don’t have to reinvent the wheel with every project. When everyone abides by the rules, documents are easier to read, schedules stay on track and success becomes replicable. In Revu, you can design custom tools and stamps that can be used by your entire organisation, saving time and money and improving efficiency and even security.

“[Global Construction 2030](#)” published by Global Construction Perspectives and Oxford Economics estimates that the Engineering and Construction industries are expected to grow to £12 trillion globally by 2030; digitalisation savings are estimated to grow to £905 billion in the next 10 years. What will it cost you not to participate?

Taking the next step

If you've made it this far, you're on the right track. The future is clear: firms that collaborate effectively will prosper. Those that maintain data siloes will face increasingly smaller profit margins and uncertainty, as the Farmer Review (aptly entitled "Modernise or Die") points out. Right now, only 28% of the respondents in the Construction Manager survey use software to meet BIM Level 2 requirements. There's a lot of room for improvement. And, there's reason to be optimistic. After all, now you know the five essentials for improving collaboration within your organisation:

- **Communication**
- **Single source of truth**
- **Access anywhere, anytime**
- **Universal file format**
- **Establish protocols**

You also understand that better collaboration can lead to faster project delivery times, reduced rework and great profits. Are you ready to take the next steps? Revu is the leading technology solution that sets the standard for project efficiency and collaboration for AEC professionals worldwide. Go to bluebeam.com/tcscad to download a free trial today. Already own a license of Revu but new to Bluebeam Studio? Watch the full intro video to Studio here: bluebeam.com/uk/getting-started



Revu offers

An effective solution bridging the gap between the jobsite and the office.

Best-in-class markup and editing capabilities.

BIM Level 2 compliant capabilities through Bluebeam Studio.

Repeatable, customisable processes that make you more efficient.



To learn more about the collaboration capabilities in Bluebeam Revu reach out to TCS CAD at bluebeam@cadandbim.co.uk