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Myth Buster: Revit & IFC

BOLD STATEMENTS

Autodesk® Revit® is perfectly capable of exporting any kind of geometry to Industry Foundation Classes (IFC), without the loss of any geometry.

Revit is perfectly capable of importing and translating an IFC model to native Revit geometry.

With that, the entire Open BIM versus Closed BIM debate does not exist.

BACKGROUND

We have two major players in the BIM scene here: Revit and ArchiCAD. One of the major points of discussion for every firm has been the (supposed) lack of IFC compatibility with Revit.

I know that IFC does not (yet) play a major role in Autodesk's home country, the US. But in other parts of the world it does. Following other countries, the Dutch Governmental Building Agency has issued the use of IFC as a deliverable for BIM projects in certain categories. Whilst the mandatory use of IFC is now limited to major Design and Build contracts, it is expected that this will evolve very fast. So this makes one wonder: where DOES Revit stand in all this?

If I listen to the OpenBIM consortium, Revit's handling of IFC has always been and will always be dramatic. Most often heard reason: "Autodesk seeks world dominance with the rvt format just like it established with the dwg format."

I'm not quite sure why this is a bad thing, though. Does this not always happen with a new (software) technology? Look at Office, PDF, Java, Photoshop, iOS, Facebook Likes, and so on. They all sought to dominate the world in their own market and succeeded pretty well at it. What's the problem? New companies emerge, they take the idea and make it better or cheaper. Or they come up with a brand new revolutionary concept that in its turn will seek world dominance. That's how innovation works in my book.

But it is also completely beside the point. Every commercial company in its right mind should seek world dominance. It's their reason for existence. And it does not mean that with that, IFC is not properly supported by Autodesk.