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Customer Case Study Health Check

Autodesk® Revit® MEP



“I would recommend the Revit Health Check to any firm just starting out with Revit.”

—Garry Montgomery
Vice President
Dynamix Engineering Ltd.

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Getting Revit's Health in Check

Dynamix discovers and improves BIM workflow inefficiencies with Advanced Solutions' Autodesk Revit Health Check

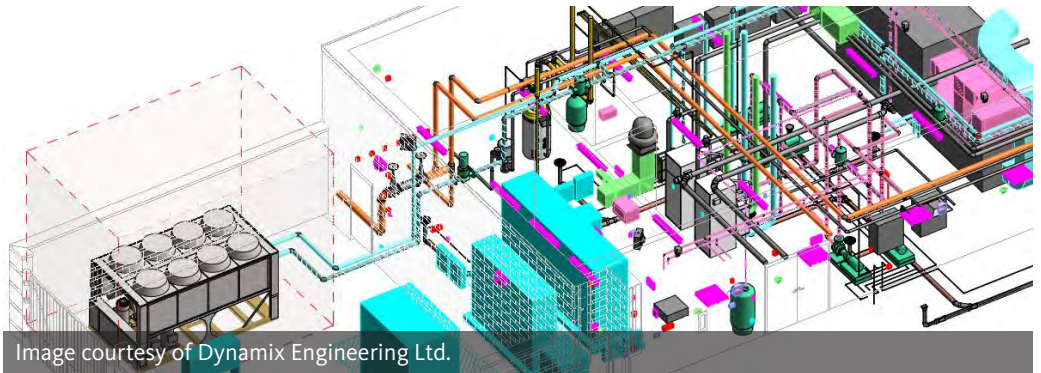


Image courtesy of Dynamix Engineering Ltd.

Company Overview

Dynamix Engineering, a full-service mechanical, electrical, plumbing and technology engineering firm, has been specifying sustainable design features since the firm's 1997 founding in Columbus, Ohio. Now supporting a geographically dispersed, multi-state client base, Dynamix continues to pursue leading-edge technology and design solutions for projects requiring flexible, efficient facilities that support a healthful indoor environment.

Business Problem/Compelling Event

Dynamix began using Autodesk® Revit® MEP software in 2006, several years before other firms in the Columbus-area began to see the value of Building Information Modeling (BIM). The area's relatively small Revit user base left Dynamix with no place to brainstorm ideas, refine practices and learn to utilize the software in the most effective way possible.

To hone their software skills, Dynamix engaged Advanced Solutions for a three-day Revit MEP custom training class for the core group of Revit users within the company, including BIM Manager Matthew Stuver and at least one user from each trade: mechanical, electrical, plumbing and technology. The initial custom training provided a necessary, sophisticated overview of the software and enabled users within the company to begin to develop standard Revit usage practices.

However, as Dynamix began designing more projects in Revit, teams within the company recognized areas of inconsistency, inefficiency and failure to use the software to its fullest potential.

The Solution

Realizing the need to further streamline the company's Revit workflow, Dynamix saw an Advanced Solutions Revit Health Check as a way to delve into practices with a more methodical, experienced perspective. Advanced Solutions' Health Check can be performed on Revit or other Autodesk software workflows. The check up serves to ensure the software has been implemented in a way that results in long term success and improved productivity for the client. For the 2009 Dynamix Health Check, Advanced Solutions used a completed project to evaluate utilization of Revit software, identify problematic workflows and provide recommendations for improvement.

Dynamix selected the Ohio School for the Deaf and Blind as the Revit Health Check assessment project. This particular project required an atypical client interface, as a large percentage of the decision makers were deaf and/or blind. “Revit offered an opportunity to share what the space would look like in 3D,” notes Garry Montgomery, vice president Dynamix Engineering. “An interpreter might have experienced extreme difficulty in fully conveying that from a 2D drawing.”

Meshing of experiences creates an effective, collaborative learning and working environment

Performance

Over the course of one month, Advanced Solutions interviewed Dynamix team members, reviewed and analyzed the Revit models and identified key areas of workflow inefficiencies. The Revit Health check enabled Dynamix to align the practices of all disciplines within the company. “We were able to bring all disciplines up to speed on the way Revit should be used,” recalls Stuver.

Dynamix applauds Advanced Solutions’ ability to complete the entire assessment within the agreed upon project timeframe and budget. The professionalism and experience of the Advanced Solutions team also struck a chord with Dynamix. “It was almost like speaking directly to Autodesk,” Stuver reflects.

Dynamix finds the meshing of experiences and the collaborative environment a key component of the way Advanced Solutions works with clients. “Working together as a team is what it’s all about,” says Stuver. The added benefit of Advanced Solutions’ Columbus Autodesk Authorized Training Center (ATC) also proved valuable, as Dynamix team members were able to complete their training in a convenient location, tailored specifically to their needs.

Results & Benefits

Prior to the Revit Health Check, Dynamix included all designs in a single Revit model. Now, each discipline has its own central file, drastically decreasing file sizes, which had previously impaired the company’s hardware performance. Dynamix has also moved beyond the temptation to load Revit models with unnecessary information, a flaw exposed by the Revit Health Check.

Based on the positive outcomes of both the custom Revit MEP training as well as the Revit Health Check, Dynamix purchased a bulk number of service

credits from Advanced Solutions. Dynamix applied the credits ad hoc to help develop custom content quickly to meet Revit deadlines on specific projects. As a result of the decision to utilize Advanced Solutions, the firm estimates a time savings of two weeks or more had they opted to hire a new employee to develop the content. For Dynamix, the work at hand was short-term, making hiring a new employee a less attractive solution. “We were comfortable with Advanced Solutions. We knew exactly what we were getting, and avoided losing the time that goes into onboarding a new employee,” says Montgomery.

Final Thoughts

Advanced Solutions’ Revit Health Check worked as a discovery tool for Dynamix, helping the firm recognize the intricacies of Revit models, exploring beyond what showed on the computer screen. It meant more than simply learning to walk through a building. It equipped the company’s Revit users with the ability to click on a piece of equipment and know exactly how to locate what makes up the item’s families.

“I would recommend the Revit Health Check to any firm just starting out with Revit,” Montgomery notes. The assessment identified different ways to work within Revit, streamlining the company’s overall workflow. Since having the Revit Health Check performed on an early Revit MEP project and applying the results recommended by Advanced Solutions, Dynamix Engineering has efficiently designed 4.6 million square feet in more than 40 projects using Revit MEP.

Dynamix is moving towards designing all projects in Revit, with a goal of 100 percent usage by 2013. “We ultimately envision creating models used for everything from estimating to building management,” says Montgomery. He adds that he’s confident in the ability of the Advanced Solutions team to help Dynamix achieve its BIM goals.

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