www.solibri.com



IMAGINE. RELIABLE INFORMATION ON DEMAND



ABOUT SOLIBRI

Solibri was founded by a group of individuals who noticed the world was changing. In 1999, software modelling was improving and common standards were being formed. These standards allowed quality checking in different industries. The founders had experience from the worlds of construction, chemical and aerospace. As designers could now create with digital tools, it made sense to offer supporting software to check the validity and quality of these designs.

Construction was the natural industry to focus upon. The fundamental challenges of money and material waste could be solved with Solibri's new ideas. From this thinking came out of the box software to check and analyze construction designs. Solibri Model Checker (SMC) X-rays Building Information Models – offering 3D visualization and walk in functionality to reveal potential clashes, flaws and weaknesses. You can also share that information within the construction team using SMC. The same software allows you to quantify the amounts of building materials needed and provides easier maintenance information once the building is ready.

Solibri now sells software in over 70 countries. It is privately owned and based in Helsinki, with offices in the US and UK. Solibri continues to work with architects and construction companies to save time, money and the environment.





Solibri Model Checker Solibri Model Checker is the Quality Assurance solution for BIM validation, compliance control, design review, analysis and code checking.



Solibri Model Viewer Solibri Model Viewer is the free software for viewing Solibri Model Checker files and open standard IFC files.



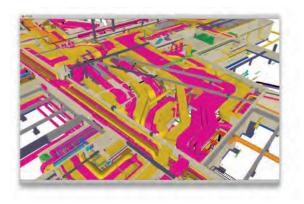
Solibri IFC Optimizer Solibri IFC Optimizer the free software for optimizing open standard IFC files on your computer.

SOLIBRI MODEL CHECKER

Solibri Model Checker (SMC) helps you find and visualize issues and problems before and during construction. It will also provide a wealth of information that can be taken off throughout the building's life-cycle and utilized for needs that include area calculation, accessibility and building code compliance. Find out more below on the functionality.

Features

Solibri Model Checker is our flagship product. Here are few reasons that make it unique to the market.



> ADVANCED CLASH DETECTION & MANAGEMENT

Automatically analyze and group clashes according to severity. Find relevant problems quickly and easily. Investigate the quality of your BIM files.



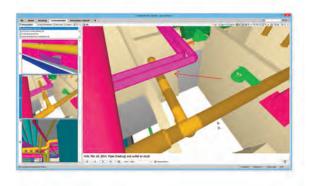
> DEFICIENCY DETECTION

Prevent issues in advance. Use SMC and its logical reasoning rules to search for components and materials missing from the model.



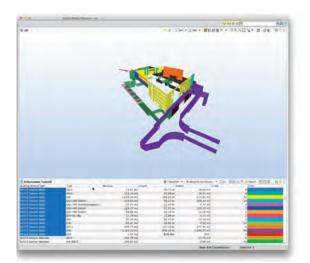
> VERIFY MATCHING ELEMENTS IN ARCHITECTURAL & STRUCTURAL DESIGNS

Use SMC to locate flaws and exceptions in models made by different design teams. Avoid expensive rework by knowing both models match.



> MANAGING CHANGE ORDERS OR DESIGN VERSIONS

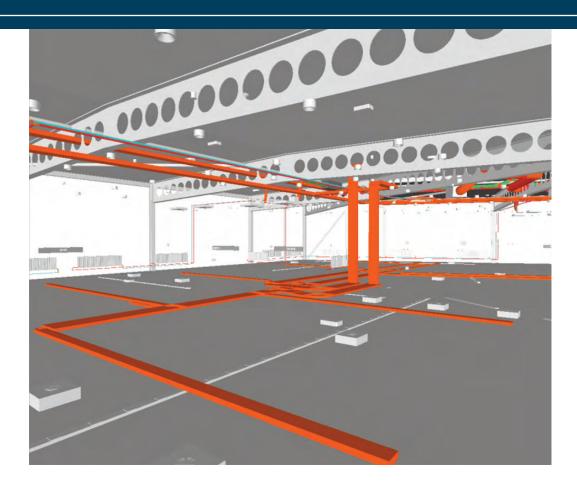
Manage and track changes between two design versions of the same model. Save time with easy visualization and verification of model changes.



> INSTANT BIM DATA MINING

Be assured on the quality of information in BIM designs. Then use SMC for easy and instant information takeoff. Use multiple report templates that best suit your user role or create one yourself. Measure spaces and materials on the fly and share with others.

case study – Bond Bryan Architects



BIM MODEL VALIDATION BOND BRYAN ARCHITECTS

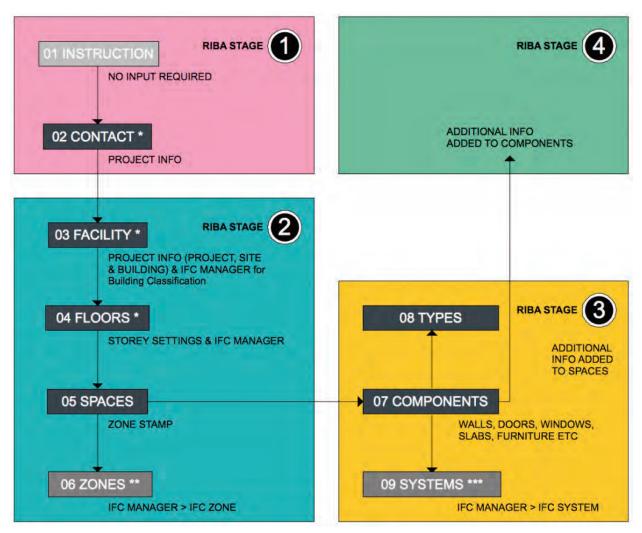
Early steps towards validation

In early 2013 Bond Bryan Architects invested in a single network license of Solibri Model Checker. We had recognised that validation of information was going to be critical to the future of Building Information Modelling (BIM) in both our own business and the industry.

We began by testing a few of our models and quickly realised that we needed to do more work implementing standards within our models before we could develop a viable model checking approach.

So during the summer of 2013 we spent a lot of time focussed on the integration of emerging industry standards in our authoring tool. At the same time the BIM overlay to the RIBA Plan of Work became available (which was subsequently published as the RIBA Plan of Work 2013).

So in September 2013 we introduced new authoring tool templates to our staff for use on live projects. These templates focussed on greater data integration and moved away from creating and exporting native data fields to using Industry Foundation Classes (IFC) data, which is covered by ISO 16739:2013. Moving to IFC also allowed us to align our data deliverables with COBie-UK-2012. COBie is a subset of IFC and is the non-graphical data deliverable for all UK Government projects from April 6th 2016 and is at the core of Solibri Model Checker (and its free accompanying viewer). So we knew that aligning with open



Workflow at Bond Bryan Architects

international standards would provide us with the best methodology for validating our data and subsequently using it for other workflows.

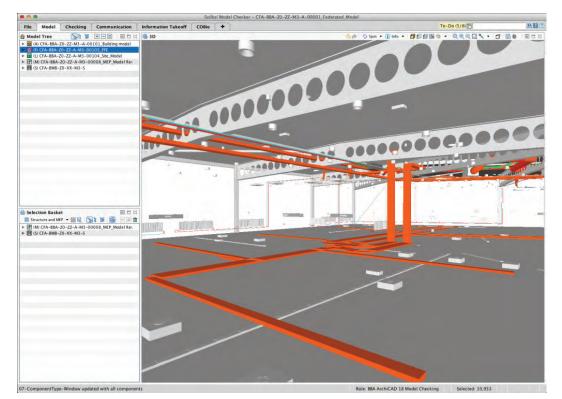
Building validation workflows

So six months after introducing our new workflows we were starting to get better models. With this improvement in our authored models, it allowed us to return to Solibri and work on developing a matching set of rules to the authored model standards. Having spent a long time understanding the data we were creating building a set of rules was more straightforward. Our whole approach has been built around the RIBA Plan of Work 2013, BS1192:2007 (and subsequently PAS1192-2:2013) and COBie-UK-2012. As a practice we are keen to integrate as

much of COBie as possible, irrespective of whether we are asked for it. We have always believed that standard BIM deliverables should become the 'new norm' over time rather than something that is additional to our services.

Whilst we were building our model validation rules for Solibri, a new version of our authoring tool, Graphisoft ArchiCAD was released. This version allowed us to automate much of our data creation through mapping. Changes were also made to make the workflows simpler for staff. This immediately offered the opportunity to integrate more information as standard. This meant that the validation process could be more specific and therefore more robust. So in September 2014 we finally rolled out our company rulesets for Solibri

case study – Bond Bryan Architects



Validating building services

Model Checker to be used in anger on our new live projects.

The rulesets

Built to align with industry standards but coupled with a clear understanding of what data we should produce at each stage, the rulesets are split for each RIBA workstage. This means the user can focus solely on the set of rules they are required to pass at each stage. As much is automated, many of these rules will be passed with very little effort. We actually split out a lot of the out-of-the-box rules to create a longer list. This meant that users would see that they had passed an awful lot and not be daunted by the fact that a rule had failed because one aspect had failed within a single rule. Splitting the rules also allowed us to make the descriptions simpler and clearer and add information about where to fix the rules if they do fail. The advantage of this approach also means that a clear report can be provided to others about what has and hasn't passed.

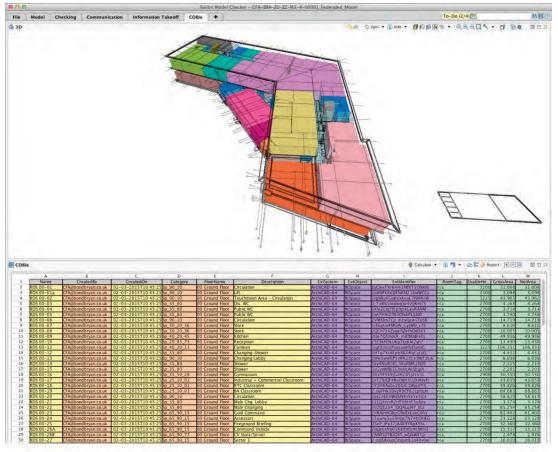
We now have a number of projects that have implemented our rules. Instantly users are

surprised at the power of the issues Solibri picks up. Things they thought were thoroughly checked manually throw up issues. It becomes a positive challenge to resolve these issues rather than a chore. As we have used the rules more we have realised that further rules need to be added or existing ones tweaked.

The benefits

Clearly model checking has obvious benefits to the quality of traditional outputs. Ensuring that spaces don't have duplicate numbers means there is no chance of duplicated Room Data Sheets and it's a similar story for duplicated window and door numbers. The benefit of this becomes more pronounced on bigger or more complex projects. So our outputs are more reliable compared to manual processes.

We are also using Solibri to check our 3dimensional models against others models such as Structure and Building Services. These models are being used in coordination meetings to discuss the resolution of issues. This is allowing issues to be resolved faster and removing the



Producing COBie output showing data and visualisation

need to resolve these issues on site. This reduction in risk has an obvious cost benefit to contractors and ultimately to clients.

However the benefits of integrating data and being able to validate it is that our information is more reliable for others to use. It can be used for COBie but it can also be used to produce Information Take-off. Our project models have become business development tools in their own right to some sceptical contractors. Many are amazed about the quality of the information we are now starting to output and they are realising what our approach can bring to make their lives easier.

Next steps

So now in 2015 we have 3 licenses (with more planned) and are now only a year away from 'BIM Level 2' becoming required on all publicly procured projects. As a practice we are already seeing projects requiring COBie and we started our first projects, which formally required COBie in January 2015. Our model rulesets and Solibri's COBie functionality are making this process relatively straightforward. Live projects are providing more valuable learning experiences and our processes will continue to evolve.

2015 will also see the publication of the Digital Plan of Work and updated Uniclass classification system. Both these will need us to develop our approach further and we also plan to introduce more checking for the extended requirements of BS1192-4:2014, NRM1 and the NBS BIM Object Standard. So over the summer we plan to further develop both our authoring approach and our matching validation process. September 2015 will be another step forward and the opportunity to further improve our offering.

by Rob Jackson of Bond Bryan Architects

COBIE – UK CASE STUDY STRIDE TREGLOWN

In 2012, architects Stride Treglown were appointed to deliver a UK Government early adopter BIM project. As 'pathfinders' working with newly defined processes and delivering COBie outputs, Stride Treglown faced a number of challenges. To find out how Stride Treglown successfully implemented the project, Solibri UK Managing Director David Jellings, chatted with Anthony Walsh, Senior Associate and Sector Lead for Public & Community Projects and Dean Hunt, BIM Co-ordinator for Stride Treglown.

How did you first become aware of the Government BIM and COBie requirements?

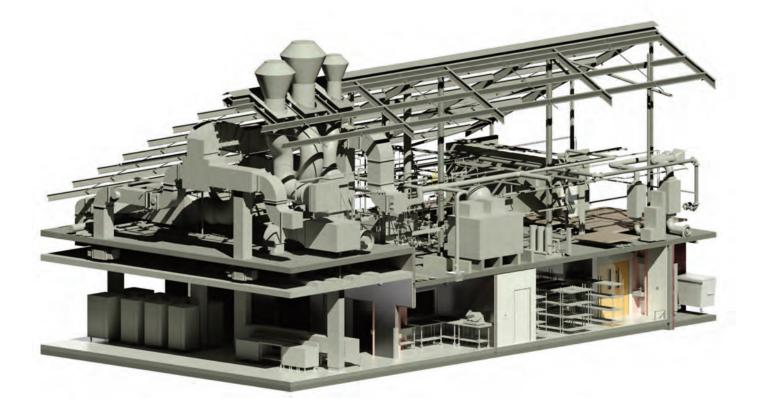
'We had been working in a BIM environment for a number of years and as one of our key client groups is government, in particular justice and defence, we were aware of the new COBie requirement as a government directive from the outset. To help improve our knowledge, we've attended numerous conferences and seminars and disseminated the information internally to raise our overall company awareness. We knew this was going to be important and that it would involve developing new working practices, so we wanted to be properly informed.' Stride Treglown is an international architectural practice with overseas offices in Dubai and Abu Dhabi and eight offices in the UK including London, Cardiff and Bristol, making them the 10th largest architectural practice in the UK.

Sustainability influences the way Stride Treglown runs its practice and since 2009 they have reduced their carbon footprint by 40%. Their expertise covers most sectors and they apply commercial awareness to balance the sometimes conflicting aspects of time, cost and quality to achieve the best outcome for our clients.

Stride Treglown have always invested in technology and are at the forefront of BIM implementation.

When/how were you first involved in a COBie project?

'In 2012 we were appointed to deliver one of HM Government's Early Adopter projects. Our appointment was as the technical delivery architect, initially to deliver the scheme to COBie data exchange stage 3 (representing the technical design solution). This changed however and we were eventually became tasked with fully coordinating



the BIM process and COBie data requirement (with the lead contractor, other consultants and the supply chain) to stage 6 – i.e. practical completion.'

What were your individual roles in the project?

Anthony Walsh: 'I am a Senior Associate and Stride Treglown's Sector Lead for Public & Community, which incorporates this particular work stream.'

Dean Hunt: 'I am Stride Treglown's BIM Coordinator responsible for directing the project team in a collaborative BIM environment to ensure that the geometric coordination and data requirements were achieved and fully coordinated. I needed to develop new workflows and strategies to achieve the COBie data requirements for the project.' "Early engagement of the whole project team is essential to ensure productive output. The management and collaborative culture of the team is just as important as the technical manipulation of the data."

Anthony Walsh, Senior Associate, Stride Treglown

How did this project change the way you worked?

'We were already familiar with current BIM processes, such as coordinating geometry and clash detection. However, the new process required us to output intelligent data in a format that could be easily accessible to all. This necessitated implementing new working practices and protocols to ensure that these outputs could be

incorporated into the COBie schema. Technically, we had to invest in additional add-ins for authoring tools to enable a more efficient workflow. We also had to invest time working with other project partners to help them deliver the data requirements.'

What was the main initial challenge?

'This was a new way of working, not just for us, but everyone from the client down. The biggest challenge at the start of the process was the initial lack of understanding by the project team. The information requirements and formats were at first ambiguous, but after research into the requirements of COBie, the required levels of data became clearer and more understandable to us all.'

And the wider challenges?

'The whole team were fully committed to delivering the project, but not having previously worked with COBie, it was a steep learning curve for everyone involved, including the mechanical & electrical engineers, civil & structural engineers, catering suppliers and key supply chain partners. All were very enthusiastic about working in a collaborative environment. We believe our lead role was instrumental in ensuring that all parties were fully integrated into the process.'

How did Solibri become involved?

'We were aware of the options available to output COBie data, including directly from the authoring software itself. Initially this seemed like the obvious and easiest option but unfortunately it did not satisfy the requirements. It was important to us that we found a way of automating what was essentially a very manual process, in order to develop a repeatable workflow for our future COBie requirements. We originally became aware of Solibri Model Checker from our attendance at the ICE BIM Conference in 2012 and it seemed to provide the solution to many of our problems.'

How was Solibri Model Checker (SMC) applied in the project?

'One of the main problems we faced was how to ensure that the model contained the complete and correct COBie data. It is very inefficient to spend time validating, and checking COBie outputs only to have to correct them further down the line. Using SMC rule sets, we were able to validate the completeness of the COBie output before exporting to the data sheets. Using the classification tables to coordinate all consultant models is a particularly powerful feature of SMC, furthermore, SMCs infinitely configurable user interface makes coordinating data straight forward and particularly excels when using IFC models prepared by varying authoring software. Within SMC we were able to federate all discipline models using IFC, which is the industry standard exchange format and also a requirement of the COBie deliverable. At every stage, the Solibri UK team worked with us closely to optimise these solutions.'

How successful was the application of SMC?

'We believe we successfully implemented the workflow that we initially set out to achieve. We strongly believe that COBie should be an output provided by data in the authoring software which is then federated, coordinated, validated, and checked by SMC, which then automates the export to the completed COBie sheets. By "It was important to us that we found a way of automating the process, creating a workflow that was repeatable. It was imperative to generate the data requirement via industry standard IFC format as COBie data is a subset of IFC. We strongly believe COBie data should reside in the authoring software which can then be federated, coordinated, validated, and checked by Solibri Model Checker".

Dean Hunt, BIM Co-ordinator, Stride Treglown

eliminating any manual data entry in the final COBie sheets we not only save a huge amount of time, but more importantly eliminate user error from the process. Large projects that require data output from many maintainable assets becomes almost impossible to achieve without using automation software such as SMC.'

How do you see the future for COBie and Solbri's role in its implementation?

'Being championed by government, COBie will be business as usual from 2016 and we are already seeing elements of COBie being requested by some private clients. We feel ultimately that Excel as the output will gradually disappear; however, COBie data will remain and become the universal delivery method across all projects. Stride Treglown has now adopted SMC software to undertake internal coordination so that as a practice we can deliver fully co-ordinated buildings. We feel confident that SMCs communication method is far superior to its competitors and will be an essential component of future project deliveries.'



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