SPECIFICATIONS AND BIM

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Specifications in 2025
What's Different?

- Looking ahead -> 2025 Questions
- Look back to last 15 Years
- Technology Shifts
- Paradigm (human nature) Shifts
- Digicon's Future

2025 Questions

- How integrated (BIM) will we be?
- Will consultants overcome fears of professional collaboration required for BIM?
- How will internet evolve?
  - Will search engines morph from “language-dependent fuzzy searches” to “high-probability semantic searches”?
  - Will SAAS evolve?
- Will IFD and IDM standards be realized? (contextual model query language)
- Will users rely too much on software?

Last 15 Years

- 2010 – 15 = 1995
- ICIS only 1-year old
- Baby boomers = 50-60 yrs
- Windows 95 / Netscape (IE 2.0)
- Specifications manually edited in WordPerfect 5.1 for DOS -> 6.0 for Windows; Word 95 for Windows
- Digicon created “Autospec” (semi-automated spec assembly), based on ‘mail-merge’ technology

Today

- ICIS is 16 yrs old
- Baby boomers 65-70 yrs (2025 = 80+)
- Windows 7 (95 – 98/NT – Me/NT - 2000 – XP)
- Internet Explorer 9 (Firefox, Chrome, …)
- Specifications editing with slightly slicker word processors
  - Automated assembly; semi-automated administrative tasks
  - Databases becoming more common; cling to explicit data relationships
- Acceptance of online environment

Technology Shifts

- Tools evolving; more emphasis on user competence
  - improved tools = better specs (sometimes more efficient mistakes)
  - CSC focuses on public education; Digicon educates its customers
- Internet evolution
  - User acceptance means easier adoption of online resources
- Industry STILL aches for connection between specs and drawings
  - Initially attempted using keynotes
  - BIM movement arrives

BIM and Specs

- BIM is spec industry's single most influential movement since typewriter -> PC
- BIM is EVERY OTHER industry's single most influential movement
- Integration means they must co-exist harmoniously
  - Today, BIM software import/export files, but **do not efficiently import/export model datasets**
  - Terminology is single most important missing element (for specs, and others)

BIM Advantages (spec world)

- Fewer disputes & misunderstandings
  - High percentage of disputes caused by errors or omissions
- Users can focus on WHAT we specify, not on how we specify it
  - Computer can check what's missing
  - Make up for users' lack of writing skills
- Specs will evolve from contractual technology to documentation technology
  - Audit trail of decisions
  - Project management opportunities
  - Costing opportunities

The Future of BIM

- Depends if exchange standards are adopted by other BIM vendors or not
- Specifiers will spend more time specifying, and less time editing
- Specs will play a larger and more critical role in the construction process
- People may actually work together as a true "team", across geographic and tech. barriers

Digicon's Future

- BIMdrive Demo
  - Today: Integrated "assembler/editor" of specs; a specification "manager" (not a word processor)
  - Tomorrow: Connection of meta-data with building models; automated assembly of specs
  - The day After: Integration of "knowledge" to guide users through specific project problems