



Data Orchestration:

The real challenges to achieving Twinness

December 5, 2024

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Learning Objectives



What are the data challenges in an AEC Project?



Different approaches to orchestrating data.



Creating a plan to meet Data needs.



Understanding Motivations of Project Participants.



Introduction

Dirty secrets about Owner/Operators and the AEC industry in general

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Things I learned along my journey

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“ *...the truth is most owners don't have their data as organized as everyone thinks they do.*


national brick & mortar retailer

“ *we have good data*

except they didn't have
all the data...

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Things I heard building a Digital Twin platform

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“ *Can it help us replace all the drawings we lost in a fire?* ”

healthcare facilities team

“ *You want us to make what visible to the ‘internet’?!* ”

healthcare operator

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Data Quality

"You can't get theyah from heah."

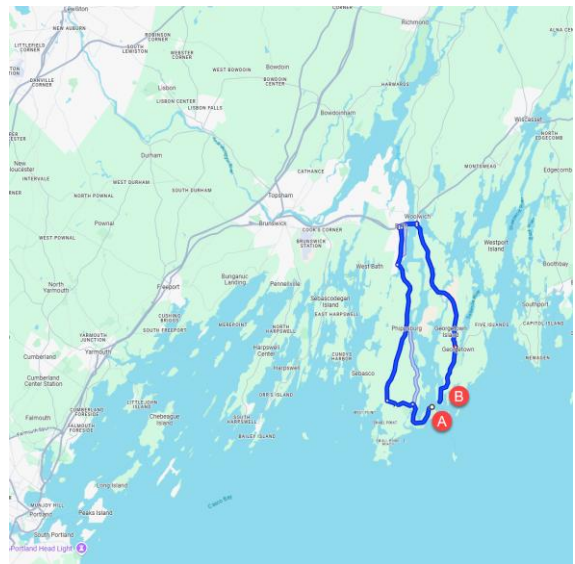
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Data Quality

- Know what you have (A)
- Know what you need (B)



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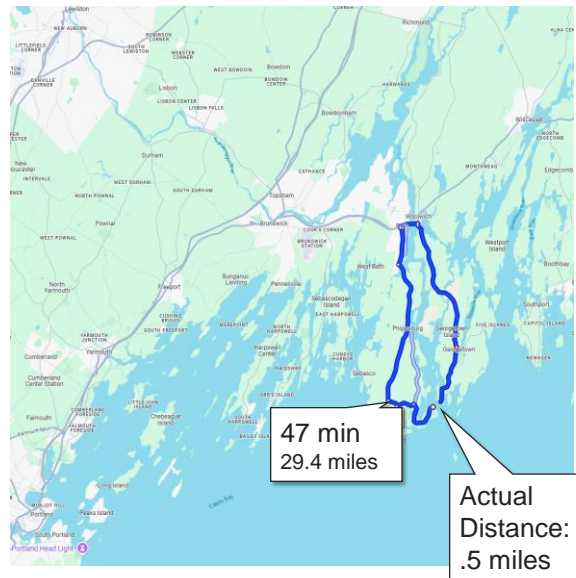
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Data Quality

- Know what you have (A)
- Know what you need (B)
- Know what the plan is to get from A to B

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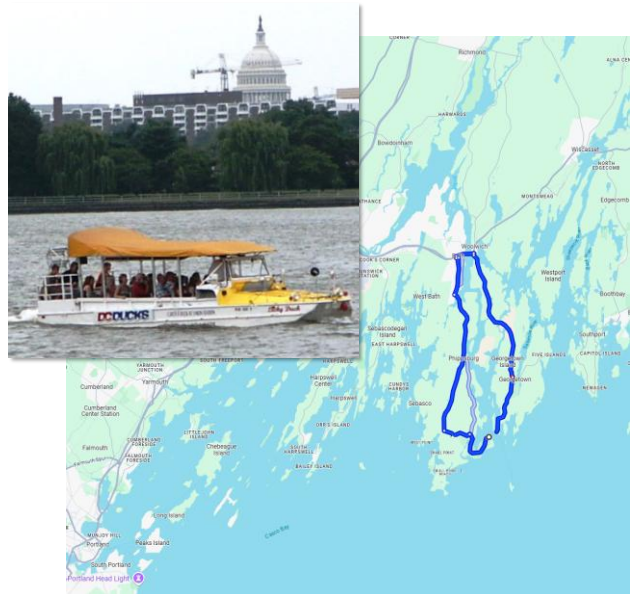


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Data Quality

- Know what you have (A)
- Know what you need (B)
- Know what the plan is to get from A to B



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Team Member Alignment

Presently, what is the core motivation of most AECO teams?

- Design
- Permit
- C of O
- Cost



Where in that list are the members motivated to collaborate around mapping and tracking data for a digital twin?

Failure to Capture Data

- System Design
- Control System Implementation
- Hand-off



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Failure to Capture Data

- This person hold the keys
- No one thinks to keep the keys.



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Converting Data

'Physical' Manifestation of Business Needs

What is the business of AE?

All the verbs and adjectives can be narrowed to a simple concept.

LEGAL
Converting Business Needs to Physical Requirements



Narrative Requirements



Specifications



RIB
SpecLink

A. Galvanized Steel Threaded Base Security Bollards.

1. Footing: [Outside diameter: 4 inch, Height: 32 inches, Footing: Galvanized steel threaded base, 2 bolt] or [Outside diameter: 5.5 inch, Height: 42 inches, Footing: Galvanized steel threaded base, 3 bolt].
2. Material: [Galvanized steel: Schedule 40].
3. Wall thickness: [0.120 inches], [0.237 inches], or [0.337 inches].
4. Cap style: Dome.
5. Security level: Low.

Converting Narrative Text into Data:

- Each 'section' stored as a unique record.
- Specification Structure provides dimensions to the data.

Narrative Requirements



Specifications



REQUIREMENTS

ID	Div. No.	Div. Name	Text
1	055000	Metal Fabrications	Footing: [Outside...
2	055000	Metal Fabrications	Material: [Galvan...
3	055000	Metal Fabrications	Wall thickness: [...
4	055000	Metal Fabrications	Cap style: Dome.

Converting Narrative Text into Data:

- Tag or identify which are 'important'.
- What 'tier' is of value?
- Should it be grouped?

Linking Data



REQUIREMENTS

ID	Div. No.	Div. Name	Text
10	055000	Metal Fabrications	Footing: [Outside...
12	055000	Metal Fabrications	Material: [Galvan...
13	055000	Metal Fabrications	Wall thickness: [...
14	055000	Metal Fabrications	Cap style: Dome.

Data:

- Requirements
- “Things”

OBJECTS

ID	Name	Height	Description
1	36” Bollard	36”	Metal bollard with..
2	Stop Sign	10’	Traffic control sig...
3	48” Bollard	48”	Metal bollard with..
4	VAV Box	24”	300 CFM VAV wit..

Linking Data



REQUIREMENTS

ID	Div. No.	Div. Name	Text
10	055000	Metal Fabrications	Footing: [Outside...
12	055000	Metal Fabrications	Material: [Galvan...
13	055000	Metal Fabrications	Wall thickness: [...
14	055000	Metal Fabrications	Cap style: Dome.



Nothing Automatic:

- Someone needs to make the decision.
- ~~Maybe~~ AI can do this. ^{help}
likely in the future

OBJECTS

ID	Name	Height	Description
1	36" Bollard	36"	Metal bollard with..
2	Stop Sign	10'	Traffic control sig...
3	48" Bollard	48"	Metal bollard with..
4	VAV Box	24"	300 CFM VAV wit..

Linking Data



REQUIREMENTS

ID	Div. No.	Div. Name	Text
10	055000	Metal...	Fo...
12	055000	Metal...	Ma...
13	055000	Metal...	Wa...
14	055000	Metal...	Ca...

OBJECTS

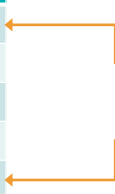
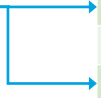
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2	Stop Sign	10'	Traffic control sig...
3	48" Bollard	48"	Metal bollard with..
4	VAV Box	24"	300 CFM VAV wit..

SPACE

ID	No.	Name
1	036C	Loading Dock
2	1102	Office
3	1001	Warehouse
4	1105	Break Room
5	037C	Loading Dock

ENTITIES

ID	Comments
1	Some comment
2	Other comment
3	Another comment
4	<i>null</i>



Linking Data



REQUIREMENTS

ID	Div. No.	Div. Name	Text
----	----------	-----------	------

Narrative Description
of Performance

OBJECTS

ID	Name	Height	Description
----	------	--------	-------------

Definition of different 'things'

INSTANCES OF OBJECTS

ID Physical Plant

Physical (real) 'things'

SPACE

ID	No.	Name
----	-----	------

Association to
specific 'places'

ENTITIES

ID	Comments
----	----------

Specific Occurrences
of 'things'.

ROOMS

ID	No.	Name
----	-----	------

INSTANCES

ID

3D Modeling

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Geometric Representation / Definition

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Linking Data



REQUIREMENTS

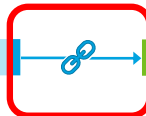
ID	Div. No.	Div. Name	Text
----	----------	-----------	------

Narrative Description of Performance

OBJECTS

ID	Name	Height	Description
----	------	--------	-------------

Definition of different 'things'

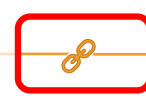


Physical (real) 'things'

SPACE

ID	No.	Name
----	-----	------

Association to specific 'places'



ENTITIES

ID	Comments
----	----------

Specific Occurrences of 'things'.



ID	No.	Name
----	-----	------

ROOMS

INSTANCES

3D Modeling

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Is this a Digital Twin?



REQUIREMENTS

ID	Div. No.	Div. Name	Text
----	----------	-----------	------

Narrative Description
of Performance

OBJECTS

ID	Name	Height	Description
----	------	--------	-------------

Definition of different 'things'

INSTANCES OF OBJECTS

ID Physical Plant

Physical (real) 'things'

SPACE

ID	No.	Name
----	-----	------

Association to
specific 'places'

ENTITIES

ID	Comments
----	----------

Specific Occurrences
of 'things'.

ROOMS

ID	No.	Name
----	-----	------

INSTANCES

ID

3D Modeling

Geometric Representation / Definition

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Connecting the Dots

Drawing straight lines from A -> B -> C

Man in the Middle



Source Catalog

ID	Name	Price	...
99	Name of Obj.	\$100.00	...

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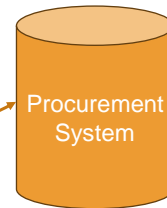
Man in the Middle



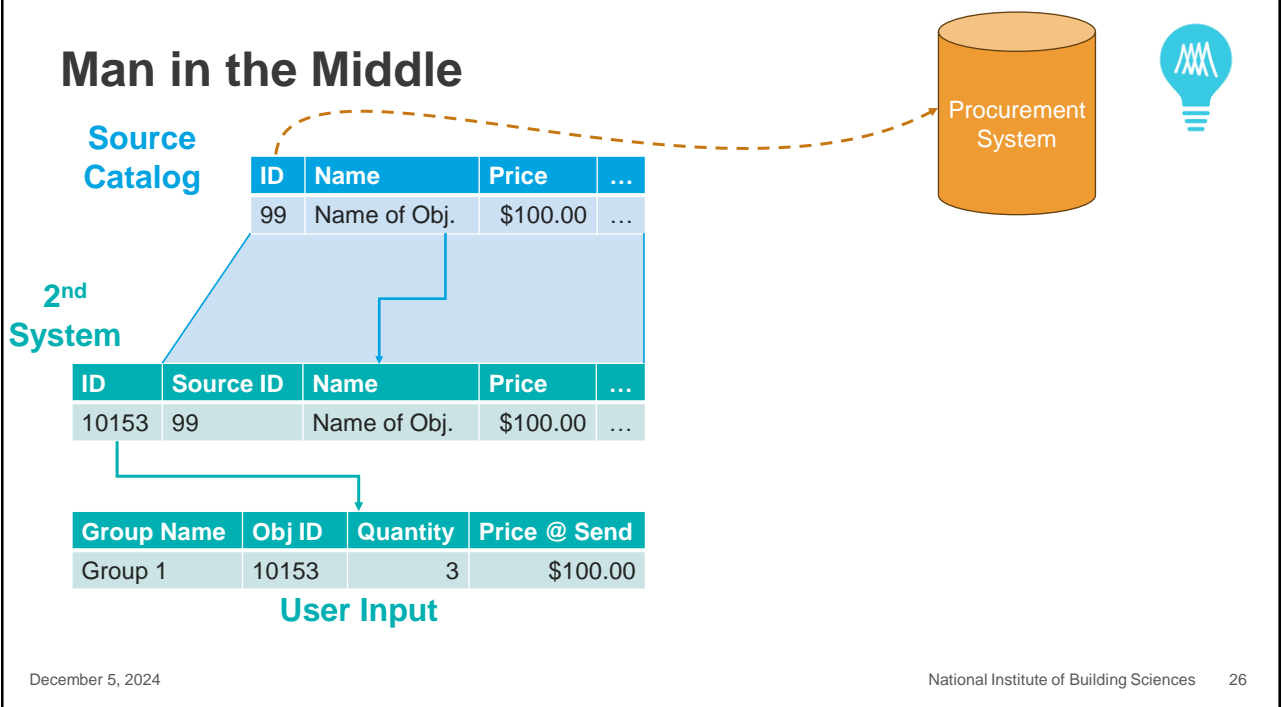
“What ‘we’ want and how much of it.”

Source Catalog

ID	Name	Price	...
99	Name of Obj.	\$100.00	...



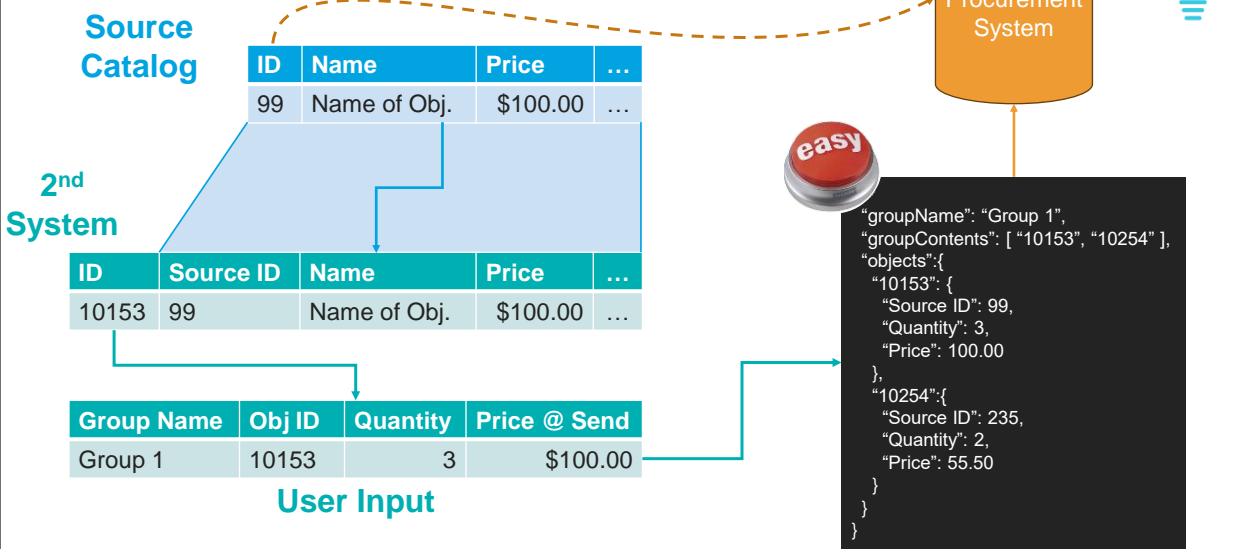
Man in the Middle



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Man in the Middle



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Building an infrastructure

Thinking about how the puzzle pieces connect.

Connect Two Systems

- Customer has two databases.
- Both with definitions of Rooms
- Each authoritative sources of some data.
- **Automate updating of data.**

Archibus

ID	Bldg. Code	Floor Code	Room Code	[data...]
1	13	05	341	...
2	14	06	103	...

Bldg.Room = unique value per room

13.341

14.103

[...]

Digital Twin Database

ID	Bldg. Code	Floor Code	Room Code	[data...]
143	13	05	341	...
145	14	06	103	...

Connect Two Systems

- Cannot assume manually entered data is 100% correct.
- With automated processes need to 'handle' exceptions.
- Allow for error correction 'over-time'

Archibus

ID	Bldg. Code	Floor Code	Room Code	[data...]
1	13	05	341	...
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Bldg.Room = unique value per room

13.341

14.103

[...]

Digital Twin Database

ID	Bldg. Code	Floor Code	Room Code	[data...]
143	13	05	341	...
145	14	06	103	...

Manually Entered

Connect Two Systems

- Cannot assume manually entered data is 100% correct.
- With automated processes need to 'handle' exceptions.
- Allow for error correction 'over-time'

Result of sync process.

—	—
DATABASE	PROJECTS
No Databases or Projects were updated.	
-----	-----
RESULT	COUNT
Updated Rooms	0
Room Update Errors	0
Matched Archibus	6781
Duplicate Archibus Rooms	735
Rooms with no match	2421
Archibus Rooms with no match	4840
Room duplicate composite ID	11

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Address discrepancy

- Isolate exceptions
- Alert 'data owners'
- Provide feedback

Result of sync process.

—	—
DATABASE	PROJECTS
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[Forward](#)

- rooms_updated.csv
341 bytes
- only_rooms.csv
907 KB
- rooms_errors.csv
337 bytes
- dupe_rooms_in_archibus.csv
89 KB
- duplicate_composite_id.csv
9 KB
- archibus_rooms_no_match.csv
425 KB

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Other Considerations

- Minimize the amount of data being updated.
- Fallback Strategies
 - Presently using a composite ID
 - Client wants to move towards mapping the actual IDs
- Build Systems

Result of sync process.

—	—
DATABASE	PROJECTS
No Databases or Projects were updated.	
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Conclusions

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“ *...the truth is most owners don't have their data as organized as everyone thinks they do.* ”

Build systems that facilitate organizing data.

“ *we have good data* ”

Understand where decision making occurs, facilitate capturing those choices.

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Keep the orchestra in harmony.



Identify your goal.

- What is the outcome you're looking for?
- What questions do you want to answer?



Identify data sources.

- Where does the data come from?
- Ensure that critical data is captured.



Identify human input.

- Where in the chain do humans have input?
- How is it captured?