Plant 3D Community Virtual Meet up – Q&A Follow Up – April 2020

**Question:**
We can customize some XML easier now? Like DefaultConnectorsConfig.xml where was very amazing to replace it on BIM 360 Team?

**Answer:**
The procedure for this and configuration xml files in general is:

1. check out the configuration and leave it open
2. edit the xml and save it
3. check in the configuration

**Question:**
Is there one migration tool between BIM 360 Team to BIM 360 Docs without make a backup locally?

**Answer:**
The Autodesk recommended process is to use Project Backup. We don’t know about such a tool. There is row of products available for synching files cloud to cloud, but the Plant 3D databases would not get created using such tools. Anyway the Plant 3D project has to be uploaded using the Plant 3D collaboration ribbon's share button, all other attempts to upload it will not result in a valid Plant 3D collaboration project, this will not work.

**Question:**
Plant 3D 2021 use the same 2018,2019,2020 versions without migration

**Answer:**
Yes, you can open a local Plant 3D 2018 project with Plant 3D 2021 and there will be no migration routine executed. Means you can still open it with Plant 2018 afterwards. Plant 3D Collaboration on BIM 360 Docs just works with the 2021 version of Plant 3D.
Question:
So, BIM 360 Design license is the same than Revit license?

Answer:
You need to acquire the BIM 360 Design package in order to enable the user for Plant 3D Collaboration. There is a separate checkmark in the user configuration (manage.autodesk.com) to be activated by the admin on Multi-user licenses. Single users need to have “BIM 360 Design” in their Autodesk profile.

Question:
The access to SQL online is still not allow? Do we need to use local cache only?

Answer:
The Cloud database is not accessible to users. The local databases contain the same data as the master server, after refreshing they will reflect the actual (all) project data.

Question:
Is the Extended Access Program (until May 31 2020) for BIM360 Cloud Collaboration valid for Plant 3D 2021 Collaboration?

Answer:
No, the extended use program is offered utilising the trial license program. Collaboration for Plant 3D is not included in this or other trial offers.

Question:
1 - Please walk us through the process of fixing something is the AWS cloud database (e.g. deleting ghost components)?
2 - What is the procedure/process of fixing something is the Plant 3D BIM360 AWS cloud database (e.g. deleting ghost components)?

Answer:
_.PLANTAUDITDATABASE is the command to clean up the databases (right click on project root in the project manager, then "audit database"). There has been development done on this, so this should work. If not, please log a support case.

Question:
Can one create a batch file to "create Project Backup" to be run overnight?

Answer:
There is no command sequence from the command line that you could run, so right now it is a manual step.
Question:
How do the customer use EU servers? Is it a choice when starting up a BIM 360 account?

Answer:
If you own a Europe BIM 360 account and you created a project in it, then this project will be offered as a target when uploading your project. The server location is shown after the account name to show if the account is US or Europe based.

Question:
Is it allow to use the Project Manager function, called "Xref into current drawing" when use Plant 3D collaboration projects ?

Answer:
Yes, this is the right function to use for attaching files. This option is shown when you right click on a file in the project manager of Plant 3D. From the command icon you see that it is the same as the “attach” icon from the collaboration ribbon, which is the right xref tool for collaboration projects.

Question:
I’m currently using Collaboration with my Fusion 360 account. Will I need to purchase a seat of BIM 360 Design to move to this platform or is the entitlement included with current Plant 3D licensing?

Answer:
You will need a Subscription to BIM 360 Design to use Collaboration for Plant and host the projects within BIM 360 Docs.

Question:
Are there any plans to have guests from the app store to present? Or Top 10 Apps?

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Currently, not on the 2020 schedule, but we’ll check into doing this as a future topic.

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Question:
What is the recommended process for attaching a ReCap point cloud to a Plant 3D BIM 360 project?

Answer:
Currently we don’t have a solution for sharing ReCap point clouds in BIM 360. You will still need to link to the point cloud from a local drive and it is recommended to unload it before saving to BIM 360.
**Question:**
What is the recommended process for making a copy of the AWS (Amazon webservice) consolidated Plant 3D BIM 360 cloud database locally available to launch own in-house customised queries & quality checks against?

**Answer:**
The project database is downloaded (synchronized to local) when the project is first opened and when running a ‘Refresh from Project’. That data is stored in the local collaboration cache folder (`C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Local\Autodesk\AutoCAD Plant 3D\CollaborationCache`) as SQLite databases.

**Question:**
What options are the available to script the "create project backup", so it can run overnight?

**Answer:**
Since this requires user selections through the user interface, currently there are no options to script a project backup. It may be possible to use a scripting tool such as AutoIT to perform this as an automated / scheduled task.

**Question:**
Is the BIM360 desktop connector drive accessible via (DOS) batch script to move, download, upload, massage and copy files on the BIM 360?

**Answer:**
It is possible to copy files to the BIM 360 Desktop Connector drive using the Command Prompt window, but it does not appear to recognize those newly copied files. i.e. - they never automatically upload to BIM 360. Dragging / dropping and copying / pasting files into BIM 360 folders using Windows Explorer will trigger Desktop Connector to sync those files.

**Question:**
What is the recommended process for copying a BIM 360 project or making a template project (users, teams, folders, rights, ...)?

**Answer:**
This is available through the “Copy Project Settings” feature

**Question:**
Where would you recommend placing catalogs that are used for multiple collaboration projects?

**Answer:**
This Autodesk Knowledge Network article discusses the topic - [Using Desktop Connector for Plant 3D Shared Content Folder](https://knowledge.autodesk.com/support/plant-3d-cloud/px/PT10411314614166887.html)
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Have there been any improvements to ortho generation speed with collaboration?

   Answer: Primarily the benefits result from the models existing in the local collaboration cache compared to a network drive.

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Question:
Any plans to integrate P3D model data into Navisworks without having to use Data Tools?

   Answer: Currently, no. There are add-ons applications available for Navisworks on the Autodesk App Store to support this feature. Such as Fast Track for Autodesk® Navisworks®

Question:
What information is out there for BIM 360 interactivity with P3D and Navisworks?

   Answer: Being able to view Plant 3D models using only a web browser in BIM 360 Docs is one benefit (compared to publishing nightly NWD files.)

Question:
How can I change project setup in BIM 360 Design?

   Answer: If the project team member has the proper role assigned (with sufficient access rights) the project settings can be checked out, edited, and checked back in. The settings are synchronized with the project on BIM 360 during check-in and synchronized to the other users on their next project refresh operation.
Question:
It is possible to direct the specs folder to suit various projects?

Answer: It is not possible to change the drawing folders or spec paths for collaboration projects. This restriction is required to support the synchronization of drawings and specs.

Question:
I would like to know more about interoperability. How will it talk to other programs through BIM Design?

Answer: The primary method for synchronizing files is through Desktop Connector.

Question:
Does the project setup require all users to exit the project in order to edit them?

Answer: No, the project settings can be checked out and edited while other users are working in the project.

Question:
Does BIM 360 improve the collaboration with Revit? Meaning linked Revit files, Plant 3D XRefs, etc. Or do I still have to export Revit files out to DWG?

Answer: The 3D model workflows will still be the same with BIM 360. Export / import to DWGs is still required.

Here is an overview of all of the BIM 360 Design integrations (Plant 3D, Civil 3D and Revit):
https://www.autodesk.com/bim-360/design-collaboration-software/