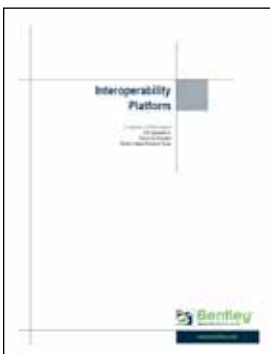


Interoperability Report Card

A Guide to Help Infrastructure Professionals Achieve Software Interoperability in Project Workflows.



*Interoperability Platform
White Paper*



*iWare Apps
Free software
for infrastructure professionals*

Bentley's Commitment to Interoperability

Bentley recognizes that software interoperability is crucial to the successful, cost-effective design, delivery, and operation of infrastructure. Bentley is continually working to achieve the highest level of interoperability within our solutions and with other vendors' software. We are also actively involved in many key industry organizations to foster the development and propagation of interoperability standards worldwide.

To enhance interoperability Bentley is now offering iWare Apps, free software for infrastructure professionals at www.Bentley.com/iWare.

To learn more about Bentley's commitment to interoperability please read our "Interoperability Platform" white-paper at www.Bentley.com/InteroperabilityPlatform.

This White Paper articulates key objectives for an effective interoperability strategy as follows:

1. Embrace applications from all vendors and user organizations.
2. Synchronize project information across multiple applications and multiple asset lifecycle phases.
3. Generate integrated views of project information by normalizing the project's digital content across the multiple applications.
4. Create dynamic deliverables that are not only intelligent, but can be automatically traced back to their source application, where the content was originally created.
5. Utilize powerful client applications for extracting value from the normalized project content and extending access to this rich and complex information to all participants in a distributed project enterprise.

Reporting on Interoperability

Several factors impact the speed, quality, risk, and costs of facilitating interoperability for exchange and re-use of data across different applications.

One factor is the nature of the native data container itself – How stable is it? How well documented is it? How robust and extensible is it? How often does it change? How well does it map to other formats and common industry standard interoperability formats? Can the container natively read and write files in other vendor's formats?

Another is the richness of the interchange formats that can be used and their stability, precision, documentation, robustness, and longevity. Questions that might be asked are: What is the range of exchange formats that is supported? How precise and rich is the data that is published to exchange formats? Can the information exchange maintain a connection to the author and be aware of its history to stay in sync as changes are made?

Finally, how available are the tools that view the applications' native file formats. These include plug-ins for other vendors' software and stand-alone tools to facilitate improved workflows and the exchange of data. The quality of tools available to access graphics and business data, and the richness of review and collaboration applications provided are also crucial to the advancement of interoperability. Lastly, is the vendor willing to make its software and APIs available both to infrastructure professionals and to other software vendors?

A Call to Action for the Industry

Bentley encourages all AECO software vendors to support their users' interoperability requirements, and to work together in pursuit of these goals. This report card is intended as an industry tool to help infrastructure professionals evaluate these key issues and develop strategies to achieve software interoperability in their AECO enterprises.



Report Card on Interoperability

Find out about Bentley
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	Bentley				
Data Interoperability					
Stable native Format	●				
Stable and documented API	●				
Ability to consume common vendor formats (DGN, DWG, DXF, SHP, PDF, etc)	●				
Ability to publish common vendor formats	●				
Ability to natively edit common vendor formats	●				
Interoperable portfolio of products spanning multiple disciplines	●				
Open and extensible interchange format	●				
Interoperability Richness					
Longevity of native data format supports enterprise lifecycles	●				
Interchange format retains precision and fidelity of authoring format	●				
Interchange format retains authoring and history information	●				
Interchange format is self describing	●				
Interchange format includes security	●				
Interchange maintains synchronization between data sources and consumers	●				
Support common industry standard interoperability formats	●				
IFC 2x3	●				
ISO 15926 - iRING (OWL)	●				
ISO 15926 - Part 4	●				
Interoperability Tools					
Offer free viewers for own format(s)	●				
Offer free plug-ins for interoperability publishing within competitors applications	●				
Offer free tools for data access	●				
Offer advanced review tools (paid)	●				
Offer advanced direct data connection tools (paid)	●				
Offer team collaboration environment that supports competitors products	●				
Offer all products to competitors for interoperability testing on standard commercial terms	●				