

Me and my IT: Robert Klaschka

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We are very much a technology-focused practice. We're MicroStation-based and have been working with bim since the office was created in 2001. I'm now the chair of the Bentley Community, the MicroStation user group in the UK, and am about to co-chair a bim round-table for consultants and contractors.

We work in 3D all the time and produce our construction drawings from 3D models. Everyone uses visualisations from the working models rather than sending everything to the office whizz kid.

In about a month's time we're also going to have the ability to present to clients in 3D, with a 3D projector and 3D glasses for our clients. The software is a bit quirky, but it's the next cool thing.

We've always used as much open-source software as possible. We don't have any Microsoft software except for one copy of Excel. I would thoroughly recommend open-source software. It seems daft that people pay for things or expose themselves by using pirated software when there are free alternatives.

We also don't have any windows servers in the office, they're all Linux. Over the lifetime of the practice, we've never had a server go down using free software.

Our five staff all use PCs. Macs are nice, but historically there haven't been any serious cad packages available for Mac. I'd rather use the best tool for the job than something with a nice desktop interface.

Our standard work station is a quad-core Xeon with lots of processing power, lots of ram, and every desktop has a pair of 20-inch monitors.

Robert Klaschka is principal director of Studio Klaschka

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