Everyday Dynamo: Automating Simple Solutions That Bridge Workflow Gaps Within Revit

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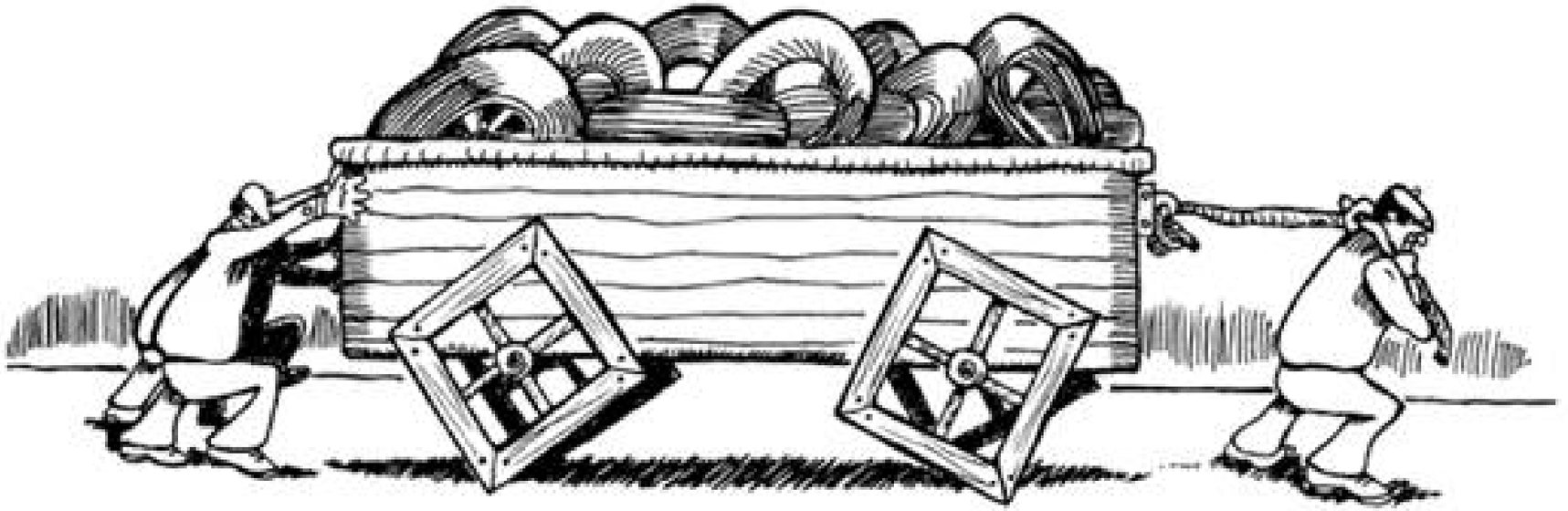
Class summary

- Use **visual programming** in the Dynamo extension to bridge everyday workflow gaps within Revit software.
- **Brief overview of Dynamo** and the many available packages that the Dynamo community has already created that can be used to automate many tasks.
- **Specific examples** that bridge workflow gaps and/or increase automation within Revit software.
- **Tips and tricks** you can use when setting up Dynamo, and we'll go over basic troubleshooting tips.

Key learning objectives

- Have Increased awareness and familiarity with Dynamo visual programming nodes and packages
- Learn some tips and tricks when working with Dynamo and troubleshooting techniques on scripts that fail
- Recognize when Dynamo can save you valuable time on projects
- Discover simple and innovative ways to bridge workflow gaps in Revit

Ever feel like this?



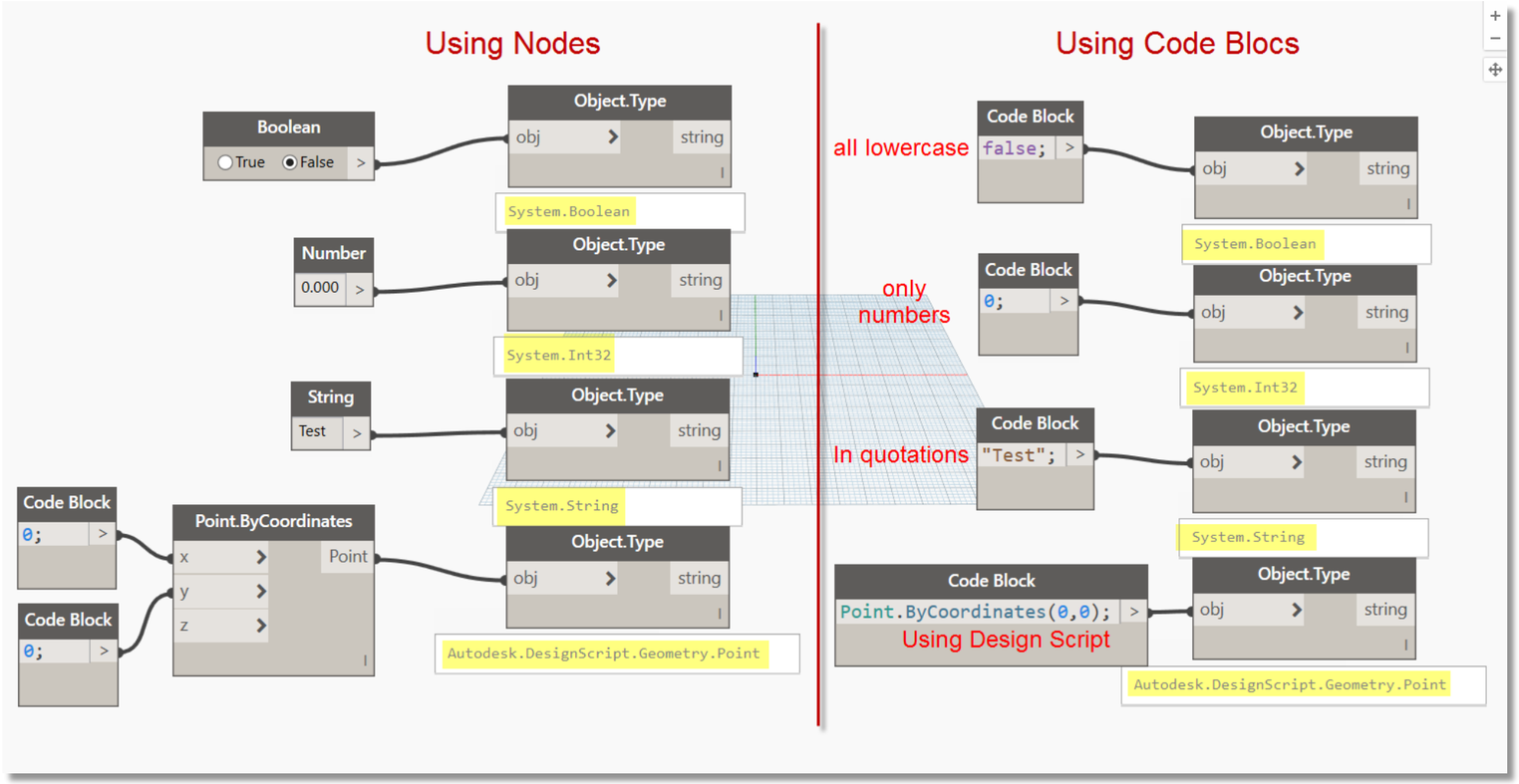
we don't have time to change the wheels, push harder Harry

Core Dynamo

Data

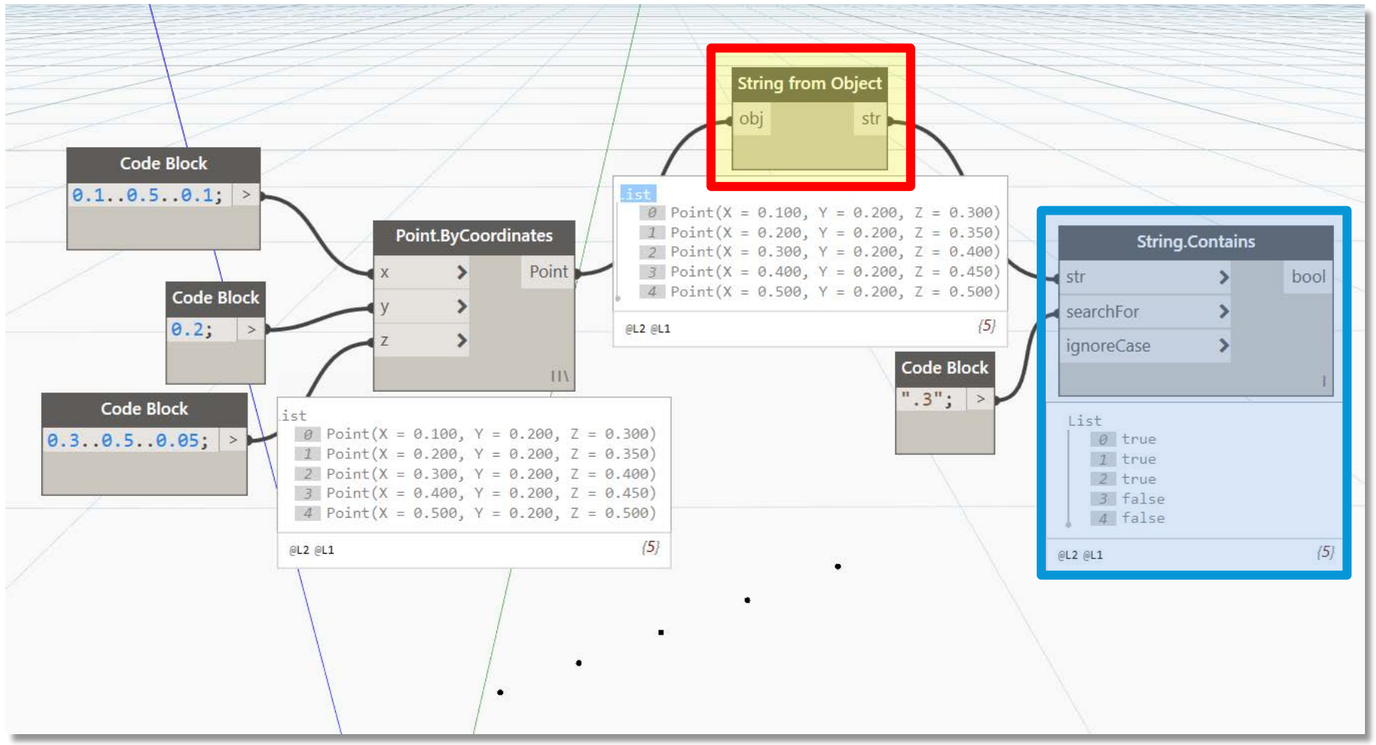
Type Basics

- String
- Number
- Integer
- Boolean
- Nulls
- Lists
- Geometry

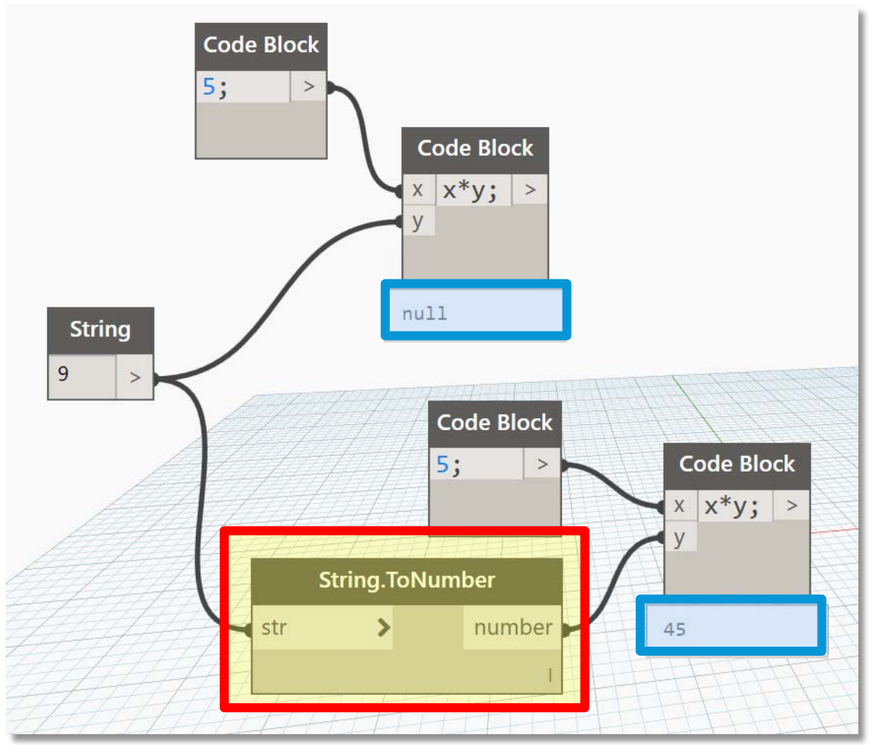


Data

Converting Types



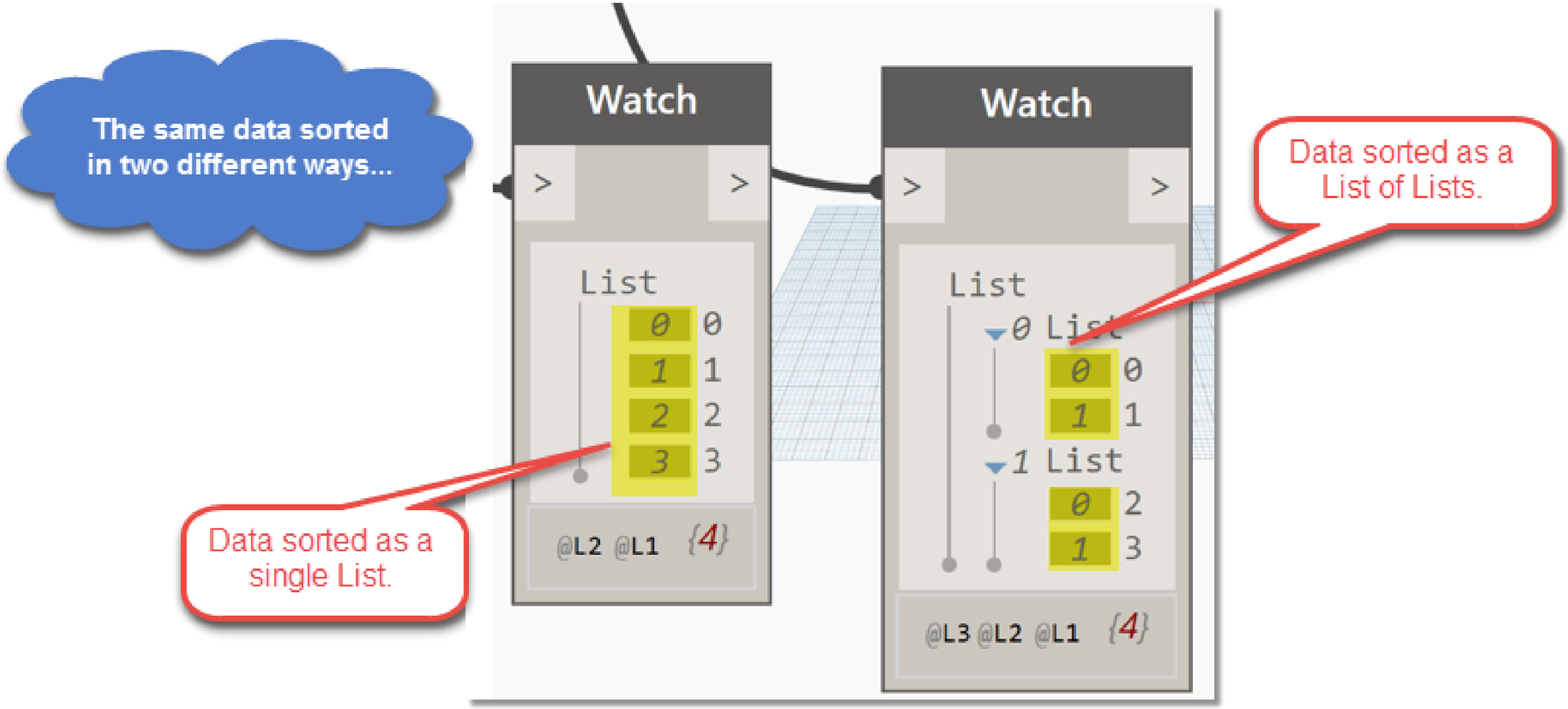
Convert Point to String for Search



Convert a String to a Number for Data Match

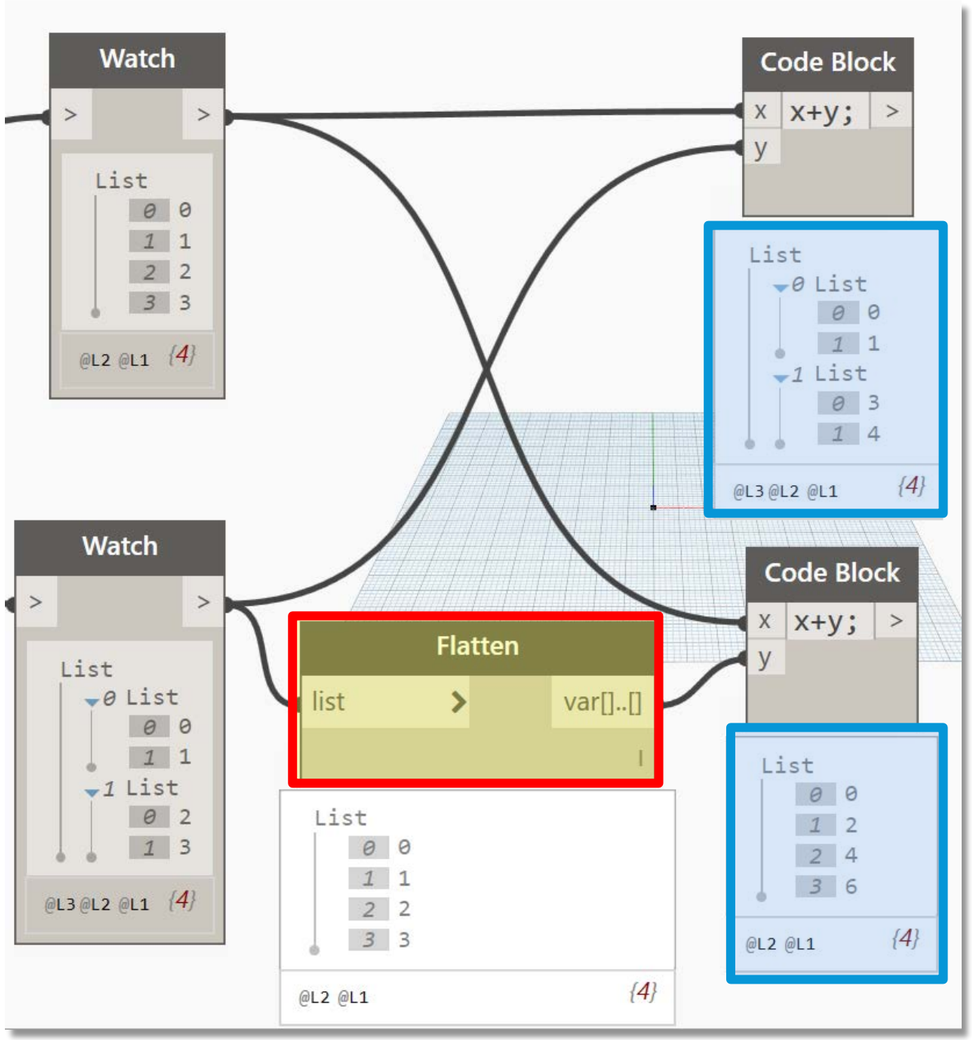
Managing Data

Structure



Managing Data

Calculation Variations



Structure Variations

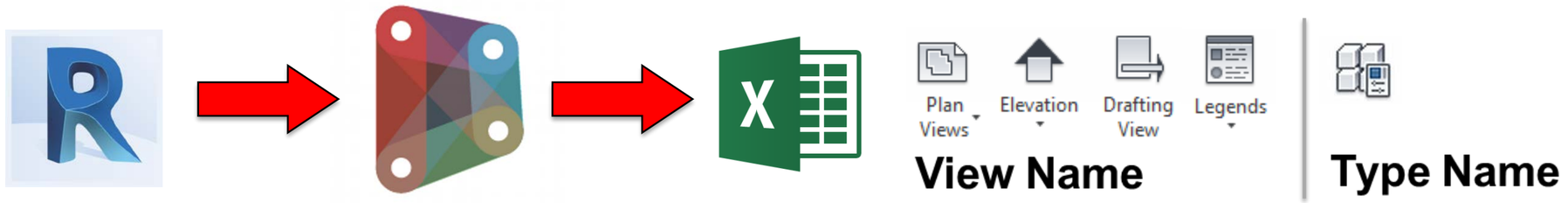
Process Automation Examples

When might one use Dynamo?

- Keyplan Setter
- Place Face Hosted Light Based on Ceiling Hosted Light
- Replace Carriage Returns in Room names
- Push Object Level to Parameter Value
- Transferring a project from one file to another
- Add dots to sheet index based on revision clouds placed on sheets
- Align Views on Sheets from Template Sheet Series
- Create Curtain Wall Systems based on Design Criteria
- Create Finish Floor objects from a Room Object and it's properties

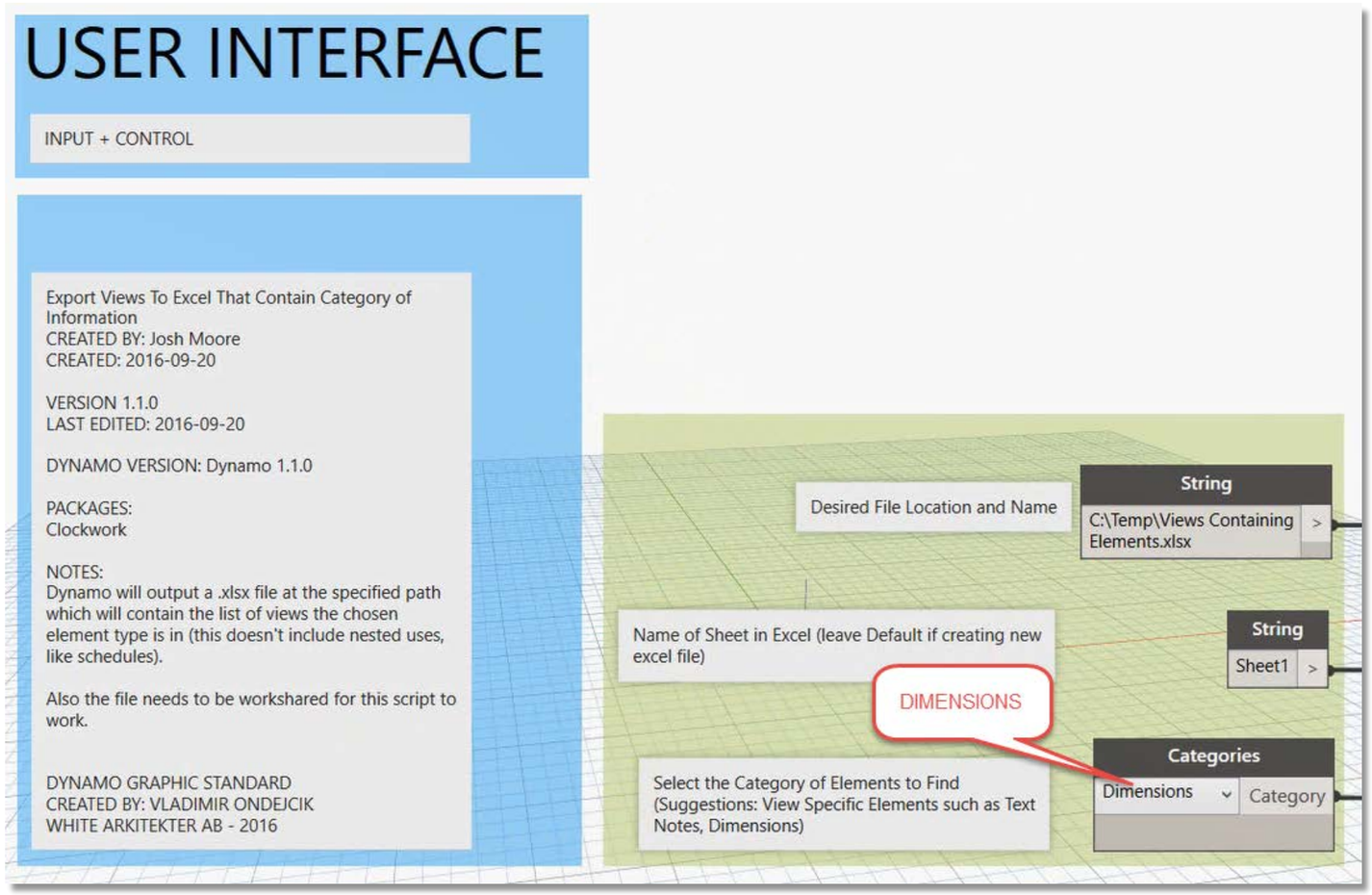
Script Example #1

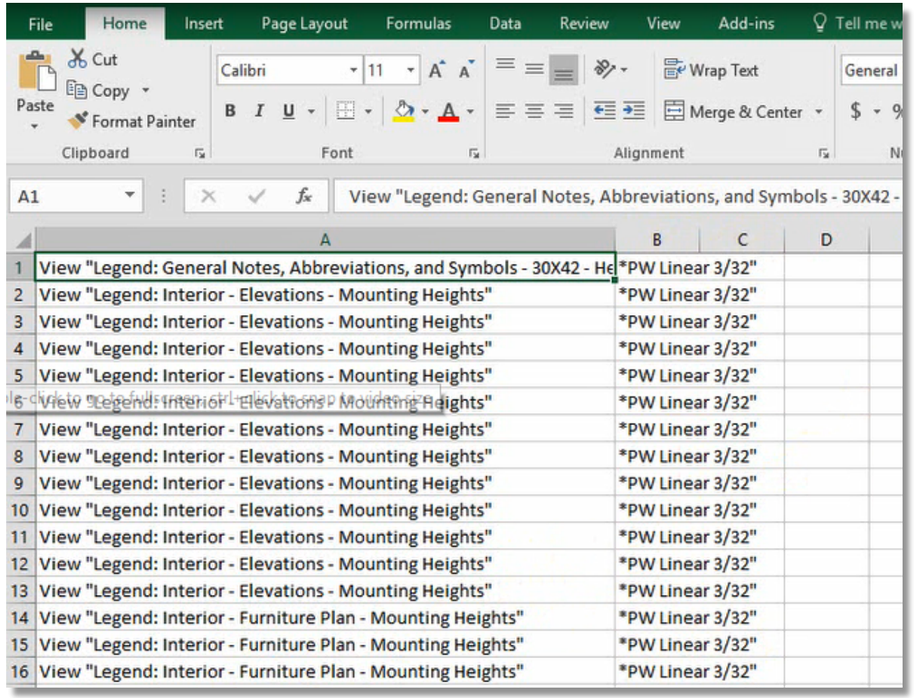
Exports Views to Excel Containing Category



Export Views to Excel Containing Category

User Interface & Sample Output - Dimensions





File Home Insert Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Add-ins Tell me w

Cut Copy Format Painter Paste Clipboard

Calibri 11 Font

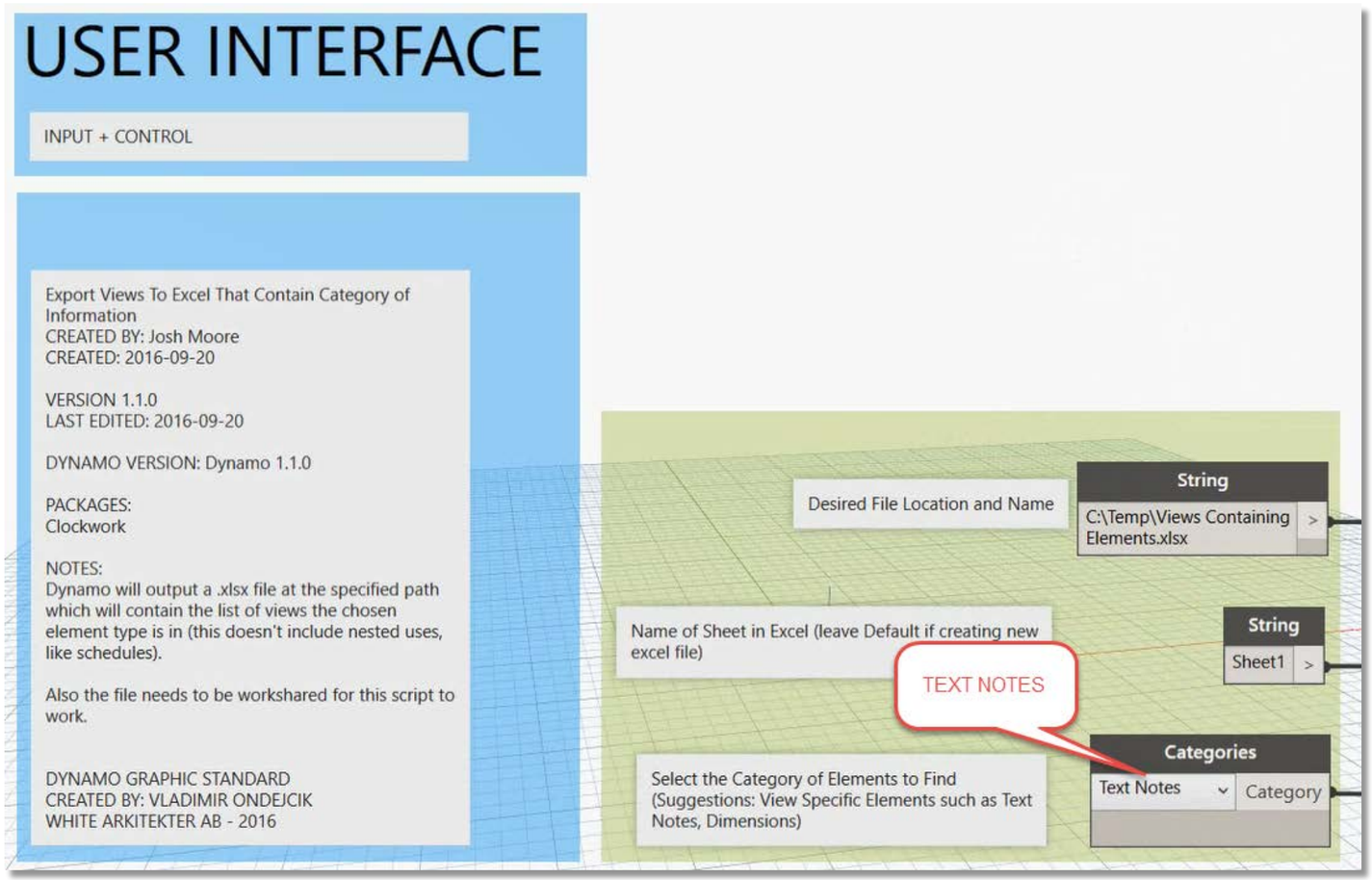
Wrap Text Merge & Center General Alignment

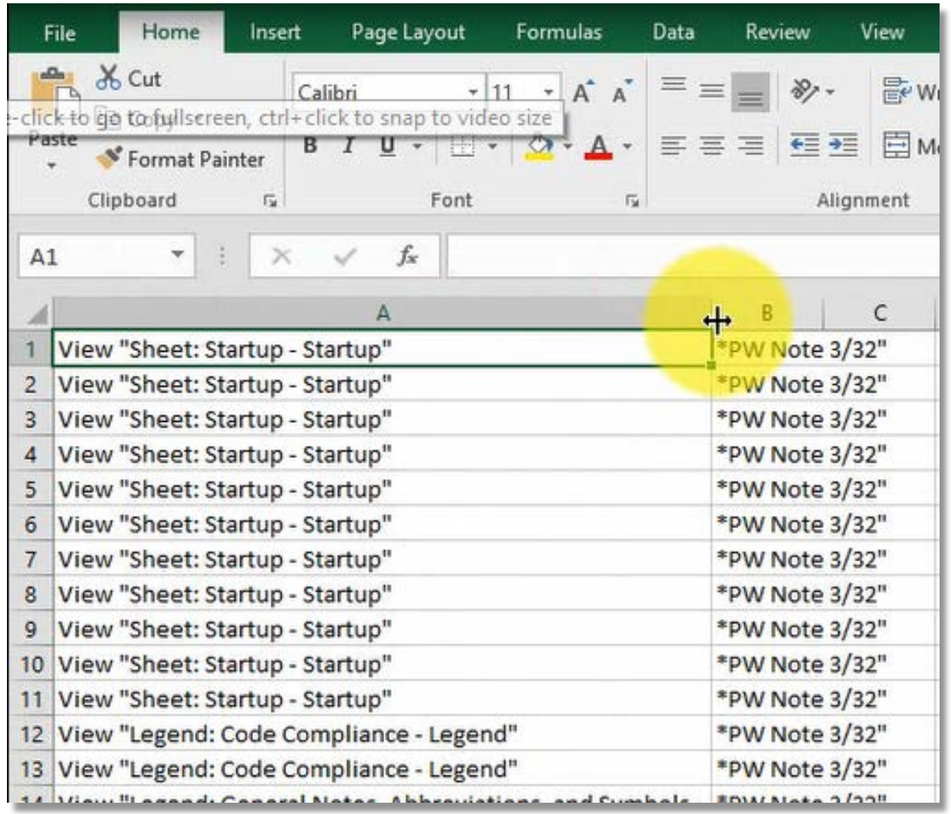
A1 View "Legend: General Notes, Abbreviations, and Symbols - 30X42 -

	A	B	C	D
1	View "Legend: General Notes, Abbreviations, and Symbols - 30X42 - He	*PW Linear 3/32"		
2	View "Legend: Interior - Elevations - Mounting Heights"	*PW Linear 3/32"		
3	View "Legend: Interior - Elevations - Mounting Heights"	*PW Linear 3/32"		
4	View "Legend: Interior - Elevations - Mounting Heights"	*PW Linear 3/32"		
5	View "Legend: Interior - Elevations - Mounting Heights"	*PW Linear 3/32"		
6	View "Legend: Interior - Elevations - Mounting Heights"	*PW Linear 3/32"		
7	View "Legend: Interior - Elevations - Mounting Heights"	*PW Linear 3/32"		
8	View "Legend: Interior - Elevations - Mounting Heights"	*PW Linear 3/32"		
9	View "Legend: Interior - Elevations - Mounting Heights"	*PW Linear 3/32"		
10	View "Legend: Interior - Elevations - Mounting Heights"	*PW Linear 3/32"		
11	View "Legend: Interior - Elevations - Mounting Heights"	*PW Linear 3/32"		
12	View "Legend: Interior - Elevations - Mounting Heights"	*PW Linear 3/32"		
13	View "Legend: Interior - Elevations - Mounting Heights"	*PW Linear 3/32"		
14	View "Legend: Interior - Furniture Plan - Mounting Heights"	*PW Linear 3/32"		
15	View "Legend: Interior - Furniture Plan - Mounting Heights"	*PW Linear 3/32"		
16	View "Legend: Interior - Furniture Plan - Mounting Heights"	*PW Linear 3/32"		

Export Views to Excel Containing Category

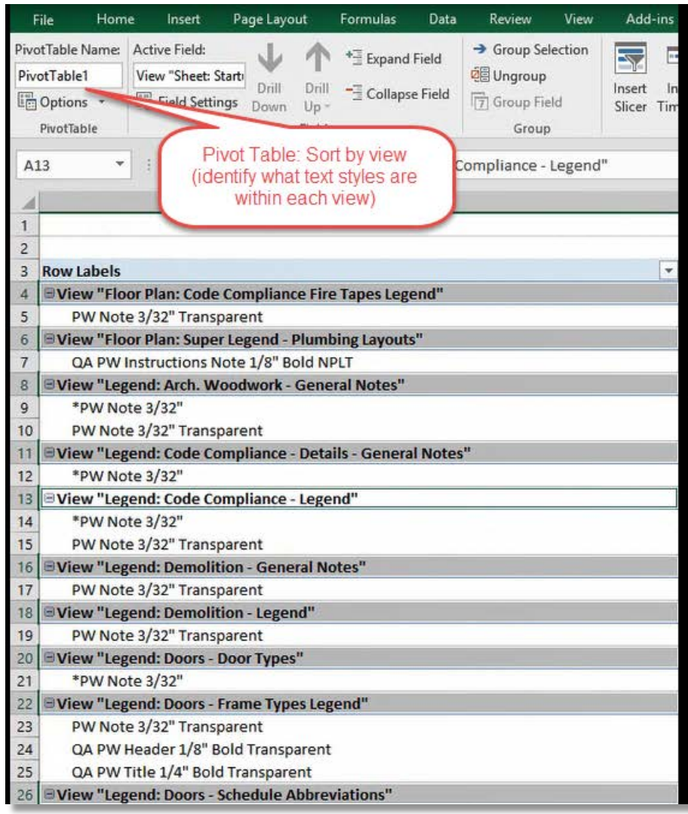
User Interface & Sample Output – Text Notes



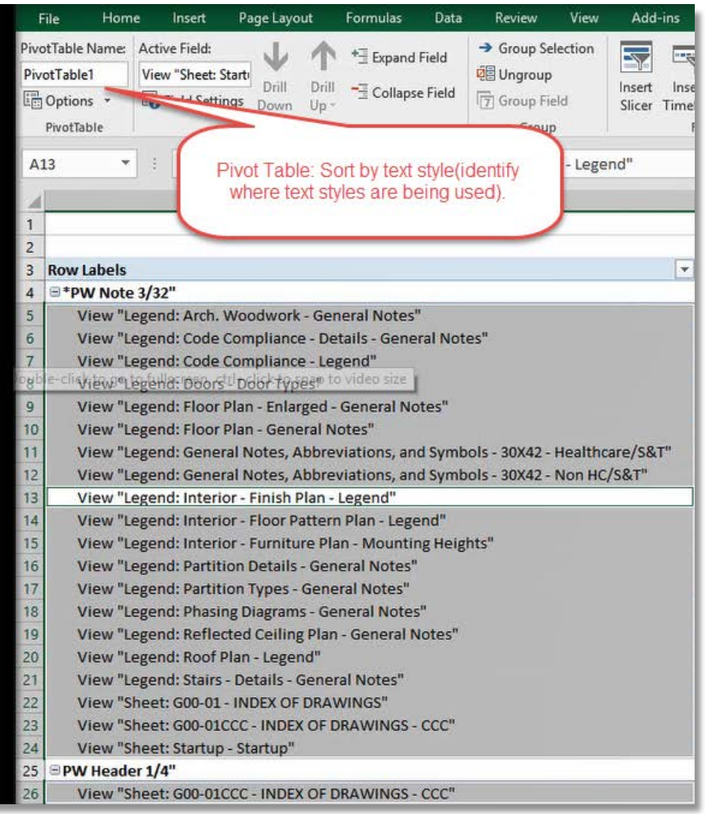


Export Views to Excel Containing Category

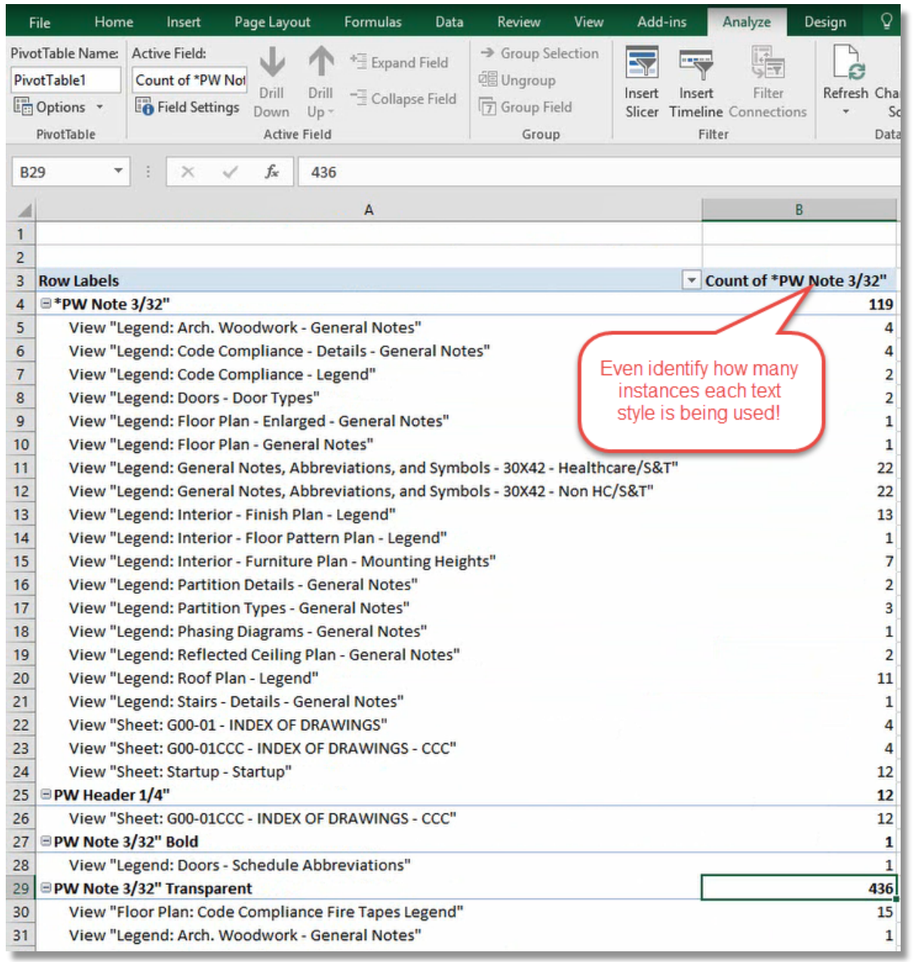
Organizing the Data with Excel Pivot Tables



Row Labels
View "Floor Plan: Code Compliance Fire Tapes Legend"
PW Note 3/32" Transparent
View "Floor Plan: Super Legend - Plumbing Layouts"
QA PW Instructions Note 1/8" Bold NPLT
View "Legend: Arch. Woodwork - General Notes"
*PW Note 3/32"
PW Note 3/32" Transparent
View "Legend: Code Compliance - Details - General Notes"
*PW Note 3/32"
View "Legend: Code Compliance - Legend"
*PW Note 3/32"
PW Note 3/32" Transparent
View "Legend: Demolition - General Notes"
PW Note 3/32" Transparent
View "Legend: Demolition - Legend"
PW Note 3/32" Transparent
View "Legend: Doors - Door Types"
*PW Note 3/32"
View "Legend: Doors - Frame Types Legend"
PW Note 3/32" Transparent
QA PW Header 1/8" Bold Transparent
QA PW Title 1/4" Bold Transparent
View "Legend: Doors - Schedule Abbreviations"



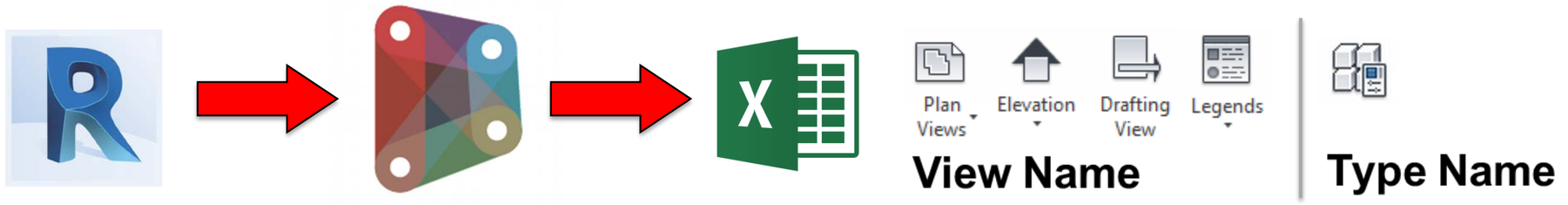
Row Labels
*PW Note 3/32"
View "Legend: Arch. Woodwork - General Notes"
View "Legend: Code Compliance - Details - General Notes"
View "Legend: Code Compliance - Legend"
View "Legend: Doors - Door Types"
View "Legend: Floor Plan - Enlarged - General Notes"
View "Legend: Floor Plan - General Notes"
View "Legend: General Notes, Abbreviations, and Symbols - 30X42 - Healthcare/S&T"
View "Legend: General Notes, Abbreviations, and Symbols - 30X42 - Non HC/S&T"
View "Legend: Interior - Finish Plan - Legend"
View "Legend: Interior - Floor Pattern Plan - Legend"
View "Legend: Interior - Furniture Plan - Mounting Heights"
View "Legend: Partition Details - General Notes"
View "Legend: Partition Types - General Notes"
View "Legend: Phasing Diagrams - General Notes"
View "Legend: Reflected Ceiling Plan - General Notes"
View "Legend: Roof Plan - Legend"
View "Legend: Stairs - Details - General Notes"
View "Sheet: G00-01 - INDEX OF DRAWINGS"
View "Sheet: G00-01CCC - INDEX OF DRAWINGS - CCC"
View "Sheet: Startup - Startup"
PW Header 1/4"
View "Sheet: G00-01CCC - INDEX OF DRAWINGS - CCC"



Row Labels	Count of *PW Note 3/32"
*PW Note 3/32"	119
View "Legend: Arch. Woodwork - General Notes"	4
View "Legend: Code Compliance - Details - General Notes"	4
View "Legend: Code Compliance - Legend"	2
View "Legend: Doors - Door Types"	2
View "Legend: Floor Plan - Enlarged - General Notes"	1
View "Legend: Floor Plan - General Notes"	1
View "Legend: General Notes, Abbreviations, and Symbols - 30X42 - Healthcare/S&T"	22
View "Legend: General Notes, Abbreviations, and Symbols - 30X42 - Non HC/S&T"	22
View "Legend: Interior - Finish Plan - Legend"	13
View "Legend: Interior - Floor Pattern Plan - Legend"	1
View "Legend: Interior - Furniture Plan - Mounting Heights"	7
View "Legend: Partition Details - General Notes"	2
View "Legend: Partition Types - General Notes"	3
View "Legend: Phasing Diagrams - General Notes"	1
View "Legend: Reflected Ceiling Plan - General Notes"	2
View "Legend: Roof Plan - Legend"	11
View "Legend: Stairs - Details - General Notes"	1
View "Sheet: G00-01 - INDEX OF DRAWINGS"	4
View "Sheet: G00-01CCC - INDEX OF DRAWINGS - CCC"	4
View "Sheet: Startup - Startup"	12
PW Header 1/4"	12
View "Sheet: G00-01CCC - INDEX OF DRAWINGS - CCC"	12
PW Note 3/32" Bold	1
View "Legend: Doors - Schedule Abbreviations"	1
PW Note 3/32" Transparent	436
View "Floor Plan: Code Compliance Fire Tapes Legend"	15
View "Legend: Arch. Woodwork - General Notes"	1

Script Example #1

Live Demo

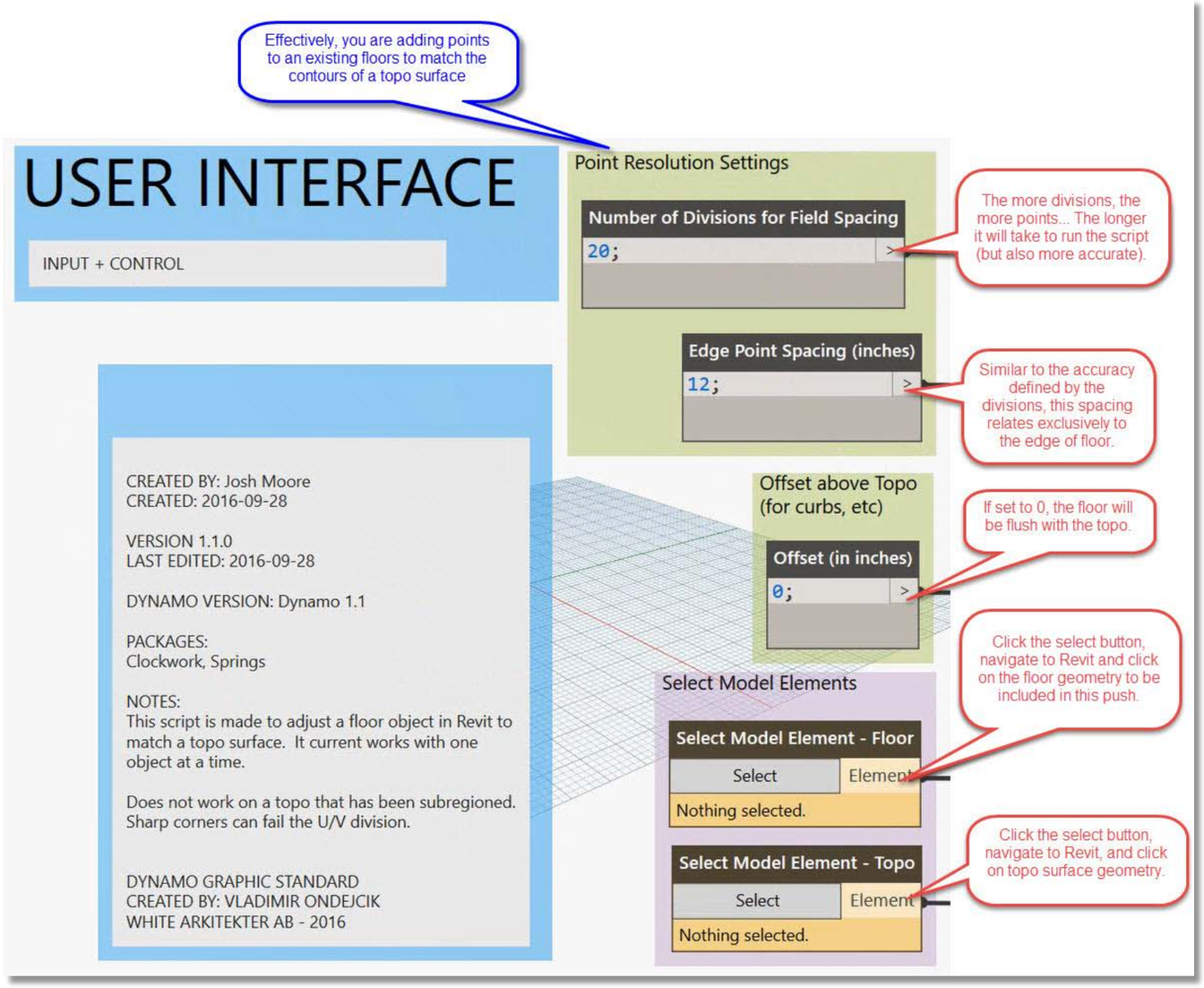


Script Example #2

Slab Edit Floor to Match Topography

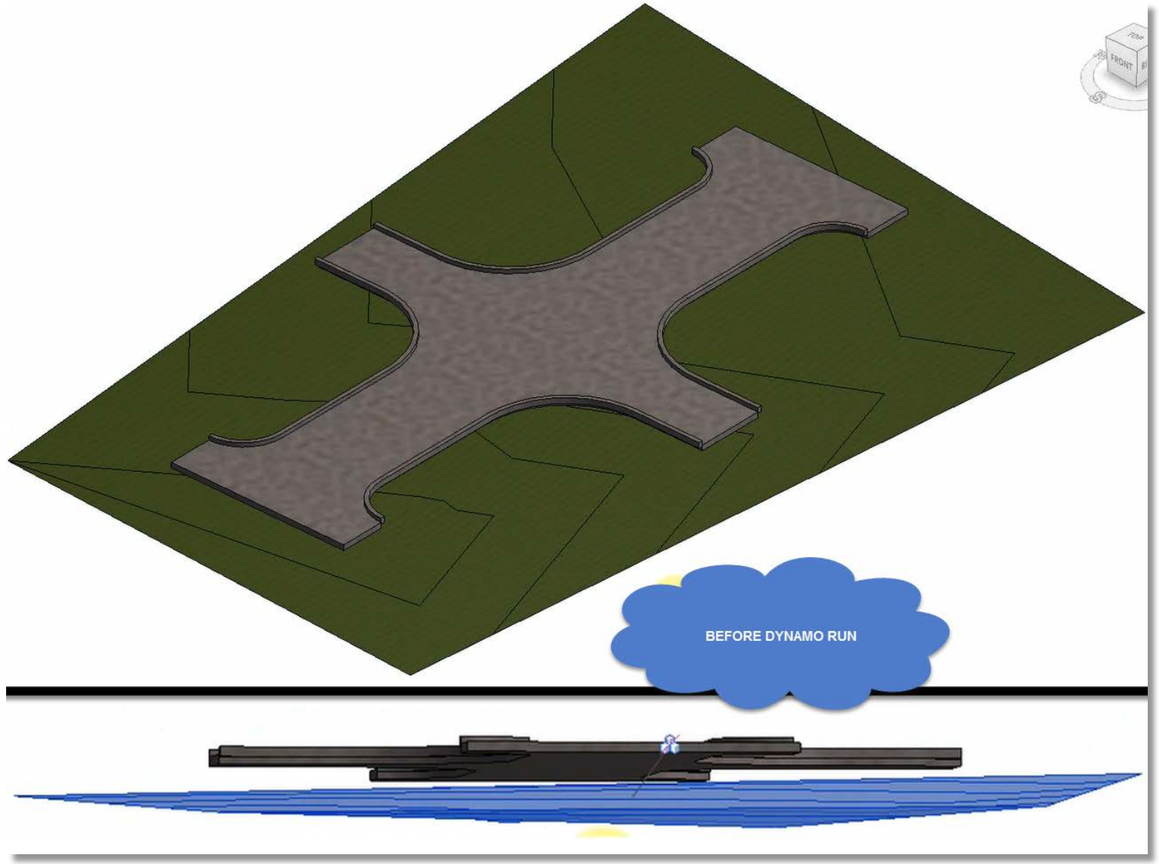
Slab Edit Floor to Match Topography

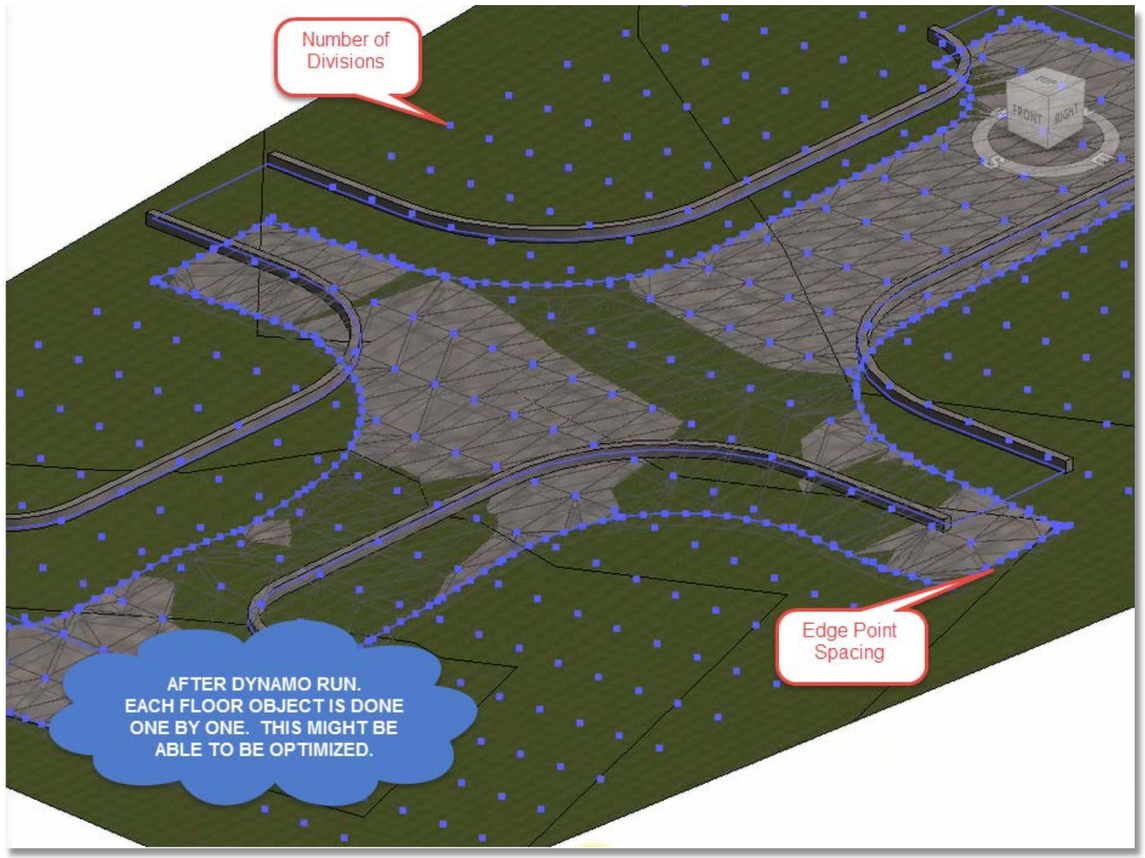
User Interface – Point Resolution and Select



Slab Edit Floor to Match Topography

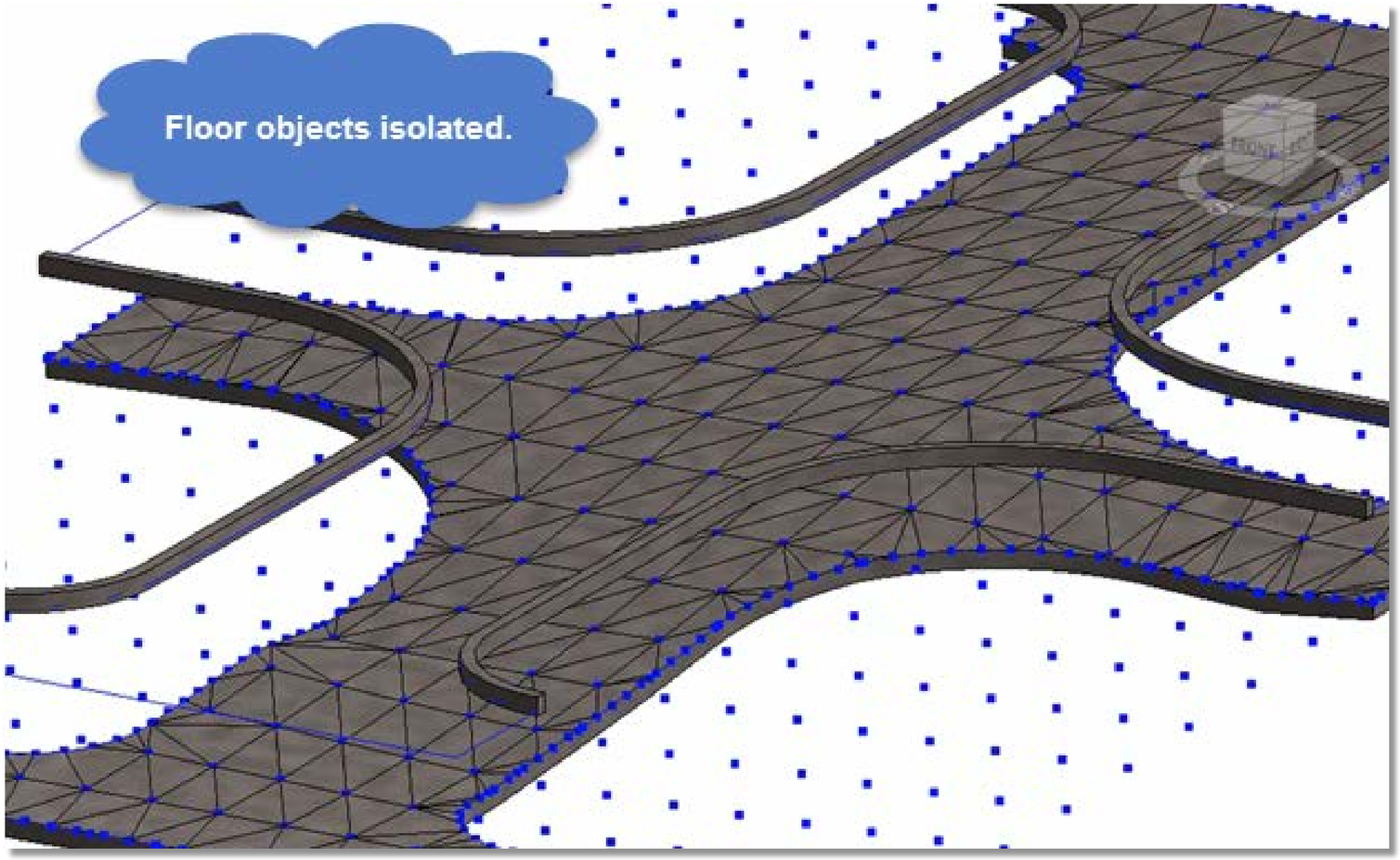
View In Revit – Before and After Dynamo Run





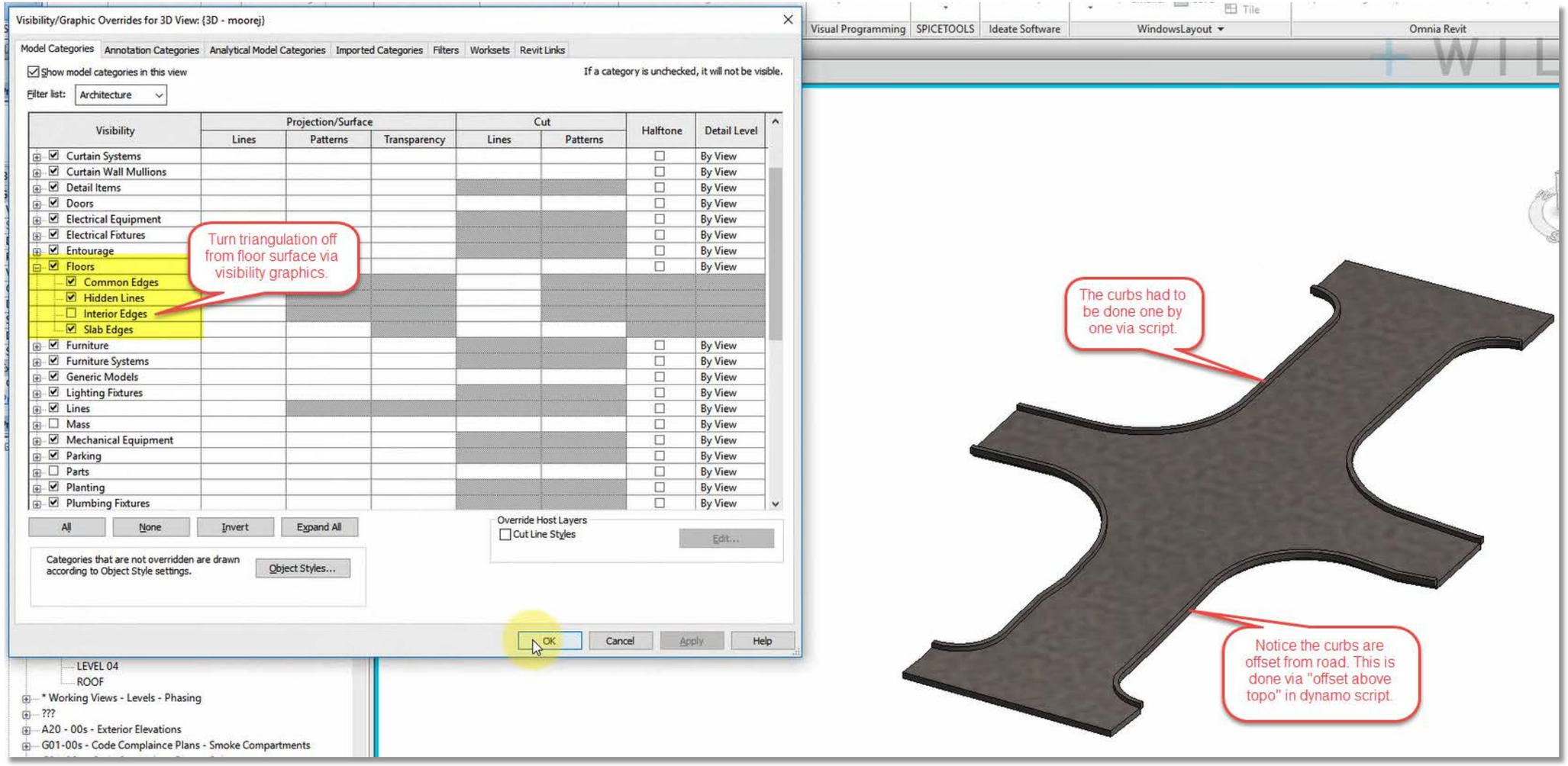
Slab Edit Floor to Match Topography

Floor Isolated – Showing Sub Element Mods



Slab Edit Floor to Match Topography

In Revit – Cleaning up the Graphics of the Floor



Script Example #2

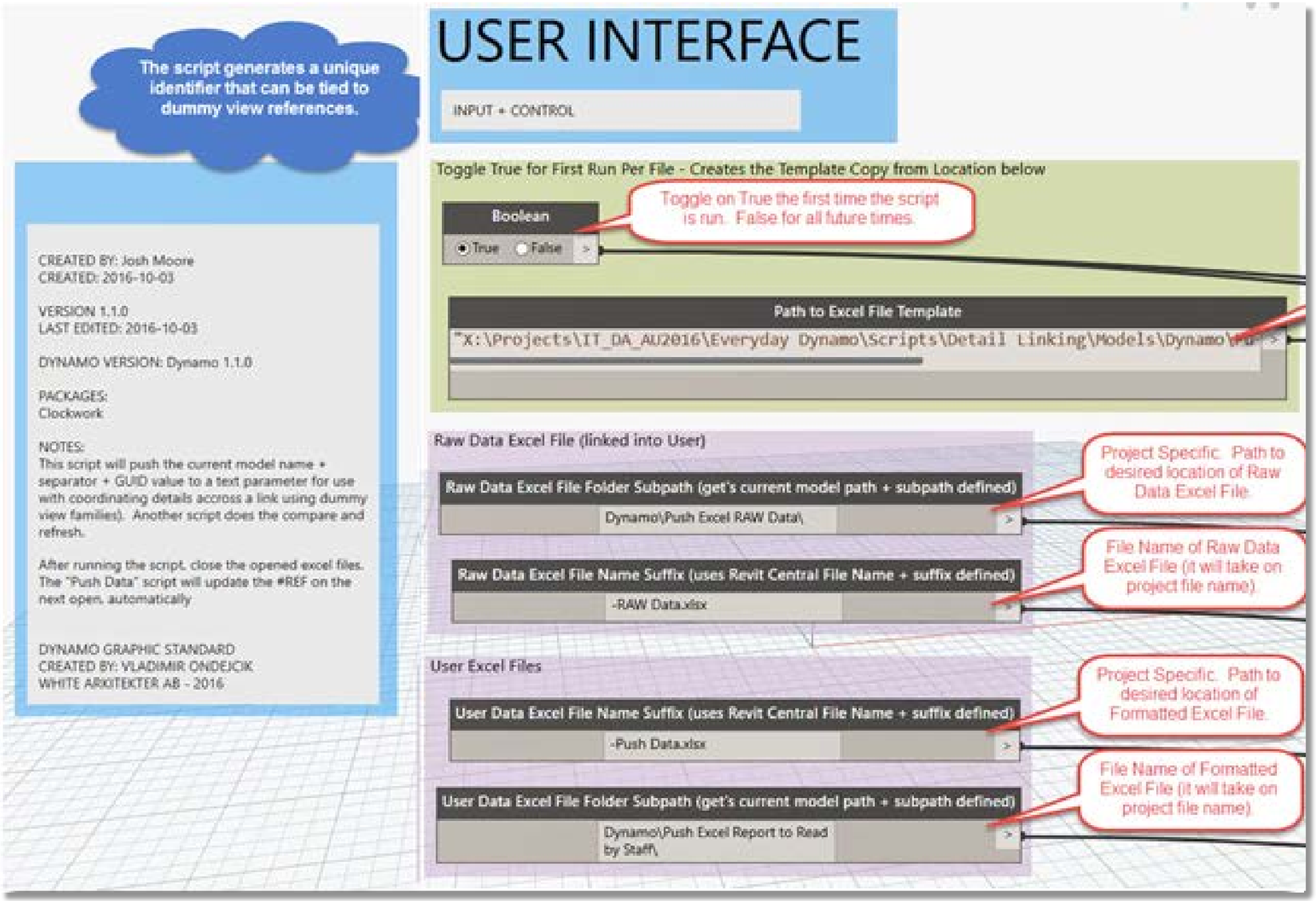
Live Demo

Workflow/Script Example #3

Coordinating Dummy View Tags Across Linked Models

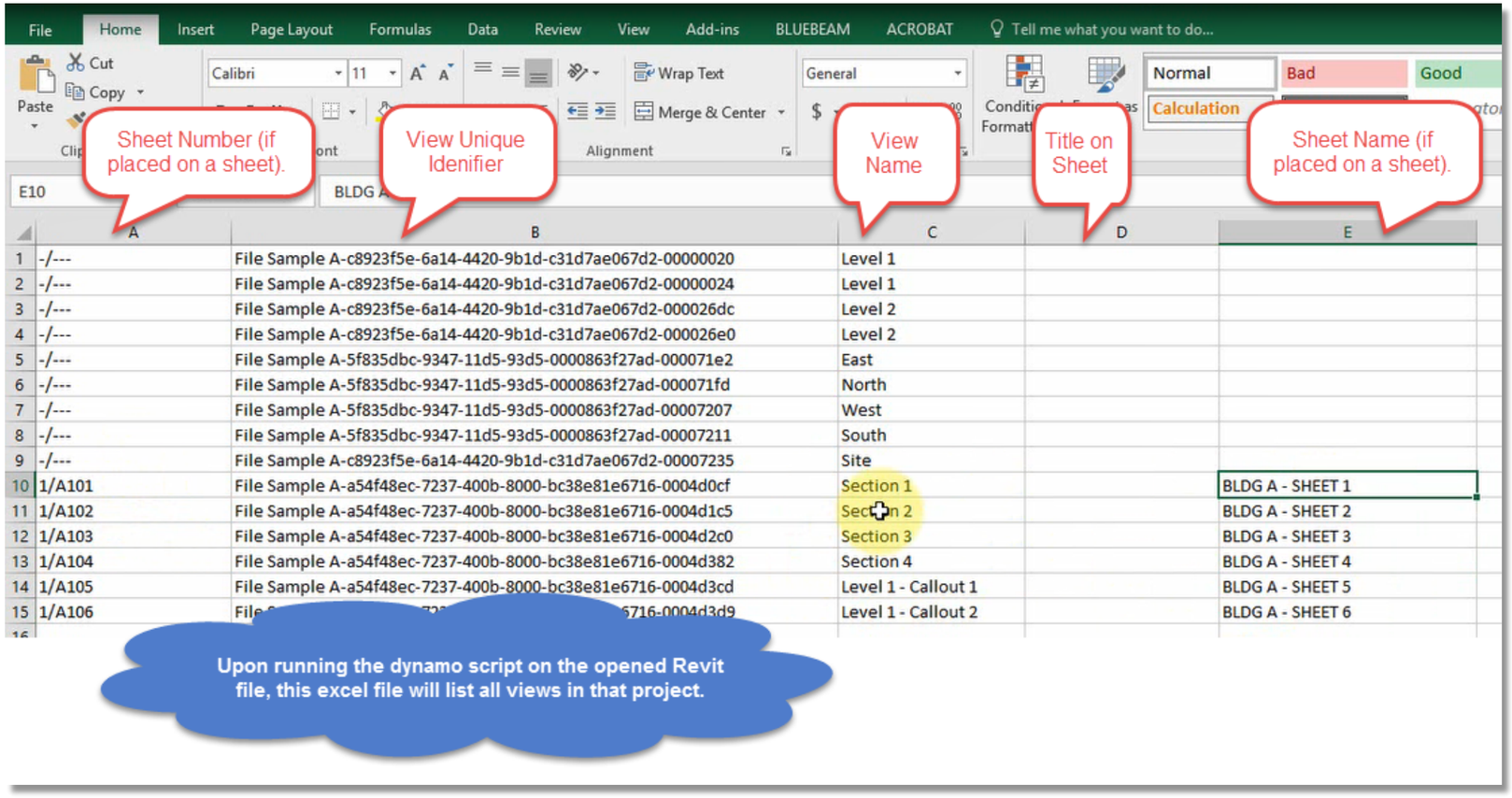
Coordinating Dummy View Tags Across Linked Models

User Interface – Script 1



Coordinating Dummy View Tags Across Linked Models

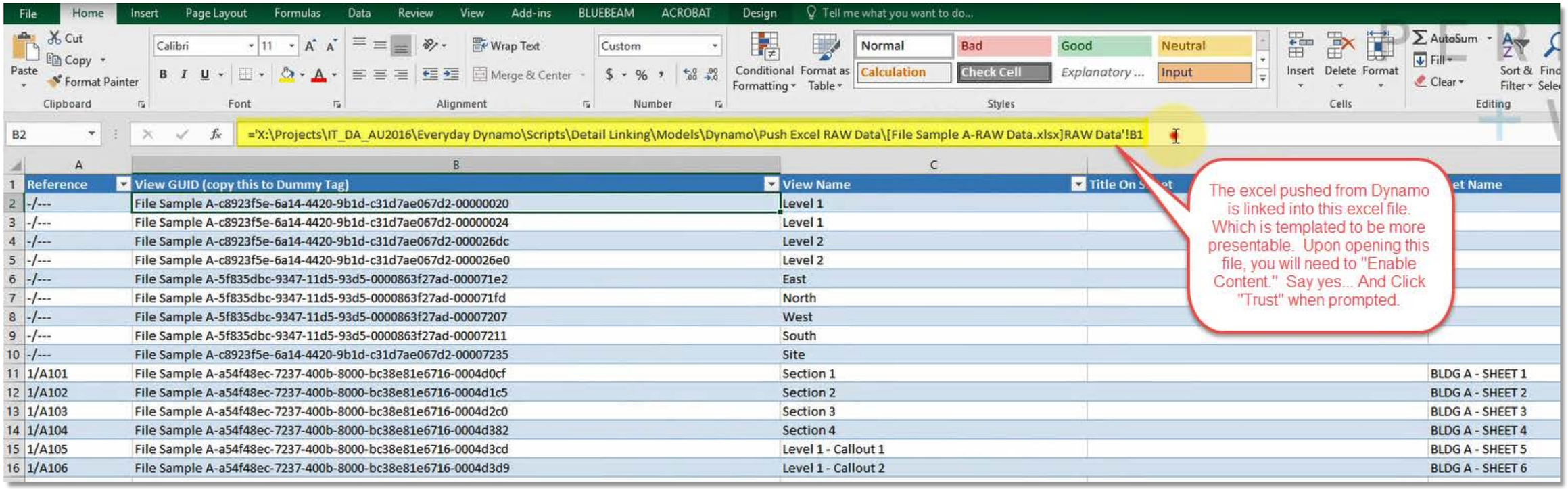
Raw Excel Output – Script 1



	A	B	C	D	E
1	-/---	File Sample A-c8923f5e-6a14-4420-9b1d-c31d7ae067d2-00000020	Level 1		
2	-/---	File Sample A-c8923f5e-6a14-4420-9b1d-c31d7ae067d2-00000024	Level 1		
3	-/---	File Sample A-c8923f5e-6a14-4420-9b1d-c31d7ae067d2-000026dc	Level 2		
4	-/---	File Sample A-c8923f5e-6a14-4420-9b1d-c31d7ae067d2-000026e0	Level 2		
5	-/---	File Sample A-5f835dbc-9347-11d5-93d5-0000863f27ad-000071e2	East		
6	-/---	File Sample A-5f835dbc-9347-11d5-93d5-0000863f27ad-000071fd	North		
7	-/---	File Sample A-5f835dbc-9347-11d5-93d5-0000863f27ad-00007207	West		
8	-/---	File Sample A-5f835dbc-9347-11d5-93d5-0000863f27ad-00007211	South		
9	-/---	File Sample A-c8923f5e-6a14-4420-9b1d-c31d7ae067d2-00007235	Site		
10	1/A101	File Sample A-a54f48ec-7237-400b-8000-bc38e81e6716-0004d0cf	Section 1		BLDG A - SHEET 1
11	1/A102	File Sample A-a54f48ec-7237-400b-8000-bc38e81e6716-0004d1c5	Section 2		BLDG A - SHEET 2
12	1/A103	File Sample A-a54f48ec-7237-400b-8000-bc38e81e6716-0004d2c0	Section 3		BLDG A - SHEET 3
13	1/A104	File Sample A-a54f48ec-7237-400b-8000-bc38e81e6716-0004d382	Section 4		BLDG A - SHEET 4
14	1/A105	File Sample A-a54f48ec-7237-400b-8000-bc38e81e6716-0004d3cd	Level 1 - Callout 1		BLDG A - SHEET 5
15	1/A106	File	Level 1 - Callout 2		BLDG A - SHEET 6

Coordinating Dummy View Tags Across Linked Models

Formatted Excel Output – Script 1



	A	B	C		
1	Reference	View GUID (copy this to Dummy Tag)	View Name	Title On S...et	...et Name
2	-/---	File Sample A-c8923f5e-6a14-4420-9b1d-c31d7ae067d2-00000020	Level 1		
3	-/---	File Sample A-c8923f5e-6a14-4420-9b1d-c31d7ae067d2-00000024	Level 1		
4	-/---	File Sample A-c8923f5e-6a14-4420-9b1d-c31d7ae067d2-000026dc	Level 2		
5	-/---	File Sample A-c8923f5e-6a14-4420-9b1d-c31d7ae067d2-000026e0	Level 2		
6	-/---	File Sample A-5f835dbc-9347-11d5-93d5-0000863f27ad-000071e2	East		
7	-/---	File Sample A-5f835dbc-9347-11d5-93d5-0000863f27ad-000071fd	North		
8	-/---	File Sample A-5f835dbc-9347-11d5-93d5-0000863f27ad-00007207	West		
9	-/---	File Sample A-5f835dbc-9347-11d5-93d5-0000863f27ad-00007211	South		
10	-/---	File Sample A-c8923f5e-6a14-4420-9b1d-c31d7ae067d2-00007235	Site		
11	1/A101	File Sample A-a54f48ec-7237-400b-8000-bc38e81e6716-0004d0cf	Section 1		BLDG A - SHEET 1
12	1/A102	File Sample A-a54f48ec-7237-400b-8000-bc38e81e6716-0004d1c5	Section 2		BLDG A - SHEET 2
13	1/A103	File Sample A-a54f48ec-7237-400b-8000-bc38e81e6716-0004d2c0	Section 3		BLDG A - SHEET 3
14	1/A104	File Sample A-a54f48ec-7237-400b-8000-bc38e81e6716-0004d382	Section 4		BLDG A - SHEET 4
15	1/A105	File Sample A-a54f48ec-7237-400b-8000-bc38e81e6716-0004d3cd	Level 1 - Callout 1		BLDG A - SHEET 5
16	1/A106	File Sample A-a54f48ec-7237-400b-8000-bc38e81e6716-0004d3d9	Level 1 - Callout 2		BLDG A - SHEET 6

Coordinating Dummy View Tags Across Linked Models

User Interaction with Excel – Post Script 1

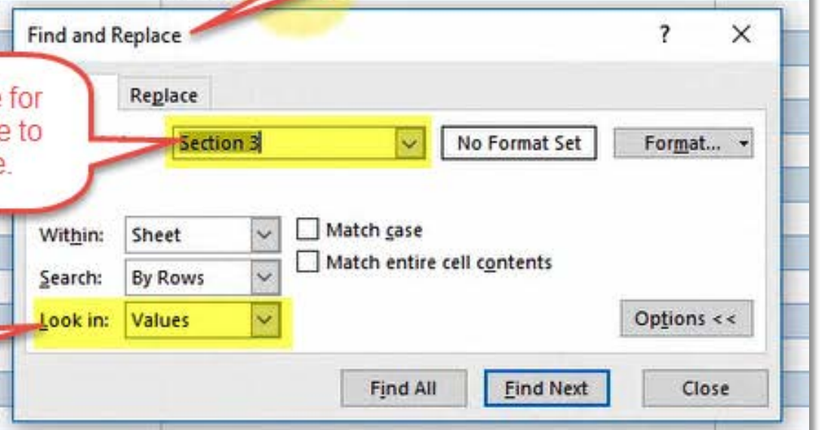
	A	B	C
1	Reference	View GUID (copy this to Dummy Tag)	View Name
2	-/---	File Sample A-c8923f5e-6a14-4420-9b1d-c31d7ae067d2-00000020	Level 1
3	-/---	File Sample A-c8923f5e-6a14-4420-9b1d-c31d7ae067d2-00000024	Level 1
4	-/---	File Sample A-c8923f5e-6a14-4420-9b1d-c31d7ae067d2-000026dc	Level 2
5	-/---	File Sample A-c8923f5e-6a14-4420-9b1d-c31d7ae067d2-000026e0	Level 2
6	-/---	File Sample A-5f835dbc-9347-11d5-93d5-0000863f27ad-000071e2	East
7	-/---	File Sample A-5f835dbc-9347-11d5-93d5-0000863f27ad-000071fd	North
8	-/---	File Sample A-5f835dbc-9347-11d5-93d5-0000863f27ad-00007207	West
9	-/---	File Sample A-5f835dbc-9347-11d5-93d5-0000863f27ad-00007211	South
10	-/---	File Sample A-c8923f5e-6a14-4420-9b1d-c31d7ae067d2-00007235	Site
11	1/A101	File Sample A-a54f48ec-7237-400b-8000-bc38e81e6716-0004d0cf	Section 1
12	1/A102	File Sample A-a54f48ec-7237-400b-8000-bc38e81e6716-0004d1c5	Section 2
13	1/A103	File Sample A-a54f48ec-7237-400b-8000-bc38e81e6716-0004d2c0	Section 3
14	1/A104	File Sample A-a54f48ec-7237-400b-8000-bc38e81e6716-0004d382	Section 4
15	1/A105	File Sample A-a54f48ec-7237-400b-8000-bc38e81e6716-0004d3cd	Level 1 - Callout 1
16	1/A106	File Sample A-a54f48ec-7237-400b-8000-bc38e81e6716-0004d3d9	Level 1 - Callout 2
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
26			
27			
28			
29			

4 With desired view found, copy content under this column.

1 "Ctrl + F" to find content within a column

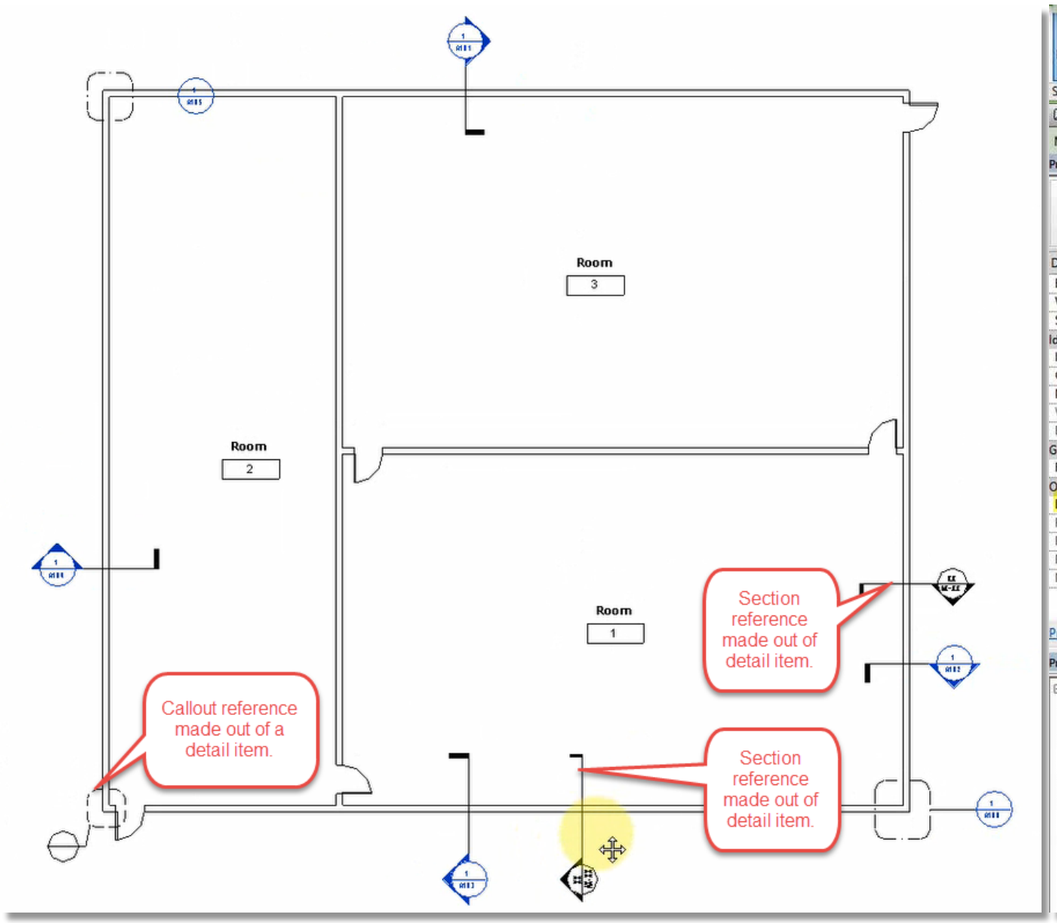
3 Staff can search the excel file for view names to easily navigate to a desired view to reference.

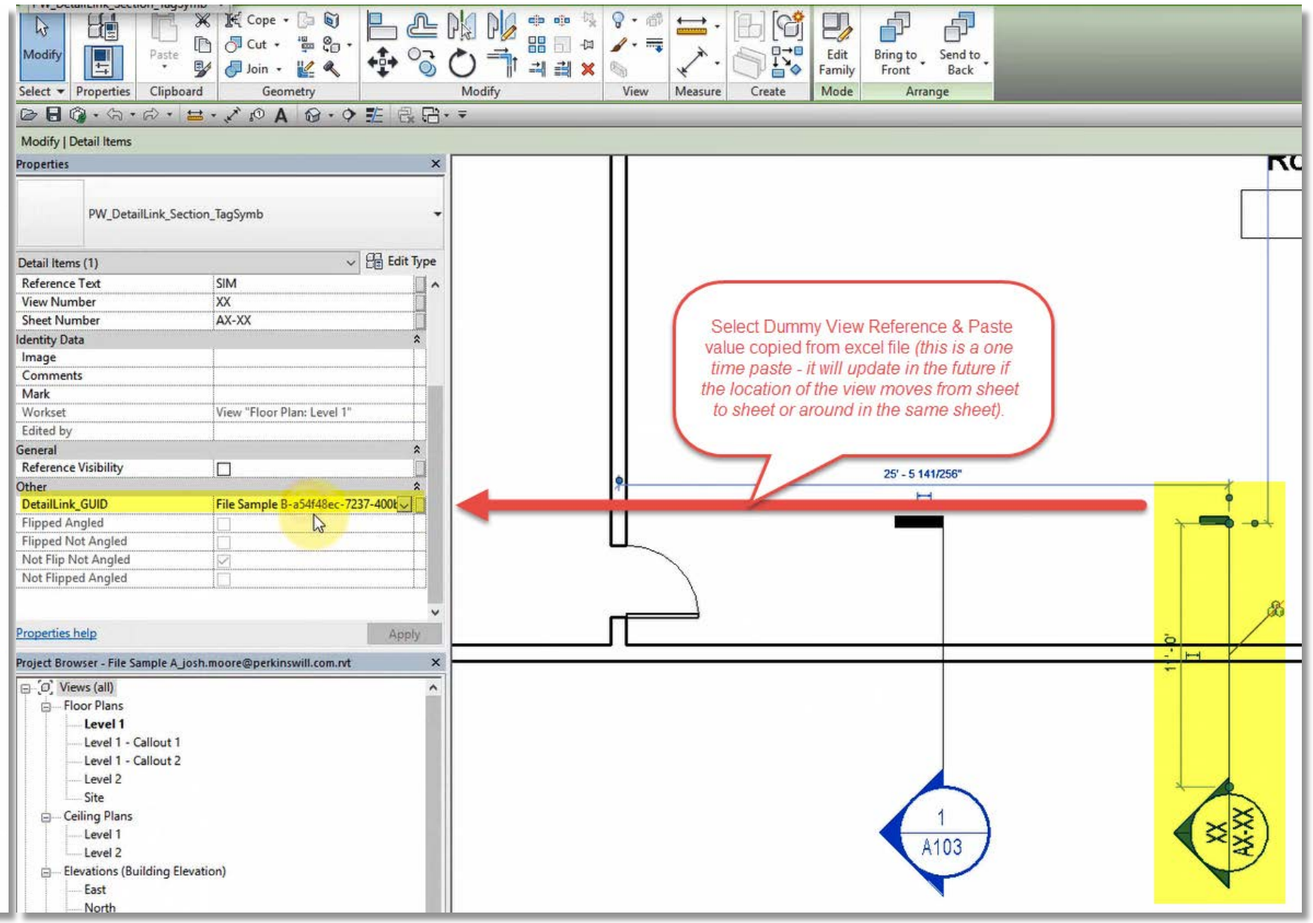
2 Be sure this is set to Look In "values."



Coordinating Dummy View Tags Across Linked Models

User Interaction with Revit – Post Script 1





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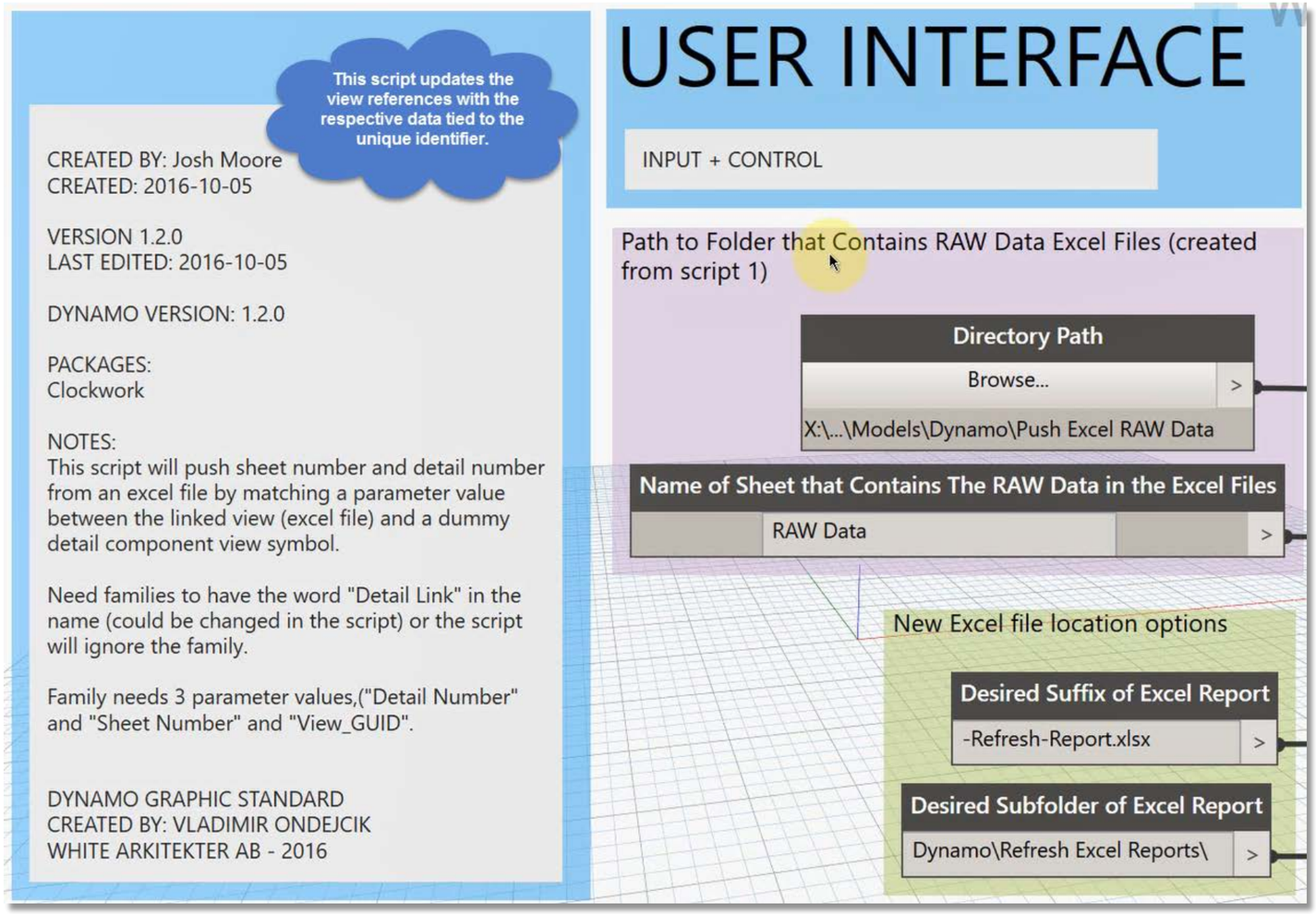
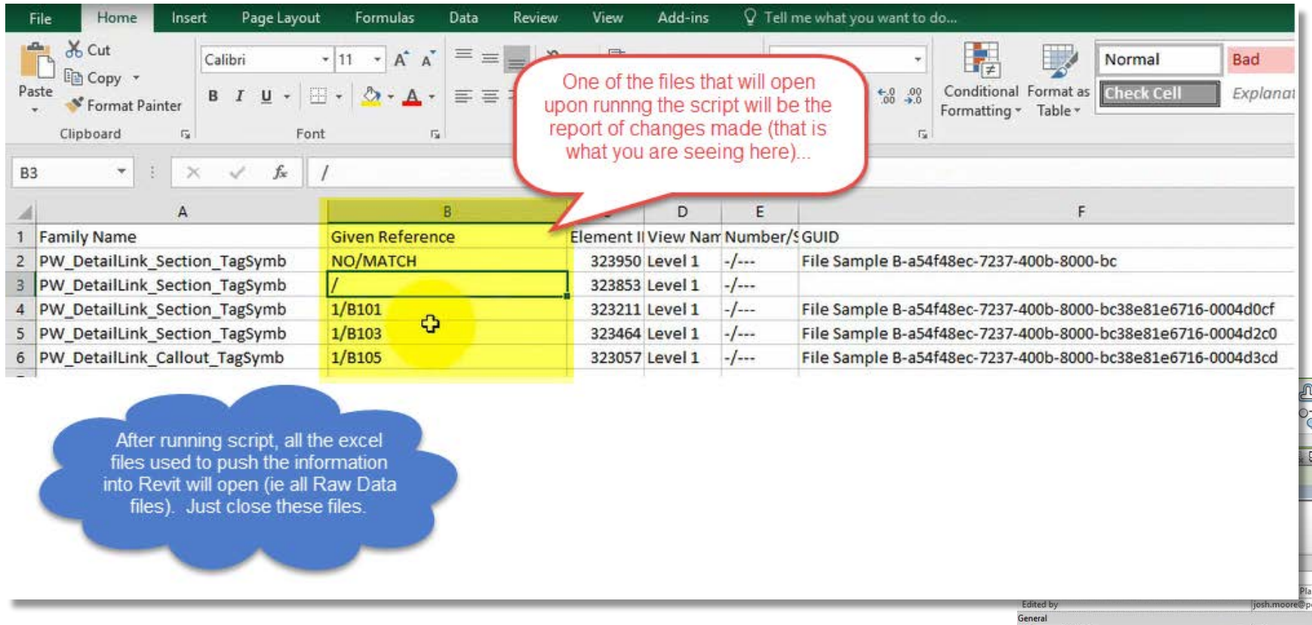
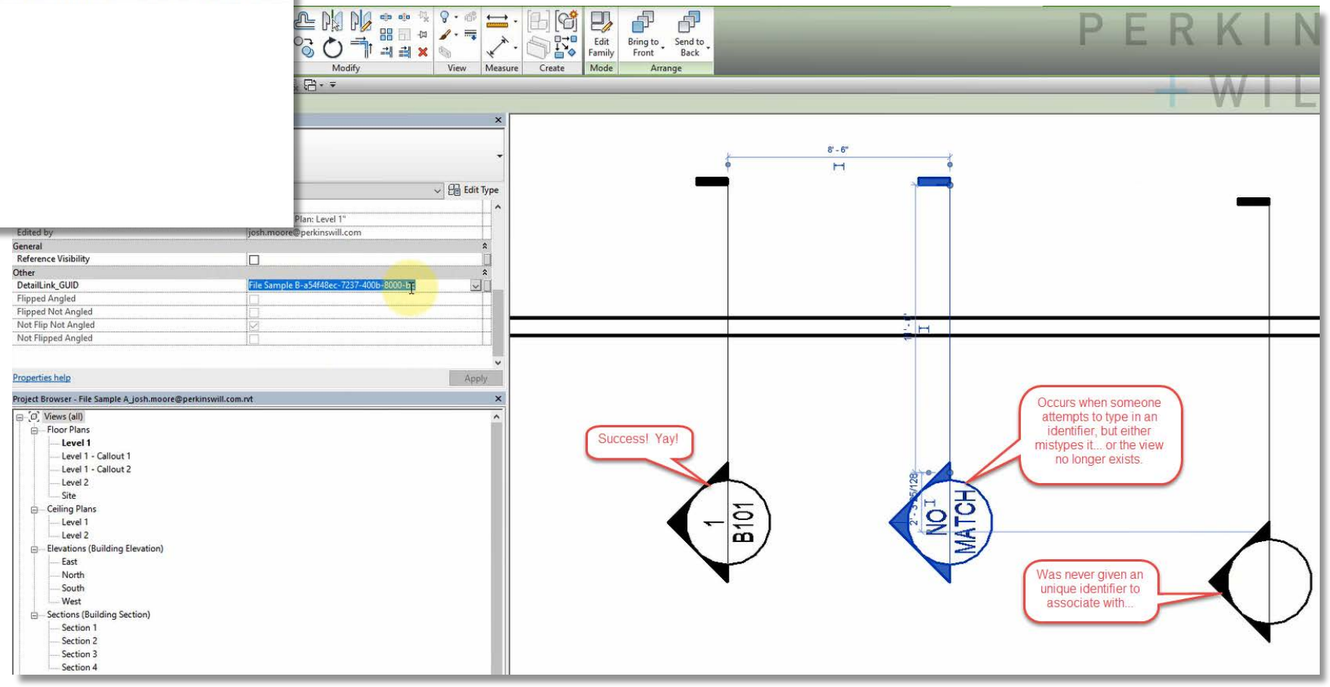
User Interface – Script 2



Coordinating Dummy View Tags Across Linked Models

Updated Tags and Report – Script 2





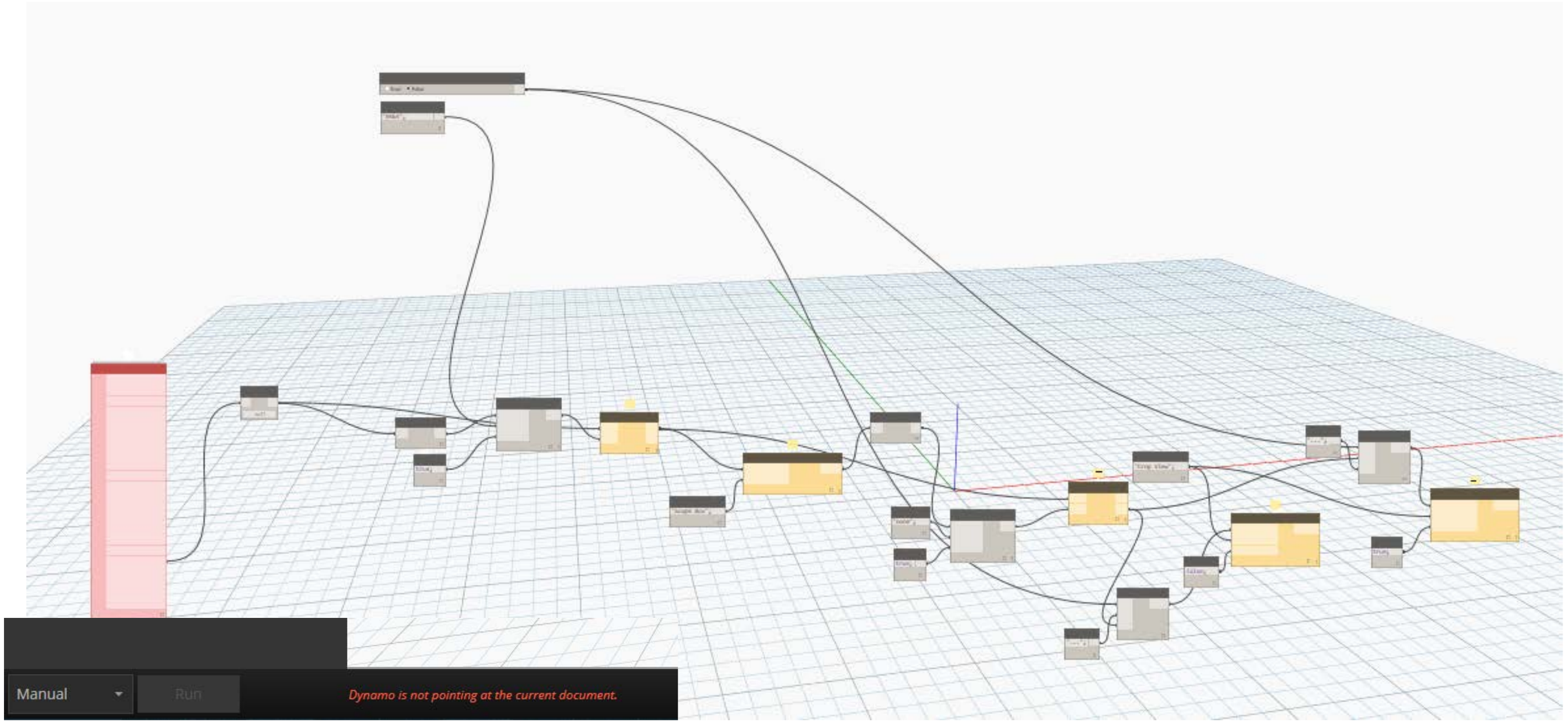
Workflow/Script Example #3

Live Demo

Tips & Tricks

Tips & Tricks

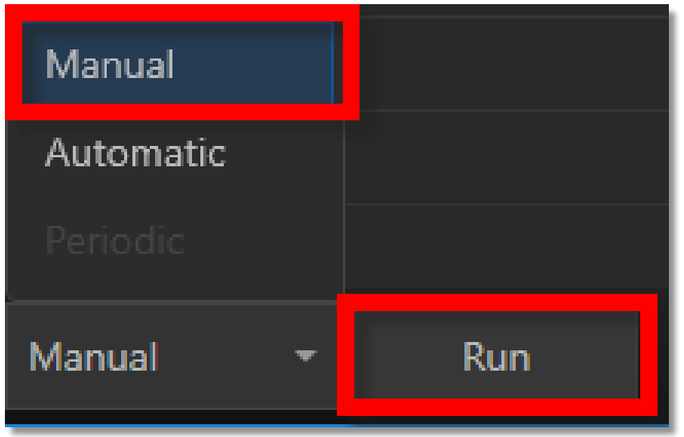
Look for Yellow and Red Nodes



Tips & Tricks

Run Manual Mode

- Reduces issues from Unintentional “Wiring” Mistakes
- Saves Time, more specific control



Tips & Tricks

Close and Reopen Script

- Critical, especially when Testing
- Process Example

  Run Script> Undo Dynamo Transaction in Revit> Close Script> Reopen> Repeat

Tips & Tricks

No Commands Active in Revit

- Not obvious, huge issue if you don’t realize it!!

Tips & Tricks

Pay Attention to Active View in Revit

- Certain scripts may rely on performing an operation on the active view
- Multiple Revit models open in the same Revit session can make Dynamo confused.

Tips & Tricks

Use Out of the Box Nodes as much as Possible

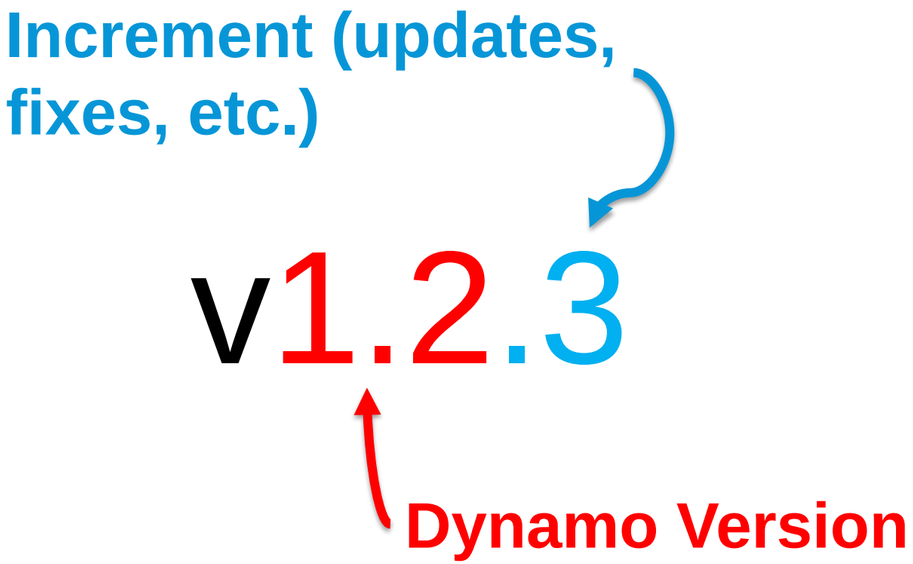
- We love what developers are doing!
- Issues can occur with updates, pointing to the right packages, etc.
- Use a couple OOTB nodes if you can instead of a “shortcut” third party node.
- Embed the Python script to ensure no dependencies and get better error messages

Tips & Tricks

Script Versioning

Example 1:
Push Scope Box Name to Element v1.2.0.dyn

Example 2:
Shape Edit Floor to Match Topo v1.1.0.dyn



Tips & Tricks

Shared Location For Third Party Packages

- Reusability
- Scripts Failing from “New Features”
- Revit & Dynamo Changes
- Location Suggestions

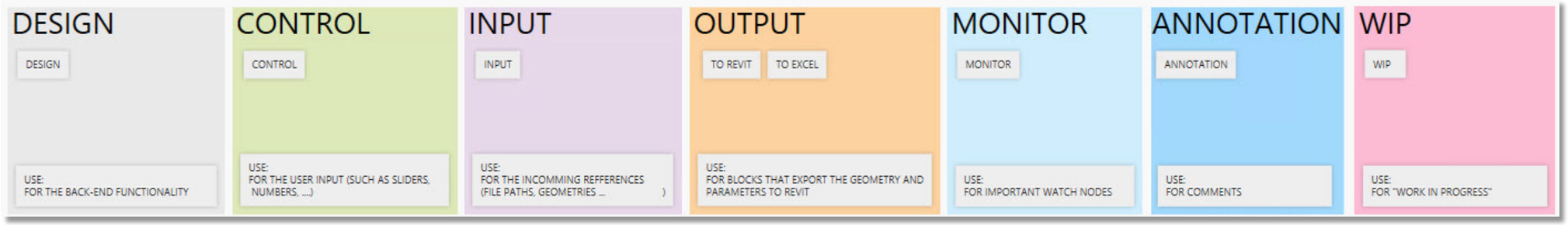
{mapped drive}:\Dynamo\Packages\{Dynamo Version}

For example: **O:\Dallas\Dynamo\Packages\1.2**

Tips & Tricks

Script Organization, Graphics and Commenting

- There is a great method already suggested that we have used
- Group and Comment “logical” sections of the script
- Add additional information like Required Packages, Instructions, Author and Date.



Third Party Packages

Top 5 Roundup

#5
Spring Nodes

DIMITAR VENKOV
@5devene
badmonkeys.net
Installed: +8,600

Most Used Node:
ElementType.Duplicate

#4

Steam Nodes

JULIEN BENOIT

@Jbenoit44

badmonkeys.net

Installed: +9,000

Most Used Node:

Tool.Eraser

#3

Lunchbox

NATHAN MILLER

@archinate

ThePrevingGround.org

Installed: +35,000

Most Used Node:

Lunchbox Level Element Collector

#2

Archi-lab.net

archi+lab

KONRAD K SOBON

@arch_laboratory

Archi-lab.net

Badmonkeys.net

Installed: +23,000

Most Used Node:

Get All Views

#1

Clockwork

ANDREAS DIECKMANN

@a_dieckmann

badmonkeys.net

Installed: +26,700

10 Most Used Nodes:

List.SortListOfLists
Element.Name (Universal)
List.RepeatItemsByLengths
List.SublistLengths
List.CountOccurences
List.SublistsContain
List.AnyTrue
Element.Location
Element.Type
All Family Types Of Category

MyDynamoJourney.com

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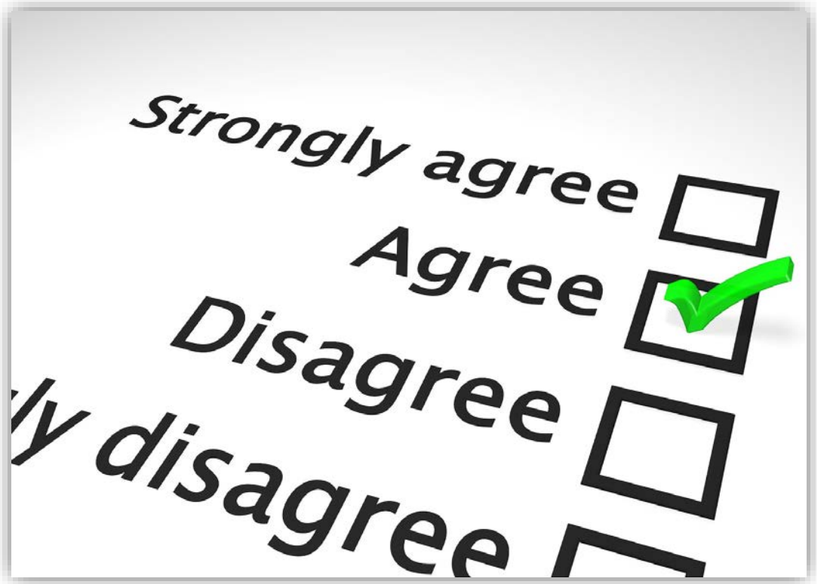

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