



DP16577-R & DP23758-R

## Technical Training for Revit - Roundtable Discussion V1.1

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### Learning Objectives

- Discover which tools besides Revit you can use in your training
- Discover ways to engage the students to keep them interested while delivering large amounts of technical information
- Discuss how to deal with problems or issues (technical or other) that arise during training
- Gain shared information and experiences from participants

### Description

This session will be an interactive roundtable discussion about tips, tricks, and user experiences with technical training for Revit building design software. These tips, tricks, and experiences will be suggested by the attendees and presenter alike, but will then be discussed and perhaps debated by all, with the end goal of an improved process at the close of the discussion. We will add all of the content collected during the session to the handout and share it with all attendees after the session has concluded. All topics are fair game as long as they pertain to Revit software and the training of Revit software. See some examples of topics in the learning objectives below. This session features Revit.



## Your AU Expert:

**Carl Storms**



Drawing on his nearly 20 years of experience in architecture, engineering, and construction, **Carl Storms** provides a practical and well-rounded understanding of Building Information Modeling (BIM) to clients. He's worked in residential and commercial architecture, as well as in construction, and he has over 5 years of teaching experience at the collegiate and industry levels. Beyond that, he's also done a bit of sales and marketing, which aid him in providing the business case for BIM to clients as well as helping them make the most of their collaboration, coordination, and design tools and processes.



Through implementations, instruction, mentoring, seminar presentations, whitepapers and more, Carl assists clients with the adoption of design technology and BIM processes. As someone who truly enjoys the process of building information modeling, Carl spreads his love of all things BIM via Twitter [@theBIMsider](https://twitter.com/theBIMsider), on his Blog [www.thebimsider.com](http://www.thebimsider.com), or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/theBIMsider](https://www.facebook.com/theBIMsider)

## Session Handout and Presentation

Get the most current PDF version of this handout and presentation using the Dropbox link below: [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/urot4xcaujtq0wh/AABAnNu-kloi2q3YmvHjN\\_n-a?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/urot4xcaujtq0wh/AABAnNu-kloi2q3YmvHjN_n-a?dl=0)



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## What is Technical Training?

*“**Technical Training** is the process of teaching employees how to more accurately and thoroughly perform the technical components of their jobs. Training can include technology applications, products, sales and service tactics, and more. Technical skills are job-specific as opposed to soft skills, which are transferable.”*

[Neil Kokemuller - eHow](#)

## What is a Technical Trainer?

*“A **Technical Trainer** is an educator or teacher who trains or coaches others in some field of technology. The task requires a certain set of competencies, but many technical trainers do not hold specific technical training qualifications. Although there are professional organizations and publications of relevance to technical trainers, few of these are specifically focused on that profession”*

[Wikipedia](#)

## Roundtable Topics

These topics will be starting points for discussion during the roundtable. This document will be added to using all of the content collected during the session and shared with all attendees after the session has concluded via Dropbox and/or the Autodesk University App.

### Tools of the Trade

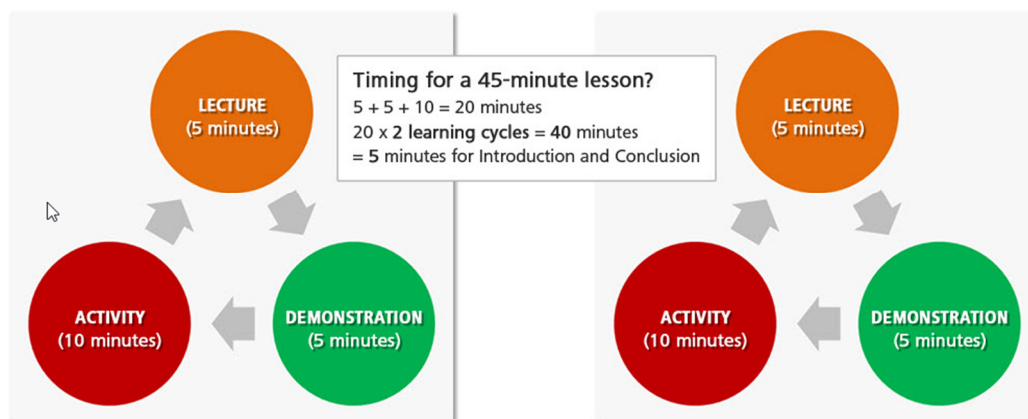
- PowerPoint / Prezi
- Whiteboard / Chalkboard / Flip Chart
- ZoomIt
- Laser pointer
- Others?

### Student Engagement

- Class Content
- Hands-on practice vs. Demo vs. Lecture
- Instructor Tone / Humor
- Postsecondary Students vs. Adult Learner
- Learning Cycle (45 minutes)



## Learning Cycle and Timing



- Others?

## Workflow vs. Buttonology

- What is Buttonology
- Is a Demo different from Workflow?
- Can you use both?
- Others?

## Class Preparation

- Can you over prep?
- When should you prep
- How do you prep for the unexpected?
- Others?

## Dealing with Questions

- When should questions be allowed
- How to ask questions of the Students?
- Others?

## Dealing with Conflict

- Class clowns
- Troublemakers
- Slower learners vs. Fast learners
- Others?



## Post Roundtable Feedback

### What is a Technical Trainer?

- “A technical trainer is a teacher that never wanted to be a teacher”
- “A punching bag”
- “Someone that has been voluntold for the position”

### Why is it Hard to get Training Approved?

- Management need to understand that training is important
- Maybe the bosses needed to know “Why” they are using Revit, so they can see why training their Revit users is important
- If more owners attended events like AU they could learn the reasons why Revit training is needed
- Company size does effect training ability and scope

### Preferred Training Method

- Face to Face or classroom based was #1
- Online has its place, but not a replacement for face to face
- Training based on workflow is preferred over genera picks & clicks training
- Keep the PowerPoint to a minimum
- The class was split about 50/50
  - Half thought everyone (all users) should know the basics of all Revit
  - The other half thought there should be specialized training, and user can be specialized in what area of Revit the work in
- Base the training on support requests,
  - If there are multiple requests from support in one area, it's a good area for a training

### Why is it Hard to Hire a Revit User?

- There is not enough Revit being taught in Post-Secondary schools (or high schools)
  - It was suggested that Colleges and trade schools are ahead of Universities in this area
- We as a group of Professionals can help this issues by volunteering at our local Post-secondary schools and schoolboards to let them know what industry really needs from program graduates
- There is also a difference between what is learned at a school vs. real world experience.

### Thoughts on Knowledge Assessment Tests

- Some liked the idea some didn't – it was about 60/40 positive on the idea
- There was more positive reaction when using the assessment when hiring as opposed to using for current employees
- One suggestions for this was to use a “custom made” firm specific test.



- This would allow the firm to go back and review the results and see if the errors are ones that can be corrected, or if the mistakes are once that can be learned from.
- A point for assessment tests was that sometimes when new hires say they “know” Revit that what they “Know” can cause more issues. It’s better to do a test and confirm what they “Know” and if it matches company standards.

### Training Tricks Beyond the Classroom

- Seat the new person, or the newly trained person between two of your Revit power users. This way the new user has people nearby to ask for help, and will learn just by seeing and hearing the power user’s everyday interactions.
- Have a “BIM Nest” This is a desk beside the BIM Manager in your office that new Revit users (or new hires) can sit at for 2 weeks to have direct contact and support from the BIM manager.
- Have a “Center of Excellence” in your office and empower your super star Revit user to be able to help with training.
- Use “Level Learning”
  - This is where people help train or mentor those that are below their knowledge level.
    - BIM Manager teach power users
    - Power users teach intermediate users
    - Intermediate users teach new users
- Start Revit training by having new users turn CAD projects into Revit projects

### Workarounds

- Workarounds can bite you in the ass
- After showing them the work around – show them the correct way to do it

### Who is Technical Training For?

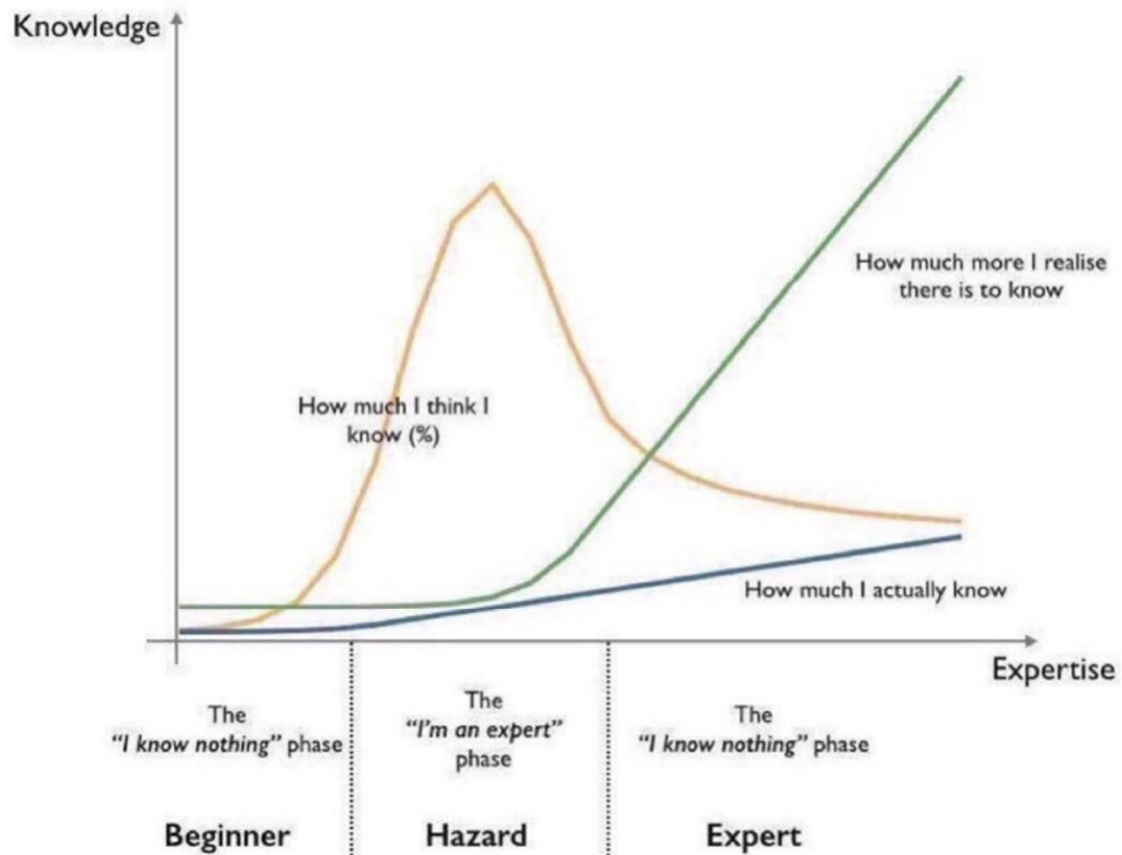
- Technical training is not just for the users, should be for everyone
- Special classes just for the PM’s so they understand Revit, not really use it, but understand it

### Session Quotes Worth Sharing

- “That was just free you gave away”
- “I think CAD really screwed the industry”
- “The floor plan (design) should stop moving at some point...back in the hand drafting days it did”
- “LOD is just a buzz word”
- “Mentoring is a lost art”
- “Training – That’s why we have weekends right?”
- “When I hear we hired a BIM expert I shake with fear”



## Knowledge vs. Expertise



Vala Afshar @ValaAfshar · Nov 24

- Beginner: I know nothing
- Hazard: I'm an expert
- Expert: I know nothing

Be teachable. #ThursdayThoughts



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[Source](#)