

## Special Report: BIM in Australia

April 2016



### Is BIM a growing trend in Australia? Redstack investigates

When it comes to technology in the construction, engineering and project management industries, there is little going past [Building Information Modeling](#) (BIM). The intelligent model-based process allows professionals to undertake projects with clarity, accuracy and logic, delivering outstanding results when implemented correctly.

However, it is fair to add that BIM adoption across many regions, including Australia, has been slower than expected for a number of reasons. As such, we at Redstack conducted our own survey of over 150 industry professionals to gather their thoughts on BIM in Australia and explore the future of BIM.

#### Survey parameters

While the majority (93 per cent) of our participants were based in Australia, we also surveyed a handful from New Zealand, the USA, UK, Canada, Papua New Guinea, Qatar and the UK.

It is also important to note that we analysed the thoughts of many of those in senior management roles related to BIM. These included various BIM professionals, directors, design professionals, architects, project managers, CAD professionals, engineers and principals. By doing this, we are able to capture a unique snapshot of the attitudes around BIM adoption and greater tailor our own services to our customers and clients.

#### Scope of BIM adoption in Australia

One of the major findings from our survey was that almost half (47 per cent) of respondents had completed at least one BIM project in recent years. When it comes to planning and starting to use BIM tools, 20 per cent are currently implementing BIM, while 18 per cent have considered the opportunity and are making plans to involve this technology moving forward.

On the flip side of this point, just 14 per cent of respondents have either not thought about BIM and decided not to implement or haven't considered BIM at all. Certainly, this is a more positive response than similar reports in the past.

Although 47 percent claim they have completed at least one BIM project, there are many different opinions on what BIM is. We found many people who claim to have completed a BIM project are simply producing a 3D model or practising clash detection, but BIM is much more than this. See presentation by Jack DeCandia for more details: [Discover the True Meaning of BIM](#)

As a result, around 50 per cent of the organisations have clearly defined documents used for BIM processes.

Of course, there is plenty of choice on the market when it comes to BIM today. The majority of survey participants use [Autodesk solutions](#) such as [Revit](#), [Navisworks](#) and [AutoCAD](#), but smaller offerings such as Archicad, Trimble, Tekla, Sketchup, Busi, Revizto, Solibri and Aecosim also featured.

While at Redstack, we offer some of this software, a diverse market is a sign that BIM is becoming a fully recognised trend across the region and world.

At Redstack, we are committed to providing services that add value to projects and ensure your next task stays both on budget and time.

### **BIM - the obstacles**

While adoption is improving, there are also a number of obstacles preventing business leaders from extending their BIM processes further. In our survey, 35 per cent of respondents noted a lack of client demand - highlighting a greater need for BIM education throughout the region.

Other BIM barriers included a lack of executive management support (16 per cent), no BIM manager (9 per cent), inadequate software (7 per cent) and a lack of training opportunities (4 per cent).

The only way that BIM can make a positive impact in various industries is by having professionals with the knowledge and skills to showcase its benefits. However, the government can also play a critical role in these proceedings.

### **Should the Australian government mandate BIM?**

According to the results of our survey, this is certainly something that most respondents would be happy about. A total of 80 per cent of participants noted that the government should make BIM mandatory across all or some projects, compared to just the 20 per cent who thought the opposite.

Additionally, on a scale of 1-10, most people (138) thought that BIM-mandated government building projects would have a neutral or positive impact on their organisation - supporting better standards, timelines, consistency and supply-chain integration.

BIM is a truly international concept today. As such, Australian businesses should note that outsourcing BIM Management, BIM services and/or BIM support is becoming a fundamental part of design and construction projects. However, when it comes to outsourcing these services, it is clear that more knowledge is required.

Would you or your company consider outsourcing these services?

- Unsure (39.2 per cent)
- No (36.6 per cent)
- Yes (24.1 per cent)

### **Learning more about BIM**

Respondents to the Redstack BIM survey also outlined their preferences around which BIM topics they would like more information about. The results were as follows.

#### *General information on BIM*

- No (50.3 per cent)
- Yes (45.0 per cent)
- Unsure (3.9 per cent)

#### *How to implement BIM*

- No (52.2 per cent)
- Yes (41.1 per cent)
- Unsure (6.5 per cent)

#### *How to develop a BIM Roadmap/ BIM Execution Plan*

- Yes (49.0 per cent)
- No (42.4 per cent)
- Unsure (8.4 per cent)

#### *BIM Software*

- No (48.3 per cent)
- Yes (45.7 per cent)
- Unsure (5.8 per cent)

#### *BIM Hardware*

- No (49.6 per cent)
- Yes (41.8 per cent)
- Unsure (8.4 per cent)

#### **Conclusion - what have we learnt?**

It is certainly true that BIM is becoming a concept that is well-respected around Australia and the world. It was pleasing to note that over two-thirds of businesses consider themselves BIM-able or believe they will be in the near future.

However, there are still a number of obstacles that stand in the way of full implementation in a number of industries.

Firstly, there is stakeholder engagement. At the moment, many clients aren't seeking more information about BIM, and there is a lack of executive management support. Without this support and demand, the advantages and benefit of BIM unfortunately will not be realised for some time.

Secondly, the respective governments may need to play a greater role in BIM adoption. Around 80 per cent of survey respondents cited that governments should mandate the use of BIM on projects moving forward. If this was the case, there was an overwhelmingly majority that said it would have a positive impact on their operations.

International competition is a major driver of BIM as a concept, and now is the time for businesses in the Asia-Pacific region to take full advantage. We recommend partnering with experienced professionals who have delivered successful BIM projects to begin reaping the potential benefits of BIM on your next project. If you or your business would like to learn more about BIM, feel free to [contact us](#) today.

## More information on BIM?

Learn more about Building Information Modeling at our [BIM website](#):

- [What is BIM?](#)
- [BIM Services](#)
- [Proven BIM Expertise](#)
- [Benefits of BIM](#)
- [Free BIM Resources](#) - Whitepapers, blog posts and more

[Contact us](#) today for further assistance with implementing BIM at your organisation.

### More Information:

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## About Redstack

### Thinking by Design

Redstack is a leading provider of design technology and services to engineering and architecture professionals. With over 15 years of local experience, we provide the expertise, training and support to help companies realise the full power of their design technology. We partner with the world's leading technology providers such as Autodesk, Ultimaker, Apple, Avitus, Maptek, IMAGINiT Technologies and RAND Worldwide to provide local service with the support of global resources.