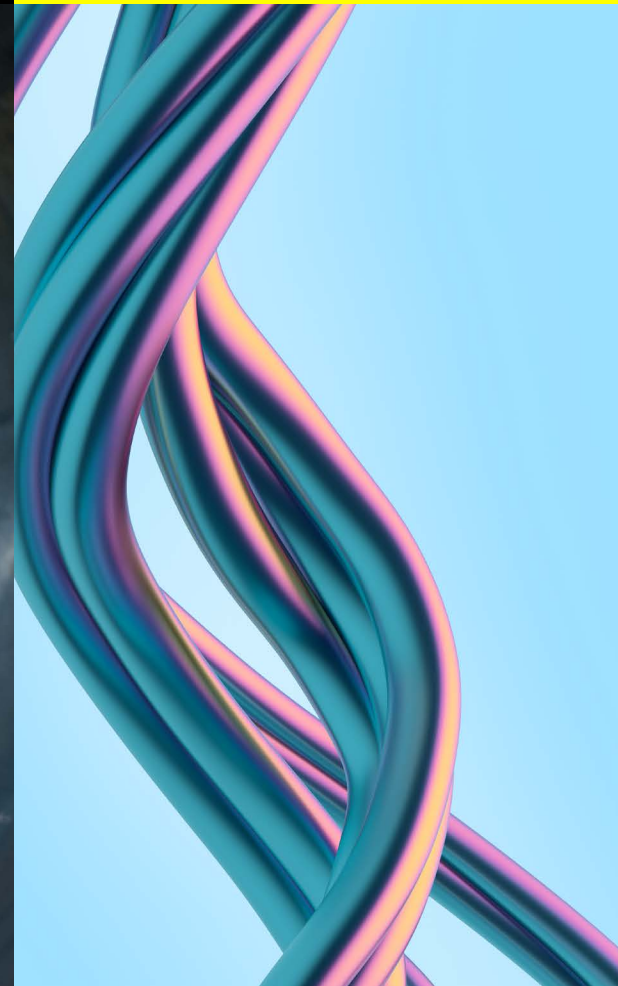
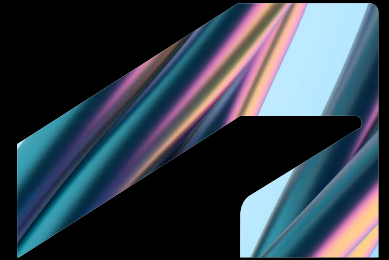


 AUTODESK

# Keep control of **your data**



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How Bridge works

# Introduction

Every construction project generates vast amounts of data – daily. This presents a massive opportunity for companies prepared to harness their data’s potential. They can achieve more effective planning, decision-making and growth.

Research from Deloitte Access Economics, commissioned by Autodesk, showed construction companies that are data leaders – meaning they’re focused on data analysis, strategy and talent – can expect a 50% increase in profit growth each year compared to data beginners.



Common data environments (CDEs) empower their users to collect, analyse and use construction data efficiently – whether from the office or on site. Natasha Renwick-Curran, group document controller at Mercury Engineering, explains that by adopting a CDE, the company

“aimed to establish a standardised delivery approach, enhancing project execution, ensuring consistent data and promoting uniformity across various projects.”

The background features a complex, dark blue 3D geometric structure composed of interconnected, angular, and somewhat crystalline forms. Two bright yellow callout boxes are overlaid on the structure, highlighting specific areas. The first box is a simple rectangle on the left side. The second box is more complex, with rounded corners and a small protrusion on its right side, located on the right side of the image.

02

**Avoid the  
risk of losing  
valuable data**

On a typical construction project, many users access a CDE through another company's licence. They benefit from access to a single, comprehensive source of truth during the project – but after the project, they lose access, and leave valuable data behind.

When they get their own licence, these professionals unlock the power of their data. They have a record of decisions taken on each project, and over the course of multiple projects, can build a rich data set that can transform their decision-making abilities.

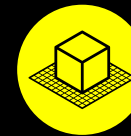
## Advantages of Autodesk Forma

Forma powers collaboration across disciplines, offering:



### Enhanced communication

with full data visibility and accountability



### 3D models

to give all stakeholders the whole picture



### Clash detection

for reduced rework



### Real-time data

to let you identify risks



### Improved accuracy

in scheduling, planning and cost estimates

LEARN MORE →



03

# Why have your own licence?



Working in a CDE without your own licence may seem handy, but it comes at the cost of future growth. With your own licence, you have full access to all your data post-project, letting you:

- reply confidently to queries at any point
- settle disputes or warranty claims
- drive future decisions with data
- structure your data for next-generation AI-powered predictive analytics.

As a guest user on another company's licence, you also risk sharing too much data in the process.

During the project, it's vital to keep your own project documents and photos together for your team's reference. But that makes it easy to overshare when you work in someone else's CDE.

You may have information you wouldn't want potential competitors to access, or photos you wouldn't want clients to see. But facing the time pressure and complexity of an ongoing project, it's easy to upload more data than you intended to share.

And if you want to keep access to your data after the project, you face a time-consuming and error-prone burden of duplicating all your documentation throughout the project's life.



With your own license, you can keep your data together, ringfence what's just for your team, and access it forever, without any duplication.



04

**Share and  
keep data  
efficiently**

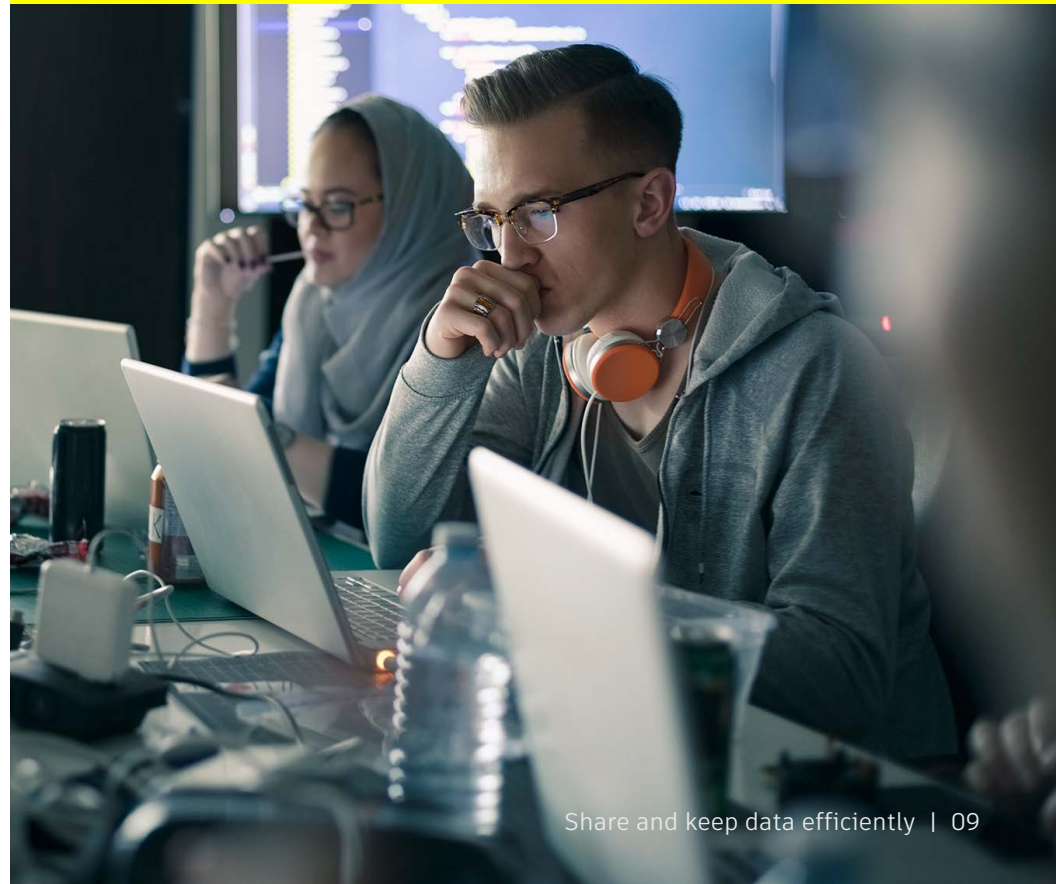
Even when working together in a CDE, sharing the right amount of project data with the right people can pose a challenge to AEC professionals.

When stakeholders are working within their own projects, sharing data means manually downloading and uploading files and sheets. This is not just time consuming – it means that at any point, simple human error can result in a loss of data. And it introduces delays and gaps that can lead to rework, as data that's up to date on one stakeholder's system won't be up to date on the others until the next round of manual transfers are complete.

An alternative is to share entire projects with team members and other collaborators. This requires careful permission-setting, with any mistakes leaving people out of the loop, or exposing sensitive information.

### **Autodesk offers a solution: Bridge.**

With Bridge, construction professionals can easily – even automatically – share the right data with other stakeholders within Autodesk Forma, without needing to be on the same team or project.



05

# How Bridge gives stakeholders control and flexibility



Bridge clears the way for obstacle-free data sharing among stakeholders in Autodesk Forma. It improves everyone's control and management of project information, for better collaboration and reduced rework.

### **Designers**

Design teams create valuable IP in their work – and they may not want to share it with all project stakeholders. With Bridge, they can select the documents that need to be shared, and choose not to share all versions or files. This flexibility lets them keep their IP in their own account without risking privacy concerns.

### **Main contractors**

When working on large-scale projects, main contractors may want to split out different parts of the project into their own project 'instances' within Forma. Bridge lets them do this easily – along with sharing any relevant documentation that applies to the larger master project.

### **Specialist contractors and service providers**

Specialist contractors and service providers can struggle to access the right data and information from the licence owner – often the main contractor – in Forma. They risk being removed from the project, or challenged by sheet count restrictions. But Bridge helps them access the information they need, and gives them control of documentation processes on the backend.

### **Owners**

Owners need visibility into the progress of a project and may need certain deliverables from the construction teams. Bridge helps construction teams share the required information with owners in real time. And it lets owners control their documentation, rather than leaving it within a main contractor's project.

**Bridge simplifies and de-risks collaboration across projects, for every team involved.**



## Poor sharing practices mean bad data

Human error or lags in manual data-sharing on projects can create 'bad data' – any data that's inaccurate, incomplete, inaccessible, inconsistent or untimely.

Our recent report with FMI, [Harnessing the Data Advantage in Construction](#), found bad data is widespread, and its costs are high.

Half of construction professionals we surveyed ranked **the inability to easily combine data from different sources** as a top reason data was unusable.

# 30% |

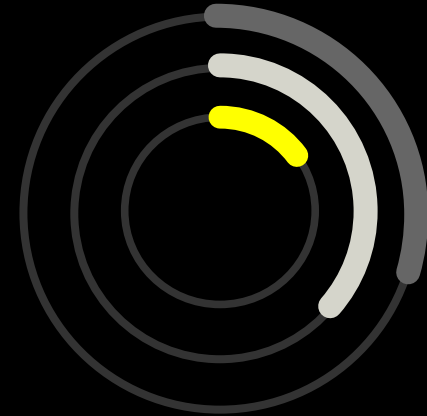
indicated that over 50% of their project data is bad

# 34% |

said bad project data resulted in **poor decisions** more than 50% of the time

# 14% |

of all **rework** in construction globally is caused by bad data

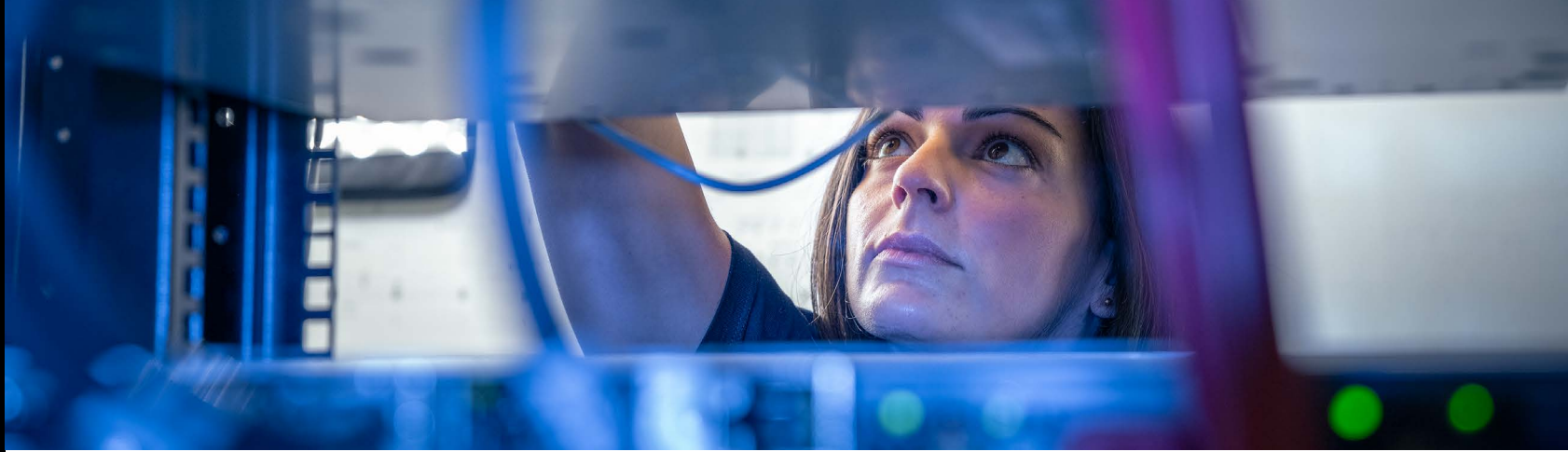


Working in a CDE with automated data-sharing among stakeholders protects the quality and ongoing value of your data.

06

# How Bridge works





Bridge streamlines the data flow among stakeholders by allowing teams on Autodesk Forma to:

- **Share:** Share files, folders or sheets across different projects or accounts
- **Automate:** Set up automations for sheet sharing so that receiving teams always have the most up-to-date versions
- **Import:** Import sheets from other projects on which you're a project admin
- **Link:** Create bridged projects for direct project linking to simplify share workflows even more
- **Centralise:** View and manage a summary list of all incoming or outgoing shares

By standardising document management workflows, Bridge lets professionals focus their skills on the project at hand, instead of spending time managing files and permissions. This drives quality, reduces errors and helps keep projects running on time and within budget.



## In focus: Engineering Fire Protection

As Dublin-based Jones Engineering Fire Protection clients increasingly insist on Autodesk Forma, Bridge enhances collaboration, productivity and quality.

Specialising in design, build and maintenance, Jones Engineering Fire Protection needed a digital platform that could suit all its departments.

“Forma gives us the tools we need, across every team,” says Andrew Tighe, regional BIM manager for Nordics and Europe.

Since implementing Forma as its internal CDE in 2021, the company has been able to develop processes and workflows to enhance communication and collaboration between office and site teams on projects all across Europe – dramatically increasing its overall productivity.

“We see Forma as a game changer for our team,” says Andrew. “It ensures that we now have full access to our data from a single source of truth across all stages of the project lifecycle.”



### Protecting collaboration

Jones Engineering Fire Protection works primarily as a subcontractor. In recent years, it has seen main contractors increasingly transition to Forma.

“When they hire us to design and build the fire protection systems on their projects, they want us to work directly from their Forma account during the design phase. This hinders our ability to use the processes and workflows we developed within our own team, on our own Forma account,” Andrew explains.

## Secure data, productive teams – and reduced errors

“At Jones Engineering, we believe the most important assets any company in the modern AEC industry has are its data and its people,” says Andrew. Bridge supports both – and drives design quality as well.

Bridge ensures the business maintains control of its own data and workflows, and facilitates sharing of the right data at the right time. This provides the company with an extra layer of security, and automates the mundane tasks of manually uploading or removing files, improving productivity and reducing risk for the team.

“Now, our team has confidence the information being shared is current and live,” says Andrew. “Our whole supply chain can collaborate more smoothly, with the latest project information always at hand. And by eliminating gaps in communication, Bridge has brought a considerable reduction in design errors.”



# Conclusion:

A CDE such as Autodesk Forma gives all stakeholders on a project a single source of truth – one they can access from their desk or from the phone in their pocket, for real-time data. This level of collaboration brings new levels of efficiency, transparency and accuracy to construction projects.

Those professionals with Forma licences maintain access to project data, even after handover. They're poised to transform their business through data-driven decision-making, supported by best-in-class tools:

- **Insight dashboards** help leaders spot trends, track accountability and identify risk areas.
- **Insight Builder** lets users build custom dashboards and reports directly within Forma using pre-modeled datasets – supporting faster, more confident decisions at every level.
- **AI-enabled ConstructionIQ** provides early visibility into issues before they become delays or costly mistakes.
- **Data Connector** allows advanced analytics and cross-platform reporting by combining Forma data with financials, ERP, HR systems and more.



# Conclusion:

Those who are best able to manage their own data sharing during a project will save time and reduce risks – both in terms of protecting sensitive data, and preventing the communication gaps that can lead to errors, conflict and rework. And as AI becomes more important to construction analytics, they'll be prepared to benefit from its insights, with standardised, well-structured data at the ready.

Using Autodesk Forma under your own licence, and using Bridge to manage the flow of your data among stakeholders, lets you harness your data for greater value and stronger performance during each project – and after.



# See the future of connected construction

[construction.autodesk.eu](https://construction.autodesk.eu)

The construction industry requires solutions that connect their information, teams and technology – breaking down data silos and disconnected processes that hinder true transformation.

As we're pushed to do more with less, we need to uncover new ways of working, enhance connected digital workflows and incorporate advanced analytics. This transformation must lean into tools that connect construction – from design to plan, build, handover and operations.

Built on a unified platform and common data environment, Autodesk Forma is a powerful and complete portfolio of construction management products that empowers main contractors, specialty trades, designers and owners to drive better business outcomes.

Forma combines advanced technology, a unique builders' network and predictive insights to connect teams, workflows and data across the entire building lifecycle.

While the industry experiences unprecedented transformation, our mission remains the same: to help construction teams meet the world's rapidly expanding building and infrastructure needs – while making construction more predictable, safe and sustainable.

We've remained steadfast in our promise to deliver the industry's most compelling solutions for connecting data, teams and workflows from the construction site. This is our commitment to connected construction.



Autodesk is changing how the world is designed and made. Our technology spans architecture, engineering, construction, product design, manufacturing, media, and entertainment, empowering innovators everywhere to solve challenges big and small.

From greener buildings to smarter products to more mesmerising blockbusters, Autodesk software helps our customers to design and make a better world for all.

For more information visit [construction.autodesk.eu](https://www.construction.autodesk.eu)



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