



With the latest release of InfraWorks comes a change to how we share and publish the models online. With a push for collaborative working InfraWorks has now been transitioned over to sit within the BIM360 realm.

BIM360 is Autodesk's Cloud based data platform. BIM360 acts as the Common Data Environment (CDE) for management of the entire project across multiple software platforms and file formats. As the name suggests it is targeted at BIM deliverables with built in tools for file sharing and management. BIM 360 allows for online viewing of models and drawings, even to those who don't have the software due to its built in viewer, which InfraWorks can now take full advantage of. <https://bim360.autodesk.com/>

In order to store and access the Model on BIM360 you must first have an account. AEC collection subscribers have a 12-month preview and others can sign up for a 30 day free trial before committing. I would advise checking the terms and conditions regarding the use of the trials commercially.

If a BIM360 account is not going to be used you will still have the option to use the Model Builder, but the model will have to be saved locally. This too however has now changed and the local location can now be the project file on a company server. The files will initially be created in a temporary BIM360 Folder, but once opened will be saved to your local file. This location can be managed 2 ways, either through the Application Options before creation or by duplicating the model afterwards.

Those who will be going forward with BIM360 will need to first set up the Project file on BIM360 and the relevant project file structure. Upon creating the InfraWorks model you will be able to assign the Project and folder location on BIM360.

It is worth noting that once a model has been opened and upgraded in InfraWorks 2019 it is not backwards compatible with earlier versions. You are given a choice when opening the model for the first time in 2019 to either open and upgrade or to upgrade a copy.

InfraWorks within the BIM360 environment does allow for much more flexibility and reach.

Just like previous versions syncing a model and publishing a model hasn't really changed. We do inherit a greater control from the BIM360 platform. We are able to assign Upload, View, Edit or full access permissions to models or proposals within it. External clients can be invited to view the data via the web application and even leave comments and mark up drawings. Components imported and synced within the model are fully visible online with functionality to section through and take a groundlevel stroll through the proposed designs.

The migration over to BIM360 only opens up more opportunities to break the boundaries of concept and reality.

Keep an eye out for more articles exploring the new functionalities that this collaboration brings.

