

Newsletter

One of the many spectacular views from Bentley's office in Gracechurch Street



Spring 2012



Newsletter 11

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Introduction

It's confirmed! We had a record number of attendees at our Community Day on 1 March 2012 – 57 in total!

We also welcomed a record five new members:

- Appear Networks Systems (from Sweden)
- Autodesk
- Milestone
- Simeio
- Vela Systems.

A number of guests also attended and we are hoping these will be the new members this season:

- Bam Nuttall
- Comply Serve
- Crossrail
- Level3
- Mott McDonald
- Sisk
- Transport for London.

If you wish to be put in touch with the new members or guests, please contact Gerry on Gerry.samuelsson-brown@bsria.co.uk.

User Acceptance Workshop

This is a project undertaken by Neill Pawsey and Andy May of Loughborough University, with support from FIATECH. The last stages of the research are being pulled together and a report will be available for COMIT members for the June Community Day. The workshop was to present some key findings and ask members present to validate the findings.

Members were split into five groups to discuss issues and see if anything key was missing. The table below shows the results of our voting:

	Const	Tech
1.Ensuring ease of use (software)	12	31
2. Ensuring adequate piloting and testing of the solution	11	33
3. Getting support and buy-in from senior management	10	30
4.Designing the mobile solution based upon adequate understanding of the job / process	15	28
5. Having adequate connectivity when you need it	3	10
6. Having end user involvement during development and testing	17	22
7. Providing provision for dealing with unanticipated problems	4	7
8.Encouraging users to adopt new mobile technology by removing the old ways of working	1	5



Each group had broad agreement on all issues in the table. The following points were emphasised:

- The need to have support but note, not control!
- Important to consider what one is trying to achieve and not just regurgitate the paper system
- Must undertake thorough pilots that are implemented appropriately
- Must ensure that it doesn't increase workload – mustn't add yet another layer
- Ensure benefits are well promoted to get better user adoption
- Set up KPIs to ensure proper application.
- The last statement in the table should be re-phrased as some old ways of working might be fine.

Elements missing that are important:

- Consider “what is in it for me as the end user?”
- Where is the business benefit? There must be a clearly defined scope.

If you have any further thoughts of these findings, please contact Neill or Andy May on pawsey@fiatech.org and A.J.May@lboro.ac.uk.



Throughout the day a number of Construction Soapbox sessions were held. By the end of the day a number of ideas had been bandied about and some early ideas for potential projects.

Soapbox 1: Shepherd

Steve Slater and Martin Wing of Shepherd raised issues with photos on site and problems with the current process. This can impact where there is a legitimate claim and yet this cannot be proved. Re photos:

- Inconsistent file naming
- Photos not filed in correct location
- Photos are difficult to find
- Images stored are not always a good resolution
- Images are not classified properly and how long should they be kept?

Re processes: problems with rapid communication

- Reaching all workforce
- Relevant information, etc.

Ideally, Shepherd needs an IT solution to resolve the above (WiFi bubbles). If you have any ideas, please contact Sharika on s.fernando@comitproject.org.uk

Soapbox 2: Transport for London

Asset information is a huge issue with extensive information across a wide area: roads, underground, buildings, materials and so on and on and on. Obtaining information while out on site is a real problem. Solutions need to relate to a physical asset (ie remote signal box). Reactive maintenance teams need to access where materials are located, etc.

Paul Shillcock of Transport for London set a challenge to COMIT. The challenges TFL face are getting the data into the field to those who need it and enabling field operatives to update the data on site, ensuring the data remains current. If you think you have an idea or potential solution, contact Sharika on s.fernando@comitproject.org.uk

Soapbox 3: Roadtechs

Stuart Young from Roadtechs discussed many issue including the need for efficient planning management. Above all Stuart's comments focused on the need for effective “as is” process mapping. Knowing what you “actually” do with information, who is involved and how they interact with the process. This should be done well in advance of any technology selection or adoption.

If you can help, please contact Sharika on s.fernando@comitproject.org.uk

Soapbox 4: Balfour Beatty Ground Engineering

Andrew Dodsworth's key issue was around snagging and the need to speed up defects and outstanding work lists.



What were we trying to achieve?

- Speed up Defect and Outstanding Works List compilation
- Standardise the format and information gathered for both DOWs and Safety Inspections
- Standardise the process
- Monitor and manage outstanding DOWs
- Remove waste and make the inspection process flow

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Andrew explained what devices and processes were used and provided lessons learned of what they would do differently.



What would we do differently

- 1 database, but with multiple standard filters
- Better handheld device.
- Involve users at an earlier stage in the development process
- WiFi Coverage?
- Cleaner menus
- Support multiple devices
- Expand – not just for inspections

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If you have some ideas that would help, contact Sharika on s.fernando@comitproject.org.uk

Soapbox 5: Costain M1 (junction 10-13 improvements)

Ian Bowley from Costain explained the trials that had taken place, the systems used and their pros and cons. Improvements include:

- Early involvement and set up
- Try to get one bit right and build
- Technical support
- Data/information management

- Barcode/Pin numbers.

But what of the future?

- Hyper links
- Diaries
- Barcode information
- Real time information RAMS, drawings, tool box talks, safety alerts.

In conclusion, these are key factors:

- Early involvement
- Correct set up
- System management
- Health and safety on site

Can you help? Contact Sharika on s.fernando@comitproject.org.uk

Project updates



A number are in various stages of progress:

- Real Time Field Reporting using Smart Devices – Report forthcoming
- Real Time Field Reporting using Smart Devices and Software
- Augmented Reality
- Asset Tracking using RFID Technology
- Distributed Information Modelling for Infrastructure (DiMi): whole life construction and operation
- Heterogeneous Real-Time Data Capture
- Crossrail IT Demonstration – vehicle proximity and safety

Project details can be found on the COMIT website. If you would like more information on any of the above, or have an idea for a project, contact Sharika on s.fernando@comitproject.org.uk

Forthcoming Events:

COMIT members have the opportunity to attend a number of events in 2012, so far we have:

- **27 March** - Mobile Apps in the Built Environment (half day, free event). MobiBiz is sponsoring this. Building Design Centre, London
- **17 & 18 May** - ConstructIT Spring Conference (free to COMIT members). Coins-Global is sponsoring this. CIOB, Ascot.
- **25 May** - ICT4 Construction (COMIT members – half price). Islington, London
- **30 June** - Clancy Group's Lighthouse Club Ball (tickets each £175). Harefield, Middlesex.

Community Days:

- **Thursday 7 June**, hosted by Waterstons, Durham
- **Thursday 6 Sep**, hosted by University of Reading
- **Thursday 6 Dec** (hosted by BT at Ipswich).

STOP-PRESS! COMIT OWNS a bright pink egg timer! Want to know why – then come along to our June Community Day to find out!



Financial Update

Gerry commented that such has been our strength since COMIT PROJECTS Ltd was started last October as its own entity (£54k invoiced) that we will be registering for VAT. Gerry will inform members when this is commencing. It is considered that all COMIT members are of a size to be VAT registered so recovering this should not be a problem. If it is, please have a word with Gerry on gerry.samuelsson-brown@bsria.co.uk.

Connections Cards

We are building up a connections card for each member that shows your photo, where you are located, what you want from COMIT and what you can offer. The idea is that these will be on the website so that you know “who is who” and where you might find a potential partner / contact. Gerry will be in touch with members without completed cards. Below is Gerry's example so if you want to send through some comments / mug-shot, to build your card please email this to Gerry on gerry.samuelsson-brown@bsria.co.uk

Gerry Samuelsson-Brown



I want to:

Assist firms (however they are involved with the construction industry) to work more efficiently ... and safely

I can offer:

As Secretariat ...

- administrative support to members and the COMIT Steering group
- a point of contact for internal and external enquiries.

Steering Group

Do you have an idea or anything you want to raise? Our contact details are below – we would love to hear from you!

See you on 7th March!



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COMIT is run on a not for profit basis for the benefit of its members

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