



Construction Opportunities for Mobile IT
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Newsletters



Autumn 2012



Newsletter 13 September 2012



Introduction

Thirty five delegates winged their way South to the University of Reading, hosts for our Community Day and AGM.

Chairmen's comments

Jason commented that Balfour Beatty (BB), like many construction firms, has been undergoing major restructuring. The day before the Community Day Jason attended a meeting concerning IT. One thing that was raised was that BB is formally supporting Apple partly because workers bring in their own devices and there is growing pressure to support other platforms like Android. The question was asked is there an intrinsically "safe" Apple iPad? It appears that currently the answer is "no". BB use remote access a lot and there is increasing interest in use of internet collaboration tools like Business Collaborator. One delegate commented that their firm avoids Android solutions because of security issues. If you have any feedback on this, please contact Jason on Jason.Scott@bbge.com.

Iain is on security duty at the Paralympics but sent a message by video (see posting of this on the COMIT website). The more companies Iain visits the more he sees mobile IT as a key requirement. Iain will be back to COMIT business around 9th October – in the meantime, Stuart Young is covering his chairmanship duties – Stuart can be contacted on beulahgig@gmail.com.

We welcomed a new member: Turner & Townsend, represented by Jill Townsend (jill.mortimer@turntown.com) and Ben Duerden (ben.duerden@turntown.co.uk). We also welcomed our guests: Cadfaster, Fulcro and Human Recognition Systems.

If you wish to be put in touch with the new

members or guests, please contact Gerry on Gerry.samuelsson-brown@bsria.co.uk.

University of Reading Showcase

Jennifer Whyte introduced the UK Government BIM strategy "*open shareable asset information in all public procurement by 2016, to address the issues of cost, value and carbon*". Jennifer has been involved in the BIM task group, in June running an on-line seminar with many international colleagues.



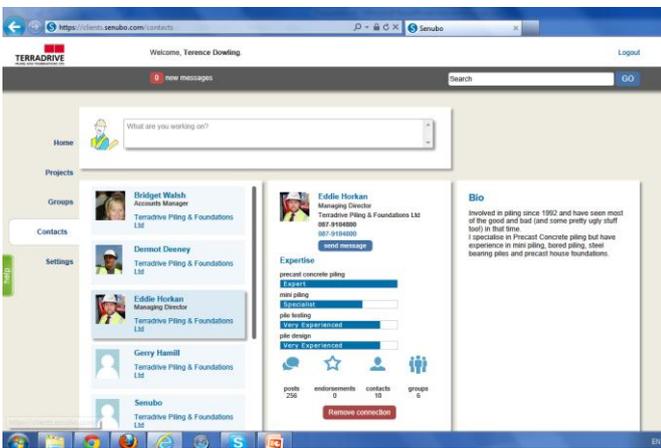
Reading University has developed digital practices as a core activity. This covers research within health and care infrastructure, technologies for Sustainable Built Environments and the Design Innovation Research Centre. Jennifer also stressed the important contribution that COMIT is doing to promote meaningful deployment of mobile IT by undertaking trials and probing solutions to help organisations make the best decisions.

We face a whole host of challenges regarding digital integration of data – an opportunity indeed for COMIT! If you would like more information on the research, teaching or exploratory work being done, please contact Jennifer Whyte on designinnovation@reading.ac.uk or check out www.reading.ac.uk/designinnovation/.

COMIT Connections

Eddie gave a presentation on the Senubo Platform and Conor showed how the connections profiles work in practice. This identifies who has particular expertise and discussions that have taken place around certain issues. An idea or request can be posted. You can gain access to look up a contact or project or seek a particular skill base via email or mobiles SMS.

Why Senubo for COMIT? Everything is in one place, it is mobile (coMOBILEit), and contains a lot of knowledge in the profiles, including the – COMIT skills register. *“Remember, something you know, could be useful to someone else sometime soon – So start being found by leaving a footprint”*.



For more information contact Conor Heffernan or Eddie Horkan or conor@senubo.co.uk eddie@senubo.co.uk

Call for Project Partners

Sandeep Jain from MobiBiz Ltd is seeking partners. MobiBiz has been developing a massively scalable supplier logistics management & supply chain risk management solution in the cloud focusing on: real time end-end supply chain visibility, risk analytics and configurable KPIs to optimize construction supply chain. MobiBiz is holding a beta launch for this product in October and is looking for partners. For more information please contact Sandeep on sjain@mobilbizlive.com

COMIT “BIM” for mobility Workshop: Costain

COMIT believes that to reduce procurement by 20%, we not only have to embrace the drive for BIM, but also reassess how the data at its very heart can be mobilised.

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“Government as a client can derive significant improvements in cost, value and carbon performance through the use of open sharable asset information”



BIM alone however, cannot achieve the government’s drive to reduce their procurement costs by 20%.

A more holistic answer would be to promote the use of mobile IT to capture BIM data thereby utilising it more effectively



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David Philp (UK Government – head of BIM implementation at the Cabinet Office) stated that *“COMIT will be playing a very important part in the BIM initiative”* and said he would support (badge) a “BIM for Mobility Task Group”. Our first action was to set up a BIM for Mobility Linked-In Group. Members were encouraged to join this discussion group.

Matt Blackwell from Costain showed how BIM is being adopted on the London Bridge Station project, using as many different devices as possible.

Questions posed for the workshop:

1. How can mobile technology (in its widest sense) be effectively deployed and utilised to capture BIM information?
2. How can mobile technology be deployed and utilised to get BIM information out into the “field”?
3. What are the barriers and challenges and what can COMIT do to promote this?

Responses from the groups include:

- What BIM information is needed? Is BIM all about CAD or is it more? Also various interpretations of what BIM is / means
- Looking at technologies - sequencing of construction out in the field – maybe being tracked using RFID. BIM has initially been in the design stage but there will be a need to use the visualisation of some way of “red lining” to relay information
- Ubiquitous access to information. Aggregate the different formats of

information. Present relevant information (filtering)

- Site connectivity – can technology talk back to the enterprise? Issue when working off-line.
- Need for training for the journey so needs to be KPI driven
- Barriers include cost (commercial implications), security, coverage, technology (end devices) not fit for purpose
- We could promote mobile IT and BIM contextually, beyond the COMIT community via a guide, case studies, anecdotal evidence, etc.
- Biggest challenge is interoperability. People – are they trained and available to embrace and deliver BIM? What are the incentives regarding acceptance of BIM / individual and corporate acceptance. Perhaps an educational role for COMIT
- Are devices fit for person? Durable and reliable with future proofing of technology (given buildings will last a long time).
- What do different users have to have to obtain the right information to right people when they need it?
- Proof of concept work and building business case.
- Barrier comes down to people – intrinsic reluctance to change – industry might need mandatory requirements also user distractions with a H&S implication
- Need to select the correct technology for the job (ie not get fixated on latest fad)
- Cannot be reliant that data you are looking at is correct as it can be manipulated.
- Promotional package for clients.
- Solutions directory – the right technology or the job.
- IT departments – lack of coherence & need to be speaking same language – need to identify the IT risks
- BIM without the additional mobility is only half the story – a challenge / opportunity for COMIT.

For more information contact Matt Blackwell on matt.blackwell@costain.com or Neill on Pawsey@fiatech.org

AGM

Annual Review

Delegates were handed the annual review which gives a summary of all the Community Days, events, projects and financial activities in the last year.

Financial Report

Gerry discussed the very successful year we have had as COMIT PROJECTS Ltd. Our year end is 30 September 2012 and after this the accounts will be audited and prepared for Companies House. The financial data given in the presentation and as shown in the annual Review are the projected year's figures, based upon the 11 months of trading to date.

Key Stats are:

- Turnover predicted of £72,000
- Expenses predicted of £67,000
- Surplus predicted of £5,000 (7%)
- Subscriptions formed 70% of our turnover – our goal in 2013 is to reduce reliance to 50%.

It was agreed that the subscription rate of £1,450 will remain unchanged. Many subscriptions will fall due in October 2012 – Gerry will be in touch but if you know you will require a purchase order number, please set this rolling to help us.

Newly elected Management Committee

COMIT received 7 nominations and these were all voted onto the management committee:

Representing construction:

- Steve Marley - Balfour Beatty Living Places
- Steve Slater – Shepherd Construction
- Glyn Matthews – Speedy Services

Representing technology:

- Simon Bee – Autodesk
- Simon Kalp – Objective Computing
- Peter Daly – SmartBuilder

Representing dissemination:

- Paul Wilkinson - pwcom 2.0

We had no nominations from our academic partners but are hopeful that someone will step up to the mark!

Annual awards

As our tradition, we give awards to firms that we feel have supported COMIT /Mobile IT beyond the call of duty. It was our pleasure to give four awards this year:

Appear Networks for Commitment to Innovation. – received by Otis Burris.



Costain for Investment in New Solutions Award – received by Matt Blackwell.



Senubo for most pro-active new member award – received by Eddie Horkan



The fourth award was to KOREC for initiative to advance Mobile IT and COMIT - no-one was able to attend on the day.

Projects Update

The key ones mentioned include:

- Real Time Field Reporting using Smart Devices and Software
- Vehicle tracking solution – Costain and MobiBiz
- EnablyMyTeam – Innovation in the cloud (TSB bid) MobiBiz and Costain.

All our projects are listed on our website: check it out for other projects taking place - www.comitproject.org.uk.

One important initiative is the Mobicloud Project which is an EC initiative, led by member Appear Networks. COMIT will be working closely with all partners, particularly Costain. COMIT's task is to undertake the dissemination work package and exploitation.

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MobiCloud Project is an EC Initiative

EC Research Program: CIP ICT-PSP

Budget: 4.46M Euros (£3.53M)

Duration: 2012-2014

Founding partners:

APPEAR Netropolis esperantoXL Tracsis COSTAIN COMIT

... Join the Mobicloud Ecosystem NOW!

When Sharika sends information on potential funding bids, Costain always responds but note that all firms can respond. Don't miss the next funding opportunity!

Have you done anything that can be a case study to up load on the web? 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, please contact Sharika on s.fernando@comitproject.org.uk

Events 2012

- **18 Sep** MobiBiz Launch of EnableMyTeam (webinar)
- **27 Sep** Timico/COMIT joint event
- **9 Oct** Construction members meeting, Bracknell
- **11 Oct** Cocktails and drinks reception with MobiBiz's EnableMyTeam, London
- **30 / 31 Oct** Speedy Hire Supplier Conference, Telford
- **15 Nov** COMIT's MobileIT Conference 2012 – "building Information Mobility", London

Community days, 2012

- **6 Dec 2012** - host is BT at Adastral Park, Ipswich

Community days, 2013

- **7 Mar 2013** - host Loughborough University
- **6 Jun 2013** - host Oxford Brookes
- **12 Sep 2013** – host KOREC
- **5 Dec 2013** – host Timico.

SOCIAL 2012

Only six member played volleyball – Gerry, Neill, Jason, Steve Slater, Ben Duerden (new Turner & Townsend member) and Paul Beck. So, with 3 a side there was a lot of running, except by Gerry who waited for the ball to reach her instead!

Our thanks to Simon for taking all the photos (both at the Community Day, AGM and the social) and to Sharika for being our volleyball cheerleader!

Neill in action – but was he playing volleyball or basketball?





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Registered in England No. 7475561

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

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