



HOW AEC CAN SUCCEED WITH DIGITAL

CEO'S GUIDE

5 WAYS TO GET STARTED

1 STREAMLINE SYSTEMS TO CONTROL COSTS

AEC margins are tight. Don't forget that when your systems are antiquated or disconnected, you're wasting money and time. Three places to look...

Payment systems
Eliminate the inefficiencies in payment systems that drive up cost—look for the disconnections and miscommunication wasting money and time.



Project management
Reduce costs by getting better at planning, executing and managing. This is often a reporting issue: ensure that you've got straightforward, timely information on scheduling and pricing.

Health and Safety
Keep your staff safe and mitigate risk with clear, user-friendly processes, systems, and technology.

The AEC sector can be chaotic. It gets even more complicated with all that goes on outside the main office. Check these boxes...

2 GET ONSITE IT RIGHT

Rugged devices
An obvious one that's easily forgotten.

Training Often onsite workers are temporary employees who may not be IT-savvy. Make sure they know how to use your systems and how to keep them secure.



Connectivity
Which is better for the job: Cloud technology? Cellular? Both? It's not going to be the same for every job.

"Having an experienced IT leader on board, with previous experience in the sector, has given management the confidence to make significant investments in systems which have put GRS at the leading edge within the construction industry."

Martin Reid, Group CFO, GRS Roadstone

3 BUILDING INFORMATION MODELING (BIM)



BIM is a computer model for a structure that includes the usual architectural data as well as cost and time. With BIM, you have a model useful for both visualizing a structure and understanding the lifespan and costs of its component parts. The potential advantages are enormous...

Greatly reduced wastage and errors

Increased client satisfaction due to visibility and transparency

Better coordination between architects, engineers, and contractors

More efficient construction with fewer changes

Increased overall quality

4 STAY ON TOP OF NEXT-GEN TECHNOLOGY

Major tech changes will radically change the industry. You don't have to jump on them all. But if you're not staying open to change, you risk getting left behind...



The Internet of Things
Networked, tracked, or 'smart' devices – there's endless potential to track efficiency and usage and to reduce theft and waste.

Drones They're already in use for promotional footage and the like. But surveying is where you're going to see the biggest savings in spending and time. They're especially useful for assessing hard-to-reach or potentially dangerous job sites.

Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR)
Clients will increasingly expect to 'experience' designs using immersive technologies. And the tech is already in use for training on heavy equipment!

3D printing and fabrication
More and more we'll see specific items fabricated on-site, with large and finished assemblies – e.g. plumbing and electrics – fabricated off-site.

5 LOOK FOR IT LEADERSHIP



Many companies have an 'operational' approach to IT, seeing it simply as a line item, rather than a potential source of growth and value. The AEC firms that really want to grow need a Board-level IT expert with a digital vision for growth.

Freeman Clarke specialize in fractional IT leaders that can take ownership of innovation for your company without damaging the bottom line. Our CIOs and CTOs combine real-world business experience with technological know-how.

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