Efficient & Effective Collaboration on Multiple Projects Using Autodesk® A360 Team®

Today's construction and built environment professionals find themselves in an ever changing, fast paced working environment, with constant need for improved communication and collaboration. Many construction projects nowadays require input from various consultants, engineers and design offices, where efficient communication has been lacking in the past. E-mails and phone calls have become outdated technology, and are not as reliable as they once were. Autodesk® A360 Team® provides a comprehensive solution to the growing needs of communication, collaboration and online storage between all parties involved in construction projects.
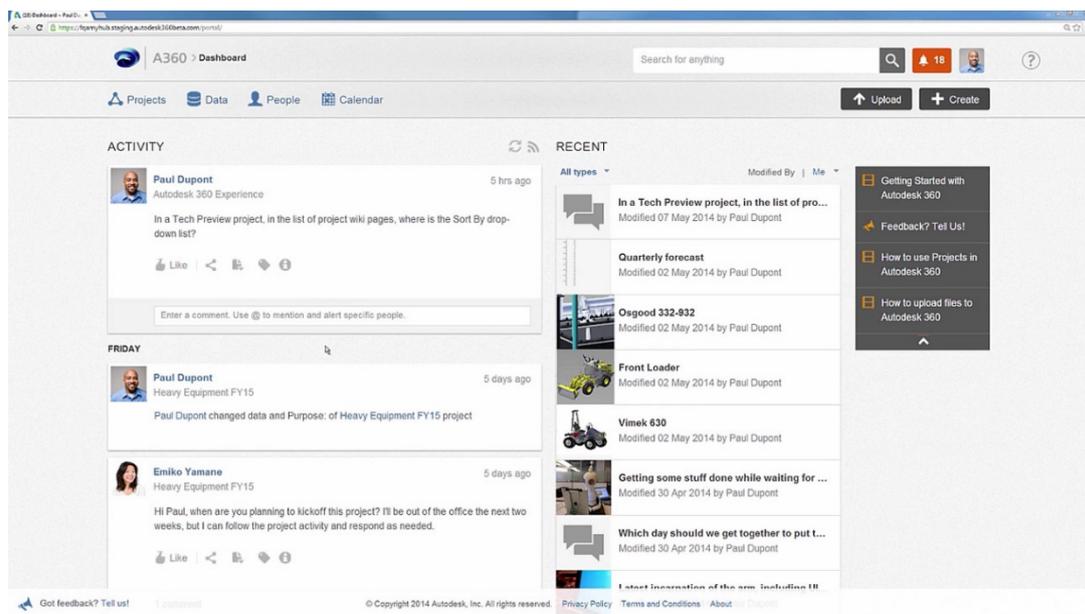

Figure 1: An easy to navigate dashboard presents a full at-a-glance overview of active projects, file history, and comments relating to the project.

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Business challenges

In today's construction market, there is a continuing shift towards efficiency, faster turnaround times on projects, constant need for cost reductions, and a greater need to increase multi-party communication efforts. The market is in a position where outdated forms of communication, such as e-mail, are being used to a lesser degree, and focus is shifting towards multi-party communication. Often companies will need to make use of multiple packages to facilitate these changes. Challenges faced with regard to communication and collaboration are as follows:

- Designers and Engineers need easier ways to review designs with other parties in real time.
- With design teams being more geographically dispersed, communication is vital to the success of the construction projects.
- Often, design firms don't always work on the same design packages, and there is a need for additional software packages and viewers to be installed, in the hope of moving towards seamless, integrated workflows.
- Engineers, designers and draughters need access to files used across multi-disciplinary design environments. For example, a structural engineer would need access to an architect's model, and needs to arrange a convenient time and location to receive the files, in order to continue their structural design.
- Project managers, engineers, and project stakeholders need to have access to the information relating to the project, and if the information is not correctly and efficiently organised, finding the data can become very tedious.
- Constant updates and changes to design create the need for live version tracking, to ensure that team members are in fact working on the latest up-to-date model.

Overcoming challenges with A360 Team®

A360 Team® has been specifically designed to overcome all of the above-mentioned challenges, providing a user friendly working environment that allows all stakeholders on a project to communicate seamlessly. A360 Team® is continually evolving, to ensure that users always have the best features available. These features include, but are not limited to:

- Project centric data management allows users to file all information related to a specific project. All information is available through one central workspace.
- View 2D and 3D models from within a browser. There is no need for additional software to be installed. A360 supports over 100 file formats, including more than 65 design file formats.
- Accelerating decision making through instant file uploads, collaboration, and feedback via comment and mark-up tools that are available.
- All design files, data sheets, documentation and related files are organised by project. Users can set permissions for files, granting access to specific users for viewing, downloading, and editing. All data is secured by means of user sign-in, invitation controls, data encryption, password protection and automated security monitoring.
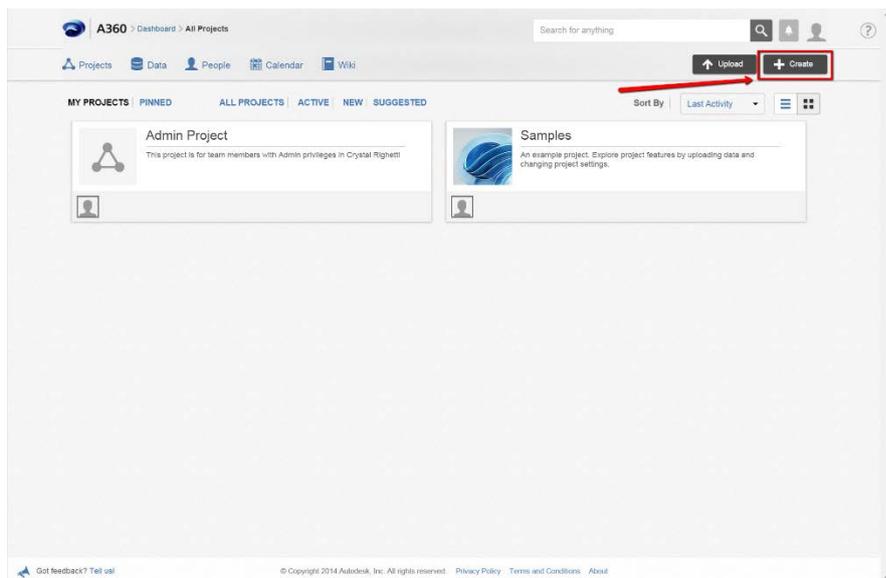
Figure 2: Creating projects and assigning users is done via the intuitive, user friendly interface.

A360 Viewer

The Viewer is browser based, and there is no need for additional software to be installed. Users can view over 100 different file formats, including more than 65 design file formats. Users can pan, zoom and rotate models, and get rich visual views of the models shared in the projects.
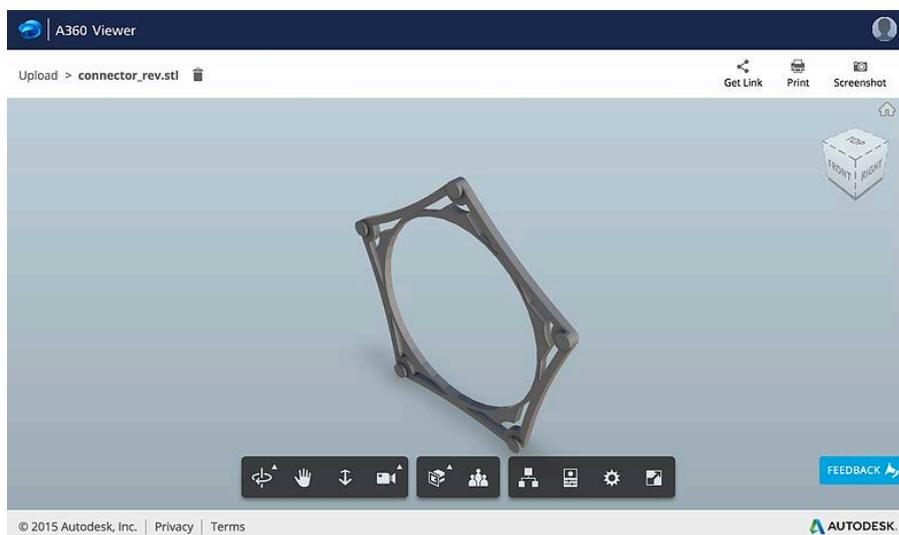

Figure 3: A360 Viewer allows easy navigation of 2D and 3D models, to users with viewing permission.

Easy File sharing and access

A360 Team® provides users with online storage space, and allows for simple methods of sharing large project files within the design team, especially when team members are geographically separated. Users can choose to share the uploaded files in a number of methods, including via e-mail, chat or embedding them into a site.
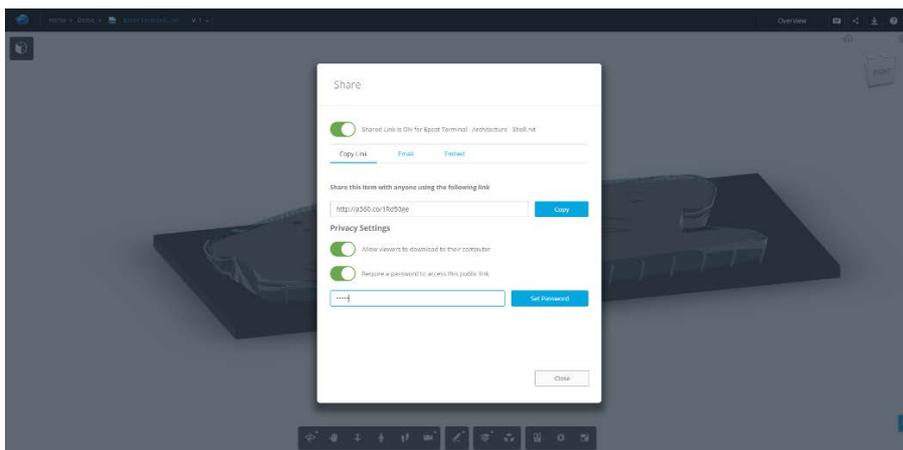
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Figure 4: A360 File sharing makes the project data available to all project stakeholders.

Real time review

Real time review is leading the way in saving time between multiple parties. Live review invites can be sent out as needed, and all parties involved with that specific collaboration effort can view and interact with each other. The chat functionality allows all parties to communicate effectively regarding possible changes to be made, or designs that have been accepted. Real time review is a market leader in screen sharing and communication, further expanding the collaboration efforts for the project at hand.

Mobile access

Enjoy cross-platform design review and data access from Android and iOS mobile devices and tablets. Information can now be shared in such a way that everybody working on the project has access to the latest design revisions, project data and related files. There is no longer a need to be office bound, or use outdated information on site.

File security

All files uploaded to A360 Team are encrypted and secured according to the latest industry standards, certifications and encryption technology.

Conclusion

Effectively communicating, collaborating and managing construction projects has never been as easy to implement and manage, with A360 Team®'s wide range of features for onsite and offsite viewing, editing and management tools. With A360 Team®, all project stakeholders now have an active say in the progress and status of a project, and are always kept up-to-date with the latest available information.

For more details and features, please visit the A360 Team website at a360.autodesk.com

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