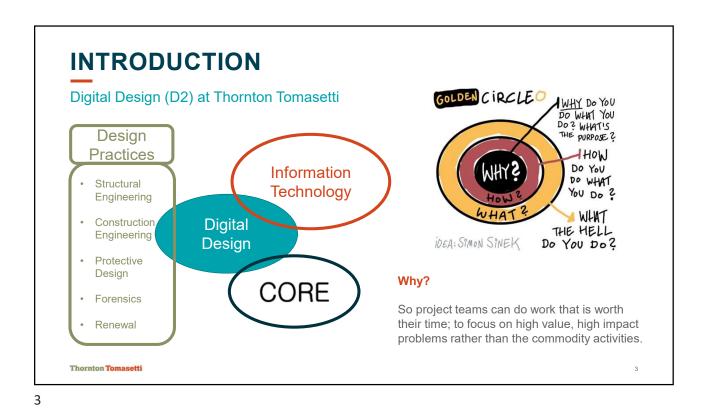


OUTLINE

- Introduction
 - Digital Design at Thornton Tomasetti
 - Speakers
 - Problem
 - · Solution Outline
- · Live Demo
- Deep Dive into Tool Components
 - Dynamo
 - Power BI
- Q/A

Thornton Tomasetti



INTRODUCTION

Presenters



Dr. Kristopher DaneDirector of Digital Design
Seattle, WA



Sean McDonald Corporate BIM Manager Chicago, IL



Dr. James FeracorDigital Design Technologist
Seattle, WA

We're hosting another session tomorrow at 10:45am: 3.2.08 "AirTable for Version Tracking of Revit Details"

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THE PROBLEM

Model Review is Hard

- · Checking Revit models is resource intensive!
 - Time-consuming, tedious, and inconsistent when performed manually
 - Not easy to query / search elements in model using Revit UI... and tons of elements!
- Need ability to diagnose model health quickly, consistently, on demand
- Checks yield info valuable in diagnosing potential model issues / measuring model health

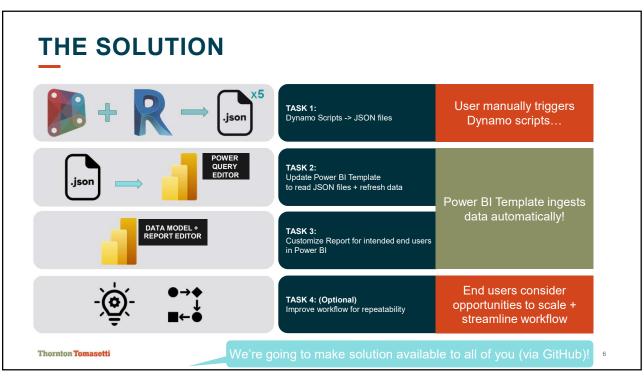
Some questions for models

- How many sheets do I have?
- · How many views are on sheets?
- Are the right kinds of things in the right views?
- · Are objects in the correct worksets?
- How much and what kind of stuff so I have in my model?
- What are the design quantities of the model elements?
- Can I dump model data to Excel for further analysis?

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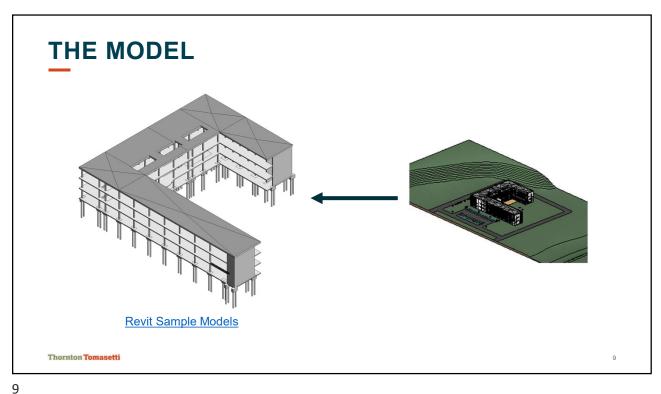
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LIVE DEMO

REVIT MODEL





WHY DYNAMO

- Why Dynamo
 - · Its free and installed with Revit
 - · "Easily" modifiable
- · Drawbacks to Dynamo
 - · It can be slow
 - · It needs to be run manually
 - · It can be prone to issues
 - Issues can be machine specific
 - · You can't stop a run without killing Revit

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REQUIREMENTS

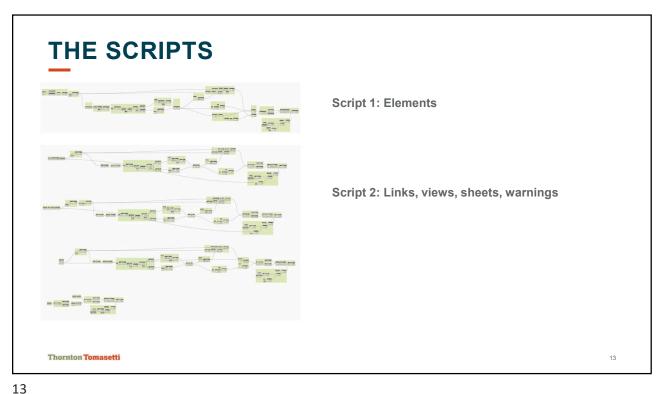
- Packages
 - JsonData Exporting Revit data to JSON
 - Archi-lab.net Element selector Linked model info

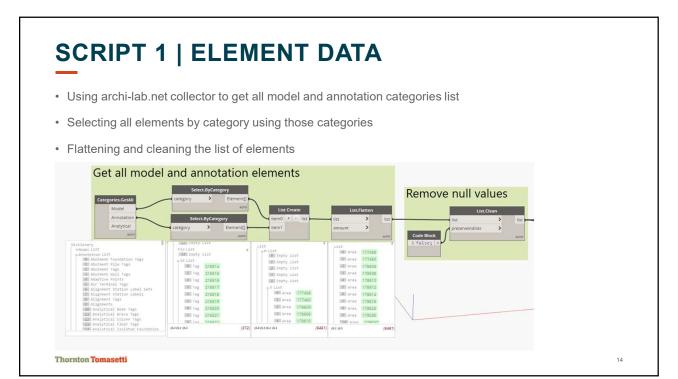


- Sample Files
 - Creating using the Autodesk Revit Architecture and Structure sample files (both basic and advanced)
 - · Modified slightly and linked to make the data export slightly more realistic
- Revit
 - Sample made using 2022.1.2

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SCRIPT 1 | ELEMENT DATA

- Get all parameters from the list of elements
- Convert to string and remove duplicate items



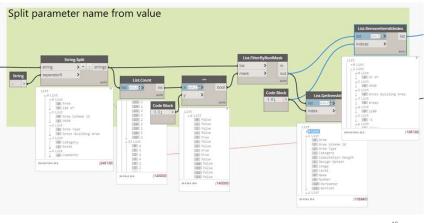
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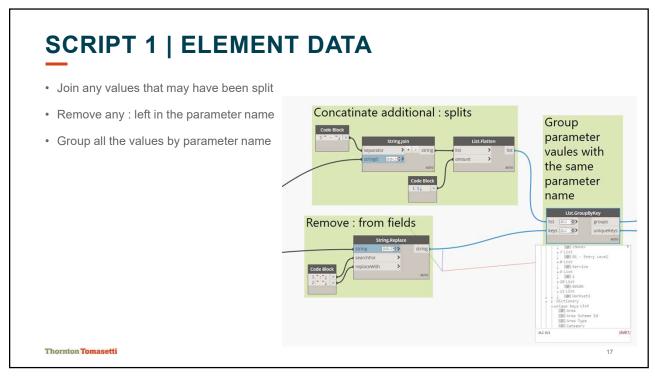
SCRIPT 1 | ELEMENT DATA

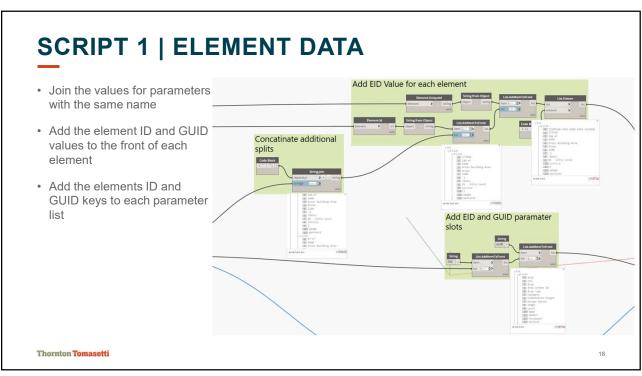
- Split the parameter fields at the : to get the Parameter and the Value
- Using the count of elements in the list, empty values can be filtered out
- Both grabbing and removing the elements at index 0 will create the 2 lists (parameters and values)

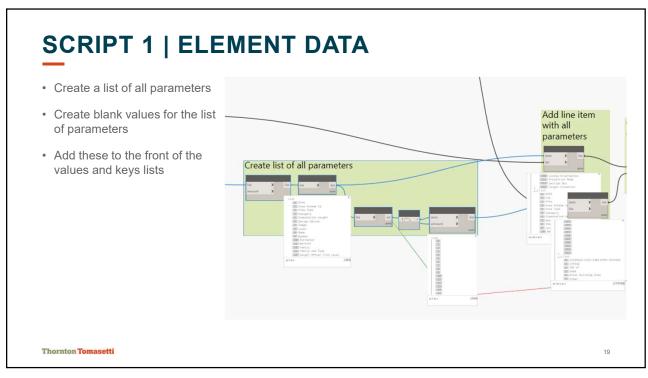


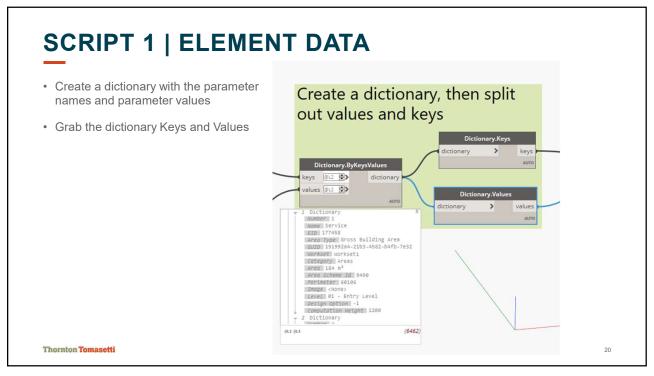
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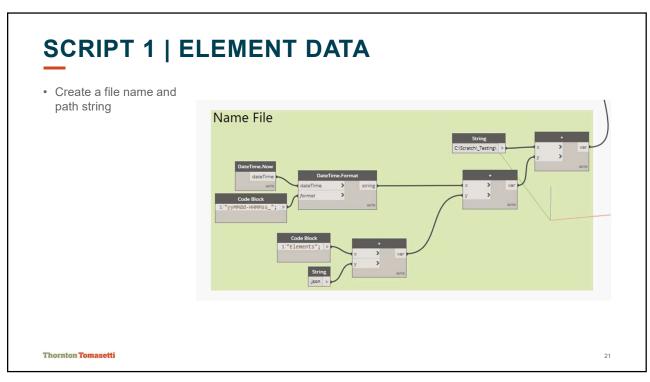
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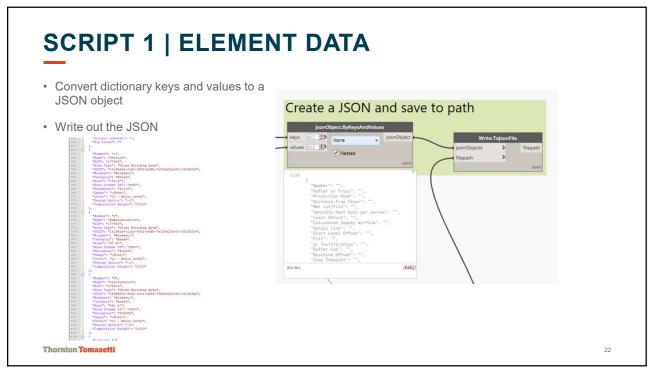


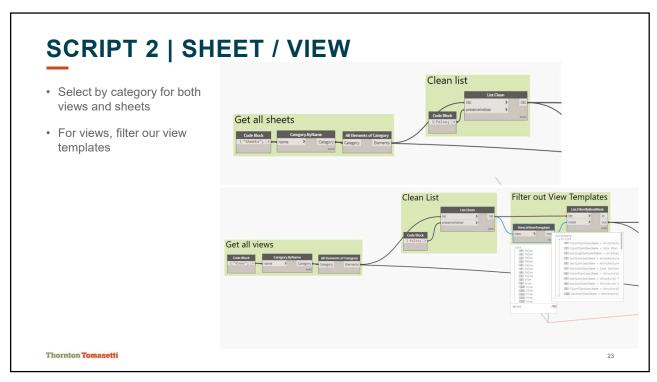


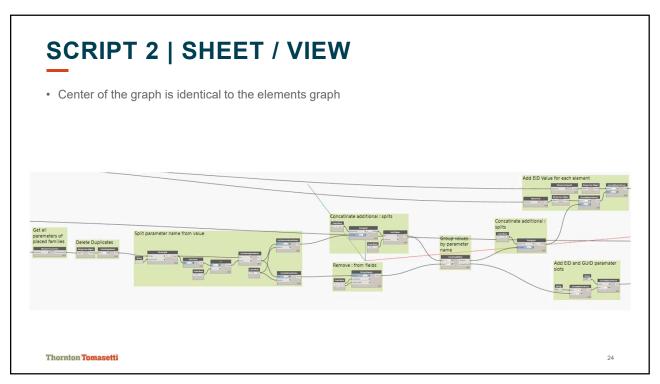


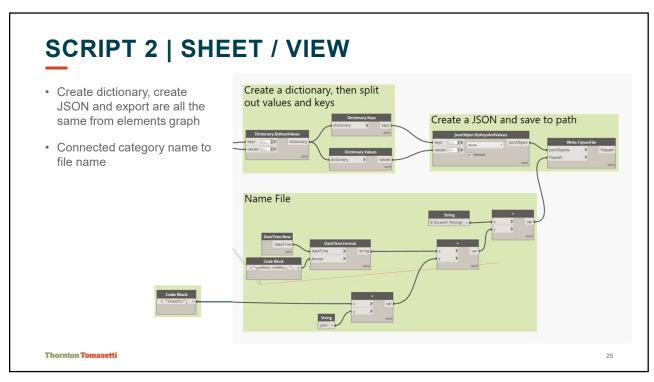


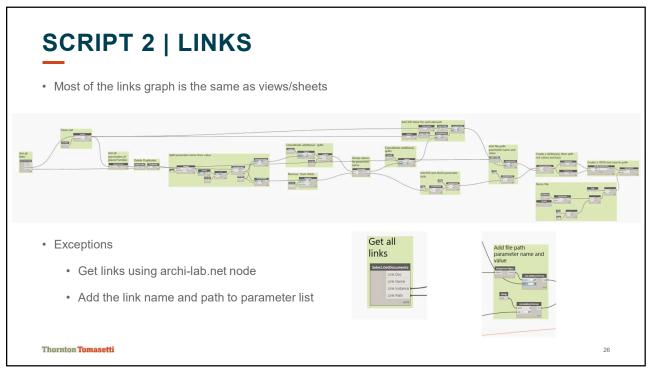


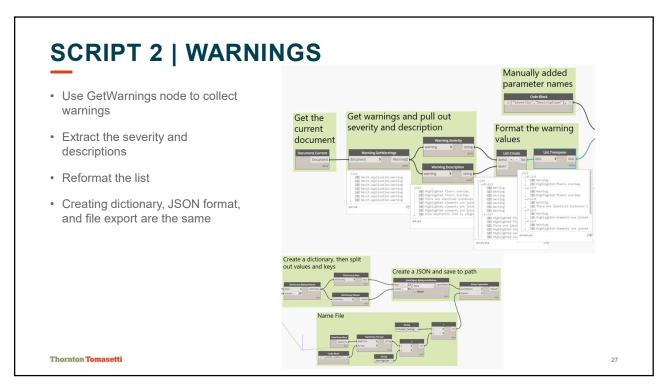




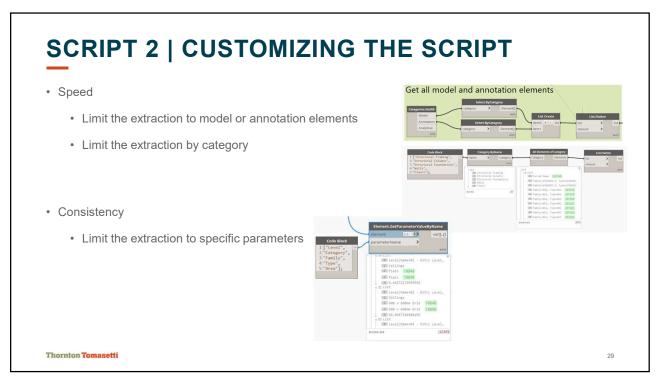








SCRIPT 3 | ALL • For ease of use all the scripts can be combined Thernton Tomasetti

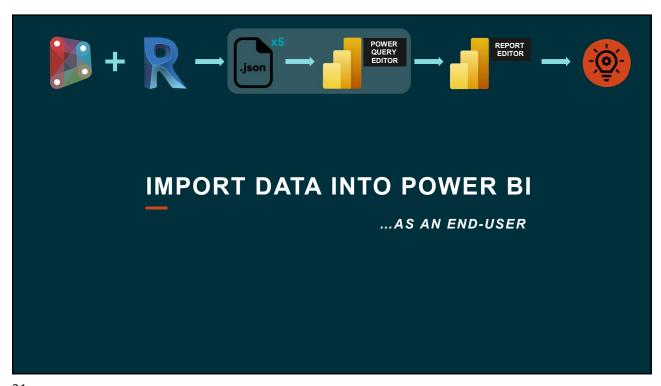


EXPANDING THE SCRIPT(S)

- · Elements in view
- · File/ Project level info
- · Loaded, unplaced content
- · Overlapping elements
- Geometry data

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WHY POWER BI?

TT delivers data
via Power BI platform

Shifts focus from processing to consuming / interpreting data

Desktop

- · Consistently clean and process model data automatically
- Powerful beyond Excel...and Revit UI sucks for analysis
- Desktop App is free and comes with most features (try before buying Pro)
- Self-service tool empower users, does not require process ownership

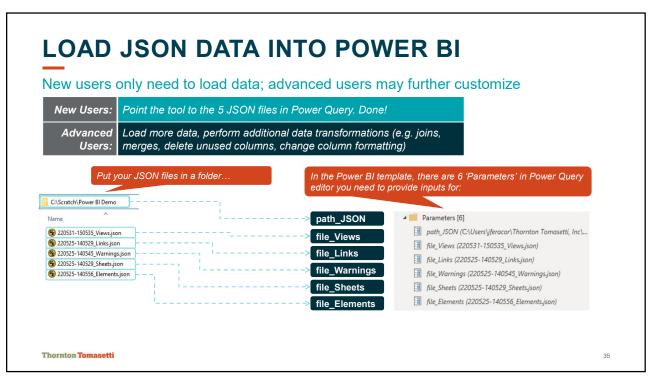
Pro (and higher)

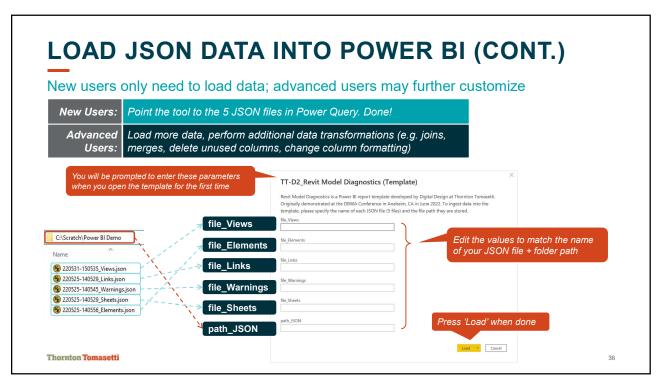
- · Collaborative features web-based and centralized access (single source of truth)
- Integrates well with Microsoft products, especially Teams and Sharepoint
- · Scheduled data refreshes to optimize workflow for end-users

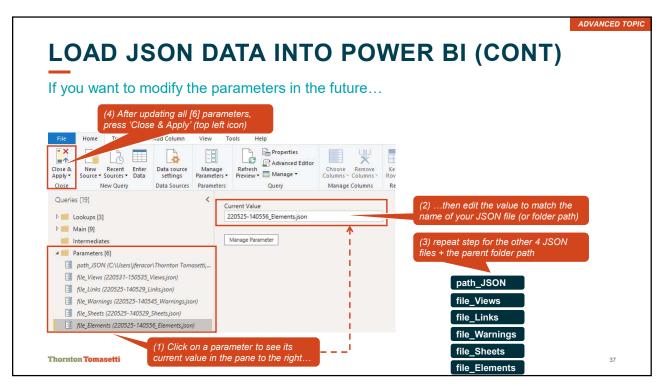
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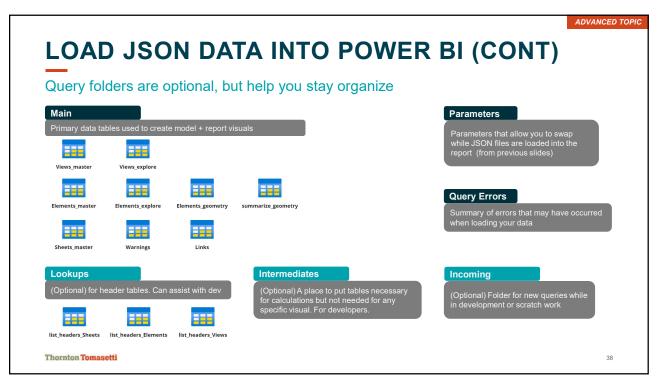
Check your version of Power BI Template made w/ May 2022 update Power BI not backwards compatible for this version, so must use this version or later **PREPARATION CHECKLIST** Organize JSON files into single folder When using Power BI template... **Turn off Auto-Detect Relationships** Power BI frequently and incorrectly tries to relate tables Unexpected relationships can over constrain model and create refresh issues Turn this off (if not already turned off) File > Options and setting > Options > Current File: Data Load Relationships ✓ Import relationships from data sources on first load ① ☐ Undate or delete relationships when refreshing data ① ☐ Autodetect new relationships after data is loaded ① **Thornton Tomasetti** 33

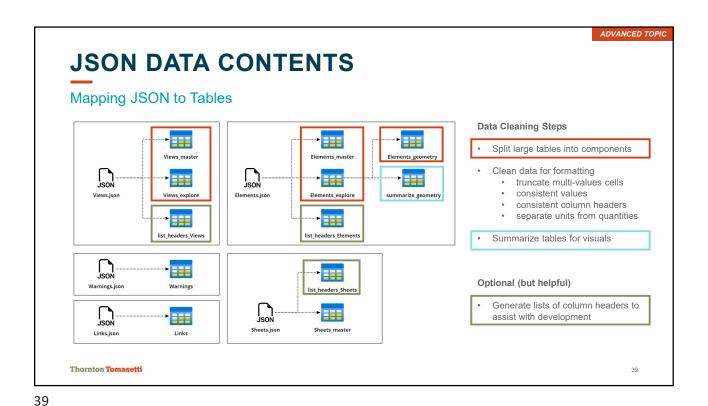
ANATOMY OF POWER BI What the developers sees (PQ) versus what the end user sees (report editor) **End-User / Consumer Developer** Roles Power Query Editor Report Editor Primary Sections Define the intended user experience, Transform and optimize the flow of data in Power BI that all users will consume customize the display of information Intended purpose Make reports useful and usable Process data so end users don't have to Report View 000 Data View Subsections Transform data v **Model View Thornton Tomasetti**





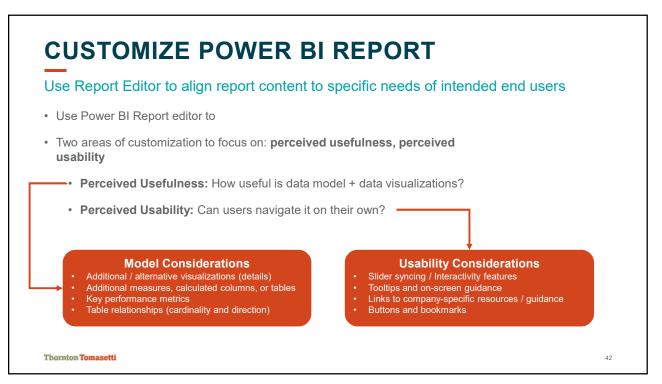






ADVANCED TOPIC WHY DO WE NEED TO TRANSFORM DATA? Transformations pre-programmed in the template make data tables modular Steps for Elements_master Steps for Elements_explore 1. Load raw data Remove all columns used in Elements_master except for GUID or 2. Create duplicate for Elements explore 3. Remove all other columns except GUID (optional) Reformat columns (e.g. or EID and any columns to be used as change formats to numbers, separate slicers for Views units from quantities, split, etc.) 4. Filter any rows not needed 3. (optional) Filter any rows not needed Elements_master Elements_explore [EID] = [EID] (optional) replace values for consistency (handle blanks, nulls, white spaces) All tables based on Elements should be connected to Elements_master via [EID] **Thornton Tomasetti**





IDEAS FOR CUSTOMIZATIONS

Add branding and customize aesthetics

Branding and Aesthetics

- · Users will find report more useful if it feels relevant to specific needs of company
- Display information in manner that end users expect (standard metrics?)
- · Add tooltips that help users interpret what they see

Report Versioning + Control Complexity

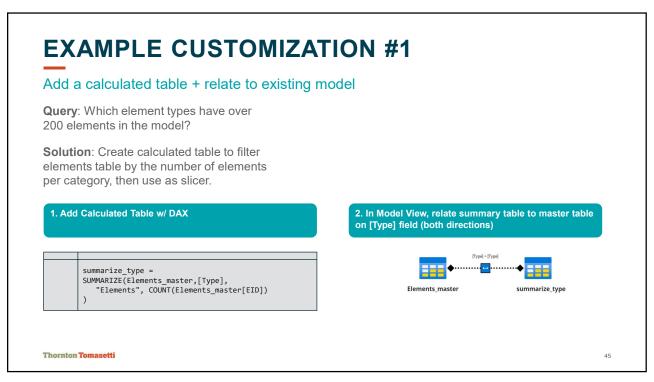
- · Create alternative versions of pages or reports with different levels of detail
- · Hide details for casual users, but data available on demand

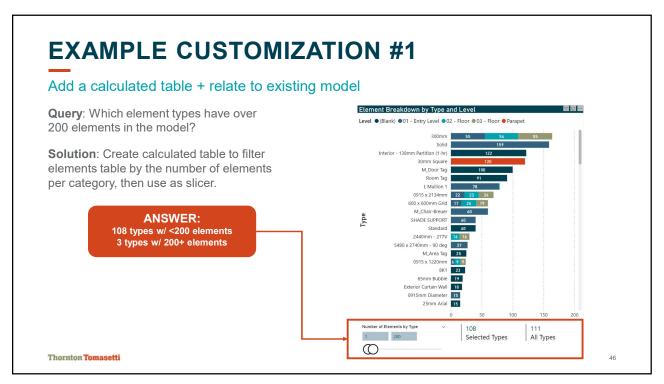
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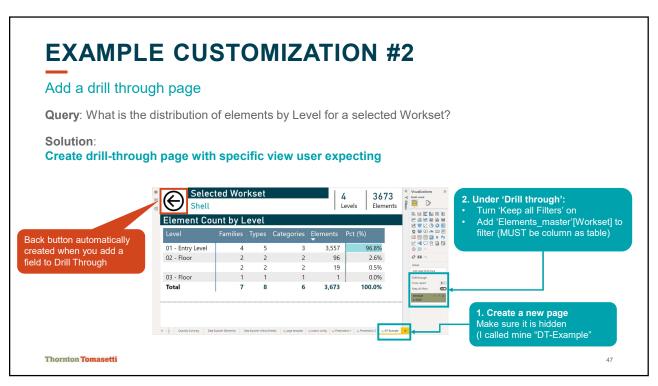
43

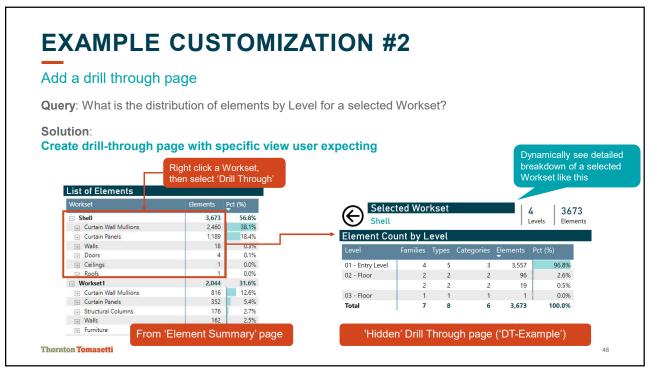
43

ADVANCED TOPIC **DATA MODEL** For developers who want to expand on the template model Data Model as it exists in the Power BI template [EID] = [EID] Note that Links and Warnings tables are not connected to the model Views_explore Views_master Sheets_master Future development could link elements to views and sheets they belong to [EID] = [EID] New tables based on Elements or Views should be related to their corresponding 'master' table · When creating slicers for views or elements, use Elements_master Elements_explore Elements geometry the 'master' table columns · This ensures slicers are synced across pages summarize geometry Warnings Links **Thornton Tomasetti**



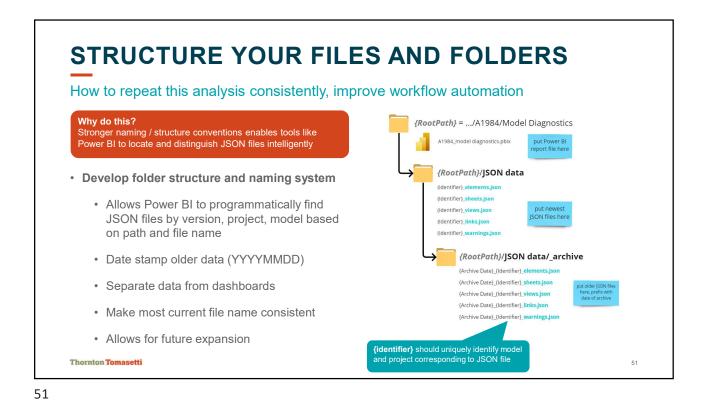








ADVANTAGES AND LIMITATIONS Consider the opportunity costs of your deployment **Advantages** Limitations Cannot fully automate execution of Dynamo yet Single model snapshot only; no comparison features Scripts are self-service, on demand Small footprint (JSON files) **General Points** Engaging interactive reports, rapid turn-around Ability to add company-specific user guidance Minimal focus on data processing No publishing, collaboration features Does not leverage best features of Sharepoint Sub-optimal workflow for end users, who must refresh data each time (takes time to recalculate) **Power BI Desktop** Source data unmodified by process Allow users to export filtered data as needed Incremental development (Free Only) Complex merges cannot be done without Premium level (but there are workarounds!) JSON files are not centrally managed (no tracking) **Power BI Pro** Dataflows + scheduled refreshes Collaboration: Publishing, Teams integration Row-based security, incremental refresh (or higher) ADVANCED TOPICS **Thornton Tomasetti** 50



This template is a good example of where the cost of Power BI Pro is justifiable! **PUBLISH AND SHARE** How to repeat this analysis consistently, improve workflow automation Why do this? Publishing and refresh automation are among the most useful features of Added a new tab at the top of this chat. Here's a link. Pro in terms of workflow efficiency and optimizing the end user experience 20220615_TT-D2_Revit Model Di... · Publish your Dashboard to a workspace · Provide users access to workspace · Provide users persistent link to report (or just have users log in to web platform) · Pin Power BI report to Microsoft teams · Use dataflows, schedule refreshes · Pre-calculates data for dashboards to reduce load time for end users (more efficient) Thornton Tomasetti

ADVANCED TOPIC

LEVERAGE POWER AUTOMATE

How to repeat this analysis consistently, improve workflow automation

Why do this?

Save time and reduce clerical reduce errors by automating data transfer and file renaming tasks

- · Use Power Automate for File Management
 - · Comes with Office 365 if you have it
 - Now allows connections to offline source (with proper credentials)
 - · Move and rename files based on logic
 - Could also be done with Task Scheduler and PowerShell if you have the skills!
 - Can be combined with Microsoft Forms to further automatic intake process

- 1. Create an 'Incoming' Folder
- 2. Establish a new connection to your folder in Power Automate + validate credentials
- 3. Create flow logic (not covered in this slide deck):
- Trigger if new file added to Incoming folder
 Check if files exist in destination folder
 If files exist
 prefix file name with current date in ISO format (YYYYMMDD)
 Move renamed files to archive folder
 - Otherwise
- 4. Test flow by dropping off JSON files in Incoming Folder

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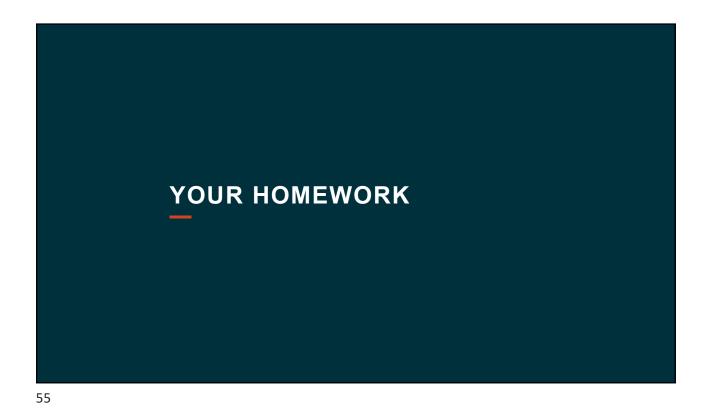
ADVANCED TOPIC

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

What features would be universally beneficial to all users?

- · Allow report to handle multiple snapshots, models
 - · You need more data columns that distinguish which model, which snapshot, and which project
 - · See folder structure recommendations
- Key Performance Indices (KPI) can we summarize a model's quality with a single number?
 - Define thresholds that should cause concern to modeler or BIM manager (e.g. too many line styles?
 Too many views not on sheets?)
 - Metric allows you to track model health over time and across projects/models on demand

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YOUR HOMEWORK

Getting started on your own

Download file from GitHub Repo (see QR code)
Power BI Template
Dynamo Scripts
Additional Resources for Devs

Do the Preparation Checklist

Run Dynamo on a model
Save JSON files in a folder

Configure Template
Update parameters to JSON files + path

Refresh Data!

Optional Next Steps
Customize Template
Develop Roadmap

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WHAT'S IN THE GITHUB REPO?

Table of Contents

- Power BI reports (where Power BI template is stored)
- · Power BI Data
 - · Where you should put your JSON files
 - Includes a sample set to help you start
- Sample Models (Revit model used in demo)
- Dynamo Scripts (Dynamo scripts to be run on Revit models)
- Resources
 - · Handouts / Notes
 - · This slide deck

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THANK YOU

Contact info
ThorntonTomasetti.com

JSON DATA CONTENTS						
		nto smaller ones? Master table allows for centrali	zed Separate data	h fa umattin a	Contract way to invite years	
May need to apply 2 s different results s		slicing of two related tables			Easiest way to invite users to create custom tables	
JSON file as table						
		Cu	ustom Table = Elements_mas	ter + Elements_exp	lore	
Elements_master						
Elements_explore			eate new report tables containing eed from Elements_explore	ng only the columns yo	ou	
Elements_master		Cı	ustom Table = Elements_mas	ter + Elements_geo	metry 	
Elements_geometry			n also perform aggregation to s nique combinations of values in] ng	
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