

Episodio 157: Building with code

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Objetivo.

Entrevistamos a Jeremy Tamick para conocer más sobre las tripas detrás de la herramienta de modelado BIM más extendida y a la persona detrás de la API que ha extendido la herramienta para superar sus carencias o limitaciones.

Guión.

Saludo

This is BIMrras, the podcast about BIM and technology applied to construction, the podcast that even Chuck Norris doesn't dare to listen to!

Presentación

Welcome to BIMrras Podcast, the place where we chat about BIM methodology and technology in the construction sector.

Programa

Introducción

No te has equivocado de episodio. No.

Esto sigue siendo BIMrras y seguimos tratando de que Chuck Norris escuche alguno de nuestros episodios, pero ese no es el motivo para torturarte con mi inglés de Galicia, ni siquiera se debe a que estemos probando una IA para que haga BIMrras en inglés (y te aseguro que lo hemos barajado...).

El motivo de haber hecho el saludo en inglés es para ponerte en guardia. Esta será nuestra primera entrevista en inglés y ello pese a que nuestro invitado de hoy se desenvuelve con soltura en 6 idiomas, entre los que está el español, por supuesto.

El inglés es el idioma del código, como lo es en muchísimos aspectos del BIM, o como lo es de muchos otros campos, así que nos hemos animado a desempolvar nuestro “inglés medio” y vamos allá!

Invitado

I must say that today, I am very, very excited to dive into the world of AEC technology with someone who has been, and is, behind some of the most popular CAD and BIM tools.

Jeremy Tammik, also known as *The building coder*, is Consulting Analyst at Autodesk, has been a cornerstone of the company since 1988. His journey began as a technology evangelist, spreading the gospel of AutoCAD development across continents. After a stint away working on HVAC applications, Jeremy returned to Autodesk in 2005, and ever since,

he's been deeply embedded in the Autodesk Developer Network, specializing in the Revit API.

So, yes, Jeremy is the man you blame on when something doesn't work in your plugin or when you don't understand why in the hell there's no way to do whatever in an easier way when struggling with the Revit API.

Jerremy has an amazing academic background in mathematics and physics, he has worked as a teacher, translator, and a C++ programmer on pioneering GUI and multitasking projects. As I said before, fluent in six languages, he's a cultural savant who also enjoys playing the flute, reading, traveling, and engaging in theater improvisation, but he also is a yogi, carpenter, and used to enjoy climbing cliffs or navigating oceans.

All those things while maintaining a family life with four children and involvement in community-focused projects.

I just can say what have I been doing my entire life, Jeremy? Welcome to BIMrras.

[Evelio]

Please, let me introduce my partners before continuing, because I must say hello to Rogelio, who is helping me to destroy Shakespeare's language while pretending to interview you.

Hi there, Rogelio, how are you doing?

[Evelio] Background

You've been with Autodesk since 1988, which means you've been there since Autocad 10. Means a lot for many of us because it's time to ask what was wrong with our hatches boundaries?

Many people are aware of your Maths and Physics background, but it tells just a tiny piece of your history. I'm not talking about your philosophy or martial arts interests but it makes me wonder what was the way from your early studies in humanities to be a computer guy? I don't know if nerd or geek is offensive, so I'll avoid it by now.

[Evelio] Personal interests

Anybody can read in the internet that you're fluent in six languages, we really appreciate that you've offered to be interviewed in Spanish, and not only you speak six languages but you are an avid reader too.

That's only the peak

How do these skills and hobbies influence your technical work?"

- "With interests in yoga, climbing, and music, how do you find these activities impact your professional performance or creativity?"

[Evelio] Autodesk

Jeremy, most of us and most of our audience has a history to tell about how they ended in BIM or how they discovered a more productive way to work using BIM tools, I must say, using your BIM tools.

Your background is anything but the usual, I mean, you are a mathematician working in an AEC related company, how was it even linked? could you start off by sharing a bit about your journey to Autodesk and with Autodesk?

[Evelio] Revit

And then Revit... **how did you get involved with Revit and the Revit API?**

[Evelio] Revit plugins

I'm one of the firsts on claiming that one of the smartest things in Revit is the API. I've said many times that it's very clever to launch an incomplete product that can be finished or adapted by their owners, well owners... you know, their users.

I think it is fair to say that you came from Autocad where a lot of people learnt functional programming, even if they didn't know Lisp was a functional programming language. **How was born the idea of opening the app to be completed by their users?**

[Evelio] Revit API migration

It is well known that the Revit API was based on .NET 4.8 framework, but you've done a huge jump in Revit 2025 API changing from the .NET 4.8 to the .NET Core 8. **This is a significant upgrade, isn't it? Why now?**

And it's not only because of this change but also because you've included a lot of enhancements, **which is your first advice to all those developers who were resting while their applications only needed minor changes between Revit releases?**

Given all the changes and enhancements in the Revit 2025 API, have you any advice to developers to make the most out of these updates? At least to suffer just the minimum during the migration.

[Evelio] Electrical and MEP in Revit 2025 API

The Revit 2025 API has introduced some additions in the Electrical and MEP sectors. Could you highlight a couple of these additions and their potential impact?

[Rogelio] AEC Modelers development

I'm an Archicad old time user who knows a thing or two about how an authoring software has evolved since its initial versions. I was very curious when Revit was launched and have followed the software since, although I'm not jumping to that wagon anytime soon, hopefully. Love my Archicad too much. But, and here comes the question, I'm very worried about how and where the authoring software is heading its course. Once upon a time we thought that we would be able to fill in every single hole of the creation process and the technical requirements that come with a project. But in the last decade what we have is some kind of stall in the development process.

Autodesk changed its license model to a subscription service with the promise that all that money will be better invested in something like, for example, multithreading. None of that came alive. And now Graphisoft is following those steps. And it seems that legacy code within Revit or Archicad has become too heavy a weight to be lifted by the programming core of both companies, so the new features are more or less cosmetical features that add little value to the final user. In my humble opinion.

Now, are we doom? I mean, Do we need a new kid on the block to spice things up? Has authoring software reached its peak level and now the curve of development has flattened?

[Evelio] Helping community

We BIMrras strongly believe in what community can build, that's why we've built BIMrras INSIDERS, actually. You are known not only for being a rockstar in the developer community but also for blogging about Forge, BIM and the Revit API. **What motivates you to share your knowledge so actively?**

[Rogelio] OpenSource inspiration

Our AEC sector is crowded with a lot of extremely small companies. We made an inquiry some time ago for something like 500 hundred professionals and we found that almost 98% were working in companies of 5 or less people. And they do everything: the architecture, the structural analysis, MEP analysis and design. You name it. And the license cost of all that software needed is a heavy heavy burden that can kill a small company in a blink. So, many of them are looking at the community with the hope that someday somehow a solution from the community will come to save them. Not only cost related, but information property too. We've seen such a white knight in other sectors: photography, office software, 3d modeling. **Why is it so difficult to produce an open source AEC modeler?**

[Evelio] what's next?

You've witnessed almost the entire history of AEC software being a developer into the construction industry. I've been hearing and listening more and more how a BIM manager, let's say BIM expert, must know about programming. I'm very fond on having coding knowledge but I'm pretty sure about this: to be a BIM manager has nothing to do with being a developer, however, I believe that a certain knowledge of programming can be tremendously useful in any technical environment.

Do you agree? Any advice for professionals or students who might be listening and considering focusing their career on coding?

[Evelio] one more thing

My last question is almost obliged, taking into account your privileged position I must ask what do you think is coming, what technologies or trends are you most excited about in our sector? please don't say Artificial Intelligence...

Acabamos...

As we wrap up our conversation today, we're curious about the tools and resources that inspire and support your work. This insight not only helps us understand how you stay ahead in your field but also offers our listeners some great resources to explore, so...

Las fuentes de información

What are your main sources of information?

What are those you regularly rely on?

Las herramientas

Could you share with us one essential tool, whether it's software, hardware, or something else, that you find indispensable in your daily routine?

Despedida

Well, folks, that's all. This is the end of today's show.

My goal was to keep everyone awake and engaged, and I hope we've managed just that.

To wrap everything up, it's clear that building involves code more and more which means that APIs, frameworks, programming languages, and all that stuff has found its way into our computers and BIM skills.

I'm not saying that everybody should learn to program, which I strongly recommend, but it's very clear to me that coders are becoming more and more common in the AEC sector.

Jeremy, anything to add before we close?

That's it for today.

Thanks, Jeremy, for sharing your insights and stories. I hope you enjoyed spending this time with us or, at least, not suffered too much.

And before we go, remember to join our community where you can dive deeper into technology and innovation in the AEC sector: BIMrras INSIDERS

Don't miss out on connecting with top minds in the field.

Best regards and until the next episode of the BIMrras podcast. The podcast about BIM that even Chuck Norris doesn't dare to listen to!