

Dramatically Reduce Time Opening Revit® Files Across Your WAN

Problem: Architects, Engineers, and Construction firms are trying to utilize Autodesk® Revit® software's worksharing mode across Wide Area Networks (WAN) or Virtual Private Network (VPN) connections. Remote users are experiencing unacceptable performance for productivity. Revit's "model-centric" workflow requires one model to reside on a server and all users need access to that model. Using Revit's worksharing mode, multiple people access and update the model.

Testing: A 74MB Revit model is hosted on a data center server. The model is connected over a VPN connection and set up to allow worksharing. Once the model is initially opened, changes can be made to the "local" working copy and synchronized to the central file stored on the remote server. Only one user accesses the model during the test.

Equipment Used: On the server side, a Riverbed® Steelhead® 510 device is installed. This device is two generations old and "feeds" data out at a capacity of 512Kb per second. Steelhead Mobile client software is used on the Revit side. Revit Architecture 2010 is the software used and a Hewlett-Packard® Elitebook 8530w Mobile Workstation runs the software.

Timed Testing

Test Results

Open with Riverbed enabled	1 minute, 19 seconds
Re-sync to central file with Riverbed enabled	51 seconds
Open with Riverbed disabled	11 minutes, 20 seconds
Re-sync to central file with Riverbed disabled	4 minutes, 45 seconds

Autodesk Revit Performance Brief (continued)

Conclusion: Autodesk® recommends saving to the central file every 30 seconds. Therefore it is safe to assume that synchronization occurs 16 times a day with the opening the Revit model twice daily.

Time saved to open the model:

10 minutes, 1 second x 2 = 20 minutes, 2 seconds in a single designer's day

Time saved to re-sync to the central file:

3 minutes, 54 seconds x 16 daily re-syncs = 62 minutes, 24 seconds in a single designer's day

Total Savings Per User	
Day	1 hour, 22 minutes
Week	7 hours, 50 minutes
Month	30 hours, 3 minutes
Year	360 hours, 7 minutes

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