

Canadian BIM Trade Alliance (BIMTA)

Public BIM Discussion Research Report

Relevant public issues, complaints, and requirement-related pain points in BIM delivery

Control item	Value
Report ID	BIMTA-RPT-2026-001
Version	1.0
Issue date	2026-07-03
Prepared by	BIMTA
Method type	Non-official public-discussion thematic scan
Coverage	Public message boards, public community forums, and selected public standards/guidance references

Confidentiality / use note: This report summarizes public discussions only. It does not include private forum content, private LinkedIn groups, closed contractor communities, or confidential project information. Individual public posters are intentionally anonymized.

Contents

1. 1. Method note
2. 2. Executive summary
3. 3. Research scope and limitations
4. 4. Source register
5. 5. Issue categories and evidence matrix
6. 6. Findings by issue category
7. 7. Owner and CM / GC requirement findings
8. 8. Interpretation for BIMTA
9. 9. Recommendations
10. 10. References

1. Method note

Method name used in this report: Non-official Public Discussion Thematic Scan (PDTS). This is a practical research method, not a recognized ISO research standard. It is used here to describe a structured review of public practitioner discussions and community forum posts to identify recurring issues, complaint patterns, and requirement-related pain points.

Report format basis: The document is formatted in an ISO-style technical report structure inspired by ISO 5966:1982, Documentation - Presentation of scientific and technical reports, which is now withdrawn. Reference handling is aligned in principle with ISO 690 bibliographic reference practices, and dates use ISO 8601 format. This report is not an official ISO-certified document and is not an ISO 19650 compliance audit.

Anonymization rule: Individual poster names, usernames, and personal identifiers are not included. Sources are identified only by public platform, topic, public URL, and displayed or approximate source date.

2. Executive summary

The public discussions reviewed indicate that BIM is not being rejected because practitioners dislike BIM. The stronger pattern is that BIM creates friction when requirements are unclear, late, poorly governed, pushed downstream, or disconnected from construction and operational value. The most repeated themes involve unclear BIM scope, weak BIM Execution Plan control, owner requirements that may not be usable or reviewed, CM / GC coordination requirements being transferred to subcontractors, model access and reliance disputes, change-order disputes, platform fragmentation, and data handover without defined use.

- Owner requirements are often criticized when they request exports, registers, dashboards, clash reports, and validation deliverables without an obvious review or use path.
- CM / GC coordination requirements are criticized when subcontractors are expected to model, sign off, or clear clashes without enough authority, schedule, compensation, or third-party coordination governance.
- Trade-level BIM professionals are often downstream of the requirement-writing process even though they must execute the modelling, coordination, fabrication, and data output work.
- The issue is not only software. It is contract scope, information governance, model access, responsibility, change control, and measurable value.

3. Research scope and limitations

Item	Description
In scope	Public Reddit threads related to BIM, Revit, architecture, construction management, Autodesk public community/idea-board content, and selected public standards/guidance references.
Out of scope	Private LinkedIn groups, private contractor forums, Discord communities, paid communities, private project documents, confidential BEPs, procurement documents, or non-public owner standards.
Evidence type	Qualitative practitioner discussion. This is not a statistically representative survey.
Date handling	Source dates are recorded as displayed where available. Reddit dates may be relative, so the report uses approximate calendar years derived from public metadata available at access time.
Access date	All sources were accessed for this report on 2026-07-03.

4. Source register

The following sources were used as evidence anchors. They are public discussion or public community sources. Individual posters are not named.

ID	Public source type	Topic	Source date	Relevance	URL
S1	Reddit / r/Architects	Owner BIM requirements increasing in scope and administrative burden	Approx. 2024	Owner requirements, ISO 19650 expectations, validation, dashboard/export burden	https://www.reddit.com/r/Architects/comments/1gmp34r/owner_bim_requirements_are_getting_out_of_control/
S2	Reddit / r/bim	Architectural model not released for coordination while coordinated drawings were required	Approx. 2024	Model access, reliance, BEP absence, trade coordination burden	https://www.reddit.com/r/bim/comments/1amei5g/architect_refusing_to_provide_revit_model_for/
S3	Reddit / r/ConstructionManagers	Subcontractors falling behind on BIM models and clash responsibility debate	Approx. 2026	CM / GC coordination, subcontracts, payment sign-off, third-party review	https://www.reddit.com/r/ConstructionManagers/comments/1rwk3y9/how_are_you_guys_managing_bim_coordination_when/
S4	Reddit / r/bim	CM BIM change-order dispute where BIM was not clearly required by contract	Approx. 2026	Change order, recoordination, means and methods, compensability	https://www.reddit.com/r/bim/comments/1q8isvn/cm_requesting_bim_change_order_not_contractually/
S5	Reddit / r/bim	Discussion on causes of BIM coordination issues	Approx. 2026	LOD, coordination ownership, scan-to-BIM scope, constructability	https://www.reddit.com/r/bim/comments/1qj7830/what_actually_causes_bim_coordination_issues_on/
S6	Autodesk Community / BIM 360 Ideas	Need for near real-time model coordination updates	2020-11-16 visible comment; idea approx. 2020	Cloud coordination reliability, model refresh, stale coordination data	https://forums.autodesk.com/t5/bim-360-ideas/model-coordination-need-near-real-time-model-updates-similar-to/idi-p/9859923
S7	Autodesk Community / BIM 360 Ideas	Request to consolidate Docs, Design Collaboration, and Model Coordination	2022-02-09 visible post	Platform fragmentation, UI/module confusion, licensing inequity	https://forums.autodesk.com/t5/bim-360-ideas/it-s-time-to-consolidate-docs-design-collaboration-model/idi-p/10927532
S8	Autodesk Community / BIM 360 Ideas	Request to export clash reports in XML/JSON for automation	2018-07-17 visible submission	Interoperability, automation, clash reporting, data exchange	https://forums.autodesk.com/t5/bim-360-ideas/export-clash-report-bim-360-model-coordination-next-gen/idi-p/8134484
S9	ISO	ISO 5966:1982 technical-report presentation standard; status	1982-03; withdrawn	Report-format reference only	https://www.iso.org/standard/12160.html

ID	Public source type	Topic	Source date	Relevance	URL
		withdrawn			
S10	ISO	ISO 690:2010 bibliographic reference and citation guidelines	2010	Reference-format principle	https://www.iso.org/standard/43320.html
S11	UK BIM Framework / ISO 19650 Guidance	Developing information requirements guidance	2021	Information requirements should define how and when information is exchanged	https://www.ukbimframework.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Guidance-Part-D_Developing-information-requirements_Edition-2.pdf

5. Issue categories and evidence matrix

The evidence matrix below groups recurring public discussion themes. The count is a qualitative source-observation count from the reviewed source set, not an industry prevalence statistic.

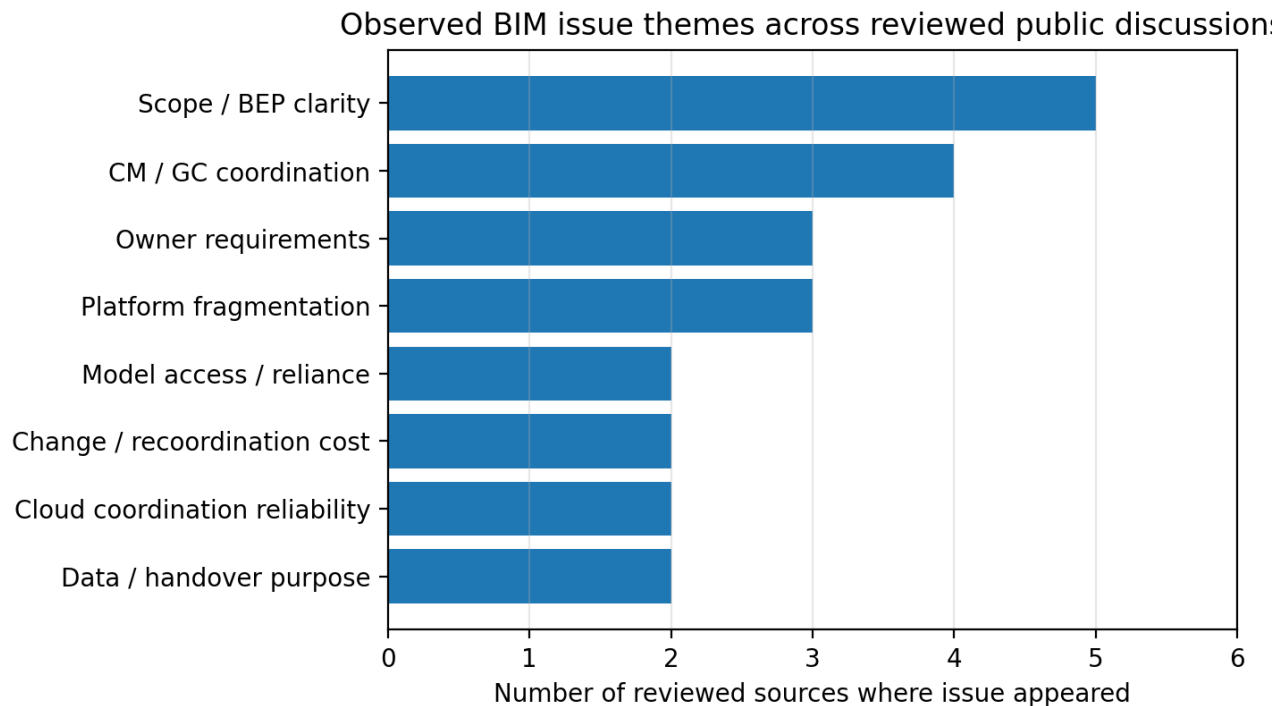


Figure 1 - Observed BIM issue themes across reviewed public discussions.

Issue category	Evidence source IDs	Observed complaint pattern
Scope / BEP clarity	S1, S2, S3, S4, S5	BIM named in requirements but purpose, workflow, model use, acceptance criteria, and responsibility are unclear.
CM / GC coordination	S2, S3, S4, S5	Coordination is required, but responsibility, verification, referee role, and cost allocation are unclear.
Owner requirements	S1, S9, S11	Owner information requirements may be extensive but not clearly tied to validation, use, or feedback.

Issue category	Evidence source IDs	Observed complaint pattern
Platform fragmentation	S6, S7, S8	Coordination, document control, issue tracking, clash reporting, and automation are split across modules and platforms.
Model access / reliance	S2, S5	Teams are required to coordinate from models that may be unavailable, incomplete, non-contractual, or legally restricted.
Change / recoordination cost	S4, S5	BIM rework during design changes becomes disputed when scope and compensability were not defined.
Cloud coordination reliability	S6, S7	Stale model updates and module fragmentation reduce trust in coordination workflows.
Data / handover purpose	S1, S8, S11	Data is requested without clear machine-readable purpose, exchange method, acceptance rule, or downstream user.

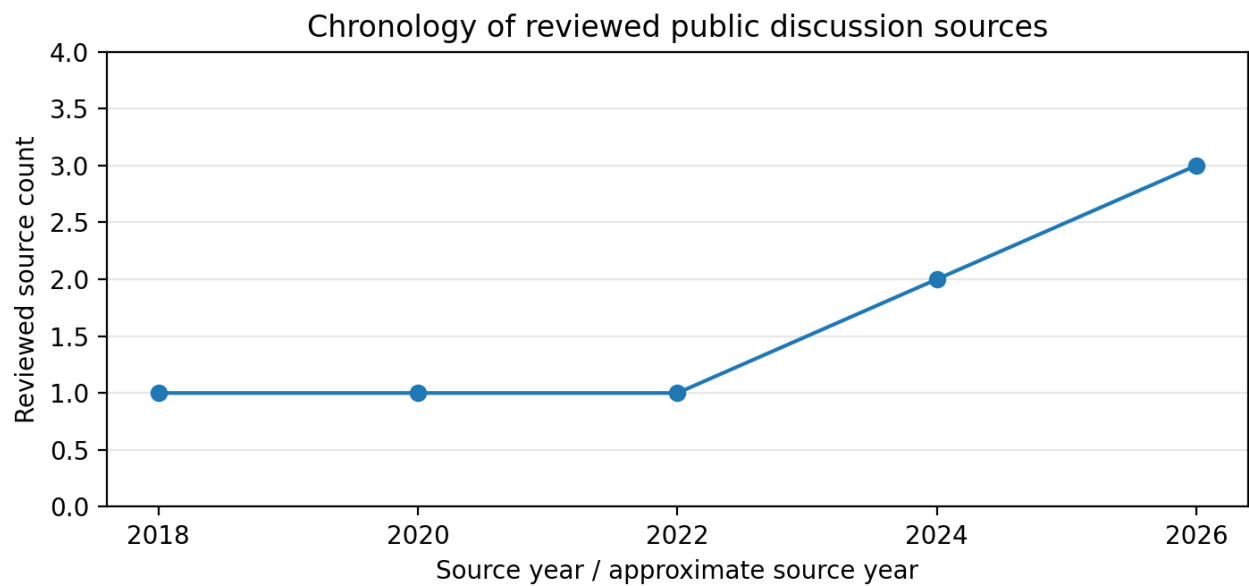


Figure 2 - Chronology of reviewed public discussion sources.

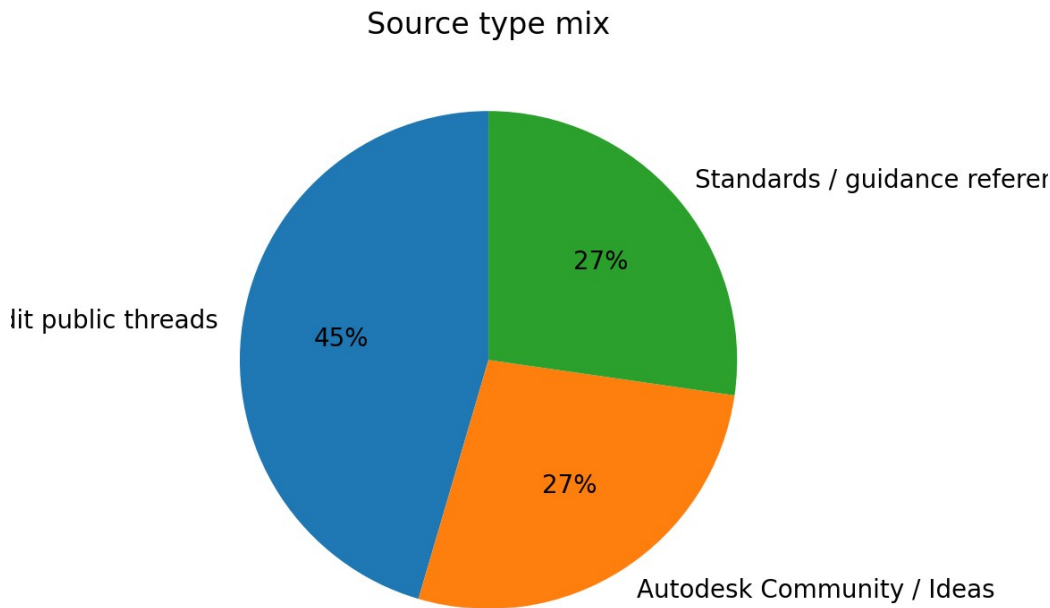


Figure 3 - Source type mix for the report evidence set.

6. Findings by issue category

6.1 Unclear BIM scope and BIM Execution Plan control

Public discussions repeatedly show that projects may require BIM coordination, coordinated drawings, clash detection, model sign-off, or data exports without a complete BIM Execution Plan. Where no BEP or requirement matrix exists, teams dispute model status, deliverable expectations, model reliance, schedule, and who is responsible for coordination decisions. This creates direct risk for trades because coordination may become an assumed obligation rather than a scoped service.

6.2 Owner requirements that are extensive but not always usable

Owner-side requirements are criticized when they become large administrative packages: model registers, task information delivery plans, clash reports, checklists, export sets, dashboards, IFC, NWC, CAD, and other milestone submissions. The complaint is strongest where submitters perceive that the owner does not review the information or has not provided the standards required for validation.

6.3 CM / GC coordination requirements pushed downstream

Construction-management discussions show concern about making every subcontractor responsible for clash detection or area sign-off without a neutral coordination authority. This risks finger-pointing, inconsistent model quality, payment disputes, and a coordination process that transfers effort downstream without transferring authority or compensation.

6.4 Model access, reliance, and gap-modelling disputes

Public discussions show cases where trades are required to coordinate but do not receive usable background models. The project may then require scanning, remodelling of ceilings/walls, or gap modelling. If model access and reliance were not defined during procurement, this becomes a cost and schedule issue.

6.5 Change-order and recoordination cost disputes

When bulletins, CCDs, or design changes require recoordination, teams may dispute whether the BIM effort is base scope, means and methods, or compensable extra work. The more poorly BIM is defined up front, the more likely it is to reappear as a change-order argument.

6.6 Platform fragmentation and automation gaps

Autodesk community discussions show concerns about fragmented modules, stale model updates, and limited export/reporting workflows. These issues matter because coordination decisions depend on current model status, traceable clash reports, and information that can move between systems.

6.7 Data and handover without clear downstream purpose

Public discussions and ISO 19650 guidance both point to the same control issue: information requirements need to define what information is required, when it is exchanged, who uses it, and how it is accepted. Without that, project data becomes an overhead activity rather than useful operational information.

7. Owner and CM / GC requirement findings

7.1 Owner requirement issues

Issue	Observed pattern	Project risk
Requirements issued without usable standards	Teams may be expected to validate against standards that are unavailable, incomplete, or unclear.	Compliance becomes difficult or impossible to verify.
Too many milestone deliverables	Registers, checklists, exports, clash reports, and dashboards may be required at every stage.	Production effort shifts to administration without clear decision value.
Weak review feedback	Submissions may not receive meaningful comments or acceptance decisions.	Teams lose trust that the data is being used.
Unclear operational use	Asset data or handover data may not map to owner FM/CMMS workflows.	The handover risks becoming a file dump.
Early clash or data expectations	Highly detailed coordination expectations may be placed on immature design models.	Design maturity and coordination expectation become misaligned.

7.2 CM / GC requirement issues

Issue	Observed pattern	Project risk
Clash responsibility pushed to every subcontractor	Subcontractors are asked to clear clashes without a neutral review role.	Finger-pointing and inconsistent coordination quality.
Payment linked to model sign-off	Area or level sign-off may be tied to payment without clear acceptance criteria.	Commercial leverage may replace technical quality control.
Coordination required without model access	Trades may be expected to coordinate without the design model or reliable background information.	Extra scanning/modelling, delay, and dispute risk.
BIM not priced at procurement	BIM may be added after contract award or treated as hidden means and methods.	Change-order and scope disputes.
Recoordination not defined	Design changes require model rework, but compensability is unclear.	BIM labour is treated as invisible overhead.

8. Interpretation for BIMTA

The reviewed public discussions support a clear BIMTA position: trade-level BIM professionals need to be involved before BIM requirements are finalized. They are closest to the modelling, coordination, prefabrication, installation, and project data realities that determine whether a BIM requirement is practical.

The main issue is not that owners and CMs ask for BIM. The issue is that BIM requirements are often written before the trade execution path is tested. If the requirement does not define purpose, cost, model access, responsibility, information exchange, and acceptance criteria, the trade side is exposed to unmanaged labour and coordination risk.

BIMTA can use these findings to support structured conversations with owners, CMs, GCs, consultants, and trades. The strongest advocacy point is practical: better requirements produce better pricing, better coordination, better fabrication value, and better handover data.

9. Recommendations

ID	Recommendation	Requirement control intent
R1	Require a BIM scope matrix before procurement	Define model uses, LOD/LOI, formats, update cycles, coordination authority, sign-off rules, and acceptance criteria.
R2	Separate coordination modelling from fabrication modelling	Do not assume that coordination-level BIM equals fabrication-ready modelling. Price and govern each purpose separately.
R3	Require owner data purpose statements	For each data request, define who uses the information, when it is checked, where it goes, and how acceptance is confirmed.
R4	Define recoordination rules	Clarify when design changes trigger compensable BIM rework and how it is documented.
R5	Define model access and reliance rules	State what models are provided, when, for what purpose, with what limitations, and what gap modelling is included or excluded.
R6	Use trade review before finalizing requirements	Have trade-level BIM professionals review owner/CM BIM requirements for practicality, value, pricing, and execution risk.

10. Conclusion

The public discussion evidence reviewed from 2018 through 2026 shows a consistent pattern. BIM issues are less about whether BIM has value and more about whether requirements are scoped, governed, priced, validated, and tied to real use. Owner requirements become problematic when they create data burden without clear use or review. CM / GC requirements become problematic when coordination responsibility is pushed to trades without enough authority, compensation, schedule, or model access.

For BIMTA, the key finding is that trade-level BIM professionals should be involved at the requirement-definition stage. Their input can reduce unclear scope, prevent hidden overhead, improve coordination quality, and connect BIM requirements to actual fabrication, installation, and handover value.

11. References

Reference style: numeric source register, ISO 690-inspired. Access date for all online sources: 2026-07-03.

- [S1]** Reddit / r/Architects. Owner BIM requirements increasing in scope and administrative burden. Source date: Approx. 2024. Available at: https://www.reddit.com/r/Architects/comments/1gmp34r/owner_bim_requirements_are_getting_out_of_control/. Accessed: 2026-07-03.
- [S2]** Reddit / r/bim. Architectural model not released for coordination while coordinated drawings were required. Source date: Approx. 2024. Available at: https://www.reddit.com/r/bim/comments/1amei5g/architect_refusing_to_provide_revit_model_for/. Accessed: 2026-07-03.
- [S3]** Reddit / r/ConstructionManagers. Subcontractors falling behind on BIM models and clash responsibility debate. Source date: Approx. 2026. Available at: https://www.reddit.com/r/ConstructionManagers/comments/1rwk3y9/how_are_you_guys_managing_bim_coordination_when/. Accessed: 2026-07-03.
- [S4]** Reddit / r/bim. CM BIM change-order dispute where BIM was not clearly required by contract. Source date: Approx. 2026. Available at: https://www.reddit.com/r/bim/comments/1q8isvn/cm_requesting_bim_change_order_not_contractually/. Accessed: 2026-07-03.
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- [S6]** Autodesk Community / BIM 360 Ideas. Need for near real-time model coordination updates. Source date: 2020-11-16 visible comment; idea approx. 2020. Available at: <https://forums.autodesk.com/t5/bim-360-ideas/model-coordination-need-near-real-time-model-updates-similar-to/idi-p/9859923>. Accessed: 2026-07-03.
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- [S10]** ISO. ISO 690:2010 bibliographic reference and citation guidelines. Source date: 2010. Available at: <https://www.iso.org/standard/43320.html>. Accessed: 2026-07-03.
- [S11]** UK BIM Framework / ISO 19650 Guidance. Developing information requirements guidance. Source date: 2021. Available at: https://www.ukbimframework.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Guidance-Part-D_Developing-information-requirements_Edition-2.pdf. Accessed: 2026-07-03.

Appendix A - Method detail

Step	Action	Description
1	Identify public discussion sources	Search public message boards and community forums for BIM, Revit, owner requirements, CM requirements, coordination, model access, change orders, clash detection, and platform workflow issues.
2	Exclude personal identifiers	Remove individual poster names, usernames, and personal identifiers from the report.
3	Classify issue themes	Assign each source to one or more practical categories: scope, requirements, coordination, cost, platform, data, handover, model access.
4	Record date basis	Use exact visible dates where available. Use approximate years where only relative public metadata is displayed.
5	Interpret conservatively	Treat findings as recurring public discussion themes, not statistically measured prevalence.