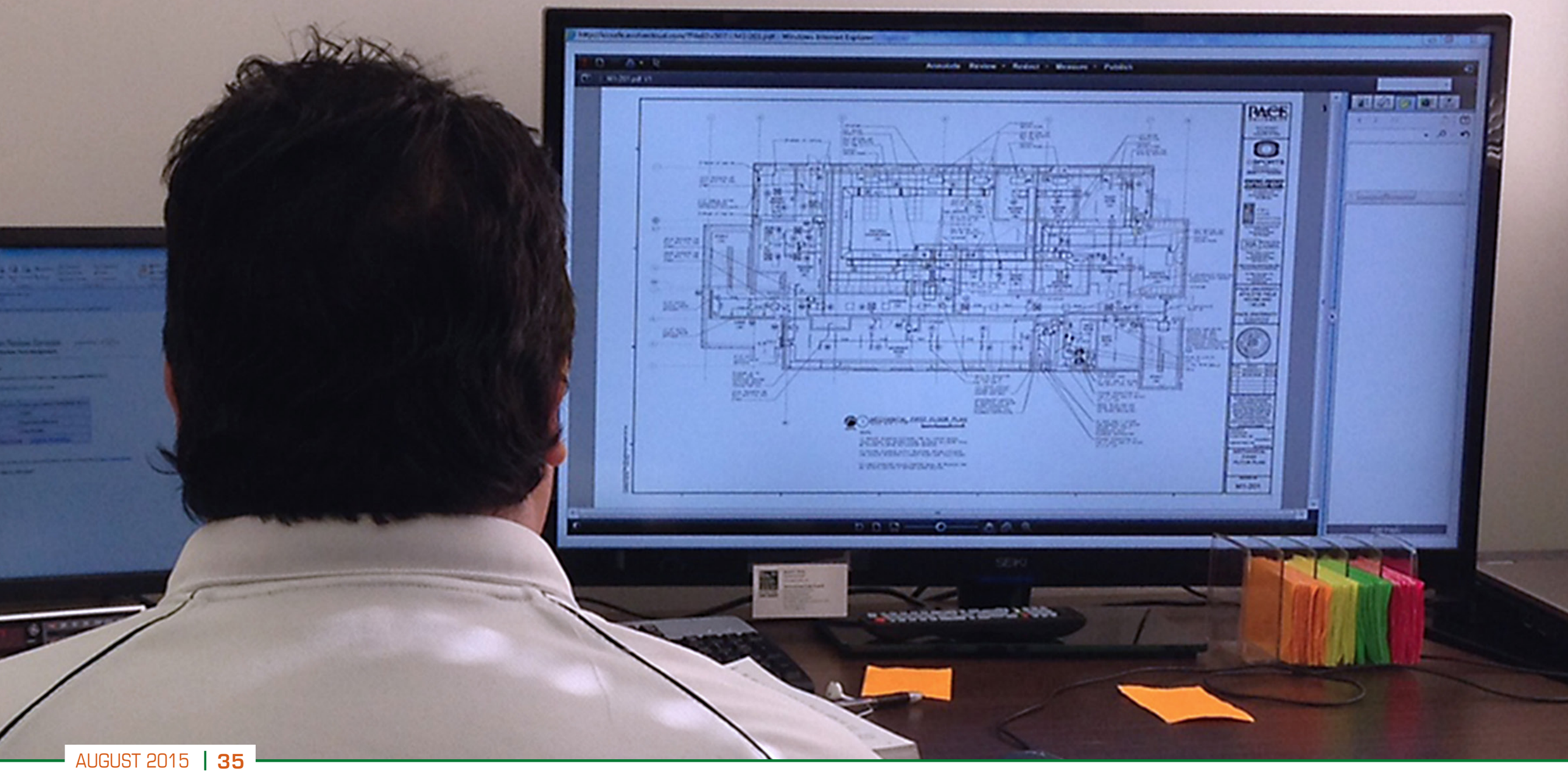
ICC's Cloud-Based Plan Review Submittal System Goes Live



The International Code Council's new cloud-based ProjectDox plan review submittal system, powered by Avolve, is proving to be a more sustainable, efficient and cost-effective plan review document submittal, storage and review option for busy jurisdictions and their consultants.

Sal Pennelle, building and fire inspector for the Town of Mt. Pleasant, New York, the first to take advantage of the ProjectDox cloud-based submittal platform, confirmed its benefits, adding, "I am always looking for ways to improve the services we provide to our community. The cloud-based submittal process has streamlined our communication with the ICC Plan Review staff, provided a better digital record of our plan reviews and will save considerable money that would normally be spent on printing costs."

According to average industry estimates, the cost of printing documents for a good-sized commercial project can be as much as $5000 plus the requirement of storing paper documents on site.

Dominic Sims, CEO of ICC, adds, "Leveraging the speed of the cloud to transfer documents just makes sense—it saves our client's money on printing costs and we all gain greater efficiencies in the overall submittal, review and re-review process."

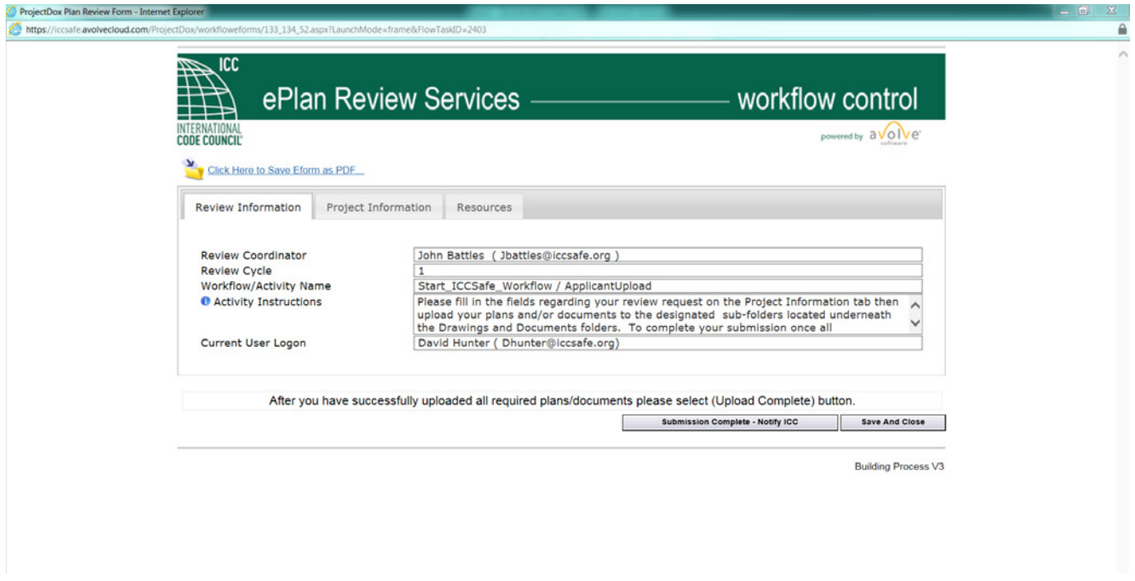
SECURE DIGITAL EFFICIENCY

As a workflow, task-based software, ProjectDox is designed to be simple and flexible for all applicants.

To begin the submittal process, a jurisdiction or other applicant fills out the ICC Transmittal Form which includes information about the project and the applicable codes to be used, whether the ICC International Codes, legacy codes (BOCA, ICBO, SBCCI), or, state codes with local amendments and the applicable disciplines. The ICC Plan Review Service staff evaluates plans (per the building department's request) for the following disciplines: building (structural and nonstructural), mechanical, plumbing, electrical, accessibility, energy conservation and fire protection systems.

Every ICC plan review includes a review of construction plans for all applicable code

To submit drawings to ICC for plan review, applicants log in to ProjectDox.



Once an applicant uploads all the project drawings for a plan review, the applicant selects the ProjectDox eForm submittal page under Applicant Upload and clicks Submission Complete—Notify ICC.

disciplines, and a detailed checklist of code compliance and violations as well as one complimentary re-review of reissued plans.

Once the Transmittal Form is received, ICC assigns a project number, and then invites the applicant to log in to ProjectDox and begin the drawing upload. When the drawings are uploaded, the applicant notifies ICC that the project is ready for review. ICC, in turn, notifies the client that the documents have been received and begins the review process.

Within ICC Plan Review Services, the project documents are distributed to the appropriate expert reviewer for each discipline. Chris Reeves, P.E., plan review manager with ICC Plan Review Services, says, "ProjectDox allows our plan reviewers a chance to work simultaneously, regardless of geographic location, on the same project. It also improves the peer review process. If there is a question, we can go through the database and make sure comments are technically accurate. We believe that as we gain more skill reviewing drawings on a screen, that we will also gain greater efficiency."

Once the plan review is complete, the applicant will receive an email notification from ICC, at which time, the applicant can log back into ProjectDox and download the review results.

Mt. Pleasant's Pennelle adds, "The ProjectDox workflow makes it easy to submit drawings for review. We just receive the invite from ICC and start uploading documents. Looking ahead, I can see where this process will help us save time and money and it definitely eliminates the requirement for multiple sets of drawings for our review process. And as always with ICC, we never give up control of the review process."

Perhaps the biggest advantage of ProjectDox to ICC and its customers will be the ability to re-review electronic documents. Since electronic documents are securely stored in the cloud, reviewers are able to overlay document versions to view previous comments and resolve potential issues with ease. Reeves adds, "The system also allows for our team to provide electronic comments and feedback internally, thereby facilitating faster, more streamlined communication."

TECHNOLOGY TRANSPARENCY

ICC members and their consultants will still have the option of submitting documents for plan review by the traditional methods of uploading to an FTP site or by sending hard copies through the mail. John Battles, vice president of Architectural & Engineering Ser-

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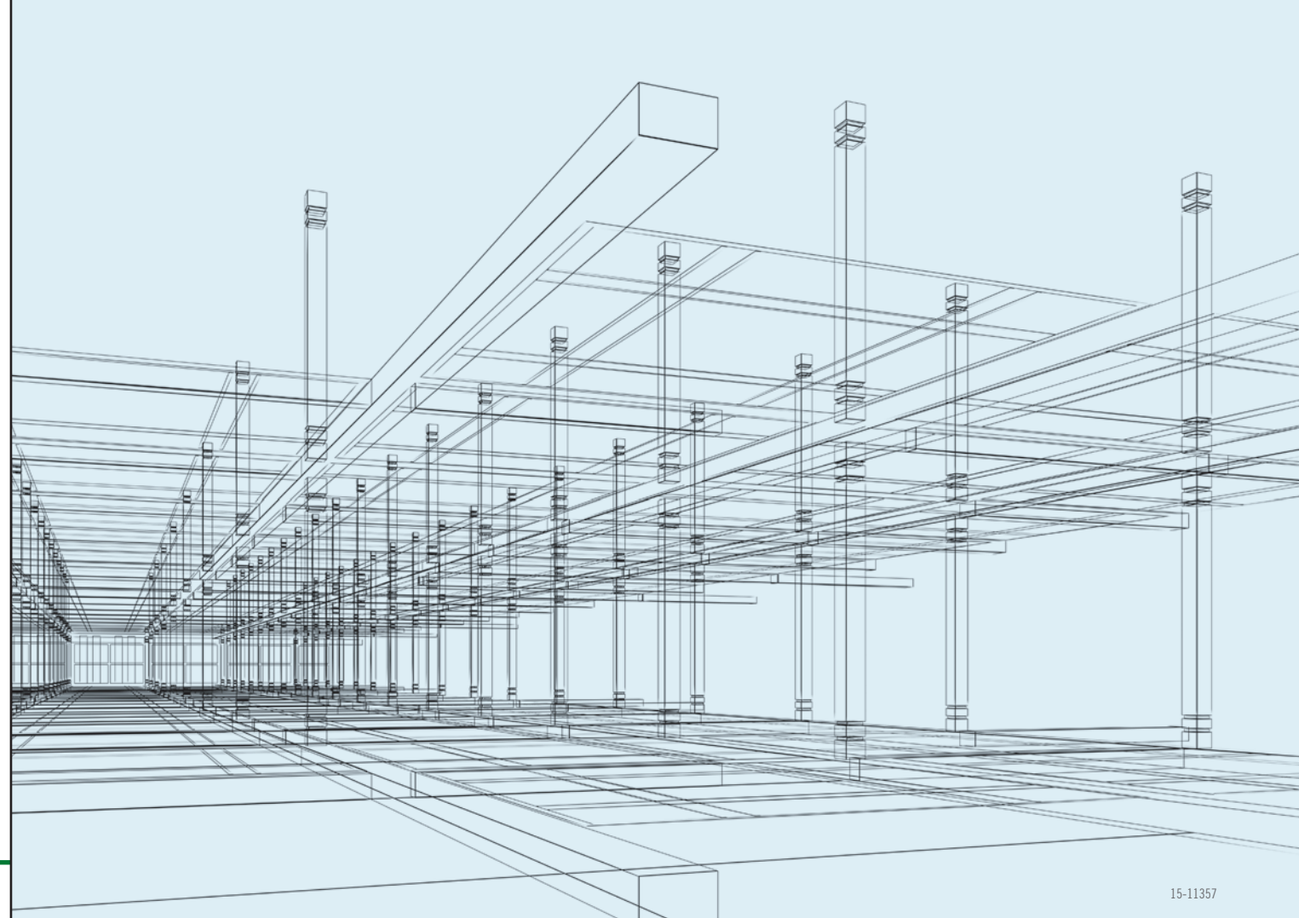
NEW! Streamline the document submittal process with our cloud-based ProjectDox, powered by Avolve plan review submittal system for easy plan review document submittal, storage and review.

To learn more about ICC Plan Review Services, visit **www.iccsafe.org/planreview** or contact: David Hunter–Director of Business Development and Outreach, Technical Services, 888-ICC-SAFE (888-422-7233), ext. 5577, dhunter@iccsafe.org



vices at ICC, says, "For our customers, ProjectDox is another way for our customers to submit drawings and minimize printing costs. The cloud-based system is simply more efficient for the client and for our plan review team."

ICC's development partner, Avolve Software, believes ProjectDox is a significant step in technology adoption and deployment in the construction world. Rob Simonds, vice president of Sales and Marketing with Avolve Software, explains, "The industry is in the midst of a huge and necessary transformation to achieve transparency, access and information value. Electronic plan review submission is a gateway to inject consistency into the standards process. At least one of our customers believes that electronic plan review is a key component to winning new business."

For more information on ICC's ePlan Plan Review Service contact David Hunter by email at dhunter@iccsafe.org or call (888) ICC-SAFE (422-7233) ext. 5577. BSJO

5 QUICK STEPS TO CLOUD-BASED PLAN REVIEW WITH ICC

1. Applicant submits transmittal sheet to ICC
2. ICC creates project in ProjectDox, Applicant receives email notification
3. Applicant submits (uploads) plans to ICC
4. ICC reviews plans; Applicant receives email notification when completed
5. Applicant downloads review results

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