This report is intended to review the industries opinion of hardware and associated peripherals currently on the market.
Table of Contents

Introduction

Presidents Message

Forward

Interpretation of Data

1) Who are the top manufactures?

2) Do we lean toward a particular manufacturer based on our role in the industry?

3) What type of equipment is being deployed?

4) What’s the most common grouping of equipment?

5) How many of us are buying maintenance agreements?

6) When we buy maintenance agreements do we feel like we're getting our moneys worth?

7) How worried are we about technological obsolescence when we buy equipment?

8) Is there enough revenue potential to justify the cost of our hardware?

9) How often do we add new equipment?

10) How important is it for us to have the latest and greatest?

11) Are the tolerances meeting our needs?

12) To rent or not to rent?

13) What are we buying now?

14) Partnerships, for better or worse?

15) What can they help you with?

16) How does the advancement of new technology impact our confidence?

17) Where do we consider ourselves to be in the new technology curve?

18) Is mobility an issue?

Contact Information
PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I am pleased to introduce to you the second issue of the USIBD’s Cornerstone Report. Building documentation as a distinct industry is still at an early stage of growth. As the various stakeholders with an interest in building documentation come together and share their collective knowledge and experiences we all benefit. As such, we were very excited to see the industry’s response to our second Cornerstone Report Survey which saw participation in the survey increase by over sixty percent. This is very good news as the value these reports provide will increase as the participation in the survey grows.

This issue of the Cornerstone Report is centered on the topic of Hardware. Many different instruments and tools are available to today’s building documentation professionals. The rapid pace of evolving technology means we need to keep abreast of these changes or we may quickly fall behind.

So what manufacturers are we using and what type of equipment is being deployed? How concerned are we with technical obsolescence and return on investment for the equipment we purchase? Are we willing to reach out to team up with others when our resources or expertise are at their limits? These are just a few of the questions we hope to shed some light on in this issue of the Cornerstone Report.

We hope you will continue to participate in future Cornerstone Report surveys as well as invite your friends and colleagues to participate as well. On behalf of the USIBD’s Board of Directors and the Technology Committee, we hope you will enjoy this issue of the USIBD’s Cornerstone Report.

Sincerely,

John M. Russo, AIA
President, USIBD
October 13, 2013
Forward

We have chosen the term Cornerstone to name the report after for its symbolic importance in the creation of a building.

The cornerstone (or foundation stone) concept is derived from the first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation, important since all other stones will be set in reference to this stone, thus determining the position of the entire structure.

Over time a cornerstone became a ceremonial masonry stone, or replica, set in a prominent location on the outside of a building, with an inscription on the stone indicating the construction dates of the building and the names of architect, builder and other significant individuals. The rite of laying a cornerstone is an important cultural component of eastern architecture and metaphorically in sacred architecture generally.

Much like the way a building cornerstone serves as a reference for determining the position of the entire structure, the Cornerstone Report will serve as a reference for those in the building documentation industry to help identify where the industry is positioned and where it is heading.

The Cornerstone Report will be a quarterly review of select aspects of the building documentation industry based on responses and opinions from service providers and consumers. The information and analysis presented in these reports is derived from data we gather through industry surveys that are open to all stakeholder groups to participate in.

It is our desire to provide unbiased information, on relevant topics of interest to the building documentation community. As such, we welcome your feedback on what you would like to see in future issues of the Cornerstone Report. From all of us at the USIBD we hope you will enjoy this issue of the Cornerstone Report.
Interpretation of Data

1) WHO ARE THE TOP MANUFACTURES?

- Leica, FARO and Trimble own the most popular manufacturer spots among our respondents, while all other submissions were owned by less than 10%.

2) DO WE LEAN TOWARD A PARTICULAR MANUFACTURER BASED ON OUR ROLE IN THE INDUSTRY?

- One of the major groups of respondents were surveyors, this group has a Leica product more than twice as often as any other manufacturer. Outside of the surveyor respondents the top spot is almost an even split between Leica and FARO.
3) WHAT TYPE OF EQUIPMENT IS BEING DEPLOYED?

- Scanning and Survey Instruments are in the lead for most often deployed, but traditional field measurement isn’t far behind.

  - 77% Scanning
  - 74% Survey Instruments
  - 58% Field Measurement
  - 48% Photography
  - 26% Photogrammetry
  - 12% GPR
  - 10% Other

4) WHAT’S THE MOST COMMON GROUPING OF EQUIPMENT?

- When using more than one manufacturer, the most common coupling is Leica and Trimble.

5) HOW MANY OF US ARE BUYING MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS?

- 35% of us always buy the maintenance agreement, 38% of us are selective when picking up the coverage and 27% haven’t purchased one yet.

6) WHEN WE BUY MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS DO WE FEEL LIKE WE’RE GETTING OUR MONEYS WORTH?

- Even though we pick up the added cost for a maintenance agreement, 54% of us say we only see the value in it occasionally the other 46% are split between seeing the value often and not at all.
7) HOW WORRIED ARE WE ABOUT TECHNOLOGICAL OBsolescence WHEN WE Buy EQUIPMENT?

- 73% of us are at least worried about our potential technology purchase becoming obsolete prematurely, only 5% of us aren’t concerned at all.

8) IS THERE ENOUGH Revenue POTENTIAL TO JUSTIFY THE COST OF OUR HARDWARE?

- Most of think so, 66% are already returning enough revenue from our purchase to justify the cost and 22% of us haven’t yet but are expecting to.

9) HOW OFTEN DO WE ADD NEW EQUIPMENT?

- When it comes to picking up new gear, 50% of us make an upgrade every 3-5 years with 30% of us pushing out past 5 years before the upgrade.

10) HOW IMPORTANT IS IT FOR US TO HAVE THE LATEST AND GREATEST?

- Although 81% of us see importance to having the newest gear, the difference between those of us on the fringes is significant. Twice as many respondents feel that being in possession of the latest and greatest is imperative to success.
11) ARE THE TOLERANCES MEETING OUR NEEDS?

• 30% of us feel like tolerance statements are too vague while most of us feel like the tolerances are in line with our goals. Less than 17% of us are reporting to being limited or provided an excess.

12) TO RENT OR NOT TO RENT?

• We’re definitely not opposed to renting with 84% respondents reporting to rent or planning to.

13) WHAT ARE WE BUYING NOW?

• With 55% of us reporting to have purchased Scanning Equipment and 33% buying Survey Equipment recently, there’s a much smaller fraction of us picking up other equipment (Photography, Photogrammetry, GPR and Other).

14) PARTNERSHIPS, FOR BETTER OR WORSE?

• It’s a popular practice. Over 60% of us team up with others to augment our capabilities but there’s a 20% showing that won’t.
15) WHAT CAN THEY HELP YOU WITH?

- Survey and photogrammetry lead the pack when it comes to attributes we look for when outsourcing, but scanning isn’t too far behind with the response rates coming in at 37%, 38% and 31% respectively.

16) HOW DOES THE ADVANCEMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY IMPACT OUR CONFIDENCE?

- We’re an eager group with 86% of us feeling more empowered than threatened by advancement in technology. Of that group, almost half are reporting in as being very empowered.

17) WHERE DO WE CONSIDER OURSELVES TO BE IN THE NEW TECHNOLOGY CURVE?

- Even though we feel empowered, only 19% feel like they’re on the bleeding edge. A much larger group consider themselves early adopters (49%) and another 19% are in the main stream.

18) IS MOBILITY AN ISSUE?

- 60% of us don’t feel that there’s much importance for our gear to fit into the overhead compartment of an airplane but 27% say it’s almost imperative.
Contact Information

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