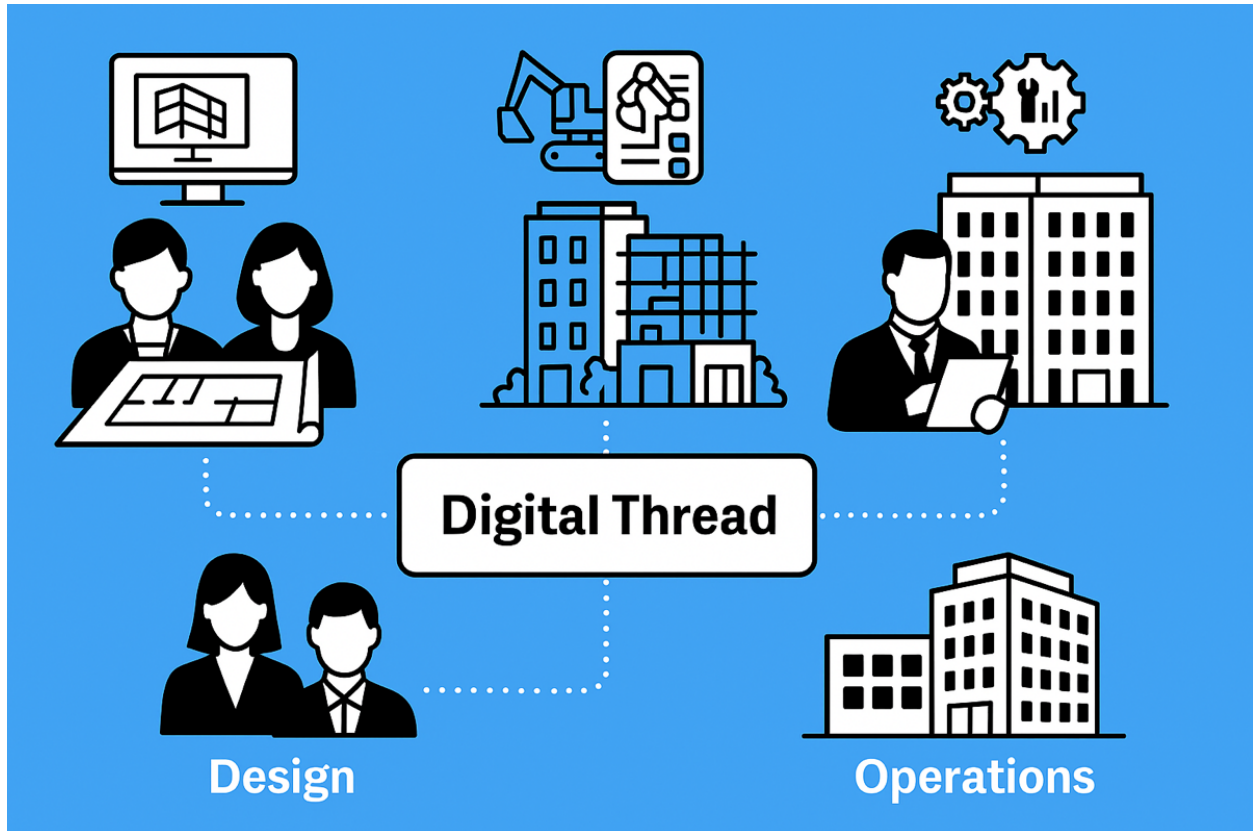# BIM Was Supposed to Fix This

**By Randy Storch / Ideon Consulting**



We talk a lot about digitizing buildings. But the real goal isn't dashboards and devices—it's **data continuity** across the entire building lifecycle.

That's the idea behind what many call the **Digital Thread**:
A connected flow of information that starts in design, carries through construction, and lives on in operations. It's the foundation for AI, analytics, automation—and ultimately, smarter, more efficient buildings.

But here's the reality:
Most of that thread unravels the moment construction ends.

**BIM was supposed to be the bridge.**
A unified model that could serve everyone—from architects and engineers to facilities and operations teams.

Technically, BIM can support:
- ◆ Asset tagging linked to maintenance workflows
- ◆ Manufacturer specs, warranty data, and O&M documents
- ◆ Sensor locations and integration points
- ◆ Sequences of operation and system control logic

But in practice? It rarely includes any of this.
Most BIM models are optimized for construction handover, not long-term operational use.

Facilities teams are often handed static or incomplete models—if they receive them at all.
Critical operational details are missing. And the people who will maintain and manage the building are rarely asked what they need.

**The real failure point isn't the technology—it's the lack of collaboration.**

The AEC community does incredible work, but they're too often siloed from FM and technology stakeholders during planning and design. Without early alignment, the data needed for long-term value never makes it into the model.

To fix this, we need more than better tech—we need **better coordination and clear standards**.

We need a shared understanding of what BIM must contain to be truly useful beyond construction. And we need to treat FM data not as a "nice to have," but as **critical infrastructure** that supports performance for years to come.

That's the real promise of the **Digital Thread**:
A building that's not just designed well—but operates better, year after year, because the data is there to support it.

**Building owners have a key role to play.**
They're the only ones positioned to connect the full lifecycle—and they're the ones who benefit most when it works.

Smarter buildings aren't just more efficient—they're more valuable.

Let's stop breaking the loop.
Let's build the thread—from the start.

👉 Have you faced this disconnect between BIM and operations?
What would you include in a BIM standard for FM?

Drop your thoughts in the comments or DM me—let's move the conversation forward.