

I²SL Benchmarking Working Group

Attendees:

Alison Farmer, Michelle Ruda, Dan Doyle, David Cohen, Rick Sampson, Hadley Stolte, David Landman, Jacob Werner, Paul Mathew, Phil Wirdzek, Justin Lewis, Marcus Hazelwood, Paul Leitch, Joel McKellar

Item 1: Progress over last 2 months and action plan for next 2.5 months

- Building info submitted over last 2 years has now been input into the Labs21 database.
- Travis at LBNL wrote scripts to help expedite process in the future
- 639 buildings are now in the peer group database
- People are submitting data with issues/concerns that makes the data unusable.
 - Wrong metrics, entering sf breakout in % and not sf
- Group will make tool upgrades. Upgrades will be live by time of conference.
- Alison is working on the lineup for benchmarking symposium

Item 2: Discuss and prioritize upgrade/bug fix list:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1V1r_KcEtzJKjZnmhk4JlbEMw3LrGirWlQf_hISHRqE/edit?usp=sharing

- The group has removed most of the obstacles regarding the tool, know what changes need to be made, would like to make upgrades now and highlight at the benchmarking symposium during the I²SL annual conference in the fall
- Paul will have access to a coder from LBNL to help with some small programming fixes
- Shared excel file (link above) has list of fixes: coding fixes to be through LBNL, other fixes best provided by the BMWG
- Discussion on specific items:
 - Excel list Item 20: Portfolio manager interaction allows auto-update of data within the tool. Would remove barrier to updating information with little effort from the owners. Once an owner is set up through the benchmarking tool, a link would need to be created between the two. Non-trivial coding exercise.
 - Auto-update of data direct from buildings. Very complicated process and meter connections are not as simple as linking to portfolio manager. Dashboarding or metering companies may be interested in the idea. There may also be demand for an API for the Labs21 tool to pull the data back out and into dashboards etc.
 - Future item: room-specific data. Cobie data (federal government room data, series of spreadsheets that requires certain labels for specific room types, equipment, energy uses, etc.). One way to get room data from a BIM model.
- The Excel sheet will remain active. **Please add any comments or ideas** – this will be the agenda moving forward for the group.
- Good items for the working group to take on over the next 2 months:
 - Cosmetic Improvements – update appearance, buttons, text, colors, images, etc. Hadley put together a powerpoint with some proposed changes. Hackathon – several focused sessions.
 - Volunteers: Alison Farmer, Hadley Stolte
 - Links to useful resources – case studies, I2SL resources, reports on lab energy use, previous conference presentations. Be careful not to endorse any particular company or technology. *Links for reference only, not endorsed by I²SL*

- Volunteers: Michelle Ruda, David Landman
- Quick reference factsheet on buildings in the database and stats, with updated FAQs. Michelle has put together a starting list of FAQs to be added to.
 - Volunteers: Michelle Ruda, David Landman

More volunteers needed to spread the load – contact Alison! All contributions will be acknowledged at the I²SL conference!

Item 3: Discuss lineup and format for benchmarking symposium at annual conference

- Who from the group will be at the conference?
 - Alison Farmer, Michelle Ruda, Dan, David, Hadley Stolte, Jacob Werner
- Symposium will take place 1st day of the conference, directly after the keynote.
- Symposium to consist of few short presentations followed by a facilitated discussion
- Jacob, Hadley and Alison to divide up and give presentations. Group is currently putting together abstracts for what will be presented.
- Topics: Upgrades, peer group additions, statistical analysis, demo features of the tool, discussion. Potential Future Upgrades: Link to portfolio manager, what granular information would be useful.
- Architect directed tool enhancement: Correlate specific buildings or mechanical system features with a statistically significantly difference in energy (energy recovery, type, etc.).

Date of next call

- Midway between now and annual conference.

Feel free to volunteer! Even an hour is helpful. Contact Alison!

Minutes prepared by Michelle Ruda
7/14/2016