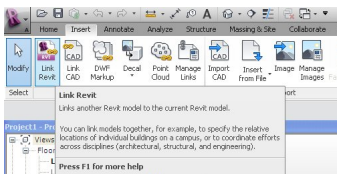


**Please Note:** If you're new to Revit, you may be interested in my "[Beginner's Guide to Revit Architecture](#)" **84 part video tutorial training course**

. The course is 100% free with no catches or exclusions. You don't even need to sign-up. Just enjoy the course and drop me line if you found it useful. The [full course itinerary can be viewed here](#)

In this article we are going to take a look at the basics of linking files in Revit. For the purpose of this exercise we are going to use Revit Architecture 2012, but the same principles can be applied to all flavours of Revit- e.g. Revit Architecture, Revit Structure and Revit MEP. You can also mix and match. I.e. you can link one Revit Architecture file into a another one or you can link a Revit MEP file into Revit Architecture file, and so on.

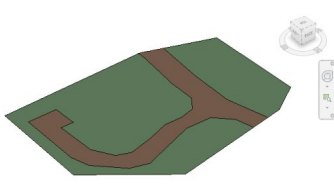


Before we actually start with the tutorial, let's just take a few minutes to discuss why we would actually want to link one Revit file into another. Generally there are two main scenarios where you would want to do this. The first one being when you want to split your project into a "site file" and a "building file". This helps keep each one smaller and also helps with collaboration. This would probably be appropriate when either of the files is large in size or you are developing a "campus" model- ie a site with many different buildings on it.

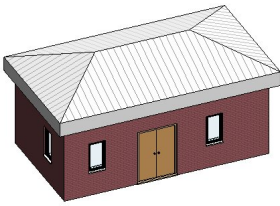
The second scenario is where you want to split your project into different disciplines. For example the MEP and structural elements of the project are being developed independently (in Revit MEP and Revit Structure) and you want to bring everything together in one "master" file.

For the purposes of this tutorial we are going to deal with the first scenario (separate site and building files). We will cover linking between disciplines in a separate tutorial- where we will also cover the use of the Copy/Monitor tools.

OK, let's get started. Let's start off with our site model. For the purposes of this exercise, I'm just going to use a very simple site model consisting of a basic toposurface with a subregion on it. In the image below you can see our basic site model.



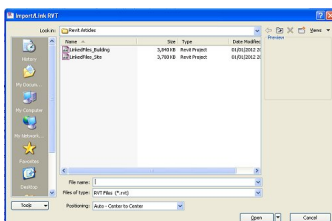
And that's it for the site model. I have saved it as a Revit project called "Site". Now onto the building. Again I'm going to keep it very simple. Four walls, some windows, a door and a roof. Please note that this is created in a completely separate Revit project file. At this stage, there is absolutely no relationship between the site file and building file. Talking of buildings, here it is.....



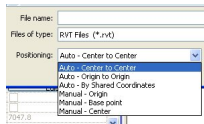
I don't think it's going to win any architectural awards, but you get the idea. Right, so we now have a site file and a building file. All that's left to do is link them together. Now for the million dollar question- which way round do you do the linking? Or let's put it in more basic terms: Do we link the Building INTO the Site file? Or, do we link the "Site File" into the "Building file"? There are pros and cons with both approaches. But I would suggest for now that you link your Building INTO your site. So first of all let's open the Site file again. Once we have the site file open we go to the "Insert" menu and choose "Link Revit".....



When we select this, we are then presented with a fairly standard "Open File" dialogue panel.....

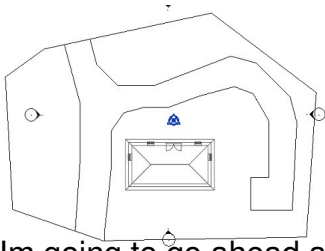


We now select our building file as the file that we wish to link inside the current one. But wait just a minute: Before we go on, let's take a very quick look at the little drop-down panel at the bottom, the one titled "Positioning". In the image below you can see all the options you have with regards how the linked file relates (with regards to its position) to its Host file....



In other tutorials we cover the concept of Shared Coordinates and Project Coordinates. The topics are a little too in-depth to cover here and really warrant their own discussion. But the thing to note now is that you do have a choice (at the time of linking) as to how the two files relate to each other in the X, Y and Z planes. For this tutorial, we are going to select "Manual-Base Point". This basically just lets us click where we want the linked file to be placed.

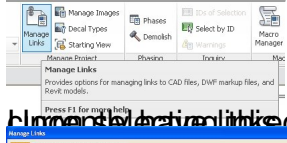
As soon as I click OK on this panel, Revit asks us to click where we wish to place the linked file. As you move your cursor about, you will see a ghost image of the linked file, ready to be placed.....



Im going to go ahead and place the building in the middle of my site.....



~~When you click on the "Manage Links" button in the ribbon, the "Manage Links" dialog box is displayed.~~



When you click on the "Manage Links" button in the ribbon, the "Manage Links" dialog box is presented with a table showing you details of all the files you

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