

## How the role of a builder is changing

Technology is having a profound impact on many job roles. Within the construction and engineering sector, it is influencing the required skills of core jobs, such as builders. With software and hardware being developed every day, practical tasks are shifting more and more to super-accurate and fast technology. But does this mean that technology will soon replace human effort entirely? [Building design software](#) specialists, Oasys, investigates.

### Is there a risk of technology taking our jobs?

It's a frequent question in any industry, whether or not robots will steal our jobs! Technology will not steal our jobs, but just replace us as we shift roles. But how will this impact the construction industry? According to Boston Consulting Group has said that by 2025, up to a quarter of jobs will be replaced by smart software or robots. This includes a range of professions, from factory workers to doctors, and even journalists. However, a study carried out by Oxford University has said that 35% of existing jobs in Britain are at risk of automation in the next 20 years.

There is some uncertainty regarding the decline in number of physical workers. However, this can be challenged if we start preparing early and encourage current and future workers to adapt to the changes. This could include advancing their own skillset with a focus on how they can do their job better with the use of technology.

### Construction's role-shift

Even with a rise in technology in the workplace, it's often left forgotten that people will be needed to maintain the machinery. It's also left unmentioned that workers will need to use technology, and that leads us to the decision that in the construction industry, builders of the future will become programmers.

New and innovative methods have been entering the construction sector for years in order to make jobs easier. From hammers to nail guns, shovels to diggers — and now practical labour to programming.

But this shift won't occur overnight. Programming is a topic that schools around the UK should be looking to implement into their curriculums as a core subject to keep up with the demand of jobs and to keep up with the constant changes in technology. If we're teaching young people old ways, they will be useless when it comes to doing the work and there might not even be jobs available that match their skillsets. With the constant growth in technology surrounding construction, young people need to be prepared with the skills and this shouldn't be up for debate. Like the studies discussed earlier, more jobs are at risk of being lost due to smart software and robots. Workers need to be as good as the technology.

A common piece of beneficial technology that is already used in construction is Building Information Modelling (BIM). It allows the appropriate people to access all of the information about a project in one place. It can look at key stages of a project across the lifecycle of a job and provide the information that is needed. This can save both time and money for any construction company and allows builders to have a clear oversight. BIM can help illustrate the entire building, from starting processes to its demolition, and can even show how materials can be reused.

Technology is inevitably going to increase. If people want to remain in the loop of having a career and developing personally with the changes, it's best to start sooner rather than later.

Sources:

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<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/mar/19/robot-based-economy-san-francisco>