

## BACnet Benefits

WE MAKE BUILDINGS WORK.

When we say “we make buildings work,” it’s more than just a company promise. It’s personal.

## Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

### What is BACnet?

BACnet is a non-proprietary data communications protocol standard for building automation and control networks. Officially known as ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 135, BACnet's purpose is to standardize communication between building automation devices from different manufacturers, allowing them to share data and enabling equipment to quickly and easily interoperate.

### How was BACnet developed and how is it maintained?

BACnet was developed by a cross-section of industry professionals, which consisted of manufacturers, consulting engineers, end users, government agencies and the academic community. It took more than eight years to develop, was publicly reviewed and adopted as ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 135-1995. The standard is under constant review and improvement by the same industry representation that created it. BACnet is an American national standard, a European standard and an ISO global standard.

### Is BACnet ready for my enterprise network?

Yes. With native support for Ethernet networks and the Internet Protocol (IP), BACnet devices are ready to be deployed on nearly any enterprise network. When selecting BACnet devices, be sure they support BACnet/IP. All Alerton BACTalk operator workstation software, global controllers and even some field controllers support BACnet/IP.

### Why was BACnet developed?

To free consumers of limiting and expensive proprietary systems. Before BACnet, each brand of control equipment was based on a proprietary protocol. Any time equipment from different manufacturers needed to share information, custom software and hardware had to be developed, which was expensive and time consuming. BACnet is non-proprietary and gives you choices, uniformity and flexibility. It provides options to building owners and system designers, who can easily interface with controls supplied on equipment and choose the best equipment for a system from among a variety of manufacturers.

### How can I be sure my system will be BACnet compliant?

BACnet-compliant products appear as tested products on the BACnet International Web site at [www.bacnetassociation.org](http://www.bacnetassociation.org). BTL compliance testing ensures interoperability by verifying that the products correctly implement BACnet and communicate with each other. Most end users and consulting engineers prefer to purchase BTL-listed products when BACnet capability is required.

### Where can I find more information about BACnet?

Several Web sites can provide you with more information about BACnet, including:

**[www.bacnet.org](http://www.bacnet.org)**, the official Web site of ASHRAE's Standing Standard Project Committee 135, which supports and maintains the protocol

**[www.bacnetassociation.org](http://www.bacnetassociation.org)**, BACnet International

**[www.ashrae.org](http://www.ashrae.org)**, the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers

Alerton dealers can also provide you with further information on the benefits of BACnet. Find your local dealer at **[www.alerton.com](http://www.alerton.com)**.

## The Benefits of BACnet

The greatest benefit of BACnet is that it was developed through ASHRAE by a group of dedicated industry professionals. The more manufacturers involved with developing and maintaining a standard, the more valuable that standard becomes. Alerton was one of the first building controls manufacturers to recognize the benefits of BACnet, more than 10 years ago. Since then, hundreds of industry manufacturers have come on board with BACnet and BACnet-compliant equipment.

**Flexible.** BACnet was developed with an eye toward accommodating all building automation and control applications. This includes fire and life safety, lighting, security, card access and others. BACnet's open and expanded capabilities can integrate and operate all of your building systems.

**Extensible.** If a vendor comes up with new functionality for which BACnet communication is required, he can add new properties or create new object types that are accessed in exactly the same way as the original object types defined in the standard. BACnet not only expects evolution—it encourages it.

**Open.** BACnet interoperability offers the freedom to assemble the system that best fills your needs—regardless of the vendor. BACnet means you are no longer restricted by the products and fees of a single manufacturer.



BACnet interoperability opens up a world of building control solutions, including software... modular configurations... traditional hardware and more.

*Our network of experienced local dealers are pivotal in ensuring that you and your people get the most from your building controls system. Our clients appreciate knowing that someone is there to help throughout planning, installation and beyond.*

## BACnet Benefits

BACnet is found in thousands of building types around the globe including healthcare, commercial office, college and university, K-12, government, hospitality, airports and industrial. Below are just a few satisfied customers with BACnet solutions from Alerton.



### **ImaginOn, the Joe and Joan Martin Center**

ImaginOn houses the Charlotte Children's Theatre, the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County's Children's Library. The building was designed for high performance and sustainability using Alerton's native BACnet system. The building is LEED certified by the United States Green Building Council.



### **City Center West**

City Center West in Madison offers the city's largest per-floor square footage, the county's largest parking structure and the state's first Web-based building controls system. Alerton's BACtalk system provides centralized control of numerous integrated systems, including closed circuit TV, camera security, and fire and life safety.



### **City of Tucson**

City of Tucson properties include 25 sites in 40 buildings spread across the northern Sonoran Desert. Alerton integrated a new, open protocol solution with a large amount of existing, aging, proprietary equipment, enabling the city to expand its building control system at a competitive price.



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