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# COMMENTARY

## If It's Fall, This Must Be Atlanta

Some of us are old enough to remember the movie "If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Belgium." It's a great title that instantly sums up the feelings of anyone who's ever been caught up in a whirlwind of activity. Such is the feeling of some of the "BACneteers" that meet four times a year. By the fifth day of each of those meetings, some of us are exhausted enough to have to check the calendar to see what town we are in. We have had the privilege of being hosted by Montgomery College and Georgia Tech for many years now, and we can all name way too many restaurants in Germantown, Md., and Atlanta.

So why do all these dedicated souls do it? It's because they want to be a part of the amazing whirlwind of advancement in building automation and control known as BACnet. The standard that started in 1995 with roughly 500 pages has now doubled in size to more than 1,000. If you throw in the 500 pages of the testing standard, you no longer have to wonder what 20 to 40 people meeting four times a year, for five days each, are doing with all that time.

And the pace of advancement is actually quickening. It used to be that we published a new version of the standard roughly every four years, the last one being in 2008. But now, after adding 18 addenda and 300 pages, it's already time to produce a new version after only two years.

Rather than listing all the additions (even a summary is large), I'll refer you to BACnet's website at [bacnet.org](http://bacnet.org) and the ASHRAE website to get a feel for all the new things that have been added. Among a host of small improvements and additions, you'll find that those tireless committee volunteers have been making major technology additions for wireless networks, XML data formats, physical access control, and state-of-the-art network security.

And we can't even begin to see the end. Technology never stops and neither will the advancements in BACnet. Even if some of us old-timers start retiring, there's always new blood and new energy being pumped into BACnet: The Standard That Never Sleeps.

But does this whirlwind mean a buffeting for BACnet's customers? Thankfully, no. The core of BACnet has been a rock of stability for 15 years, and innumerable buildings now rest on its four cornerstones of data sharing, scheduling, alarming and trending. What it does mean is that when you are ready for new technology in your buildings, BACnet will be there.

Want to be a part of the whirlwind? Sign up for the mailing list at [bacnet.org](http://bacnet.org), join us for a free and open face-to-face meeting, or join one of the 13 working groups and participate by e-mail or conference call. Get involved and you can help us write the next 1,000 pages.

Dave Robin, Member ASHRAE,  
SSPC 135 Chair



Dave Robin