AAO *S.O.P.* "Families & Parameters"

Openings Studio has an option to export door and hardware parameters as either Project or Shared types. Below are some key definitions used by Revit Architecture to describe Families and Parameters.

Family

A class of similar elements in a category (i.e. Door Family). Families are groups of elements with a common set of parameters (properties), identical usage, or similar graphical representation.

Elements in a Family may have different values for some or all of the properties, but the entire set of properties (the Family Name and meaning) is the same. For instance, a Family named Exterior-Single-Flush Door contains doors that are all single-swing and flush, but also could contain different width, height and thickness sizes. Each size combination is a 'type' within the Exterior-Single-Flush Door Family.

Type

A subdivision within a Family.
For example, the Door Family 'Exterior-Single-Flush' could be further divided into Types such as 36"x 84"x1 3/4", 42"x 84"x 1 3/4", or 48"x 96"x 2" doors.

Type Parameters (Type Properties)

Settings that control the appearance or behavior of all elements in a particular Family Type (Door Panel Type, Door Material Type, Frame Attachment, Frame Gauge, etc.). Type parameters and instance parameters combine to establish the element properties.

Shared Parameters

User defined fields added to families or projects and then shared with other families and projects. **Shared parameters are stored independently** of a specific family file or Revit project thus allowing access to the files from different families or projects.

Shared Parameters can be used in tags for model elements and displayed and modified in multi-category door schedules.

Project Parameters

User defined fields added to multiple categories of elements, sheets, or views within a project. **Project parameters are specific to the Project** and cannot be shared with other projects. AAOS Project parameters are indentified in Revit by the prefix 'Schedule [parameter name]'.

Project parameters can be displayed in multi-category door schedules. Unlike shared parameters, project parameters cannot be used in tags for model elements.

Instance Parameters (Instance Properties).

Fields that control the appearance or behavior of an individual element in a project. **Instance parameters can have unique properties not governed by the Type** (i.e. Door Hardware). Instance parameters and type parameters combine to establish the element properties.