

Hursley Museum Services - January 2014 Update

Introduction

Following Rachel Burnett's kind invitation to join the CCS as a Project Group at the end of November, the museum curators have accepted and we are now the 'new kid on the block!'

Peter Short (that's me!) has been 'nominated' as Leader, with backup from the other two curators Terry Muldoon and Mark Perry. If you weren't able to attend last year's meeting at Hursley, the museum is located in several rooms on the lower ground floor of Hursley House, with further rooms for storage and archive. Beyond floor space, heating and lighting the museum is not funded by IBM. If you would like to know more about our activities, please visit the web site at <http://hursley.slx-online.biz/>. All three curators are IBM retirees, attending on a voluntary basis one day a week. A small number of current employees provide a little voluntary time to help out.

Current Activities & Acquisitions

Over the last two months we have acquired quite a bit of old IBM hardware from two former IBM offices in Basingstoke and Weybridge. We were fortunate to be invited to look around these two building whilst they were being cleared, and take pretty well anything we wanted. We have also received donations from the Hursley DP Machine Room of equipment discontinued in recent weeks, together with a few private donations.

Hardware from the former offices includes several different iterations of the AS/400, including a rack containing three tape library machines, a 9309 and two 3590s. We also have some RS/6000 and PC / PS2 boxes, printers, miscellaneous cables and adapter cards, a couple of racks and eServer & RS/6000 rack mounted units. We also acquired a Sequent-branded rack containing as yet unidentified servers.



AS/400s & Tape Library



Store Room

The Hursley DPMR kit is not particularly old, but we figure it will be one day. Included is a Power5+ server, comprising 8 x 2 way 2.2 GHz CPU cards, 16 x 4Gb DIMM, 16 x 73Gb 10K RPM SCSI disks and 8 x 2GB Fibre Channel PCI-X cards.

The curators have been kept very busy with this new influx, but have also had time to continue work on bringing old kit back to life. Focus is currently on the AS/400s and building a Token Ring Network. Meanwhile, cataloguing and filing of the paper archive continues apace.

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Project Group Lead: [Peter Short](#)

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New Display Rooms

During the first part of 2013, we opened a number of new rooms in the museum. There are photos on the web site of the initial displays, but we do continue to improve and add. The Customer Engineering work benches have acquired some additional lighting. A section of raised floor has been added to the display. Many of the machines on display have now been PAT tested, and can be demonstrated in working order. One of the plans is to connect up either our PC-XT or PC-AT to both mono and colour displays, a graphics printer and pen plotter, running Lotus 1-2-3 - once we've managed to get hold of an early copy of 1-2-3 on 5.1/4" diskette!



Raised Floor under CE work bench



PC-AT

Hursley Products

Over the last few months we have been putting together a list of products developed at Hursley. There are still many gaps, but we do now have a reasonably comprehensive list on the web site. The hardware list is at <http://hursley.slx-online.biz/hursley-products-hw.asp> and the software at <http://hursley.slx-online.biz/hursley-products-sw.asp>. There is a comprehensive list of IBM products on [Wikipedia](#), which we find useful from time to time.

Appeals

We share this newsletter with the IBM Hursley retiree community, and regularly publish appeals for items we would like to get a hold of. For example, we need the handset from an old rotary dial telephone to display on our acoustic coupler. We are also sadly lacking any 3270 displays, either 3277 or 3278, and are also missing an IBM PC Enhanced Graphics Adapter (EGA) and 5154 Advanced Colour Display.

Whilst we don't expect anyone to have an IBM 2984 Lloyds Cashpoint in their attic, we've still not managed to track one down. This was a significant product developed in Hursley for Lloyds, and heralded the beginning of the ATM market as we know it today. If we could only find one, we could perhaps use it in a display covering both hardware and software - especially CICS. Even Lloyds don't seem to have one stashed away. If anyone has any leads that might help us find one, please let us know!

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