Hursley Museum Services - February 2014 Update

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, including a PC-XT and two Selectric typewriters, one of which attaches a 5.1/4" diskette drive, a rare find. The AS/400 that was offered by a family in Leicester was delivered by them towards the end of 2013.

Hardware from Basingstoke and Weybridge 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 together with eServer & RS/6000 rack mounted units. We also acquired a Sequent-branded rack containing as yet unidentified servers.

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.

AS/400s & Tape Library

AS/400s

082 Card Sorter

Web Site: http://hursley.slx-online.biz/
IBM Contact: Julian Gerry   CCS Project Group Lead: Peter Short
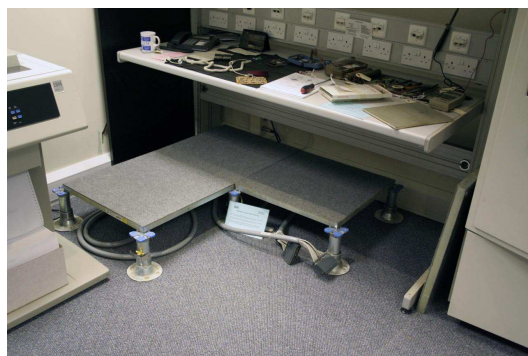
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We are soon to receive more artefacts, this time from the closure of Buchan House in Edinburgh. One item is an 082 card sorter, an excellent find, which we hope to get working and be able to demonstrate. We have also been promised a number items from Greenock.

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.

Display Rooms

The Customer Engineering work benches have acquired some additional lighting. A section of raised floor has been added to the display, with some channel cables underneath. Many of the machines on display have now been PAT tested, and can be demonstrated in working order.

Raised Floor under CE workbench

More Lights!

Hursley Products

We've not had much input on this of late. If you've not yet looked at the products list, we'd be grateful if you could see if you have any information to help boost the list. 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.

Appeals

We still need the handset from an old rotary dial telephone to display on our acoustic coupler. There are still no leads on the IBM 2984 Lloyds Cashpoint. We are now wondering if we can put together a cardboard replica!

Computer Conservation Society / Bletchley Park

At the end of November the museum received an invitation to join the CCS as a Project Group. We have accepted, Peter Short has been 'nominated' as Leader, with backup from the other two curators Terry Muldoon and Mark Perry. We look upon this as an opportunity to expand our contacts and hopefully find more old artefacts. It does mean we have to produce extra newsletters before each of their committee meetings.

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One result of this closer relationship was Terry Muldoon's two-part article for the CCS's magazine, Resurrection, on "100 Years of IBM". The editor of Resurrection feels that until now, IBM has been under-represented in Resurrection and would welcome future input from us. We are looking for anyone who can supply us with documentation or memories or who is willing to be interviewed at Hursley about the company's past. The editor feels that CICS has never had the exposure that it deserves and so some memories of its early days would be useful.

On hardware, especially processors, we need more information on: Futures Series (and its descendents System/38 and AS/400) and "Stretch". Personally, Terry would like more on Hursley's SCAMP and how its technology was used in low-end System /360. Any contributions on the above and any other Hursley product would be very welcome.

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