

Hursley Museum Services - August 2015

Current Activities & Acquisitions

Much has happened to our AS/400s in the last few months. After fixing a disk subsystem problem on one of our AS/400es we now have four working machines. An AS/400e Model S20, two AS/400e Model 170, dating from the 1990s and an iSeries Model 270 dating from the 2000s. We have successfully attached an IBM 3570 Magstar tape library to the Model S20 and an IBM 3590 tape drive to one of the Model 170s.

On the software front, we are now running OS/400 5.2 on the two 170s and OS/400 5.4 on the 270. We have installed IBM MQSeries on one of the Model 170s and have it running successfully. We are also getting close to having CICS/400 running on the Model 270.



The AS/400s are part of our on-going drive to try to show more IBM software, especially that derived from Hursley such as CICS and MQ.

IBMImp1 - Hursley / Imperial College Space Probe

Our latest, and youngest acquisition is the IBMImp1 space probe. In June 2015, IBM and Imperial College launched the probe from Churchill College to the Edge of Space, some 20 miles above the Earth underneath a helium balloon.



While above the Earth, the probe transmitted telemetry such as temperature, light readings, movement, and location data back to IBM. This data controlled, in real-time, the environment of the IBM Hursley Innovation Centre, in order to represent the conditions the probe encountered in space. The probe used IBM Messaging and Bluemix technology as the software backbone, to transport and process the telemetry to control the conditions of the IBM Innovation Centre. This Proof of Concept has implications for disaster recovery and immersive education technologies.

The mission was successful, but not without incident, as during its 20 mile descent, the probe's parachute failed to deploy. This resulted in the probe hurtling at 20 metres per second from space, toward Cambridge. Thankfully, the parachute mechanism

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became caught in a tree some 3 metres above the ground. Consequently, despite falling 20 miles from space at terrific speed, the probe is still completely intact.

The museum is planning to display the probe, and hopefully demonstrate some of the software. Messages and tweets sent to the probe were displayed on a small screen, at which a camera was pointing and relaying the picture of the message back to earth,

There is more information on this blog - <http://bit.ly/IBMimp1> and a number of photographs at <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B2BjIEmCMajiflJXaThHTjF5bHlyMHZwZnJqY3Z2b2laUW-hiRII3NXRpREJ0cVpzSGJxcjg> . Sadly the Dr Who Tardis was lost during the rapid descent.

York Museum



Jim Austin's 'shedder' has collected our donations to his museum.

In return Jim has loaned us a 3278 display terminal with system console keyboard, which is now on display.

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