



### Mark's Foreword

Welcome to the latest edition of The Technology Forge newsletter. The first quarter of 2008 has been very exciting and I would like to welcome those new customers who have chosen us to provide their software and to thank others for the very positive feedback on the latest release of the software. We have also recruited additional staff to ensure that we can meet your expectations as the company continues to grow and develop



Spring at The Technology Forge

We recently ran a series of seminars focusing on Online DFC and Online Suitability, the seminars were unique in that they allowed delegates a 'hands on' approach with the software. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and really enabled the delegates to get a feel for the system and see how our web based solution would really help them.

Looking forward, we will be celebrating our 10th anniversary in August. We believe that our strengths of experience, relationship building, dedication to quality and ongoing commitment has enabled our continuous success. This will be a great opportunity to reflect but also to look forward to ensure that we do everything possible to maintain the success for the next 10 years.

**Mark Wardman, MD**

**Features:**

- Software developments
- Recent Successes...
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- Where we'll be...
- Introducing the team

## Software Developments: tf. facility version 3.2

The Technology Forge is committed to constantly developing and enhancing our integrated product suite to keep up with changing technologies and to continue to meet our clients' evolving requirements. Latest updates include:

**Valuations and Capital Accounting** has been developed to meet the CIPFA 2007 SORP Guidelines. There are several significant enhancements to the Valuations module including transactions to update the historic cost, improvements in Disposal processing. Capital Accounting codes are now included in Asset Categories and there is also the ability to record and maintain historic cost and the associated depreciation. Several new reports have been introduced including fixed asset register reports and a depreciation report.

**Estates Reports** have been extended to include an additional three reports: a Summary Report showing all key details for a Tenancy or Lease, an Income/Expenditure cash flow report and a Rental Analysis report showing the rent/area for chosen site types.

**Estates Module Enhancements** have been made including: the ability to reassign diary events to different officers, the ability to set standard default notice periods, additional columns in diary list view, the inclusion of advance notice dates, the capability to view rent history, stepped rents & rent forecasts, the ability to export more data to Excel and additional reports & report filtering.

**Running Costs Module** A new optional module created to allow the recording of general property costs, such as heating, rent, security, cleaning, grounds maintenance, etc. The module is configurable allowing the recording of any property cost. The module includes two reports: a summary of costs per costs type by financial year and running cost details by financial year, as well providing cost per m2 for property.

**Project Management module** has now been enhanced to include additional functionality including certificated payments, variation orders and sales invoicing.

## ... Stop Press ... Recent Successes ...

### Tower Hamlets choose Property and Asset Management System



*"The Technology Forge is a market leader within property and asset management."*

We are delighted to announce that London Borough of Tower Hamlets has just awarded The Technology Forge a six figure contract to supply their corporate asset management software.

Rachel Murphy, Project Manager at Tower Hamlets, explains why the decision was made to replace the councils existing systems *"It has been essential for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets to improve the efficiency of the property and asset portfolio to deliver value for money solutions which improve service delivery. tf. facility will satisfy a variety of Property and Asset related needs of the council, improving service delivery for internal and external customers."*

Modules purchased by Tower Hamlets include the Core framework with links to CAD and GIS, Condition Survey, Suitability, Sufficiency, Corporate Suitability, Disability Access Audit, Hazards, Planned Preventative Maintenance (including plant register), Finance, Estates Management, Valuations (including capital accounting), Utility Register, tf. director (a strategic management reporting tool providing high level views on the performance of assets against defined criteria), Reactive Maintenance, Project Management and tf. cadutility (a CAD attribute manager application allowing users to carry out many functions including applying changes to a CAD drawing without changing the original, bulk updating attribute data across all drawings and plotting CAD drawings to DWF files en masse).

Alastair Kinnear, who secured the contract for The Technology Forge, comments: *"The London Borough of Tower Hamlets has been a client for several years, successfully using our software within their Education Department for their DCSF returns and survey requirements. We are delighted that, after a careful market evaluation, the Corporate Divisions within London Borough of Tower Hamlets have concluded that our software and experience is the best match to their requirements. We are looking forward to working with Tower Hamlets to help realise the efficiencies and improvements in service delivery."*

When asked about their new contract with The Technology Forge, Rachel Murphy, Project Manager at Tower Hamlets commented *"The procurement and implementation of the TF system is a key step in ensuring we move away from several dispersed and fragmented systems to a single, integrated corporate property and asset management solution. We hope to work collaboratively with TF during and after the implementation of the system to ensure the benefits to users can be maximised."*

The Technology Forge is looking forward to building on a strong working relationship with London Borough of Tower Hamlets through and beyond this project.

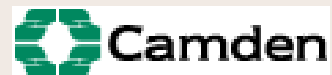
## ... Further Successes ...

**Sunderland City Council** has recently bought a suite of tf. facility modules, including condition, suitability, sufficiency DAA, asbestos, plant register and director, to improve data management.



**Greater Manchester Police** has purchased tf. facility lite, including the condition survey module and handheld templates, to help manage condition survey data collection.

**London Borough of Camden** decided to purchase a new asset management system as their current system was not meeting the needs of their education department. Following recommendations from other authorities they decided that tf. facility was the best solution to meet their needs. Modules purchased include condition, suitability, sufficiency and accommodation modelling.



We are pleased to announce that **Swindon Borough Council** has added to their existing tf. facility modules with the purchase of the Project Management module.

We have achieved preferred supplier status at a number of Councils, we look forward to announcing further details in the next edition of The Technology Forge newsletter, June 2008.

# Online DFC & Online Suitability

## Online DFC: web collaboration between schools and LEA

The Technology Forge is the leading supplier of web and desktop based Education Asset Management software solutions to Local Education Authorities. As a Microsoft Development Partner we keep abreast of all the latest technologies and aim to make it accessible and useable to our clients. Whilst the majority of users will access data via the web, we still recognise and cater for those users who want powerful, functionally rich and high performing applications that can only be delivered via a desktop application. To this end we provide desktop applications with features for interacting with maps and floor plans with advanced reporting whilst providing a suite of web based applications where appropriate, for example Online DFC (devolved formula capital), Online Suitability and Online Approved Suppliers.



DFC Projects - schools can view their own projects as well as those created by the LEA

The example shown here focuses on the Online DFC product and its application at Surrey County Council. It is web based and fully integrates into the Project Management module of our core desktop product, tf. facility. The purpose of this web based module is to help answer and address the following issues common to most, if not all, LEAs:

- How to help LEAs know what's happening (not just happened) to their buildings with schools now having more funding and responsibility
- To facilitate and improve the collaboration between schools and the LEA on capital projects and other expenditure
- How to help the LEA become more proactive in asset management activities such as Condition, Suitability, Sufficiency and Accessibility
- How to distribute data to schools so that they can access key information for themselves, allowing the LEA to focus on more important project issues

It does this in several ways by:

- allowing the school to view their allocations within each year as well as amounts carried forward
- allowing the school to view capital projects the LEA has carried out, is considering or in progress
- allowing the school to submit their own projects in draft status
- help ensure schools and the LEA meet legislative and contractual requirements and proving schools with accurate up-to-date online guidance
- allowing the school, when creating a new project, to answer some relevant questions that impacts on related asset management data, such as...
  - will the project address condition work items
  - or change teaching space areas
  - or add additional utility load
  - or involve building within 9m of a tree canopy
  - or change floor types that may impact on cleaning regimes
- giving schools the key contact information for experts within the LEA
- sending automated emails to the schools as projects progress



DFC Budget Display - schools can view their allocations online themselves

*"The Technology Forge web products have enabled us to simplify our data collection processes, support schools and get better data. We have in place a process by which schools can update their specific assessments easily when projects are completed by just logging into tf. web—it puts the school at the heart of the process."*

Louise Jardella, formerly Capital Strategy Manager at Surrey County Council

# Online DFC & Online Suitability

## Online Suitability: streamlining suitability data collection

tf. online suitability is a streamlining tool helping both the School and the Authority to collaborate more effectively in generating more accurate suitability surveys. The example shown here focuses on the Online Suitability product and its application at Surrey County Council. It is web based and fully integrates into the DCSF compliant Suitability Survey & Accommodation Modelling modules of our core desktop product, tf. facility.

The purpose of this web based module is to help answer and address the following issues common to most, if not all, LEAs:

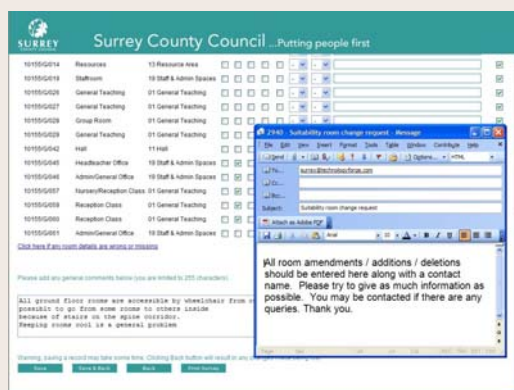
- How to collect Suitability data efficiently and accurately
- How to involve the schools in this process more effectively
- How to help the LEA provide good advice on the completion of the survey if the schools want to fill them in on line
- How to distribute data to schools so that they can access key information for themselves, allowing the LEA to focus on prioritising plans based on good data

It does this in several ways by:

- allowing the school to view their historic suitability surveys so they can see what issues were reported previously
- issue new surveys by the LEA to the web for completion with/by the school
- allowing the school to view their drawings plans, as part of the suitability process relating rooms back to the survey
- allowing the school to request changes to their room data online
- help ensure schools and the LEA collaborate on the completion of their suitability surveys
- production of change only reports so only rooms that have changed will be highlighted to the LEA



tf. web suitability survey



tf. web suitability room change request



A historic suitability survey

*"The Technology Forge web products have enabled us to simplify our data collection processes, support schools and get better data. We have in place a process by which schools can update their specific assessments easily by just logging into tf. web—it puts the school at the heart of the process."*

Linda Hempston, AMP Development Officer at Surrey County Council

# Where we've been...

## Pillar Regional User Groups 2008

We were pleased to support the Pillar Regional User Group meetings at Manchester, London and Gloucester in January. The meetings, which attracted a large number of delegates, incorporated a session on Primary Capital and a choice of afternoon workshops, including a kitchens update and project faraday. Further User Groups are planned in June at Leeds, Derby and London. For further details or to book please visit the Pillar website [www.pillar.saqnet.co.uk](http://www.pillar.saqnet.co.uk).



## PSPE London 2008

We were excited to exhibit at the biannual Public Sector Property and Estates show in London. Delegates were invited to attend an afternoon presentation given by The Technology Forge's Sales Director, Adam Watson. The presentation was titled 'Success Factors Involved In Implementing A New AMP System' and focused on the key success factors that contribute to successful asset management software implementations, including determining objectives, procurement routes, what you can do to prepare, how to manage change & expectations, and achieve buy in. If you would like further details or a presentation handout please email [louise.smales@technologyforge.com](mailto:louise.smales@technologyforge.com). We are looking forward to the Autumn PSPE show in Scotland.



## Online DFC & Online Suitability Seminars

The Technology Forge held a series of 6 regional seminars in February and March focusing on Online DFC (Devolved Formula Capital) and Online Suitability. The seminars were open to both customers and non customers alike and were complimentary to attend with refreshments and lunch provided. The seminars proved very successful with over 75 people from 41 different Authorities attending, including representation from the DCSF. The day commenced with an introduction to The Technology Forge followed by delegate



*The Birmingham Seminar in progress*

introductions. Delegates were encouraged to ask questions whenever they felt appropriate. The morning session included a presentation on Online DFC followed by a workshop session where delegates were able to use the software whilst working on a given scenario. The break for lunch encouraged discussions between delegates. The afternoon session started with a presentation on Online Suitability followed with a workshop session where delegates were once again given the opportunity to work through a given scenario. The afternoon closed with an open session where delegates were able to discuss any relevant topics. The seminars provided an excellent opportunity for delegates to network with people from different authorities and gave the opportunity to compare their methods and processes in use and their progress with suitability.

Further details on Online DFC and Online Suitability and their associated benefits can be seen in the articles on pages 3 & 4.

The amount of positive feedback received following the seminars was amazing, 98 % of people rated the content of the seminars as seminar either good or very good. Delegates commented: "All workshops were beneficial and informative." ... "I found the sessions both interesting and useful. Thank you for the invite." ... "I can see the benefits, particularly DFC in monitoring school's plans." ... "This was my first look at The Technology Forge and I found it very useful to have a PC in front of me to navigate the system." ... "Well presented, a good learning experience." ... "Very well presented and very useful." ...



Online DFC at The Gatwick Seminar

**cont ...**

## Where we've been . . .

### cont ...

... "Well balanced and well timed presentations." ... "I came away from the seminar thinking that the software is really well developed and could really provide benefits to the way we work." ... "For demonstrating and personal interaction you could not do better than the seminar at Chester." ... "A very well structured and informative session, pitched at just the right level."



Online Suitability at the Chester Seminar

Following the seminars we were delighted to discover that delegates were recommending our software to their colleagues across the U.K. and considering The Technology Forge as a partner rather than a supplier.

If you were unable to make it to the seminars and would like to find out how Online DFC can improve collaboration with schools and their capital projects and how Online Suitability can streamline the data collection process then please call 01943 855060 or email [louise.smales@technologyforge.com](mailto:louise.smales@technologyforge.com). If you would like to be on the mailing list or have any preferences for topics for future workshops then please email [louise.smales@technologyforge.com](mailto:louise.smales@technologyforge.com).

## Where we're going . . .

### EBDOG Conference Kent May 2008

The Technology Forge will be continuing their commitment to EBD OG by supporting the biannual EBD OG (Education Building and Development Officers Group) Conference at Ramada Maidstone, organised by Kent Senior Education Officers Authority. The conference will look at Primary Capital Pathfinder, engagement of partners and templates for further developments. The Technology Forge also provides the technology behind the online booking site. Bookings can be made through the online booking form at <http://ebdog.technologyforge.com>.

### ACES May 2008

The Technology Forge are looking forward to exhibiting at the ACES (Association of Chief Estates Surveyors) Conference at The Lakeside Conference Centre, Aston University. The conference will focus on regeneration, whole life costing and carbon management. If you would like further details please contact the ACES Secretary—[secretary@aces.org.uk](mailto:secretary@aces.org.uk).



## Coming soon . . .

We will soon be opening our Customer Satisfaction Survey, the results from the survey are very important to us as a company as they directly influence our development. The results will be announced at our annual User Group in October.

Our annual User Group and Scottish AMP Seminar are both planned for October. We look forward to releasing further details shortly. If you are interested in a specific topic for either event or would like to be included on the mailing list then please email [louise.smales@technologyforge.com](mailto:louise.smales@technologyforge.com).

# Introducing the Team

## New Recruits

We are pleased to welcome two new recruits to The Technology Forge family.



Jennifer Atkinson

**Jennifer Atkinson** joined The Technology Forge in January as Office Manager, "My role of Office Manager involves being responsible for HR and finance matters, including health and safety and payroll".

**Jason Barron** joined The Technology Forge in March as Operations Manager, "As Operations Manager I'm tasked with reviewing and developing The Technology Forge project management processes in order to build on our software delivery and implementation services. I will also be responsible for our support and training teams. I'm looking getting to know our customers over the next few months."



Jason Barron

### Staff Profile: Susan Springer – Test Analyst

#### How long have you worked for TF?

"I have worked for TF for just over a year, since April 2007"

#### How do you feel TF developed whilst you've been here?

"In the past year I have seen the quality of the software improve along with our ability to meet the published release delivery dates."

#### What does working at TF mean to you?

"I love working at TF, I actually look forward to coming into work. It's given me the opportunity to use my skills as well as developing new ones. I really like the attitude and style of the Company—you are encouraged to share ideas and your opinions are listened to."

#### What does your typical work day include?

"Testing, testing and more testing! I spend a large amount of time reviewing the software specifications, setting up test plans, checking that the software is written to specification and that it conforms to the company's documented standards. I also test the software for its ease of understanding, usability and friendliness."

#### What do you like to do outside work?

"I like to swim most mornings. I am still fairly new to the area so I enjoy exploring and finding new places to eat and drink."



Susan Springer

The Technology Forge would like to thank Alison Bond, Adam Ben-nison and Jenny Wattis for their contributions to the company and wish them every success with their future plans.

### 10th Anniversary

We will be celebrating our 10th anniversary in August, look out for further details in the next edition of The Technology Forge newsletter.

### Well done Dave!

You may remember in the Autumn newsletter we mentioned that Dave Phipps from Birmingham City Council was running the New York Marathon in aid of Cancer Research. Not only did Dave succeed in completing the marathon he also raised a whopping £3,740!

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