



-TF new developments-

Isle of Wight implement TF

The Technology Forge has added another Local Authority to its list of clients and are pleased to announce that Isle of Wight Council have chosen to implement the Asset Management System (AMP), tf. facility.

“The Property Services department here at the Isle of Wight Council are very excited about the new software that will be implemented shortly”

The need for a Property Management System to meet existing and future requirements was a key factor in the decision to implement tf. facility at Isle of Wight Council.

tf. facility, is a single integrated system and will address all AMP issues, helping Isle of Wight Council meet both the DfES and ODPM requirements. The software implemented will incorporate the Core Framework, Hazard Register, Condition & Suitability Surveys, Sufficiency, Help Desk, Estates Management, Finance, Planned Maintenance, Disability Access Audits and Web Access.

“So far the level of service and expertise provided by Technology Forge has been excellent and we look forward to a long and successful working relationship with them.”

Overall, providing Isle of Wight Council a solid Property Management System.

The Technology forge are continually enhancing tf. facility and developing new modules, which integrate fully with our software.

- **Project Management**

The Project Management module enables users to monitor and report on progress of capital projects. Completely integrated with tf. facility it allows items on the Identified Work register to be carried forward into capital project candidates.

- **Resource Booking**

The module allows for the pre-booking of rooms, blocks, assets, catering requirements and additional facilities, for example fans, audio or visual aids, IT equipment etc.

- **Cleaning System**

Standalone system or integrated into tf. facility, the cleaning system can be used to generate room-by-room cleaning operations based on standard cleaning requirements. The cleaning system has a powerful reporting capability and contracts can be downloaded on to a Pocket PC to assess all cleaning needs whilst on site.

- **Web integration**

With the need for more and more web integration we are developing a host of web functionality:

tf. web: enables all AMP data held in tf. facility to be accessed by relevant users via the Intranet or Internet.

Help Desk: help calls can be logged via the web and tracked through to closure by the unique number generated.

Web hosting: plans to offer a web hosting facility. Currently, we are working towards web hosting so that clients who are working with different surveyors, to carry out various surveys, can access a single database via the web for which we are responsible for managing.

Happy 5th Birthday TF!

The Technology Forge recently celebrated their 5th birthday on 10th August 2003.

To mark the occasion staff recently got together and celebrated with a BBQ and a few drinks.



Some of The Technology Forge team

The celebration was also an opportunity to welcome the newest employees into the company including Annada Day, Trainee Implementor and Gareth John, Senior Implementation Analyst. Furthermore, we are recruiting 4 new members of staff including a Trainee Implementor, Commercial Project Manager, Sales Executive and Software Project Manager.

The Technology Forge have had a very good year with many new clients purchasing our software, including Sheffield City Council, the University of Hertfordshire, Conwy County Borough Council, Isle of Wight Council and HBS for Lincolnshire County Council.

Introducing the team



Name: Alison Ryding
Position: Office Manager
Time at TF: 2 years

Alison joined the company in October 2001 and has been with the Company for 2 years. She is the Office Manager and has recently received her Certificate in Personnel and Practice (CPP).

Alison is responsible for the general running of the office and deals with the Personnel aspects of the Company. Alison is your first point of contact when you phone the general office line, so most of you will have spoken to her directly.

Alison also takes care of all the office finance and deals largely with all the orders, invoices and licence agreements.

The future is looking bright

So far this year The Technology Forge has been very busy attending several shows and conferences around the country including:

- RICS 'The Briefing', East Midlands Conference Centre, 4th-6th April
- CACFOA IS/IT Managers Forum, Moreton-in-Marsh 23rd-25th April
- AOC Estates Network, Kenilworth 16th May
- User Group, London, 25th September
- Property Computer Show, London 14th-15th October



The Property Computer Show 2003

We continue to attend all AMP networking seminars organised by Pillar and CIPFA to ensure that we stay up-to-date with all current and relevant data, which affects our clients directly.

Microsoft Windows Pocket PC 2003

Microsoft have launched the Pocket PC 2003 but what enhancements or changes are present compared with the 2002 version?

Bluetooth Support - makes it easier to link your Pocket PC and other Bluetooth-enabled mobile devices. For example, if you have a Bluetooth-enabled mobile phone, you can now use it as a modem for your Pocket PC to access the Internet. You can also beam data such as contacts or pictures to other Bluetooth-enabled devices.

Keyboard Support - enhanced keyboard support for new devices with integrated or snap-on keyboards.

Enhanced Messaging Support - The new auto suggest feature suggests email addresses as you type enabling you to find them faster. Auto-correct automatically fixes common spelling errors as you type. Signature support eliminates the need to re-type a closing for every message.

New Connection Manager - The new connection manager has been redesigned to allow you to more easily connect to your corporate network or to the Internet. Windows Mobile 2003 for Pocket PC has added support for multiple VPNs, 802.1x, IPSec L2TP VPN and 128-bit SSL and 128 bit CAPI encryption.

Enhanced Calendar - offers multi-day views with weekends highlighted in different colours making it easier to see free time. Saturday appears in blue while Sunday and holidays appear in red.

The Pocket PC 2003 is compatible with The Technology Forge software and integrates with our system in the same way as the previous Pocket PC version.

Information is taken from www.microsoft.com for reference only. For clarification of the new features please visit Microsoft's website.

-FM for the University of Hertfordshire-

The Estates Department within the University of Hertfordshire have been heavily involved in a project concerning the development of a new Academic campus. To compliment the delivery of this project, the Estates Department were considering the possibility of implementing a new Facilities Management (FM) System, which would not only replace their existing system but would also provide additional functionality.

tf. facility was implemented by The Technology Forge to provide an overall solution to the Estates Department's requirements. To match the University of Hertfordshire's criteria the system incorporated:

- A comprehensive SQL database incorporating a core framework consisting of a Property Register, Plant Register and standard reports, enabling all key property information to be effectively recorded.
- The main modules specified by the University of Hertfordshire including, but not limited to, the Helpdesk, Finance, Pre-planned Preventative Maintenance (PPM), Hazard Register (specifically Asbestos) and Estates Management.
- Tight integration between tf. facility and AutoCAD via The Technology Forge interface.
- tf. web enabling site wide access to the tf. facility Helpdesk interface, via the University Intranet.
- A detailed training plan to facilitate the smooth implementation of The Technology Forge system.

Already this year The Technology Forge has won several major contracts including Conwy County Borough Council, University of Hertfordshire, Sheffield County Council, Isle of Wight Council and HBS for Lincolnshire County Council.

User Group Success

The recent Technology Forge User Group, held at Marble Arch, London, on 25th September, was another roaring success.

The format for this user group was a continuation from the previous user group with TF hosting the event and City of Westminster (John Feely) chairing the meeting overall.

In line with the format, 4 break out sessions were held in the afternoon and included TF demonstrations and an external presentation held by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (Phil Towers). The forum provided clients with an opportunity to offer suggestions for driving the software forward and developing it in the best way.

With more and more delegates attending each year, an issue raised at the meeting was that clients would generally prefer to attend a national user group held in London once a year and then a regional user group held at the beginning of the year. We are therefore considering this as an option for the future holdings of the meetings.

By attending our user groups you will have an invaluable opportunity to share your experiences and get tips from other users through the open discussion forum. This is an opportunity that should not be missed.

The next meeting will take place in February 2004 with the location and date yet to be finalised.

-The true capability of the PDA-

If the capability of a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) is being limited to its ability for storing addresses, telephone numbers and a diary or the anticipated reaction of fellow colleagues when they clap eyes on the latest toy you have acquired, then maybe the demise of the PDA is in fact inevitable.

If, however, PDA's are finally recognised for what they actually are, handheld computers with the capability and processing power of a PC a few years ago, then maybe we should not be too hasty in laying the PDA to rest just yet.

It is short sighted to suggest that PDA's should be viewed as merely the electronic replacement for the filofax. They are a far cry from offering the limited scope that has been suggested, but instead are capable of supporting complex software applications, to facilitate the jobs of many professionals within the Property, Construction and Building market place. They can significantly enhance the day-to-day operations of such professionals in areas such as Asbestos Surveys, Asset data collection, Disability Access Audits, Condition Surveys, Contract Monitoring, QA audits and much more.

The very essence of the PDA is that it is portable, user friendly and battery operated but they also promote rapid data collection when out of the office and the accurate retrieval of such information through simple synchronisation to a main database, when back in the office. It could be argued this is a far from complicated procedure resulting in improved efficiency and the overall optimisation of business operations.

The PDA of today has advanced a great deal and the relevance of the PDA to the business user has increased recently due to improved support, enabling links to corporate databases. With the ability to support bespoke software applications, the usability of the PDA has endless possibilities but if the average executive is still restricting their PDA usage to a pocket address book, then they could very well disappear into the background and join the already demised filofax.



The future MD?

Congratulations to Andy and Tracy Hayes. For those of you who have been anxiously awaiting the arrival of Baby Hayes, here he is! Daniel James Hayes was born on 30th May 2003, weighing 8lb 8ozs.

Already he is taking pride of place in the Managing Directors chair. Could he be the future TF MD?



Daniel James

Leeds Chamber of Commerce

We are pleased that we have recently become an active member of the Leeds Chamber of Commerce. The Leeds Chamber was formed by businesses within the area of Leeds as a forum to share business opportunities and to make Leeds a place where businesses thrive.

Opportunity

The Chamber provides a structured business networking environment offering the chance for businesses to come together and generate new contacts.