

New Software Developments

The Technology Forge are committed to continually developing and enhancing our integrated product suite to keep up with the latest technology and clients evolving requirements. The products/modules currently under development include:

- **tf. atm**

tf. atm is an Attribute Management application which has been developed to offer added functionality to AutoCAD, helping to simplify complicated tasks. CAD drawings often need to be viewed by different audiences so tf. atm facilitates the preparation of CAD drawings so that they are in a more presentable format.

- **Legionella**

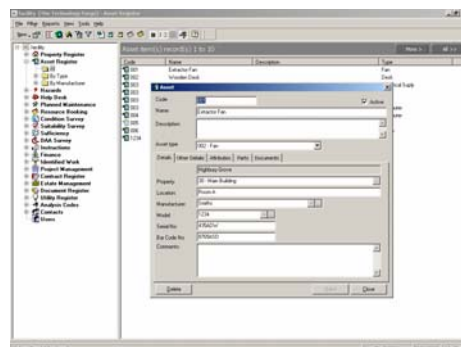
In line with the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and to ensure that clients meet their obligations to comply with current legislation, The Technology Forge are currently developing a Legionella module to compliment our integrated product suite.

- **Decent Homes Survey**

In line with the Decent Home Guidance introduced by the Government for local authorities and registered social landlords, The Technology Forge has developed a Decent Homes Survey which is available on handheld devices. The guidance states that a decent home must meet the following criteria:

- It meets the current statutory minimum standard for housing
- It is in a reasonable state of repair
- It has reasonably modern facilities and services
- It provides a reasonable degree of thermal comfort

If you are interested in finding out any more information on any of these products/modules under development, please contact us directly on **01943 855060**.



Investors in People (IIP) Recognition

Features

- Software Developments
- IIP Recognition
- Contracts Awarded
- AMP for Fareham BC
- tf. facility-ideal match for Scottish requirements
- Cleaning for B'ham CC
- Introducing the Team

The Technology Forge have successfully achieved the Investors in People (IIP) National Standard, receiving recognition for an outstanding commitment to both employees and the Company as a whole.

The Technology Forge has been actively working towards IIP and took the initiative extremely seriously. A vast amount of time and resources have been invested into developing processes and plans to ensure that we reached the highest level of standards required.

"Our devotion to achieving this initiative has paid off and will build on our success, ensuring the Company continuously develops", said Alison Ryding, Office Manager.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

...Stop Press...Contracts Awarded

Southampton City Council has recently awarded TF with a Six Figure contract to supply them with our Asset Management system tf. facility. The system will assist the Council with their Corporate and Education Asset Management Planning.

HBS Business Services has awarded TF with a contract to provide comprehensive Asset Management services to both Lincolnshire County Council and Middlesbrough Borough Council.

City of Liverpool Council have

chosen to implement tf. facility to assist with their Education Asset Management Planning and meet their DfES requirements.

East Riding of Yorkshire Council has awarded The Technology Forge a contract to supply them with an Asset Management Software System, to help them achieve their long term Education Asset Management Planning (AMP). The Technology Forge's fully integrated product suite will enable East Riding to fulfil their immediate requirements to carry

out Suitability Assessments.

Hammonds have chosen to implement tf. facility, to satisfy all their Facilities Management (FM) requirements. With over 15 offices, spanning 7 Countries, Hammonds is a leading Commercial Law Firm and ranked amongst the largest 100 law firms globally.

Gravesham Borough Council implemented our integrated product suite earlier in the year, as part of their Asset Management Planning (AMP) strategy.

AMP for Fareham BC one year on

"...the project has been regarded as a success at Fareham Borough Council with approval from the Chief Executive, his Management Team and all Directors"

Fareham Borough Council implemented tf. facility in May 2003 to not only meet their immediate AMP requirements but also to assist in the management of a property portfolio valued at £60 million.

Fareham BC implemented tf. facility combining the core system with the Help Desk, Condition Survey, Estates Management, Utility Register and Hazards Register. To populate the database they employed two part time members of staff to manually enter all of their Estate Management Records. In total over

10,000 paper records were transferred onto the system, including deed packets, leases, licenses, valuations, acquisitions and disposals. In addition the hazards module was populated with 550 entries and 3,000 documents have already been linked to the system. Once the information was entered an Acceptance Test Plan was produced and the results recorded. These were then verified by the QA Team and Project Board before each module went live.

In addition an interface between tf. facility and Fare-

ham BC's Financial Management System (FMS), CFACS, serves as a direct replacement for their previous works ordering system. The interface is used to transfer information between tf. facility and CFACS and facilitates the transfer and approval of invoices, orders and budgets. Gareth Satherley, Estates Officer, believes the interface has lead to savings in both time and effort, *"The reports provided as part of the interface are clear and enable the output from TF to be checked with ease prior to being uploaded"*.

tf. facility is an ideal match for Scottish requirements

After the success of the last SEMP seminar held in Scotland in January, The Technology Forge recently held a second seminar focusing on 'The development of Asset/Estate Management Plans'. The seminar was held to ensure that The Technology Forge continues to develop tf. facility in line with the requirements of Scottish Authorities and it was well attended by Local Authorities in Scotland.

The seminar included presentations from a mixture of guest speakers, clients and industry experts including Falkirk Council, South Lakeland

District Council and Spatial Intelligence Limited. As a result of positive feedback from several Scottish Authorities, The Technology Forge software system tf. facility has been praised for providing a solution that is an ideal match for the Scottish requirements in terms of meeting their Estates Management Plans.



The new TF stand

tf. cleaning for Birmingham City Council

The Direct Services Division (DSD) of Birmingham City Council (BCC) had implemented a DOS based Cleaning Management database system, several years ago. Through a combination of evolving technology and the fact that the existing system had never been functionally enhanced, the DOS based system had several limitations and therefore became increasingly inefficient to use. DSD are responsible for assessing the cleaning needs of a vast amount of schools within their authority and subsequently managing Cleaning Contracts, so required a system that enabled a flexible and efficient way of working. As BCC were already familiar with The Technology Forge Asset Management Planning software system, tf. facility, DSD felt able to work with The Technology Forge on the project and build on the already established working relationship.

DSD wanted to replace their current Cleaning Management System and implement a system that was functionally capable of enhancing

the way in which they worked. As well as eliminating the existing problems the new system would need to support the following criteria:

- A more intuitive method of splitting a contract into work units and allocating cleaning contract hours.
- A reduction in the time taken to issue and agree contract amendments.
- Eliminate the duplication of effort in terms of entering the data.
- Ultimately reduce the administration overhead.

Such a solution would prove to be extremely beneficial to DSD and enable them to be more proactive in managing their contracts. On an operational level this would mean the existing team could increase the number of school visits they perform annually.

To ensure consistency with BCC's desire to use systems that hold data only once, The Technology Forge proposed to extend tf. facility and incorporate a Cleaning Management component, compris-

ing of four main elements:

- Additional forms to be added within tf. facility to cater for the storage and manipulation of cleaning data (to include standard cleaning regimes, developed by BCC, for specific room types).
- An in built contract planner to enable the calculation of contract hours/minutes to be allocated to individual cleaners.
- An interface into AutoCAD to extract floor coverings and surface finishes, together with their areas, from AutoCAD drawings.
- A Pocket PC template to allow cleaning details to be reviewed and updated whilst out on site. On return to the office, the amended contract can be uploaded automatically and any changes will be reflected in the main database.

Furthermore, DSD can continue to track several Key Performance Indicators (kPI's), as part of their Best Value strategy, through the powerful reporting facility incorporated into tf. cleaning.

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Introducing the Team

Name: Alastair Kinnear

Position: Sales Executive

Alastair joined the team in February 2004 and has been with the Company for nearly 6 months. Alastair was brought into the Company as Account Manager to both our existing clients and also for new business.

Other new appointments within the Company over the last 6 months include:

- Andrew Aird-Project Manager•
- Doug Whincup-Project Manager•
- Chris Banks-Software Developer•
- Karen Bullock-Software Developer•

