The National Museum of Computing

Contents
PGP/IBM
Air Traffic Control
Elliott 905
Videos
Colossus

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Issue 10 - October 2008

Apologies for the delay since the last issue of the newsletter - a lot has happened and we have lots to tell you over the next few issues!

PGP and IBM kick-start US support
The cryptography company PGP together with IBM have kick-started donations in support of the museum from the US. Their joint donation of $100,000 is a huge boost to the museum, and we hope the start of a long term relationship between us. Click here for more information

Air Traffic Control System Restored
National Air Traffic Services (NATS) kindly donated the last of their PDP11 based radar stations earlier in the year. We first saw the system at West Drayton in 2001 and it has always been our hope to have this system working and on display in the museum. It has taken a huge effort to piece the various components of the system back together, but volunteers Ben Trethowan and Peter Vaughan now have a working system!
There is more work to be done, but we can now replay historical recordings of flights in and out of London's Heathrow Airport! Click here for more pictures and video!
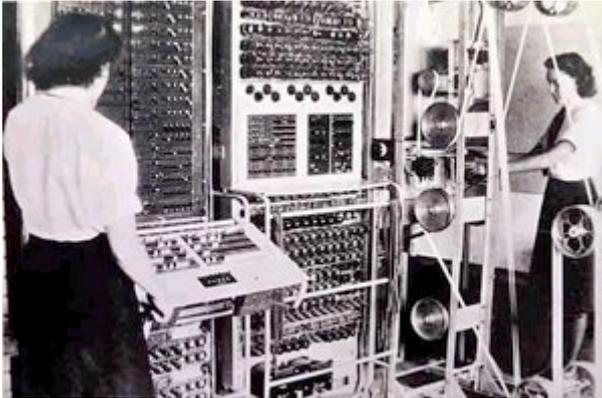
Elliott 905 Computer arrives
We have recently added an Elliott 905 computer to the Large Systems room. This machine, from the late 1960s, is now next to the Elliott 803. Work has begun on bringing the machine back to working order, and we will chart progress in this newsletter. The machine was owned by Dina St Johnstone - wife of Andrew St Johnstone - and the founder of Vaughan Programming Services - one of the first software houses in the UK.

Short Video Series
The list of short videos about the museum and some of the machines is growing. They include several on the PDP8 restoration project, the Elliott 803, and the newly restored air traffic control system. We have links to several BBC-produced items on Colossus and Tunny and have added links to videos recently produced by silicon.com
Click here for the video series index page

An Evening with Colossus
The second in our series of extended evening lectures is scheduled for Thursday 6th November, 2008. This will be a repeat of the popular and previously over-subscribed lecture on the breaking of the Lorenz cipher and the re-building of the Colossus computer. After the lecture, and a glass of wine, there will be a detailed demonstration of the Tunny machine and Colossus computer with Tony Sale.
Click here for more information about the event

There are many ways to support the museum - some of which mean you get some limited edition special items:
Donate £25 for a special limited edition T-Shirt
Donate £100 or more and join the founder donors list and receive our founders medal.
Click here for more details

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