



Construction Opportunities for Mobile IT  
[www.comitproject.org.uk](http://www.comitproject.org.uk)

# Newsletters



BT, Adastral Park - The Tower and "The Hubble"



## Winter 2012



## Newsletter 14 December 2012



### Introduction

Ian Buxton, Programme Director at Adastral Park welcomed everyone to BT's facility, an area steeped in history, formerly being an RAF test station. It is now the largest BT research centre in the world with 40 other partner companies on the campus. BT works with these companies and the local community to promote innovation – "Innovation Martlesham". Future plans are to grow the area with homes, a school, hotel, etc to make it a true science park of the future.

### Chairmen's comments

Iain's role within Bentley has changed. Iain now runs the Crossrail/ Bentley Information Management Academy #BIGBIMWORLD, allowing construction companies to understand the Crossrail vision of BIM and how to implement it. He invites technology members, who wish to see if their solution fits into this environment to get in contact. We all wish him every success with this new challenge!

### Jason

NP informed everyone about the staffing changes taking place within COMIT, ie Jason Scott coming on board full time from Jan 2013 to manage COMIT and as part of this, the Mobicloud project. This means that there is an opening for a new Chair for Construction. We hope to be inundated with offers!! Please get in contact with Gerry.

### Stuart Young

Stuart Young is our new Consultancy Director. He has 28 years' experience in the construction industry at various levels. He has been involved with COMIT from the early years and will work one day per week to help grow new business streams, such as helping technology firms better understand construction or to help construction firms understand and deploy technology solutions.

In addition, Stuart was recently appointed by the FIATECH organisation (based at the University of Texas). This role was previously filled by Neill Pawsey until his recently announced appointment at Cross rail. Stuart will join the staff team and will operate within the European and Middle East regions. He will be responsible for developing and managing a number of key areas within those regions. Stuart can be contacted on [s.young@comitproject.org.uk](mailto:s.young@comitproject.org.uk)

We will also have an engineering doctorate resource for 4 years (from Loughborough) co-sponsored by Costain who will largely be working on the topic of BIM for Mobility.

Sharika has moved to COINS Global and as their member representative, she will still be involved and attending Community Days. We wish her every success in her new role.

On 2 January 2013 Neill is moving to Crossrail but will stay as a COMIT director, and hopefully, will be their member representative too, so is also not disappearing which is a great relief to the Community.

For continuity Gerry remains as Financial Director, also covering membership issues. We also have our Management Committee:

#### Representing construction:

- Steve Marley - Balfour B Living Places
- Steve Slater – Shepherd Construction
- Glyn Matthews – Speedy Services

#### Representing technology:

- Simon Bee – Autodesk
- Simon Kalp – Objective Computing
- Peter Daly – SmartBuilder

#### Representing dissemination:

- Paul Wilkinson - pwcom 2.0

We had no nominations from our academic partners but are hopeful that someone will step up to the mark!

Thirty two delegates attended the Community Day, which was a good turnout given the time of year and traffic delays due to a (miniscule) layering of snow!!

We welcomed new member: Coins-Global (represented by Sharika). We also welcomed guests: Avanti Communications, Bruel and Kjaer EMS, Computer Links, Crossrail, Driveforth, DSI on line, Interserve, Sprit Data Capture and Tarmac. If you wish to be put in touch with the guests, please contact Gerry on [Gerry.samuelsson-brown@bsria.co.uk](mailto:Gerry.samuelsson-brown@bsria.co.uk).

## CONSTRUCTION PRESENTATIONS: BB Living Spaces

Steve Marley discussed 2012 as a year of unprecedented evolution. By the end of 2012, it is predicted that 70% of Brits will own a connected mobile smart device. Steve discussed the benefit of a tablet compared with a Smartphone, such as portability, battery life, intuitive (less training) price, etc.

### The Tablet Invasion

• What does a tablet give me that I can't already get out of a laptop and Smartphone?

- Portability
- Large screen
- Instant on/off
- Full web browsing as opposed to mobile sites on Smartphones
- More intuitive interface for non-IT types – little training required
- Instantly available apps / productivity tools
- Battery Life
- Price



Google play



Presentation title here (Go ahead & Footer to edit this text)

Inspiring Change

BB is deploying their “unity” mobile APPS, Android being chosen for their internal APP development platform. The Unity mobile APP combines local works data with time and GPS location data; creates a detailed record of operational activity, transfers work orders and requests directly to delivery teams with the right skills; real time information on the status of requests and work orders to their management teams, clients and customers; enables paperless Point of Work risk assessments and environmental impact assessments on one data capture devices. For more information, contact Stephen on [Stephen.marley@bblivingplaces.com](mailto:Stephen.marley@bblivingplaces.com).

## Shepherd Construction

Steve Slater discussed the huge technology change taking place in the mobile tablet space. Because of this they stepped back to see how technology evolved and which "horse to back"!!

Shepherd issued their work winning teams with iPADS and challenged them to "go and play with them and see what could be done". A significant factor is that things should not be complicated – if they are, the user simply will not use the device / APP.

Looking forward, Shepherd is looking at mobile scheduling and task management to assist their Facilities Management operation. They are also

looking at making their forms electronic to improve productivity and records keeping on site.

They are also reviewing the mobile phone estate given a poor experience on the Blackberry platform and have gone through a "beauty parade" assessing various platforms. Feedback is that performance wise there wasn't much between the new Windows Mobile and the Apple iPhone, despite the Windows mobile being a third of the price. Steve has also been charged to look at greater working collaboration and to explore how mobile devices can support this. Steve sees the key factors to success to be:

Mobile Projects 2013

### Key factors to success

- Easy to use
- Agile solutions
- Platform agnostic
- Easy integration
- Cost effective



December 2012

Shepherd Construction

For more information, contact Steve on [sslater@shepherd-construction.co.uk](mailto:sslater@shepherd-construction.co.uk)

## Costain Group plc

Harrison O'Hara started with an impressive video of a history of Costain's iconic construction projects.



Currently Costain is expanding into the consultancy arena using technologies, such as Path Intelligence and Augmented Reality. An exciting new development is MARIO – Mass Asset Recognition & Intelligent Optimisation. This is to investigate issues such as barrier or sign damage.

MARIO knows where, when, how long, who and what / who else is in the vicinity to make best use of time / resources, etc.



We all know this is on the Network....



MARIO can know where it is, when it got there, how long it has been there, who to tell about it and what else is close enough to fix at the same time, All in one place.....

Costain's strategic vision for the future included:

1. **Asset Intelligence – smarter ways to care for assets:** through intelligent networks and systems; workforce optimization and mobile data eg Mobicloud.
2. **Next Generation Technology – solutions to solve national needs:** low carbon energy generation & storage; process, waste minimization & refuse, eg ETI carbon capture.
3. **Virtual World Scenarios – faster than real time prediction:** agent based prediction & asset security; analytics & cost impact avoidance, eg Path intelligence
4. **Creating the market – future hindsight of market forces:** economic & social change planning; new forms of value & system, integration, eg ICE Water State of the Nation.

For more information, contact Harrison on [Harrison.ohara@costain.com](mailto:Harrison.ohara@costain.com)

## Clugston

Alf Spencer looked at a history of their use of IT solutions - a journey that he described as “bumpy”.



By 2005 Clugston achieved 95% Citrix deployment. The benefits of Citrix and the VSP are:

## Citrix Benefits



- Share data
- Access from anywhere
- Single versions of software
- Easier support
- Data and system security
- Increased reliability



## VSP Benefits



- No server hardware to manage
- Entire platform managed by hosting partner
- Computing resource on demand e.g. disc, RAM
- Resilience – multiple instances of data & servers
- Backups – server snapshots


But there are limitations with Citrix including:

- Comms dependant
- Heavy graphics, eg full AutoCad
- Video
- Performance has to be worked at.

For more information, contact Alf on [alf.spencer@clugston.co.uk](mailto:alf.spencer@clugston.co.uk)

## Tarmac

Nicholas Toy presented a video on the history of Tarmac to demonstrate that there is so much more to Tarmac than just “roads”!!



Nicholas also commented that the real IT innovation in their organisation was over the last 18 months when their IT was outsourced to HP. Tarmac has developed a number of APPs including one that can identify locations of their depots / sites that helps own staff as well as customers locate the nearest one. Tarmac also makes great use of QR codes. They apply IT solutions to track energy use, track assets (where is my stuff / delivery?), as well as vehicle tracking. Tarmac has 2,500 GPS-tracked vehicles, each one colour-coded to denote what material is being carried. The next stage is to link the number of tracks on site and which ones show that the consistency of the concrete on board is appropriate and thereby ready to pour, (using IT solutions to drive business performance by dealing with the here and now on site).

For more information, contact Nicholas on [Nicholas.Toy@tarmac.co.uk](mailto:Nicholas.Toy@tarmac.co.uk)

## Crossrail

Duncan Evans dispelled a few myths about Crossrail. For a start it is set to finish in 2018! People tend to think of tracks but much of the work is actually underground, with a huge drilling machine currently under Hyde Park.

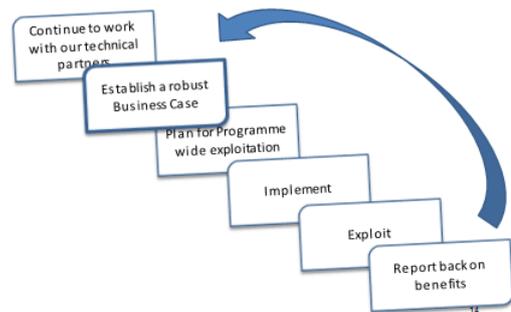


Crossrail is a complicated and huge organisation working with many partners, itself owned by Transport for London. Crossrail uses technology to harness skills on the basis that people are key to success but the technology can certainly help, for example through their programme-wide feeder system.

Lessons Learned:

- Crossrail found connection to core business applications a struggle as they were not built with a mobile first approach

- SSL reverse Proxy worked but was considered “clunky”
- In contrast, Crossrail liked installing SSL certificates –trusted devices; specialized third party applications and connections surviving the open / close cover use case.



For more information, contact Duncan on [Duncanevans@crossrail.co.uk](mailto:Duncanevans@crossrail.co.uk)

## Building information Mobility Workshop Objectives

The questions posed:

1. What are the **“real world”** demands for information mobility? (purpose, processes, business value)?
2. What are the **most significant devices** (hardware) that will be used for Mobile BIM?
3. What are the **most significant applications**, operating systems / platforms that will be used for Mobile BIM?
4. What will be the **significant barriers** to adoption?
5. **What should COMIT priorities be** this year (2013) to further demonstrate adoption of these technologies and solutions?

Responses included:

1. User driven demands: younger people wanting to use technology so come up with reasons to use, lost paper work, demand for real time data, prompter feedback, prompter payment, streamlining processes, standard code. Real time information, ie before and after photos (GPS). Finding information

easily. Appropriate access to information and mobility of information.

2. Smart phones and tablets. Google glasses. I-PADS and digital pens and paper. White boards with links to tablets and touch screens (used in schools).
3. There are a lot of new applications with improved automation but nothing specifically named apart from Windows.
4. Size of the files and speed of transfer, disaster recovery. More intelligent contextualization (get what you need without working through reams of data). Multiple platforms can be a nightmare – need to think of system that is running and what we need to run on it. Life span of devices (battery life, software). Security. User acceptance.
5. Amount of data stored and connectivity. Need to have some myth busting (about BIM, technologies – you can't do that but actually, can you? What new technologies are emerging? Interoperability is key!

While each workshop took place, the other 50% of us had a Showcase tour of BT's research facilities with a connection to construction / mobile IT. The image below shows how RFID tags are being deployed to help manage stock, their movement and theft minimisation.



## Building Information Mobility Event Successful

The Mobile IT event has become an annual highlight and the 2012 conference was an extremely successful conference. A total of 118 delegates attended the event at the Building Centre on 15 November. Our thanks to all the sponsors and speakers, shown in the slide below:

## Projects Update

The key ones mentioned include:

- Mobicloud (more further below)
- Real Time Field Reporting using Smart Devices and Software – Phase II. We need members' assistance and have deployed a survey from which we are hoping for 200 or more responses. Please contact Gerry or Neill for a copy of the survey
- EnableMyTeam – Innovation in the cloud (TSB bid) MobiBiz and Costain.

We are pleased to announce that the EnableMyTeam bid (led by MobiBiz) has just been awarded. We will keep you informed on progress.

## Mobicloud



### Backed by the European Commission

EC Research Program: CIP ICT-PSP

Budget: 4.46M Euros

Duration: 2012-2014

Founding partners:



The 1st December saw the start of the Mobicloud Project which is an EC initiative, led by member Appear Networks. COMIT will be working closely with all partners, particularly Costain. COMIT's task is to undertake the dissemination work package and exploitation with Neill and Gerry attending the kick-off meeting in Stockholm on 13 and 14 December.

Members can benefit from this exciting project:

- gain early access to the MobiCloud mobility platform
- build your own proof of concept using the MobiCloud infrastructure
- leverage the consortium reports and technology building blocks
- purchase your mobile solution in a one-stop-shop approach

Contact us at [info@mobicloudproject.eu](mailto:info@mobicloudproject.eu) to be registered as an early ecosystem partner.

All our projects are listed on our website: check it out for other projects taking place - [www.comitproject.org.uk](http://www.comitproject.org.uk).

## Financial Report

Gerry mentioned that we had a very successful first year as COMIT PROJECTS Ltd, ending 30 September 2012. The accounts have been signed off by our accountant and successfully registered with Companies House.

### Key Stats are:

- Turnover £73,107
- Surplus £6,303 (secured for reinvestment in our deposit account)

## Community days, 2013

- **7 Mar 2013** - host Loughborough University
- **6 Jun 2013** - host Oxford Brookes
- **12 Sep 2013** – host KOREC
- **5 Dec 2013** – host Timico.

Once again, we give our thanks to Simon Kalp from Objective Computing for taking all the photos at the Community Day.



... and finally... a very Happy Christmas to you all. Here's wishing you every success in 2013 and as a dynamic network of like-minded people, a great year for COMIT!

Picture below is of Iain who looks more like he is singing a Christmas carol than presenting!!





**COMIT PROJECTS Ltd**

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COMIT is a company limited by shares but currently run on a not for profit basis  
for the benefit of its members

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