

1987

"Keeping a close track on Cleanaway's operation around the country is not easy," says Peter Radley - the company's data processing manager, pictured standing. He is seen with Dennis Carter - computer services manager, who has the responsibility of looking after all operations on the IBM System 38 and development on the ROCC 2820 multiuser system.



It's not only a messy job, it's logistically complicated as well and ever on the increase. Cleanaway, formerly part of the Redland group until 1980, has entered new fields of waste transport and disposal, providing a wide range of services. Now based in offices in Brentwood, Essex, with a turnover of £60 million and employing 1250 people, it is divided into two operating divisions: the Waste Services Division and the Technical Services and Waste Disposal Division.

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"Keeping a close track on our operation around the country is not easy," said Peter Radley, the company's data processing manager. "We have maintained our commercial edge by computerising as much as possible."

To aid Cleanaway, GKN (who own 50% of the company), provides a bureau service run on a mainframe for weekly accounting/payroll work, based in its Birmingham offices, Cleanaway also purchased a ROCC 2820 multiuser system in 1985 which is installed at Brentwood. The system is responsible for all financial transactions, for transmitting information to Birmingham and for updating ledgers, producing output and keeping a set of summary details of all financial accounting information.

Furthermore, the company also has an IBM System 38 which supports all its depots. Located entirely separately, it is an operational system which provides a customer service and invoicing system which feeds financial summary information to the ROCC computer which, in turn, transmits it to Birmingham.

The Waste Services Division has a national network of 36 service centres and provides waste collection and transportation services to local authorities, industrial and commercial waste producers. It runs a large fleet of purpose-designed vehicles and containers to suit customer needs.

KEEPING BRITAIN TIDY

"No matter what the state of the economy all activity generates waste."

WHERE there's muck there's money' so the saying goes. The maxim is certainly true of Cleanaway Limited, a GKN-Brambles enterprise dedicated to disposing of our rubbish, and lots of it, domestic and industrial, ranging from soup cans to highly toxic waste. No matter what the state of the economy all activity generates waste and, because it does, Cleanaway exists.

It's a startling success story for a company whose activities include transporting containers full of household waste in barges down the Thames to Rainham, taking ash from an incinerator at Edmonton; clearing roadside skips and paladins for local industry and commerce all over the country.

The company also provides a contract service to remove individual customer's containers, leaving an empty one in its place when required.

The Technical Services and Waste Disposal Division integrates the technical expertise which is necessary for the safe removal of hazardous materials with the detailed operational knowledge required for the controlled management of all types of disposal facilities. It effects the removal of hazardous materials and controls the detailed paperwork system necessary for such tasks.

Cleanaway also operates disposal facilities including landfill, treatment and incineration for the complete range of industrial, commercial and domestic waste.

The ROCC 2820 system is used as a financial system and is basically undertaking Remote Job Entry (RJE). Without it Cleanaway could not produce either the payroll or the monthly accounts. Each Monday the data entry team, which in total comprises some five workstations supervisors and four encoders (with two workstations extra for peak loads) are responsible for keying in fairly time-critical payroll information for that week's wages.

The previous week's payroll generates a turnaround document with a name and clock card number, which then becomes next week's payroll

input. From the 36 locations, batches have to be keyed and verified before being transmitted to Birmingham.

Dennis Carter, the computer services manager, has the responsibility of looking after all operations on the System 38 and all development on the ROCC 2820 which, incidentally, can be carried out while the system is running.

After the payroll is computed, the printer is allocated its output jobs of producing 800 payslips, cheques, bank remittance advices, name and address labels and private and bank addresses. Not to mention the control listing and turnaround document for the following week, new employees and any changes to existing staff at each location have to be given to the wages and personnel department by Thursday each week.

On a weekly basis the ROCC system also transmits batches of suppliers invoices – totalling some 15,000 per month – to Birmingham to update the purchase ledger. The mainframe then creates four output files: cheques, remittance advice, internal check list, and new control sheets. Versatile ROCC then prints it all to complete the job. On the other side of the

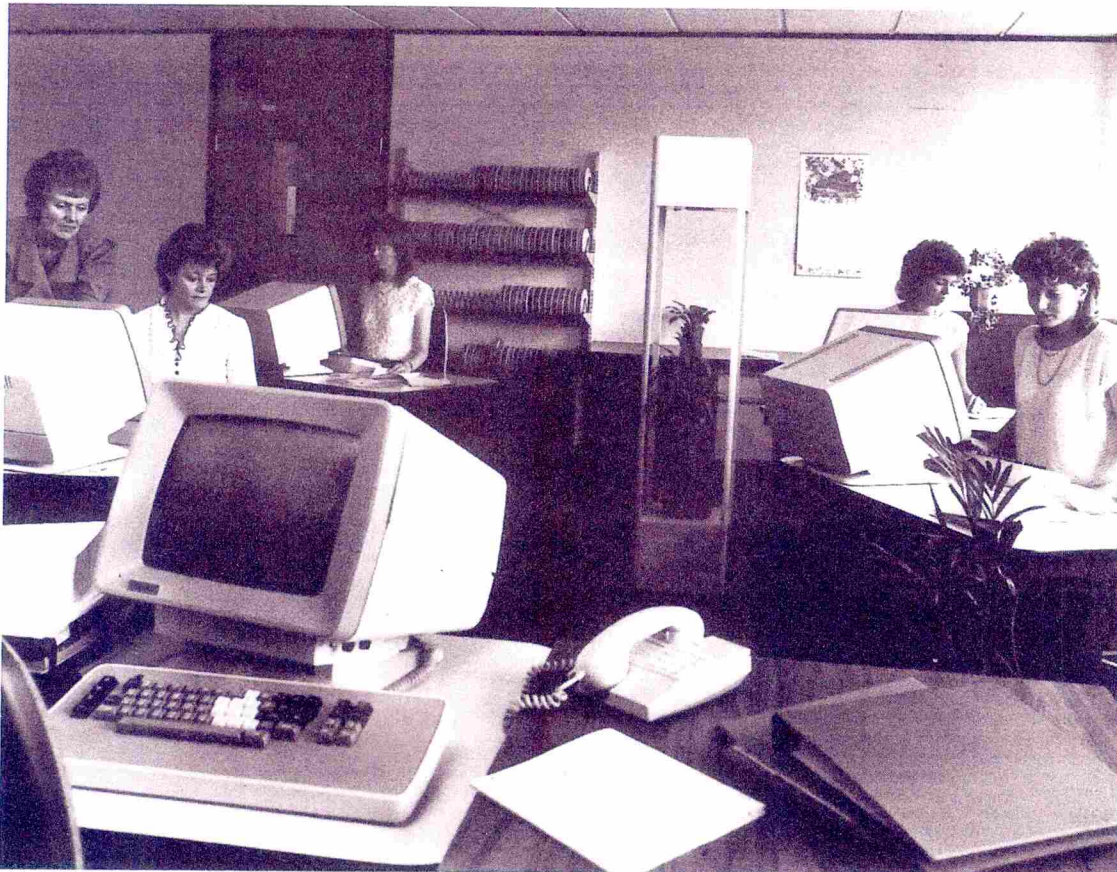
equation ROCC deals with all the items on the sales ledger including transmitting 30,000 invoices each month to the mainframe.

Lastly, all costs, sales and wages go to the general (summary accounting) ledger each month, thanks to ROCC, but all other journal entries have to be batched, keyed and transmitted to update the mainframe in the order of 5000 individual entries per month.

“... 99.9% error-free data is being achieved.”

Error-free data is being submitted and, in terms of the mainframe, 99.9% error-free data is being achieved. “We are using the data check capabilities extensively,” commented Carter. “This, in turn, has helped to improve efficiency and when you consider that we are taking back some 300,000 lines from the mainframe per week, it's vitally important that we keep on schedule,” he concluded.

Over a million key depressions per week are taking place. “Yes, it's true” commented Radley. “ROCC is certainly at the hub of things: if it did not exist we would have to invent it!”



The ROCC 2820 system installed at Cleanaway's Brentwood offices is responsible for all financial transactions, for transmitting information to Birmingham and for updating ledgers, producing output and keeping a set of summary details of all financial accounting information. Pictured standing is Brenda England – dp supervisor.