

Seecheck opens up new avenues for Humberside CC



Duncan: "... ROCC emerged the clear winner"

The county of Humberside covers an area of 3500 sq km, centred on the River Humber and extending from Flamborough Head in the north to Grimsby and Cleethorpes in the south. The administration of this area, and its population of some 800,000 inhabitants, is the responsibility of Humberside County Council.

For over a decade, Humberside County Council's finance department has used a ROCC Classic stand-alone computer system for entry of routine data relating to payroll, bill payment, use of the library and so on.

According to production manager Stuart Duncan, this system gave good service during its lifetime but with the recent advent

of decentralisation, it became apparent that an updated system was required.

"Within the finance department, we were expected to take control of our own affairs and to provide a service to other departments as well as looking after the authority's IT infrastructure generally. We decided that we could only provide a good service if our data entry system was an open one which could be linked into the authority's networks," he explained. The finance department decided 18 months ago that it would purchase a PC-based system for this purpose. As it would be a completely new system, the contract was put out to tender.

"We received bids from ROCC and two other companies. ROCC emerged the clear winner on cost grounds as well as on its past track record of support and back-up. We were also aware that we would have to run the old and new systems in parallel for several months, and we felt that ROCC's knowledge of its own Classic system would be a significant asset during this period," said Stuart.

The council installed a SEECHECK® system consisting of a 486 server, seven diskless PCs and a standard 386 PC, together with the software application package.

SEECHECK is designed to automate forms capture, improving quality and accuracy while at the same time reducing data entry costs substantially. It includes capabilities for scanning, imaging, electronic character recognition and automatic address generation. It interfaces

into most major software environments and can run on a range of machines from PCs to multi-processor computers.

...streamlined the data entry process

In Humberside's case, SEECHECK has considerably streamlined the routine data entry process. More significantly, in Stuart's view, the SEECHECK system can now link into the authority's other computer systems. "During the normal course of our duties, we frequently link up the SEECHECK system with two of the department's in-house applications. This has improved our efficiency tremendously," said Stuart.

"We are now experimenting with the possibility of providing a back-up data entry service for other departments if their workload becomes excessive. Since we can now link up both with the authority's mainframe and with its Unix networks, the possibilities for this kind of work are – in theory – almost limitless," he added.

Stuart is looking forward to making much more use of the SEECHECK system's capabilities. "It is, after all, still a relatively new system for us. Now that we have overcome the usual teething troubles, we are looking carefully at all the different ways in which SEECHECK can help us. I am confident that, backed up by ROCC's high standards of maintenance and support, it will play a significant part in our future success," he concluded. □