50 years in Mainframe

Your name	Mike Kerford-Byrnes
Your company name	MKB Technical Services

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Session BA

50 Years in Mainframe

- All Copyright and Trademarks acknowledged

50 Years in Mainframe

- 50 Shades of Blue (with a little bit of Red!)
- The story of my career in IT
- Mainframe evolution

Lucky me!

- 'Outbreak' of IBM mainframe installations
- "BUNCH"
- Competition for staff
- Opportunities galore
- Loyalty?

The harder I worked - the luckier I became!

The Starting Point– 1968

- Kodak, British Rail, London Stock Exchange

- Batch

- Early online

- Early VSAM 😝

IBM 360/50

Early Days – 1972+

- GUIDE
- OS, UK, Europe
- SMP - An apology!
- More opportunities
- The BIG leap

IBM 370/145

Do you cross that bridge - or burn it?

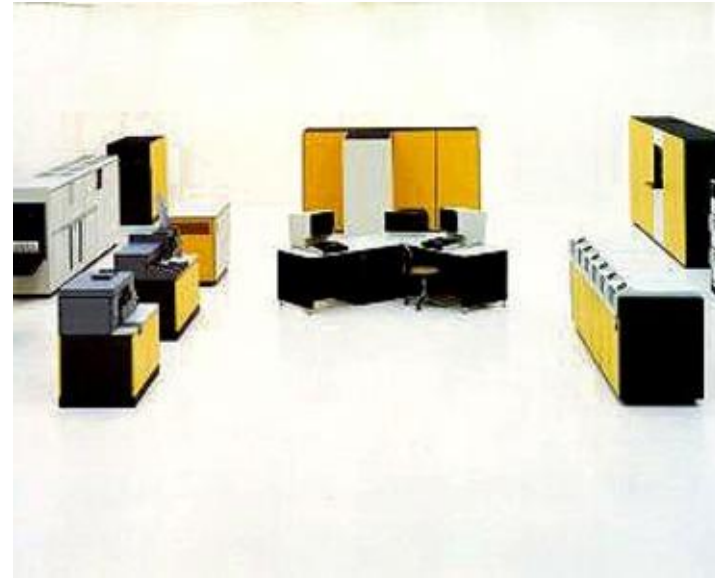# Tentative Steps (1978+)

- Infotech technical courses – public and in-house

- Assignments on-site

- Yet more opportunities

IBM 3033

Onward and Upward – 1980+

- Infotech 'begat' Xephon
- Long association – Seminars, publishing
- MVS, VSAM, Conversions
- Range of opportunities
- VSAM Courses -

IBM 303X

Early Projects – 1982+

- DOS, VS1 to MVS conversions

- Xephon seminars

- Led to best project – and worst!

IBM 3081

Multiple Projects -1984

- Build an operating datacentre from scratch

- In a year!

- Assist migration from MVS to MVS/XA

- Other projects

IBM 3083

Branching out – 1985+

- Close down data centre
- Multiple Software Audits
- Commissioning systems
- First foray into software

IBM 3090

Spreading My Wings – 1988+

- European Technical Support for USA firms

- Further forays into software

- Consultancy means attendance!

- Software means licences

Large IBM 3090

All large organisations are inefficient...

Change of Course – 1992+

- The main rame!
- Some avenues disappear
- Alternatives become credible
- VSAM becomes boring!
- Niche software

IBM ES/9000

.. the successful ones are a BIT less inefficient!

Door Closes and Door Opens - 1995

- Y2K
- Latent problems
- Another opportunity
- Automation of Code corrections
- Just Y2K?

IBM 9672 G6

There is ALWAYS a reason - sometimes you have to dig deep to find it

Now What?

- Post Y2K (2000 -)

- Niche software demand

- Long term support?

IBM Z900

Move with the Times

- Software and services (2005)
- BTDTGTS – useful
- Support issue – again

IBM z9

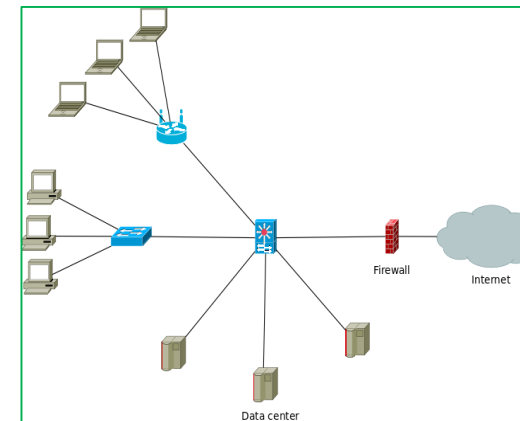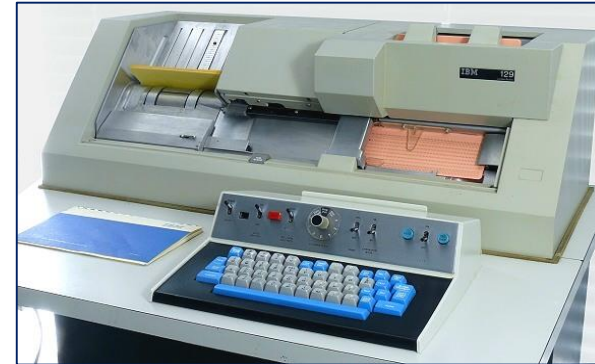Make sure you have a "Plan B"

Rinse and Repeat

- Jumping ship (2011)
- Learning to conform
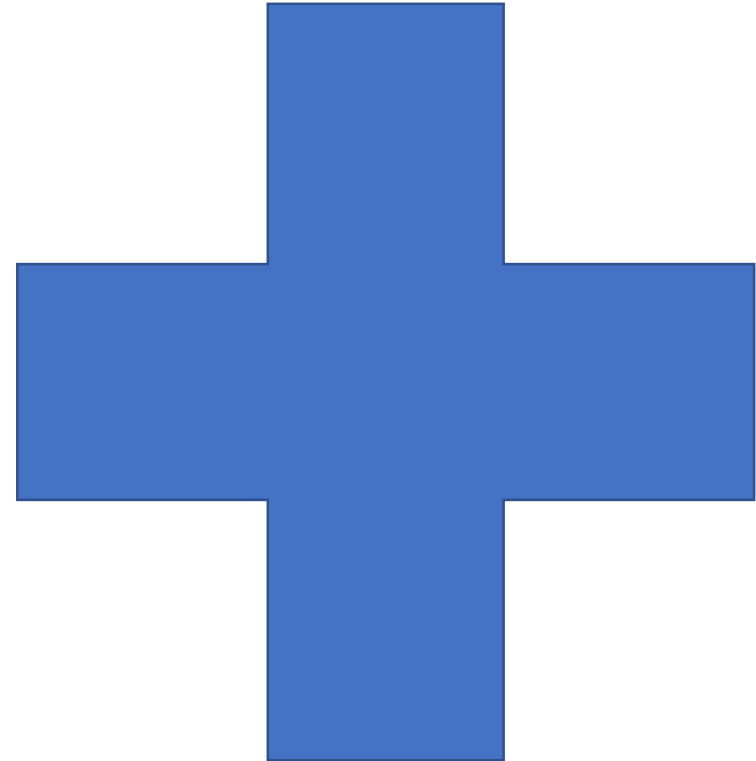- Still learning

IBM z10

Regrets

- 30 wpm - accurately!

- Unix/C expertise

- Network knowledge

- Checkout compiler

- Software documentation - HIWDTBU

Rewards

- Independence
- Stimulating, diverse mix of work
- Opportunity to be creative
- Wide range of clients
- Enthusiasm undiminished!

1968 - 2018

- Time to stop
- Do I need a skip?
- WSC manuals, Systems Journals
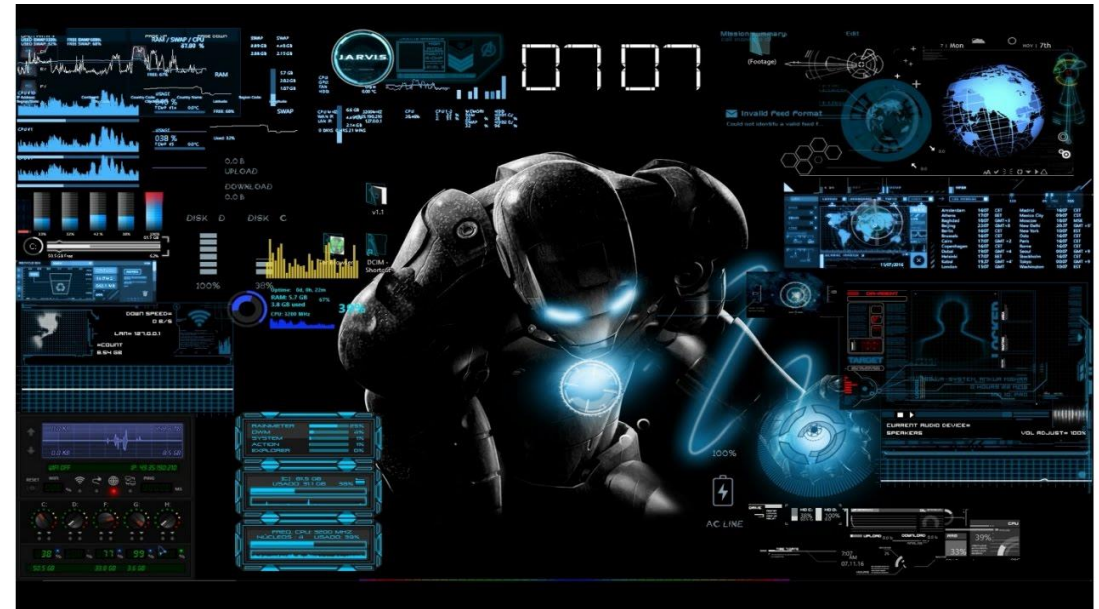- P/390, source code
- Microfiche (and viewer!)

IBM z14

The More Things Change…
The More They Stay The Same

- The past 50 years
- Fundamentals have not changed
- Architecture is irreplaceable
- Leads to yet more opportunities – different

- Instructions – 102 -> 2200+
- Speed – 0.3 -> 170,000 Mips
- DASD – 7Mb -> 55Gb
- Data transfer – 156Kb -> 1Gb+
- Memory – 512K -> 32 Terabytes
- Reliability – 8/day -> "6 nines"
- Applications still run!

The Future

- Services?
- Software?
- Data exploitation?
- Mainframe replacement – or life support?

Thanks!

- IBM
- GUIDE
- XEPHON
- You – the audience

We want your feedback!

- Please submit your feedback online at ….
  - ➢ http://conferences.gse.org.uk/2018/feedback/BA

- Paper feedback forms are also available from the Chair person

- This session is BA