

MALCOLM ROGERS

I left UCSL in October, 1984 (a few weeks before the EDS announcement) to join Grand Metropolitan, the well known Hotels company which at that time owned no large hotels at all. GrandMet were big users of MSA Financial Software which had been the core of OCCAS (Unilever Operating Companies Accounting System) which I helped select and then implement in VdB&J, Birds Eye and BOCM Silcock from 1979 to 1983.

At Grand Met I did almost everything you can imagine concerning Finance and IT, including consultancy, Business Process Engineering (a 1980s flavour of the month - though we did save IDV £1m p.a. by improving cashflow), project management, managing MSA and designing / running User Group conferences, Pensions, Treasury and Multi-currency consolidation (of over 100 companies in umpteen currencies). I also managed the implementation of a new business management process in eight companies in the Far East, with an intensive three week tour (if it's Tuesday, it must be Taiwan) and far more hours than I would wish in a hot sticky office in Singapore.

I finally left Grand Met in 1996, and joined EDS Defence, based at the architecturally challenged MOD Base at Bicester, but also spending lots of time at similarly challenged MOD sites at Andover, Worthy Down, Boscombe Down and Bath (not all of which is Regency terraces!). Most of my EDS time was at the front-end of projects and initiatives - working out how to do Army stock-taking using modern concepts such as "the Balance Sheet" (which the MOD discovered in 1996), bids, proposals, requirements, lots of work on Benefits assessment and Management and lots of financial analyses and modelling. My penultimate role was Financial Controller of our contract in Bicester (£40M p.a.) and my last role was finance lead on a joint EDS / IBM bid for outsourcing all of the MOD's Logistics and Engineering IT - EDS portion of this was around £0.3Bn.

Around 2000, Dick Brown (or as he was popularly known from his email address : Brown, Dick) achieved a major shift in EDS' share price from \$75 to \$12, and was duly fired with a mean-spirited \$50M payoff. In 2008, Hewlett Packard made a successful bid for EDS. Once they had taken over, they reduced salaries, threatened the pension scheme and increased bureaucracy. They also issued monthly invitations to take voluntary redundancy, and after resisting the first five or six of these, I succumbed, leaving in October, 2009.

I'm now quite busy as a serial Treasurer of three local charities in West Herts. I'm also sorting out the garden, trying to find the floor of the loft, restoring a 1908 Methodist Chapel Harmonium, enjoying being a (fairly) new Grandad and being moderately active politically. However, I have time now to sit down and have a proper lunch break, instead of just spilling crumbs on the keyboard. Rita is well and also doing some voluntary work; three grown up sons are a Law lecturer at Hertfordshire University; a senior Traffic Engineer for Transport for London and in final year of a Geography degree at Leeds University.