

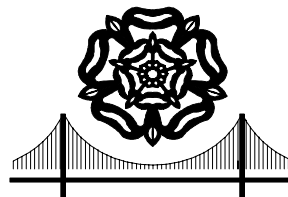
ICT 2 go - 4 lawyers from *air conditioned* room to *surfing* on a mountain ☺

In February 2004, I was fortunate to meet two students with their deputy head, journeying to an event at the House of Lords to celebrate having won a trip to Pakistan, as a prize in a Geography competition. How enlightening it was to hear how they'd researched their subject and produced a prize winning presentation, by using IT and the internet. At one point, I was trying to remember the author of "Nearly Famous", by Bob - the cat - a book I'd been given for Christmas, when, by using his - *surfing TV keyboard* - device, one of the students (M.S.) located - Bevan, before I could recall it. To put this all in context, I started my career in computers in 1968, when thanks to my employer Lloyds (the bank) I was trained as a Cobol programmer. We wrote programs, with a pencil, on pre-formatted coding forms; our programs were then keyed by a data preparations operator using a punch card machine to create holes in 80 column cards. These in turn were loaded by a computer operator into a card reader attached to a mainframe computer (in an air conditioned room) which processed and also stored them (as well as the files that they manipulated) either on or off-line, on reel to reel tapes and /or removable disk packs. So what, I hear you ask; what's so remarkable about that ? Well everything; as I'm sure you realise, this was a far cry and very different from today's knowledge - on the net - and IT enabled world.

Information and increasingly applications are now available 24 / 7 anywhere even if you are *on the top of a mountain*. But how does and will this affect legal practitioners in the future.

As IT empowered lawyers know, it does already "big time" and will do even more in the future. Barristers access and update diaries from mobile devices, whilst Solicitors can check availability and court listings on-line and the systems that Chamber's clerks & Law firms use are increasingly located and managed offsite. Given the impact of the C word, communications in I.C.T, everything is now possible. Hence, outsourcing one's IT facilities and their management, including pay as you use alternatives, have re-established 70's style on-line computer bureau offerings in today's internet world.

If you require advice re using & choosing ICT, please contact David @ R&B.



About the author : David Riggall worked in banking, before moving to London in 1968, to become a programmer with what is now Lloyds TSB plc. After 5 years in computing, he joined GUS as a systems consultant and subsequently worked for IBM, in sales & marketing for 10 years. In 1984 he became a software house director and founded YPC, a personal computer dealership. Since 1994, i.e. for 10 years, he has specialised in offering independent ICT - usage, strategy and acquisition - advice.

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