

Bill Pulford (1955 - 2024)

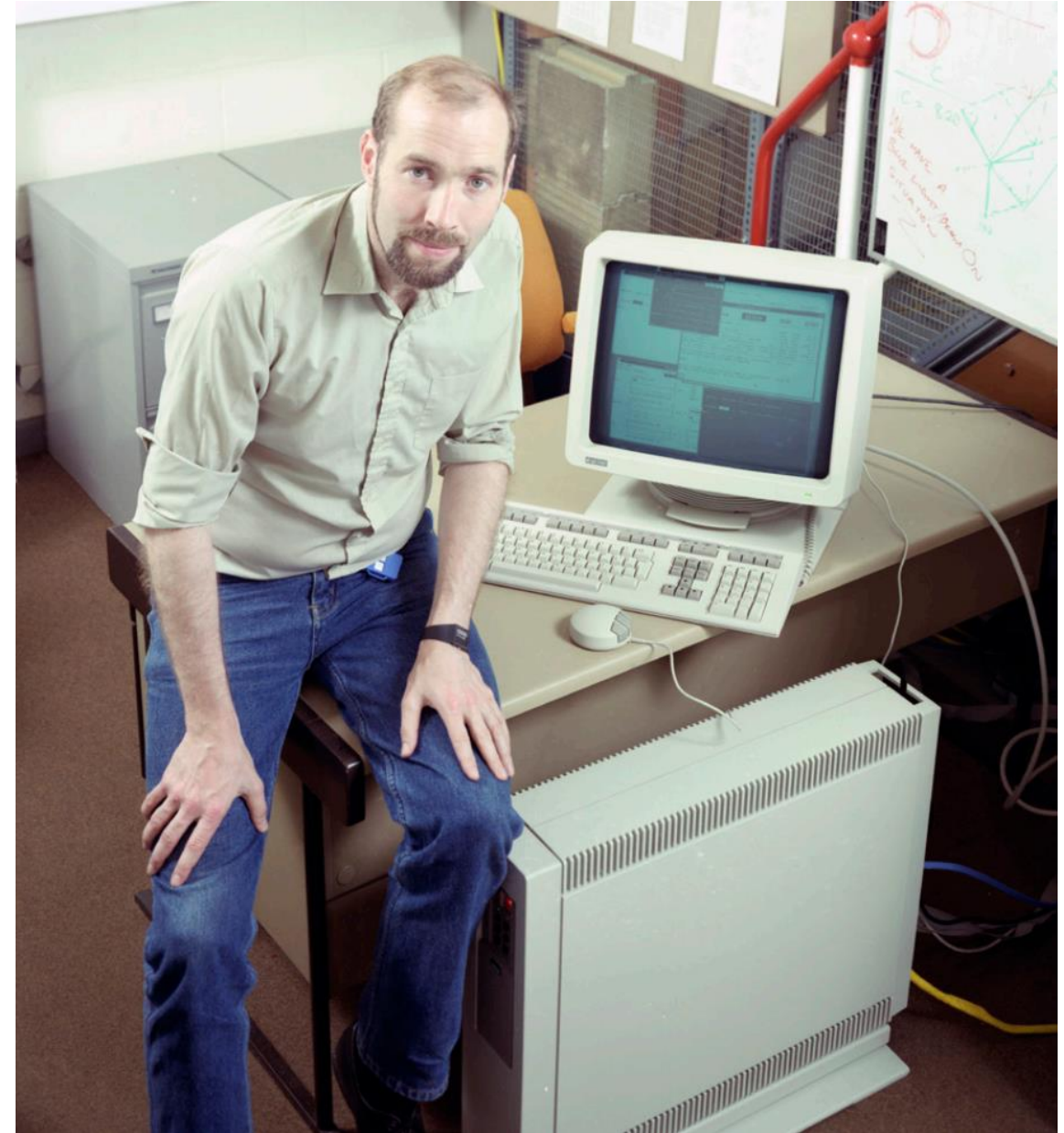
Tribute to Bill @ NOBUGS 2024, Grenoble, FRANCE

by

Steve Collins (DLS) and Andy Götz (ESRF)

Bill @ ISIS

- Joined Computing and Data Acquisition Group in spring 1982
- Played a major part in designing and coding the necessary interfaces between the ISIS data acquisition electronics and the front end mini-computers
- Computer networks and their protocols were still being developed, and Bill immediately set about building an ISIS Cambridge Ring network from scratch and wrote the software
- Bill went on to become Computing Group Leader in 1988
- He developed the sample environment control software interface to CAMAC to enable device control to be integrated with the data acquisition.
- He also developed databases to help manage the administration of visits.



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Bill @ ESRF

- Bill moved to the ESRF in Grenoble in 1991 to become Head of the Experiments Programming Group (EXPG)
- He managed the teams delivering data acquisition and analysis software, but also was heavily involved in the software for managing the user office.
- He built a team of competent software engineers who stayed on after he left in 2000. He was replaced by Claudio Ferrero, and Jörg Klorá who went on to lead the BLISS team, still going strong today.
- Part of the ESRF's computing legacy under Bill's leadership included:
 - **EDF** – ESRF Data Format
 - **FIT2D** – a program to process diffraction images
 - First **User office software**
 - First **web site** and many more ...



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Bill @ Life

- Bill was one of the founding members of the Whiskey club
- He played cricket with the ILL cricket team
- He was hooked on Golf and played frequently on the Correncon golf course in Vercors
- He was always ready to have a chat (and a drink)!



Bill @ Diamond

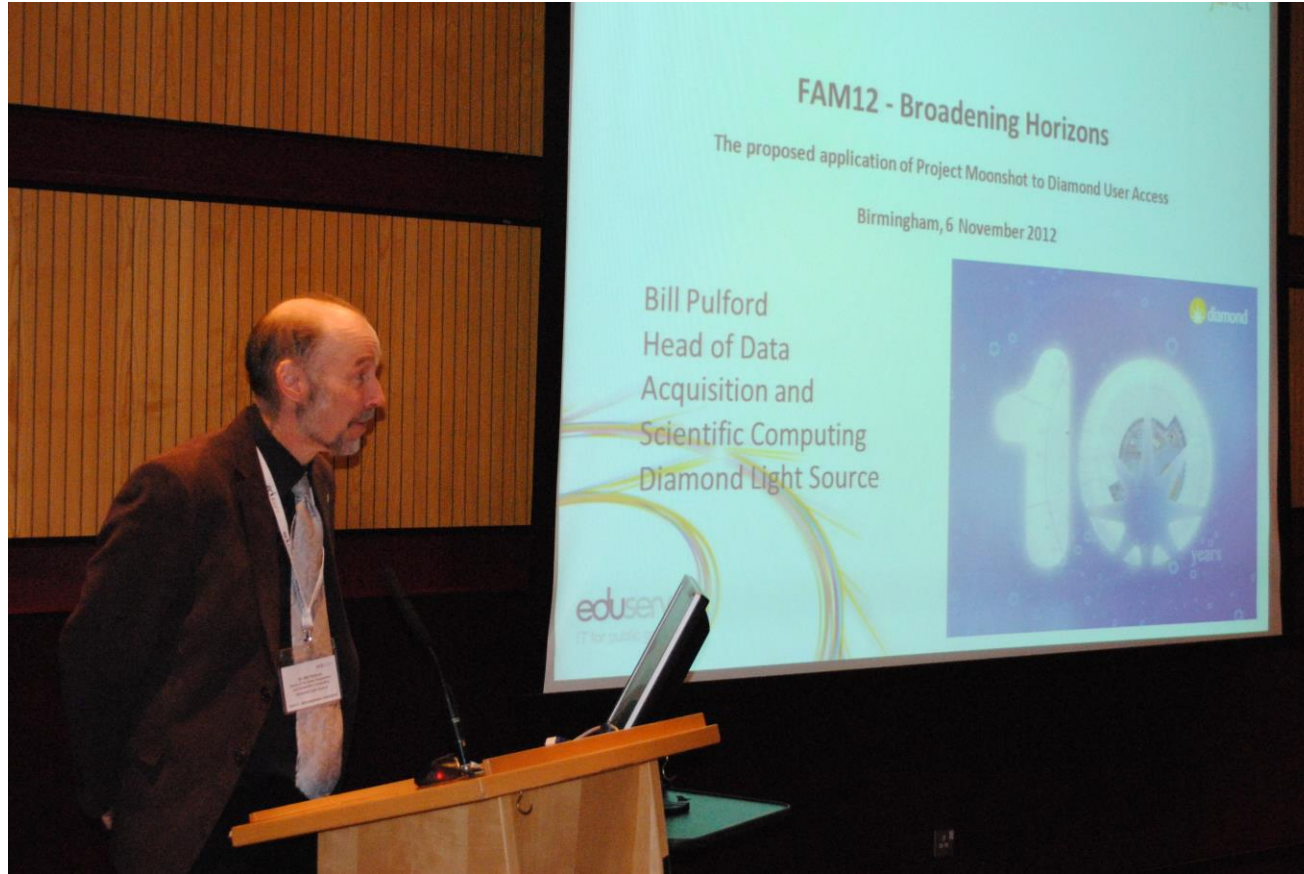
“Moonshot has thought beyond websites, and looked at all requirements in authentication – right down to the point when you open your laptop to begin work.”

Bill Pulford, Head of DASC, Diamond Light Source



- At Diamond, Bill again took on the role of building a team of software professionals to deliver data acquisition and analysis to the many beamlines
- GDA experiment management application originated at Daresbury and was adopted by Diamond.
- Bill led the GDA development at Diamond, a substantial Java application with a CLI, an embedded Jython interpreter and scripting capabilities. It provided a scanning framework and reciprocal space mapping and data visualisation
- He brought Single Sign On to Diamond’s software applications across science and business services, through CAS; which lives on today
- He developed the User Administration System (UAS) in two district versions over the life of Diamond as beamline access mechanism developed
- He personally developed a series of database applications
- Bill retired from Diamond at the end of 2017 and offered his services as an independent consultant

Bill @ International Scene



- Bill participated in many EU grant, covering several European Commission frameworks
- Covering grid computing, authentication, data management as part of Pandata, Moonshot, Calipso Umbrella etc
- Bill co-instigated the NOBUGS conference and was a force behind it's ongoing success
- First NOBUGS was jointly organised by ESRF/ILL in 1996
- NOBUGS continues this year and returns again to the ESRF/ILL site



Bill Pulford (1955 - 2024)

- Played a major role in the development and launch of three major international scientific facilities
- Led international software and computing activities
- A truly unique achievement
- He will be sadly missed by his family, friends and colleagues.

With input from: Mark Heron, Kevin Knowles, Mike Johnson, Andy Goetz, Alun Ashton

NOBUGS Software Prize

- Together with **Janet Pulford** (Bill's wife) we are happy to announce the creation of a

NOBUGS Software Prize for the software package / program with the **most impact and least number of number of bugs** from our community



- Please send proposals to andy.gotz@esrf.fr
 - **Proposal of roughly 1 page** describing the software and its impact and why you think the software has few bugs (include a link to the code repository)



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