

Paperless chart recorder

(Source: Tom Nobes, Sellafield Ltd, INucE C&I Conference 2007)

Installed in a non-safety application were several of these paperless chart recorders.



Figure 6: The paperless chart-recorder
(with a hidden surprise!)

The recorders started to exhibit faults; mostly 'going to sleep' or constant rebooting. Recorders were swapped with spares, returned to the manufacturer and reconfigured over a period of about 18 months, with no real improvement in reliability.

It certainly was a surprise to discover that the chart recorders contained a game called 'Cave Fly', based on the movie 'Hunt For Red October' (see Figure 7), and that the game couldn't be deleted from the firmware, only locked-out from the Operators. After 'lock-out' reliability improved, but faults were not completely eliminated.

It's not clear exactly why a manufacturer would even fit such a game to a process instrument. The only explanation forthcoming is the possible use as a training aid in the ergonomics of the recorder.

The locking-out of the game reduced the failure rate, but Sellafield Ltd still decided to change the recorders for another make.