

'Bob' for brains and a strange black box makes for interesting shop talk

When people see Chris Irving at Langley Memorial Hospital, wearing a strange black box around his neck, a stylus in his hand and carrying something that resembles a telephone receiver, they can't help but ask him what he's up to.

"When someone asks me what I'm doing," Chris jokes, "I tell them I'm measuring for the hot tub." Not.

Irving, works for LaserTech Floor Plans, and his job is to get electronic drawings of the hospital, using the latest technology which is the black box. LaserTech is among a select few companies in North America that has the technology and expertise to provide laser accurate, cost effective CAD drawings of the physical plant.

"We're working on computerizing the floor plans of all our facilities," says Michael Snow, a building technician in Facilities Planning. "With computerized drawings, we will be able to manipulate them more easily than we ever could with pencil and paper. And because they're electronic files, we can share them with equipment installers, builders and other companies who supply and service our facilities."

The technology is amazing in itself. Irving, who works alone, quietly goes about getting precise measurements using the laser device without interrupting other people working nearby. Measurements get downloaded into the computer, and "Bob", the computer's brain, draws the dimensions on the



Building Surveyor Chris Irving and "Bob" – LaserTech's computerized floor plan system – measuring up Langley Memorial Hospital.

computer screen instantly. The information is stored in the computer until Irving transmits it to LaserTech, where the finishing details are added to the drawings. The drawings are checked for quality and accuracy, and are then delivered electronically to the client - in this case, Langley Memorial Hospital.

Computer drawings can be used in space planning, preventative maintenance, equipment tracking, risk management, fire safety plans, insurance appraisals, and many other purposes. After the initial outlay for computerized floor plans, it's going to be much more cost-effective to maintain, plan and make changes. **CONNIE WILKS**

Fraser Health IS innovation featured at world product launch

Why is one of the world's most powerful men so enthralled with Fraser Health these days?

At Microsoft's worldwide product launch in October, Bill Gates (yes, Billionaire Bill) took the stage and talked about how three organizations helped the computer giant develop some very innovative applications for its newest Microsoft products. Of 200 companies Microsoft approached to participate in what they call its Rapid Adoption Program, or RAP, 20 were nominated to be evaluated. And of those customers, only three were showcased at the worldwide launch of Office 2003 in New York City and the Canadian launch in Toronto. Fraser Health was one of them.

So what caught Bill's attention and got him talking about us? As James Orobko, Director of Information Systems (IS), says it was that we really found a new way of using Microsoft products - InfoPath, SharePoint and Project Server - that Microsoft, itself, hadn't thought of. "The way in which we applied InfoPath and SharePoint created a front door into Microsoft's newest product, Project Server, which gave it a new way of initiating a project in the software package."

It seems, for Microsoft, it was a case of seeing the forest for the trees. Because when Fraser Health's IS group decided to take its paper-based project proposal process and create an online workflow, they soon discovered the benefits of linking Project Server with InfoPath electronic forms and SharePoint Services site to administer, collaborate and share

continued next page