

AccessionIndex: TCD-SCSS-T.20191104.004

Accession Date: 4-Nov-2019

Accession By: Ronan Scaife

Object name: DEC VT103 intelligent visual display unit

Vintage: c.1979

Synopsis: Terminal for MINC-11 lab computer, Model: VT103-BA, S/N: MF06270.

Description:

This item was used as a terminal for a DEC MINC-11 laboratory minicomputer on a trolley, see elsewhere in this catalog.

The VT103 was a version of the VT100 with a DEC LSI-11 cardcage and 4×4 (8-slot) Q-Bus backplane that allowed a DEC LSI-11/23 (2nd-generation successor to LSI-11/03) to be installed. Optional (rather slow) mass storage was provided by two TU58 DECTape-II 256kB block-addressable cartridge tape drives under the screen. The screen itself was controlled by an Intel i8080A CPU, with a 12" display that could support 24 lines of 80 characters or 14 lines of 132 characters, using 7 x 9 pixel characters. The VT103 interfaced to the MINC-11 via a RS-232C 20mA current-loop interface at 50-19200 baud and supported the standard VT100 protocols.

Ronan: where did it come from + what was it used for (i.e. what is its provenance)?

Ronan: could you provide the appropriate paragraph re DCU please?

Many thanks to Ronan Scaife (son of Prof. Garrett Scaife, Dept. Electrical Engineering, Trinity College Dublin) for donating this item, and also to Ronan for arranging for transport of this item to the collection.

The homepage for this catalog is at: <https://www.scss.tcd.ie/SCSSTreasuresCatalog/>
 Click 'Accession Index' (1st column listed) for related folder, or 'About' for further guidance.
 Some of the items below are more properly part of the other categories of this catalog,
 but are listed here for convenience.

Accession Index	Object with Identification
TCD-SCSS-T.20191104.004	DEC VT103 intelligent visual display unit. Terminal for MINC-11 lab computer, Model: VT103-BA, S/N: MF06270. c.1979.
TCD-SCSS-T.20191104.002	DEC MINC-11 laboratory minicomputer. Lab computer plus instrument chassis successor to the original MIT LINC, Model: MINC11-AB, CAB 0, S/N: WF05524. c.1981.

References:

1. Binary Dinosaurs, *Digital MINC-11*, see:
<http://www.binarydinosaurs.co.uk/museum/digital/minc/index.php>
 Last browsed to on 4-Nov-2019.
2. Binary Dinosaurs, *The Digital MINC-11*, see:
<https://fjkraan.home.xs4all.nl/comp/minc/index.html>
 Last browsed to on 4-Nov-2019.
3. Binary Dinosaurs, *The Digital MINC-11*, see:
<https://fjkraan.home.xs4all.nl/comp/minc/index.html>
 Last browsed to on 4-Nov-2019.
4. pdp8.et, *RX01/RX02 information*, see:
<https://www.pdp8.net/rx02/rx02.shtml>
 Last browsed to on 4-Nov-2019.
5. terminals-wiki.org, *The DEC VT103*, see:
https://terminals-wiki.org/wiki/index.php/DEC_VT103
 Last browsed to on 4-Nov-2019.
6. gunkies.org, *The PDP-11/23*, see:
<http://gunkies.org/wiki/PDP-11/23>
 Last browsed to on 4-Nov-2019.
7. Wikipedia, *The DECtape*, see:
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DECtape>
 Last browsed to on 4-Nov-2019.



Figure 1: MINC-11 three-quarter view



Figure 2: VT103 three-quarter view



Figure 3: VT103 front three-quarter view without top cover

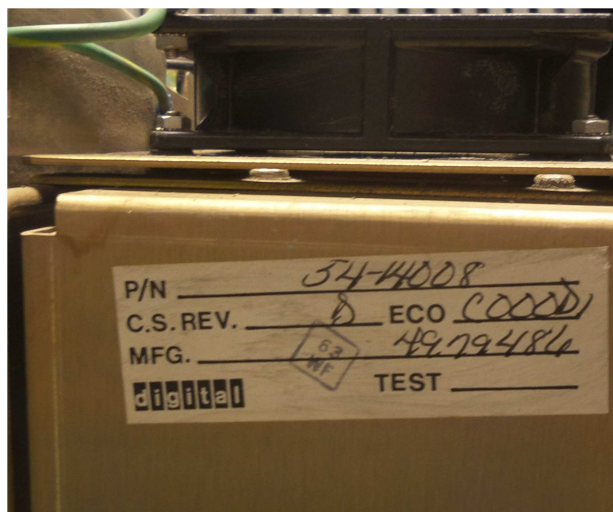


Figure 4: VT103 manufacturing label on back of LSI-11 cardcage

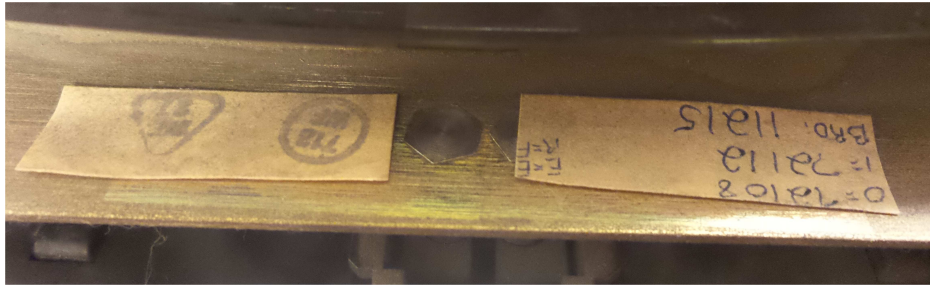


Figure 5: VT103 manufacturing labels below screen



Figure 6: VT103 keyboard



Figure 7: VT103 keyboard left closeup



Figure 8: VT103 keyboard right closeup



Figure 9: VT103 Dual TU58 DECTape-II tape drives below screen, behind keyboard

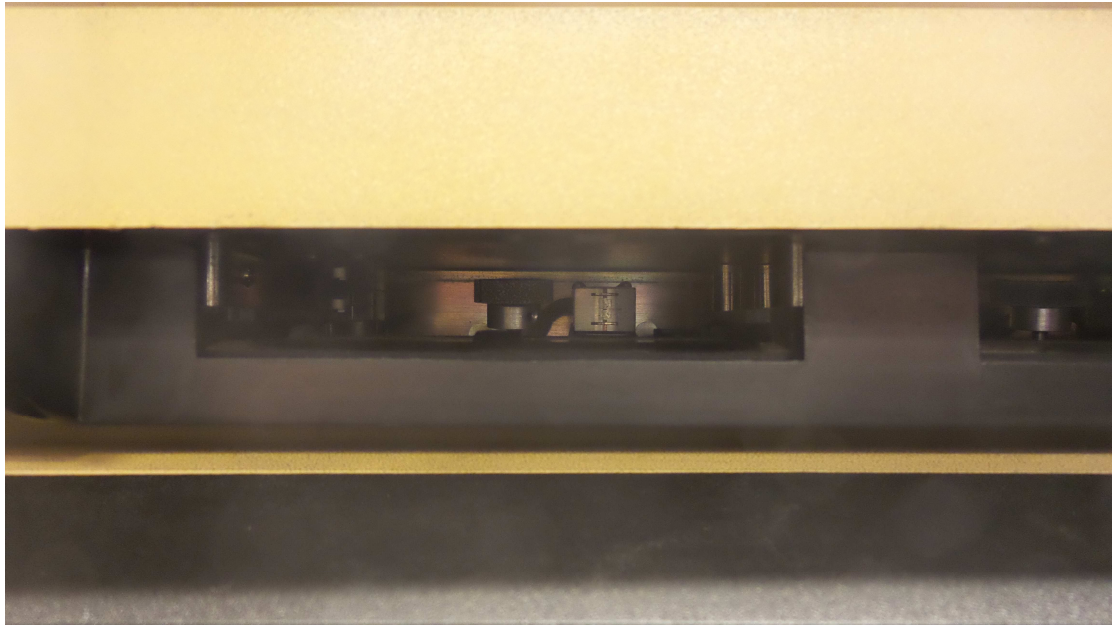


Figure 10: VT103 left TU58 DECtape-II tape heads



Figure 11: VT103 right TU58 DECtape-II tape heads

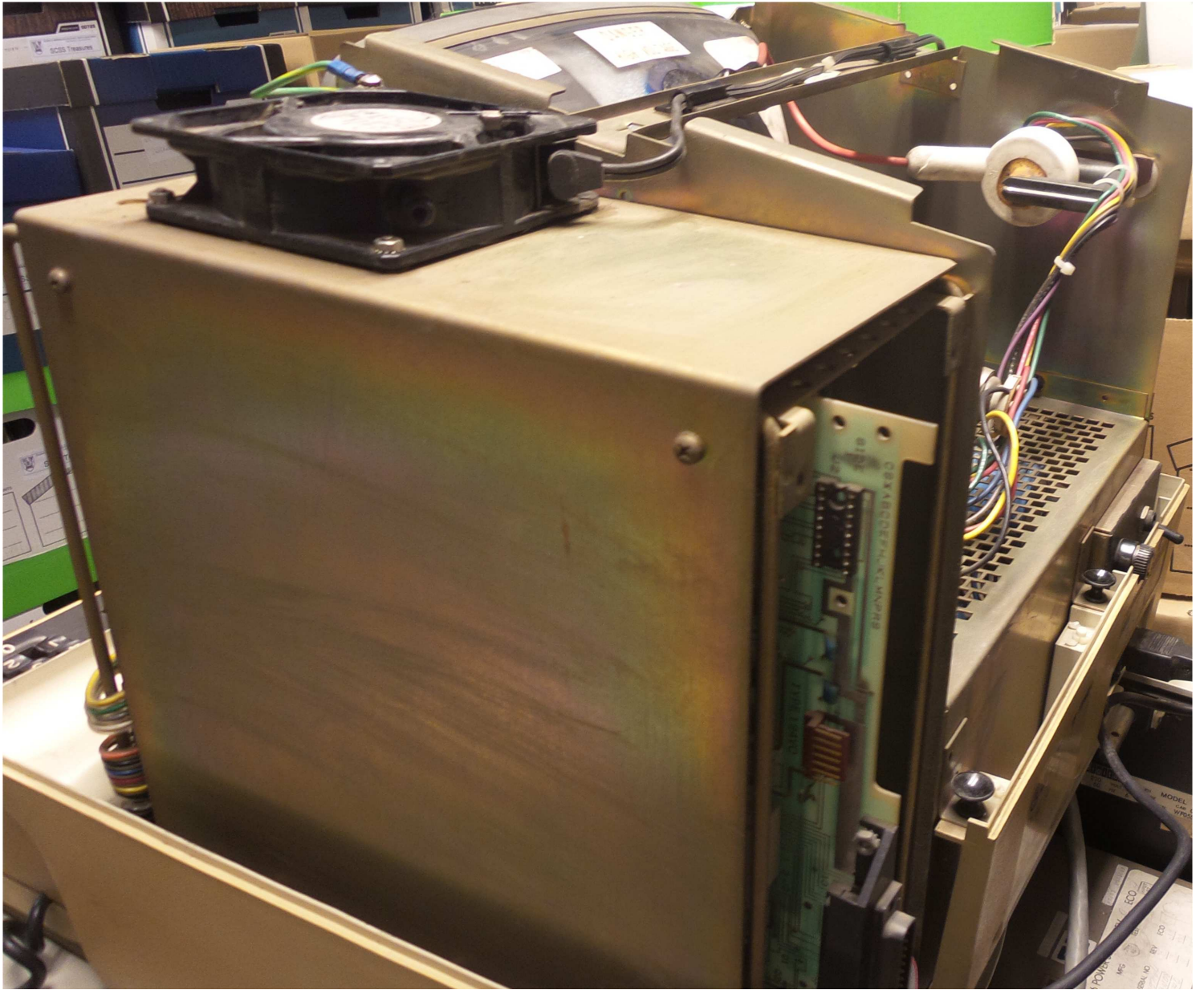


Figure 12: VT103 rear three-quarter view, LSI-11 cardcage in foreground, CRT display behind



Figure 13: VT103 LSI-11 cardcage (without LSI-11 board)

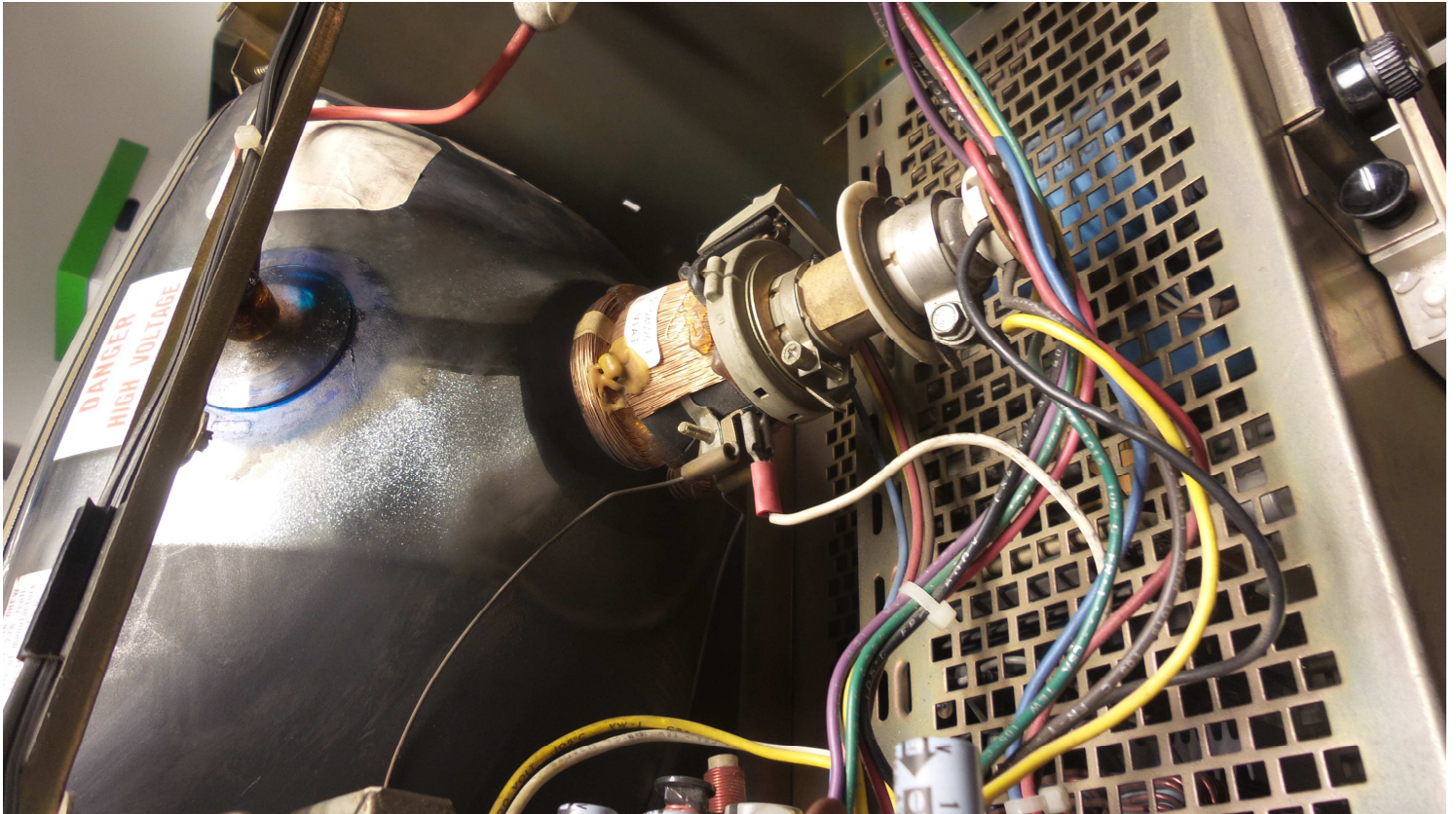


Figure 14: VT103 CRT display rear view



Figure 15: VT103 manufacturing label (Model: VT103-BA, S/N: MF06270)