

Digital reunion draws 1,000-plus people to old headquarters



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Maynard -

Last week's Digital Equipment Corp. reunion drew more than 1,000 former DEC workers to the company's old headquarters at Clock Tower Place.

The May 24 event, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of Digital's founding, was organized by DECedOut, a group

dedicated to keeping the Digital "family" in touch, and hosted by Joe Mullin, vice president of public relations and board member for Clock Tower Place.

"When we began to organize the anniversary reunion, we expected a turnout of around 100 to 150 former employees," said Jack Mileski, a DECedOut committee member. "Word of mouth and e-mail spread like wildfire and before long we had nearly 800 reservations. Another 200 or so folks showed up at the event."

Attendees included Digital retirees and current Hewlett-Packard employees. DEC was acquired in 1998 by Compaq Computer Corp., which merged with HP in 2002.

The reunion was held in Clock Tower Place's new cafeteria, with the larger-than-expected crowd spilling out onto an adjacent courtyard. The former mill building, built in the mid-1800s, is a sprawling downtown complex with more than 100 tenants and 3,500 workers.

Mullin took former Digital employees on a tour of Clock Tower Place to show how it has changed over the years. The computer company got its start in Building 12, where the main entrance is located, in 1957. DEC was founded by Ken Olsen and Harlan Anderson.

Legacy Financial Advisors, a national wealth management firm, was the corporate sponsor of the event, while MarketReach Inc., a marketing services firm founded by two former Digital employees, supplied the banners that hung in the room.

DECedOut's next planned event is an outdoor barbecue in the fall somewhere around Maynard. For more information, visit www.decedout.org.