

Re: What Happened to the MMU?

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- *From:* henry@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx (Henry Spencer)
 - *Date:* Fri, 2 Feb 2007 16:40:05 GMT
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In article <45c2c43a\$0\$24518\$4c368faf@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, Jim <me@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

What ever happened to the MMU? Why are they no longer used?

They're in storage, I believe. Basically, because there hasn't been a good use for them lately.

The MMU was built on the assumption that the orbiter wasn't capable of the delicate maneuvering needed to dock with a satellite, e.g. for repairs, especially if the satellite was spinning. But this turned out to be untrue. In particular, it turned out that the best way to take the spin off a spinning satellite is to just have spacewalkers in the cargo bay reach up and grab it. (Moreover, the more complicated plans involving the MMUs did not actually work terribly well on the Solar Max repair and the Palapa/Weststar salvage.)

That pretty much removed the MMU's reason to exist. For more mundane tasks like working around ISS, it's easier and safer to crawl along the structure, or have the arm hold you in position, than to fly free.

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spsystems.net is temporarily off the air; | Henry Spencer
mail to henry at zoo.utoronto.ca instead. | henry@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx