



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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Fact Sheet 99-55

COMPUTER SOFTWARE Y2K PROBLEMS AND COMPLIANCE

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Computer software (operating systems and applications) can potentially have Year 2000 problems associated with their use and or proper function. Some software problems may go unnoticed and have no effects on every day business and household activities. However, some date sensitive applications may cause major problems with everyday operations.

This document will address the possible ramifications of Year 2000 bug effects on computer operating systems, software and steps to remediate these problems. As always, the first step in assessing Y2k related computer problems is to inventory all computers, operating systems (personal and network), and all application software.

Operating System

The computer operating system controls the functions and peripherals (monitor, mouse, modem, etc.) attached to a PC. There are many types of operating systems including, but not limited to, MS-DOS[®], Windows 3.X[®], Windows 95[®], Windows 98[®], and IBM OS/2[®]. These types of software allow the computer user to interact with the computer and application software.

The Year 2000 may affect operation of personal and network computers through date functions associated with the operating system and its control of the file system and software applications. These problems can range anywhere from scheduled backup procedures to complete system failure.

Application Software

Application software consists of the programs used on a computer. Applications include spreadsheets, databases, desktop publishing, word processing, financial, and accounting software. Some of the more common software titles are Microsoft Office, Corel Word Perfect, Lotus 123, Quicken, and Peachtree Accounting to name a few. All application software should be checked for Year 2000 compliance. Some date sensitive software packages may not operate correctly without a "software patch" to fix the problem or a complete upgrade to a Y2K compatible version.

Software Problem Remediation

To test for operating system or application compliance:

- 1) Identify the software title (e.g. Windows 95, Word, etc.)
- 2) Identify the version or release number of the software (the version or release usually will be shown for a short period when the software is started, if not look in help files or read me files associated with the software)
- 3) Use the World Wide Web (WWW) to find the homepage of the software vendor or write a letter to the vendor asking about known Y2K compliance and non-compliance issues.

Or

There are many WWW sites that include a database of software titles and their companies Y2K disclosure statements. Some of these websites include:

<http://www.nycenet.edu> – New York City Board of Education offers a vendor search with periodic updates and links to vendor sites.

<http://www.y2kbase.com> – Y2K Base offers a database sorted by type of product including automobiles, hardware, software, appliances, office products and many others.

<http://www.vendor2000.com> – Vendor 2000 offers an alphabetical database of vendors and products.

The aforementioned websites are offered as a guide to help find Year 2000 resources. The information contained on these websites should be considered for information purposes only and the authors should not be held liable for any content or information used from these sites.

Most software vendors have compliance statements and downloadable software patches available on their websites to explain problems and fix or replace current versions that are not compliant. However, there are some software titles that may need replaced simply because the software is outdated, the company has changed hands, or the company has gone out of business. The next steps to take depend upon to the computer user and the budget available for hardware and software repair or replacement.

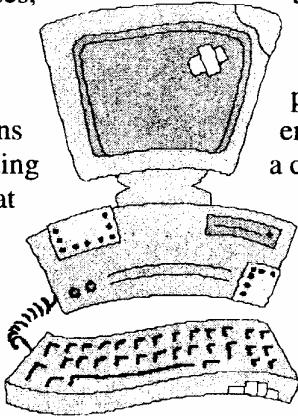
Conclusion

Once
to operate
be aware of the
complete
databases,



again, computer operating systems and application software may continue through the Year 2000 with little or no problems, but computer users must possible consequences of inaction. Some of these consequences include system failure, failure of certain date sensitive programs (spreadsheets, and accounting/financial software), or absolutely nothing at all.

solutions
requesting
cost that



links

Remember there are free and minimal cost solutions to most problems that might arise from the Year 2000 bug. Some of these entail simply downloading a patch from the WWW or writing a letter a copy of the patch(s) on disk. Also, software is available at a nominal will test your system for all hardware and software problems you might encounter due to the Year 2000. If nothing else is done, at least inventory all computers and software for later reference or as a tool for remediation if something eventually does go wrong. Listed below are to several of the more common software vendors for reference to their respective compliance information.

1) Operating Systems

✓ **Microsoft Products**

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/year2k/>

✓ **IBM Products**

<http://www.pc.ibm.com/year2000/software.html>

✓ **Macintosh**

<http://www.apple.com/about/year2000/>

✓ **Sun Microsystems**

<http://www.sun.com/y2000/>

2) Application Software

- ✓ **Microsoft Office**
<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/year2k/>

- ✓ **Lotus 123**
<http://www.lotus.com/home.nsf/welcome/y2k>

- ✓ **Corel WordPerfect**
<http://www.corel.com/year2000/index.html>

- ✓ **AutoCAD**
<http://www.autodesk.com/support/resource/year2000/>

- ✓ **Intuit**
<http://www.intuit.com/corporate/year2000/index.html>

- ✓ **Peachtree Accounting**
<http://www.peachtree.com/year2000/>

- ✓ **Netscape**
<http://home.netscape.com/products/year2000/>

- ✓ **Adobe**
<http://www.adobe.com/newsfeatures/year2000/>

Additional Year 2000 information can be obtained from your local Cooperative Extension Office or by contacting Buddy Borden, Community Development Specialist with Nevada Cooperative Extension (702) 222-3130 or Tim Darden, Research Analyst with the Center for Economic Development (775) 784-6994. Other useful websites with Y2K information include:

<http://y2khelp.nist.gov>

<http://www.sba.gov/y2k>

<http://www.year2000.com>

Material presented in this document was gathered from the Council of the Great City Schools, Washington, D. C. and Center for Community Economic Development, University of Wisconsin, and all websites listed in this document

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