CNS /Update Newsletter Feature

Y2K: Are You Ready?

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Y2K: Are You Ready?

Ready or not, here it comes: January 1, 2000. Will it be clear skies or disaster for your computer? For most of the world, the Year-2000 bug will probably bring something in between, according to computing experts. But there are measures you can take to ensure that your experience will be closer to a zephyr than a hurricane, both with your home computer and with work you may be doing at UF or through NERDC.

Jim Arnette, NERDC's Y2K coordinator, says the single most important step you can take is to make sure your backup systems are in place. If you are responsible for preserving information stored on a computer:

a) Make sure the backups are working correctly.

b) Test the restore process.

c) Verify what you entered is what the system is reporting.

No problems associated with Y2K are anticipated for NERDC's platforms (i.e., NERSP and NERMVS). There are specific contact agents for the various administrative application. Problems with those applications should be addressed accordingly.

At Home

Older PCs and date-sensitive software such as finance, spreadsheet, or database applications are most at risk. The easiest fix for hardware and software that is not ready for Y2K is an upgrade or replacement. You can check with your PC vendor to find out if your BIOS program (Basic Input/Output System) is Y2K ready. BIOS is the program a personal computer's microprocessor uses to get the computer system started after you turn it on. For questions about your software's readiness, you can check with the manufacturer to find out if your version is ready for the new century.

NERDC also provides a Web page dedicated to Year-2000 issues at http://www.cns.ufl.edu/info-services/nerdc2000.html. (editor's note: this page has been archived)

Topics covered include:

• What Do You Need To Do?

• What NERDC Is Doing

• NERDC Provides Y2K Test Facility

• Where To Go For Information And Help

For general information on how various software development offices at the University of Florida and around the world are preparing for the Year 2000, please see the UF Information Systems "Year 2000 Information Center" page at http://www.is.ufl.edu/BAWB015H.HTM.
Other sources of documentation and information include:

- Vendor documentation (manuals, newsletters, and other information from the software author/publisher/vendor)
- Your own system and/or user documentation
- Professional journals and related publications in your field
- NERDC's monthly newsletter, /Update, and NERDC News.

**What's Your Comfort Level?**

If you have the technical expertise to attempt handling Year-2000 issues that may arise with your hardware and software yourself, follow the steps under the "What Do You Need to Do?" section to make your applications and databases Year-2000 ready. If you do not have the expertise to attempt to resolve these issues on your own, please contact your department or college computing support staff. You may also contact the UF Computing Help Desk. Send e-mail to helpdesk@ufl.edu [mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu] or telephone (352) 392-HELP.

**Your Comments are Welcome**

We welcome your comments and suggestions on this and all UFIT documentation. Please send your comments to:

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