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Year 2000 Computer Problem: Selected Internet Addresses

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Summary

The Year 2000 computer problem, also called "Y2K" or the "millennium bug," describes a situation created over the last 30 years in the computer industry. Generally speaking, it means that some computers will not recognize the year 2000 as a valid date. This report is an annotated list of government (local, state, federal, and international), industry, small business, media, and grass-roots Internet sites which address various aspects of the Year 2000 computer problem.

This report is intended for use by both congressional offices and constituents and will be updated frequently.

For additional analysis of congressional response to the Year 2000 problem, see CRS Issue Brief 97036, *The Year 2000 Problem: Activity in the 105th Congress*, and CRS Report 97-377, *Year 2000 Problem: Chronology of Hearings and Legislation.*

Federal Government: Congress (links to House and Senate hearings, statements, and testimony)

- **Congressional Hearings: Senate**
  [http://www.freedom.gov/y2k/doing/senate.asp]
- **Congressional Hearings: House**
  [http://www.freedom.gov/y2k/]
- **Congressional Hearings: Information Technology Association of America**
  [http://www.itaa.org/congress.htm]
- **Heath's Exhaustive Links to Year 2000 Testimony**
  [http://home.swbell.net/adheath/testimony.htm]

CRS

CRS Reports are prepared for Members and committees of Congress

- **Senate Special Committee on the Year 2000 Technology Problem**
  [http://www.senate.gov/~y2k/index.html]

Federal Government: Agencies

- **General Accounting Office: GAO Reports and Publications**
  [http://www.gao.gov/y2kr.htm]

Includes assessment and testing guides, and a manual for business continuity and contingency planning. Since February 1997, GAO has written dozens of reports on the government's response to Y2K, and on specific federal agencies' readiness to handle it.

- **General Services Administration**
  [http://www.itpolicy.gsa.gov/mks/yr2000/y201toc1.htm]

This site offers a collection of federal government and international links, including an international directory and international conferences.

- **Office of Personnel Management: Year 2000 Assistance to Agencies**
  [http://www.opm.gov/y2k/]

Links to OPM initiatives to assist federal agencies in hiring information technology professionals, including a link to the U.S. Department of Labor's *America's Job Bank.*

- **President's Year 2000 Conversion Council**
  [http://www.y2k.gov/java/index.htm]

The Council was established on February 4, 1998, by Executive Order 13073 and is responsible for coordinating the federal government's response to the Year 2000 problem.

State and Local Government

- **National Association of Counties**
  [http://www.naco.org/programs/infotech/y2k/index.cfm]

Provides links to the information that is relevant to county government, focusing on information and resources that are useful to the non-technical county official as well as to the county chief information officer or information systems director.

- **National Association of State Information Resource Executives (NASIRE)**
  [http://www.nasire.org/hotIssues/y2k/index.html]

Compilation of Year 2000 Web pages for states.

- **National Conference of State Legislatures**
  [http://www.nasire.org/hotIssues/y2k/index.html]

Contains information on state laws and legislation, state government Y2K compliance, a Y2K checklist, and a survey on the status of state remediation efforts.

- **Stateside Reports**
  [http://www.stateside.com/y2k.html]

Compilation of Year 2000 state Web pages.

- **Y2K & You: Helping Local Governments Cope with the Year 2000 Problem**
  [http://www.pti.org/y2k]

Public Technology, Inc. (PTI), the National League of Cities (NLC), the National Association of Counties (NACo), and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) have launched the Y2K & You Campaign to make local appointed and elected officials aware of the impact of the Year 2000 problem.

International

- **Action 2000**
  [http://www.bug2000.co.uk/index2.shtml]

This United Kingdom Web site helps businesses prepare for Y2K, and provides information on the status of government and business compliance.

- **CIO Council International Links**
  [http://www.itpolicy.gsa.gov/mks/yr2000/g7yr2000.htm]

Maintained by the General Services Administration's CIO Council, this page links to various countries' Y2K Web sites (many are bilingual).

- **Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)**
  [http://www.csis.org/html/y2k.html]

CSIS has established a Y2K Task Force, which will bring together senior governmental officials and business leaders from the United States and abroad to assess the Y2K risks to the government, business community, consumers, financial markets, and the global trading system.

- **United Nations**
  [http://www.un.org/members/yr2000/]

This site links to the full text of *The Year 2000 Challenge for the United Nations*, and four U.N. resolutions on the subject.

Business/Industry

- **Federal Reserve Bank Guide for Small Businesses**
  [http://www.frbsf.org/fiservices/cdc/smallbus/index.html]

This site provides a guidance document for small businesses.

- **National Association of Manufacturers Clearinghouse for Current Solutions**
  [http://www.nam.org/y2k/y2khome.asp]

This trade association's Web site helps small and medium-sized firms share information about products and services dealing with the Year 2000 problem. Companies can search the site by company name or type of company.

- **Prudential Small Business Guide**
  [http://www.prudential.com/corporate/techatpru/cotzz1004.html]

Prudential developed a three-step plan and worksheets to help small businesses prepare for Year 2000.

- **Small Business Administration**
  [http://www.sba.gov/y2k/]

The SBA site provides links to "Steps to Take," "Checklists," and "Solution Providers" to assist small businesses in identifying and correcting the Y2K problem.

- **Westergaard**
  [http://www.y2ktimebomb.com/]

This site analyzes how specific business sectors will be affected by Y2K (for example, utilities, banking, healthcare, insurance, etc.). In addition, featured columnists write weekly columns (*Y2K on the Job, Investment Insights, Washington Interpreter, Technology Corner*, etc.).

- **Y2Kpr.com**
  [www.comlinks.com]

This site provides a single source for product announcements, compliance letters, and statements to the media and the public.

Media (Newspaper and Magazine Coverage)

- **ComputerWorld Y2K articles**
  [http://www.computerworld.com/res/year_2000.html]

- **Money Magazine - The Year 2000 Bug**
  [http://www.pathfinder.com/money/y2k/index.html]

- **Netly News/Time Y2K Daily Archive**
  [http://cgi.pathfinder.com/netly/article/0,2334,14083,00.html]

- **Sangers' Review of Y2K News Reports (linked and archived daily)**
  [http://y2kreview.com]

- **Y2K News Magazine**
  [http://www.y2knews.com/]

- **Y2K Today**
  [http://www.y2ktoday.com/modules/home/default.asp]

- **ZDY2K**
  [http://www.zdnet.com/zdy2k]

General Sites

- **Cassandra Project**
  [http://millennia-bcs.com/nfcass.htm]

Maintained by a grass-roots nonprofit organization, this Web site promotes community preparation and contingency planning.

- **Coalition 2000**
  [http://www.coalition2000.org]

Coalition 2000 is a collaborative network of concerned citizens who help communities prepare for the Year 2000 by providing them with credible information and tools. The Coalition is dedicated to using a collaborative and cooperative partnership process involving community, government, and private sector groups.

- **Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility**
  [http://www.cpsr.org/program/y2k/]

This site promotes Year 2000 awareness, mitigation, contingency planning, and preparedness. In particular CPSR seeks to speak and act for the segments of society which do not have extensive resources or organized groups to speak for them.

- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**
  [http://www.computerpro.com/~phystad/csy2kfaq.html]

This is a lengthy, very detailed question-and-answer document, regularly updated, which defines the problem, discusses its social and historical implications, describes specific hardware and software issues, gives examples of how to fix the problem, and provides links to additional resources and tools.

- **Information Technology Association of America (ITAA)**
  [http://www.itaa.org/year2000.htm]

ITAA is an authoritative voice addressing the Year 2000 issue. Beginning with the formation of their Year 2000 Task Group, which consists of both computer software and services vendors, its scope has gone beyond the federal marketplace and now includes firms interested in pursuing this issue in both the state and local commercial sectors.

- **Year 2000 Information Center**
  [http://www.year2000.com/cgi-bin/y2k/NFyear2000.cgi]

This is the Web site of Peter de Jager, who is perceived by many to be a worldwide leader in creating awareness of the Year 2000 problem.

Consumer Information

- **Consumer Electronics Manufacturers Association**
  [http://www.cemacity.org/govt/CEMA2000.htm]

This site is a collection of links to Y2K-compliant manufacturers of consumer appliances, such as Casio, Compaq, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Sony, Panasonic, etc.

- **NSTL Year 2000 Testing Program: YMark 2000 (for personal computers)**
  [http://www.nstl.com/html/ymark_2000.html]

YMark 2000 is a free NSTL utility which consumers can download to their personal computer to determine if a PC will adequately support dates after December 31, 1999.

- **Vendor 2000**
  [http://www.vendor2000.com]

Vendor 2000 is a repository of hardware, software, and other specialized products that may be affected by the "Year 2000 Bug." The compliance information was obtained either directly from the vendors by letter or from the published Year 2000 compliance status on the vendors' Internet Web sites.