

Inoculate your business against year 2000 bug

When you walk into your office on Jan. 2, 2000, will your computer and its software recognize the new millennium or will it think it is 1900?

Your computer's ability to comprehend the year 2000 can affect everything from your business cash flow to taxes to interest calculations to customer service, as well as many other areas.

Although the degree to which the Year 2000 (Y2K) issue affects a business will vary greatly, you can be assured that if your systems rely on computer or electronically controlled devices, your business is at risk.

The Kentucky Society of CPAs says there are steps you can take now to minimize those risks. Here are a few of them.

Take an inventory of your hardware and software. Identify and list the various computer-based systems, components and hardware that support your business. Include computer controlled equipment such as automated machinery in your production line, telephony systems, security and safety systems, transport systems, and other equipment that may involve a computer that may use a date, including utility programs such as Microsoft Office, accounting packages and e-

lectronic or adapted systems developed for your business. If you use a service bureau for your data processing, make a list of all the services it provides. Then ask the service bureau to write if each service is your 2000 compliant. If a service bureau says it is ready for the year 2000, ask it to provide test results demonstrating that fact.

Assess your system's compliance. The "what-if" analysis whether each of the items on your inventory list is Y2K compliant. Start with those systems or components that are most critical to your business operations and those which are date sensitive.

Systems that are date sensitive include ones that perform any kind of forecasting through time, such as calculating interest on a loan or projecting inventory levels.

One way to test your system's being compliant is to run it as if it were already the year 2000. For example, test 1/2/2000 and 1/2/2000 to ensure that the system operates correctly on the first Friday of the new century and the Monday after the first Friday. Validate that the system operates correctly at the month end, 12/31/2000, and rolls over to 1/1/2000 properly. You'll also want to validate such things as interest and oth-

er time-based financial calculations, inventory processing and expiration date processing. However, before running such tests, make sure you evaluate the impact of resetting system dates as you don't forget to reset operations.

Another way to assess your system is to have your system code and follow the logic. If such is not possible because the code is on a purchased package, contact the vendor. In fact, it's wise to contact all suppliers for confirmation in writing that their product is Y2K compliant or for details of the updates required to achieve compliance.

Current existing systems. Once you have determined those systems that need to be modified, the next step is to determine how to repair them. Basically, you can either repair or upgrade the system, replace it or retire it. It's important to keep in mind that a strategy to replace or repair a non-ready system should take into account those systems that interface with other systems, both within and outside the organization.

In making your system Y2K compliant, you can also expect a little help from Uncle Sam in the form of tax deductions. For example, Convert your software. The cost of software develop-

ment or purchased to convert existing systems to make them year 2000 compliant can be currently deducted or amortized over a useful life of five years or less.

Buy new software to replace old, dated software. The cost of buying stand-alone software can be amortized over 36 months using the straight-line method, beginning the month it is placed in service.

Lease software. The cost of leasing software to update your computer system are deductible over the period of the lease.

Keep in mind that the right solution for your business depends on your business goals and the way in which you plan to use technology to meet those goals. A CPA or another technology consultant can help you make the most informed decision regarding Y2K issues and your business.

MSU hosting faculty art exhibit through December

Fortson studio faculty members in Morehead State University's Department of Art will exhibit their works in the annual "Faculty Show" which runs Nov. 13 through Dec. 11.

The works will be displayed in the main gallery of Claypool Young Art Building. Everyone is invited to meet artists at a reception on Wednesday, Nov. 18, from 7 to 9 p.m. There will be refreshments and entertainment will be provided by "Mother, Jane," a female folk trio.

Those exhibiting works will include Robert Franklin, professor and chair of the department; David Barlett, professor; Dawn Ferris, Joe Factor and Steve Tirona, associate professors; Dennis Gidding, Elizabeth Messer-Gaido and Gary Mesa-Gaido, assistant professors; Stephanie Fails, instructor. Also participating will be Jennifer Hart, gallery coordinator, as well as Craig Adams, Sam McKinney, Yang Ning Chi.

For more details from the Kentucky Society of CPAs, visit its website at www.kycpa.org.

Media exhibited will range from paintings and photographs to ceramics and sculpture. Some works will be for sale.

The gallery is open weekdays, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. There is no charge for viewing. For details, call 783-2706.

With the holiday season approaching, that perfect gift may be as close as your neighborhood consumer electronics store.



Earthworms get air from spaces between particles of soil. When it rains, earthworms come to the surface to avoid drowning!

ROLL IN THE 99'S

"PRICE - SERVICE - SELECTION"

1.9% APR on Select Models or up to \$2,000

Factory Rebate on Select Models

Come See Why We Are Kentucky's #1

Chrysler Plymouth, Dodge, Jeep Dealer

Brand New 1999 Jeep Cherokee 4x4



Sport model, premium cloth interior, AM/FM stereo cassette, power windows, power locks, detent, 16" wheels, alloy wheels and more. Was \$23,000. Late price after rebate/lease cash.

\$18,287

A REAL ZERO DOWN! \$236⁴² per month

Brand New 1999 Dodge Ram 1500 4x4



Air conditioning, deluxe cloth 4/20/40 seat, 5.2 liter 318 engine, AM/FM stereo cassette, chrome bumpers, chrome transmission, power steering, power brakes, 16 inch wheels and tires. Was \$21,950. Price after factory rebate.

\$18,963

A REAL ZERO DOWN! \$229⁶² per month

Brand New 1999 Dodge Durango 4x4



Factory air conditioning, 16x10 5 inch wheels and tires, AM/FM stereo cassette, 4 speed automatic overdrive, third row seat, fog lamps, cloth high back bucket seats, rear defogger, 16" wheel, cruise control, luggage rack, factory sunscreen glass. Was \$29,390.

\$27,446

A REAL ZERO DOWN! \$316⁵¹ per month

Brand New 1999 Jeep Grand Cherokees



Automatic, air conditioning, power windows, power locks, 16" wheel, cruise control, AM/FM cassette, luggage rack, sunscreen glass, cast aluminum wheels. Was \$29,150.

\$26,828

A REAL ZERO DOWN! \$316⁴² per month

Brand New 1999 Dodge Ram 4x4 Ext Cab



Deluxe cloth 4/20/40 seat, chrome bumpers, 16 inch wheels and tires, air conditioning, AM/FM stereo cassette, 5.2 liter 318 engine, dual air bags. Was \$23,930. Late price after factory rebate.

\$20,876²¹

A REAL ZERO DOWN! \$244⁶¹ per month

Brand New 1999 Dodge Caravans/Plymouth Voyagers



Auto transmission, air conditioning, seven passenger seating, 1.6 liter 4 cylinder, AM/FM stereo, cloth high back bucket seats with headrest, power steering, power brakes. Was \$20,730. Price after best offer rebate.

\$17,462

A REAL ZERO DOWN! \$229⁶¹ per month

* All prices plus tax & license. Rebates assigned to dealer, payments with approved credit. See dealer for details.

Price & Service & Selection



MT. STERLING, KY

CHRYSLER Plymouth DODGE Jeep

Price & Service & Selection

Open Mon. Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-963-2886 BYPASS RD., MT. STERLING, KY