

Y2K UPDATE

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Since we first began talking about the year 2000 issue last year, much has transpired. We had a Y2K awareness educational program presented by several experts at CAI's 1998 fall national conference. In addition, many chapters have had presentations at local events. Most associations have at least begun an analysis, and many have either completed or at least made significant progress in their remediation plans.

Many have solved the hardware compliance problem by simply replacing office computers with newer models. This is not a bad approach, particularly when new, power hungry software products are demanding more powerful computers anyway. From a cost standpoint, it may not be much more expensive to replace hardware than to test and upgrade it. One factor affecting this is the recent introduction of Intel's new Pentium III processor, with speeds of 500 MHZ. This has dramatically reduced demand for, and prices of, desktop computers equipped with Pentium II processors. Most of these can now be acquired for less than \$ 1,000.

However, the software side of the question continues to be a concern. Microsoft continues to make

announcements on all of its product line about patches available on its web site to cure their Y2K problems. So, even that new Windows 98, NT 4.0, or Microsoft Office 97 suite you just bought is still not Y2K ready without some minor fixes.

Some software companies are not faring too well on this issue. Two large accounting software producers have had major problems. . Cougar Mountain, makers of Cougar Mountain accounting software, has reported Y2K related crashes at the sites of two customers using older versions of its software. RealWorld Corporation, makers of "Classic Accounting" and "RealWorld Accounting" software, has recently become one of only three companies in the nation to reach a Y2K related settlement over its products. As a result, they have agreed to provide free modules and discounts on upgrades to 275,000 customers.

We will continue to report on this issue as events unfold. Meanwhile, associations are cautioned to be diligent in upgrading their own systems. In addition, you should query your major vendors to make sure that they too are year 2000 ready.

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