

The Year 2000 Bug May Start Biting in 1999

Financial Sector Especially Concerned

NEW YORK - The year 1999 kicks off a nail-biting time for American techno-wizards in the financial sector.

Apart from the feared arrival of the millennium bug, they will be crossing their fingers and hope their computer systems can handle technical challenges including the birth of a single European currency, the Dow Jones Industrial Average hitting 10,000, and the start of the 2000 nightmare — in 1999.

While technology consultants agree the year 2000 problem (Y2K) poses the biggest challenge, Lou Marcoccio, Y2K research director at the Connecticut consulting firm Gartner Group, warns technical problems will start popping up in 1999 because some companies start their fiscal year 2000 during the upcoming year. For the U.S. government, fiscal 2000 starts Oct. 1, 1999.

"Only 8% of all Y2K failures are going to happen during the millennium rollover. Ninety-two percent of all of the failures will happen over the entire years of 1999, 2000 and 2001 and they're going to be pretty equally distributed during those

three years," Marcoccio said.

This so-called millennium bug occurs when computers which save dates in double digits misread "00," perhaps interpreting it as 1900 instead of 2000, and then shut down, or worse, spew out erroneous data.

Analysts point out that there are a lot of potential problem dates during 1999 which may cause computers to malfunction, such as Sept. 9, 1999 (9/9/99). The fact that the year 2000 is a leap year also adds yet another dimension to the problem, they said. A century change has not been a leap year since 1600.

Jim Brady, chief technologist at MatriDigm Corp. in California, said, "The interesting thing is that because 1900 was not a leap year, some programmers concluded that 2000 was also not a leap year...The result is that some computers think that Feb. 29, 2000 does not exist."

Technology specialists also noted that with extensive efforts involved in the Y2K issue, other computer problem areas may have not gotten enough attention in the United States, such as preparing systems for the Dow Jones Indus-

trial Average (DJIA) topping 10,000 for the first time next year.

The Dow index took 16 years to move from 1,000 to 2,000 between 1972 and 1987. But after it hit 8,000 on July 16, 1997, it took less than nine months to surpass 9,000, on April 6, 1998. It peeked at 9,374.27 on Nov. 23.

"Of particular concern are computerized trading systems, which make automated decisions based on the value of the DJIA," said Andy Kyte, an analyst with the Gartner Group, in a report.

If large financial services organizations have systems that monitor the market, those systems could perceive the move to 10,000 as a precipitous drop to 0 and immediately take automated action aimed at protecting the financial interest of its investors, Kyte said.

Bobby Cameron, an analyst at Forrester Research in Massachusetts, said problems could crop up in the system of a large company's treasury department used to manage its portfolio, or in the investing section of a bank, or at a brokerage firm.

"What physically happens when you try to load a number bigger than you've provided for in a program is you get a failure condition — the program stops," he said.

Other analysts said the Dow at 10,000 will create problems for only a handful of companies and that the larger brokerage houses have completed preparations.

Duncan King, a spokesman for the U.S. stock market regulatory agency, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), said the SEC has completed an inquiry into a potential 10,000 Dow hiccup and "found that there would be very minimal changes, very minimal problems."

Cameron agrees. "The Dow 10,000 is related to the year 2000 problem, but it isn't as nasty," he said.

A spokesman for the New York Stock Exchange also said it does not expect any break in trading associated with the index moving past 10,000.

The other major software challenge for the financial sector involves the debut of the single European currency, the euro, from Jan. 1,



1999. Computers which now convert the U.S. dollar in terms of other European currencies, such as the German mark, have to be changed to calculate in terms of the euro.

It has been reported that the top 100 financial services companies will spend some 10 billion dollars on the euro conversion. The Gartner Group put the figure at 100 billion dollars.

This cost is on top of the 300-600 billion dollars worldwide which will be spent on the information technology for fixing the year 2000 problem, Gartner Group said.

The company expects the amount spent globally to hit 1 to 2 trillion dollars if all aspects of the Y2K problem — technology, business costs and possible litigation costs — are included.

On a scale of one to 100, Cameron at Forrester Research said, the Y2K problem may be ranked at 100, the euro challenge at 50, and the Dow 10,000 scare at "1 or 2."

But all people involved agreed there will be no way to know if systems are ready to deal with the various situations until each has actually been confronted.

Cleveland High School Student Chosen as a recipient of the Ron Herndon Scholarship award

Aprilla Rogers, a senior at Cleveland High School, was one of three recipients of The Ron Herndon Scholarship Award. The award was presented at The Black United Fund of Oregon's Community Unity Banquet at the Portland Hilton. The recipients were chosen based on their written expression, academic achievement, participation in school activities and community involvement. Aprilla's essay on bettering a community was "well thought out" and had to be 200 words or more. In addition to her writing ability, she has been actively involved in the Project Plus Program at PSU under the direction of Inez Freeman and Mark Turner, who also have been involved with her academic career at Cleveland. Aprilla plans to attend one of three colleges, PSU, The University of Oregon or possibly Spelman University. She says she plans to visit Mexico and Japan to learn more about the culture of the two countries and learn to speak the languages more fluently than she already does, especially since she has taken Japanese for three years and Spanish for 5 years. She plans to take German when she enters



Aprilla Rogers

college. When I asked Aprilla who have been some of the most influential in her life, she said her Social Studies teacher, Mr. McKenna because he always gave her encouraging words. She also credits her stepmother and her father who always motivated her to do her very best in all things, and that her father also taught her not to be angry with anyone when they do you wrong, but to pray for them. She says he would talk to her about situations

before they happened just to protect her.

Aprilla is no stranger to hard work, she has been working full and part-time since the age of 15. Her hobbies are music, writing poetry, acting and Mexican dance. In addition to her hobbies she reads an average of 4 books a month. Aprilla has a heartfelt need to save the children of the community and the world. She begun showing how much she cares by sponsoring an African child from Uganda for the past year and plans to adopt other hurting and needy children in the future. Aprilla's advice to other young people is to set goals for themselves, be independent and not dependent, believe in yourself, and above all, believe in God.

She says she has paid attention to positive and negative situations that have happened in her life and made choices and the right decisions not to let the negative things influence her life. Accepting this Scholarship Award is one of the most positive things that has happened in her life. We, The Rogers' Family, are thankful and very proud of Aprilla for being chosen for this award.

HUD Awards Local Agencies \$3 Million to Assist Oregon

Oregon State Coordinator Tom Cusack had great news for Oregon and SW Washington today, with announcement of more than \$3 million in HUD funding to local housing agencies to assist:

low-income people with disabilities

children of families facing a housing crisis

adults with the goal of independence from welfare

These dollars come to our states for

Mainstream Housing which will provide 575 housing vouchers to people with disabilities. This increase in vouchers for rent assistance is the largest for any group in at least 5 years.

Family Unification Program, a

joint effort by the Housing Authority of Yamhill County and the Yamhill Branch of SOSCF will bring 60 housing vouchers and services to children facing a housing crisis. These may be homeless, sometimes battered women and children who have fled domestic violence, or living in building units for children.

Family Self-Sufficiency Program, HUD's primary vehicle to help residents of assisted housing move from welfare to work. FSS promotes local strategies to enable families to achieve economic independence. Coordinated job training, counseling, other social services, and a special escrow account built from a family's increasing income are program components. Funding is targeted principally to agencies serv-

ing rural areas.

This funding will DOUBLE the number of HUD funding of self-sufficiency coordinators in rural Oregon and will therefore support the priority of the Governor Kitzhaber for economic development in rural areas of our state.

Agencies serving the following counties were awarded one or more grants:

OREGON — Baker, Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Crook, Deschutes, Douglas, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jackson, Jefferson, Lincoln, Linn, Malheur, Marion, Multnomah, Sherman, Tillamook, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, Wheeler, Yamhill

SW WASHINGTON - Clark, Klickitat, Skamania

WINTER STORM TIPS FROM U S WEST

1. If your phone goes out due to weather, contact U S WEST repair service as soon as possible. Contact us via phone or internet. Use a neighbor's phone, pay phone or other alternative.
2. Check your phones. Be certain you have at least one phone with a cord to the handset. Cordless phones need electric power from the wall to operate. Because U S WEST phone lines carry their own power, you will likely have phone service even if your electricity is out.
3. If being reached at all times is critical to your family or employer, consider being prepared with a second way to reach you via a pager or wireless phone.
4. Don't touch downed utility lines. Call repair service! If your phone service is not working and you find lines on the ground due to wind or falling tree limbs, do not attempt to move them. Downed lines could be electric lines or phone lines that have come in contact with electric lines.
5. Safety first for both you and the repair crews. Major telephone cables that have been damaged may take longer to repair because any downed power lines must be cleared before crews can safely enter the work area.
6. Repair for your phone service is individual to your phone line - even when trouble is far from you. Your phone number is unique to you because of a dedicated pair of wires that runs between your location and the U S WEST switching center. When a cable is cut or damaged, it's more than putting the two ends back together. Each pair of wires inside the cable must be individually spliced.
7. Credit on your bill is automatic. If your phone service is out for more than 24 hours, your bill will automatically be credited for lost service.
8. Stay in touch with local storm news. U S WEST will issue regular updates on the status of storm damage and repairs to area radio and television stations and newspapers.
9. Repair telephone numbers are listed in the front of the U S WEST Dex White Pages

Hone Service: 1-800-573-1311

Business Service: 1-800-954-1211

Website: www.uswest.com Click on Customer Service

Happy Birthday
Britany From Your
family and friends



Just think: Your son is bright, healthy and headed for college one day. You love the direction your career has taken. You're doing a lot of the things you planned and even a few you didn't. Living life to the fullest is easy when you have family behind you. American Family Insurance. Call and talk to one of our helpful, friendly agents. You'll find out why we're consistently rated A+ (Superior) by A.M. Best, the insurance rating authority. Then, go on. Dream. Plan. What you do next is up to you and we'll be here to help you.

You have family behind you.

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