

# Y2K

From 1A

been eliminated in almost every instance. Since all this talk began in the computer industry about the Y2K bug in 1997 or so, a new technique of storing all four digits of the year instead of only the last two has been employed. This does not mean that every single computer program written since 1997 is Y2K compliant; this means that most computer software vendors became aware of the problem and quickly modified their products so that they could promote and market them as "Y2K Ready" or "Y2K Compliant" software. If you browse the computer software aisles of your favorite store you will see the "Y2K Compliant" label on most products. This means that the vendor is claiming this product will have no problems storing the date when the century changes to 20. I remember from college Economics courses the slogan, "Caveat Emptor," which means, "Let the Buyer Beware." Not all advertising is 100% accurate, so read the fine print. But, if the package says the product is Y2K-compliant you are probably safe in assuming it is true.

As for the city of Kings Mountain, we are taking a sensible and systematic approach to dealing with the Y2K dilemma. I have formed a "Y2K Task Force" which is made up of representatives from each department within the city. We meet each week as part of a rigorous schedule to identify and anticipate any potential Y2K problems.

The Task Force's first few meetings were devoted to learning as much as possible about the Y2K problem. What is it? What items will be affected? When and where will problems show up? How do other cities handle the problem? A lot of our information was gathered from sources such as the Internet, local and national newspaper articles, shared information from other cities and municipalities, and gathered by attending seminars on the subject. For example, I attended a seminar sponsored by Duke Energy in September and received several documents that I used as handout material for the Task Force.

Next, our Task Force began to develop a strategy for dealing

with the Y2K problem within the city. Here's a summary of our strategy:

- Identify the problem
- Determine the extent of the problem
- Eliminate the problem areas, replace problem products, develop alternative processes or procedures as needed
- Test all affected areas "post fix"
- Develop 11th hour contingency plan
- Test contingency plan
- Document all test results

With a strategy in place, we have begun the process of identifying all products or items that may store or display a date or time. These products or items will be evaluated to determine if they are Y2K-compliant (if they can store and display a date that has the year 2000 instead of 1999). This step of the process is a lengthy one because each item or product must be tested with 9 different dates that show potential Y2K compatibility problems.

In addition to testing the products and items that may have 62K date problems, we are also communicating closely with all of the vendors that the city uses for ordering supplies and products. We will be classifying each vendor according to the criticality of their product or supply to our operation, an then sending a questionnaire asking the vendor to validate their Y2K readiness.

When the physical inventory and testing of all products and items that may have Y2K date problems is completed, our next step will be to compile a listing of those items or products that failed the Y2K test. These products or items will then be evaluated to determine if we need to (1) fix them by upgrading, (2) replace them with a new item or product, or (3) discontinue use of the product or item and develop an alternative procedure for the function this item or product performed.

As you can imagine, the Y2K Task Force for the City of Kings Mountain has already been very busy with our work, and there is still quite a bit of work left to do. We anticipate having all of the testing complete by early summer, and then all remediation of problems by fall. We will be sticking closely to our schedule to be in a position to all ourselves "Y2K Ready" by

late fall. We will also be conducting a few test days prior to the end of the year where we set our computers ahead to January of 2000 and simulate normal work activities, just to ensure that we don't overlook anything along the way.

It is impossible for anyone to say they are completely "Y2K Ready," in my opinion, because we are all just assuming that we know what the Y2K problems really are. Until the calendar actually rolls over to January 1, 2000 and all computers are working correctly, it is a situation where we must comprehend the dynamics of the problem, anticipate any trouble spots, and then plan accordingly. As far as the city is concerned, we are putting a lot of effort into doing just that - evaluating the Y2K situation, changing anything that may need changing, anticipating what other problems might occur, and above all remaining abreast of the issue and informed on how we can best deal with it.

When you stop to think about it, the approach that the city is taking to deal with the Y2K problem is not a new idea. A good illustration is the recent action taken by the Electric Department. In the late summer months they anticipated that we may have some severe winter weather this year, and severe weather can mean that tree limbs come down on power lines. In evaluating the potential for problems the Electric Department decided to cut some low-hanging limbs to prevent the problem from occurring in the first place. As it turned out, just a few weeks ago we did have some icy weather and cutting those limbs prevented the power outage from being any worse. So the approach used by the Electric Department to evaluate the sit-

uation for any potential problem and take action to prevent the problem from occurring in the first place, is the same sort of approach that many departments will use each day in their operation. And it is the same type of approach that we will use on the Task Force to try to prevent any sort of disruption when January 2000 comes around.

The Y2K dilemma will continue to be discussed as the time draws nearer to the new century. One way to avoid the feeling of frustration over this issue is to become as informed as possible on what the problem is, and the possible solutions to the problem. If you surf the world wide web for this topic you will find many hits. It seems anybody and everybody has a web-page devoted to this topic. I have found several that I thought were basically outrageous, and, thank goodness, I found some that were very sensible.

The newspapers and magazines are also good sources of information on this topic. You will definitely find two sides on this issue: those who see it as a catastrophe, and those who see it as a nuisance. My own personal feeling is that the intelligent interpretation of the situation lies somewhere in the middle. It is something that should not be ignored, and yet something that is manageable and can be dealt with in a sensible manner.

Questions about Y2K - I hear them a lot. The answers come when we develop a good understanding of the problem, what the possible solutions are, and which solution will work best in our individual situations.

(Carol George is Computer Systems Analyst for the City of Kings Mountain).

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Highway 74, 325 W. Dixon Blvd.

**ESTATE (DECEASED) AUCTION**  
 Joe Stamey Estate • Saturday, February 6th, 1999 • 9:00 a.m.  
 Inspection: 8:00 a.m. until Sale Time • Sunday, February 7th, 1999 • 1:00 p.m.  
 Real & Personal Property • 815 East Stagecoach Rd., Fallston, N.C.  
 Directions: At stop light in Fallston on Hwy. 18 turn right coming from Shelby - house is on the left across from Stamey Funeral Home.  
 Real Estate will be sold by confirmation of the family at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 6, 1999.

**POTTERY PIECES**  
 14 Pieces Pottery (2, 3, 4 & 5 gallon) 1 marked Nashville Pottery, rest believed to be Catawba Valley (2) small pottery pieces signed Lang.

**FURNITURE & ANTIQUES**  
 Double bed w/high back (turned posters), Hardman Baby Grand Piano, Round 3 legged table, Mahogany flip top table, Mahogany Morganton Nightstand w/S drawers, (2) Mahogany Morganton 5 drawer dressers, Heart of Pine Hat Rack, Stool w/cane legs (26), Uphol. chair w/skirt, Mahogany Gentlemen's Dresser (4 drawer & 3 shelves (some damaged), Cane Bottom Chairs (8), 4 legged Oval Table w/leaf, Twin iron beds, 3 drawer chest w/crystal handles, Armless Rocker w/cane bottom, Washstand w/mirror (cracked and painted), Misc. country chairs, Server w/drawer (painted), Brandt Furniture of Character 2 drawer Side Table (Damaged), Pride Electric Recliner, Sofa & Loveseat, Mahogany w/turned legs sofa table, Mahogany coffee table w/fold down sides, Oak S Curve Roll top Desk w/8 drawers & pigeon holes, French Sideboard, 4 Poster w/canopy double bed (black & gold trim), Mahogany w/flip top table w/inlay, Oriental chest on stand (black), Loveseat, 2 drawer Mahogany Hall Piece w/column legs & back, Grandfather clock (no name or markings) w/brass wagle & month & day, Hat rack, oak pedestal table, Pink chest, Bench w/carved legs & needlepoint top, mahogany table w/carving, Mahogany Pie Crust table w/turned pieces & 3 legs, Rope bed, Walnut 4 drawer chest w/tear drop pulls, (2) small oak chairs w/cane bottoms, Small pine drop leaf table, Dressing table w/skirt & glass top, 4 drawer French Provincial Chest, French Chaise Lounge, Mahogany Magazine Rack w/drawer, white French Provincial Chair, Walnut Dresser (2 small drawers - 3 large on bottom w/glove boxes and mirrors, Mahogany Bench w/cane seat, Walnut w/carving petite loveseat, Maple 2 drawer table, Twin sled beds (1 damaged), Round 2 Board Mahogany table w/pedestal base, Enamel Table w/drawer, Walnut w/Burl China Cabinet w/Queen Anne Legs, Saw Tooth Design at the top, slat Back Mahogany chair w/curved arms, Oak Dresser (2 drawers on top & 1 drawer on bottom w/beveled mirror), Mahogany armless rocker w/spindle back, Oak doubled bed w/turned bed posts, Oak side table w/turned legs, Oak fainting couch, Record cabinet, Primitive bead board cupboard, (4) straight chairs, Oak bed & mirror (carved) 13 piece set wrought iron (old), Primitive table, Chest, (4) Painted Harp chairs.

**CHINA, GLASS, PORCELAIN**  
 Milk Glass w/gold dresser set (tray, 2 perfumes & powder box), Royal Albert Bone China (England), Cobalt & Silver plated salt & pepper shakers, Honey Dishes, Pottery & Glass Pitchers, Etched Glass & Pressed Glass, Cranberry Thumbprint bowls (26), Lotus Bowls, Portugal Covered Dish, Clear Glass Epergne, Flow Blue Platter, soup Tureen w/ladle & (2) covered dishes, Royal Copenhagen Oval Blue & White dish w/lace design, Porcellaine De Paris France "Decor Les Quatre Laisons" Sandwich Server, Japan pieces Inc. Occupied, Italian Pieces, Minton Ancestral China (14) 5 piece place settings, (2) platters, sugar, creamer, (2) oval bowls, teapot & coffee pot, (12) Epiag Royal (Czechoslovakia) D'Or Studios Dinner Plates (white w/gold border), Depression Glass Inc. Ruby Stemware, Aynsley (England), American Fostoria, Oriental cups & saucers (plus other pieces), (2) Rebeck 1 1/2 2' Statues Grecian women, France items, Pressed Glass Punch cups, Dresden Ornate Figurines, (1 Man & 1 Woman), (2) Hall House NY Swan pieces, Venitlan Glass, Cobalt Red Arnold Porcelain w/metal flowers, Thorlex English Bone China (Staffordshire), Nippon, Lefton Handpainted China pieces, (2) Lustre (English) Pitchers, Fenton, Norway, German, (2) Art Nouveau Vases (purple banded w/design), (2) Charleston hand decorated vases, misc. perfume decantors, (3) art glass decorative bowls, unbelievable amount of Glassware Inc. stemware, sherberts, iced teas, water glasses, dessert plates, salt callers, stirrers, sickroom pitchers, champagne glasses, juices, wine cordials & coasters, Sterilivene, Homer Laughlin, Carnival pieces, Southern PR Glasses, candle holders, assorted vases - good selection, KPM w/crown square plates, 16 piece gold plated tea set, Blue Japan - 20 piece tea set, Staffordshire (English) Bone China, Teapots, Warwice (English)

**MISCELLANEOUS**  
 Black mirror, needle point luggage rack, frames, 4 gun racks, New Haven Clock Co. 30 hour clock (glass door w/design on bottom), luggage, Brass Fireplace Fender, Brass Coal Bucket, Brass Andirons, linens, placemats & napkins, Silverplate pieces - large selection, sheets Rockford Co. 1875 made on copper round tray (some damage), aluminum pieces, Silver on copper, Philco Radio, Graybar Fan, Rome, GA Stove, Oriental Rugs, (different sizes and conditions), (2) Glass w/porcelain lamps, General Store Tin Hanging, Seth Thomas Clock, Leather Magazine holder, RCA Console TV, Hanover London Fog Clock, Brass Fender & Fireplace set, wooden items, leather items, Teakwood, assorted walking canes, Bubble Glass Lamp w/brass (signed Paul Hanson), Wooden card table, (4) metal folding chairs, (2) wine colored lamps, Koehring Kerosene Heater, Zenith Color TV, Humidor - Mahogany w/brass handles, complete library of books - some very old & some sets, needlepoint pillows & stool, Brown Oriental Lamp, Alabaster, Oriental small chest w/doors, (2) Marble Statues, Crystal lamp, (2) Electrified candleabras w/tear drop crystals & crystal chimes, 1927 The Etiquette of Letter Writing Book, Brass & Pearl Hat Pin box w/hat pins, Brass Anirons w/ornate design, misc. hats & boxes, (2) white, gold & brass lamps, Ornate gold frame w/oil painting, Baskets, Black bamboo mirror w/8 panels, Ivory carved elephants on teakwood base, RC thermometer, wooden wheel barrow w/iron wheel, Hospital bed, large selection bushel baskets, Oak AR Brown Ervin, Tenn. (May 1, 1901), revolving File w/drawers, Wooden Ironing Board, Oak change drawer (from Stamey Store), Iron wagon wheel, trunks.

**OUTSIDE ITEMS & FARM ITEMS**  
 (2) Benches, 3 Seater Chairs w/warms, Cross Cut Saw, misc. Yard Tools, aluminum Step Ladder, Plow Points, Planter Stoney Brothers (Shelby NC).

**APPLIANCES**  
 GE Washer & Dryer, GE Freezer, GE Refrigerator, GE Stove.

**KITCHEN ITEMS**  
 Carister set, Misc. Fiesta Pieces, Misc. Tins & Bakeware, Corningware, Misc. Dishes & Glasses, Meat Grinders, Good Selection Molds, (Old) Eidson Toaster, Kitchen Aid Mixer, Kitchen Utensils, Pots & Pans

**REAL ESTATE**  
 815 EAST STAGECOACH TRAIL - FALLSTON, NC  
 4,579 sq. ft. house located on 4 acres. House is 98 years old and is a 2 story frame w/large porch. The 1st story, consists of BR, bath, den, large hall, breakfast room, kitchen, DR, LR, library plus enclosed porch, storage room, breezeway & double garage and is 2,501 sq. ft. The 2nd story has 6 BR's, 2 baths, large hall, and plenty of storage with a total sq. ft. of 2,078. Also located on the property is a barn, detached storage building, & an older house in poor condition. The 4 acres' dimensions are 565' (road frontage) x 455' x 272' x 297' x 310'. This house could be restored to its original grandeur & be a show place. Terms: 10% down day of auction with remainder in 30 days or at closing. Real estate sold by confirmation of the family. Call Joyce Dixon to see real estate prior to the auction.  
 Auctioneers note: Mrs. Betty Shelley, Executor of the Joe Stamey Estate (Owner of Stamey Store, Fallston, NC) has commissioned Elliott/Dixon Associates, Inc. to sell the real & personal property that is located at the family homeplace in Fallston. There are a lot of items brought from all over the world by Miss Charlene Stamey. This is a very large & unusual auction because of the varied items. The real estate can be seen prior to the sale by contacting Joyce Dixon at 481-1018 or Pager #481-7180.

**AUCTIONEERS:**  
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