



Technology News:

The Year 2000 Problem !!!

Could mean Lights out at some companies ?

It happens all the time. You buy a neat new gizmo, bring it home, then spend hours trying to figure out why it does not work. Then, suddenly, you realize it is not plugged in.

Many leaders of corporate year 2000 projects maybe making that same mistake, experts said. They have spent vast amounts of time considering hardware and software problems caused by the date bug, but many have forgotten to ask the simple question: Will my company have electrical power?

Power Companies have thousands of embedded chips in their equipment, and the fact is that most of them will not be tested before the year 2000 problems begin to affect them. There is a real possibility that we are going to have blackouts throughout North America.

Most companies rely on conventional battery or diesel powered uninterruptible power supplies in the event of an emergency. But modern UPS systems rely heavily on software

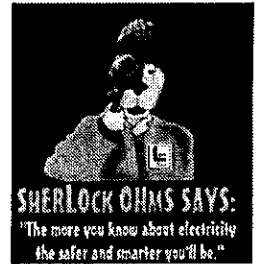
that could itself be subject to year 2000 problems.

Most UPS vendors now bundle a lot of software with their hardware to help manage the power supply process. If they have not addressed the year 2000 problem in their software, their systems may not be much help in a year 2000 power outage.

One of the largest makers of UPS equipment, Exide Industries says it has put their systems through year 2000 testing and is now working it's way through their customer base to ensure all installed systems have been upgraded to millennium compliant versions.

Spokesman for Exide believes the notion of mass power failures in North America is "over-blown". However, there is a real possibility of widespread power outages overseas, where the utilities are less advanced and less attention has been paid to the year 2000 problem. If I am a corporation that relies on international business, I'm not sure I want to rely entirely on Beijing Power to keep it alive.

Another source, Saver Industries, a distributor of alternate power systems disagreed with Exide stating that it thinks North Americas power grid is at major risk. Power companies did a test in Hawaii recently in which embedded chips were tested,



Inside:

- 1- **The year 2000 problem !!!**
- 2- **On the lighter side--**

Happy Birthday !
Ed Samples
Happy Birthday !
John Lloyd



- ☑ Fire Alarm Systems
- ☑ Closed Circuit TV
- ☑ Telephone Systems
- ☑ Home Automation
- ☑ Surge Suppression
- ☑ Design and Build
- ☑ UPS Systems
- ☑ Commercial Electric
- ☑ Packing Houses
- ☑ Nurseries and Farms
- ☑ Electric Motors
- ☑ Automatic Gate Openers

and what they found was a failure in one set of chips can trigger another failure in another part of the grid. There is a real chance of this happening. We are on the deck of the Titanic, and we need to start building some lifeboats.

One-fourth of 6,000 companies and government agencies surveyed around the world by Gartner Group have not yet started any year 2000 compliance efforts, according to the latest survey results, half of all the survey respondents have no plans to test their year 2000 remediation efforts.

So all beware !#!

On The Lighter side ---

Real Stories of the non-technically inclined...

I worked with an individual who plugged their power strip back into itself and for the life of them could not understand why their computer would not turn on.

1st-Person: Do you know anything about this fax machine?

2nd-Person: A little, What's wrong?

1st-Person: Well, I sent a fax, and the recipient called back to say all they received was a blank page. I tried it again, and the same thing happened !

2nd-Person: How did you load the sheet?

1st-Person: It was a pretty sensitive memo, and I didn't want anyone else to read it by accident, so I

folded it so only the recipient would open it and read it !!!

I recently saw a distraught young lady weeping beside her car. Do you need some help? I asked. She replied, I knew I should have replaced the battery in this remote door unlocker. Now I can't get into my car. Do you think they (pointing to a distant convince store) would have a battery for this ? Hmmm, I dunno. Do you have an alarm, too? I asked. No, just this remote 'thingy, she answered, handing it and the car keys to me. As I took the key and manually unlocked the door, I replied, why don't you drive over there and check about the batteries ... it's a long walk !

Tech Support: “What does the screen say now?”

Person: It says, Hit ENTER when ready !

Tech Support: Well ?

Person: How do I know when it's ready ?.

My friend called his car insurance company to tell them to change his address from Texas to Vermont. The person who took the call asked where Vermont was. As he tried to explain, the person interrupted and said, LOOK, I'm not stupid or anything, but what state is it in?.

