

The Monitor



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Is DSI Y2K Compliant? We Certainly Are!

Year 2000 / Y2K Compliant

Saskatoon, SK Canada

Display Systems International has been receiving many calls asking about year 2000 or Y2K compliance. All DSI software products are year 2000 compliant. Testing done at DSI has confirmed that software products written for Windows 3.1x and Windows 9x is compliant with the 4 digit year. This means that our software products will continue to work into the new millenium. DSI has also tested one of our old Amiga platform systems and has found it to be year 2000 compliant as well.

As heard by many of you by now, the year 2000 issue has created quite a stir. Products that use only a two digit year may no longer work properly when the year rolls over to 2000. The testing that we have done has shown that the year is a four digit code in all of our software and as such will display 2000 rather than assuming the century 19 place holders and displaying incorrect year information. DSI has also worked on providing a year 2000 testing procedure for users who wish to see the compliance of the software for themselves.

If you would like to test year 2000 compliance on your DSI system, simply create a page with time and date inserted on the page; set your time & date to a few minutes before midnight, December 31, 1999; schedule

and display your page, and watch the date change when the time reaches midnight.

Unfortunately, to our knowledge, the products offered by DSI that are manufactured by other manufacturers such as Davis Weather Instruments, Tech Electronics, COVID, MIT, and others have not been tested. In fact, without information from these manufacturers, there is no way that DSI can test all of these products.

Most products do not have a time and date entry. These products should work past the year 2000. Some items, including certain weather stations, do have a time and date entry. These items have not been guaranteed to DSI's knowledge to be year 2000 compliant. As such, DSI cannot guarantee that these products are Y2K compliant. Any products offered by DSI that we learn are or are not compliant will be posted in future issues of The Monitor.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact DSI at (306) 934-6884.□

A young executive was leaving the office at 6pm when he found the CEO standing in front of a paper shredder with a piece of paper in hand. "Listen," said the CEO, "this is important, and my secretary has left. Can you make this thing work?" "Certainly," said the young executive. He turned the machine on, inserted the paper, and pressed the start button. "Excellent! Excellent!" said the CEO as his paper disappeared inside the machine. "I just need one copy."□

Misprint: Please note the following misprint in the last *Monitor*. Richard Haubrich was with DSI for only two years when the issue was printed.□

Tips and Tricks

Tips and Tricks is a section that offers suggestions on either doing things easier, or making your pages and schedule look better.

The first tip is for people who use the ASCII Import feature of the TextPro Sr. and higher. The tip comes from Scott Hayden of TCI. Scott told us that he uses ASCII import to create pages on his ELITEGOLD. He suggests setting up a word processing template for the information that is to be imported. In this way he can be sure that the information he enters in the word processor appears on a single page. He set up his template using these steps: First, set up the ASCII import page. Set the area where the ASCII import will take place. When you have that area set up, use the same text size and font as you have set for your import and type a series of characters across the screen. I recommend using the capital letter "L". Count how many times the letter appears across the entire import window. Now, press Enter and type in a single letter. Repeat this step until there are too many lines for the import window. Count how many lines that you have.

Using the information obtained above, start your word processor program that you will use to enter the information for the ASCII import. Set the font and text size to the same settings that you used above. Type the same letter that you used across the screen. Type in only the same number of letters that you noted above. Set the right margin at that point. Next, type in the same number of lines as you had noted in the Text Editor. Set your bottom margin at that point. Remove all the lettering and save the file. This will give you a template that will show you the way you ASCII import will look when it is completed. *Make sure that when you save your ASCII import information that you use ASCII as your file type.

The next tip is for users of Version 4.01 (or Lower) of the ELITE2000. To print a page with the graphics, follow these steps: First view the page in the graphic scheduler. Next, while the page is displaying, press CTRL-Print Screen. This will capture what you see on



the screen. Next, press escape to get out of the view of the page and close the Graphic Scheduler. Now open a paint or graphics program. In this example I will refer to the Image editor of Video Studio 2. Click on Edit, Clipboard. Next, select Save. Choose the directory that you want and then type in a filename. Once the file has been saved, load the file by clicking on File and selecting Open or 1 (1 is usually the last file saved or accessed in the Graphics Program). Click on File again and select Print. In this manner, the graphics and the text information that is on the page will appear exactly as it does on the screen. (DSI95 users can simply click on Print Page from the Text Editor. □)

Did You Know ...

Astound your friends! Amaze your co-workers! Here are some pieces of assorted trivia that you may or may not have known.

Celery has negative calories. It takes more energy to eat it than it has to begin with.

Manhole covers are round so that they do not fall through the hole when being removed.

Lightning strikes occur at about 6000 times per minute over the entire planet.

Recycling a single glass jar saves enough energy to watch television for 3 hours.

The term chicken pox didn't come from people believing they came from chickens, it came from the Old English term "gican pox" - which means the itching pox.

The little plastic end of a shoelace is called an "aglet."

There are more Barbie dolls in Italy than there are Canadians in Canada.

The average automatic dishwasher uses approximately 18 gallons.

The Oreo cookie has been America's most popular cookie since it was introduced in 1912. More than 345 billion Oreo cookies have been consumed to date. More than 7.5 billion Oreo cookies are consumed each year, which comes out to 624 million per month and 20.5 million per day.

Five Jell-o flavors that flopped: celery, coffee, cola, apple and chocolate. □

Biography Corner

Mr. Chris Lock is our biography this issue. Chris has been with DSI the longest of any of the employees.

Born: Saskatoon, SK

Education: B. Sc. in Computer Information Systems (Columbia Christian College)

Interests: Camping, Computer Games, the Internet

Career Goal: To expand my knowledge in the computer industry and to use this knowledge to raise the profile of DSI even higher.

DSI Responsibilities: Product development and testing, advertising. □

Joke of the Day

The manager of a large office noticed a new man one day and told him to come into his office. "What is your name?" was the first thing the manager asked the new guy.

"John," the new guy replied.

The manager scowled, "Look ... I don't know what kind of mamby-pamby place you worked before, but I don't call anyone by their first name. It breeds familiarity and that leads to a breakdown in authority. I refer to my employees by their last name only ... Smith, Jones, Baker ... That's all. I am to be referred to only as Mr. Robertson. Now that we got that straight, what is your last name?"

The new guy sighed, "Darling. My name is John Darling."

"Okay John, the next thing I want to tell you is ..." □

Display Systems International Tutorials

DSI is currently developing tutorials on how to use the main features of the Text Editor and Scheduler for the ELITE2000, ELITEGOLD and ELITE InterActive. Development has been underway for several months. The tutorials are in the form of schedules that are accessible from the Display Pages button. The tutorials have a multimedia format which consists of voice directions, as well as several screen captures of demonstrating each step that is discussed.

The tutorials will begin to appear on CD's around June of 1999. If you have any ideas for tutorial subjects, please contact DSI with your ideas. □

Figure it Out

Here is a problem which you can try to figure out. The answer will appear in the next issue of the Monitor.

Two rocket scientists were working on sending animals into space. The first scientist wanted to send a monkey. The second wanted to send canaries. The first scientist told the second, "If we send canaries up into space I doubt any of them would survive for more than a couple of days."

The second replied, "they have as good a chance as a monkey."

"I know that you are wrong," countered the first. ... Do you know why? □

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"Did you ever walk in a room and forget why you walked in? I think that's how dogs spend their lives." * Sue Murphy □

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Holiday Wishes

Display Systems International hopes that you had a relaxing and happy holiday season. We also would like to wish you continued success for the upcoming year and look forward to hearing from you in the future. □



Travel Tips

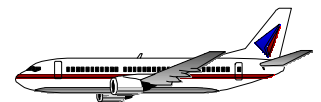
Here are some tips that may make air travel more enjoyable and may prevent problems:

Put a change of clothes in your carry on bag. Luggage can be lost or destroyed while travelling. A change of clothes is nice to have.

Bring ear plugs. When on long trips, if you are seated by the engines, ear plugs can make the trip bearable.

If you are comfortable sitting by the emergency exits, there is usually more leg room in those rows.

Chewing gum during takeoff and landing helps your ears adjust to the change in pressure. If you are prone to ear infections or head colds, bring anti-histamine. □



DSI - TextPro Sr. and TEBBS

Textpro Sr. and TEBBS systems have been used for years in schools and small cable systems. These customers have found the TextPro Sr. and TEBBS to be affordable character generators that can be integrated into their system.

Several changes have occurred in what the TextPro Sr. and TEBBS offer. On systems, the TEBBS and TextPro Sr. are offered with 16 Meg of RAM, a 24X CD-ROM, and a 4 Meg Video card with on-board composite output. In the area of software, the first new element of the TEBBS and TextPro Sr. is the inclusion of approximately 600 images in library form. The images can be used to make your system more colorful and eye-catching. The TEBBS and TextPro Sr. share the same Text Editor. Both products share the interactive manual that is installed from the CD-ROM.

The TEBBS has advanced in the areas of scheduling pages (graphic scheduling as opposed to strictly text scheduling), and the addition of an additional channel board option on hardware systems. This makes it possible for users to have a TEBBS system and do off-line editing. This advance allows the TEBBS to compete in areas where the TextPro Sr. was needed for its communications capability.

The TextPro Sr. still offers more advancement in the scheduler as it can create schedules with Start/Expiry dates and time as well as using Time Loops to loop portions of the schedule to begin at specific times. The TextPro Sr. also has off-line editing capability with the optional additional video channel board. Communications on the TextPro Sr. is also available. The weather station options with the TextPro Sr. is also very possible. Additionally, the TextPro Sr. offers a Horizontal Crawl.

The TEBBS and TextPro Sr. are both networkable to offer LAN capability. Pages and schedules can be saved to a network drive and displayed from that drive. The analog clock is still available for both the TEBBS and TextPro Sr..

In addition to being an affordable alternative to ELITE2000 and ELITEGOLD systems, the software value that is purchased today is carried forward to the future. The value of the purchase of the TextPro Sr. software (or the TEBBS software) can be applied to the future purchase of the ELITE2000, ELITEGOLD or in the case of the TEBBS, the TextPro Sr.. The value of

your existing DSI software product is applied to the purchase of the new product. The TEBBS or TextPro Sr. key can be returned for this credit once the new software and key is received. All the higher end products can use pages created for the TextPro Sr. and TEBBS.

The TEBBS system is valued under \$2000 and the TextPro Sr. is under \$2500 for a creation system. Each system comes with a standard 1 year parts and labour warranty. Extended warranty packages for the hardware systems are also available. These packages are affordable and give an additional 2 years of warranty coverage. Please note that if you want an SVGA monitor, one is not included in the systems. □

Pricing information on the TEBBS and TextPro Sr.

IB130	TEBBS System	\$1995.00
IB135	TEBBS Software Only	\$600.00
IB140	TextPro Sr. Creation System	\$2495.00
IB141	TextPro Sr. Display Only System	\$2295.00
IB145	TextPro Sr. Creation Software . . .	\$795.00
IB146	TextPro Sr. Display Only Software	\$595.00
IB400	SVGA Monitor	\$295.00
IB300	Additional Video Channel Board (TEBBS and TextPro Sr.)	\$1395.00
IB900	Extended Warranty for TEBBS and TextPro Sr.	\$400.00
IB200	Temp and Wind Only Weather Station	\$495.00
IB210	Davis Weather Station	\$995.00
IB220	Texas Weather Instruments Weather Station	\$1695.00

Video Contest

Display Systems International's video contest is still underway. Several tapes have been received and are being judged. At the time this issue was written, no winner was declared, and more time was available to receive tapes. As such, the winner will be declared in the next issue of the Monitor. If any of you who want to submit tapes have not done so already, please get them in so that you are eligible for the cash prizes.



Good luck to all. □