



# DIT-MCO TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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## FACT® PRODUCTS DIVISION YEAR 2000 (Y2K) READINESS DISCLOSURE

This bulletin, approved by DIT-MCO International Corporation, lists the status of FACT products related to the year 2000 date change. Your Y2K evaluation of existing FACT system needs to include:

1. FACT developed software
2. The computer(s) encompassing operating system(s), bios and CMOS clocks
3. Y2K readiness of software used in conjunction with FACT software

DIT-MCO defines "Year 2000 Ready" as equipment that will:

1. Handle date information before, during, and after January 1, 2000, including, but not limited to, accepting date input, providing date output, and performing calculations on dates or portions of dates;
2. Function accurately and without interruption before, during, and after January 1, 2000, without any change in operations associated with the advent of the new century;
3. Respond to two-digit year-date input in a way that resolves the ambiguity as to century in a disclosed, defined, and predetermined manner; and,
4. Store and provide output of date information in ways that are not ambiguous as to century.
5. Handle and process leap year calculations.

### ***Product Readiness***

This bulletin applies to FACT test systems that include personal computers. Those models are the Series 7000 and the Series 8000. Older systems (i.e. "Classic" FACT Systems) that use Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) computers and the Hughes-generated software operating system are not Y2K ready. Examples of systems not Y2K compatible include the Series 1000, 1100, 1500, 3000, 3100, 4000 and 4100. Both computer and software including ancillary software applications that interface with FACT's products must be evaluated for Y2K readiness

### ***FACT Model 7000/8000 System Software Status***

The FACT Products Division has reviewed the FACT System application software for Y2K readiness. FACTworks 5.0, version 5.015 and higher is Y2K ready. Versions of the FACT application software lower than 5.015 have at least one known condition that is not in compliance with the definition of "Year 2000 Readiness" as defined earlier in this document. The Test Session Screen has a field that displays the current date on the system monitor. This field is updated once when the operator enters Test Session from the Main Screen. If the operator is testing products when the clock rolls through midnight, the display will show the previous day's date. It should be noted the hardcopy error report will have the correct date printed since the report generation software retrieves the actual day and time from the computer before printing. The display would be updated to the correct date if the operator simply exited and then returned to the Test Session after midnight.

**NOTE:** Many non-FACT software programs may need modification, upgrading, or replacement to properly interface with FACT's programs. If you use an application that uses or reads an error log for numerical calculations, you will need to review how that application manipulates the *Year* field.

**NOTES ON LEAP YEAR:** Since the FACTworks software gets its date information from the personal computer, leap year is only a concern if your PC is not Y2K ready (see *Computers* section of this Technical Bulletin). See ATTACHMENT "A", number four (4), for how the DEC-based, "Classic" FACT systems will handle leap year.

### ***Operating System (United States)***

Many PC based operating systems in the United States, such as Windows® 3.1, Windows® for Workgroups 3.11, Windows® 95 OSR2, Windows® NT 3.51 & Windows® NT 4.0, will generally handle system dates greater than 12/31/1999. The default format and display of dates are taken from the International/Regional Settings Properties section of the operating system.

### Microsoft© testing guidelines and recommendations:

Please be aware that some PC's reset the system date to 1980 or other invalid dates when the computer reaches the year 2000. This problem is created by flaws in the computer hardware and in low-level BIOS software provided by other vendors. If you are going to test for this error, Microsoft© recommends that you execute the tests on a "test-bed" machine rather than on a production machine. Please refer to the BIOS section of the product guide developed by Microsoft© for further information. <http://www.microsoft.com/>

#### MS-DOS and Windows 3.1:

MS-DOS® will not accept 2-digit date changes for the year 2000 and beyond. To enter the correct date, a 4-digit year must be entered to the DATE command (internal to COMMAND.COM). Failure to enter the correct 4-digit date will result in an "invalid date" error. For specific or additional information, please refer to: <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/topics/year2k/product/product.htm>

#### Windows 95 OSR2, OSR 2.1 and OSR 2.5:

COMMAND.COM does not display 4-digit dates and the DATE command (internal to COMMAND.COM) does not correctly handle 2-digit dates from 00?79. Entering this command returns the error "Invalid Date". Microsoft has resolved this issue by updating the COMMAND.COM file for Windows 95 retail release, OEM Service Release 1, Windows 95 OSR2, OSR 2.1 and OSR 2.5. For specific or additional information, please refer to: <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/topics/year2k/product/product.htm>

### ***Computers***

Any personal computer that is currently part of your FACT system should be checked for Y2K readiness. It is recommended that you run a Y2K diagnostic program, such as the one available from the National Software Technical Laboratory (NSTL) found on the Internet at the following address:

[http://www.nstl.com/html/nstl\\_ymark2000.html](http://www.nstl.com/html/nstl_ymark2000.html).

Many computer manufacturers have web sites containing Y2K information. Should you have any questions after executing an approved diagnostic program, please contact DIT-MCO's Year 2000 Project Manager. PC bios, CMOS clocks, operating systems and all software programs, either purchased or self-generated, residing on your computer system, need proper evaluation to check for readiness to Y2K either by you or by the producer of the original software and hardware.

***For More Information***

If you have Y2K questions, please contact DIT-MCO's Year 2000 Project Manager: Phillip Thatcher  
816.444.6538; Fax: 816.444.6843; E-mail: [pthatcher@ditmco.com](mailto:pthatcher@ditmco.com)

To order the latest version of FACTworks 5.0 software, please contact DIT-MCO's sales staff:  
816.444.6538; Fax: 816.444.6843; E-mail: [kcsales@ditmco.com](mailto:kcsales@ditmco.com)

**ATTACHMENT "A"**  
**"CLASSIC" FACT Software Status**  
**Y2K INFORMATION SHEET**

Older systems (i.e. "Classic" FACT Systems) that use Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) computers and the FACT-generated software operating system are not Y2K ready. Examples of systems not Y2K ready include the Series 1000, 1100, 1500, 3000, 3100, 4000 and 4100.

The FACT operating system does not use the hardware clock (real time clock) even if it is available on the DEC computer system. The operator is prompted for the time and date every time the FACT system is booted. The date and time entered by the operator is used by the system for error reporting only. The date is not used to make system calculations or to "date-stamp" files.

Most releases of the FACT operating system do not track the century. To save memory, the default was set to 19??. Typically, the FACT software would be assembled with the current day, month and year defined close to the delivery date of the system. Date entries older than these dates will be rejected.

The following tests should be performed to determine whether or not your operating system will recognize the year 2000 and beyond.

1. At the "dot" prompt, type DAYTIM
2. Enter 1/1/2000 when the program prompts for a date
3. If you get the dot prompt back after entering the date, retype DAYTIM and verify the system date has changed to 1/1/2000 (NOTE: entering 00 instead of 2000 will result in an error). If a message comes back requesting the date be re-entered, your system software does not recognize the year 2000.
4. If your system accepts the year 2000, type DAYTIM at the dot-prompt and enter 2/28/2000 for the date and 23:59:30 for the time. Wait 31 seconds and retype DAYTIM. The system should correctly display 29 FEB 2000.

The original FACT software was developed in the mid-1970's when memory was at a premium and did not take into consideration the calendar changing to the year 2000. By definition, the "classic" FACT software cannot be made Y2K ready without significant expense. Since it has been over eight years since the last classic FACT system was shipped, the software will not be updated.

You may contact your local DITMCO sales representative to purchase or request a quotation for an updated version of FACT software that will recognize and accept the year 2000, though this software will still not be Y2K ready.

***For More Information***

If you have Y2K questions, please contact DIT-MCO's Year 2000 Project Manager: Phillip Thatcher 816.444.6538; Fax: 816.444.6843; E-mail: [pthatcher@ditmco.com](mailto:pthatcher@ditmco.com)

To order the latest version of FACTworks 5.0 software, please contact DIT-MCO's sales staff: 816.444.6538; Fax: 816.444.6843; E-mail: [kcsales@ditmco.com](mailto:kcsales@ditmco.com)