

Y2K and Your Computer Hardware

Are your PCs and servers Year 2000 capable? Nautalex can audit your hardware to help you make sure.

Midnight, December 31, 1999 is little more than a year away. Is all of your computer hardware ready to handle a four-digit year?

Finding out is no simple task. Here are some popular myths about Y2K compliancy:

Myth # 1: I can run Windows 95, so my computer is Y2K compliant.

Myth # 2: I can change my computer system date to the year 2000, so my computer must be Y2K compliant.

Myth # 3: My computer is new (or is a Pentium), so I don't have to worry about Y2K compliancy.

We have tested systems such as relatively new Intel Pentium 120s and 166s that have not passed completely. There are different levels of compatibility: some systems will not work at all, some may work with a manual date change. Some of these problems can be fixed with a simple BIOS upgrade.

A quick test now can save you unexpected down time later. Are you prepared? ☒

AcerAltos 9100B Server

The AcerAltos 9100B was specifically designed for businesses with demanding network requirements.

This is a server for maximum uptime: In addition to the eight hot-swap drive bays, it also features dual load sharing/redundant 420W power supplies.



Key Features:

- ◆ Supports symmetrical multiprocessing and powered by single or dual Intel® Pentium II™ processors, 350 MHz to 450 MHz.
- ◆ Integrated 10/100 network controller.
- ◆ Eight bay hot-swap Drive Tray Management System ensures future expansion and flexible server configuration.
- ◆ Increased I/O performance achieved by integrating 2-channel backplane, on-board dual ultra-wide SCSI and 64-bit PCI video controllers.
- ◆ Dual-load sharing and redundant 420W power supplies provide extra reliability.

Where disk access is your network's bottleneck, the altos 9100B may be the solution. ☒

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Y2K and Your Computer Hardware
- 1 AcerAltos 9100B Server
- 1 Quick Tip: "Cascading" copies
- 2 Tape Backups - A Quiz
- 2 GroupWise Backups

Quick Tip: "Cascading" Copies

It's a good idea to keep incremental copies of important, frequently changed documents such as catalogues or client lists. A simple way is to save numbered backups. For example, if your file is called "list", save it periodically as list001, list002, etc. This can be automated by writing a batch file that creates a series, or "cascade", of numbered copies of files or directories. Need help? Call us. ☒

Tape Backups - A Quiz

A couple of near-disasters among our clients prompts us to write again about the importance of tape backups for your servers. Please try this quiz to rate your server's backup plan.

Give your plan 1 point for each "yes" answer, -1 for each "No", and 0 for each "Don't know".

1. Is the server(s) backed up once every business day? (Add 1 bonus point for running a **full** backup every day!)
 Yes No Don't know
2. Is there a set of clearly labeled backup tapes covering a cycle of **at least 2 business weeks**? (Add 1 bonus point for having a cycle of 5 Friday tapes!)
 Yes No Don't know
3. Is one tape "retired" or archived each month?
 Yes No Don't know
4. Is the tape drive cleaned weekly?
 Yes No Don't know
5. Is the backup checked daily to make sure it was successful?
 Yes No Don't know
6. Do you know how to run a manual backup?
 Yes No Don't know
7. Do you know how to use your backup software to search the contents of a tape?
 Yes No Don't know
8. Do you know how to restore a file or directory from tape?
 Yes No Don't know
9. Is the restore tested periodically?
 Yes No Don't know
10. Is a recent successful backup tape kept offsite at all times?
 Yes No Don't know

What your score means:

10 or more points: Good work! Careful maintenance of your tape backups will continue to provide excellent "insurance" in case a server crashes.

6-9 points: On the right track! Your tape backup plan has a few weak points that should be attended to soon.

3-5 points: Needs lots of help! Your backup plan needs immediate attention to address serious deficiencies.

Less than 3 points: Warning! Your backup situation is such that it may be of little use in case of a server crash. Get help now! ☒

GroupWise Backups

GroupWise post offices present special backup challenges, because the continuously open files which comprise the message databases never get backed up by standard backup programs. (Standard backup software cannot backup files that are open at the time of the backup.)

To get around this problem, two backup utilities are available for backing up those files that are left open: GWBACKUP.EXE, to back up post offices, and DBCOPY.EXE, to back up domains and other individual files.

GWBACKUP Utility

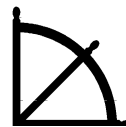
GWBACKUP.EXE backs up all post office database files, attachment files, and library documents that reside at the post office. Users can remain in GroupWise while you are performing a backup. However, this utility will not backup messages which are being sent or composed.

DBCOPY Utility

Use DBCOPY.EXE to back up individual database files, such as user or message database files, that were skipped during a post office backup.

These utilities are included with GroupWise v5.5, but were not included with older versions of GroupWise. If you are interested in having these utilities installed, please contact us. ☒

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Nautalex designs and implements fully-integrated computer network systems for businesses. Providing consulting, software, hardware and peripherals, we offer complete, cost-effective network solutions. ☒

