

Year-2000 Ready

Last-Minute Tips for a Restful Millennium

With just 31 days until the year 2000, you have undoubtedly tested and retested your company's network to ensure that all of the products running on that network are year-2000 ready. However, since hardware and software vendors are continually testing their products and releasing year-2000 updates for those products, you may want to double-check to make sure you have installed the latest year-2000 updates on your company's network.

Fortunately, Novell has made it easy for you to find the year-2000 updates for its products. Novell's year 2000 web site (<http://www.novell.com/year2000>) contains all of the year-2000 information about current Novell products. For example, the year-2000 web site includes a table that lists the following information:

- All of the Novell products for which Novell has released year-2000 updates
- A link to the Technical Information Document (TID) that describes the year-2000 issues fixed by the update
- A link to the year-2000 update itself
- The date on which Novell last changed information posted about the product or the update

Because the table is organized by product, you can easily find the year-2000 updates for the Novell products your company uses. You can then read the TID for a particular update and find out if the update is required or optional. If the update is optional, you can use the information in the TID to determine if you should install the update, based on your company's year-2000 requirements.

Finally, you can check the date on which each update was released and determine if you have applied the latest update for a particular product. If not, you can easily download the update and install it.

In addition to the updates table, Novell's year-2000 web site lists the year-2000 status of Novell products. For example, you can find out if a product is year-2000 ready, if the product requires an update, if an optional update is available, or if the

product is not supported for year 2000. Again, Novell has organized the products into categories and displayed the information in tables, so you can easily determine the year-2000 status of the products your company uses.

NOVELL TECHNICAL SUPPORT

To help all of its customers greet the new century with confidence, Novell Technical Support will be open 24 hours a day *worldwide* from Friday, December 31, through Monday, January 3. Just in case your company's network does experience a problem, you will be able to call Novell Technical Support. In the United States and Canada, you can call 1-800-858-4000. To find technical support telephone numbers for other countries, visit Novell's web site (<http://support.novell.com/additional/telephone.htm>).

NOVELL'S FERRET UTILITY

Novell will also continue to offer its free Year 2000 Information Ferret utility, which performs a year-2000 readiness check on NetWare servers. You should run the Ferret utility on each NetWare 5, NetWare 4, and NetWare 3 server connected to your company's network. (This utility does not work with NetWare 2.)

The Ferret utility gathers information about the NetWare Loadable Modules (NLMs) and network services running on each server. You then send this information to Novell, which analyzes the information and returns a detailed report about the servers' year-2000 readiness. (The average turnaround time is about two days.) You can download the Ferret utility from <http://www.novell.com/year2000/y2kferret.html>.

CONCLUSION

As the countdown to the new millennium continues, you may want to monitor the web sites of the hardware and software vendors your company uses, watching for any last-minute year-2000 information. After a few more days vigilance, you should then be able to attend a party on December 31, 1999 rather than baby-sit your company's network. ●

