

**Subject: Y2K quarterly report**

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Any comments before I send this to Billie?

Thanks!

Ruth.

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Financial Systems:

A new version of the payroll software from ADP which NRAO uses is now available on a testbed system in-house. This version allows the client application to run on a Windows 95 PC, optionally based on an NT fileserver, using TCP/IP networking. This release paves the way to upgrade our Fiscal PC systems, which are still based on Windows 3.1, to Windows 95, dropping the old Novell networking software at the same time, and thus making them Y2K-compliant. Since this is the first release of such support from ADP, the software will be thoroughly tested prior to deployment, which is currently planned for late 1998.

A review of the J. D. Edwards software, our purchasing and accounting package running on IBM's AS/400 hardware platform, is underway, with a view to evaluating the state of PC-based client-server packages in this market. Y2K compliance will of course be a mandatory requirement of any alternative that may ultimately be recommended.

PCs:

Older PCs will have a problem with the century bit in their real-time clocks after the year 2000. A large selection of software is available for updating this automatically during the first reboot after the turn of the century. NRAO has selected a freeware program to provide a patch to automate this update in systems that run unattended at remote locations, such as the MMA site in Chile. This update only needs to be done once, so systems at sites with local support can be done by hand; in such cases it is better to have fewer software packages involved. Newer PCs are not affected by this problem.

Telescope Operations:

The Green Bank Interferometer control software has been evaluated and made Y2K compliant. Investigation of the degree of non-compliance of the 140-ft telescope's control software, and the effort that would be required to fix it, is underway, as a precaution in case this telescope needs to be operated beyond the end of 1999 due to delays in GBT operational status; at this time, however, we do not intend to do so. With the exception of the VLBA, all other NRAO telescopes have completed testing and are Y2K-compliant. The remaining VLBA tests are still scheduled for the first part of 1999; the results will be reported at that time.

Communications and Networking:

The ancient telephone PBX in Green Bank has now been replaced; there are no Y2K compliance issues with new one, which is leased. The PBX in Charlottesville needs a minor update to prevent calendar inaccuracies in the voicemail system; this will be applied in

early 1999. The few remaining old computer network routers are being replaced this year with models which are Y2K-compliant.

Outside Services:

NRAO has begun the process of contacting our providers of services such as electric power, water, telephone (including local, long-distance, and cellular), banks, Internet access providers, and emergency services, to determine the status of their Y2K compliance assessment, remediation efforts, and contingency plans. While there is probably very little we can do to provide our own backup for these critical utilities, we need to be aware of their situation so that we can estimate the likelihood of a service loss and be prepared in the event they are not available during early 2000.