

Last Month's Internet issue was an astounding success. We had many hundreds of document requests, and we're glad that we could answer a lot of questions that people had - specifically about getting *your* business on the Internet (not just setting up a web site, but topics like setting all of your office PCs up for Internet access with only one phone line - we were surprised how many people found that fascinating). If you missed last month's issue, call and request document **804151** and we'll send a copy over. This month it's back to basics: no special topic. May 1st is our *New Technologies* issue where we answer questions about some new products that are newly available, or will be available soon - like Windows 98 and the new multi-line modems. **Before we begin**, we have to mention two things in the news: first, it's time again to announce the *Buffalo Computer & Business Show* for 1998 which has been newly renamed to *ComTech 98*. The dates for this year are September 30th and October 1st at the Buffalo Convention Center (yeah, we know it's early, but we figure we'd start letting you know about it *now*.) They are also having a Rochester show on April 28/29. If you're interested in receiving tickets or exhibitor information for either show, call and request document **804152**. Also in the news (and this has nothing to do with computers), we'd like to mention that our friends at the Shogun Japanese Restaurant in Amherst (on Sheridan near Transit Rd) have just opened up a new Sushi bar and it is *fantastic*! Tell 'em Rick from Amicron *highly* recommended it!

Q: It seems as though I have created my *own* year-2000 problem. When I have been entering data in my Excel spreadsheets, it seems that typing "1/1/29" was actually storing "1/1/2029" in my sheet. How can I prevent this? > *Jack, North Tonawanda*

A: Jack, most applications today - including all of Microsoft's applications will assume that if you're entering in 2-digit years from 00 to 29, that you actually mean 2000 to 2029. Anything from 30 to 99 is considered 1930 to 1999. This can cause problems if you're not careful with your records. For example, if you're entering in birth dates for your clients and you have a 70-year old who was born in 1928, and you type "1/1/28" in your Excel spreadsheet, it will assume 2028. The way to fix it? Make sure you type "1/1/1928." If you don't, and you have another cell calculating his 100th birthday, he won't get his present until the year 2128. > *Richard*

Q: Every time I start my computer up, it runs this program called "ScanDisk" and says my computer did not shut down properly. What is happening? > *Alan, Buffalo*

A: This is a mistake that a *lot* of people make because - unless you hear it in a class or read it in a book, you'd never know - you need to *perform a Windows shutdown* before turning off your computer. Click on the Start button and then select "Shut Down" and then "Shut down the computer" and your system will prepare itself to be shut off. Don't turn your computer off until you have a screen that says "it is now OK to turn off your computer." If you don't you'll get that error message every time. For a list of common tips of things you should and should *not* do with your computer call and request document **804153**. > *Jason*

Q: How can I enter a number such as "034" or "0095" into Microsoft Excel without the program removing the zeros at the beginning? > *Bill, Buffalo*

A: Bill, Excel figures that numbers entered in are just that - numbers. Leading zeros have no value, so it removes them. To force the value to be entered in as

text, put a single quote in front of it. If you enter '034 it will leave your zeros alone. You can also right-click on the cell, go to Format Cells and change the property of any cell so it's treated like text. Any questions? > *Don*

Q: I hear there is *another* modem standard out. What's up? > *Sam, Hamburg*

A: Yes, there is a new standard out called "v.90" which is the *standardized* version of 56k modems (Flex and X2 are no more). See next week's issue for details!

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For Complete Details on our line of computer systems (new and *used*) or if you'd like a custom quotation for your office, call and request document **804154**. *As a side note, just in case you're shopping, we found it interesting that the following companies were listed by the Better Business Bureau Consumer Resource Magazine as having "unsatisfactory records" and "do not meet the standards for membership in the BBB": Circuit City, CompUSA, Computer City, and several other local companies. As members of the BBB Care Program, we at Amicron strongly recommend you check with the Bureau to make sure your vendor is reputable before making your investment!*

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