# COMPUTER FAQs

**F**requently **A**sked **Q**uestions | About Computer Technology

**Vol 4, Num 14, Issue #71**          **Circulation 24,524**          **December 1998**

## It's Time For Year-End

It's almost time to say "farewell" to 1998. For us it's been a great year. We look forward to doing business with you in the new year to come. Keep in mind, as 1998 comes to a close, that if you have any budget left for new computer systems or upgrades, now is the time. With the holiday season, computer prices are at an all-time low. There's still time left to get that new machine or system upgrade installed before 1999. Also, keep in mind that there is just over 1 year left before the dreaded Year-2000 (only 2 years left in the 20th century!)  If you're not sure if your computer hardware and software is Y2K safe, you need to read our free report on the issue! Just give us call and request document **812041**. We'll send a copy right over. Have a *safe* holiday season, and please remember to drink responsibly.

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**Q:** I'm trying to save a file named "Financial Data.xls" on my Novell file server, and my system is telling me that the file name is not valid on an 8.3 file system. What does this mean? >*Joseph, Kenmore NY*

**A:** Joseph, you probably have a Novell 3.x file server which is not capable of handling long file names. You have to keep the name of your file down to 8 characters with a 3 character extension. Try saving your file as "Financl.xls" and I bet that will work. Newer versions of Novell Netware do have long filename support. >*Don*

**Q:** What is the difference between an Intel Pentium II, a Celeron, and these alternative chips that you guys recommend: the AMD K6-2 and the Cyrix M2? >*Hank, Depew NY*

**A:** Hank, the major difference between the Pentium II and the Celeron is that the Celeron is a "cheap" version of the Pentium without any "L2 cache" - that's some extra memory that the processor can use to speed up operations. The result is faster processing speed. The new "next generation" Celerons (the 300a and 333) do have 128k of L2 cache (as opposed to 512k for most Pentium IIs). These chips also use different proprietary connector types. Now, the Intel chips are good, but there are processors available from competing companies (AMD and Cyrix) that offer performance similar to the Pentium II for less than half the price in some cases. AMD makes a chip called the K6-2, and Cyrix makes an M2. Both are comparable in performance to a Pentium II chip of the same classification (i.e. an M2-300 performs about the same as a Pentium II 300). The AMD and Cyrix chips also use the classic Socket 7 chip design - which means they fit on many existing motherboards. Confused? We are too. (Just kidding). As new technologies become available, more and more products hit the market. We'll try to do our best to keep you up to date on what's best for your business. >*Richard*

**Q:** I just switched over to Microsoft Word 97 from an old version of WordPerfect. Is there any way I can get that nice white-on-blue screen that WP had? >*Karrie, Buffalo*

**A:** There sure is. Click on Tools > Options. Click on the General Tab. You'll see a checkbox that says "Blue background, white text." Click on it. >*Jason*

**TRICK:** Want to see what Microsoft means when they say "business productivity application?" Try this trick: open a new Word 97 document. Type the word "blue". Highlight the word and click on Format > Font. Select Font Style "Bold" and change the color to Blue. Click OK. Type a single space after the word Blue. Now, click on Help > About Microsoft Word. While holding down the Ctrl and Left-Shift keys, click on the little Word icon picture in the upper-left-hand corner. *Enjoy!* Use the Z and M keys for your flippers. Press ESC when done. See what we mean?

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