

COMPUTER FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions About Computer Technology

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9/9/99 Almost Here!

One of the most important dates to the computer industry - almost as important as 1/1/00 itself - is soon to be upon us. That's right folks, September 9th 1999 is a supposed doomsday for computer programs. Why? Back in the ancient days of computing (the 80s and earlier) programmers used "9/9/99" as an easy way to refer to "some far off future date" for a lot of their programs. They never thought that their code would still be used today because 1999 sounded so "futuristic." Well, here we are. Part of making sure your computer is "Y2K" safe is making sure it can handle 9/9/99 in addition to four-digit years. Not sure? Check with your software vendor. You can also request a **free** copy of our Year 2000 Report by requesting document **908141**. One quick and easy way to test your programs are to try working with dates like 12/1/1999 and see if they can handle it. There are also many utilities available, like CheckIt which test this.

Q: Can you tell me what the difference is between Microsoft Outlook and Outlook Express? Also is there a way to copy my tasks and calendar between my PC and my laptop for use at home or on the road? >Wayne, Buffalo NY

A: Microsoft Outlook and Outlook Express are primarily designed to send and receive Email. Depending on your version, they also add features such as a calendar, task list, contact manager, and such. One of the major differences between Outlook and Outlook Express is that the latter cannot be used with company LAN mail. It only works with Internet Email. Then again, it's free. To answer your second question, yes, you can carry your data with you. Just click on File > Import And Export or File > Archive and you'll see a whole bunch of options for importing and exporting your data.

Q: Hey! What happened? I thought you were moving on August 1st?

A: Our move was pushed back a few weeks due to a construction delay. We were originally scheduled to move in to our new office on August 1st. Our new move-in date is scheduled for August 24th. We're pretty confident that we'll be in by then. We've been into the new office to take measurements and such. All we need to do now is re-run the network and phone cables and move in our furniture. We will be sending a bulletin out to all of our current customers when we've actually moved in. See the next *ComputerFAQs* for all the details.



Q: I have written a few documents in Microsoft Word 97 that I would like to give to other people to read. When they try to open the documents, however, they are loaded up into WordPad. What is this, and why doesn't Word load? >Jan, Buffalo NY

A: Jan, WordPad is a free basic word processor that comes with Windows. If you have Windows on your PC, chances are you have WordPad. It will read most Word documents, however some formatting (especially graphics) may be lost. If your files don't load up into Microsoft Word on your associates' computers, chances are they don't have Word loaded. Word is not a free program. You have to buy it (alone, or as part of Microsoft Office). Some PCs are sold with it pre-loaded, which is why you may have it. Your associates can either buy Microsoft Word or you can go to Microsoft's web site at (www.microsoft.com) and download the "Microsoft Word Viewer" which is a separate application you can distribute to your associates for free that they can use to view your documents with their original, exact formatting.

Q: I am starting a new business. What should I buy: an inkjet or a laser printer? I have people giving me conflicting stories either way. >William, Niagara Falls

A: William, it all depends on your printing needs. If you need color at all, you'll need to stick with inkjet (unless you have \$4000 to spend on a color laser printer). For monochrome (black & white) printing, if you see yourself running off more than 100 pages per day, go laser. The up-front cost of a laser printer is higher than an inkjet, but the lower cost per page will save you money in the long run, depending on your print volume, of course. For most new businesses, you can probably forego color and concentrate on printing professional-quality monochrome documents for your business. Inkjet printer quality is good, but nowhere near the crispness of a laser printer.

Computer Systems. Amicron's August Special: AMD K6-400 MHz Processor, 64 MB RAM, 4.3 GB Hard Drive, 8 MB AGP Video, SuperDisk 120 Drive, 56k Fax Modem, 40X CD-ROM, Full Multimedia, Windows 98. Only **\$948**. For details and specifications or for a *custom quote*, request document **908142**.

Stop! Before you buy your next computer, you owe it to yourself to read our report *What You Should Know Before Buying A Computer*. It's free. Request document **908143**.

Q: How many programmers does it take to screw in a light bulb?
A: They won't do it. That's a hardware problem!

No Joke. Does the above joke sound like any computer firms your company deals with? If so, it's no joke. Finger-pointing is an all-too-common theme with computer companies. You quickly discover it's no joke. Your machine doesn't work right, so you call your system vendor. They try a few things on the phone and tell you it's a software problem - call your software people. The software vendor tells you it's a hardware problem. And so on. This is why *we do it all*. At Amicron, we can provide your business with everything: computer systems, onsite service, training, and even a custom-designed software solution or accounting system. There's no finger-pointing when one firm handles all of your computing needs. For complete details on how we can help to computerize every aspect of your business, call and request document **908144**.

The Year 2000 is less than **140** days away! You owe it to your company to read our *free* Y2K Report. Don't wait until it's too late. Call and request our document **908145**.

Office 2000 Available. That's right folks, Office 2000 is now on the shelves. We have it, and we have put together our first *Office 2000 Review*. If you're interested in reading about what's new, or you'd like pricing, request document **908146**.

Computer Training. Computers don't make your company money. *People who know how to use computers do*. We have completely revised our schedule for August and September. To get a schedule of classes, request document **908147**.

Is Your PC Too Slow? Need More Speed? Upgrade your old PC to a *blazing fast* AMD K6-2 350 MHz processor & motherboard for just **\$333**. Includes 64 MB of RAM and installation. For complete details, request document **908148**.

ComTech 99. Formerly the *Buffalo Computer & Business Show*, this year's ComTech (Oct 6 and 7) is going to be the best yet! For free tickets request doc **908149**. Remember, ComTech is for much more than just computer companies. If you would like information on exhibiting, request doc **908150**.

To request a document by fax simply **circle** the document numbers you wish to receive, and **print** the following information clearly. Fax this page back to us at 716-833-6724.

Name: _____
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Documents are **free** by fax to the Buffalo/WNY area. You can call us at 716-837-4685, fax us at 833-6724, (716-677-4737 and 716-677-4742, respectively, after August 24, 1999) email us at cfaqs@amicron.com, or visit our web site at www.amicron.com. Be sure to leave your name and fax number. For a complete listing of documents, or for back issues of this newsletter, request document **908151**. *ComputerFAQs* is copyright ©1995-1999 by Amicron Technology Services, all rights reserved. Please contact us if you are interested in any of our products or services, or if you would like your number removed from our database. We never sell our database of fax numbers to any outside sources.

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