Getting Your Bearings for

INTRODUCTION

The Y2K bug is a consequence of programmers using two rather than four digits to designate the calendar year in computer software and hardware. Y2K has the potential to impact many computer systems around the world; however, extensive preparations in the United States are expected to limit its impact here.

> ***As a result of the significant progress that has been made, the United States is in a much better position to make the transition to Year 2000 than was the case just a few short months ago.***
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> —August 5, 1998 Report
> President's Council on Year 2000

The best overall guidance is to prepare for Y2K as one prepares for a winter storm—laying in about one week's worth of consumables. Drastic action is not