

Year2000: Best Practice for Y2K Millennium Computing, by Dick Lefkon, Editor, Prentice-Hall, 1997, 664 pages.

This book is a complete overview of the Y2K problems and is written accordingly. Each chapter is prefixed with its intended audience, either CEO/CIO, expert (programming) and manager (software project). Its contents for CEO/CIO are: The Challenge, Surviving Failure, Getting Started, The Cost, Senior Management Approaches, Y2K Contracts. For the expert there are: Seven Methods, Date Details, Early Testing, and Test Tools. For the manager there are: User Successes, Compleat Y2K Manager, and Outsourcing.

This book is a real find for those interested in defending themselves from the Y2K problem. It is a great overview of the problem and offers technical procedures for various platforms (S/390, midrange, Unix systems and PCs). It contains a wide variety of Y2K surveys, worksheets, checklists, coding examples for approaching the problem. It lists a number of resources (testing products, automated tools) that are available from companies and public sector agencies in trying to solve this problem, and an in-depth discussion of the legal issues for the legally inclined. The book is a collection of short papers by a variety of authors along with text by the author. The chapters for the expert reader were particularly interesting, giving both the pros and cons of each of the seven methods to solve (or attempt to solve) the problem.

I found this book to be an interesting read. And it is just a read, since I am not actively involved in combating this problem. It does appear to be a full treatment, helpful to those folks who are on the front lines. For those who have not started this process, get this book. There is still time, maybe.

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