

Federal Government, 6 percent have been implemented, 17 percent have been renovated, and only 65 percent of the systems have even been assessed. A spokesman for the GIGA firm of Cambridge MA, that specializes in this issue, said: "They're not on a time schedule that looks like it's going to be doable." I need not remind my colleagues that the clock is ticking.

Be assured that in the year 2000, we will be blamed if we have not addressed the problem. And rightly so. Cosponsored by six other Senators, my bill, S. 22, will create a commission to see that the problem is fixed and increase the lagging private sector awareness of this crisis.

I ask that the text of the Washington Post article be printed in the RECORD. The article follows:

GOVERNMENT SAID TO MOVE TOO SLOWLY ON YEAR 2000 COMPUTER PROBLEM
(By Rajiv Chandrasekaran)

The federal government could face a partial computer crash in the year 2000 because it is moving too slowly to fix its machines so they will understand dates that don't begin with '19,' according to a growing number of technology specialists.

Of the nearly 4,500 "mission-critical" computer systems the government needs to repair—which include those that handle defense, air traffic control and income tax functions—only 6 percent have been fixed, according to an Office of Management and Budget report that will be released at a House subcommittee hearing today.

About 35 percent of those computers needing repairs have not even undergone a systems analysis, the first and simplest step in the renovation process, the report said.

"They're not on a time schedule that looks like it's going to be doable," said Ann K. Coffou, a research director at Giga Information Group, a Cambridge, Mass., industry research firm that specializes in so-called year 2000 issues. "They're suffering from 'analysis paralysis.' There's too much work to be done . . . and at this point in the game, it's very, very distressing."

Most large computer systems use a two-digit dating system that assumes 1 and 9 are the first two digits of the year. Without specialized reprogramming, the systems will think the year 2000—or 00—is 1900, a glitch that is expected to make most of them go haywire unless the problem is fixed.

For the government, the year 2000 problem could result in computers that come to a sudden halt and others that generate erroneous data, such as wrong Medicare checks or tax bills, computer experts say. In a worst-case scenario, computers that control military defense systems or sensitive communications between federal agencies could be rendered inoperable, some specialists warn.

Thomas D. Oleson, a year 2000 computer analyst at International Data Corp., a consulting firm in Framingham, Mass., characterized the government's situation as "way behind the eight ball." Fixing the government's computers on time, he said, "is nearing the point of impossibility."

Oleson and other industry analysts expect the federal computer systems that handle the government's most critical functions to be fixed before the Dec. 31, 1999, deadline. But many other systems, including some that perform significant tasks for federal employees and ordinary people, could still be in the electronic repair shop in 2000, they warn.

"It's become increasingly clear that agencies are not going to be able to correct everything before the year 2000," said Joel C. Willemssen, the director of information resources management at the General Accounting Office, the watchdog arm of Congress. "We're going to have to start making priorities among all the systems we view as critical."

The specialists said it is too early to identify specific systems that might not be reprogrammed in time, but they said those would become clearer later this year as agencies begin focusing their efforts.

In its report, which was produced at the behest of a congressional committee, the OMB maintains that the progress of federal agencies is generally on schedule and that the agencies "have made a good start in addressing the year 2000 problem."

Of the 7,649 computer systems in the executive branch other than the Social Security Administration, 21 percent—or 1,598—already comply with year 2000 requirements. An additional 9 percent will be fully replaced and 8 percent will be scrapped, the report said.

At Social Security, long hailed as the federal agency that has been most attentive to year 2000 problems, 71 percent of its systems don't need to be fixed. Of those that do need repairing, half have been fixed, the report said.

The report estimates the cost of renovating computers throughout the government at \$2.8 billion, a \$500 million increase from an estimate released by the OMB in February. OMB officials said yesterday that figure is expected to cross the \$3 billion mark and could eventually grow to as much as \$5 billion.

"There's still a lot of work to be done, but I think we're on track," said Sally Katzen, OMB's director of information and regulatory affairs, who has been spearheading the government's year 2000 efforts.

The report identifies the Agriculture, Education, Justice and Transportation departments as those that have about half their systems or more left to analyze. No department, except for Interior and Veterans Affairs, has more than 25 percent of its systems renovated.

At the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which has 206 computer systems, 115 need to be repaired. Although the department is halfway through analyzing those 115 systems, it has only renovated 2 percent of them, the report said.

At the Defense Department, which has almost 4,000 systems, by far the most of any government agency, more than 2,700 of them need to be fixed. The agency is only 23 percent done with renovating the systems, and only 8 percent of them actually have been tested and are considered fully fixed, according to the document.

The government's progress is expected to come under fire from members of the House Science Committee and the Government Reform and Oversight Committee, which are holding a joint hearing into the matter today, congressional aides said. In addition to questioning the pace of repair work, committee leaders will criticize several agencies' schedules for repairs, which call for finishing work in November and December 1999.

"They haven't left themselves with a margin for error in case something goes wrong," said Rep. Constance A. Morella (R-Md.), chairwoman of the Science Committee's technology subcommittee.

Committee members also will probe whether any government agencies are now buying software that is not year 2000 compliant, aides said.

STATE OF REPAIR—STATUS OF MISSION-CRITICAL SYSTEMS BEING REPAIRED AT SELECTED AGENCIES

Agency	Number of systems	Assessment percent complete	Renovation percent complete	Implementation percent complete
Agriculture	469	41	0	0
Commerce	162	75	7	5
Defense	2,752	64	23	8
Education	7	30	0	0
HUD	115	50	2	2
Justice	118	52	2	0
DOT	132	50	10	0
NASA	211	75	2	1
All federal agencies	4,493	65	17	6

Source: Office of Management and Budget.

TRIBUTE TO THE STUDENTS OF HEMPFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to commend some students from Landisville, PA, for their outstanding effort in the We the People. . . . The Citizens and the Constitution national finals.

In this competition, 20 students from Hempfield High School participated in a simulated congressional hearing. Testifying as constitutional experts, they argued points of law before a panel of judges. By all accounts, they demonstrated a remarkable understanding of the American constitutional government.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Paul Brewer, Lauren Charles, Benjamin Coons, Andrew Fergusson, Michael Hollinger, Noah Hunt, Derrick Karimi, Rebecca Kinsey, Benjamin Kornfield, Nathaniel Kraft, Rachel Moore, Derick Munday, Elizabeth Myers, Megan Newcomer, Alison Miebanck, Jessica Petocz, Stella Reno, Melissa Sanders, David Stairs, and Brandon Zeigler, and their teacher Elaine Savukas for their outstanding performance. I urge these young people to use the knowledge they acquired from this experience to continue upholding the principles that have made this country great.

CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, Disraeli once described the youth of a nation as, the trustees of posterity. I interpret that to mean that the future promise of any country can be directly measured by the present prospects of its young people. Whatever we invest today in promoting and protecting our youth will bring a high return in the future.

For that reason, I am pleased that the Senate has taken some first steps to address the growing problem of uninsured children.

I have to say I am still astounded by the fact that this great Nation could allow 10 million children to go without health insurance. Just think about it. At a time when the economy is sound and unemployment is at a 23-year low, one in seven of America's children lack a basic protection that every one of us enjoys.

Uninsured children are less likely to be fully immunized against preventable