

The Origin of the Year 2000 Date Problem: an alternative hypothesis

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Abstract

This paper aims to identify the primary origin of the year 2000 date problem, in which many computer-based systems may fail because they cannot correctly interpret two-digit year dates which lie in and after the year 2000. The paper proposes a hypothesis within which the fundamental origin of the problem lay in a pre-existing, commonplace norm of Western culture - the pervasive use of two-digit year dates. This cultural practice set Western society on a collision course with the technology of the future. The cultural norm underpinned industry from the 1960s onwards, which laid the physical foundation for the problem.

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