



# *COTS* *and Y2K*

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## ***Introduction***



- **COTS or Commercial Off-The-Shelf software**
  - "Shrink-wrapped" applications
  - Most common type of program at DOE Headquarters

## ***Risk assessment***



- **Minimal with newer software**
- **DOE Hq. COTS software inventory fairly current**
- **Manufacturers already investing money, personnel in testing**
- **Some other Federal agencies have already conducted tests**

## ***Inventory***



- **Use network-based program to develop master COTS list**
  - SMS, BindView, Check 2000
- **Review master list**
  - Mark for retirement, replacement or upgrade

## ***Check Y2K status***



- **Determine Y2K status for each COTS application**
  - Review manufacturer's statements
  - Visit Federal Y2K COTS Product database  
([www.y2k.policyworks.gov](http://www.y2k.policyworks.gov))

## ***Leave alone***



- **Can you live with a program that's not fully compliant?**
  - How often is the non-compliant feature used?
  - Upgrades not usually free
  - Some programs sold in "suites"

## ***Retire or replace***



- **Retire old non-compliant software**
  - Are there substitutes already in use?
- **Replace with newer version or switch to another manufacturer**
  - User impact

## ***Fix***

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- **Patches, updates, service packs**
  - Some programs become compliant, others have "minor issues"
- **Y2K repairs can be complicated**
  - E.g., NT 4.0 SP4 can involve months of planning, testing

## ***Recommendation***

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- **COTS inventory is necessary:**
  - Replace known non-compliant programs
  - Apply patches, upgrades as needed
- **Testing not necessary:**
  - Allocate resources elsewhere

## ***Recommendation***

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- **Standardize on one version of each COTS application**
- **Apply patches, updates, service packs**
- **Continuously review vendor Web sites for update information**