



PRENTICE BULLETIN



**VIDEOVISION WINS
INTERNATIONAL
ACCLAIM**

PAGE TWO



**NATIONAL PROJECT
MAKES INTERNET
FASTER TO ACCESS**

PAGE THREE



**CHANGES MEAN BETTER
SERVICE FOR NEW
STUDENTS**

PAGE FOUR

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Beating the bug: Prentice strives to meet the year 2000 challenge

The clock is ticking and with a little more than 600 days to go, the Millennium Bug has an immovable deadline.

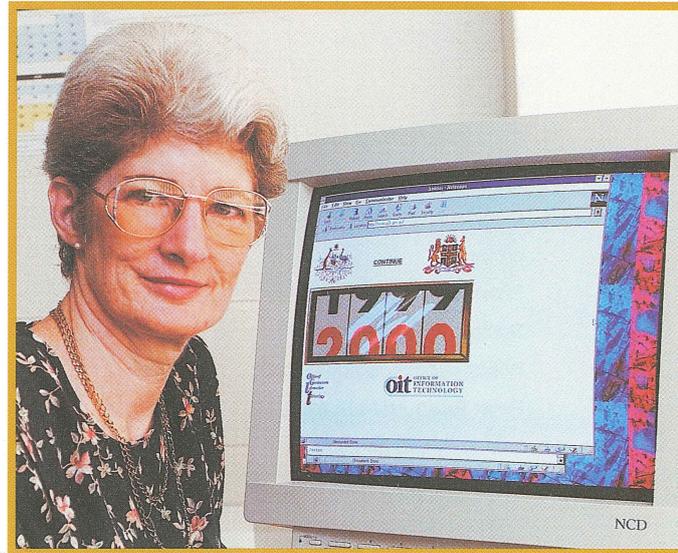
Known as the Y2K problem, the computer bug which will cause some computers to fail to correctly interpret the turn of the century is now top priority for public and private sectors.

At University of Queensland, Prentice Centre joint director Jennie Perry Smith is concerned people are not adequately preparing for the problem.

"The size of the problem is huge," Ms Perry Smith said.

"Within the University, almost every technology purchased over the last five years is likely to be at risk.

"For example, phone systems, keycard entry systems, medical equipment and field



Prentice Centre joint director Jennie Perry Smith.

devices are all likely to contain embedded software that may not be year 2000 compliant."

She said these systems should be assessed, upgraded as required and certified for compliance.

One of two main problems relates to the source of the equipment.

To page two

CHOOSE MATERIAL FROM 5000 VIDEOS

Need to play a video at your lecture? For simple operation contact the Central Video Replay Service.

The CVRS allows any of the 5000 tapes stored in the audiovisual library or private and department videos to be played in any programmed lecture theatre.

Other services include TV satellite from CNN, RFO (French), Channel 4 (Chinese), Gorizont (Russian), Television Oceania (Japanese), and Teletext.

To book, phone the replay centre on 3365 3210 between 8am and 4pm, Monday to Friday.

Or email your booking to avsbook@central1.library.uq.edu.au

Fun on the run project attracts international education award

Prentice Centre's VideoVision has picked up its fifth merit award in four years.

The British Medical Association Certificate for Educational Merit was awarded to the 'Fun, Fitness and Friendship' video program.

Funded by Queensland Health and The University of Queensland, the video was produced by Margaret Shapiro from the School of Social Work and Social Policy in cooperation with Dr Peter Reaburn from the Human Movements department.

The director and writer for the video, Charles Costanza, said the video showed the 14-month process used by a group of older people to plan, design and implement an exercise, health and fitness program.

"The video is being used as a tool for encouragement and to teach the process



Above: Awarded for excellence ... Charles Costanza and Margaret Shapiro from the School of Social Work and Social Policy.

a community group can use to work with educators, government and industry to initiate a community project," he said.

For more details on VideoVision, call 3365 4993.

Meeting the year 2000 challenge

From page one

"You can do all you want at your end but what did the manufacturer do?"

The other is the thousands of small systems with in-house programming changes.

A recent audit by Prentice Centre found most major software and hardware systems are or will be Y2K compliant but some significant upgrades will be needed.

Ms Perry Smith said it was a mistake for departments to believe Y2K compliance implications were the responsibility of IT support staff or the Prentice Centre.

"The fact is, Prentice is here to assist, but it is up to (them) to take an active role in assessing how Y2K implications affect (them)," she said.

Estimates by global computing consulting firm Gartner put the world-wide cost of Y2K problems at more than \$600 billion.

Gartner says up to 90 per cent of applications software is infected with the Y2K virus.

Prentice Centre offers compliance services on a fee-for-service basis to departments to be year 2000 ready.

Some useful Y2K web sites are http://www.mitre.org/research/cots/VENDOR_LIST.html; <http://www.y2k.gov.au/> and <http://www.year2000.com/>

Tick, tick, tick.

GET YOUR MAC UP TO SPEED

Did you know it is possible to increase the CPU in your Mac to perform just like the latest release G3 Mac series?

Trevor Brennan, technical services manager, said upgrading your existing machine can have a benchmark improvement factor up to four.

This means a Powermac 6100 will perform faster and have improved capabilities for multimedia applications.

Depending on your machine, upgrades for the 6100, 7100, and 8100 will cost between \$1,000 and \$1,500. Although more expensive, upgrades are also available for the 7300, 7500, 7600, 8500, 8600 and 9500. The cost of improving performance on these machines ranges from \$2172 to just under \$4,500.

Phone Trevor Brennan on 3365 3938 or t.brennan@prentice.uq.edu.au



Mirror project improves access to popular sites

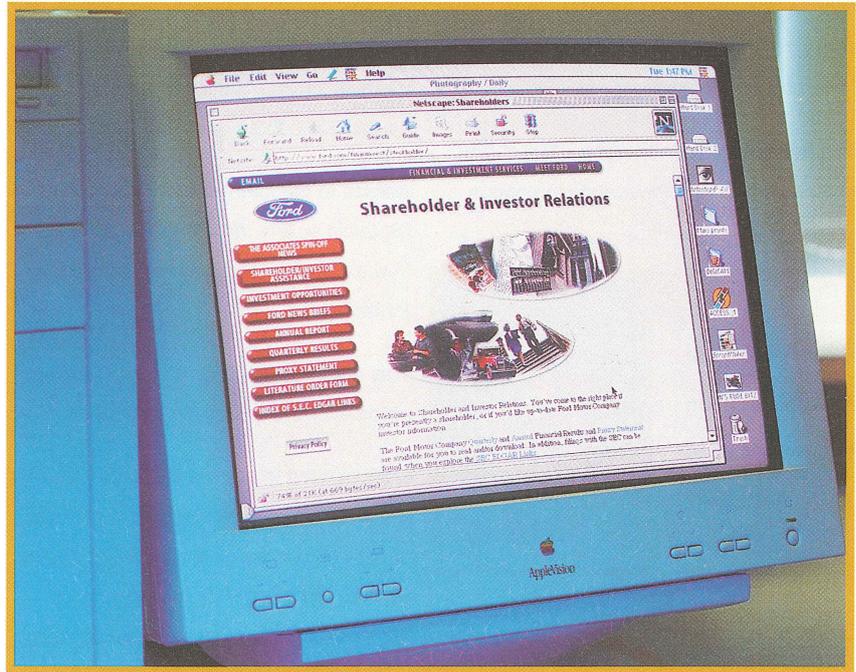
Prentice Centre joint director Graham Rees announced recently the establishment of the National Mirror Project which will lead to cost savings and fast access to popular internet sites.

The National Mirror Project is being developed with the Distributed Systems Technology Centre (DSTC).

"This project will give us the capability of holding a large object store for frequently requested internet objects or files instead of going to the source each time," Mr Rees said.

Sun Microsystems have contributed an Enterprise 1000 server with 5Gb disk storage, 256 Mb memory and four super-sparc processors valued at more than \$50,000.

Mr Rees said the server would be maintained by the University of Queensland for QUESTNet - the Queensland Education, Science and



The Mirror project will allow users to access websites faster, cheaper and more efficiently.

(international) ftp traffic where bandwidth utilisation savings are to be had, if a local, fast, well maintained large object mirror existed," he said.

The main archives mirrored in the analysis were: Sunsite - the world's largest linux software repository; FreeBSD (home of the FreeBSD project); GNU (collection of GNU software); Idgames (collection of popular games from IDSoftware) and Gamesdomain (collection of games); and World Wide Web browser Netscape.

Other archives will be added on request.

"On average, as ftp downloads were ramping up and the DSTC site was becoming more popular, around 5Gb per day was the average download, peaking at 10Gb or more when a new package was released."

Mr Rees said the analysis showed a conservative figure of 1Gb a day of

international traffic could be assumed for most large sites within QUESTNet.

"At \$140 per Gb, this works out to about \$50,000 per year per member site just for ftp and large object data."

"THIS PROJECT WILL GIVE US THE CAPABILITY OF HOLDING A LARGE OBJECT STORE FOR FREQUENTLY REQUESTED INTERNET OBJECTS OR FILES, INSTEAD OF GOING TO THE SOURCE EACH TIME"

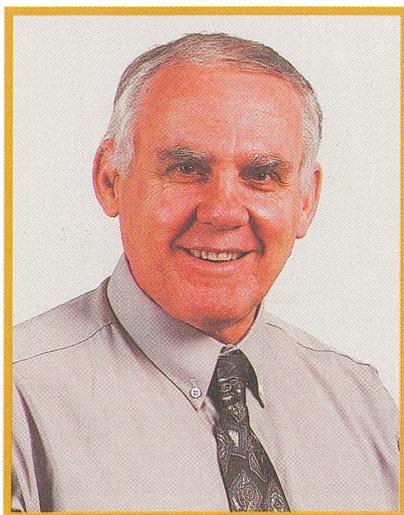
— GRAHAM REES.

He said it was clear that if one site, QUESTNet, downloaded the international links and other member sites then accessed that data, there would be considerable cost benefits for QUESTNet.

The Mirror Project will also result in fast local and centralised access to frequently requested applications and data sets across the Internet.

There are other services that can be provided to QUESTNet member sites.

These include email notification services of new packages and package updates; and provision of specialised search engines and other WWW tools on a case by case basis; as well as specialised statistics on large store object usage.



Prentice Centre joint director Graham Rees.

Technology Network. He said the main machine had been further added to, bringing the total storage up to 50Gb.

"Based on analysis of old log files from popular ftp service at the Distributed Systems Technology Centre on traffic between February 1995 and October 1996, there is a large amount of

New policy for staff and student internet services

Recent new policy and funding arrangements for UQ internet services have been finalised.

The following is a brief explanation of the outcomes and how they relate to various client groups on campus.

DID YOU KNOW

Tried and true tips for getting the most out of your computer

by Jane Wilson
Computer education officer



Software programs have many shortcuts to make life easier for computer users.

When using:

WINDOWS 95

A right click on the desktop brings up a menu for properties. This gives you display properties where you can change the background, the screen saver, the appearance of the windows and your monitor settings.

WORD 6/7

A quick way to see what formatting has been applied to text in your document is to click once on the help button (far right on the standard toolbar). Click on the text and a pop-up box appears with information about both paragraph and font formatting. Click again on the help button to turn off this information or press escape.

WORD 97

You can access What's This from the help menu or hold shift and press F1 to give you the cursor with the arrow and the question mark. Click on the text and a pop-up menu appears with information about paragraph and font formatting. Press escape to return to the regular cursor.

For details about Prentice Centre computer courses, phone client services on 3365 4400. Our website is <http://prentice.uq.edu.au/education>

SERVICES FOR STAFF

Staff are entitled to free accounts on the Prentice service 'dingo', including a mailbox.uq.edu.au email address.

Access to the internet from on campus (St Lucia or any remote University site) is free except that faculties will be invoiced for traffic.

This means departments may choose to enforce their own access restrictions.

Staff wanting to access UQ or the internet remotely will require some form of dialin access. This may be a staff Dialin Access Account purchased by the department or, alternatively, access may be purchased by the staff member.

Visiting academics, clinical appointments, postgraduate students and staff of colleges are also entitled to these services.

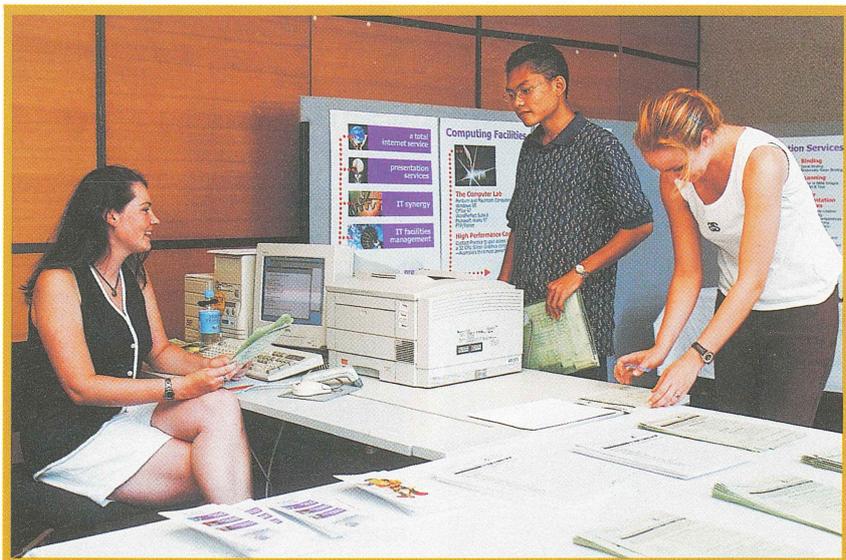
SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

All undergraduate and postgraduate students are entitled to a free internet account including email, the ability to publish a World Wide Web page (viewable from within UQ) and internet access from campus, home or college.

- Off-campus access is via the Prentice modem banks.
- Students are allowed eight hours per week of dialin time.

Colleges may impose some access restrictions and all student internet access may be subject to Mb download limits in the future.

The above services only outline funded internet access services. Phone Prentice Client Services on 3365 4400 for more details, or email info@prentice.uq.edu.au



System serves students better

For the first time, students this year were able to apply for their internet account straight after collecting their student card at Mayne Hall.

Previously, students' only option was to put in an application at the client service counter at the Prentice Centre.

This year, Prentice Centre photography and client service staff combined their services to provide a one stop shop for new students.

Students can also apply for accounts during the year. Those who haven't applied for their internet account should now come to the Prentice Centre client service counter.