

# **THE YEAR 2000 COMPUTER PROBLEM: AN EXAMPLE OF SUCCESSFUL GLOBAL PROBLEM-SOLVING**

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The year 2000 computer problem was the largest technical project in human history. It was the largest management challenge since World War II and the largest example of peacetime cooperation in history. The year 2000 problem can be thought of as the first large problem of a knowledge society: the technical problem had been known for years, but action started very late. Although repair costs were high and led to a stock market bubble, fortunately no major technical disruptions occurred. This paper will review some consequences of the work on y2k, for example, the growth of the IT industry in India and the widespread adoption of Enterprise Resource Planning systems in large organizations. Since work on the y2k problem benefitted greatly from the internet, did it help to bring about some of the current examples of international cooperation via the internet, for example coping with climate change? Are there lessons from the y2k problem for managing the current global financial crisis?