



OCC ADVISORY LETTER

Comptroller of the Currency
Administrator of National Banks

Subject: Year 2000 Information Security Precautions

TO: Chief Executive Officers of National Banks, Federal Branches, Service Providers, Software Vendors, Department and Division Heads, and Examining Personnel

The Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) has released the attached guidance, "Information Security Precautions During the Century Rollover Period." The guidance reminds financial institutions of the importance of maintaining an effective security program during the century rollover period. Financial institutions may be exposed to higher levels of fraudulent and malicious attempts to exploit information systems during the next few months. Hackers and developers of malicious software may step up their activities at a time when it may be difficult, without adequate safeguards, to detect or distinguish between a routine software or operations problem, a Year 2000-related problem, and fraudulent or malicious activity.

The FFIEC guidance outlines steps financial institutions might consider in maintaining an effective information security framework. The guidance is also available on the OCC's Web site at www.occ.treas.gov. For more information contact Year 2000 Supervision Policy at (202) 874-2340 or Bank Technology at (202) 874-5920.

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Attachment