



**TECH NOTE**  
***Super Edit™ and the Year 2000***  
***VPE and IPS-100/110***

There are no fundamental operational concerns having to do with calendar dates on these editing systems. However, files are “date-stamped” when they are created or updated. The current date (and time) is maintained on the system clock, powered by a battery with an expected life of 5 to 10 years. As long as a good battery is connected on the main board of the editing system, the date will be updated daily, at midnight. If the battery runs down and is replaced, or is disconnected for any reason, the system date must be reset manually to be accurate. If it is not reset, it defaults to a date in 1972.

Currently, The RT-11 Operating system does not support setting the date to a year of 00. However, on a system with a functional battery, at midnight of December 31, 1999, the date will change to 01-JAN-:0. Instead of rolling from 99 to 00, it rolls to “:0” (colon-zero). Then in 2001, it will roll to “:1” and so on. The system will not allow setting the year to :0. The only years currently allowed are between 73 and 99 inclusive, which means that if the battery is disconnected, the year can only be set to between 73 and 99.

Recently, Editware investigated the feasibility of modifying the RT-11 operating system to support setting the year to 00, and to having the date roll to 01-JAN-00 at midnight December 31, 1999.

At the present time, it appears infeasible to make modifications necessary for RT-11 to recognize dates later than 31-Dec-99.

To resolve this issue, Editware recommends that users of VPE and IPS systems establish a procedure to set the date to January 1, 1980 on the first day of the year 2000. From that point on, maintain the system date to be exactly 20 years earlier than the actual date. This will not affect any VPE functionality, and will be noticeable only to those users who pay attention to file dates. The main reason for file dates is to tell which is the current version of a file when multiple copies are saved with the same name. For this purpose, the date does not need to be accurate; it only needs to be predictable (as it will be if it’s always maintained at 20 years prior to the actual date.)