

Softwords

A&L Computer Software Limited

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...Contents...



The Future Is Now

Windows 2000 - Yes or No?

...Page 1



You Need A Lab Test Results Policy

Don Price, B.Sc., M.B.A.

...Page



Medical Student Bursary Fund

...Page 3



S'port For Kids

S'port Ball 2000

...Page 4

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◆ The Future Is Now...or is it?

User's Corner

This issue we have taken the unique approach of combining our *The Future Is Now* column with *User's Corner*. We have had many calls from clients requesting information on Microsoft's new operating system Windows 2000, the main thrust being whether we would recommend clients change to Windows 2000 or stick with Windows '98 until some point in the future.

With the new millennium comes new computers, new programs and new operating systems to scare us into keeping up with the times. We seemed to have breezed into the New Year without much difficulty but are we speaking too soon? To ensure that the year 2000 won't be so smooth, Microsoft has introduced Windows 2000 Professional version.

A&L, being a software developer, has had access to beta versions of Windows 2000 Professional, and has been using it in tests. At the time of this writing, we are still testing Windows 2000 and have not fully endorsed this new product yet.

Win2000 was designed with the idea of combining the best of Windows 98 and Windows NT together. Thus the program uses NT technology while still using the Windows 98 interface (screens).

Win2000 has been improved in such areas as Web-based servers. They have integrated web capabilities and added broad support for mobile computers and hardware devices creating an easier way for business users to connect to the Internet anywhere, anytime.

From a networking perspective, workstation performance on the desktop has speeds significantly faster than Windows 95 & 98 and speeds comparable to Win NT4.0 workstations.

Windows 2000 is also Gigabit ready. When using gigabit adapters and utilizing

advanced TCP/IP features in Win 2000, the result is 25% better throughput than WinNT 4.0.

Last but not least, Windows 2000 also has 'dramatically increased stability' compared to previous Windows operating systems (Windows 98 Second Edition has this improvement).

Sound like a positive step? Here is one drawback and it could be potentially huge.

Windows 2000 has a compatibility problem with both hardware and software. Microsoft is working on an added driver database. You are likely to experience problems with hardware with no drivers installed or wrong drivers installed. Currently, offices could be using different drivers from their actual hardware and everything could be running smoothly.

A company called **Active Network** had this to say about Windows 2000 on their website.

'If you have been using Windows less than 1 1/2 years, or you are not an advanced computer user, do not use a network or have a business, Windows 2000 is most likely not for you and you should explore the operating system before upgrading. It is not recommended for regular users. Don't jump into it unless you can take a setback and you may have to start from the beginning if Windows 2000 won't work.'

Our definition of an advanced computer user? Someone who can install Windows from scratch, reload every single driver required for your computer and restore backup to at least get you back to your original state before you tried to upgrade to Windows 2000 Professional.

When it comes time to upgrading your Operating System, please call A&L for testing results before you do anything.

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E-mail: postmaster@anl.com



Don Price*(Continued from previous page)*

s lab testing becomes an increasingly important feature of today's medical practices, the handling and communicating of results can be a major concern. In most offices, the number of telephone calls regarding lab tests is second only to the number of calls requesting an appointment to see the doctor.

One medical staff member told me: "These calls mean a lot more running around for the office staff. If a patient calls to find out the results of their tests, and the tests aren't in the patient's chart, we have to try to track them down before the doctor can talk to the patient. This means that we either leave the patient on hold, or we ask the patient to call back. And it can be hard to find test result quickly in our office – they could be anywhere."

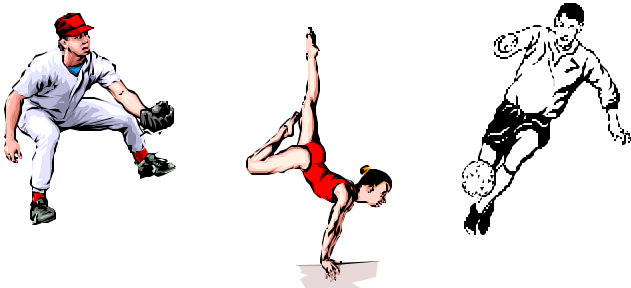
Most offices have a policy that patients will be notified only if their tests are abnormal. But when patients are sent for tests, they are usually too anxious to hear anything the doctor says about reporting test results. They'll call the doctor's office anyway, usually at a time when it's the least convenient for the office staff, and often before the results are back in the office.

I always suggest providing simple handouts to patients when you want to inform them of office policies. This gives the patient a chance to take the letter home and read it when they aren't feeling so overwhelmed by what is going on in the exam room.

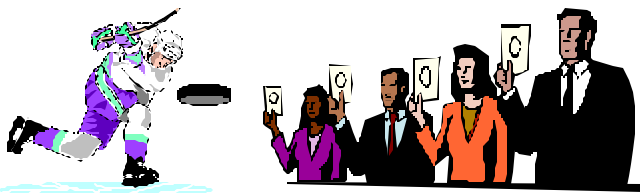
How you handle lab test results is a topic for a one page handout for patients. This should be given to every patient who is having tests done, and should state:



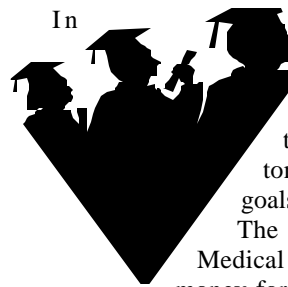
S'port For Kids Foundation S'port Ball 2000



Please see important information on page 4 about an upcoming event with which A&L is proud to be involved, and which we hope our clients will also choose to support. See you there!



A&L and the Ontario Medical Student Bursary Fund



In February 2000, the OMA and OMF celebrate the official launch of the Ontario Medical Student Bursary Fund (OMSBF), established to assist the medical students of today and tomorrow in achieving their academic goals.

The fundamental purpose of the Ontario Medical Student Bursary Fund is to raise money for bursaries for Ontario medical students who require financial assistance. There is a large discrepancy between the cost of a medical education and the financial assistance available to fund it. Good programs of financial support for students are an important aspect to keeping medical education accessible to qualified students. Of the 2000 medical students in Ontario's five medical schools, one third need additional funds each year to make ends meet. If students are forced to borrow monies, the debt incurred by the end of medical school could be \$73,500.00 on average and in many cases may exceed \$100,000.00. Because of this, graduates are considering moving to more lucrative areas to help reduce their debt load. The province of Ontario is experiencing a severe physician shortage and forecasts suggest that the situation will only worsen. By helping with the financial burden the OMA hopes to encourage graduates to practice in Ontario.

The OMSBF Founders include A&L and some of the A&L family, Dr. Ciaran L. T. Kealy (Sudbury) & Dr. Chris McKibbin (Sudbury), Dr. Arthur D.F. Kidd (Windsor), and Dr. R. Renwick Mann (Peterborough), all of whom are in the Patron Circle.

Leaders in the Ontario medical community have volunteered to lead an intensive "campaign of campaigns" for the OMSBF over the next two years. Ontario physicians will be contacted either by the OMF or by their participating Faculty of Medicine. If you believe as A&L does that it is in society's interest to ensure that medicine remains a rewarding and affordable career accessible to students – based on their passion and academic performance, and not their financial status – then the OMF and Faculties of Medicine can provide you with an opportunity to contribute to this vision. For more information, you may contact Sandy Ziadaric, manager, Ontario Medical Student Bursary Fund, at 1-800-268-7215 ext. 2913 or Alex Yuan at A&L Computer Software Limited. (Campaign Cabinet for OMSBF)

The Ontario Medical Association, in partnership with its registered charity, the Ontario Medical Foundation, is spearheading a major campaign intended to alleviate the escalating problem of fiscal pressures affecting the pursuit of medical education in the province.

S'port For Kids Foundation - S'port Ball 2000

On Friday, May 5, 2000, one of S'port for Kids Foundation's major fundraising efforts will take place – A Benefit Gala Event that promises to be unlike any fundraising event you have ever attended. It will take place at the Premiere Ballroom & Convention Centre where Gala Patrons will be able to challenge themselves through light sport activities and enjoy an evening of lively entertainment. During the dinner a short video on the S'port for Kids Foundation, produced by our media sponsor Shaw Cable, will be shown to the Gala Patrons. Directly following the video presentation we welcome our keynote speakers – hockey legend Mr. Red Kelly and figure skating legend Mrs. Andrea Kelly – who will speak of their personal experiences that demonstrate the importance and benefits of sport in their personal development.

We are asking the medical profession to participate in **S'port Ball 2000**. Besides having a great meal, there will be a silent auction and lucky draw. One of the lucky draw prizes will be a round trip ticket for Air Canada anywhere Air Canada flies in North America or Europe. Come with friends. This is a fun way for individuals to support our youth involved in organized sports in the greater Toronto area. A&L will be happy to fax an order form for tickets (*or use the form below*). A tax receipt for a portion of the costs will be issued on request.

We sincerely hope you will be able to join us at the S'port Ball 2000 to welcome in our inaugural fundraising dinner and our goal is to raise \$100,000 – funds necessary to give less fortunate kids a chance to participate in and benefit from organized sport. More information about the S'port For Kids Foundation is available on the Web at www.sportforkids.on.ca.

S'PORT FOR KIDS FOUNDATION IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

S'port for Kids Foundation is a registered charity foundation with the goal of promoting the beneficial effects of athletics and sport based on the healthy development of children. The Foundation advances their physical, emotional and social development by providing guidance, support and funding for sporting related activities to individuals, families and communities where the need is demonstrated. The results are dramatic. Children who have the desire to play but not the means, are participating in healthy pastimes. Organizations and teams, who might not otherwise exist, are providing sports activities for our less privileged youth. Our community outreach program also helps new Canadian families to integrate better into Canadian society through sports participation.

A&L feels it is important for any sized business to contribute what it can to the betterment of its community and so has been involved with S'port For Kids since its inception. In fact, A&L was one of the founders of S'port for Kids. We feel strongly that young people need a healthy, active childhood and opportunities to build good basic values. S'port for Kids Foundation is trying to provide just that with the help of businesses in the Greater Toronto Area. You can help.

S'port For Kids Foundation S'port Ball 2000 - REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Company Name _____

Address _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

I would like to buy _____ team table(s) @ \$1500 per table of 10

I would like to buy _____ tickets @ \$150.00

I would like to donate _____ for the Silent Auction

I would like to donate _____ for the Lucky Draw

I cannot attend S'port Ball 2000, but would like to donate \$ _____

Please make the charitable receipt out to:

Name _____ Telephone _____

Company Name _____ Fax _____

Address _____ Postal Code _____

Mail cheque to 175 West Beaver Creek Rd. Unit 6, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4B 3M1

Fax registration to A&L (905) 886-6617

Don't forget to keep up to date with what's happening at A&L by visiting our web site at www.anl.com
