



Headquarters, Division Computers to be Upgraded with Microsoft Office 2000

(Sept. 14) Beginning in October, the MTA will start a six-month project to upgrade some 3,000 computers at Headquarters and in the operating divisions with new Microsoft Office 2000 software.

During the project, Information Technology Systems (ITS) technicians also will add any other upgrade "patches" required to bring each computer up to the latest software versions, says Chief Information Officer Elizabeth Bennett. Agency computers currently use Microsoft Office 95.

"Our goal is to keep the MTA current with the latest Microsoft software," says Bennett. "We haven't had a major upgrade in five years."

More artificial intelligence is built into the Office 2000 software, according to ITS engineers, allowing the program to anticipate what the user wants to do and helping to accomplish it. Menus, for example, highlight a user's frequently used commands. It also provides better control over documents that may go through multiple changes by several employees.

Program more compatible

The upgrade will improve use of the Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint programs. It will allow users to save documents in html computer language, making it easier to place a document on a web site. Office 2000 also will be more compatible with other computer data bases, word processing and spread sheet programs.

Six ITS digital technicians, just over half the technician staff, will be assigned to the Office 2000 upgrade project. The cost of the project is estimated at \$750,000 to \$800,000.

In conjunction with the software upgrade, ITS and HR's Development and Training department will offer training in the Office 2000 program. A training workbook will be available for those who want to become familiar with the program's features.

[Back to MTA Report](#)