

# VIDEO SCRIPT

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**TITLE: GPU - Preparing Today for Y2K**

**PREPARED FOR: GPU, Inc.**

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**DRAFT: 4**

FADE IN:

1 INT. STUDIO-BLACK BACKGROUND

1

We HEAR echoing footsteps over a black background. Our hosts, an energetic woman and man in their early twenties, WALK into the frame. YOLANDA is on the left, KEN is on the right. They stop and face the camera, leaving some space between them. They're ready to start, but they look a bit confused, as if something's not right.

YOLANDA  
(turning to Ken)  
Where's the music?

KEN  
I thought you were in charge of the music?

They both look a bit embarrassed.

YOLANDA  
(to the audience)  
Sorry, we'll be right back.

They walk quickly from the frame.

CUT TO:

2 INT. STUDIO-BLACK BACKGROUND

2

Funky, “hip-hop” MUSIC begins. (The style of music will vary during the show.) The GPU logo flies onto the screen. Below it we see the text, “Preparing Today for Y2K.” The logo and title fly off the screen. Our hosts re-enter. This time they're “in the groove,” and moving to the beat of the music. They address the audience.

YOLANDA  
Hi, I'm Yolanda.

The LETTER “Y” is superimposed over Yolanda's body.

KEN

And I'm Ken.

The LETTER “K” is superimposed over Ken's body.

YOLANDA

We're here to talk to you about Y-

The NUMBER “2” is superimposed over the scene. It DROPS from the top of the screen and lands between Yolanda and Ken. Yolanda and Ken watch it land.

YOLANDA & KEN

Two-

KEN

K.

YOLANDA

And what the GPU Companies are doing to reach all their Year 2000 goals.

CUT TO:

3 ANIMATION - Y2K INTRODUCTION

3

An array of years and images from the 20th century are superimposed against a colorful background. The sequence ends as the year “2000” appears, then transforms into “Y2K.” This remains in the background as Ken enters.

KEN

Okay, I'm sure you all know by now that “Y2K” is just shorthand for “the year two thousand.” And you've probably heard a lot of dire predictions about something that might cause us trouble when we enter the new millennium.

CUT TO:

4 EXT. PANICKED PEOPLE RUNNING THROUGH STREETS - (STOCK)

4

KEN (V.O.)  
(speaking as if he were narrating a movie trailer)  
Yes! Run for your lives! It's horrifying!

The word, “Horrifying” flies onto the screen.

KEN (CONT'D)  
Spinetingling!

The word, “Spinetingling” flies onto the screen.

KEN (CONT'D)  
It's - the Y2K Bug!

The cause of the panic is revealed - a giant insect! The words, “The Y2K Bug!” fly onto the screen.

The movie scene becomes the background. Yolanda enters. She points a remote control at the movie and stops the action.

YOLANDA  
(to the movie still, then to the audience)  
No, no, no. Stop that! Look, you're all smart, and I bet you know when you hear “Y2K Bug” or “Millennium Bug” we're talking about something that could affect computers.

CUT TO:

5 INT. NEWSREEL SHOTS OF EARLY COMPUTERS - (STOCK)

5

KEN (V.O.)

Cool, look at all those blinking lights.

YOLANDA (V.O.)

Yeah, way cool. But what wasn't cool with these early computers was the cost of memory and disc storage. It was really expensive. That meant programmers had to find ways to make their codes compact, so they took up as little memory and storage as possible.

CUT TO:

6 ANIMATION. SIMULATED COMPUTER CODE

6

Yolanda is superimposed over a background of rapidly changing computer codes.

YOLANDA

They looked at the codes they were writing and they said, “Hey, look at this -”

The background scroll stops. Highlighted to the right of Yolanda is a line of code featuring a date: 1-1-1965.

YOLANDA (CONT'D)

“- here, in the date. Let's drop the nineteen!”

We HEAR a pop, and the date becomes 1-1-65.

YOLANDA (CONT'D)

Without the nineteen, programmers saved two digits every time they needed to insert a date. That saved a lot of storage space.

CUT TO:

7 INT. NEWSREEL SHOTS OF COMPUTERS -(STOCK)

7

Ken is superimposed over shots of computer programmers and spinning reels. These shots transition to an operator and a computer screen in a generating plant control room.

KEN

Time went by, lots of codes using only two digit years were written, and life was wonderful. But then, as we got closer to the year 2000, programmers began to realize these codes might cause some problems.

CUT TO:

8 EXT. TIME'S SQUARE. NEW YEAR'S EVE - (STOCK)

8

Ken is superimposed over shots of New Year's in Times Square. He wears a party hat and holds a noise maker. He BLOWS the noisemaker.

KEN

That's because when computer's internal clocks roll over to January 1st, 2000, software logic using two digits for the year will see two zeros.

Text, “00,” is superimposed over the scene.

KEN (CONT'D)

Computer software might interpret these numbers as two thousand -

“00” is replaced by “2000.”

KEN (CONT'D)

-but then again, the software might think it's  
the year -

"2000" is replaced by "1900."

KEN (CONT'D)

- nineteen hundred.

CLOSE ON - KEN

KEN (CONT'D)

Now, you know how confusing it can be when  
you can't remember what day it is? Imagine  
what might happen if computer software isn't  
able to tell what century it is. Could make this  
New Year's really interesting!

Ken blows the party horn toward the audience.

CUT TO:

9 INT. PARTY SCENE. PEOPLE IN FUNNY HATS - (STOCK)

9

Yolanda is superimposed over a New Year's party scene. She is wearing a party hat and holding a noisemaker, the kind that spins and makes a "whizzing" sound.

YOLANDA

Now hang on to your party hats, guys, because  
there's more.

Yolanda spins the noisemaker. As she does, the background scene changes to shot of integrated chips.

YOLANDA (CONT'D)

Y'see, one day somebody figured out how to put computer programs into silicon chips. In other words, programs were embedded in the chips, which is why they're called -

The text, “Embedded Systems” is superimposed on the background.

YOLANDA (CONT'D)

- embedded systems. Unfortunately, that two digit year logic Ken told you about found its way into lots of these embedded systems. And they're found almost everywhere! Take the GPU Companies, for example.

CUT TO:

10 INT. VARIOUS GPU SHOTS

10

We see a fax machine.

YOLANDA (V.O.)

At GPU, embedded systems are found in fax machines -

A telephone.

YOLANDA (CONT'D)

- telephones -

A desktop computer.

YOLANDA (CONT'D)

- PC's -

A security station.

YOLANDA (CONT'D)

And security systems.



An employee uses a computer to schedule an equipment installation.

YOLANDA (CONT'D)

They're in systems GPU uses to schedule  
equipment repairs and installations -

A customer rep calls up information on his/her computer screen while  
speaking with a customer over the phone.

YOLANDA (CONT'D)

And systems GPU customer representatives  
use when they talk to customers.

A turbine in a generating plant.

YOLANDA (CONT'D)

Embedded systems are in generating plants  
that produce electricity -

A substation control panel.

YOLANDA (CONT'D)

In substations that route power to homes and  
businesses -

A row of digital meters.

YOLANDA (CONT'D)

And in meters that track the amount of energy  
customers use and tell GPU how much to bill.

The meter shot freezes. Ken and Yolanda are superimposed over it.

KEN

(to Yolanda)

Wow. Finding and checking all those  
embedded systems must be an awesome job!

YOLANDA

(to Ken)

Well, yeah - duh!

KEN

(a bit embarrassed, not sure of  
what to say - he notices  
Yolanda's party hat)

Nice hat.

CUT TO:

11 Y2K BACKGROUND

11

The Y2K background consists of the GPU logo and the text, “Year 2000” and “Y2K” moving against a colored background.

The text, “So What Has GPU Been Doing?” builds on as Ken speaks.

KEN (V.O.)

So, what have the GPU Companies been  
doing to make sure they're ready for Y2K?

Ken is superimposed over the text.

KEN

We thought you'd never ask!

CUT TO:

12 INT. COMPUTER SCREEN SHOWING EQUIPMENT INVENTORY 12

Ken is superimposed over the inventory database; he slides through the frame from right to left. The word “Inventory,” also moves through the screen.

KEN

First of all, the GPU Companies created an inventory. The inventory is a list of the computers, software and embedded systems that might cause problems in the year 2000.

CUT TO:

13 INT. Y2K PROJECT TEAM LEADERS MEETING 13

Yolanda is superimposed over the meeting; she slides through the frame from left to right. The word “Assess” also moves through the screen.

YOLANDA

Then they assessed, or in other words, reviewed, all the items in the inventory to see which ones were Year 2000 ready and which weren't.

CUT TO:

14 INT. A PROGRAMMER CHANGING A LINE OF CODE

14

Ken is superimposed over the shot; he slides through the frame from right to left. The word “Remediate” also moves through the screen.

KEN

The items that weren't Year 2000 ready were remediated. That's just a fancy way of saying they were fixed. On some systems the old codes were revised. Other items were replaced. And some systems just weren't needed anymore, so they were retired.

CUT TO:

15 EXT. SUBSTATION RELAY TESTING

15

Yolanda is superimposed over a shot of a relay tech working at a substation; she slides through the frame from left to right. The word “Test” also moves through the screen.

YOLANDA

Testing is the next step. GPU employees are setting the internal clocks in their equipment and systems to dates in the year 2000, then seeing if they still work.

CUT TO:

16 EXT. TROPICAL ISLAND BEACH - DAY - (STOCK)

16

Ken is wearing a straw hat and sunglasses. In one hand he holds a glass that sports a pink drink umbrella. He is superimposed over the beach scene.

KEN

Getting ready for Y2K is no walk on the beach. And the GPU Companies aren't doing it on their own. Yep, when it comes to preparing for the new millennium, no business is an island.

YOLANDA (O.S.)

Land ho!

An anchor attached to a chain flies into the shot. Ken drops his glass and catches the anchor.

YOLANDA (CONT'D)

Heave away!

Ken tosses the anchor away, grabs the anchor chain, and pulls it, hand over hand. Yolanda enters. She's wearing a captain's cap. She walks up beside Ken and watches him work.

KEN

First, a lot of the embedded systems GPU has are made and provided by other companies.

A placard suspended from the chain enters the shot. On the placard is the word "Supply."

KEN (CONT'D)

These vendors make up what GPU calls its -

Ken is momentarily at a loss for words. Yolanda points to the word, "Supply." Ken follows her lead.

KEN (CONT'D)

- supply -

Yolanda points to one of the links in the chain.

KEN (CONT'D)

- chain!

YOLANDA

GPU depends on its supply chain for information about whether the services the supply chain provides or the products they sell are ready for the year 2000. GPU also gets advice from its vendors on how to test their products.

She turns to Ken, who has been listening to her.

YOLANDA (CONT'D)

C'mon, put your back into it!

Ken springs back into action and pulls on the chain.

CUT TO:

17 INT. SUBSTATION - CONSULTANTS INSPECT EQUIPMENT

17

Yolanda is superimposed over the shot.

YOLANDA

GPU is also getting help from consultants -

Yolanda gestures toward the consultants.

YOLANDA (CONT'D)

- like these guys. They look at the work GPU is doing -

We see the consultants questioning GPU employees in a conference room.

YOLANDA (CONT'D)

- and ask lots of questions, just to make sure GPU is on the right track. It's kind of like getting somebody to double-check your homework before you hand it in.

CUT TO:

18 Y2K BACKGROUND

18

Ken and Yolanda are superimposed against the background. They are dressed as spies, wearing sunglasses and trench coats.

YOLANDA

(to Ken)

Pssst! Does GPU have the plans?

Ken pulls a large brown envelope from his coat. On the envelope we see the words, “Contingency Plans.”

KEN

You mean, the contingency plans?

YOLANDA

Yes, yes!

KEN

You bet they do!

He addresses the audience.

KEN (CONT'D)

You see, even though the GPU Companies have done everything they think is necessary to prepare for the year 2000, there's still a slim chance that something unexpected might happen.

YOLANDA

(to the audience)

So the people at GPU drew up plans, called contingency plans. These plans tell GPU employees what steps to take so they can quickly take care of problems if they crop up.

KEN

GPU doesn't expect to have to use these plans, of course, but it's nice to have them, just in case.

CUT TO:

19 INT. SPORTS ARENA - BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP (STOCK)

19

Basketball players jockey for position in the final seconds of a game.

KEN (V.O.)

I can't believe we got this far without a sports analogy!

The scoreboard time clock counts down to zero. The crowd stands and celebrates the home team's victory. Ken is superimposed over these shots. He's dressed as a TV sports announcer, wearing a blazer and a tie. He holds a microphone in his hands.

KEN

(to the audience)

There's the buzzer, and just look at that crowd!

Ken looks off screen.

KEN (CONT'D)

Hey Stretch, come on over here!



Yolanda runs into the shot. She’s out of breath, sweating, and wearing a basketball uniform with the GPU logo on her jersey.

KEN (CONT'D)

(to Yolanda)

Stretch, GPU's been playing a great game out there. But what do you think is gonna happen when time runs out on the clock? Will GPU be ready?

YOLANDA

Well Ken, this has been a demanding game, but there's only one acceptable outcome, and that's to win. We've got a great team, with contingency plans on the bench ready to back us up. The GPU Companies are satisfied they can meet all their goals for Year 2000.

KEN

(to the audience)

And there you have it, energy fans! From 1999, this is Ken -

YOLANDA

And Yolanda.

KEN

On behalf of the GPU Companies, wishing you a -

KEN & YOLANDA

- happy millennium!

They wave.

FADE TO:

20 GRAPHIC BACKGROUND AND TEXT

20

A still of the GPU Kids web site home page and the text: “www.gpukids.com.”

YOLANDA (VO)

And guys, while you’re waiting for the year  
2000, why don’t you hang out at the GPU Kid’s  
web site?

KEN (VO)

Just point your browsers toward www dot GPU  
kids dot com and c’mon in. You’ll find out why  
GPU says -

The GPU logo and the text, “Positive Energy Begins With Me!” are superimposed  
over the home page.

YOLANDA & KEN (VO)

Positive energy begins with me!

The music level rises and the music ends.

FADE OUT.

THE END