

2,367,620

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING
PERSON
2,367,620

10 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9)
EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES*

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9
13.8%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON*
CO
IN

Item 1(a). Name of Issuer.

Peritus Software Services, Inc.

Item 1(b). Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Office.

112 Turnpike Road, Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

Item 2(a). Name of Person Filing.

American Financial Group, Inc.
Carl H. Lindner
Carl H. Lindner III
S. Craig Lindner
Keith E. Lindner

Item 2(b). Address of Principal Business Office or, if None, Residence.

One East Fourth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Item 2(c). Citizenship.

Ohio Corporation
United States Citizens

Item 2(d). Title of Class of Securities.

Common Stock, \$.01 par value

Item 2(e). Cusip Number.

714006103

Item 3. This statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b).

Item 4. Ownership.

(a) Amount Beneficially Owned:	2,367,620
(b) Percentage of Class:	13.8%
(c) Number of shares as to which such person has:	
(i) Sole power to vote or direct the vote:	none
(ii) Shared power to vote or direct the vote:	2,367,620
(iii) Sole power to dispose or direct the disposition of:	none
(iv) Shared power to dispose or direct the disposition of:	2,367,620

Item 10. Certification.

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired for the purpose of and do not have the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of such securities and were not acquired in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purpose or effect.

After reasonable inquiry and to the best knowledge and belief of the undersigned, it is hereby certified that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated: February 11, 2000 AMERICAN FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

By: James C. Kennedy
James C. Kennedy, Vice President
Deputy General Counsel and
Secretary

AMERICAN FINANCIAL CORPORATION

By: James C. Kennedy
James C. Kennedy, Vice President
Deputy General Counsel and
Secretary

Carl H. Lindner*
Carl H. Lindner

Carl H. Lindner III*
Carl H. Lindner III

S. Craig Lindner*
S. Craig Lindner

Keith E. Lindner*
Keith E. Lindner

James C. Kennedy

*By James C. Kennedy, Attorney-in-Fact

POWERS OF ATTORNEY

I, Carl H. Lindner, do hereby appoint James C. Kennedy and Karl J. Grafe, or either of them, as my true and lawful attorneys-in-fact to sign on my behalf individually and as Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer of American Financial Group, Inc. or as a director or executive officer of any of its subsidiaries and to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission any schedules or other filings or amendments thereto made by me or on behalf of American Financial Group, Inc. or any of its subsidiaries pursuant to Sections 13(d), 13(f), 13(g), 14(d) or 16(a) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand at Cincinnati, Ohio as of the 5th day of November, 1997.

/s/ Carl H. Lindner
Carl H. Lindner

I, Carl H. Lindner III, do hereby appoint James C. Kennedy and Karl J. Grafe, or either of them, as my true and lawful attorneys-in-fact to sign on my behalf individually and as Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer of American Financial Group, Inc. or as a director or executive officer of any of its subsidiaries and to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission any schedules or other filings or amendments thereto made by me or on behalf of American Financial Group, Inc. or any of its subsidiaries pursuant to Sections 13(d), 13(f), 13(g), 14(d) or 16(a) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand at Cincinnati, Ohio as of the 5th day of November, 1997.

/s/ Carl H. Lindner III
Carl H. Lindner III

I, S. Craig Lindner, do hereby appoint James C. Kennedy and Karl J. Grafe, or either of them, as my true and lawful attorneys-in-fact to sign on my behalf individually and as Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer of American Financial Group, Inc. or as a director or executive officer of any of its subsidiaries and to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission any schedules or other filings or amendments thereto made by me or on behalf of American Financial Group, Inc. or any of its subsidiaries pursuant to Sections 13(d), 13(f), 13(g), 14(d) or 16(a) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand at Cincinnati, Ohio as of the 5th day of November, 1997.

/s/ S. Craig Lindner
S. Craig Lindner

I, Keith E. Lindner, do hereby appoint James C. Kennedy and Karl J. Grafe, or either of them, as my true and lawful attorneys-in-fact to sign on my behalf individually and as Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer of American Financial Group, Inc. or as a director or executive officer of any of its subsidiaries and to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission any schedules or other filings or amendments thereto made by me or on behalf of American Financial Group, Inc. or any of its subsidiaries pursuant to Sections 13(d), 13(f), 13(g), 14(d) or 16(a) of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand at Cincinnati, Ohio as of the 5th day of November, 1997.

/s/ Keith E. Lindner
Keith E. Lindner