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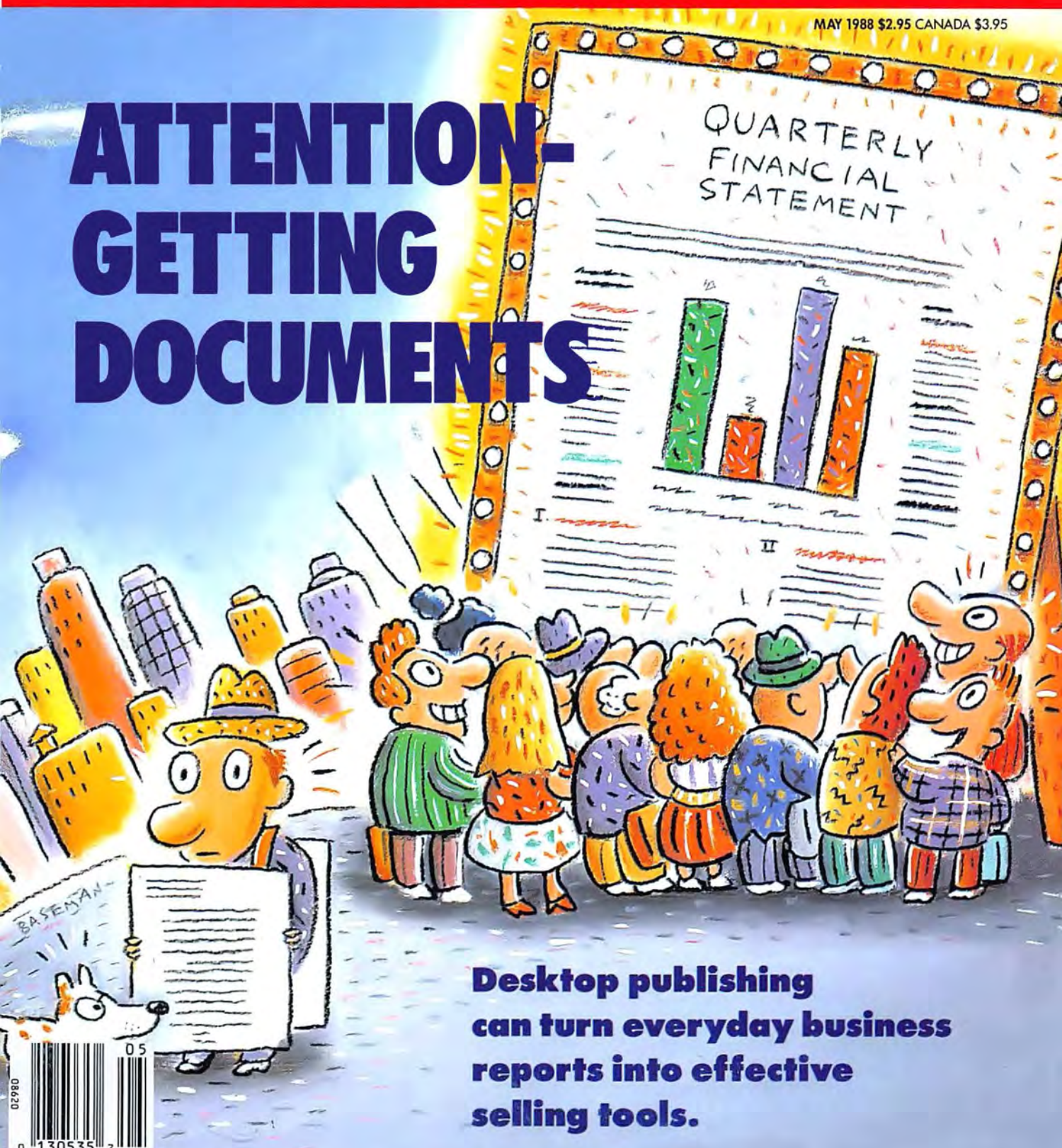

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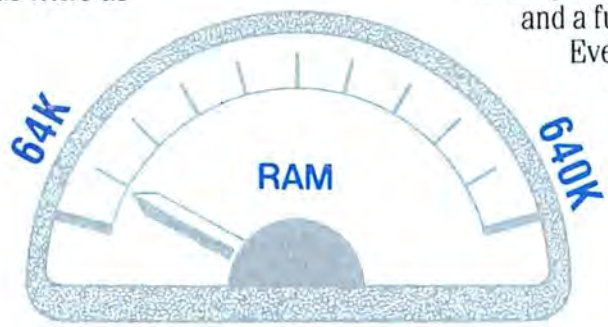

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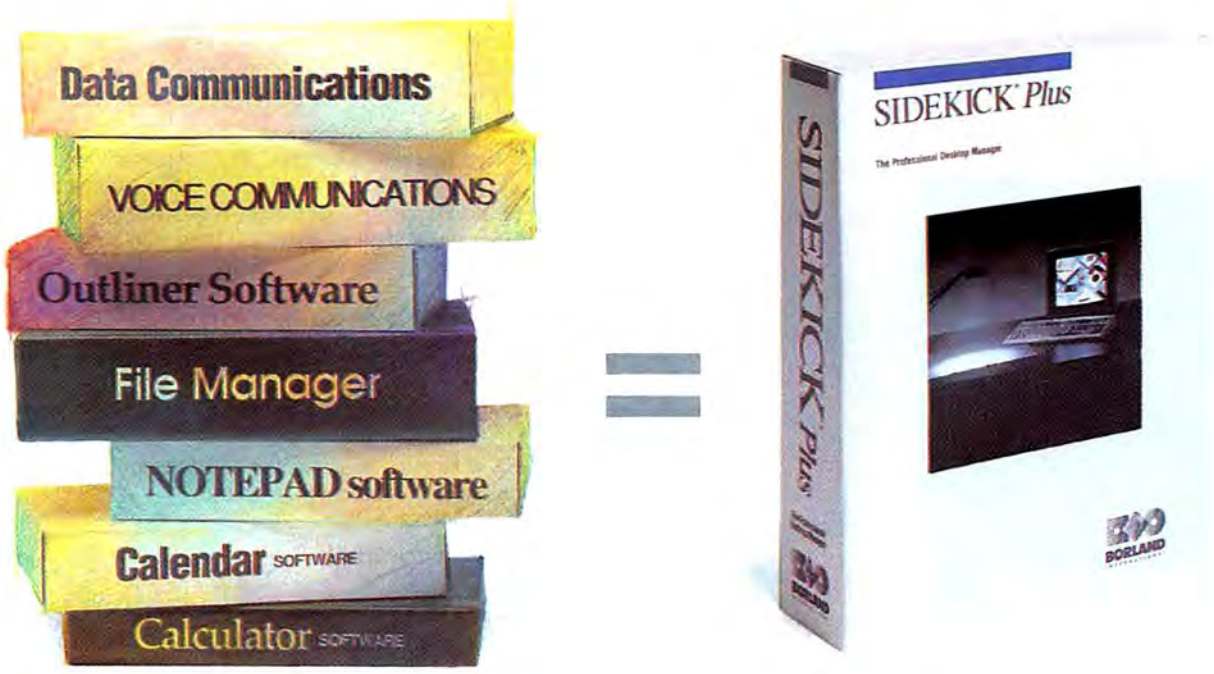

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Circle 87 on reader service card

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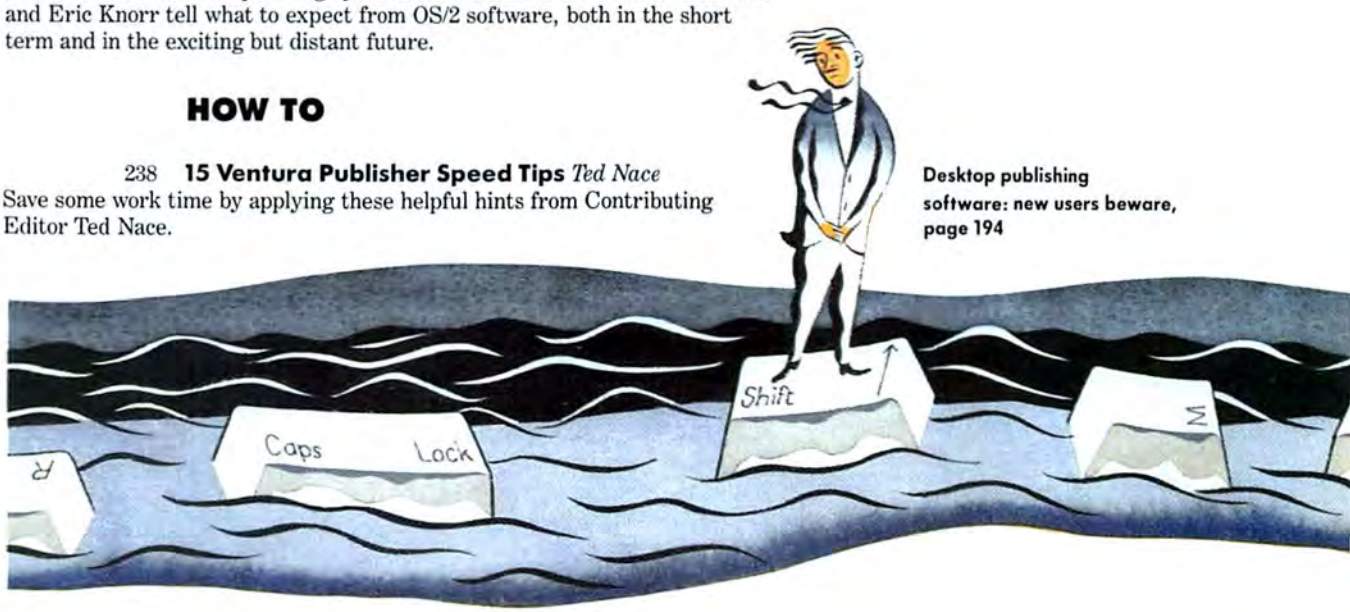

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Cover illustration by Gary Baseman

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*Software Digest Ratings Report, March 1986, July 1987.

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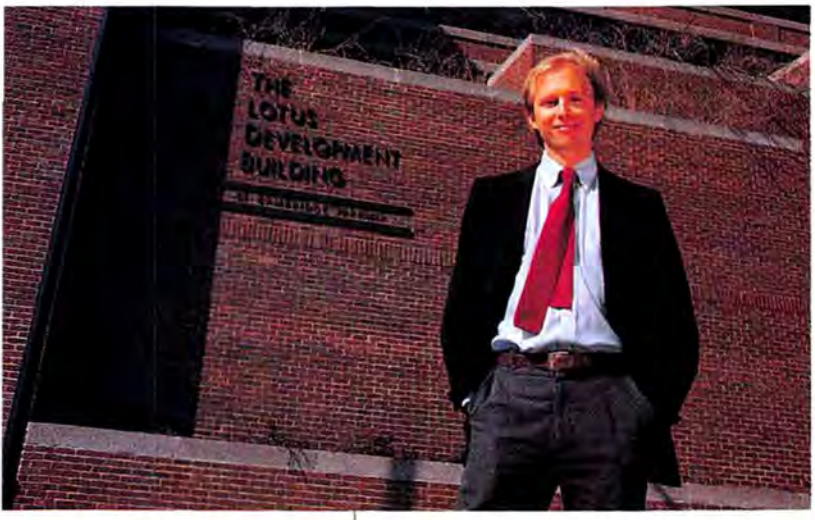
Coming Attractions



MALCOLM HARVEY

Eric Bender, East Coast editor

There's a new section in *PC World*, and you'll find it right between *Product Outlook* and the beginning of our full-scale reviews. That placement is no accident. Our two-page *Previews* are intended to give you essential information about important new products as soon as they're released—and before our formal review is completed. Each *Preview* will give you a hands-on description, with the spotlight on features. Evaluations? Performance tests? You'll still find those only where they belong, in our full-fledged reviews.

Our first *Preview*, "1-2-3 Enters the Third Dimension," was written by Eric Bender, whose responsibilities also include editing *Industry Outlook*. It wasn't hard to get a photo of Bender in front of Lotus Development Corporation's headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In good weather he just walks over from his office. The Boston-based editor has covered the Lotus beat since *1-2-3* release 1 debuted five years ago—for the past two years as East Coast editor of *PC World*. We asked Bender to tell us what to expect in a *Preview*.

"A *Preview*," he explains, "is a short look at an upcoming product of unusual interest. It is *not* a review. We'll examine prerelease and beta versions, bugs and all, which are usually a little different from what you'll be able to buy. We can touch it, poke it, and try it out—and when we're done, tell you how it looks and feels."

1-2-3 release 3 promises to be the largest single upgrade in PC history. According to Bender, Lotus has beefed up the graphics, data base, and worksheet consolidation features of *1-2-3* and made the program easier to use. Should the 3½ million registered users of *1-2-3* take the upgrade path? We'll give you all the answers you need—*after* we've given release 3 an exhaustive evaluation.

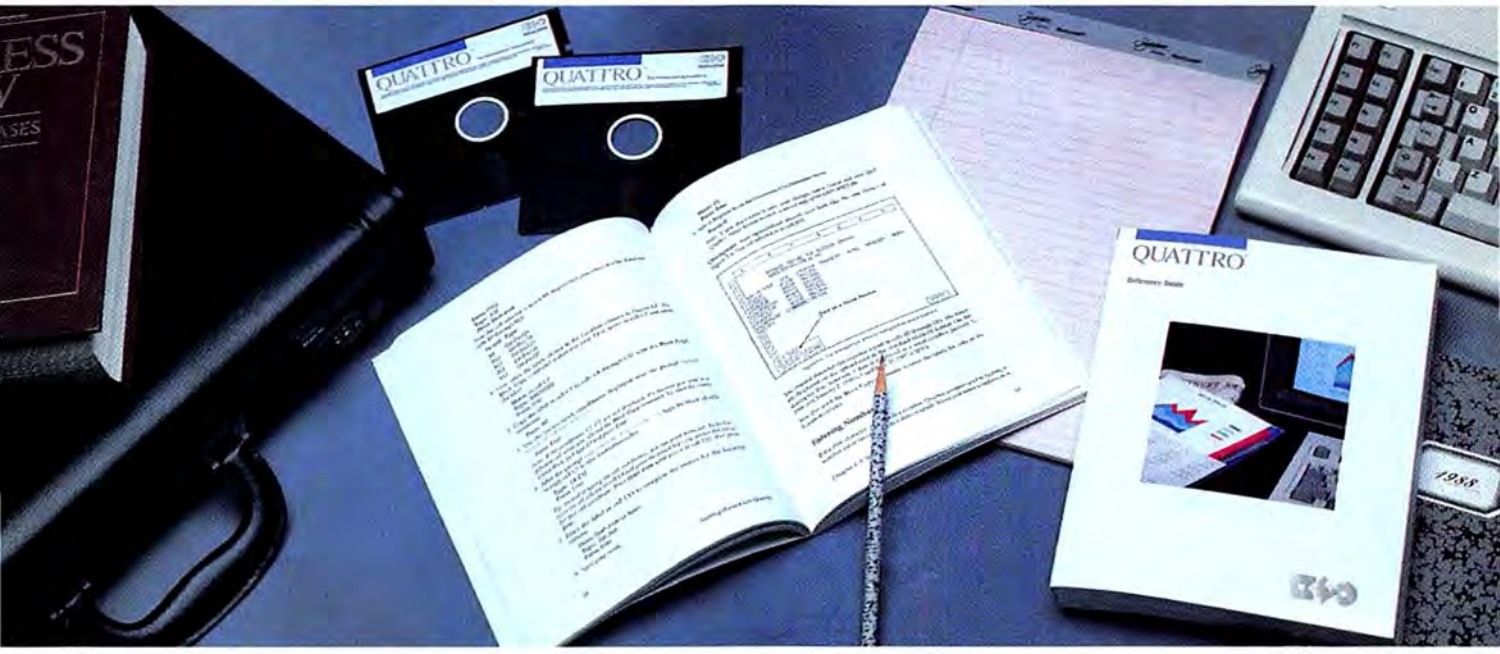
Also in this issue, we tell you what you can *really* expect from OS/2. Ralph Blodgett ("WordPerfect Desktop Publisher") previews version 5.0 of the world's most popular word processing program. Daniel Miles Kehoe ("PostScript Printers' Progress") evaluates five printers designed to bring the benefits of Adobe's page-description language to the MS-DOS world. Need to bring graphics images into your documents? Richard Jantz ("Imaging Becomes Electric") explores five desktop scanners that make it possible. Marina Hirsch ("Is Desktop Publishing Worth the Effort?") went looking for DTP success stories—and came back with some notable ones. We've got 15 tips for supercharging your *Ventura Publisher* sessions, and we've rounded up more than 50 tools to help you make better-looking pages. And of course, you'll find more exclusive test reports from National Software Testing Laboratories. ●

Ed Bott

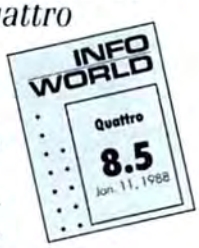
Ed Bott
Managing Editor

"Those who are considering purchasing 1-2-3 will be better off with Quattro"

—John Walkenbach, InfoWorld



Here's what InfoWorld had to say about Quattro



"There are some clear advantages in choosing Quattro over the 1-2-3 of today: easier installation, no copy protection, improved speed, much better macros, excellent graphics, a customizable command interface, and direct compatibility with industry standard file formats. If cost is a factor, you can get five copies of Quattro for the same money that would buy two 1-2-3 packages."

Quattro includes SQZ!™ Plus data compression

A special implementation of SQZ! Plus, the spreadsheet file compression utility, is built into Quattro and comes to you absolutely free. SQZ! Plus for Quattro automatically compacts and expands Quattro spreadsheets by up to 95% during file saving and retrieving.

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"Perhaps Quattro's main advantage over most other spreadsheets is its minimal recalculation capability. When you make a change in your spreadsheet, only affected cells are recalculated, greatly speeding things up in most cases."

"Other Quattro features that improve upon the 1-2-3 standard include auto-record macros, vastly superior graphics, and easy installation."

Performance: Markedly superior to 1-2-3

"Our benchmark tests show Quattro markedly superior to 1-2-3 in file saves and retrieves."

"Quattro's graphics are a sight to behold."

"Quattro makes working with macros practically painless. If you're into complex 1-2-3 macros, the debugging feature alone is good reason to make the switch to Quattro."

"No one can argue that Quattro is anything less than an excellent spreadsheet value."

Excerpts from John Walkenbach's review of Quattro™ in InfoWorld, January 11, 1988.

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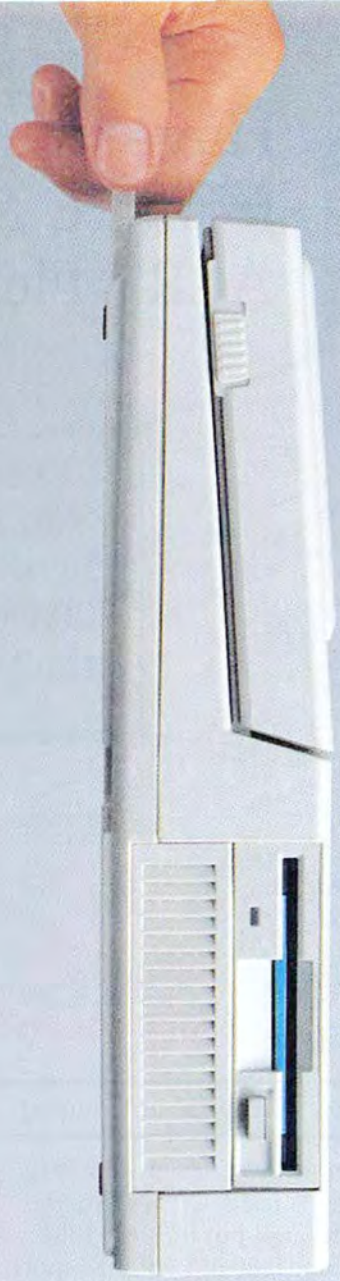

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Before they all get carried away.

In Touch with Tomorrow

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Have you read the latest from PC Magazine about ALR's FlexCache 386?

PC MAGAZINE FACT FILE

ALR FlexCache 20386
Advanced Logic Research Inc.
10 Chrysler
Irvine, CA 92718
(714) 581-6770
List Price: $7,495
In Short: Even Compaq's Deskpro 386/20 eats the dust made by the ALR FlexCache 20386 as it screams down the DOS highway at 20 MHz embedded in a 32K static-RAM cache, 2MB of zero-wait-state memory, and a 150MB ESDI-controlled high-performance disk.

CIRCLE 449 ON READER SERVICE CARD

"Even Compaq's DeskPro 386/20 eats the dust made by the ALR FlexCache 20386 as it screams down the DOS highway..."
PC Magazine, March 15, 1988

Compatible
Novell, DOS 3.X,
SCO Xenix 386, OS/2
Software

A Philosopy of Value

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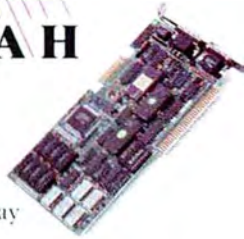

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Tandy Turns DeskMate Into Operating Environment

Opens Up Graphic User Interface to Developers

Tandy Corporation has announced that it will open up the interface of its *DeskMate* desktop all-in-one utility package to other software publishers for use as a low-end operating environment. The product, which has been shipping since 1984 and has an installed base of more than 1 million, was converted to offer a graphic user interface last summer when a network version was introduced. Software publishers who opt for the pulldown menus and pop-up dialog boxes of the new *DeskMate*'s graphic user interface are virtually guaranteed a target market of approximately 500,000 PC users. That's how many copies of *Personal DeskMate 2* and the network-oriented *Professional DeskMate* Tandy plans to ship free with various computer models in 1988. Tandy will also sell both versions through its 7000 Radio Shack stores and franchised dealers. Ed Juge, Tandy's director of market planning, speculates that as many as 1 million copies could ship next year. While *DeskMate* does not support multitasking, it is possible to transfer data from one application to another using its clipboard. Unlike *Microsoft Windows* and other more ambitious environments, *DeskMate* can run comfortably on floppy-based 8088 or 8086 computers with only a 100K overhead, Tandy says. Among early backers is Symantec, which will redesign its *Q&A* file manager for this environment.

Tandy Ponders a PS/2 Clone

Could Be the First Micro Channel Compatible

Tandy Corporation will be the first to ship a computer compatible with IBM's Micro Channel–equipped PS/2s, according to press reports. Expected to ship this summer, the product may provide the first test of IBM's willingness to let another vendor duplicate the functionality of its patented Micro Channel Architecture. A key issue is whether Tandy's cross-licensing agreements with IBM will protect a functionally equivalent but independently developed PS/2 design. Tandy's Juge won't reveal the specifics of those agreements but says that "the legal issue is a nonissue for us." He admits that his company is "looking at" MCA designs and will release one "when and if our customer base demands it." An IBM spokesperson, who points out that as much as 80 percent of PS/2 technology is proprietary, would not comment on the cross-licenses with Tandy. He added that IBM has "cross-licenses with many companies in the industry," which means that Tandy may not be the only company with this opportunity.

SideKick Plus Debuts With Promotions

Current Customers Will Get Cash Rebates

Borland International has announced several promotions to get its new expanded-memory version of *SideKick* off to a fast start. Current registered users of the landmark desktop accessory package who purchase the $199.95 *SideKick Plus* before May 31 will receive a $35 rebate if they send proof of purchase and the package coupon to Borland by July 31. Nonregistered users who can prove by the serial number or other means that they own a copy of *SideKick* can get a rebate of $25. In addition, Intel Personal Computer Enhancement Operation will send a free copy of *SideKick Plus* to buyers of its AboveBoard expanded memory board through August 31. *SideKick Plus* is designed to keep its much-enhanced set of desktop utilities in expanded memory (or extended memory on a 386 system), with only its 70K program kernel in conventional memory. Those who lack such memory or want to run *SideKick Plus* on a laptop can configure "satisfactory" versions of the program to run in as little as 128K, maintains Borland president Philippe Kahn. But the full complement of *SideKick* utilities requires 384K of memory (see "Borland Ships SideKick Plus," *Top of the News, PCW,* February 1988). Borland anticipates that up to 100,000 of the current 1 million or so *SideKick* users will take advantage of its *SideKick Plus* rebate promotion. Borland will continue to market the original *SideKick* at $84.95.

CD ROM Industry Develops Slowly

Plenty of Hardware Still Waiting for Software

As the infant CD ROM industry tries to ignite smoldering sales, vendors are firming up design standards and unveiling plenty of hardware, but only a smattering of nonspecialized software is emerging. The two most significant horizontal software packages announced at Microsoft's annual CD ROM conference in March came from the sponsor itself—a $149 *Small Business Consultant* data base of government publications on how to start and run a small business, and a $125 *Stat Pack* compilation of official U.S. government facts and figures on business-related topics. Software developers were encouraged by the entry of Apple Computer's long-awaited CD ROM platform, although its $1200 price tag was disappointing. Also, CD ROM text and graphics file format standards are all but settled, and General Electric has improved its Digital Video Interactive (DVI) system, which adds 72 minutes of video and sound to the standard CD ROM's text and graphics. GE is delivering prototype application development systems for DVI, which was endorsed by Lotus, Intel, and Microsoft. On the distribution front, Egghead Software and Tandy Corporation announced plans to sell CD ROM players and software. Tandy won't stock CD ROM hardware but will offer a $995 Hitachi drive through its Express Order system. Analysts anticipate a slow year for CD ROM sales, with an explosion next year on the way to a $2.25 billion industry by 1991.

Lotus Writing Notes for Itself

Software Designed to Enhance Work-Group Productivity

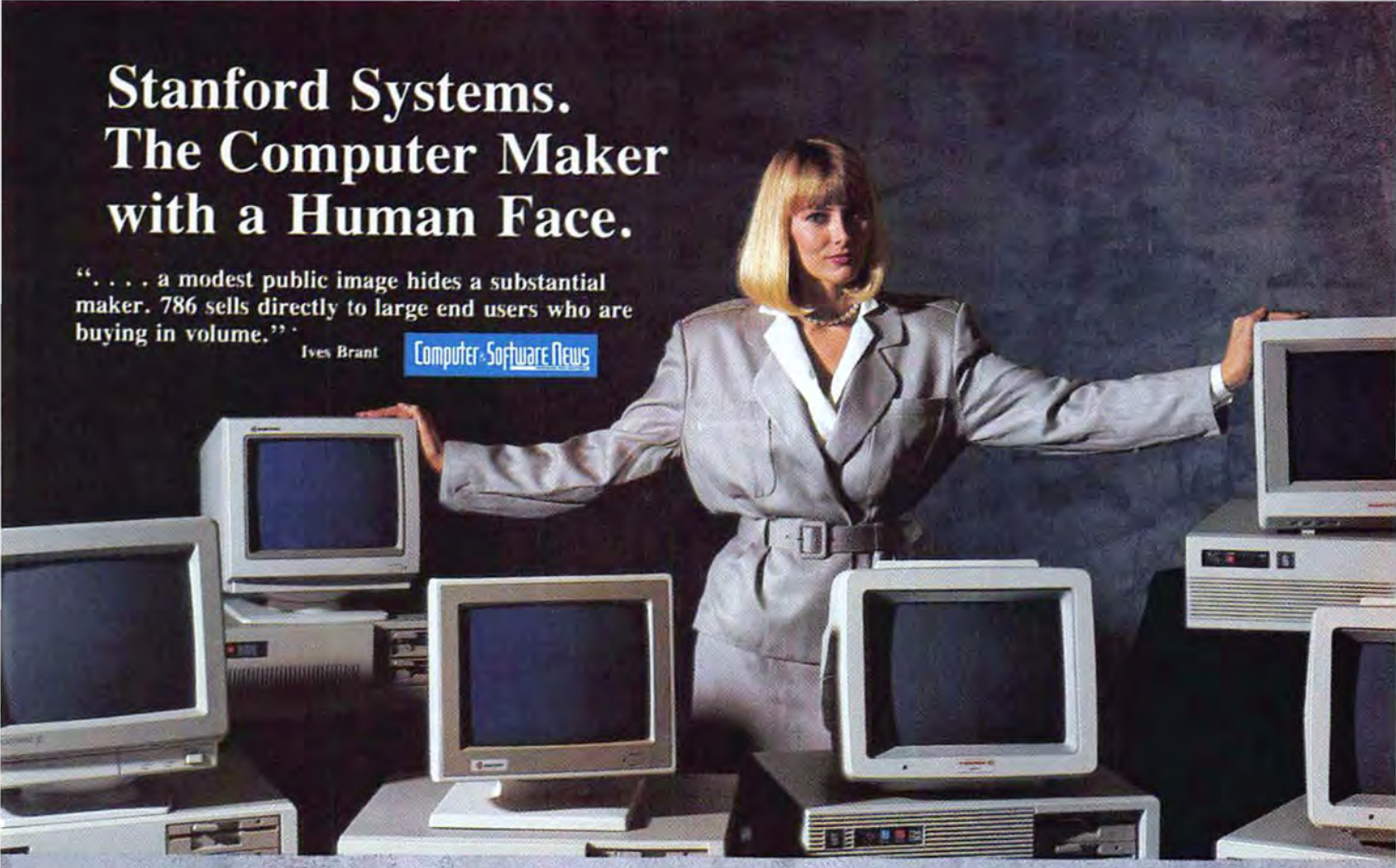
Lotus is preparing a group productivity tool code-named *Notes* that lets co-workers share documents and graphics across local area and wide area networks. *Notes* is intended as a vehicle to enable a wide range of knowledge workers to share their ideas and comments on projects. The package acts as a cooperative document-editing tool that records all input. Several large companies and about 200 Lotus employees have put *Notes* to a variety of uses, including tracking the product's own development. The software gathers and archives input from multiple departments, pulling together material for large-scale brainstorming. Action items are suggested and then tested against the reactions of corporate reviewers. Project members don't have to meet as often when they can interact this way, Lotus says. Other beta uses include the maintenance of many different market research reports in a single data base and the tracking of hundreds of Lotus business opportunities. In this last job, "a whole layer of intermediaries, information filterers, and routers disappears from the process, and the decision makers are connected more directly and actively to key pieces of information," claims Lotus chairman Jim Manzi. Requiring OS/2's Presentation Manager, *Notes* won't ship this year.

Xerox and Cricket Launch Graphics Products

Bringing Mac Market Leaders to PCs

Xerox Corporation, which has prospered in the desktop publishing market with exclusive marketing rights to *Ventura Publisher*, has inked a similar deal for the DOS and OS/2 versions of best-selling graphics packages from Macintosh developer Cricket Software. Xerox releases of *Presents*, *Draw*, and *Graph*, due before midyear, will be counterparts to Cricket's Macintosh programs of the same names and run under the OS/2 Presentation Manager or under *Microsoft Windows* in DOS-based systems. *Presents* can create, manage, and manipulate computer-generated desktop presentations for output to screen, 35mm slides, or overhead transparencies. It includes a text generator for word slides and accepts graph files from *1-2-3*. *Draw* and *Graph*, which have been Mac market best-sellers for more than a year, can work with *Presents* or as stand-alone products, and can enhance documents created with *Ventura Publisher*. The new Xerox versions are among a number of applications that support compatible files across the DOS, OS/2, and Macintosh environments. Even though the Xerox products run under *Windows*, they also can exchange files with the *GEM*-based *Ventura Publisher*. Pricing and delivery have not been announced. Market researcher Desktop Presentations predicts that sales of presentation graphics products will grow 24 percent a year.

Stanford Systems. The Computer Maker with a Human Face.



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Stanford 386–18

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Same configuration as in system 386–20 except: intel true 32 bit 80386-16 CPU • Plus basic system features.

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Stanford 286–16

8/12 MHz 16 MHz Throughput

Intel 80286–12 cpu, 8/12 MHz software (keyboard) switchable clock • Award BIOS, Norton SI (Ver 3.0): 15.8 • DRAM can be expanded to 1 MB on M/B • Selectable between 0 wait state or one wait state • 8 expansion slots (5–16 bits, 3–8 bits) • Socket for 80287 math co-processor • Plus basic system features.

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*System price does not include memory (DRAMS).

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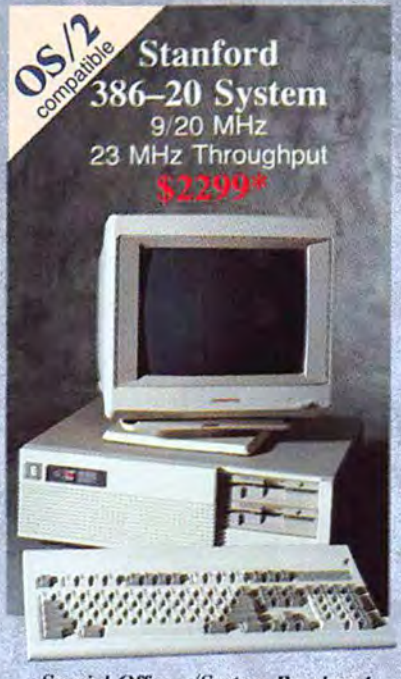

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Windows-Based Personal Information Manager Debuts

Polaris Takes On Heavy Hitters

The personal information manager market, which didn't exist before the COMDEX/Fall announcement of Lotus's *Agenda*, is about to get yet another player. Polaris Software, a small company based in Escondido, California, will challenge *Agenda*, Symantec's *Grandview*, and a growing list of other packages with *PackRat*, a *Windows*-based application designed to exchange data with Microsoft's *Excel*. Whereas *Agenda* employs free-form categories and *Grandview* is built around an outliner, *PackRat* uses a list-making metaphor. The package features a host of facilities that make extensive use of the mouse for data linking, searching, and expansion to higher levels of detail. These include a phone book with an auto-dialer, a log of phone calls, an expense log, an appointment calendar or agenda, a to-do list, index cards for notes or graphics, a facility with which to assign keywords to files, and a global list facility that aids searches across the other facilities and the creation of non-relational links between list items. *PackRat*, which will ship with a run-time version of *Windows 2.0* in May for under $400, runs with a 70K memory kernel and another 100K resident on disk. Started as an information management company in 1985, Polaris has achieved most of its success in the quiet but lucrative business of creating print drivers, downloadable fonts, and various utilities for Hewlett-Packard's popular LaserJet family.

PictureWare Ships PS/2 Image Data Base

PS/2s Reduce User Costs

IBM's PS/2 has reduced the hardware requirements for creating and using picture data bases, broadening the market potential for that product category, claims the publisher of one such program. In May, Philadelphia-based PictureWare will release a new version of *PicturePower* that leverages the PS/2's analog monitor and the greater color capabilities of the VGA graphics standard for more lifelike images. *PicturePower 1.7* supports 256 colors at 320 by 200 resolution—color being more important than high resolution in the representation of photographic images. Formerly, producing such images required a $1300 to $2000 image capture/display board and analog monitor, in addition to a video camera; now, PS/2-equipped users need this full configuration only when actually capturing images. Most picture data base users with PS/2s can rely on the system's analog monitor and get by with a less expensive display board, reducing overall hardware costs. Additionally, PictureWare will bundle in a $750 PS/2-compatible image display board free with its $945 software through July. *PicturePower* accepts *dBASE III Plus* files.

Corvus Turns Around

Pioneer Rebounds With Products and Profits

Micro industry pioneer Corvus Systems, having traveled a rocky road in the past few years, is back on track, claims new president Lew Lipton. He offers as evidence two consecutive profitable quarters and some innovative but inexpensive network products. During the six months ended November 30, Corvus logged a profit of 11 cents a share on revenues of $15.8 million, compared to a 17 cent loss per share on $22.4 million during the same period a year before. Lipton came to Corvus last June and immediately downsized both the company and its product line. He laid off almost 50 of the company's 200 employees and cut its business to network sales only. Corvus, tightly focused once more on LAN business, recently began shipping a new version of its PC Network Operating System (PC/NOS), a DOS LAN with no file server requirement—any user on the system can access the files and peripherals of any other node. First introduced in March 1987, PC/NOS now supports LIM 4.0 expanded memory and at $695, is licensed for 64 nodes. Corvus, boasting 350,000 installed nodes, also renamed its original 1-Mbps twisted pair network as Omninet/1, slashed the adapter's price to $149, and introduced a 4-Mbps version, Omninet/4, with $349 adapters. Both version work under PC/NOS or Novell's *Netware*. Complete 4-node kits are available. Lipton predicts a profitable year with sales of about $30 million.

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Want more information? Give us a call at 800-445-TOPS (from outside the U.S. and Canada, call 415-769-8700). Or write to us at TOPS, 950 Marina Village Parkway, Alameda, California 94501.

After that, it gets easier.

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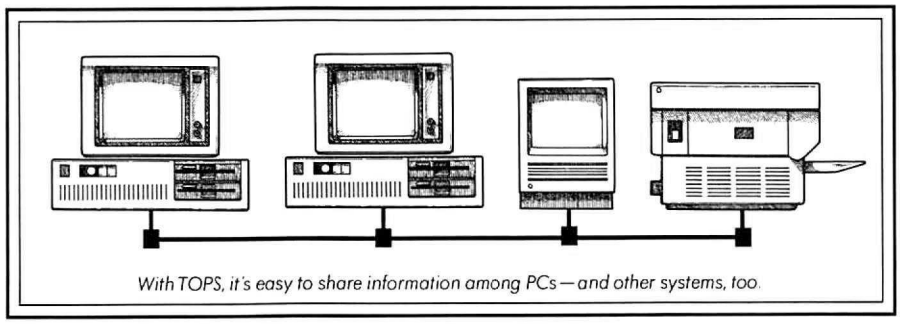


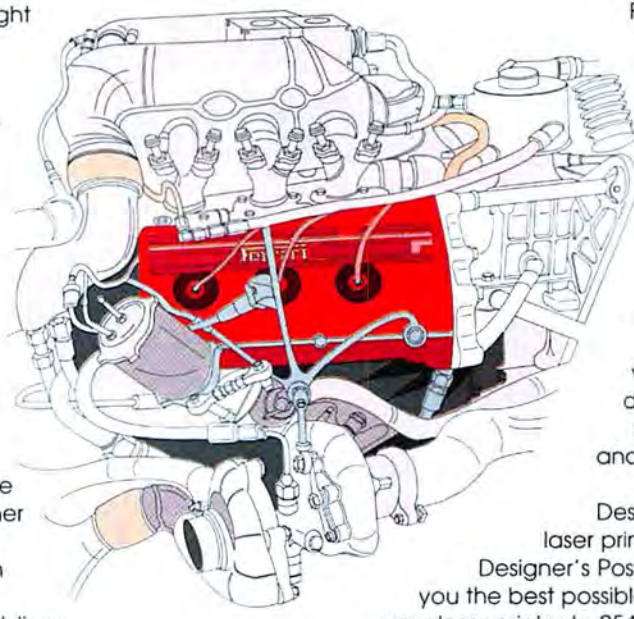
With TOPS, it's easy to share information among PCs—and other systems, too.

Circle 32 on reader service card

Advancing the State of Art

Introducing Micrografx Designer
High-Performance Design, Illustration, and Drafting

From the company that brought the IBM PC its first drawing system comes the most advanced drawing system *ever*. It combines all the features of a CAD system for an engineer with a complete set of artistic tools for a graphic artist. Its name won't surprise you. Its power will blow your doors off. We call it Micrografx Designer.



With Designer, you can load a scanned image you have sketched. Then trace over the bitmap to create a resolution-independent image which you can stretch, color, and enhance with far more detail. But Designer doesn't stop there. It includes unmatched drawing tools, such as spline and parabolic curves, freehand drawing, lines and polylines, arcs, and ellipses.

Designer allows you to edit polygons and curves, fill irregularly shaped objects, and rotate text and graphics to one-tenth of a degree. Designer's variable zoom, fully associative dimensioning, 64 layers, 5 line styles, and 15 arrow and end styles provide unlimited control over your drawings.

Designer provides extensive text handling capabilities such as merging text files from popular word processing programs and supporting graphic and bitmapped fonts. You can edit text and even stretch and rotate it. And Designer supports all Windows-compatible fonts and downloadable fonts.

For engineers, Designer includes a symbol library management system for assigning part numbers, annotating drawing files with descriptive names, and generating parts lists. It also comes with Windows CONVERT, for transferring files to AutoCAD and back.

For graphic artists, Designer includes tools for mixing millions of colors (RGB, CYM, or HLS), viewing and layout aids, a large drawing area (160" x 160"), compatibility with Aldus PageMaker, and thousands of ClipArt images.

Designer supports the most popular laser printers, plotters, and color printers. Designer's PostScript compatibility guarantees you the best possible quality output from 300 DPI on your laser printer to 2540 DPI on an Allied Linotronic 300 phototypesetter.

In addition, Designer is compatible with Micrografx Windows GRAPH, Windows DRAW, and In•a•Vision, plus Microsoft Excel and Windows Write. And Designer's interface is based on Windows 2.0, matching the user interface of IBM's Presentation Manager for OS/2.

For additional information, call your local Micrografx Authorized Dealer or call toll-free **1-800-272-DRAW** (in Texas, 214-234-1769), or write to Micrografx, Inc., 1820 North Greenville Ave., Richardson, Texas 75081.

Step up to Micrografx Designer and advance the state of *your* art.

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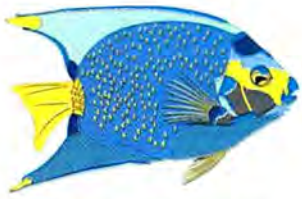

Trace a scanned sketch or photograph.

Reshape complex curves and parabolas.

All illustrations were created with Micrografx Designer.

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Ear to the Ground

New look, new feel, new editorial, and new energy.

We've been listening to you. So that you'll continue to listen to us.

David Bunnell

You've probably noticed by now that *PC World* has a very different look and feel than it used to. Last month we changed our typography, introduced a new logo, and transformed our design to make *PC World* much more readable and accessible.

Why? We wanted to update the look of the magazine to match the changes we have made to its editorial content. And we wanted to visually convey the new energy we're feeling about personal computing.

How did we settle on this new format? We conducted extensive interviews with our readers and organized marketing focus groups composed of readers of other personal computer publications.

Some of you might ask why we would tamper with a good thing.

There are two reasons. One is that in the magazine world, redesigns are a necessary part of the business. Most major magazines undergo a face-lift every few years in order to change their focus or attract new readers.

The second reason is our desire to maintain *PC World*'s position as an ally of users and a leader in the changing world of personal computing. The PC marketplace of the future will be a complex one, not at all like the primitive chaos into which *PC World* was launched over five years ago.

PC World has changed dramatically because the technology has changed dramatically, and so have you—our readers. You've become much more technically savvy. Our research tells us that many of you now manage and influence work groups using computers. Many of you are heads of MIS departments in large corporations. A significant number of you work in, and even run, small and medium-size businesses. Our readers include numerous presidents, CEOs, and entrepreneurs. You rely on us to help you implement personal computers in your work to enhance your business. Obviously, your computing needs have become more extensive and demanding than they were when desktops were ruled by 8088 machines with 256K of memory, two floppy disk drives, and a letter quality printer.

We felt it was incumbent upon us not only to upgrade our own technology at *PC World* but also to keep pace with the changing editorial needs of our readers. We're firmly committed to positioning our magazine as an innovator and industry watcher.

(continues)

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Circle 197 on reader service card

That's why we added the independent and highly regarded National Software Testing Laboratories to our editorial team last year. As a result, we now oversee more lab testing of products than any other publication in microcomputing today.

In addition, the PC market has grown tremendously and become increasingly segmented, with more products for more platforms than ever.

So it's not surprising that our readers have developed a voracious appetite for new-product information and comparative, real-life evaluations. In the past year we have more than doubled the number of products reviewed in each issue. These are highlighted in *The Software Shelf*, *The Hardware Shelf*, and a fuller "Review" section.

Another important part of the new *PC World* is *Industry Outlook*. Our readers want to know what's going on in the microcomputer industry, especially in business developments and strategic alliances that affect them. If you know how Microsoft's OS/2 LAN Manager competes with IBM's Extended Edition, you can better plan the way you'll work, train others, and buy products.

We also know that you're looking for opinion and analysis from PC veterans. That's why in the last year, we've added columns by PC industry guru Stewart Alsop; Will Zachmann, the controversial International Data Corporation analyst; and Robert Carr, the technology expert who created *Framework II*.

(continues)

For one initial investment, the Magnavox Multimode works with all these initials:

The Magnavox Multimode is the display that is compatible with virtually every computer from PC to PS/2® – even the new MAC-II. That's because it can automatically adjust to any graphics adapter format from CGA to VGA. But there's more to the Magnavox Multimode than just compatibility. It produces an incredibly sharp high-contrast image in a rainbow of colors. And it even accepts an audio input from your PC or modem.

The Multimode computer display. Another graphic example of Magnavox technology.

CGA, EGA, PGA, MAC-II,* ATT,® MCGA, VGA, ETC.

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"...the speed, print quality, and other thoughtful features of the ALPS P2000...make this wide-carriage 9-pin matrix printer my favorite new printer of the year."

—*PC Magazine*

"The ALPS ALQ300 and P2400C are both rugged wide-carriage dot matrix printers with excellent letter quality type..."

—*PC Magazine*

"ALPS America keeps on coming back with more attention-getting dot matrix printers."

—*PC Magazine*

"To distinguish letter-quality from daisywheel output requires a magnifying glass."

—*PC Week*

It takes some awfully good PC printers to generate reviews like this.

But if you're not easily swayed by public opinion, consider this:

Since our first printers were introduced in the U.S. in late 1985, ALPS America has become one of the fastest growing printer companies in the nation.

Which should come as no surprise. After all, ALPS printers give you more for your money. Like speeds up to 400 cps. Seven-color printing. Snap-in/out, inter-

TERS EVEN BEST INK.

"...so quiet that we doubt even a library would need the 'quiet' mode."

—InfoWorld

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—InfoWorld

"In almost every phase of construction, ALPS seems to have relied on sturdier materials than it might have had to—something which is a definite advantage for the user."

—PC Products

"...a real workhorse printer that prints faster than others in its price range and is loaded with features..."

—PC Products

changeable 18- and 24-pin print heads. An array of paper feed methods. And full compatibility with most all the leading PCs and software.

But as good as the ALPS look on paper, they look even better in person.

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Or settle for printers of a lesser type.

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IT'S TIME YOU SAW THE ALPS.

Circle 2 on reader service card

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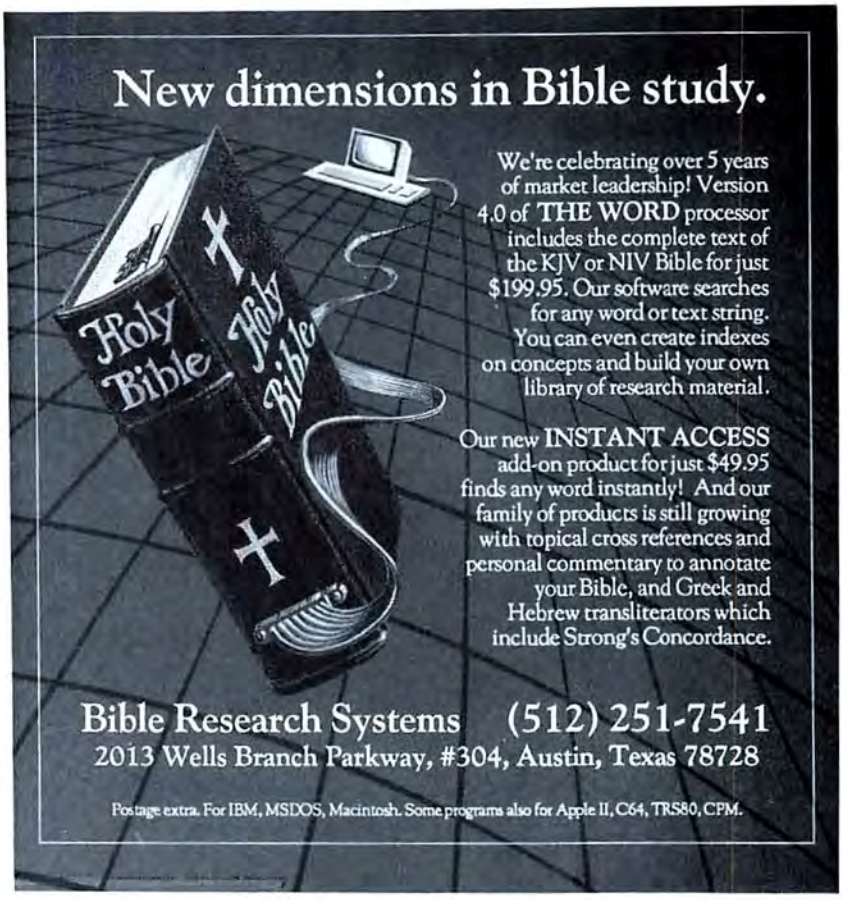

Circle 20 on reader service card

Circle 122 on reader service card

Clearly, you want us to be opinionated, take stands, and set high, real-world standards for a variety of products. And you want to know exactly how those products may fall short of those standards; if a product's a dog, you want to know about it. We've beefed up our executive summaries, adding report cards to every one of our reviews. You can be sure our writers and reviewers will tell you which way the wind is blowing, and what the changes portend for you.

Another improved *PC World* feature that I find very exciting is our hard-hitting *Consumer Watch* department, which acts as your advocate. If you write to us about problems you're having with hardware or software, a hard-to-find item, or an unfulfilled mail order, we'll get on the case until the problem is resolved. *Consumer Watch* provides information on topics like advertiser obligations, what a good service contract offers, and what warranties really mean.

We're doing all this for one simple reason: We want to be known as the personal computer magazine that always goes to bat for you.

Along with our expanded product reviews, industry news, and opinion pieces, we will still run how-to articles, tips, and popular features like *Help Screen* and *Star-Dot-Star*. Those sections have a high percentage of loyal readers, who frequently clip and file material for themselves and their work groups.

(continues)

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With advanced power and five times more speed, LANLink 5X™ has emerged.

Coming from award-winning, state-of-the-art technology, the new LANLink 5X™ boldly stands up to the challenge posed by costly, hardware-dependent networks.

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Get Network Guts Without Network Boards. LANLink 5X™ is immediately available and comes with a money-back guarantee. Its price of $595 includes a server and a satellite module plus the network operating system.

Call The Software Link TODAY for complete details on the fastest software-driven network that's ever been available.

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By William J. Spink

For years now you've been hearing about the wonderful things personal computers will do for The Executive of the 80's—at least in theory.

But what's the *reality*? Can a PC help you enjoy your work more and show a greater profit, here and now? According to your peers, the answer is "yes."

"With just a few keystrokes," says Al Lynch, Director of Corporate Planning and Research for JCPenney Company, "I can screen companies, find possible acquisitions or 'scope-out' competitors. It's a real competitive edge."

Walt Casey, V.P. of Communications at ConAgra says, "I spend a lot of time each day poking into this and tracking that. It's *much* easier when you can immediately get the facts from a computer, rather than having to make a series of phone calls."

"One of Dow Jones News/Retrieval's services, QuickSearch, is a Godsend," adds Jim Posner, a respected retail consultant. "It gives me detailed corporate reports within minutes—I don't even have to leave the office.

Instant information: the executive advantage.

To lead in today's marketplace, you need information like *that*," Lynch says, snapping his fingers.

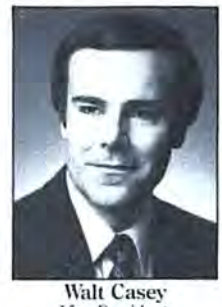
He recalls an example of how Dow Jones News/Retrieval®—the business and financial information service from Dow Jones & Company, Inc.—gave JCPenney Company a real advantage.

"Let's just say that a 'major player' in our industry was being acquired. Within a few hours we knew more about the takeover candidate than the bidder did. Honestly, we knew more than some investment bankers did.

Decision-making with the leading edge.

"Then we started getting the corporate insider trading data," Lynch continues. "It showed us some things that influenced a major deal.

Al Lynch
Director of Planning and Research, JCPenney Co.



Walt Casey
Vice President, Corp. Communications, ConAgra, Inc.

James Posner
President James Posner Assoc. Ltd.

"This service really makes a difference in the day-to-day running of your business. It can pay for itself very quickly."

Surprisingly easy.

All you need to access the service is a PC and modem. Using the service is "No problem," according to Posner.

"There's no difficulty using the service. I ask for pointed, specific information and get exactly what I need. It's much easier than manual research."

Walt Casey agrees. "Dow Jones News/Retrieval is simple enough for anyone who's at all comfortable with computers to use it effectively from their very first day online."

Making the right decision.

There are hundreds of online information services, many offering business data. How can you pick the best *one*?

"It was apparent from the first step that the most useful system was Dow Jones News/Retrieval," remembers Casey. "It offers so much of the information you're looking for—from general news and stock quotes, to data on our company and industry. It was the best single source."

"I've had other services, but Dow Jones News/Retrieval has the most useful business information in the right form," says Posner. "The time I spend 'playing' on the computer makes more money for me—and for my clients."

Now that's the *fun* of profit! ■

Get 8 FREE hours online to experience the "fun of profit" on your PC.

YES, I'm ready to experience the fun of profiting from my PC. Send me a Dow Jones News/Retrieval® Corporate Membership Kit, including multiple passwords, 8 free hours of online time, a year of *Dowline*™ Magazine, a comprehensive User's Guide and waiver of my first year's annual $12 service fee—for only $49.95.* (A $29.95 Personal Membership Kit includes: a single password, 5 free hours online, *Dowline*™ Magazine, User's Guide and waiver of $12 service fee.)*

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Circle 121 on reader service card

We also like to give people some relief from the heavy dose of technical data they must ingest every day, which is why we've introduced the "Two-Fisted Management" cartoon strip.

Our first priority in any case is to provide our readers with a complete personal computer magazine package. We want to make *PC World* the one publication you need to keep up with the rapid changes we're seeing in the personal computer industry.

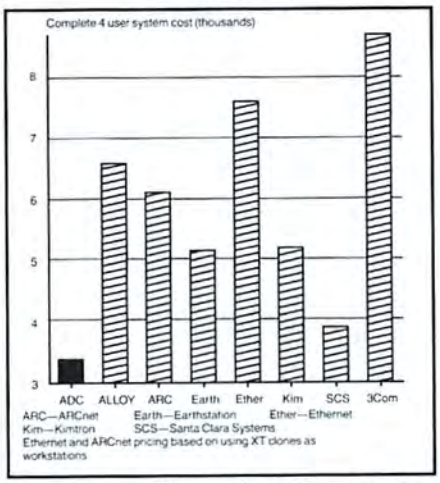
We hope you like our new look. It's bolder and more businesslike. We think it's more engaging. We've improved our charts, graphs, and technical illustrations, and we're starting to desktop publish many of our figures. You'll now find twice as many graphics and photos in our pages than in any other computer magazine.

Some people read magazines from back to front; others read only the summaries, charts, sidebars, and an occasional article. Still others devour an issue from cover to cover. We want to provide all of you with several entry points into *PC World*. Please let me know how you like our new look and feel. I would also appreciate receiving your comments and suggestions about how we can further improve the magazine. Just send them to MCI Mail PCWORLD/179-3813 or to our office at 501 Second Street, San Francisco, CA 94107. There's a chance your input will become hard copy. ●

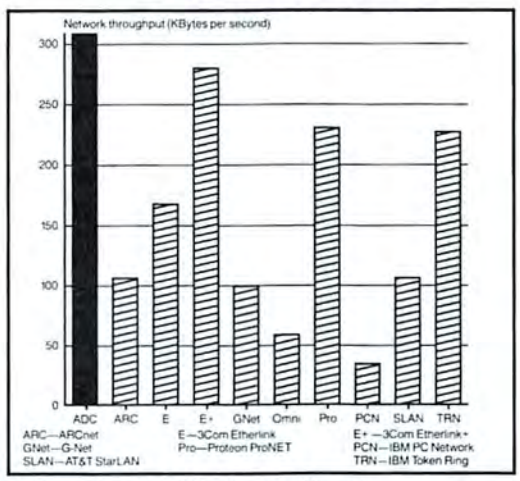
See Us At Spring Comdex In Atlanta At The Ritz Carlton Hotel

TWO WORDS OUR NETWORK COMPETITORS SEEM TO HAVE OVERLOOKED:

PRICE.



PERFORMANCE.



Test results are based on Novell's independent LAN Evaluation Report using their PERFORM™ program. Results were obtained using an 8 MHz IBM AT file server with 6 MHz IBM ATs as workstations. Six Personal Network Stations were used for the ADC test. If tests were conducted on PC workstations, other networks would test up to 70% slower. All prices are based on manufacturers' suggested retail prices.

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These graphs tell you everything you need to know about networking price/performance. LAN's can be expensive and slow, time sharing even slower and less capable. The Personal Network Station,™ selected Product of the Year in the multi-user category by LAN Magazine (Feb. '88), is in a class by itself. Personal Network Stations give each user outstanding speed, storage capacity and data sharing benefits at approximately half the cost of networking PCs in a LAN. ADC's Model 2 MG™ Expansion Boards plug directly into the host PC-bus. With the addition of inexpensive keyboards and monitors, each board provides all the electronics necessary for two Personal Network Stations. Each has its own CPU and 512K of dedicated RAM. With additional boards, a single IBM PC,® XT,® AT,® PS/2® or compatible can support up to 32 users. Added networking software offers the option of LAN interface with software choices, including Novell's Advanced NetWare™ or ELS.™

Call your local distributor or ADC today for your Personal Network Station demo package. And find out why ADC is the only word you need to know for superior price/performance.

ADC

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Circle 71 on reader service card

Austin, Texas — the seat of government in the Lone Star State and the headquarters of CompuAdd™ Corp. Here, CompuAdd continues to fulfill its promise to provide quality computer products at competitive prices.

TEAR OUT CATALOG ALONG PERFORATION

San Antonio, Texas now has two CompuAdd Superstores. In addition, our retail outlet on McCarty Road provides prompt, personal service to San Antonio customers.

The 100,000-square-foot corporate headquarters in northwest Austin houses the manufacturing and assembly groups, administrative offices, and an international division, which serves customers in Europe, South America, Mexico, and Canada.

CompuAdd was established in March 1982 as a direct-response company specializing in add-on products for the growing personal computer industry.

Today, CompuAdd's own products are nationally recognized for their reasonable prices and dependable performance. *PC Magazine*, a leading industry periodical, bestowed Editor's Choice awards on CompuAdd's Standard-286/8™ and Standard-286/10™ personal computers and the FlashCard™ hard disk cards.

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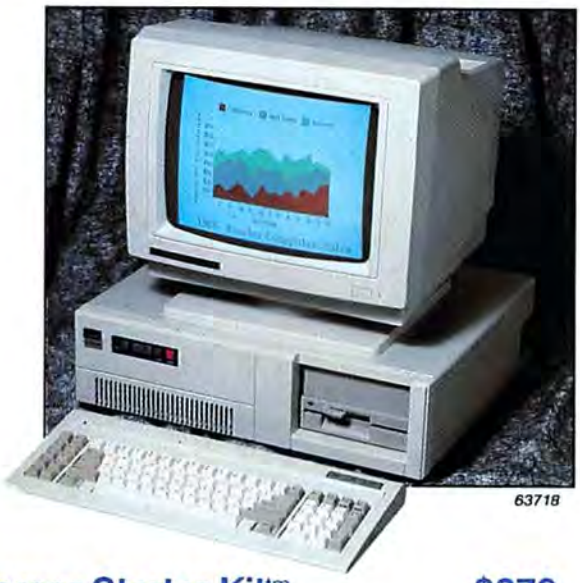

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63720 Featuring the Standard-286/10™.
This kit gives your business computing power in a hurry.

Computer - The Standard 286/10 is a 10MHz system switchable to 6MHz. It includes 80286 processor, Phoenix® ROM BIOS , 512KB RAM (expandable to 1MB on motherboard), eight expansion slots, 200-watt power supply, 1.2MB floppy drive, keyboard, dual floppy/hard drive controller, and clock/calendar with battery backup.

Monitor - A high-resolution amber monochrome monitor with 12" display screen and monochrome graphics card with parallel port.

Hard Drive - MiniScribe® 20MB, half-height hard drive with 65ms access time.

Printer - Epson® LX-800 provides software compatibility, plus draft (150-180cps) and near letter quality printing, multiple type styles, Epson Character Graphics set, dot-graphics capability, and tractor/friction paper feed.

Career Starter Kit™ $879

63717 Featuring the Standard Turbo/10™.
The perfect starter system for the student, a new business, or the home.

Computer - The Standard Turbo/10, PC/XT-compatible computer with 8088 processor running at keyboard-selectable 4.77 or 10MHz, 640KB RAM, half-height 360KB floppy drive, floppy drive controller, 150-watt power supply, keyboard, and hardware reset circuit.

Monitor - A high-resolution amber monochrome monitor with 12" display screen and monochrome graphics card with parallel port.

Printer - Star Micronics NX-1000™ provides software compatibility, plus 120cps draft and 30cps near letter quality printing, multiple type styles, nine-pin print head, Epson LX-800 and IBM ProPrinter II® emulation, dot-graphics capability, and tractor/friction paper feed.

Professional Starter Kit EGA

63721 Professioal Starter Kit with industry standard 14" tube size EGA monitor (13" diagonal), EGA card, and I/O card with serial and parallel ports **$1895**

Career Starter Kit EGA

63718 Career Starter Kit with industry standard 14" tube size EGA monitor (13" diagonal), EGA card, and I/O card with serial and parallel port. **$1279**

Included In Both Starter Kits

Software - You'll appreciate getting MS-DOS® and GW BASIC in both kits. And in the Professional Starter Kit, you'll find PC-FullBak™ backup software for your hard disk.

Accessories - We've even added 200 sheets of continuous form paper, a printer cable, and ten blank floppies to get you started.

STANDARD BRAND™
AT® -COMPATIBLE COMPUTERS

Monitor not included. *63177*

Standard-286/12™ runs at switchable speeds of 6 and 12MHz with zero wait state. It includes 1MB RAM, internal clock/calendar with battery backup, math coprocessor socket, six 16-bit expansion slots, two 8-bit expansion slots, 200-watt power supply, 1.2MB floppy drive, dual floppy/hard drive controller, and your choice of enhanced 101-key, AT-style, or 5151 keyboard. The Standard-286/12 at 0 wait state scores 13.7 on Norton's SI Benchmark 4.0 test.
63177 *$1345*

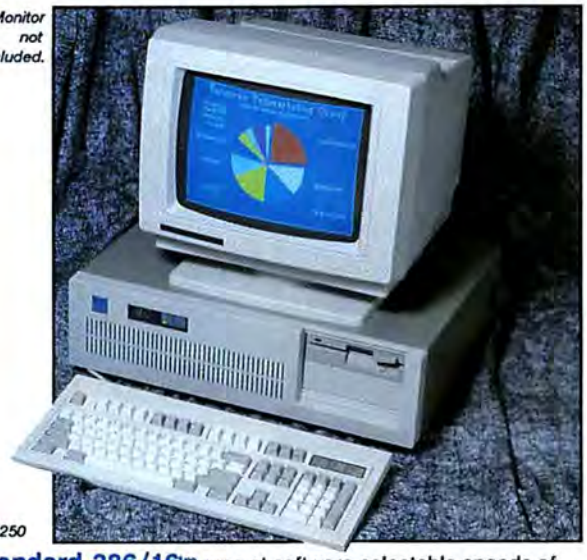
63150 *Monitor not included.*

"... comes with a good complement of manuals and software and performs precisely as you would expect. You should be happy with this one." Alfred Poor, *PC Magazine*

PC MAGAZINE Editor's Choice Feb. 16, 1988

Standard-286/10™ runs at switchable speeds of 6 and 10MHz. The system includes 512KB RAM expandable to 1MB, internal clock/calendar with battery backup, math coprocessor socket, six 16-bit expansion slots, two 8-bit expansion slots, 200-watt power supply, 1.2MB floppy drive, dual floppy/hard drive controller, and your choice of keyboard. Scores 9.4 on Norton's SI Benchmark 4.0 test.
63150 *$1095*

Monitor not included.



63250

Standard-386/16™ runs at software-selectable speeds of 16, 8, 6, and 4.77MHz. The system comes with 1MB RAM on a 32-bit high-speed memory board that is expandable to 4MB (supports up to 10MB RAM on expansion cards). For increased system throughput, the Phoenix BIOS can be relocated into high speed RAM. System includes 1.2MB floppy drive, five 16-bit and two 8-bit expansion slots, a 200-watt power supply, dual diskette/fixed drive controller, real-time clock/calendar, coprocessor support for either the 80287 or the 80387, and your choice of enhanced 101-key, AT-style, or 5151 keyboard. The Standard-386 has a Landmark speed rating of 20MHz and scores 17.6 on Norton's SI Benchmark 4.0 test.
63250 *$1995*

Monitor not included.

63105

"... its performance, features, and price are enough to make me want to take it home." Vincent Puglia, *PC Magazine*

PC MAGAZINE Editor's Choice Feb. 18, 1987

Standard-286/8™ runs at switchable speeds of 6 and 8MHz. Includes 512KB RAM expandable to 1MB, internal clock/calendar with battery backup, math coprocessor socket, six 16-bit expansion slots, two 8-bit expansion slots, 1.2MB floppy drive, 200-watt power supply, and your choice of enhanced 101-key, AT-style, or 5151 keyboard. Scores 8.8 on Norton's SI Benchmark 4.0 test at 0 wait state.
63105 *$995*

Monitor not included. 63050

PC/XT ® -COMPATIBLE COMPUTERS

Standard Turbo/10tm uses an 8088 processor with selectable processing speeds of 4.77 and 10MHz. The system includes 640KB RAM, math coprocessor socket, 360KB floppy drive and controller, eight expansion slots, 150-watt power supply, and your choice of enhanced 101-key, AT-style, or 5151 keyboard.
63050 $579

Standard Turbo/8tm offers an 8088 processor with switchable operating speeds of 4.77MHz and 8MHz. The system includes 256KB RAM, a math coprocessor socket, a 360KB floppy drive and controller, eight expansion slots, 150-watt power supply, and your choice of enhanced 101-key, AT-style, or 5151 keyboard.
63010 $449

62821

ZENITH® COMPUTERS

Z-181 boasts perhaps the most advanced LCD screen available. System includes 640KB RAM and runs at 4.77 or 8MHz. The computer has twin 720KB floppy drives and runs PC/XT-compatible software. Other features include: MS-DOS, serial port, parallel port, RGB/composite video port, interface for a hard drive, and rechargeable battery pack with AC adapter.
62810 $1575

Z-183 with 10MB hard drive offers switchable speeds of 4.77MHz and 8MHz and the same built-in, backlit, supertwist screen as the Z-181 plus 640KB RAM (expandable to 1.64MB), a 720KB floppy drive, battery options, a convenient built-in handle, a serial port, a parallel port, and an enhanced keyboard.
62820 $2095
62821 Z-183 with 21MB RLL hard drive. *$2495*

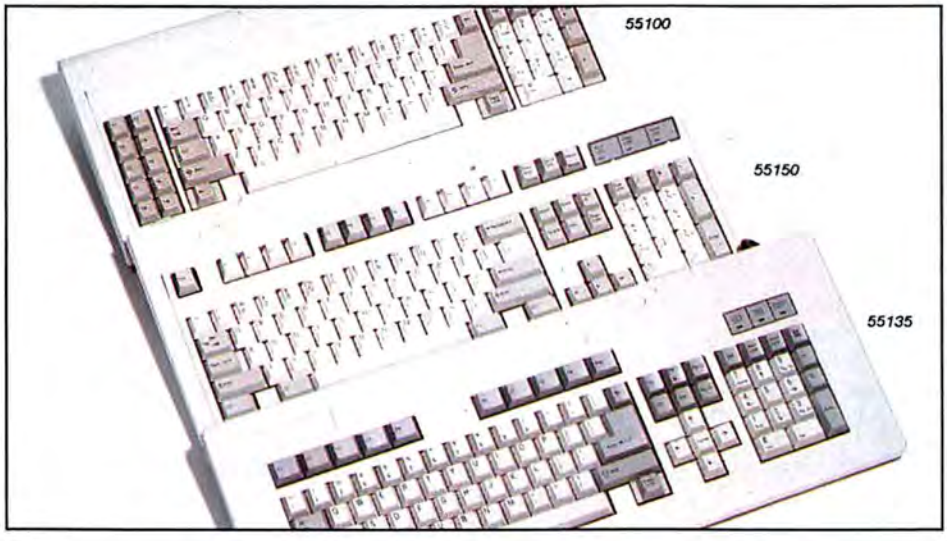
62835

Z-386 is a 16MHz system based on the advanced 80386 technology. Equipped with 1MB RAM (expandable to 16MB), a 1.2MB floppy drive, and a 40MB hard drive, the Z-386 includes such time-saving features as an enhanced page-mode static RAM and a 32-bit memory bus.
62835 $4519

62807

ZENITH ACCESSORIES

Zenith carrying case with printer pocket for models 181 and 183.
62807 $49
Zenith 360KB half-height external floppy drive for the 181 & 183 models.
62809 $299
Zenith interface cable for the 5.25" drive.
62808 $49
See page 16 for Zenith modems.



KEYBOARDS

AT-style 5060 keyboard has 84 keys and an enlarged enter and shift keys for easy operation.
55100 $69

Enhanced 101-key keyboard for AT or XT compatibles with 101 keys including 12 function keys.
55150 $69

5151 keyboard for the IBM PC/XT, AT and compatibles. Includes separate numeric and cursor key pads.
55135 $69

TANDY® -COMPATIBLE PRODUCTS

Introducing CompuAdd's new line of compatible add-on products for Tandy MS-DOS computers.

HARD DRIVES

Hard drive kits include: MiniScribe drive, drive controller, mounting brackets and hardware, cable, manual, and installation guide.

20MB half-height hard drive for Tandy 1000/A/SX/TX (65ms).
46600 $319
20MB half-height hard drive for Tandy 3000 HL (65ms).
46602 $375
40MB half-height hard drive for Tandy 1000/A/SX/TX (61ms).
46630 $395
40MB half-height hard drive for Tandy 1000/A (61ms).
46631 $395

43MB half-height hard drive for Tandy 3000 HL (25ms).
46632 $749
71MB full-height hard drive for Tandy 3000 HL (28ms).
46650 $999

MODEMS

1200 baud internal modem is a Hayes-compatible 1/2 card with 5.25" format communications software.
49525 $69
1200 baud external modem is Hayes-compatible.
49500 $89

FLOPPY DRIVES

Floppy drive kits include: drive, mounting brackets and hardware, cable, and installation guide.

360KB floppy drive for Tandy 1000/A/SX/TX.
45400 $99
360KB floppy drive for Tandy 3000 HL.
45401 $99
720KB floppy drive for Tandy 1000/A/SX/TX.
45420 $109
1.2MB floppy drive for Tandy 3000 HL.
45440 $109

CABLES

Parallel printer cable, 6', Centronics® (C36M-CE34) for Tandy 1000 models.
39628 $8.95

FLASHCARDS

The FlashCard™ simplifies fast disk storage by mounting a 3.5" drive and controller together in one compact package.

PC MAGAZINE Editor's Choice

FlashCard-20 is a 20MB drive mounted on a half card (65ms).
46603 $359

FlashCard-30 is a 30MB drive mounted on a half card (65ms).
46620 $379

PC MAGAZINE Editor's Choice

Logitech Serial Mouse is a programmable mouse with three buttons to position data, create graphics, or edit text. Includes software and manual. *PC Magazine* Editor's Choice. Serial port interface required.
55050 $79

TANDY COMPATIBILITY QUICK REFERENCE BY PART NUMBER

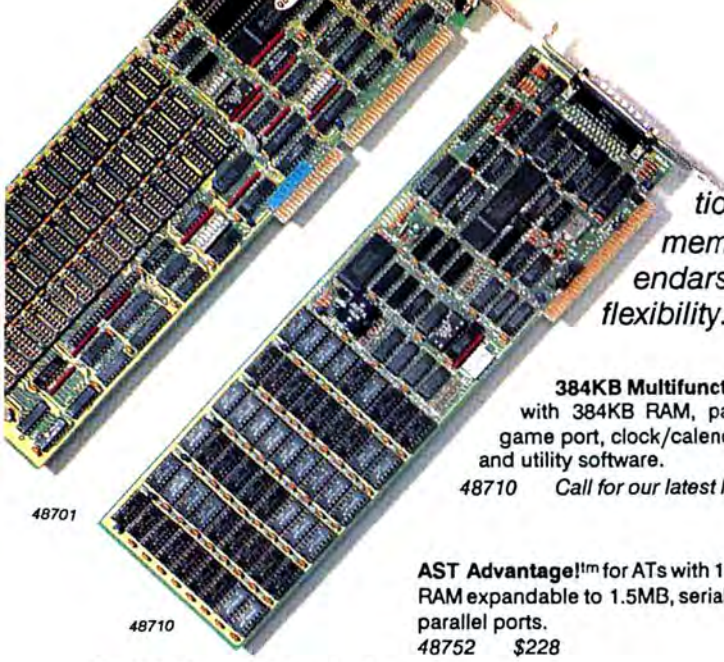
	1000	1000-A	1000-EX	1000-HX	1000-SX	1000-TX	3000-HL
20MB PC Hard disk	46600★	46600★	No	No	46600	46600	46602▪
40MB PC Hard disk	46630★	46630★	No	No	46630	46630	No
43MB AT Hard disk	No	No	No	No	No	No	46632▪
71MB AT Hard disk	No	No	No	No	No	No	46650▪
Internal modem	49525	49525	No	No	49525	49525	49525
External modem	49500✓	49500✓	49500•	49500•	49500✓	49500	49500✓
Printer cable	39628	39628	39628	39628	39628	39628	39628
5.25" 360KB Floppy disk	45400	45400	No	No	45400	No	45401
5.25" 1.2MB Floppy disk	No	No	No	No	No	No	45440
3.5" 720KB Floppy disk	45420	45420	No	No	45420	45420	No
20MB FlashCard	46603	46603	No	No	46603	46603	No
30MB FlashCard	46620	46620	No	No	46620	46620	No
Logitech serial mouse	55050✓	55050✓	55050•	55050•	55050✓	55050	55050✓

KEY

- ★ Requires Tandy 384KB RAM/DMA upgrade.
- ✓ Requires Tandy serial port upgrade.
- • Requires Tandy "Plus" style serial port upgrade.
- ▪ Includes hard disk controller card.

MULTIFUNCTION CARDS

Multifunction cards provide a variety of options including additional random-access memory (RAM), ports, and real-time clock/calendars, to increase your system's speed and flexibility.



48701

48710

384KB Multifunction card for your PC/XT with 384KB RAM, parallel port, serial port, game port, clock/calendar with battery backup, and utility software.
48710 Call for our latest low price.

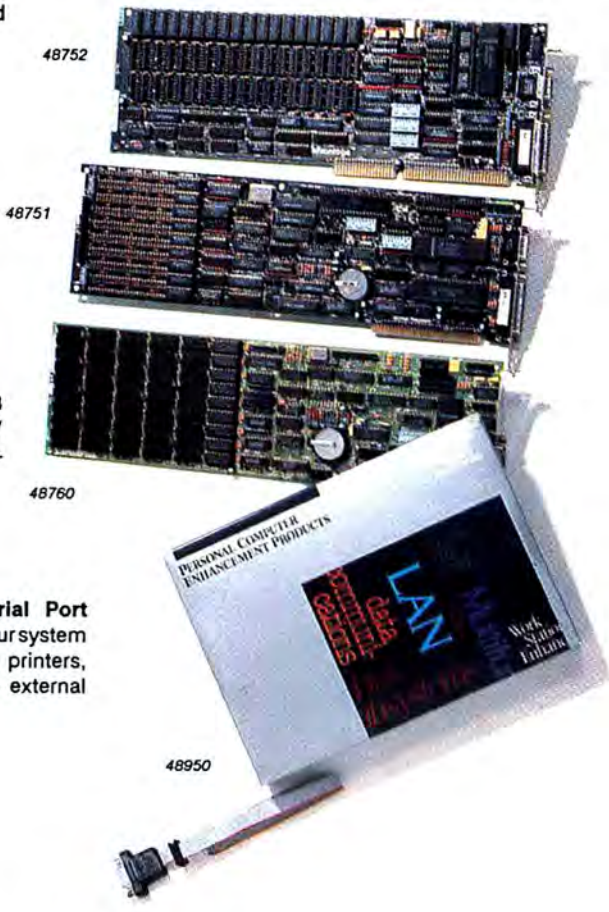
AT-Multifunction card with 0KB is expandable to 1.5MB and supports either 64KB or 256KB chips. Includes serial and parallel ports.
48701 $110

AST Advantage!™ for ATs with 128KB RAM expandable to 1.5MB, serial, and parallel ports.
48752 $228

AT-MFC Memory Piggyback with 0KB is expandable to 1.5MB RAM for increased memory storage.
48901 $25

AST SixPakPremium™ for PC/XTs with 256KB RAM expandable up to 2MB, serial port, parallel port, clock/calendar, and software. Supports Lotus/Intel/Microsoft and AST expanded memory specifications.
48751 $197

Second Serial Port Option for the AT/XT input/output or AT MFC cards provides for system expansion.
48900 $20



48752

48751

48760

AST SixPakPlus® for PCs with 384KB RAM, serial port, parallel port, clock/calendar with battery backup, and utility software.
48760 $259

48900

48901

AST Advantage Serial Port adds a serial port to your system for use with certain printers, pointing devices, or external modems.
48950 $19

48950

ACCELERATORS

Increase your PC's processing speed to turbo speeds (higher than 4.77MHz) with an accelerator card.

48601

Orchid TinyTurbo 286™ board gives your PC/XT the power of an AT.
48601 $299

Charge Card 286™ makes your PC/XT run 6.6 times faster.
48602 $269

48602

MEMORY CARDS

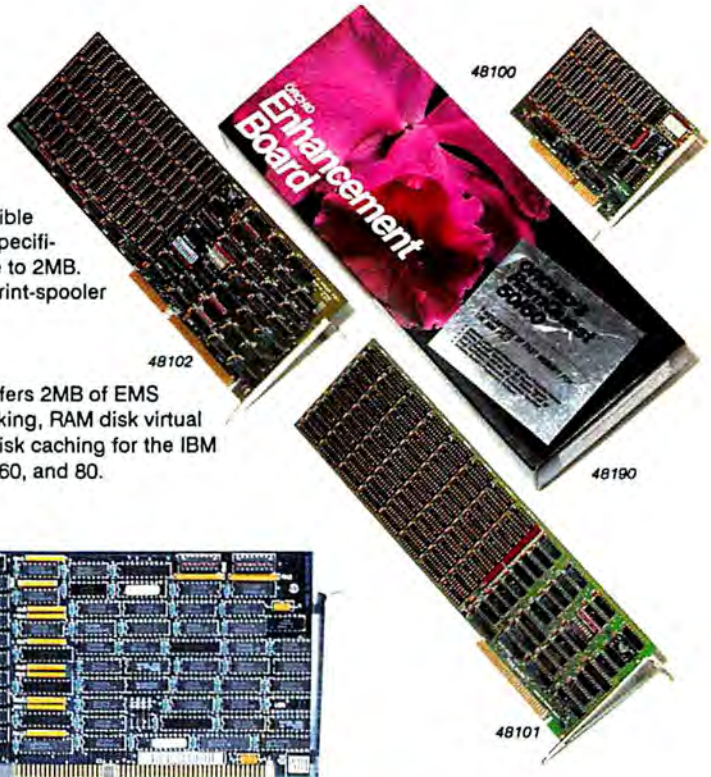
Extra memory allows you to run more powerful applications and may increase the operational speed of a program.

Mem-576 short card for the XT supports either 64KB or 256KB chips. It comes with 0KB and is expandable up to 192, 384, or 576KB.
48100 $35

EMS Card for the AT is compatible with the Lotus/Intel/Microsoft specification and has 0KB expandable to 2MB. Includes virtual RAM disk and print-spooler software.
48102 $119

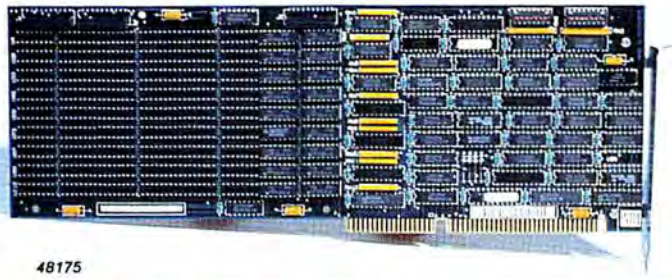
XT EMS Card (Expansion-Memory-Specification) for the XT, with 0KB expands to 2MB and is compatible with the Lotus/Intel/Microsoft specification. Includes virtual RAM disk and print-spooler software.
48101 $99

Orchid RamQuest 50/60™ offers 2MB of EMS memory, automatic parity checking, RAM disk virtual storaging, print spooling, and disk caching for the IBM Personal System/2 models 50, 60, and 80.
48190 $699



48100
48102
48190
48101

Intel Above™ Board 286 for AT/PC/XT supplies three memory boards in one: conventional, expanded, and extended. Includes 512KB expandable to 2MB.
48175 $349


48175

AST RAMpage/2™ expanded memory board comes with 64KB RAM expandable to 2MB.
48151 $229

48151

48000

48001

INPUT/OUTPUT CARDS

Add a serial or parallel port to your system with an economical I/O card.

I/O Card for AT compatibles with serial port and parallel port.
48000 $59

I/O Card for PC compatibles with serial port, parallel port, game port, and clock/calendar with battery back up.
48001 $65

RAM CHIPS

Come in sets of 9 with a one-year warranty.

50603 256KB chip set for AT (80 nanoseconds).
50600 256KB chip set (100 nanoseconds).
50601 256KB chip set for AT (120 nano seconds).
50602 256KB chip set (150 nanoseconds).
50501 64KB chip set (120 nanoseconds).
Call for our latest low prices.

MATH COPROCESSORS

Math coprocessors speed up your calculations.

8087-3 Math coprocessor (5MHz).
50200 $129
8087-2 Math coprocessor (8MHz).
50201 $159
80287-6 Math coprocessor (6 MHz).
50250 $219
80287-8 Math coprocessor (8 MHz).
50251 $269
80287-10 Math coprocessor (10MHz).
50252 $349
80387-16 Math coprocessor (16MHz).
50275 $525
80387-20 Math coprocessor (20MHz).
50277 $779

MONOCHROME MONITORS

51001

Samsung[tm] 12" flat screen amber monochrome monitor with tilt/swivel base.
51001 $95

Samsung 12" curved screen amber monochrome monitor.
51000 $89

51000

51002

51003

Amdek® 300A for Apple or IBM is a composite 12" amber monochrome monitor. It requires a color card to work in IBM compatibles.
51002 $129

Amdek 310A with a 12", high-resolution amber monochrome monitor.
51003 $135

51006

Amdek 410W black and white display, with 12" flat screen
51006 $159

Quadram Amberchrome[tm] 12" with a high-resolution 12" amber display.
51004 $119

51004

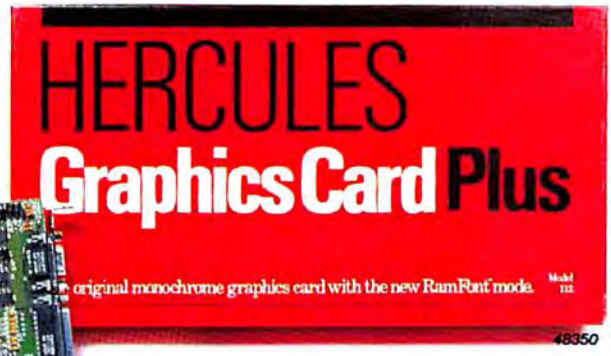
MONOCHROME GRAPHICS CARDS

Monochrome monitors require a monographics video card except where indicated.

Hercules[tm] Monochrome Graphics Card Plus is the world's best-selling graphics and adapter board. Monochrome display with high-resolution graphics and text display. Includes parallel port.
48350 $179

Monographics Card is a high-resolution monochrome graphics card. Includes parallel port.
48301 $65

48301



48350

COLOR MONITORS

Princeton® HX-12+ is a color monitor with a .28mm dot pitch, 770x200 line resolution, and 18MHz bandwidth.
51101 $399

51100

IBM-compatible color monitor with 12" screen.
51100 $239

COLOR GRAPHICS CARDS

Hercules Color Graphics Card has color graphics and printer port for the AT/PC on a space-saving half-size card.
48351 $149

Color Graphics Card is a high-resolution color graphics adapter that operates in both color and composite mode. Includes a parallel port.
48302 $59

48351

48302

EGA MONITORS

Enhance your system with either of these fine EGA color monitors that gives superior resolution and color.

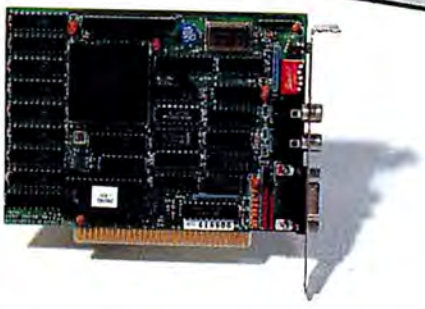
IBM-compatible 14" EGA monitor offers the best value in an enhanced color monitor. Its industry standard 14" tube with 13" (diagonal) screen offers .31mm dot pitch and high resolution.
51201 $349

51201

51202

NEC Multisync® II, one of the finest multisynchronous monitors available, adjusts to any horizontal synchronization frequency between 15.5KHz and 31.7KHz. It has a resolution up to 800x675, and supports both TTL and analog inputs. The 14" display has a 30MHz bandwidth and .31mm dot pitch.
51202 $679

48376



EGA CARDS

Performance power for your EGA monitor.

Video Seven Vega Deluxe™ is an EGA card for the IBM-PC family. Fully compatible with all popular video standards, including color graphics, monochrome and monographics cards. It supports enhanced color, regular color, and monographics displays. Capable of 37% higher resolution with the NEC Multisync II or other multisynchronous monitors and appropriate software.
48376 $249

EGA-350 Card is IBM-EGA compatible, has 256KB display memory, high-resolution (640x350) graphics mode, and displays 64 colors, 16 at a time. It supports color, enhanced color, and monochrome displays.
48303 $129

EGA-480 Card is an IBM/EGA-compatible card with 256KB display memory, and 16/64 color capability. The EGA-480 automatically configures itself to a resolution of 640x350 or 640x480, depending on your monitor.
48304 $159

VIDEO COMBOS

Upgrade or enhance your system with our quality video combos in monographics, color, or enhanced graphics.

Flatscreen Monographics Combo

Includes Samsung 12" flat screen monitor with tilt and swivel base, and monographics video card.

51700 ***$139***

Color Graphics Adapter (CGA) Combo

Includes 12" color monitor and color card.

51701 ***$329***

Enhanced Graphics Adapter (EGA) Combo

Includes a 14" industry standard tube with 13" diagonal EGA monitor and EGA card.

51702 ***$479***

Ultimate EGA Combo

Includes the NEC Multisync II monitor and a Video Seven Vega Deluxe EGA card.

51703 ***$869***

MODEMS

Modems allow your computer to communicate with other computers over telephone lines. The greater the baud rate, the more quickly your data is transmitted.

Internal Modems

1200 baud 1/2 card internal modem with software.
49500 $69
2400 baud internal modem with software.
49553 $139
Everex Evercom™ 1200 baud 1/2 card internal modem with software.
49502 $99
Everex Evercom 2400 baud 1/2 card internal modem with software.
49551 $189
Everex Evercom II 24 2400 baud internal modem designed for the Micro Channel™ architecture of the Personal System/ 2. Includes communications software.
49554 $179
Hayes Smartmodem™ 1200B 1200 baud 1/2 card internal modem with Smartcom II software.
49526 $299
Hayes 2400B 2400 baud internal modem.
49552 $449
Zenith 1200 baud internal modem.
62805 $209
Zenith 2400 baud internal modem for Zenith 181 and 183 models.
62806 $472

External Modems

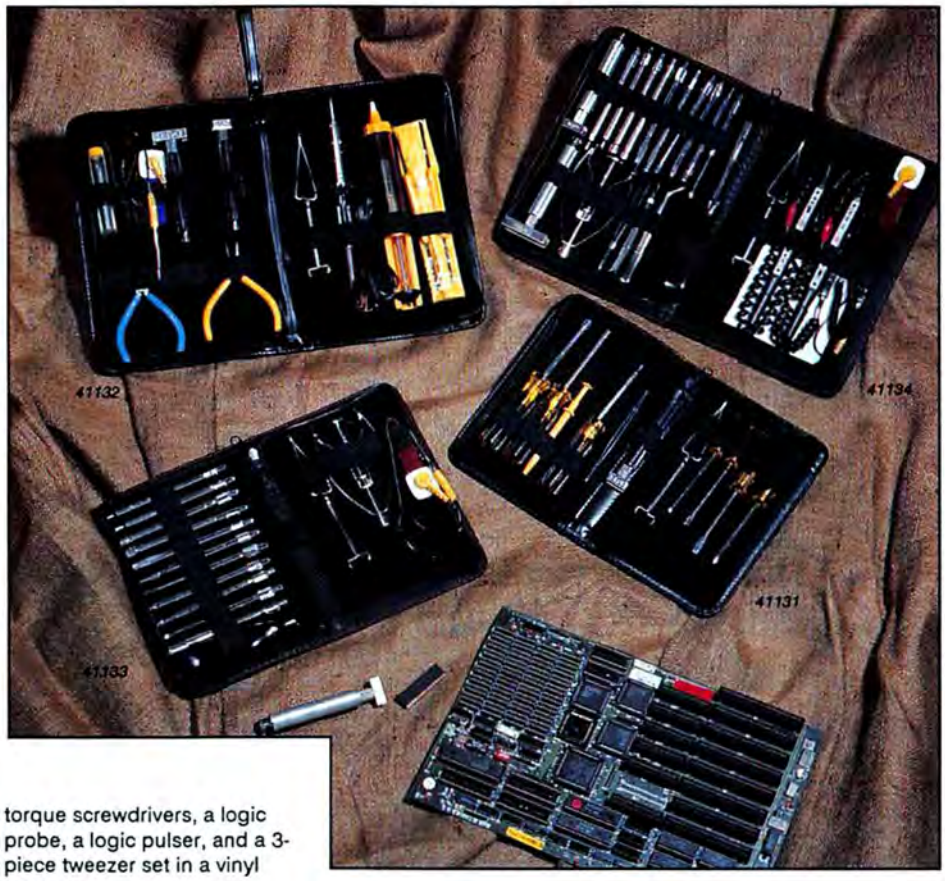
External modems require a serial port and cable.

1200 baud external modem.
49525 $89
2400 baud external modem.
49557 $159
Everex 2400 external modem.
49575 $239
Hayes Smartmodem 1200 baud external modem.
49501 $319
Hayes 2400 baud external modem.
49576 $469

COMPUTER SERVICE KITS

Computer Service kits are handy versatile kits that keep all the necessary tools for maintaining your computer right at your fingertips.

Basic Tool Kit includes chip inserter, extractor, 3-claw holder, tweezers, four screwdrivers, four nutdrivers, and torque screwdriver in a vinyl case.
41131 $14
Soldering Tool Kit includes chip inserter, extractor, anti-static wrist strap, coiled ground cord, soldering iron, desoldering tool, various solder tools, pliers, and clippers in a vinyl case.
41132 $29
Advanced Tool Kit includes chip inserter, chip and square chip extractors, anti-static wrist strap, multiple screwdriver with six extensions, two nutdrivers, and two torque screwdrivers in a vinyl case.
41133 $35
Troubleshooting Tool Kit includes chip inserter, chip and square chip extractors, anti-static wrist strap, multiple screwdriver with six extensions, two nutdrivers, and two torque screwdrivers, a logic probe, a logic pulser, and a 3-piece tweezer set in a vinyl case.
41134 $79



IBM® PERSONAL SYSTEM/2™ ADD-ON PRODUCTS

Increase the performance of your IBM Personal System/2 system with these add-on products.

Orchid RamQuest 50/60™ offers 2MB of EMS memory with automatic parity checking for the Personal System/2. Software-configurable, RAM disk virtual storaging, print spooling, and disk caching are some of its impressive features. RamQuest supports OS/2 and Lotus/Intel/Microsoft specifications.
48190 $669

Everex Evercom II 24™ 2400 baud internal modem with software is designed specifically for use with the Micro Channel™ architecture of the Personal System/2. Also included is the BitCom software which stores up to 32,000 numbers for auto-dialing. Other modem features include auto-answer, auto-sensing of tone/pulse dialing, and auto-voice switchover.
49554 $190

External 5.25" drive provides your IBM PS/2 with AT/XT 5.25" compatiblity without requiring use of an expansion slot. No external power cord needed. It installs as drive B and permits read and write bidirectional transfer of data from 360KB to 720KB format. Includes board, cable, and floppy drive. Compatible with IBM PS/2 Models 30, 50, 60, and 80.
62554 $269

POINTING DEVICES

Mouse

Essential for desktop publishing, the mouse can also be used in many programs to provide easy cursor movement.

Standard Brand™ Mouse is a three-button optical/mechanical mouse that is compatible with the Microsoft Serial Mouse and Mouse Systems PC Mouse.
55052 $55

Logitech® Serial Mouse is a programmable mouse with three buttons to position data, create graphics, or edit text. Includes software and manual. *PC Magazine* Editor's Choice (Jan. 27, 1987). Serial port interface required.
55050 $79

PC MAGAZINE Editor's Choice

Logitech Bus Mouse is a three-button optical mouse that offers high resolution (200 dpi) and maximum compatibility with most software. Includes bus interface card.
55049 $89

Microsoft® Bus Mouse is a mechanical mouse with bus interface that doesn't require the use of a serial port.
55051 $119

Joysticks

The joystick requires a game port.

55000 Standard Brand joystick. *$19.95*
55001 Mach III joystick with fire button. *$35*

48190

49554

FACSIMILES

Sharp® FO-150 facsimile machine provides dramatic half-tone transmissions with eight levels of shading, automatic contrast adjustment, and high speed transmission (7200, 6900, 4800, 2400 bps) with automatic fallback. Space-saving with its compact design and built-in phone, the facsimile is also priced to be cost-effective. Group-3 compatible.
56050 $1049

56050

Sharp FO-300 offers high-quality half-tone transmissions with 16 levels of shading, and automatic contrast adjustment. Capable of transmitting a page every 18 seconds, it includes automatic document feed and built-in phone with speed dialing, automatic re-dial, and timed transmissions. Group-3, Group-2, CCITT, and FMG1 compatible.
56052 $1499

CABLES

39625 Parallel Printer Cable 6' (DB25M to C36M). *$8.95*
39627 Parallel Printer Cable 10' (DB25M to C36M). *$11.95*
39660 AT Serial Pigtail Cable 2' (DB9F to DB25M). *$4.95*
39661 AT Serial Cable 6' (DB9F to DB25M). *$7.95*
39663 AT Serial Cable 10' (DB9F to DB25M). *$10.95*
39655 XT Serial Cable 6' (DB25F to DB25M). *$7.95*
39657 XT Serial Cable 10' (DB25F to DB25M). *$10.95*
39675 Hewlett-Packard Serial Cable 6' (DB25F-DB25M). *$7.95*
39677 Hewlett-Packard Serial Cable 10' (DB25F-DB25M). *$10.95*
39700 Full Pin Cable 6' (DB25M to DB25F). *$7.95*
39702 Full Pin Cable 10' (DB25M to DB25F). *$10.95*
39690 Full Pin Cable 6' (DB25M to DB25M). *$7.95*
39692 Full Pin Cable 10' (DB25M to DB25M). *$10.95*
39695 Full Pin Cable 6' (DB25F to DB25F). *$7.95*
39697 Full Pin Cable 10' (DB25F to DB25F). *$10.95*
39705 Centronics® Cable 6' (C36M to C36F). *$10.95*
39707 Centronics Cable 10' (C36M to C36F). *$13.95*
39710 Centronics Cable 6' (C36M to C36M). *$10.95*
39712 Centronics Cable 10' (C36M to C36M). *$13.95*
39610 Keyboard Extension Cable 6' coiled. *$6.95*
39615 Monitor Extension Cable 6' (DB9M to DB9F). *$6.95*

OFFICE SUPPLIES

CLEANERS

Keeping your equipment clean is essential to optimal operations. A clean system means that your data will be protected and your computer will serve you better.

Head cleaning kit for 5.25" disk drive.
41001 *$12*

Head cleaning kit for 3.5" disk drive.
41000 *$15*

Microcomputer cleaning kit (for complete cleaning including heads and screen).
41015 *$25*

Compuduster.
41010 *$24*

Screen cleaning kit.
41020 *$16*

Mini vacuum helps remove the dust that accumulates on your keyboard.
41025 *$9*

COPY HOLDERS

41650 Copy holder with stand 9.5x11". *$7*
41651 Copy holder with adjustable arm 9.5x11". *$11*
41653 Copy holder with stand 19x12". *$19*
41654 Copy holder with adjustable arm 19x12". *$22*
41655 Copy holder with stand 9.5x11". *$9*

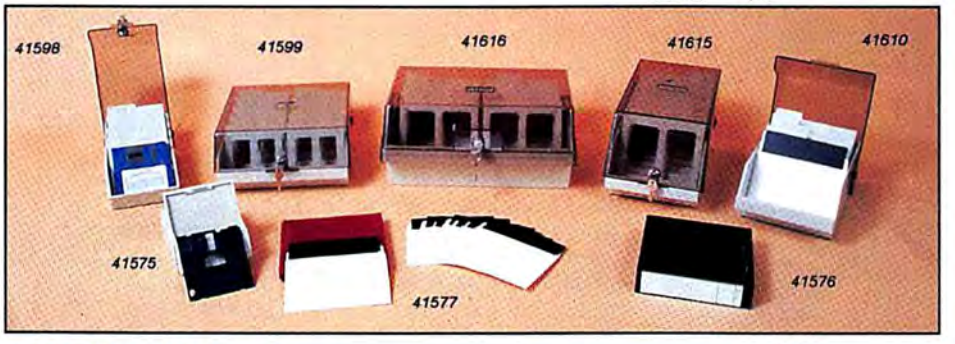
Data-Vac® is a lightweight vacuum/blower (three pounds) equipped with a 19" flexible hose, a shoulder strap, and three attachments for intricate precision cleaning of your system. Five vacuum bags are included.
41026 *$49*

MONITOR STANDS

Monitor stands help you position your computer screen for easier viewing.

12" Tilt/swivel monitor stand.
41565 *$12*

14" Tilt/swivel monitor stand.
41566 *$14*



FLOPPY STORAGE

Safeguard your floppies from accidental damage with durable file boxes that get disks out of the desktop danger zone.

File boxes for 5.25" floppies.
41610 For 50 floppies, without lock. *$4.99*
41615 For 100 floppies, with lock. *$6.49*
41616 For 120 floppies, with lock. *$7.49*

File boxes for 3.5" floppies.
41598 For 40 floppies, without lock. *$4.49*
41599 For 80 floppies, with lock. *$6.49*

Cases for 5.25" floppies.
41576 For 10 floppies. *$2*
41577 For 6 floppies. *$1.25*

Case for 3.5" floppies.
41575 For 10 floppies. *$2*

Portable carry-case with handle for 5.25" floppies.
41617 For 120 floppies, with lock. *$25*

SYSTEM STANDS

Increase your work space by putting your computer under the desk with a system stand.

Plastic vertical system stand.
41555 *$13*

Metal vertical system stand.
41556 *$19*

FOR FAST DELIVERY, CALL 1-800-727-3838

ORDERING BY PHONE

Use the order form to plan your purchases, then call the number above between 8am - 9pm Monday - Friday or 9am - 5pm Saturday, CST. We accept VISA and Master Card. COD orders ($50 minimum) must be paid for with a money order or cash.

ORDERING BY MAIL

Complete the order form and mail it to **CompuAdd, 12303-G Technology Blvd., Austin, Texas 78727**. Be sure to include your name, address and method of payment. COD orders ($50 minimum) must be paid for with a money order or cash.

SHIPPING INFORMATION

Please add 2% of your order to cover shipping and handling costs (minimum $2). Next-day or second-day UPS service is also available - call for details and prices.

Check your order carefully to ensure that all items are present and in good condition. (Any partial orders will be noted on the invoice). Claims for incomplete orders must be submitted within ten days. If there is a question about your order, contact us immediately. If your order has been damaged in transit, contact the nearest UPS office within ten days and file a claim. Keep the original shipping carton for UPS' inspection. The carrier is responsible for damage incurred during shipment.

WARRANTY INFORMATION

CompuAdd provides a limited one-year warranty on most of the products it sells. For specific warranty information, please ask our salespeople or write to the address above.

RETURNS

CompuAdd offers a 30-day money-back guarantee on hardware products. We will refund the purchase price of the product (excluding shipping and handling). All items must be shipped insurance and freight prepaid, and accompanied by a return merchandise authorization (RMA) number. All items must be in original, like-new condition, including all packaging material and documentation. We will not accept returns sent COD.

BILLING ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER DATE

FIRST NAME LAST NAME

COMPANY NAME IF APPLICABLE

STREET ADDRESS APT/BLDG/SUITE

CITY STATE ZIP CODE

SHIPPING ADDRESS
(if different from billing address)

PHONE NUMBER

FIRST NAME LAST NAME

COMPANY NAME IF APPLICABLE

STREET ADDRESS APT/BLDG/SUITE

CITY STATE ZIP CODE

QUANTITY	PRODUCT NUMBER	PAGE NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	SUBTOTAL

METHOD OF PAYMENT

___VISA ___MasterCard ___Check

___Cashiers' Check / COD ___Money Order

Account Number Exp. Date

Bank Name on Card_____

SUBTOTAL	
SALES TAX Texas Residents: Add 8% Sales Tax	
SHIPPING Please add 2% of your order to cover shipping and handling costs (minimum $2).	
TOTAL	

Prices subject to change without notice 5/88

TAPE BACKUP SYSTEMS

Protect the valuable data and software stored on your hard drive with regular backups. Transferred to tape, your data is safe in case of power or computer failure. Software is included with each backup system.

49505 40MB internal tape backup for the AT. *$389*

45906 40MB internal tape backup for the XT. *$389*

45950 60MB internal tape backup. *$757*

57801 20/40MB tape cartridge. *$21.99*

57850 60MB tape cartridge. *$29.95*

KEYBOARD DRAWERS

Keyboard drawers provide convenient storage and protect your keyboard from the detrimental effects of dirt.

Undercarriage keyboard drawer attaches easily under desktop or shelf.
41753 *$17*

Keyboard drawer for out-of-the-way storage under CPU or monitor.
41750 *$24*

Keyboard drawer with power center allows you to switch on your peripherals from a convenient central location.
41751 *$59*

BLANK FLOPPIES

All floppies come in boxes of 10.

5 .25" Floppies:

57000 360KB DS/DD. *$7*

57004 360KB Maxell® DS/DD. *$9*

57002 360KB Verbatim® DS/DD. *$10*

57200 1.2MB DS/HD. *$15*

57202 1.2MB Maxell DS/HD. *$18*

57201 1.2MB Verbatim DS/HD. *$19*

3 .5" Floppies:

57401 720KB Sony DS/DD. *$19*

57440 1.44MB Sony DS/HD. *$55*

STATIC MATS

Static mats dissipate static electricity before it harms your computer. Each mat includes a 10' coiled ground cord.

41075 11.5"x 22" mat. *$16*

41076 19.5"x 23.5" mat. *$19*

41077 23.5"x 25.5" mat. *$22*

EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE CHASSIS

Full-height hard-drive chassis with 45-watt power supply and cables for XT or AT.
46100 *$119*

46100
Drive not included.

EPSON

Equity™ II+ combines power, performance, and value. Its dual speed (6 and 10MHz) 80286 processor and 640KB RAM deliver ample power for a wide range of tasks. The system also features support for an 80287 coprocessor. The system has three 16-bit expansion slots, three 8-bit expansion slots, clock/calendar, AT-style keyboard, one 360KB floppy drive, MS-DOS, GW BASIC, custom Epson utilities, and documentation.
62726 *$1239*

Available in retail stores only. *62726*

ABOUT COMPUADD AND PC SOURCE:

OUR BEGINNINGS

CompuAdd Corp. was established in 1982 as a mail-order company specializing in diskette drives and hard drives for personal computers.

Since then, CompuAdd and its subsidiary PC Source have become leading distributors and manufacturers of computers, add-on products, and accessories.

THE PRESENT

In December 1987, *Inc.* magazine rated CompuAdd as the third fastest-growing privately-held companies in North America.

We've been able to achieve this phenomenal growth because we offer the best possible products and customer support, at competitive prices.

THE FUTURE

CompuAdd continues to grow, and in new directions. We have several retail outlets in Dallas, Austin, and San Antonio. The State of Texas recently awarded CompuAdd a contract to sell computers and peripherals to state agencies.

Our emphasis on price, quality, and support will continue to serve our customers in the mail-order, retail, corporate, and institutional markets.

INTERNATIONAL SALES

We welcome inquiries from dealers and companies outside the United States:

Phone: 512-258-5575
FAX: 512-250-5760
Telex: 763543 COMPUADD AUS

Sensational Software! Sensational Software Selection!

SOFTWARE

Word Processing

MultiMate Advantage II™ by Ashton-Tate is a flexible word processor with exhaustive conversion support for popular applications and printers. Includes extensive dictionary with legal/medical terms, custom dictionaries, spelling checker, list and file manager, and six math functions. Requires at least 384KB RAM and MS-DOS 2.0-3.2.
60025 *$269*

WordPerfect® by WordPerfect Corp. formats documents, prepares outlines, and generates tables of contents. Includes 115,000-word dictionary, thesaurus, and mail merge. Requires at least 256KB RAM.
60015 *$215*

Word® by Microsoft is a powerful word processor providing style sheets and macros for easy and professional-looking results. Requires at least 320KB RAM, DOS 2.0. Includes both 5.25 and 3.5"diskettes.
60000 *$229*

WordStar Professional by MicroPro, a complete word processing package including mail merge, spelling checker, and index/table of contents generator. Requires at least 192KB RAM.
60010 *$239*

Professional Write by Software Publishing is perfect for the professional who wants polished reports in minutes. Includes spelling checker, custom dictionary, thesaurus, and macro support. Optimized for speed. Requires at least 320KB RAM and DOS 2.0 (DOS 3.2 requires 384KB RAM). Includes both 5.25 and 3.5"diskettes.
60020 *$115*

Desktop Publishing & Graphics

Ventura Publisher™ page and document composition software by Xerox produces fine quality publications. Novices and experts will appreciate the handy style sheets and automatic table of contents/index generator. Requires at least 512KB RAM, DOS 2.1, hard disk, graphics controller, and pointing device.
59405 *$529*

Pagemaker® by Aldus assists you in creating distinguished reports, brochures, and newsletters with page formatting, layout, and design tools. Recommended configuration is an AT-compatible, 640KB RAM, DOS 3.0, one floppy drive, one 20MB hard disk, an EGA card and display, a pointing device, and a laser printer.
59400 *$545*

The Print Shop® by Broderbund offers a selection of 16 borders, 20 patterns and designs, and 12 type styles to create signs, banners, letterhead, and greeting cards. Choose from a library of 120 graphics or create your own. Requires at least 48KB RAM.
61050 *$38*

FONTASY® by Prosoft accentuates your documents with 28 type styles (supports over 275 fonts). Features graphics for simple illustrations, proportional spacing, reversal capability, and thorough online help. Requires at least 512KB RAM for 9-pin printers (640KB RAM for 24-pin printers), MS-DOS 2.0, a graphics adapter, and dot-matrix printer.
59420 *$36*

The Newsroom™ by Springboard makes you editor-in-chief with this word processor package that includes five type styles and sizes, automatic text layout, graphics, a clip-art collection, and modem support. Requires at least 256KB RAM, DOS 2.0 and color graphics card.
59425 *$35*

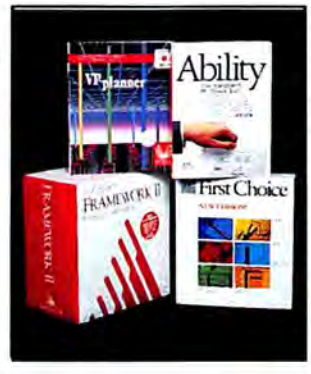
Printmaster Plus™ by Unison World creates custom fliers, banners, calendars, and stationery. You design the layout, select the type, and enter the message. Requires at least 256KB RAM, MS-DOS 2.0, a graphics card adapter. Supports most printers.
61015 *$30*

Windows "Draw !"™ with Clip Art by Micrographx creates diagrams and designs using pull-down menus. This interactive graphics program can be used alone or in conjunction with *Windows*. Requires at least 320KB RAM.
59820 *$172*

PC Paint by Mouse Systems is an easy-to-use graphics application that includes 17 fonts. Merge graphs from other programs to create comprehensive presentations. Requires at least 256KB RAM, MS-DOS, a graphics adapter card, and a mouse. Supports most printers.
59800 *$53*

Gem Draw™ *Plus* by Digital Research enhances your printed materials with charts, tables, and diagrams. Includes a 40-piece clip art library. Requires at least 256KB RAM. 3.5" diskettes available free with enclosed coupon.
59815 *$169*

Certificate Maker™ by Springboard lets you choose from over 200 styles and 24 borders to create a variety of certificates. Features a name list file to print multiple copies. Includes 36 gold foil seals and stickers. Requires at least 256KB RAM, MS-DOS 2.1, and IBM color graphics card.
61040 *$25*



Spreadsheets and Integrated Packages

Framework II™ by Ashton-Tate comes complete with word processing, spreadsheets, data management, telecommunications, and graphics. Customize and create applications with the FRED™ programming language. Requires at least 384KB RAM.
60110 *$345*

First Choice by Software Publishing provides the beginner with accessible word processing, thesaurus/spelling checker, file management, spreadsheet analysis, business graphics, and electronic communications. Requires at least 512KB RAM and DOS 2.0. Includes both 5.25" and 3.5"diskettes.
60605 *$79*

The Twin Classic™ by Mosaic is an integrated package that supplies you with a spreadsheet, file manager, and presentation graphics.
60120 *$55*

Ability™ by Migent features word processing, spreadsheet, database, graphics, telecommunication, and audio/visual presentation applications in one software package. Requires at least 384KB RAM. The audio/visusal presentation package requires a graphics card.
60102 *$59*

VP-Planner® by Paperback is a multi-dimensional database that creates user-defined spreadsheets. Conserves memory by storing only the cells that actually contain information, Features user-defined macros and background mode for printing. Requires at least 256KB RAM.
60130 *$55*

Sensational Software! Sensational Selection!

Database Management

dBASE III® Plus by Ashton-Tate includes a fully-relational database, the dBase programming language, a built-in networking system, a data catalog, the Advanced Query system, and a day-to-day management system. Designed for the new and experienced user alike. Requires at least 256KB RAM and MS-DOS 2.0.
60600 $409

Q&A™ by Symantec answers your data management needs with a powerful database that is easy to set up, a report generator that offers advanced options for professional-looking reports, and a word processor that includes a spelling checker. Requires at least 512KB RAM. 3.5"diskettes available free with enclosed coupon. Compatible with Symphony, 1-2-3, dBASE, WordStar, MultiMate, and PFS: File.
60615 $199

Reflex® : The Analyst by Borland permits you to analyze data from five different viewpoints: form, list, graph, crosstab, and report. Generates reports and mailing labels from your database. Requires at least 384KB RAM, MS-DOS 2.0, IBM Color Graphics Adapter, Hercules Monochrome Graphics Card, or equivalent.
60610 $82

Finance

Managing your Money® by Meca includes: budgeter, checkbook, tax planner and strategist, net worth tracker, financial calculator, life insurance evaluator, investment analyzer, retirement and college planner. It even prepares your accounts payable and receivable, invoices, mailing labels--the works! Requires at least 256KB RAM, DOS 2.0.
60800 $125

Sylvia Porter's Financial Planner™ by Timeworks organizes your finances with financial planning by objectives, checkbook and checkwritig, budgeting, and financial tracking. Requires at least 256KB RAM and MS-DOS 2.0.
60810 $55

Dollars & Sense by Monogram is tailored for home or small business financial management. Prepares budgets, split transactions, records, billings, and tax estimates. Not copy protected. Requires at least 256KB RAM and DOS 2.1.
60805 $105

Security

Coffee Break by MPPi keeps sensitive information secure when you are away from your desk. The program disables the CONTROL key and covers your screen with a custom display until the chosen password is entered. Requires at least 9.7KB RAM and MS-DOS.
58595 $21

Utilities

Norton's Utilities™ Advanced Edition by Peter Norton Software optimizes your disk for fast access time, locates 'lost' data, and performs all those practical utilities for which Norton is famous. 3.5" diskettes available with enclosed coupon.
58536 $79

Norton's Utilities by Peter Norton Software increases system performance by restoring lost files, speeding up searches, showing directory structure, converting batch files to interactive, and much more. 3.5" diskettes available with enclosed coupon.
58535 $50

PC Tools® Deluxe by Central Point Software interfaces with DOS to implement DOS commands from within other applications, manages files and subdirectories, and recovers deleted files. Requires at least 192KB RAM. Includes both 5.25" and 3.5" diskettes.
58566 $40

Sideways® by Funk customizes your spreadsheets with nine type sizes and spacing, margin, and column control. Compatible with 1-2-3 and Symphony. Requires at least 64KB. 3.5 " diskette available free with enclosed coupon.
58580 $40

Copy II® PC by Central Point Software lets you to create backup copies of most copy-protected software for archival purposes to protect expensive software.
58565 $23

PC-FullBak® by Westlake Data quickly backs up and restores files from your hard disk to protect your crucial data. Requires at least 128KB RAM, DOS 2.0.
58600 $49

Fastback by Fifth Generation makes backups to protect data stored on your hard disk. In four minutes, it formats diskettes and backs up a 10MB hard drive. Requires at least 128KB RAM and DOS 2.0.
58555 $92

Disk Optimizer™ by SoftLogic Solutions safely reorganizes and compresses files to continuous sectors for reduced access time. Requires at least 128KB RAM and DOS 2.0.
58560 $29

SideKick® by Borland runs an editor, phone directory, autodialer, monthly calendar, appointment calendar, calculator, and ASCII table while simultaneously running other programs like *1-2-3* or *dBASE III*. Not copy protected. Requires at least 128KB RAM, MS-DOS 2.0, a disk drive, and a Hayes-compatible modem.
58585 $50

X-TREE™ by Executive Systems simplifies file and directory management. It structures, sorts, and organizes files. Not copy protected. Requires at least MS-DOS 2.0 and 192KB RAM.
58575 $28

PathMinder™ by Westlake Data manages your computer's directories and files. Maintains a file security and systems log. Requires at least 256KB RAM and MS-DOS 2.0-3.
58598 $35

SafetyNet™ by Westlake Data is a 4KB memory resident program that allows you to recover accidentally erased files. SafetyNet maintains deleted files' allocated file space permiting recovery of files long after they have been deleted.
58596 $44

Languages

Turbo Pascal® by Borland powers up your computer with the Pascal language. Includes full-screen interactive editor, fast separate compiler, and support for: 64KB+ programs, device-independent graphics, and macros. Minimum requirements for an integrated environment: 384KB RAM, for command line: 256KB RAM.
58201 $62

QuickBASIC by Microsoft speeds up the programming process by eliminating the lengthy compile step. Supports the 8087 and 80287 coprocessors. The full-screen windowing editor aids in debugging and provides context-sensitive help. Requires at least 320KB RAM and DOS 2.1.
58235 $61

Turbo BASIC® by Borland is a high-performance, high-speed BASIC program that includes an interactive editor, a trace debugging system, and a fast compiler. Requires at least MS-DOS 2.0.
58200 $57

Sensational Software! Sensational Selection!

Communication

Crosstalk XVI by MicroStuf is a complete communications software package. The extensive prompt system makes it extremely user friendly. Supports Crosstalk, XMODEM, X.PC, Send/Capture, and Kermit protocols. Requires at least 96KB RAM and a modem.
59000 $99

Smartcom II by Hayes simplifies telecomputing by storing the phone numbers, log-on sequences, and communication parameters. Supports Hayes Verification, Stop/Start, Send Lines, XMODEM, and XMODEM CRC protocols. Requires at least 196KB RAM and a modem.
59105 $85

CompuServe Subscription Kit offers easy access to electronic services and online databases by means of a local phone call or supplemental networks such as TYMNET
59110 $21

Games

Flight Simulator by Microsoft makes you the pilot of a Cessna 182. Learn to navigate airports under various weather and flight conditions. When you've earned your wings, try your skill against enemy fighters in World War I Ace. Requires at least 128KB RAM, gaphics adapter card. Joystick/mouse usage is optional.
61500 $35

Jet by SubLOGIC puts you in the cockpit of the technologically advanced F-16 Fighting Falcon or the F-18 Hornet.

Requires at least 128KB RAM and an EGA or color graphics card. Joystick usage is optional.
61510 $35

Scenery Disks enhance your *Jet* and *Flight Simulator* programs by increasing the variety and detail of the terrain. These disks supply visible landmarks for "sight" maneuvering. Requires at least Flight Simulator 2.0 or Jet 1.3.
61511 Dallas, Ft. Worth, Houston $16
61512 Los Angeles, San Francisco, Las Vegas $16
61513 Washington DC, Charlotte, Miami $16

Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?™ by Broderbund whisks you off on an international adventure of mystery and intrigue as you try to determine the whereabouts of the infamous thief Carmen Sandiego and her gang. Requires at least a Hercules-compatible graphic adapter.
61520 $30

Where in the USA is Carmen Sandiego? by Broderbund has the daring criminal Carmen Sandiego loose again in this equally enthralling sequel. This time you scour the United States to follow the trail of Carmen and her gang of crooks. Requires a Hercules-compatible graphics adapter.
61521 $30

Sargon III® by Hayden Software is stimulating for the chess master and helpful for the novice. Sargon III allows you to take back moves, change sides, and study classic chess problems. It even suggests moves for you, visually displays the moves it considers, or monitors a game between you and an opponent for illegal moves. Requires at least 128KB RAM.
61528 $15

F-15 Strike Eagle® by MicroProse challenges your combat piloting ability with four skill levels. Navigate dangerous missions using the sophisticated instrument panel that includes Heads Up Display. Requires at least 128KB RAM, a CGA or EGA monitor, and that drive A is 5.25". Joystick usage is optional.
61527 $25

King's Quest III, the third installment of the popular Quest series by Sierra On-Line, is a graphics-adventure program with realistic 3-D animation. Advanced design includes parser, self-mapping features, and choreographed soundtrack. Requires at least 256KB RAM and MS-DOS.
61523 $30

NFL Challenge by XOR puts you on the gridiron, coaching your choice of the 28 NFL teams. Simulation introduces chance events like individual player characteristics, fumbles, interceptions, injuries, substitutions, and penalties. Animated coverage with instant replay possible on systems with RGB color monitors. Requires at least 256KB RAM, DOS 2.0, and monochrome or color adapter card.
61524 $59

Destroyer™ by Epyx puts you in command of a Fletcher Class US Naval Destroyer in this exciting graphics-action game. Seven progressively difficult scenerios add to the realistic simulation of piloting a WWII destroyer. Minimum requirement for PC-compatibles is a color monitor.
61522 $25

Education

Learning DOS by Microsoft is a comprehensive guide to understanding the IBM PC operating system. Teaches you file management, application, and batch file skills. Requires at least 256KB RAM and MS-DOS 2.0.
61000 $32

Typing Tutor IV® by Simon & Schuster customizes lessons to your abilities. Also includes an arcade-style game that entertains as it helps increase your typing speed. Requires at least 128KB RAM, MS-DOS 2.0 (PCjr requires DOS 2.1).
61020 $32

Reader Rabbit™ by The Learning Co. makes learning to read fun. Designed for ages 4-7, Reader Rabbit keeps your child's attention with four animated games that teach reading, spelling, vocabulary, and memory skills. Requires at least 256KB RAM, MS-DOS, a color graphics adapter. 3.5 diskette available for nominal fee with purchase of this package.
61035 $25

Alge-Blaster!™ by Davidson & Assoc. helps develop a strong foundation in algebra fundamentals. Factoring polynominals and systems of equations are easy to solve with the helpful prompts provided. New problems can be inserted into the program. Requires at least 128KB RAM, DOS 2.0, and color/graphics.
61030 $26

Math Blaster Plus!™ by Davidson & Assoc. teaches basic skills in math including: addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, decimals, and percentages. Five different learning activities, animation and color, "Blasternaut" math game, and award certificates add to the fun of learning. Requires at least 256KB RAM, DOS 2.0, and color/graphics.
61025 $29

Wizard of Words by Advanced Ideas increases children's reading, spelling, and vocabulary skills through five educational games. Tailor your child's learning of the resident 38,000 words or customize the lessons with your own vocabulary lists. Requires at least 128KB RAM and a color card. 3.5 diskette available for nominal fee with purchase of this package.
61045 $25

Books

61005 ***Running MS-DOS*** by Van Wolverton. *$16*

DOT-MATRIX PRINTERS

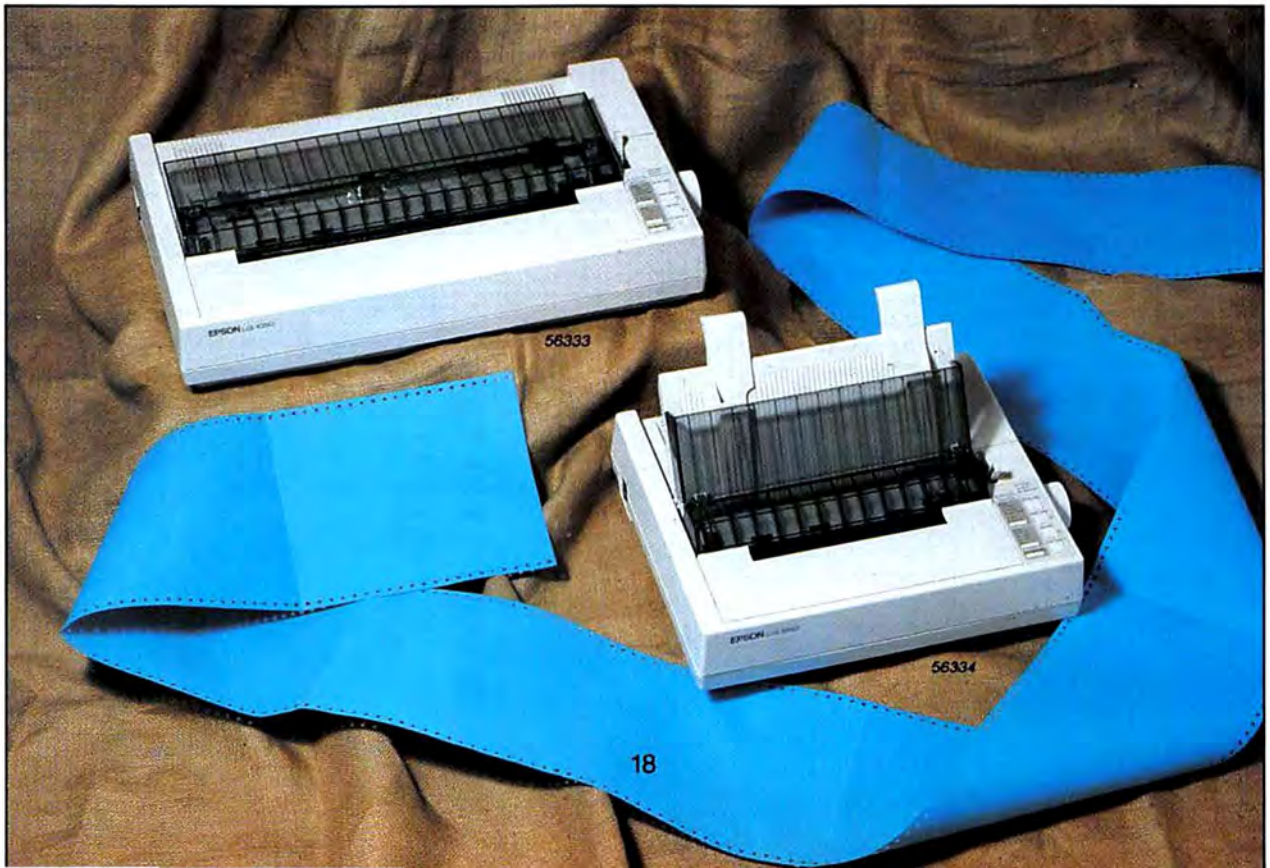
EPSON®

Model LX-800 provides the quality and software compatibility you expect from Epson plus draft (180cps) or near letter quality printing (30cps), multiple type styles, Epson Character Graphics set, and dot-graphics capability. Parallel interface. (80 columns).
56301 *$234*

The FX series dot-matrix printers have been industry standards for many years. These new additions are built with meticulous attention to detail to ensure performance durability. Printing 240cps in draft mode and 48cps in near letter quality mode, these printers can boost your printing output quickly and efficiently. Parallel interface.
56310 Model FX-86e (80 columns). *$399*
56311 Model FX-286e (132 columns). *$579*

The EX-800 dot-matrix printer is ideal when you have a large volume of printing to be done. It prints 300cps in draft mode and 60cps in near letter quality mode. A choice of type styles customizes your print jobs. Parallel/serial interface.
56320 Model EX-800 (80 columns). *$469*

The LQ series features a 24-pin print head that produces letter quality printing on a dot-matrix printer. An economical machine that creates good-looking printed material. The LQ-500 printer prints 180cps in draft mode and 60cps in letter quality mode. Includes an 8KB buffer and a Centronics-compatible, 8-bit parallel interface (the RS-232 interface is optional). The LQ-850 and LQ-1050 printers print 264cps in draft mode and 88cps in letter quality mode. Each includes a 6KB buffer and serial and parallel interfaces.
56335 Model LQ-500 (80 columns). *$379*
56334 Model LQ-850 (80 columns). *$599*
56333 Model LQ-1050 (132 columns). *$799*



OKIDATA

The 190 series maintains the sleek space-saving profile that made this series popular. Added speed, paper handling, and compatibility features make the 190 Plus printers the easiest to use in their class. Prints up to 200cps in draft mode and 40cps in near letter quality mode. Parallel interface.
192 Plus (80 columns).
56350 *$329*
193 Plus (132 columns).
56351 *$539*

The Microline® 292/293 series of printers offer high-quality dot-matrix printing with enhanced graphics capability. IBM compatible, these printers reproduce graphics, spreadsheets, and text files using a dual 9-pin printhead and a special Lotus® -compatible driver. They print 240cps in draft mode and 100cps in near letter quality mode. Parallel interface kit included.
292e Microline (80 columns).
56356 *$459*
293e Microline (132 columns).
56357 *$599*

The wide-carriage Microline 294 is faster and more versatile than many other comparably priced printers. Printing in utility mode at 400cps and near letter quality at 100cps, this printer is ideal for time-dependent applications. Handling sheets up to 16" wide, it connects by a parallel port. (132 columns).
56358 *$849*

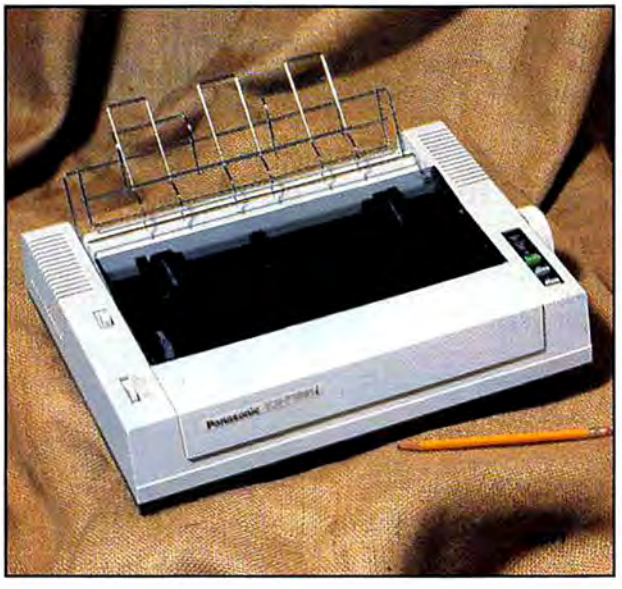
PANASONIC®

Model 1080i is a 10" printer operating at 120cps in draft mode and 24cps in near letter quality mode. Proportional spacing, print mode selector, and high-resolution graphics make this an all-around printer for everyday office needs. Parallel interface. (80 columns).
56370 *$179*

Model 1091i prints at 160cps in draft mode and 32cps in near letter quality. This 10" printer , offers all the features of the 1080i with increased speed. Parallel interface. (80 columns).
56371 *$199*

PC MAGAZINE
Editor's Choice
Nov. 10, 1987

Model 1092i prints at 240cps in draft mode and 48cps in near letter quality mode. Proportional spacing, high-resolution, dot-addressable graphics, and downloadable characters make this printer ideal for any business use. Parallel interface. (80 columns).
56372 *$349*



Model 1592 is a high performance printer that prints at 180cps in draft mode and 38cps in near letter quality mode. Parallel interface. (132 columns).
56373 *$449*

Model 1595 prints at 240cps in draft mode and 51cps in near letter quality mode to quickly meet all your printing demands. Parallel and serial interface. (132 columns).
56374 *$479*

PRINTER STANDS

Organize printer paper with a durable printer stand to create more workspace.

Roll 'N' Fold stand for 80-column printer keeps paper neat and out of the way.
38755 $24

Roll 'N' Fold stand for 132-column printer.
38756 $30

Universal printer stand is made of heavy duty plastic and holds any size printer (without tray).
38760 $6

Universal printer stand (with tray).
38761 $12

Multifunction printer stand for 80-column printer with under-printer drawer (plastic).
38765 $16.50

No Frills plastic stand for 80-column printer.
38748 $10

No Frills metal stand for 132-column printer.
38749 $24

PRINTER MUFFLERS

Kensington® mufflers control noise making your printer a more pleasant office companion.

Printer muffler for 80-column printer.
38795 $45

Printer muffler for 132-column printer.
38796 $59

PRINTER RIBBONS

37902	Epson FX-286e. *$6*	*37956*	Okidata 292e. *$10*
37901	Epson FX-86e/LX-800. *$6*	*37957*	Okidata 293e/294. *$13*
37930	Epson EX-800. *$12*	*37976*	Panasonic 1080i, 1091i, 1092i, 1592, 1595. *$12*
37915	Epson LQ-850. *$8*	*38066*	Star NX-1000. *$6*
37916	Epson LQ-1050. *$10*		
37955	Okidata 192/193. *$10*		

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White, 9.5"x11", 250 sheets.
35010 $5

White, 9.5"x11", 1400 sheets.
35016 $11

White, 9.5"x11", 2500 sheets.
35020 $19

Green bar,15"x11", 650 sheets.
35035 $11.50

Green bar, 15"x11", 2500 sheets.
35036 $25

Pastel, 9.5"x11" (50 ea. pink, ivory, canary, blue).
35025 $7.50

Bright, 9.5"x11" (50 ea. red, yellow, green, blue).
35026 $7.50

Mailing labels, 5000 (1 across, 1"x3").
35610 $12

TRACTOR FEEDS

37850 For Okidata 192. *$49*
37851 For Okidata 292e. *$46*
37875 For Panasonic 1595. *$99*

ELECTRONIC SUPPLIES

TESTERS

Mini-Tester (M-F) tests for faulty RS-232 interfaces.
40002 *$7*

Mini-Wiring (DB25M-DB25F) permits custom configuration of the RS-232 interface.
40006 *$15*

Quick Tester RS-232 M/F has 18 LEDs to check EIA interface problems.
40007 *$14*

Loopback Tester RS-232 M/F has four LEDs to monitor leads.
40008 *$9*

Reverser RS-232 tests for the common problem of reversed transmit and receive data pins.
40050 *$6*

JUMPER BOXES

Jumper boxes custom design in-line adapters for non-standard ports.

40000 Male to female. *$4*
40001 Male to male. *$4*
39999 Female to female. *$7*

CONVERTERS

For communication between different interfaces, use a converter.

39402- DB9F to DB25M. *$7*
39401 Parallel to serial. *$39*
39400 Serial to parallel. *$39*

39401

40002

GENDER CHANGERS

Gender changers permit connections between cables with same type of connector ends.

40015 Male to male (DB9). *$4*
40016 Female to female (DB9). *$4*
40020 Male to male (DB25). *$4*
40021 Female to female (DB25). *$4*
40025 Male to male (C36). *$8*
40026 Female to female (C36). *$8*

LINE BOOSTERS

40035

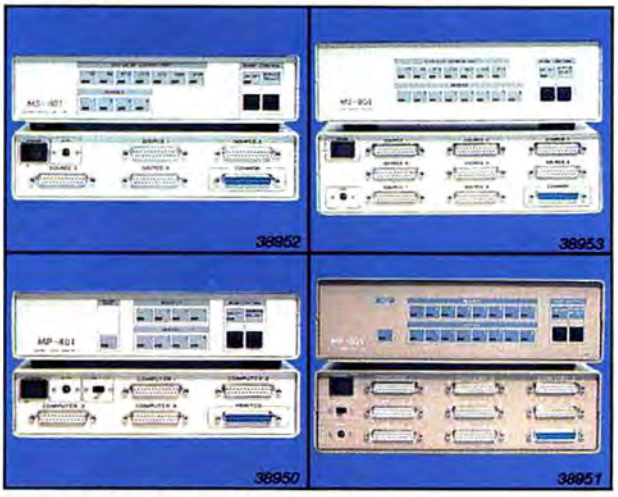
Amplify transmission signals to the receiver with a line booster.

39425 Centronics booster. *$39*
39426 RS-232 booster. *$39*

NULL MODEMS

Null modems are used for in-line connection of like devices.

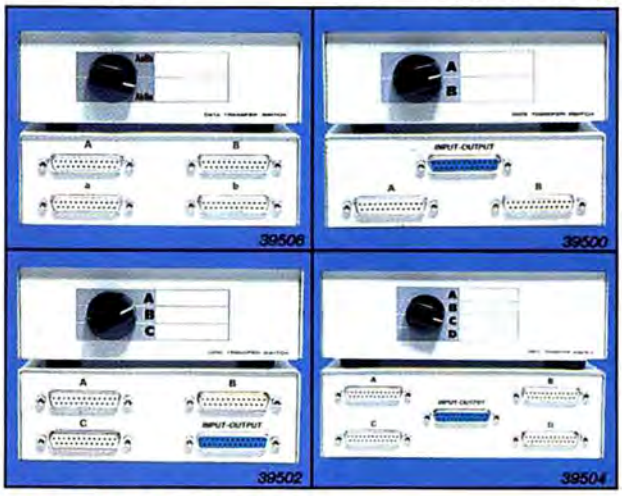
40035 Male to male. *$5*
40036 Male to female. *$5*
40037 Female to female. *$5*



AUTOMATIC SWITCH BOXES

These are ideal for offices where multiple users share peripherals. These devices automatically queue print jobs. Available with DB25F connectors. Numbers in parentheses reflect computers/peripheral.

38952 Serial auto switch box (4 /1). *$65*
38953 Serial auto switch box (8 /1). *$89*
38950 Parallel auto switch box (4 /1). *$65*
38951 Parallel auto switch box (8 /1). *$89*



MANUAL SWITCH BOXES

Multiple users can share peripherals or a single user can use many peripherals with the flip of a switch. Numbers in parentheses reflect computers/peripherals.

25-Pin (serial or parallel):

39506 X switch box (2/2). *$19*
39500 AB switch box (2/1). *$15*
39502 ABC switch box (3/1). *$19*
39504 ABCD switch box (4/1). *$23*

36-Pin (Centronics, not pictured):

39507 X switch box (2/2). *$19*
39501 AB switch box (2/1). *$15*
39503 ABC switch box (3/1). *$17*
39505 ABCD switch box (4/1). *$19*

BUFFERS

Increase productivity by printing and computing at the same time. All buffers connect with Centronics parallel interfaces. Numbers in parentheses indicate computer/peripheral.

38900

38900 64KB buffer (1 /1). *$63*

38901

38901 64KB buffer (2 /1). *$86*

38902

38902 256KB buffer (1 /1). *$99*

38903

38903 256KB buffer (2 /1). *$129*

SURGE SUPPRESSORS

Sudden surges of power can cause serious damage to your computer and erase valuable data. These accessories protect your system from surges of voltage and current.

40527

RS-232 (M-F) surge protector for serial ports.
40005 $5
Curtis® Safe Strip, 6 outlets (two switched), 7' cable.
40525 $17

4-outlet basic power strip.
40500 $7
6-outlet basic power strip.
40501 $8
6-outlet basic surge protector with circuit breaker.
40502 $9
6-outlet full surge protector with surge indicator light.
40503 $10
6-outlet full surge protector with light and noise filter.
40504 $11
4-outlet full protector with light and noise filter and EMI-RFI filtration.
40506 $14

6-outlet full protector with light and noise filter and EMI-RFI filtration.
40505 $19
Curtis Diamond® , 6 outlets, switched, lifetime warranty.
40527 $30
Curtis Diamond Plus® , includes modem protection.
40528 $42
Curtis Emerald® , 6 outlets, 6' cable, built-in circuit breaker, warranty.
40529 $37

40504

Curtis Ruby® , 6 outlets, EMI-RFI filtered, 6' cable, circuit breaker, warranty.
40530 $50
Curtis Ruby Plus® , includes modem protection.
40531 $60

40701
40700

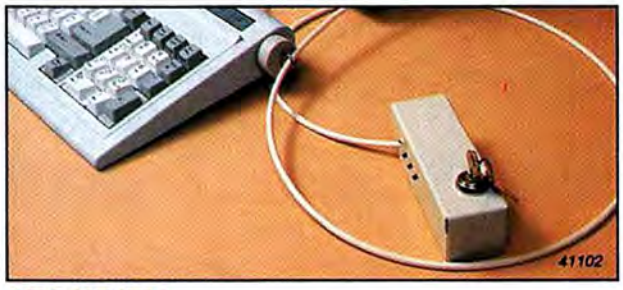
POWER SUPPLIES

Increase output with a new, effective power supply.

150-watt replacement power supply for PC/XT.
40700 $69

200-watt replacement power supply for the AT.
40701 $119
200-watt replacement power supply for the mini AT.
86010 $79

41101


41102

SECURITY

Secure valuable equipment with these tamper-resistant steel devices.

SE-KURE cylinder screw guard system for great security against equipment theft.
41101 $50

SE-KURE power-switch lock with keys ensures security for disk drives.
41100 $29
SE-KURE steel plug and cable system protects four of your most valuable peripherals with easily installed plugs.
41102 $45

COVERS

Protect your computer when it is not in use with these attractive and handy covers.

41775
41726

Dust cover for PC/XT. Clear plastic.
41775 $6
Dust cover for AT. Clear plastic.
41776 $6

Keyboard cover for PC/XT, or AT. Rigid smoked plastic.
41725 $5
Keyboard cover for 5151 or enhanced 101-key keyboard. Rigid smoked plastic.
41726 $5

41695
41696

Disk drive cover for PC/XT. Black rigid plastic.
41695 $4
Disk drive cover for AT. Black rigid plastic.
41696 $4

MASS STORAGE

HARD DRIVES

For ATs: *Hard drives for AT compatibles include: drive, data cable, mounting hardware, manual, and free PC-FullBak disk backup software. Hard drives above 30MB come with partitioning software.*

For PCs: *Hard drive kits for PC/XT compatibles include: drive, cables, mounting hardware, controller card, complete manual, and free PC-FullBak disk backup software.*

47400

47001

47002

Seagate™ 20MB half-height hard drive (65ms).
47003 $299
Seagate 40MB half-height hard drive (30ms).
47207 $459
MiniScribe® 40MB half-height hard drive (61ms).
47203 $399

MiniScribe 43MB half-height hard drive (25ms).
47204 $569
MiniScribe 71MB full-height hard drive (28ms).
47400 $799
MiniScribe 110MB full-height hard drive (28ms) using RLL encoding.
47425 $1189

Seagate 20MB half-height hard drive (65ms).
47002 $289
20MB 3.5" half-height hard drive kit for Compaq Portables.
47000 $299

MiniScribe 20MB half-height hard drive (65ms).
47001 $279
MiniScribe 40MB half-height hard drive (61ms).
47206 $395

CONTROLLERS

Floppy Controller

This card operates two PC/XT-compatible floppy drives efficiently.
Floppy controller, requires 2/3 slot.
46300 $39

46502

Hard Drive Controllers

Western Digital® AT dual floppy/hard drive controller.
46500 $149

Western Digital PC/XT hard drive controller.
46502 $79

47005

FLASHCARD™

PC MAGAZINE Editor's Choice

The FlashCards include 3.5" drive and controller shock-mounted on a bracket for easy installation. Designed for PC/XT and compatibles, they include complete, illustrated documentation, one-year warranty, and PC-FullBak software for easy backup. The FlashCard-20 and FlashCard-30 were PC Magazine Editor's Choice among hard cards, February 20, 1987.

47005 FlashCard-20™, 20MB MiniScribe, 65ms. *$319*
47104 FlashCard-30™, 30MB MiniScribe, 65ms. *$339*
47208 FlashCard-49™, 49MB Seagate, 28ms. *$549*

FLOPPY DRIVES

360KB half-height floppy drive for AT (grey).
45302 $109
360KB half-height floppy drive for XT (black).
45300 $99
360KB Teac® floppy drive for AT (grey).
45303 $109
360KB Teac floppy drive for PC (black).
45301 $109

45302

45300

45351

45301

45303

45350

45201

45200

360KB Teac floppy drive for PC (black).
45301 $109
1.2MB floppy drive for AT (grey).
45350 $109

1.2MB Teac floppy drive for AT (grey).
45351 $119
720KB half-height 3.5" floppy drive (grey).
45201 $115

720KB half-height 3.5" floppy drive (black).
45202 $109
1.44MB half-height 3.5" floppy drive (grey).
45220 $135

To Order: Call 1-800-727-3838

TEAK OFFICE ACCESSORIES

Personalize your office in style with these handsome accessories. Crafted in teak wood, these accessories will complement any executive office.

41557

41567

TEAK SWIVEL BASES

Teak turntable monitor base positions your monitor for flexible viewing, while creating more room on your desktop.
41567 *$27*

Teak turntable system stand is the attractive answer for those who share personal computer systems. The swivel base easily swings the computer to face different users.
41557 *$46*

41600 41611

TEAK DISK FILES

For 50, 5.25" diskettes, four teak wood dividers.
41611 *$20*
For 45, 3.5" diskettes, four teak wood dividers.
41600 *$15*

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When you uncover the FlashCard-49, you'll discover a motherload of high-capacity, high-speed mass storage - all on a card and at a fraction of the price of other comparable hardcards.

47208 FlashCard-49MB. *$549*

The FlashCard-20 and FlashCard-30, Winners of *PC Magazine* Editor's Choice Award Are Also Available! See Page 23.

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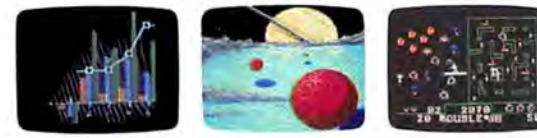
. . . . . *1001 NEWS FOR TANDY 1000 USERS*

Contents of Issue #17

- **Casino Craps** Vegas-style dice game.
- **Puzzle 15** Slide-the-tiles puzzler.
- **Label Printer** Keep your address book on file.
- **Alfredo's Hulking Hubris** Comedy digital animated cartoon.
- **Print Shop™ Images** For use with Brøderbund's® popular program.
- **A Pair of Sorts** Compare 2 popular sorting algorithms in action.
- **Diskette Cookbook** Includes Cajun recipes from Louisiana.
- ***And many more!***



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Circle 66 on reader service card

LETTERS

Reactions and responses from the PC World community

The Day After Christmas

'Twas the day after Christmas
And 'round the living room,
Torn gift wrap lay
Amid material boon.

In the mail it came,
My favorite mag,
But it looked quite strange,
Not the usual bag.

Disappointment set in—
No reviews that I want.
I perused it anyway,
From back to front.

Thanks to Tom Swan
I'm no longer hexed,
By TYPE DIR A: > PRN or
DIR B: >> DIR.TXT.

With his suggestion that I clean
With little cotton swabs,
And even quit smoking
As I do my jobs,

Scott Spanbauer meant well
Of that I am sure.
But my habits prevail;
Dirt and smoking endure.

From Mike Goodwin I learned
A needed BOOTSET.BAT.
Now when I see %1 anywhere,
I understand that!

Though I read it last,
'Twas definitely the most—
A bit of history
From our Publisher/Host.

Praises most high
To David Bunnell
For starting the mags
That serve me so well.

To all staff unmentioned
In the preceding rhyme,
Whose efforts all added
To my good time,

And to all still reading,
Whatever your fate,
Have a prosperous, a joyful,
A great '88.

Keep up the good work!
Stephen Ross
Fair Oaks, California

Spell It Out, Please

I bought the January 1988 issue of *PC World* because I was intrigued with what I thought was the cover story, "The Most Important People in Personal Computing." But there was no cover story! I feel like I've been ripped off—don't ever do that again!
Charles Bedard
Marlboro, Vermont

P.S. I still want to know *who* those people on the cover are—subscribers? Criminals? Government bureaucrats?

The message—which I guess didn't quite come across—is that the most important people in personal computing aren't the Bill Gateses and Mitch Kapors, but the millions of people who (continues)

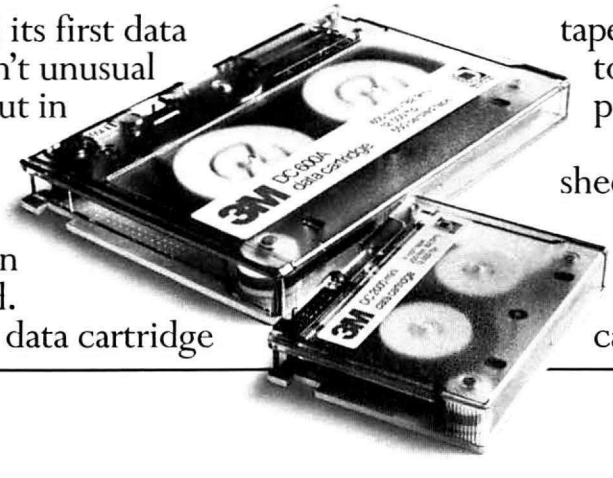
To create the world's first data cartridge tape, our engineers had to give up a lot of dreams.

To bring the world its first data cartridge tape, it wasn't unusual for our engineers to put in a little overtime on their overtime. Or occasionally miss the late show. Or even miss a tonight, period.

And even after the data cartridge tape was born, they still refused to lay low. It had to be perfected.

So, instead of counting sheep, our engineers counted patents. In fact, over ten of them are in use today.

A number no other data cartridge tape manufacturer



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can even come close to matching.

During other sleepless nights, they'd toss and turn over technological breakthroughs like proprietary Blackwatch™ backcoating, No End Play (NEP) hub designs, Dura-Stat™ drive rollers and one piece tape guides for precision tracking.

The result was the ultimate data cartridge tape.

And to this day, it's number one in the world by a long shot.

So, if you're looking for data cartridges and diskettes that offer durability, longevity and superior error performance, try one of ours.

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For more information, call 800-888-1889, Ext. 30.

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Circle 124 on reader service card

use the PC every day. Our dedication wasn't confined to just the cover—it was the purpose of the entire issue. Hence "Unsung PC Heroes," "Eight Common Problems (And How to Solve Them)," the forum that asked, "Are users getting a square deal?" and the 50-page systems and mail-order guides.

The users on the cover were photographed at the COMDEX show in Las Vegas. As far as we know, they're subscribers, businesspeople, programmers, doctors, bureaucrats, and other law-abiding folk. —Robert Luhn, Issue Editor

Accept No Betas

Richard Landry's column ["Not Newer, but Better," *PCW*, February 1988] states, "It's an unwritten industry law not to review a product before it is available in a 'shrink-wrapped,' or final, version.... You can be certain that when a product is reviewed in our pages, we've based our judgment on our experience with the real thing."

Later in the same issue, Eric Bender's review of Lotus's *Agenda* ["Lotus Develops a Wordsheet"] informs us: "This personal information manager [is] scheduled to ship this spring...," and "The final version may vary somewhat."

Your usually excellent magazine speaks for itself, but out of which side of its mouth?

Robert P. Bolles
Elkhart, Indiana

"Lotus Develops a Wordsheet" was not a product review but rather a preview of what could turn out to be a ground-breaking product. We treat articles like this as news, and you'll find they contain no recommendations either for or against purchasing the product.

Reviews, on the other hand, involve critical evaluation of performance, ease of use, and the implementation of features—by our authors and by National Software Testing Laboratories. And reviews always offer a clear purchase recommendation. PC World*'s review policy for new products stands: If it's not shipping to the public, it won't be reviewed in our magazine. —Ed.*

And the Winner Is...

I have to commend both TJ Byers and *PC World* for Mr. Byer's

Their Series II.

Listen to Our Range of Capabilities.
Compared with the similarly priced PCPI LaserImage 1000, the HP Series II is just ho-hum.

Versatility makes the LaserImage 1000 your printer of choice. Especially when you compare software compatibility and memory.

Emulation Sensation.
The HP Series II only offers its own emulation.

Our LaserImage gives you more—HP Series II, plus downloadable emulations for the IBM Proprinter, Epson FX/80, Diablo 630, and HPGL Subset for spreadsheet graphics.

You can even get LaserImage with an optional HPGL 7475A plug-in cartridge.

This summer you will be able to upgrade to ImageScript,™ our PostScript® language emulation, with a single plug-in cartridge.

So with LaserImage, the choice is yours.

More Memorable.
HP's Series II comes with an underwhelming 512K of memory. Which is fine, if you limit yourself to simple documents.

The LaserImage gives you twice as much, with a full megabyte of memory. Standard, right out of the box. So it's a much better choice

review of 386 clones ["Surprise! Cheap 386s Deliver," *PCW*, February 1988]. I subscribe to five computer magazines, all of which derive most of their income from advertising. This is the first article I have seen that actually comes right out and recommends one product over another, and tells us why. Hallelujah!

I heartily approve of this courageous approach to product testing, and I hope you will encourage all your authors to be equally candid.

Thomas W. Stone
Panama City, Florida

Our LaserImage®

for newsletters and presentations.

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Circle 106 on reader service card

Objectionable Subject

I just read David Bunnell's editorial "The Participatory PC" [*PCW*, December 1987]. Why even mention the PC? I notice he tried to work the concept of personal computing into the column in a superficial sort of way, but it really served only as a platform from which to preach his political and social views to this sector of the public.

In contrast, I've really enjoyed some of his editorials concerning issues of importance to your readers, such as legislation that would prohibit software rentals, or the proposed FCC rate hike for telecommunications.

PC World should stick to its subject: PCs and PC users.

David C. Barnhart
Clemson, South Carolina

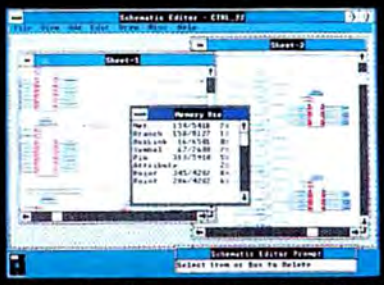
Come on! The personal computer isn't just ornamental to the kind of participatory democracy I'm urging; it's what makes it possible. Although our political views may differ, we owe one another an opportunity to speak out; anybody interested in creating a stable, prosperous, and free society must consider the opinions of all its members. I say widespread PC connectivity can bring us closer to that society. What could be a more appropriate topic? —David Bunnell

Blue Is Beautiful

Congratulations to David Bunnell for providing a truer perspective on IBM than I have seen in your magazine in a long time ["IBM: Reality Checks Versus Myths," *PCW*, February

(continues)

Applications keep pouring



Engineering Capture System,™ CAD/CAM Application, The CAD/CAM Group.

Paradox,® multi-user relational data base application, Ansa Software, A Borland Co.

Windows Mail, electronic mail application, DaVinci Systems.

The Network Courier,® electronic mail application, Consumers Software, Inc.

PC Paintbrush,® color design and graphics application, ZSoft Corporation.

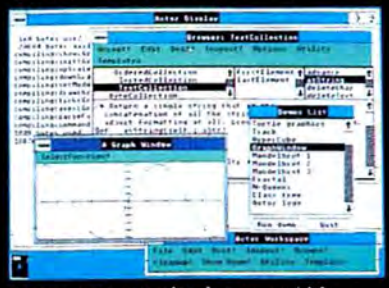
Dragnet, text retrieval application, Access Softek.

Windows Spell, spell checking application, Palantir® Software.

SnapShot, electronic photography application, Aldus Corporation.

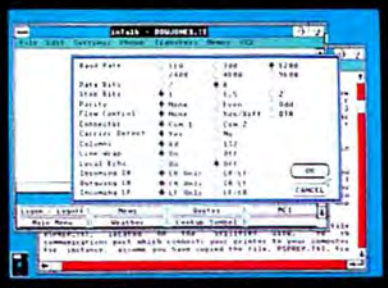
Guide, hypertext application, OWL International, Inc.

In*a*Vision,™ intermediate CAD application, Micrografx, Inc.



Actor, programming language (4th-generation), The Whitewater Group, Inc.

Windows Filer, filing and reporting application, Palantir Software.



Windows inTalk, desktop communications application, Palantir Software.

ClickStart!, applications organizer application, hDC Computer Corporation.

VIEW/PC, host data base access system application, DB/ACCESS, Inc.

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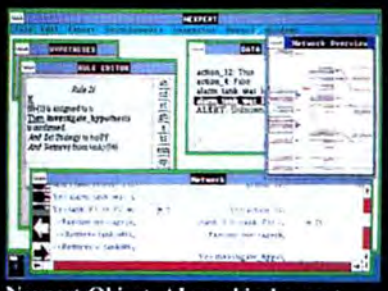
in for the Windows office.



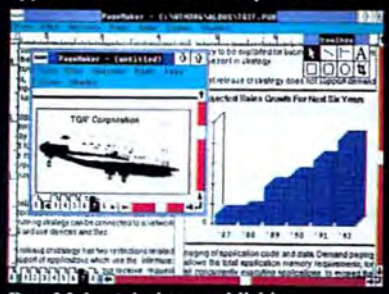
Nexpert Object, AI graphical expert, system application, Neuron Data.

Designer, CAD application, Micrografx, Inc.

Microsoft Excel, spreadsheet application, Microsoft Corporation.

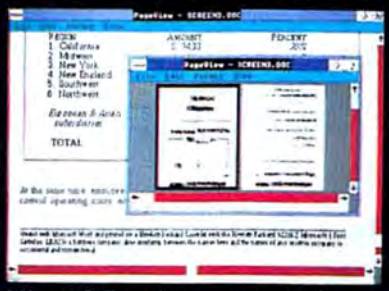
Windows DRAW,™ presentation graphics application, Micrografx, Inc.

Omnis™ QUARTZ,™ multi-user database application, Blyth Software, Inc.



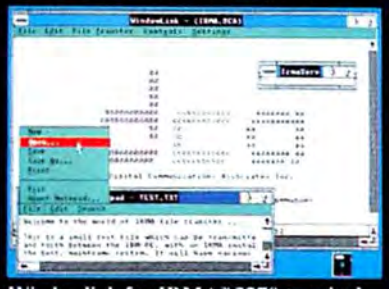
PageMaker,® desktop publishing application, Aldus Corporation.

Wave Test, GPIB test program generator, Wavetek San Diego, Inc.



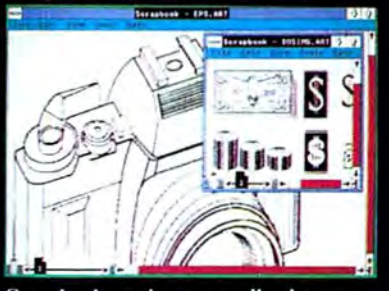
Microsoft Pageview, page preview/ graphics integration for Microsoft Word.

Opus I,™ The HyperGraphics Program, Roykore Software, Inc.

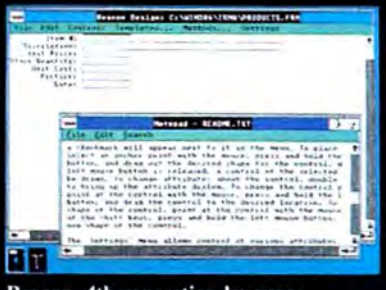


Windowlink for IRMA,™ 3270 terminal emulation, DCA, Inc.

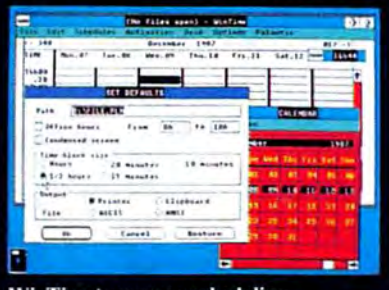
Windows GRAPH,™ business graphics/ charting application, Micrografx, Inc.



Scrapbook, art images application, T/Maker Company.



Beacon, 4th-generation language, Micro Data Base Systems, Inc.



WinTime,™ resource scheduling application, Palantir Software.

FormBase, relational data base application, Columbia Software, Inc.

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1988]. As a programmer and systems analyst on IBM mainframes since 1962 (and more recently on IBM microcomputers), I am strongly biased toward IBM. I'm tired of telling my friends that only a small portion of the anti-IBM hype they read in personal computing magazines is true.

Violet A. Devoe
San Diego, California

Brotherly Love

I was happy to see Michael Goodwin's review of the Brother M-1709 printer [*The Hardware Shelf, PCW,* February 1988], but as a proud owner of this delightful machine, I must defend it against some of his statements and add a few in its favor.

Mr. Goodwin never mentions which state-of-the-art features the printer lacks. In my estimation it possesses many. The "paper park" function that allows for easy switching between continuous forms and single sheets is an outstanding example of the printer's advanced features. Yes, perhaps the command sequence for paper parking is a bit labor intensive, but it becomes second nature very quickly.

When it comes to speed, Mr. Goodwin is right again—the printer is slow, but what quality! I could probably drink three cups of coffee, rather than the two he suggests, while waiting for my file to print out, but the three-pass print mode turns out professional-looking letters well worth the wait. I'm happy with my Brother, regardless.

Jack M. Hughes
Waldorf, Maryland

Times change, and in the computer industry, times change very fast. The Brother M-1709 may well have represented the state of the art in paper-handling features when it debuted, but now other printers do more —such as automatically rolling fanfold paper up at the end of a document to be torn off, then rolling it back down again, ready for the next job. Also, just offering a feature isn't enough if it's hard to use, as is the case

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with the M-1709's accurate but labor-intensive paper-parking procedure. Furthermore, state of the art implies speed. You may love the printer's three-pass mode, but considering how slow it is, many readers may question its value. I agree that the M-1709 is a swell printer with some advanced features, but it lacks others currently available in the marketplace. —Michael Goodwin

Learning Our ABCs

Your computer trivia quiz ["Match Wits With PC World," *PCW*, January 1988] got off to a bad start—none of the answers listed for the first question is correct. The first electronic digital computer was developed in 1939 at Iowa State University by Dr. John Vincent Atanasoff, and was called the Atanasoff-Berry Computer (ABC).

The matter of who invented the first electronic digital computer was settled in court in October 1973 after a seven-year legal battle between Honeywell and Sperry Rand.

John Hoffman
Boone, Iowa

The reader is correct, and PC World *is just plain wrong on this one. Atanasoff, an Iowa State mathematics professor, conceived the design for an electronic digital computer while sitting in a roadside tavern and later constructed the ABC with the help of graduate student Clifford Berry. Dr. John W. Mauchly, co-inventor of ENIAC, the first large-scale electronic digital computer, met several times with Atanasoff and Berry in the early forties and was well acquainted with the design principles behind the ABC. For a more thorough account of the ABC and its designers, see* The First Electronic Computer: The Atanasoff Story *(University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, 1988). —Ed.*

Misbegotten Macro

I was very interested in trying out George Beinhorn's tips ["Macro Menus for WordPerfect," *PCW*, February 1988] but immediately ran into trouble. *Word-*

(continues)

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QMS-PS®
800 II, 810

Linotype Company
Linotronic™ 100, 300, 500

Texas Instruments
OmniLaser™ 2106

Texas Instruments
OmniLaser™ 2108, 2115

The Laser Connection
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LZR™ 2665

Qume Corporation
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Digital Equipment Corp.
PrintServer 40,™
ScriptPrinter™

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IBM 4216-020
Personal Pageprinter™

Varityper
VT-600

Apple Computer Inc.
LaserWriter® IINT, IINTX

Quadram
Quadlaser™ PS

Agfa-Gevaert
P400PS™

General Computer
Business LaserPrinter Plus™

Wang
LCS15™

NEC Information Systems
SilentWriter™ LC-890

Diconix
Dijit™ I/PS

Apollo Computer Inc.
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Circle 114 on reader service card

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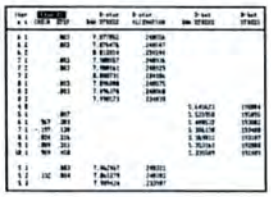

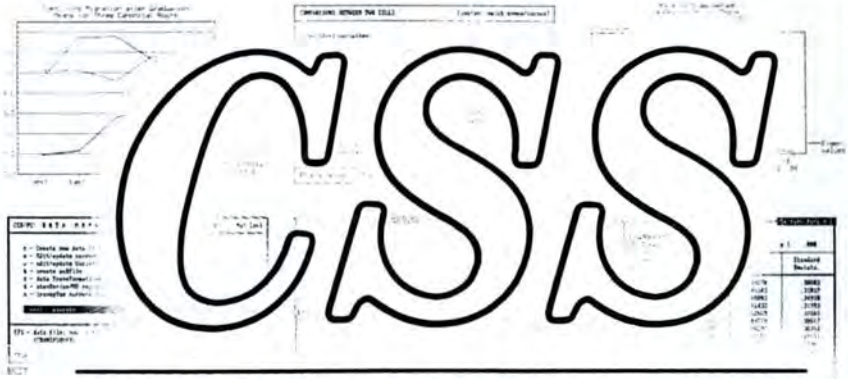

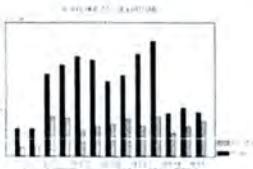

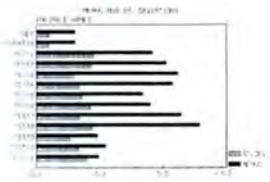

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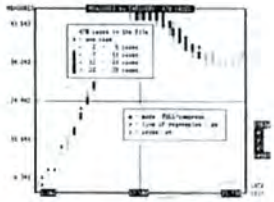

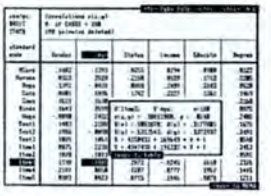

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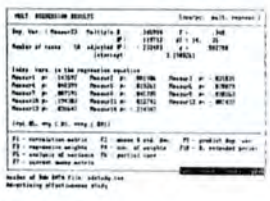

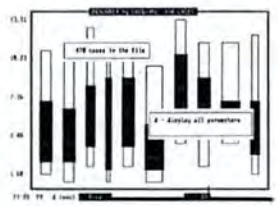

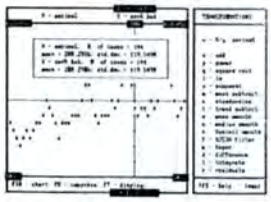

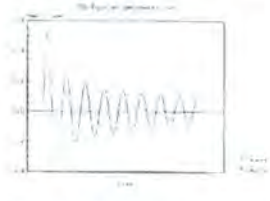

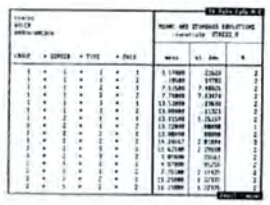

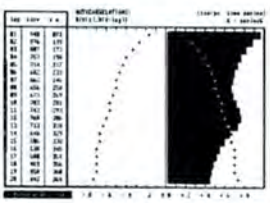

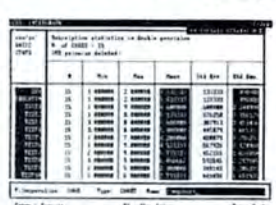

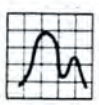

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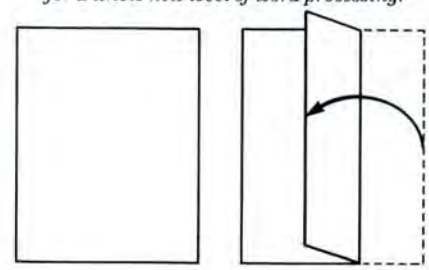

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Perfect 4.2 responds with 'Functions not allowed between ^O, ^P, ^S or ^G' when I run the merge macro. What gives?

Steven A. Seklir
New York, New York

The message is telling you not to use the WordPerfect *format codes for boldface, underlining, highlighting, or changing screen colors in your menus, a fact mentioned in the article but easily overlooked. Print Merge doesn't allow format codes between ^O and ^G or before ^O.*

Another problem lies with an unfortunate omission from the article that causes its menu-based macros to execute improperly. Each menu should end with ^Q, directly following the final ^G ^O combination. Though the manual doesn't explain why, macros contained within menus that do not conclude with this code will execute at the end of the document rather than at the intended location, the cursor position. —George Beinhorn

Name That Pioneer

Though William Rodarmor's "Radical Engineer" profile of me was flattering ["PC Pioneers," *PCW*, January 1988], it contained some errors that tend to give me more credit than I deserve.

I didn't form the Homebrew Computer Club; that honor belongs to Gordon French and Fred Moore. I only developed the meeting format. Nor did I "launch" the Community Memory project, but rather cofounded it with Efrem Lipkin and the late Ken Colstad. Community Memory was Efrem's idea in the first place.

In both cases I supported and contributed to the vision of those efforts. However, I refuse to go along with the "great man" theory of journalism whereby all events can be attributed to the nearest person who makes good copy.

Lee Felsenstein
Chief Engineer
UpStart Corporation

Corrections

John Grissim's story on Anthony Barcellos and the Sacramento PC Users Group ["Unsung PC Heroes," *PCW*, January 1988] contains two errors. The Sacramento group is the fifth largest PC club in the country rather than the third, trailing the Boston Computer Society's IBM PC User Group, the Houston Area League of PC Users (HAL-PC), Washington D.C.'s Capital PC User Group, and New York Personal Computer. Also, *Sacra Blue*, the Sacramento PC Users Group newsletter, is spelled without a hyphen.

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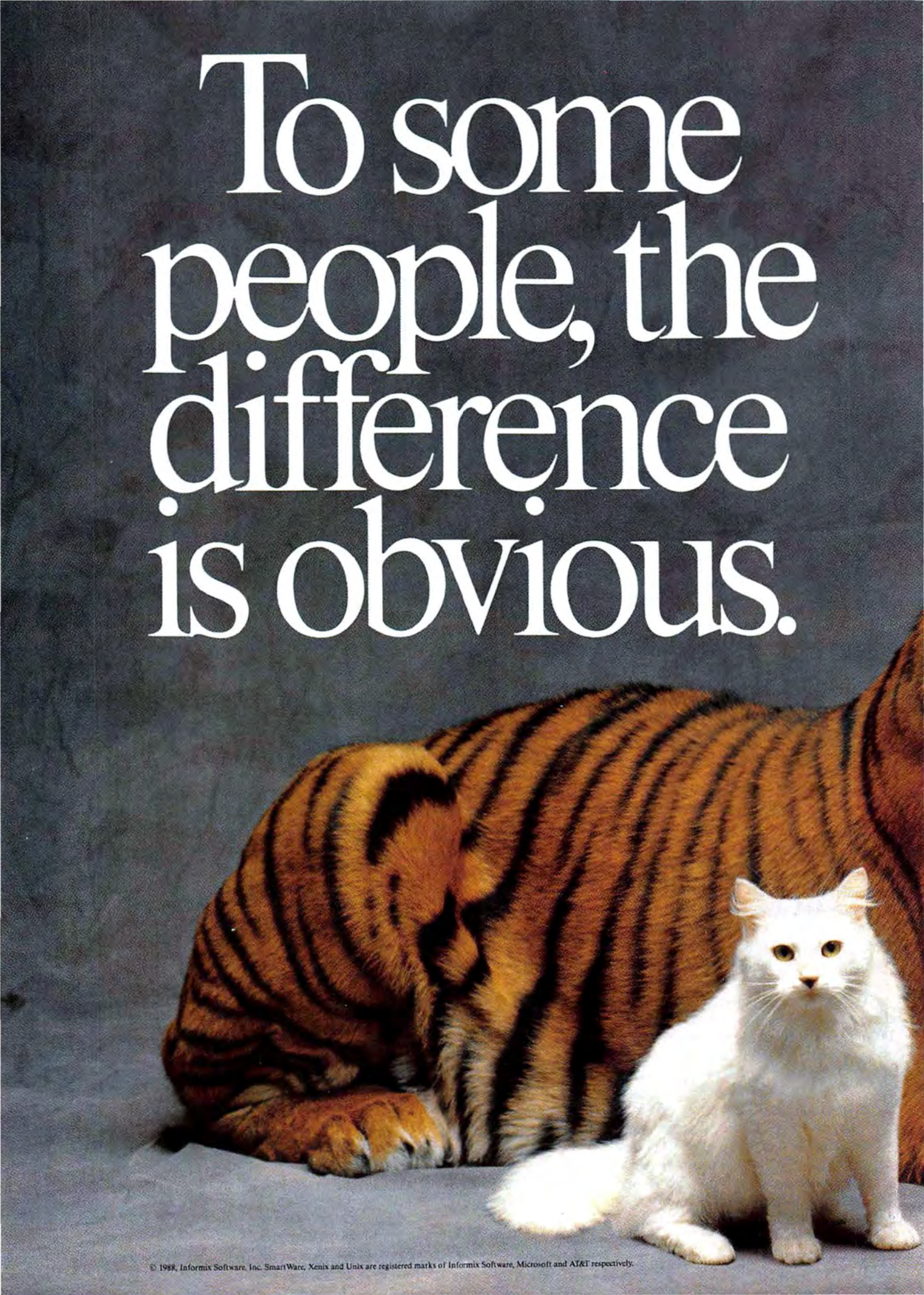

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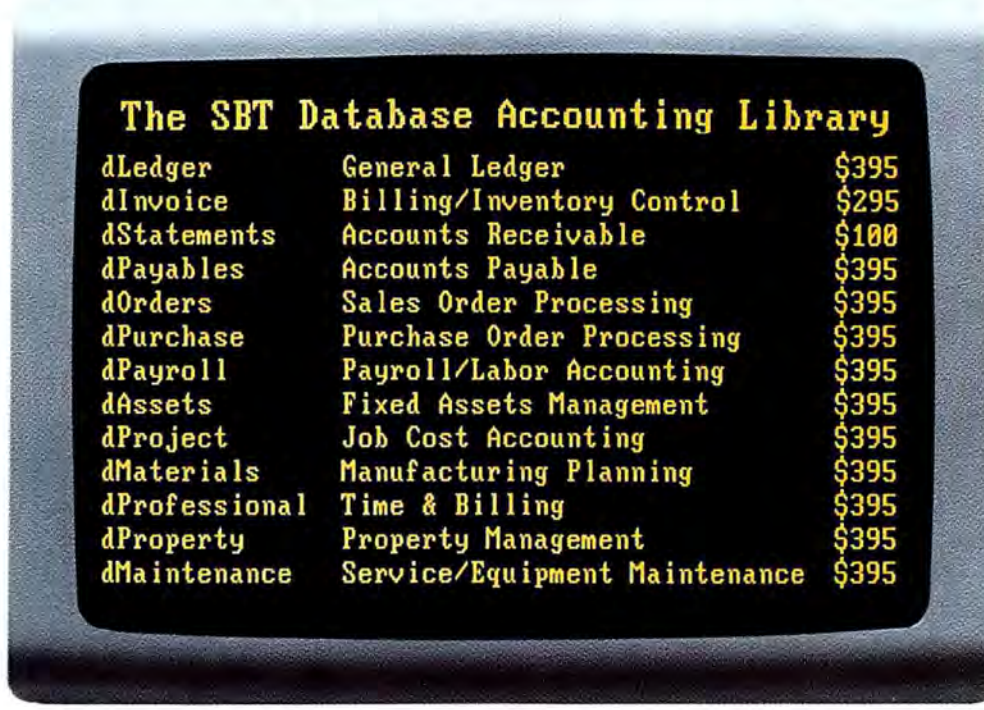

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The Spreadsheet Makes the Interface

The real battle of the user interface isn't between Windows, character-based applications, and the Mac—

It's between Excel, Quattro, and 1-2-3.

Richard Landry

All the talk about how standardized interfaces promote ease of use seems to ignore one uncomfortable fact—users spend more time learning how a product's features work than they do learning how to navigate its menu tree. If the software world really wanted to do everyone a favor, it would help users get more power out of the applications they know by integrating them with ones they don't.

That's exactly what's happening in spreadsheets. These products are emerging as core applications, tying together data bases, word processing, micro-to-mainframe communications, and even electronic mail. More than ever, users who work mainly with numbers will find that they rarely, if ever, need to leave the confines of that single application.

This trend may come as no surprise to those of you who already benefit from the rash of *1-2-3* add-ins that erupted shortly after release 2.0 of Lotus's spreadsheet appeared. But even hard-bitten spreadsheet jockeys will be wowed by the scope of forthcoming developments. You can get a taste of what's to come by looking at one of the hottest new products of the season, *Oracle for 1-2-3*. To call this $199 software package a *1-2-3* add-in is to overlook the fact that it's a full implementation of one of the most powerful SQL data bases around. It's actually a case of the data base wagging the spreadsheet.

Oracle for 1-2-3 can be configured as a stand-alone data base, or it can be used as a SQL front end to *Oracle* on a LAN server, minicomputer, or mainframe. By storing spreadsheet data within a fully relational data base, users gain powerful data retrieval and sharing capabilities that simply don't exist with the Lotus product alone.

Yet opening a window onto data base information is only one service that spreadsheets can provide as core application environments. More significant by far is the role they're assuming as communications links between disparate products and data. In this game Borland, Microsoft, and Lotus are all potential players, though Microsoft has the most to show right now and Lotus, the most intriguing promises of things to come.

Borland, which sells the *Paradox* data base as well as the *Quattro* spreadsheet, disputes the significance of a product like *Oracle for 1-2-3*. A spreadsheet just isn't the best tool for executing complicated data base queries, argues Richard Schwartz, *(continues)*

one of the developers of *Paradox*. "You have to distinguish between a front end to another product, which you might characterize as an interface only, and a fully featured stand-alone program that has strong connections to a data base engine," Schwartz maintains. *Paradox* will use *Quattro* as a front end but won't rely on the spreadsheet's minimal data base capabilities or some general query language like SQL to get the job done. Rather, *Quattro* will be able to execute programs written in the *Paradox* PAL programming language to extract selected data from a *Paradox* data base, then pull the information into the spreadsheet for analysis.

Contrast this approach with Microsoft's strategy for *Excel*, which—at least on the surface—seems to rely on the *Windows* dynamic data exchange (DDE) capability to communicate with other applications. Although DDE is designed to be a general communications language like SQL, it turns out that applications need to know a great deal about each other in order to work effectively together, acknowledges *Excel* product manager Phil Welt. You can see evidence of this in the several sophisticated communications packages that vendors have announced to tie their mini and mainframe programs to the spreadsheet.

Excel also has another trick up its sleeve that goes beyond DDE. Using its powerful macro programming language, *Excel* can instruct other applications to perform specific actions on its behalf, such as requesting an E-mail program to send an updated spreadsheet to other users.

In fact, what effective communications between a spreadsheet and data base or E-mail package really calls for is an overall programming environment that links different applications and understands the difference between data created with a word processor, graphics program, data base, or spreadsheet. It's this kind of architecture that Lotus seems to be building into its next-generation products, starting with the distant *1-2-3/G* and *Lotus DBMS*. Although the specific details of these products remain a mystery, you can expect that at the very least *1-2-3/G* will use the dynamic data exchange capabilities of the Presentation Manager to pass messages and data between itself, *Lotus DBMS*, and other OS/2 applications.

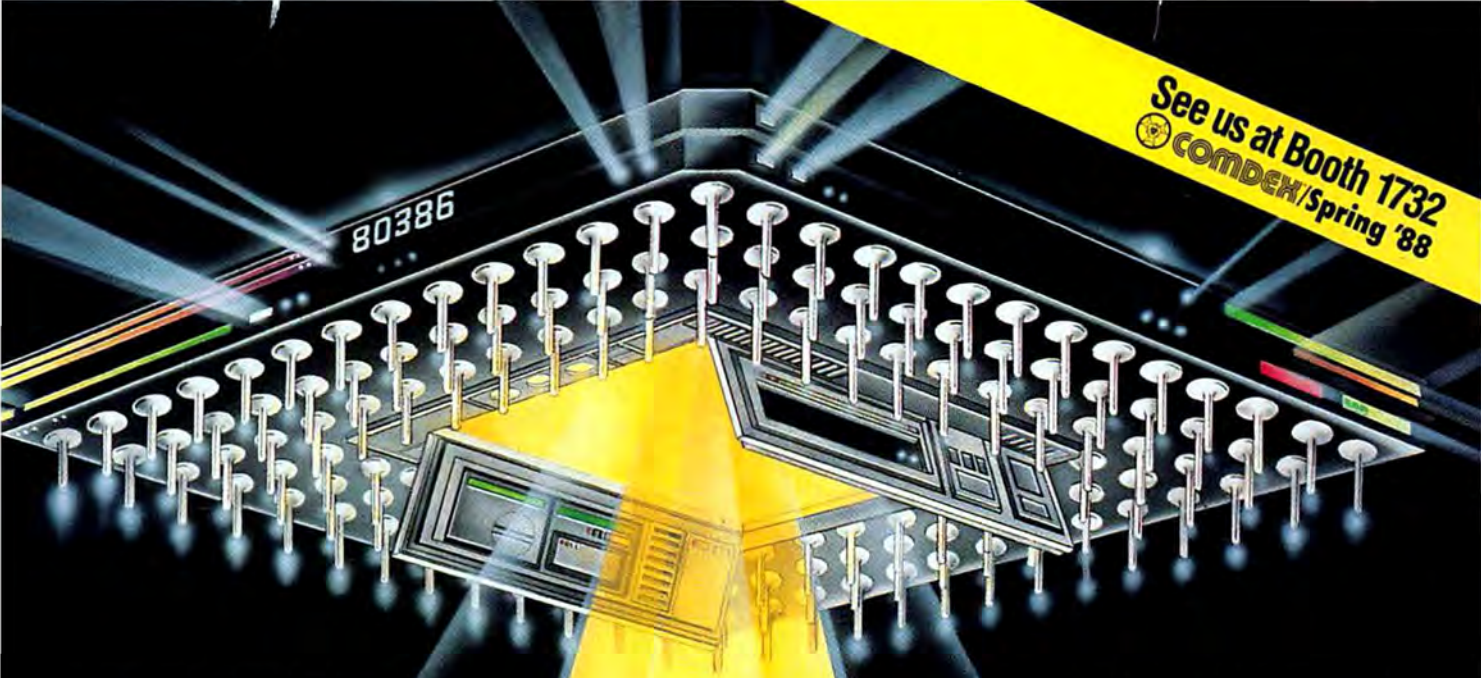
Can anyone really predict which vendor will succeed in turning its spreadsheet into the ultimate power environment?

But Lotus, which has been in the business of tying its micro applications into the IBM mainframe environment for some time, also understands that communications by means of a broad-brush protocol like DDE or even IBM's SAA has some severe limitations. That's why the company has announced plans to turn its micro-to-mainframe communications facility, called *The Application Connection*, into a fully fleshed-out standard that covers data sharing among micro and mainframe applications, and which in particular promotes communications with *1-2-3*.

The power of this kind of solution isn't lost on Lotus's competitors. "As an industry, we're all looking to take the next step beyond file exchange by drawing tighter connections between our products, whether they're data bases, spreadsheets, or word processors," acknowledges Borland's Schwartz. "The issue isn't whether you access the data by means of a spreadsheet or data base or some other front-end tool—it's the connections you make between the tools."

Given the profusion of directions the various vendors are taking and the scarcity of working examples, can anyone really predict which vendor will succeed in turning its spreadsheet into the ultimate power environment? My bet is that the laurels will go to the company whose product line offers the tightest integration, whether within *Windows* or the Presentation Manager or any other user shell. On this score, Microsoft and Lotus seem poised to butt heads in what will probably be the most momentous confrontation in PC software history. Whether Borland even figures in this contest will depend on how smoothly it merges *Quattro* with its *Paradox* data base and the communications facilities of OS/2 Extended or Microsoft's *LAN Manager*. But don't count Richard Schwartz out.

As always, I'm interested in your opinions on these or any other subjects. Write to me at *PC World*, 501 Second St., San Francisco, CA 94107, or send an MCI message to Richard Landry/301-3685. ●



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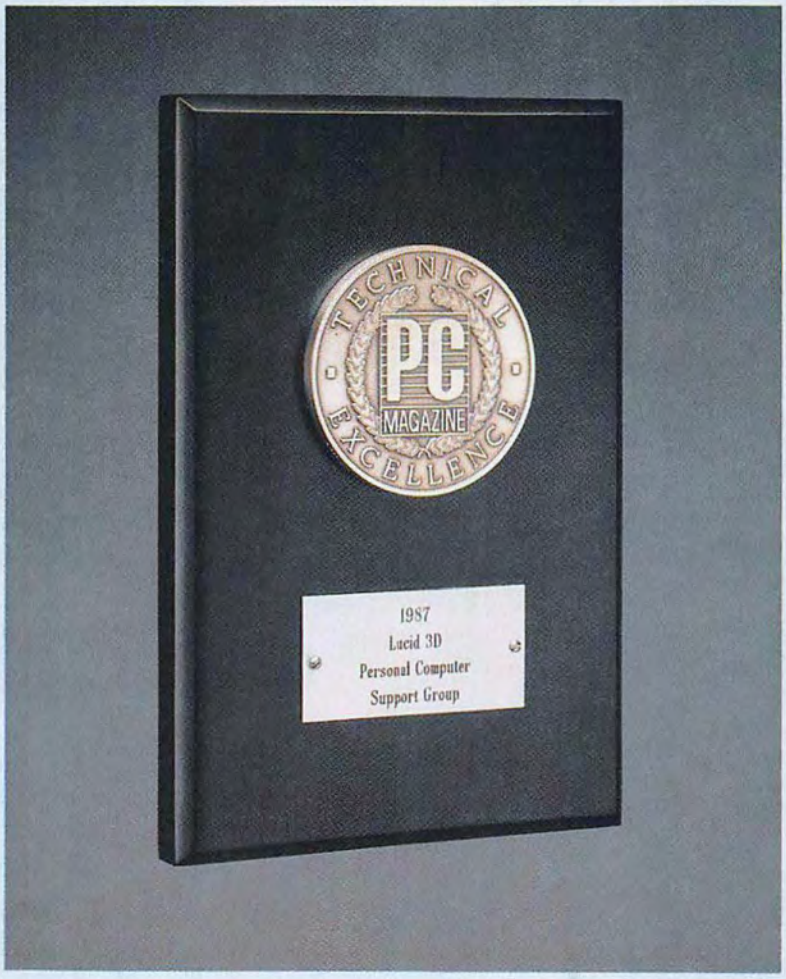
PCSG'S Lucid 3-D and Microsoft Excel



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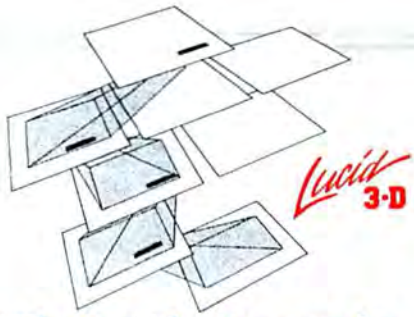

"The Best idea I've seen for a spreadsheet in years"
Jim Seymour, Columnist, PC Magazine, PC Week

Lucid is as simple as the pictures show. And you don't have to write formulas to do that. All you do is look at the other file, navigating through easy, point and shoot directories. When you come back up (with one key) the link is made automatically for you.

Everything about Lucid works that way. Users say "*It is so intuitive that I really don't need a manual.*" That's because we use something we call a visual command menu. Jim Seymour, the noted PC columnist, talking about Lucid in a recent article said, "*If there ever was an interface idea so good it ought to be stolen and widely used, this is it.*"

Memory Resident

You can pop Lucid up instantly while working in your word processor or any other program. You can cut anything on the screen and paste it right into Lucid, or cut anything from a Lucid worksheet and paste into the application below. You can even run Lucid on top of 1-2-3 if you like, and cut and paste information from one to the other, including formulas.

Notepad Behind Every Cell

Another 3-D feature is that any cell can also contain a multiple page note window that you instantly access with a single keystroke. You can write notes, memos or letters that relate to your work, save them as individual files and even print them separately or with your spreadsheet.

Other Features

Lucid has over 100 innovations that cause users to say it is the best of all the spreadsheet offerings! Things like: **Speed** - background, minimal and visible recalc. **Macros** - learning macros, autoexecute macros, macros work between spreadsheets, user defined macro menus. **Mouseability** - total Mac-like mouse access, but easy keyboard control as well. **Color or Mono** - 17 user controlled color displays. **Audit** - six displays and printouts. **Windows** - multiple sheets on screen at same time. Multiple views of the same sheet. Pop-up windows of function formulas, range names, favorite labels, macro names, filenames, even a calculator. All let you select and insert right into your spreadsheet. All windows (even notes) resize and move where you want them. **Cut and Copy** - between spreadsheets, documents and between sessions. **Help** - press F1 anywhere, you get help specific to what you are doing.

Fig. 1. Let's get the detail on those ad costs, just move the widebar to that cell and press one key (grey +).

Fig. 2. Here we are instantly. Notice the lower left corner showing we are on level 2. Grey – takes you back. There is no limit to the levels you can go. Move right down to transaction level if you like.

Co-Winner of the 1987 PC Magazine Award for Technical Excellence
The other winner: Microsoft's Excel

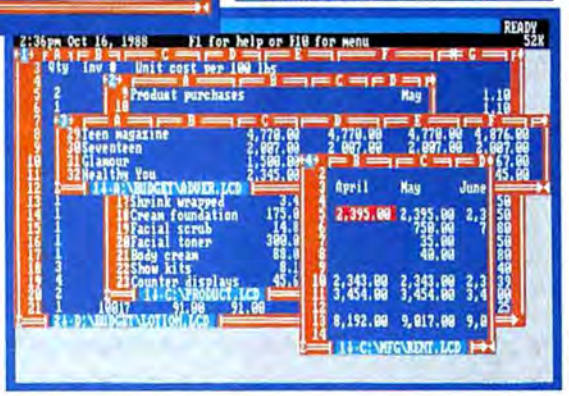

Fig. 3. Of course, Lucid does multiple windows. Notice, you can simultaneously open windows in different directories, different drives, even down as many 3-D levels as you like. No one else can do that.

Masterwork

Lucid is more than a bag of features. It is a masterwork. The overall feel is tight and polished. In fact, Paul Somerson, executive editor of PC *Magazine*, used one word to describe it, "*Slick*".

PCSG has built an excellent reputation as a developmental laboratory. Now those who have worked with Lucid 3-D tell us "*you have done it again. This is software everyone should have.*"

Even if you don't plan to abandon 1-2-3, Lucid makes sense. Files are converted between them with ease so there's not an interoffice compatibility problem. This means you can have the power and fun of Lucid 3-D, without having to upset your present systems.

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June

LAN Server Roundup
Is a dedicated network server a better choice than a clone manufacturer's plain vanilla 386? Exhaustive benchmark tests from National Software Testing Laboratories yield some surprising results.

LAN Data Bases
Everyone looks at performance and speed in choosing a network data base, but data integrity, security features, and the user's ability to easily perform ad hoc queries are probably all more important in the long run. *PC World* pits three top network data bases against the current data base champ—*dBASE III Plus*.

LAN Promises
It used to be simple. Users could choose high-performance proprietary network operating systems from vendors such as Novell and Banyan or low-performance DOS-based networks from IBM and 3Com. Now that OS/2 has emerged as the base for the LAN operating system of the future, which companies will be the dominant players? And will proprietary operating systems still be the best choice?

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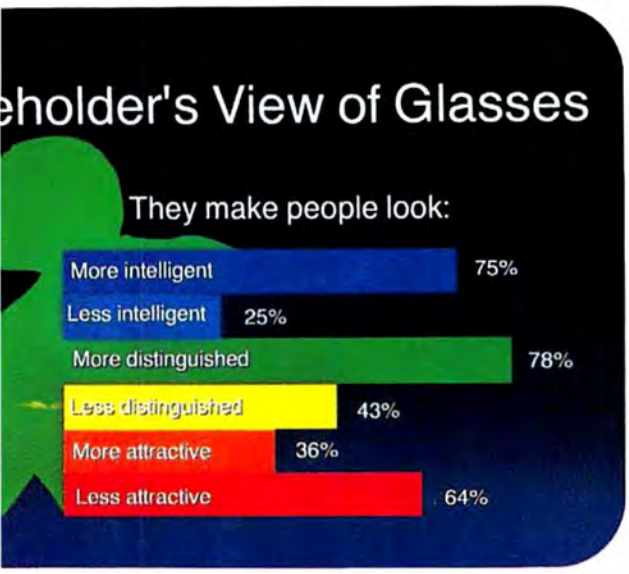

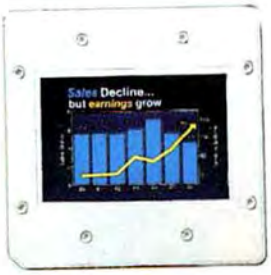

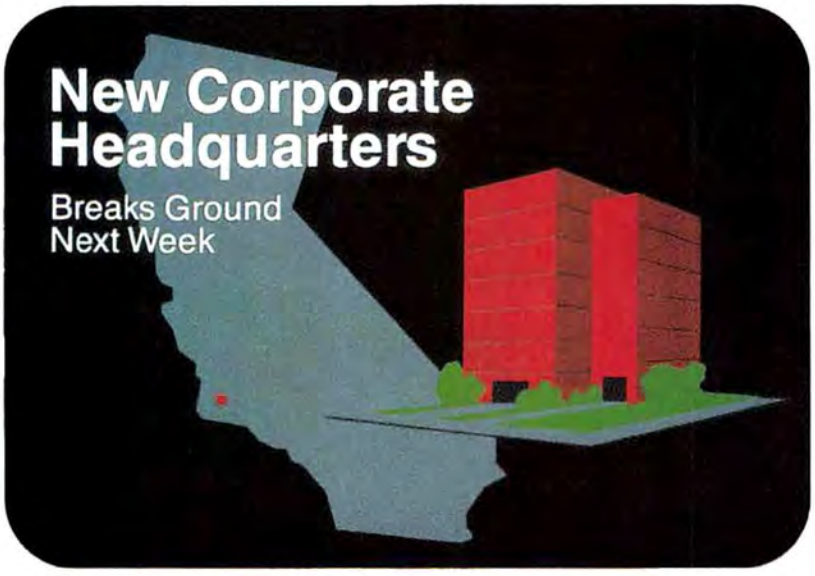

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The New IBM

IBM has shed its old ways of doing business in favor of a more competitive approach. Does this spell trouble for Apple and Compaq?

Stewart Alsop

I want to tell you about the two-day trip I took to Florida last February.

Now that you're finished admiring my good midwinter fortune, I'll tell you that I spent those two days inside a meeting room at IBM's engineering facility in Boca Raton. I arrived thinking that I was wasting some good beach time. I left glad that I had made such a tremendous sacrifice.

The reason I'm glad is that I saw arrayed before me the new IBM. The meeting was called a press briefing—two days for IBM to talk to a turnout of about 30 members of the computer and business press. The agenda included talks by IBM PC chief Bill Lowe, Microsoft CEO Bill Gates, IBM distribution czar Ned Lautenbach, IBM PC development chief Frank King, system software chief Dick Hanrahan, Micro Channel–bus evangelist Chet Heath, and a host of other IBM PC executives. It even included a tony dinner cruise up the Intracoastal Waterway where we were joined by George Conrades, IBM executive vice president, Personal Systems.

This was the new IBM in action. The new IBM is a remake of the old, tired, less competitive IBM, a remake that seems, in this analyst's view, to throw out the old, tired things about IBM while maintaining the good things that made IBM such a formidable competitor in the first place. The visible introduction of the new IBM was a reorganization of the company announced in late January.

Don't misunderstand me. IBM people still wear white shirts and narrow ties. They still talk in a strange, compressed language about DASDs (pronounced *das-dees*), planars, and SQL (pronounced *sequel*). They still give you business cards that haven't been updated and have interminable titles.

But suddenly IBM is acting like other companies by telling us what it plans to do, why it's doing it, and how it would like events to transpire. And, for the first time in a long time, IBM people don't seem embarrassed by their desire to be competitive and aggressive. (After a long and torturous but unsuccessful government suit charging IBM with monopolistic practices, IBM people became very sensitive to accusations of unfair competition. Not any more.)

In essence, IBM seems to have recognized that the rules of the computer game have changed. And the company is changing the way it works so it

(continues)

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can play by the new rules, competing more on technology and product development than on sales and manufacturing power.

At the top level, what IBM has done is to reorganize along product lines so that mainframes, minicomputers, PCs, and communications products are all managed by their own team. More significantly, the company has placed new product and pricing authority within each product group instead of in a centralized management committee. That means each product group can respond to market conditions without necessarily having to justify its actions to a bunch of old-time mainframe jockeys.

In addition, like other large companies in other industries, IBM has been in serious danger of being taken over by the bean counters, the financial people. In its reorganization, IBM has wisely made the financial people subject to the product group managers.

Taken together, these moves free up each product group to act independently and aggressively. Take this meeting I just sat through as an example. The meeting itself was unusual. It's the first time, to my knowledge, that IBM has ever invited the press to its own overnight briefing. (Companies like Apple, Compaq, Microsoft, and Lotus are constantly briefing the press on something or other.)

More significant, IBM laid its cards on the table for the first time. Here are IBM's product plans for the next two years:

- By the end of 1989, IBM will have produced its last 80286 machine. It has already produced its last 8086 machine.

(continues)

The best ad for Key Tronic keyboards is a close look at the competition.

Last spring a certain quality conscious consumer purchased what he thought was a Key Tronic KB 5151 Professional Series keyboard from a local retailer.

Look for the Key Tronic Professional Series label on the keyboard's top left hand corner.

This same consumer later returned the keyboard to Key Tronic with a letter of complaint. The product, shown above, was used for just over a year, though it looks like it was abused for much longer. Some of the keycap legends had worn away, and had to be replaced by the stick-on labels you see here.

Truth is, while the above product was sold as a Key Tronic keyboard, a Key Tronic label never appeared on the product. There is no way it could have. Because only keyboards bearing the leading name in keyboard technology offer the quality behind that name.

Close examination will tell you immediately if the keyboard you are purchasing is from Key Tronic. First, look for the Key Tronic Professional Series label in the top left hand corner. Look also at the keyboard's legs to see if they have a rubberized non-skid covering, just another of the Key Tronic extras that ensure better performance.

Of course there are other features, not initially apparent, that separate a great keyboard from a mediocre one. Take Key Tronic's double shot molding, for example, a process that prevents the keycap legends from wearing away (which proves that the keyboard shown above is not from Key Tronic but rather the handiwork of a lesser manufacturer). And then there is Key Tronic's limited three-year warranty: a reliability guarantee that is backed by over eighteen years' experience making over eight million keyboards.

Double shot molding embeds the keycap legend in colored plastic, so it won't wear off.

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* March 10, 1987 issue, page 278

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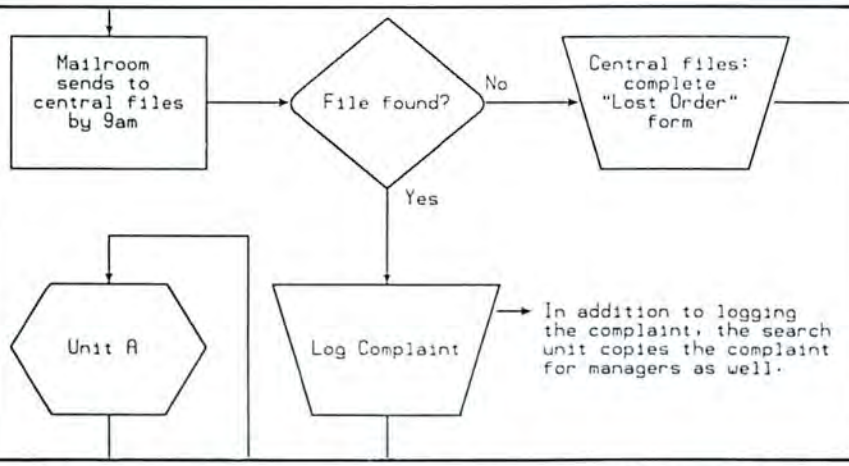

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• By the end of 1989, IBM will have introduced a version of OS/2 that uses the 80386 native instruction set and operations.

• By mid 1989, IBM will have integrated the now-optional 8514 video controller into the system board as standard equipment.

• Likewise, IBM will introduce a new optional video controller designed around a powerful, proprietary graphics coprocessor.

• IBM will also upgrade its existing systems to have minimum configurations of fast, 40MB hard disks and 2MB of memory.

• IBM has made clear it believes that at least 95 percent of you, the users, need the functions incorporated in OS/2 Extended Edition (due out in July). It also intends to be the primary supplier of such extensions.

To those of us who have been watching the PC industry for several years, this level of openness is unprecedented for IBM. And underlying it all is the sense that IBM is serious about owning the PC business. It is unabashedly defining for itself a leadership role in the PC business.

IBM wants to be seen as the company setting standards and moving the computer industry forward. It doesn't like being a follower of Apple's technology or Compaq's engineering. And it's about time. It has been a long time since IBM has played such a forthright role in the industry.

The beach, by the way, was great. ●

Stewart Alsop is editor and publisher of P.C. Letter *and a contributing editor for* PC World.

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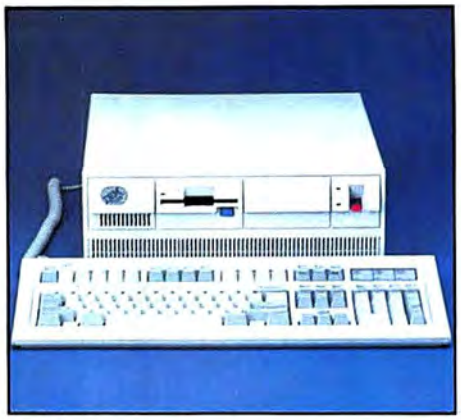

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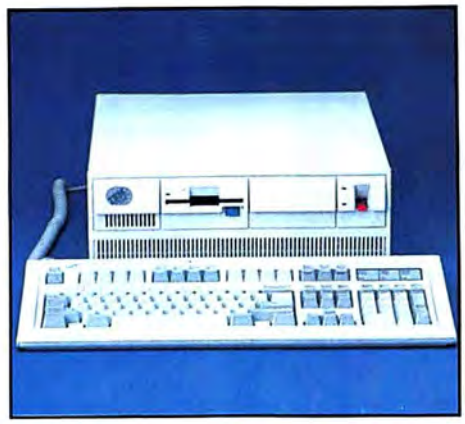

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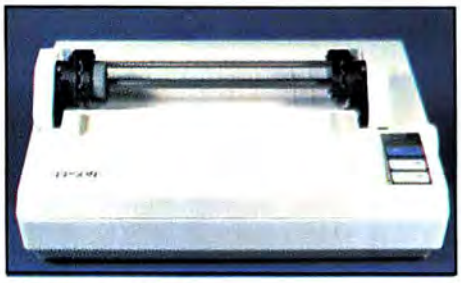

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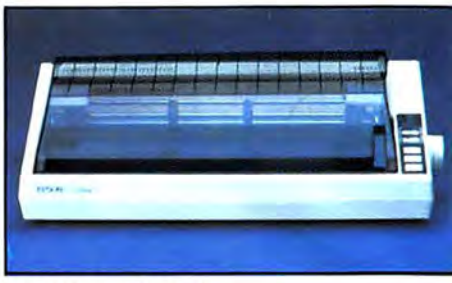

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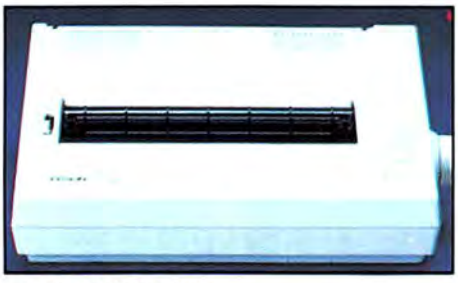

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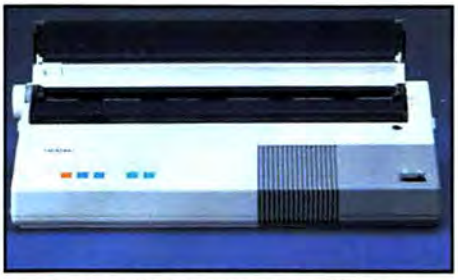

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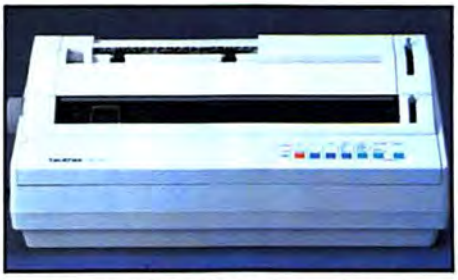

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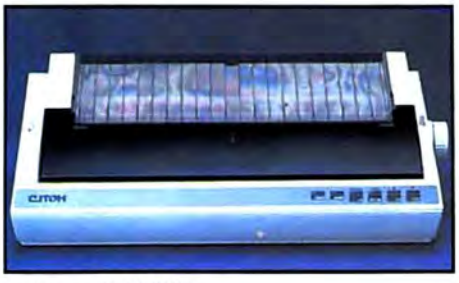

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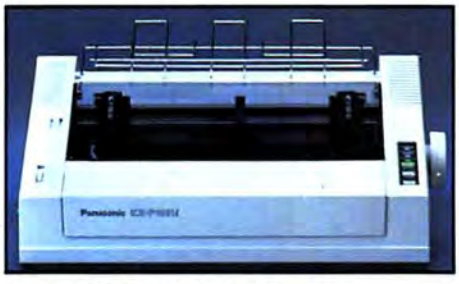

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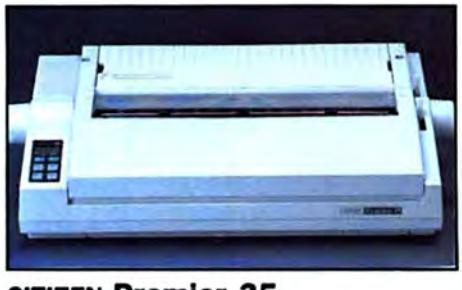

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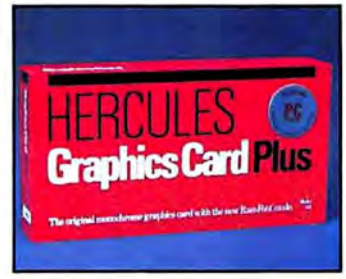

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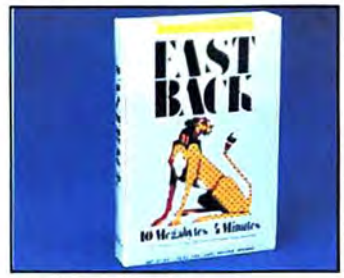

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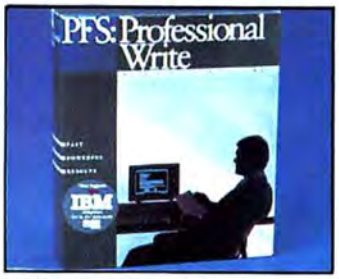

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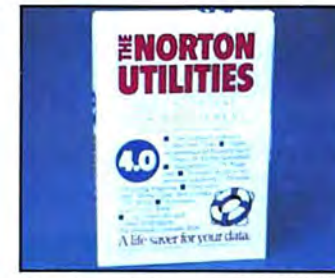

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An Assessment of OS/2

Just how useful is OS/2 without the Presentation Manager? And once it arrives, will the Presentation Manager be the answer you've been looking for?

William F. Zachmann

Last fall IBM made quite a show of announcing the "early" delivery of OS/2, promising shipment of the IBM OS/2 Standard Edition 1.0 in the first week of December 1987. At the same time, IBM announced delivery dates of July 1988 for the Extended Edition 1.0, October 1988 for the Standard Edition 1.1, and November 1988 for the Extended Edition 1.1. But if you dig a little deeper, you'll discover we're still months away from getting the genuine article, an operating system that will bring us into the next generation of computing.

The primary difference between version 1.0 and version 1.1, in both the Extended Edition and the Standard Edition, is the OS/2 Presentation Manager (or Windows Presentation Manager, as the folks at Microsoft like to call it). Version 1.0 of each edition lacks the Macintosh-like graphics user interface included in version 1.1.

In both instances, version 1.0 is simply a temporary expedient. Had the Presentation Manager been ready, it would have been included in the first version of OS/2. The 1.1 versions are intended to be complete replacements of the 1.0 versions. They carry the same prices as the initial 1.0 versions, and purchasers of 1.0 versions will receive free 1.1 upgrades from IBM.

It may therefore be said that the 1.1 versions constitute the "real" OS/2. The command line, 1.0 versions are simply a way for IBM to get something out the door while development work on the Presentation Manager continues.

In fact, IBM and Microsoft's continued delays in providing developers with prerelease code of the OS/2 Presentation Manager leads me to suspect that they had pretty much used up their slack time in the development schedule by early this year. It seems to me that IBM will be hard-pressed to meet the announced delivery dates for the release 1.1 versions.

The sad truth is that IBM OS/2 Standard Edition release 1.0, rather than providing a software breakthrough that will open the door to exciting new applications, offers little of practical value. Aside from the curiosity factor, it is not at all clear that IBM OS/2 Standard Edition 1.0 is worth the bother.

In the first place, it requires a minimum 1.5MB of memory and occupies about 2.5MB of hard disk space. If you want to run DOS applications as well, the minimum amount of memory you'll need is 2MB. To make use of OS/2's multitasking capabil-

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ities, however, you will probably want 3MB to 4MB.

And the DOS compatibility mode isn't really completely compatible. Communications programs, many device drivers, and network-dependent programs aren't likely to run well, if at all. What's more, there's a good chance you'll run into problems with add-in boards.

Then, too, there is the messy complexity of the thing. Even users who are reasonably comfortable with DOS are likely to find OS/2 rather daunting. IBM OS/2 Standard Edition 1.0 is more comfortable territory for an old IBM operating system programmer like myself than it is for any normal person.

All of that, however, could be overlooked if there were compelling rewards for using the new operating system. So far, however, there are none. Virtually *everything* of any practical value to the personal computer user that is currently to be derived from IBM OS/2 Standard Edition 1.0 is already available more economically and in a more usable form from other sources.

Microsoft's own *Windows 2.0* and *Windows/386* already offer the graphics user interface that OS/2 won't provide until late this year (if then). A growing number of ways to use the full address space of a 286- or 386-based system are available from multiple sources. Products like Quarterdeck's *Desqview*, The Software Link's PC-MOS/386, and Microsoft's *Windows/386* all deliver practical multitasking capabilities in one form or another.

Even if IBM keeps all its delivery commitments for the final 1.1 versions of OS/2, it will be year-end before users can really evaluate the product. That means, at best, it will be nearly another year before OS/2 has any substantial impact on real life.

One likely consequence is that Apple Computer's Macintosh will continue its advance into corporate accounts. IBM's own representatives have been touting the OS/2 Presentation Manager by telling customers that it is like the Macintosh, offering the same benefits—ease of learning and ease of use. Given that "Apple has it Now!" and the OS/2 Presentation Manager remains beyond the horizon, it isn't surprising that the Mac has been rapidly gaining respectability (to say nothing of market share) in corporate America.

At the same time, the delay of

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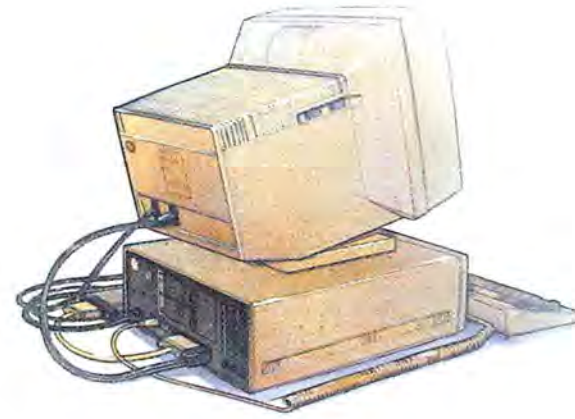

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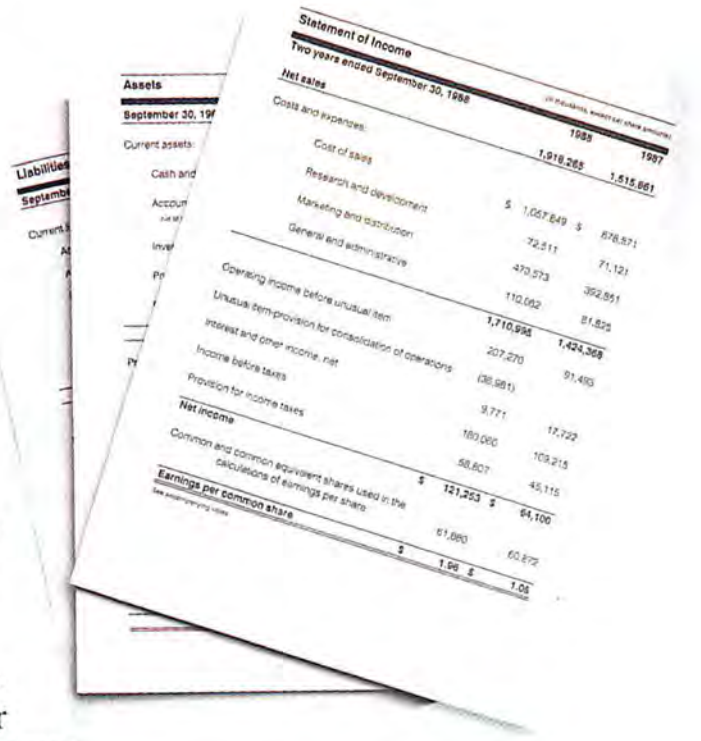

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the OS/2 Presentation Manager isn't likely to build much momentum for IBM's PS/2 sales. There seems to be little incentive for users to pay premium prices for IBM's proprietary products.

The bottom line is that more and more users are going to start wondering just what kind of clothes this particular emperor is wearing. The longer it takes to deliver the Presentation Manager in the 1.1 versions of OS/2, the more users are likely to conclude that alternatives offer more economical, more efficient, or more effective solutions to their problems.

For current users of older systems who want the benefits of a graphics user interface, *Microsoft Windows 2.0* clearly delivers more, sooner and cheaper, than OS/2 Presentation Manager will. For those fortunate enough to use newer 386-based systems, *Windows/386* is a more practical alternative, is available now, and is able to run multiple concurrent DOS tasks (OS/2 can run only one DOS task at a time).

On the other hand, users who have let more than a year go by without taking advantage of *Windows* are equally unlikely to be interested in the Presentation Manager. *Windows 2.0* and *Windows/386* offer a user interface virtually identical to that of the OS/2 Presentation Manager.

Ultimately, user response to the OS/2 1.1 versions may more closely resemble the so-what attitude recently displayed toward OS/2 1.0 than the apocalyptic rejoicing at the arrival of a new millennium in personal computer software that so many seem to expect. ●

William F. Zachmann is senior vice president at International Data Corporation.

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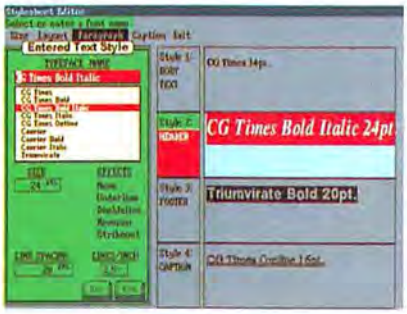

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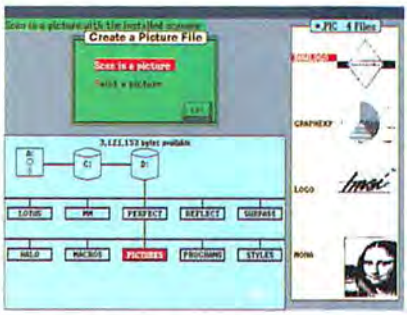

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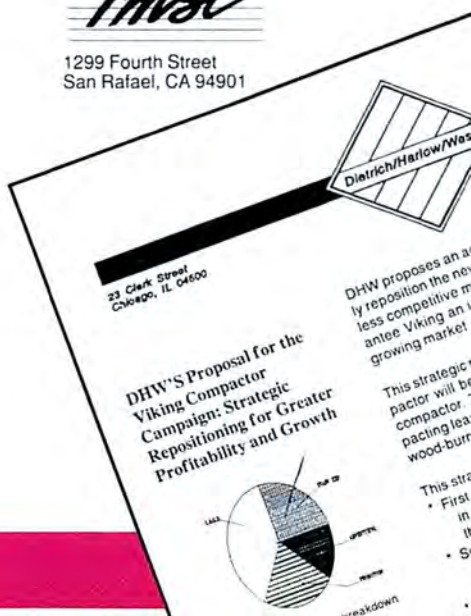

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Edited by ERIC BENDER

Users Applaud Speed, Capacity

Ventura Zooms to the Head of the Pack

Xerox Lets Start-Up Run Lean

MONICA LEE

Ventura Publisher's speedy development and robust performance paid off for creators Don Heiskell, John Grant, Lee Lorenzen, and John Meyer (left to right).

Ventura Publisher, which now clearly leads the market in PC desktop publishing packages, began life in the fast lane.

Developers Don Heiskell and Lee Lorenzen began work in the early fall of 1985. "Within three-and-a-half weeks, we had a demonstrable product," recalls John Meyer, Ventura Software's cofounder and chief executive. When the prototype was shown privately at COMDEX/Fall, its snappy performance startled the experts. Favorable reports began to spread, and *Ventura* began to move out ahead of the desktop publishing pack.

Most fledgling firms would have quickly added staff at that point, but Ventura wanted to avoid getting top-heavy. "So we farmed out as much work as we could," Meyer says. "Ultimately, we decided to farm out marketing as well."

In March 1986 the firm signed an exclusive marketing deal with Xerox, "which wasn't in our original business plans at all," Meyer says. "They have done a wonderful job of shielding us from the bureaucracy. We've continued to have all the fun of a raw start-up, and to develop at breakneck speed."

Ventura Publisher shipped in October 1986, "virtually one year to the day after the company started," Meyer notes. As sales took off, developers began cramming more than 80 new features into the next release.

While Meyer won't disclose the number of products shipped, he acknowledges that 70,000 is a good estimate for last year's sales. "We have the leading product in the PC market, and we're probably neck and neck overall in the publishing race with Aldus."

Pioneer desktop applications on the Macintosh targeted mostly short, high-gloss, thoroughly illustrated output. But that approach missed much of the market, Meyer says.

"Those newsletters and brochures make for really sexy-looking ads, but no one I know can produce a document like the ones in the ads," he insists. "I *can* produce a typographically correct, simple newsletter or technical manual, and that's maybe 95 percent of what people want to do. Most people aren't willing to be page designers. Most things that are taken to typesetters are fairly long."

While mainstream word processor manufacturers are presently bundling in desktop publishing features, "as long as the word processors are text-based, they're not true competition," says Meyer. *(continues)*

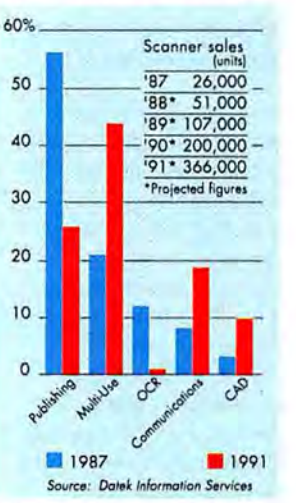
Scanners on the Threshold

Facsimile, CAD, Other Applications to Double Market

In scanning parlance, *thresholding* refers to the cutoff point at which pixels are interpreted as either black or white. This year, many scanner companies may be crossing a threshold of their own—stepping boldly into the black.

Datek Information Services in Newton, Massachusetts, predicts that *(continues on page 112)*

Changes in Scanner Use



Sales of desktop scanners should double annually for the next several years, driven by desktop publishing, facsimile transmissions, computer-aided design, and other applications. But use of scanners dedicated to optical character recognition will decline, predicts Datek Information Services.

Readying for Release 3

The Biggest Upgrade Since Color TV?

There have always been competitors and good products in spreadsheets," comments Peter Simon, Lotus Development's marketing manager for analytic products. "What's different this time is that the competitors are big, well known, and well funded."

As Lotus prepares to deliver *1-2-3* release 3 (see "1-2-3 Enters the Third Dimension" in this issue), the dominant spreadsheet supplier is concerned not just with challenges from Microsoft, Borland, and other vendors. At least as important is keeping those 3.5 million registered *1-2-3* users happy.

Lotus's Irfant Salim aims to minimize upgrade pain during the massive rollout of the next release of 1-2-3.

Release 3's features were frozen early in the first quarter, Lotus executives say. Now comes beta testing, quality assurance, documentation, preparing the distribution channels and other constituencies, and myriad other tasks.

Even beta testing gets tricky, as more than 200 users tackle the package, notes Irfant Salim, vice president for analytic products. Lotus has tapped its *Lotus Express* electronic mail package to let users send the company buggy files for postmortem and has set up numerous visits between beta testers and Lotus staff. "It's like a military exercise," remarks Frank Ingari, vice president for business development.

Lotus made an effort to bring in third-party vendors of add-in packages, whose current products won't work with the new release. As *1-2-3*'s basic architecture was redrawn, there was no way to avoid that problem, Salim says. But he expects the third-party houses to console themselves with the demands of the release 3 market. "In the history of the industry, they're probably not going to see an opportunity like this again," Salim says.

Most third-party vendors are "comfortable that Lotus is not grabbing all the most popular add-in features," Ingari adds. "That's not because we're Santa Claus; we want the core product to stay lean and mean."

1-2-3's last major upgrade, from release 1A to 2, turned into a high-decibel experience that no one wants to repeat, and Lotus struggled to find the optimum mix of gain versus pain for release 3. "I've implemented upgrades in 14 countries, with 10 different languages," Salim notes wryly. "Believe me, it's not something we do for fun."

In this case, a few of those 3.5 million customers may get a trifle impatient. "There are hundreds of thousands of people out there who will want the new release the same day they hear about it," Simon says.

A day or two later, the support hot lines will light up at Lotus headquarters. But Marty Falaro, national sales manager for the retail channel, emphasizes that since the last upgrade Lotus has beefed up its hot line with experienced people, an improved phone system, and an electronic technical reference system stored on optical disk. Additionally, "We forecast very accurately the number of phone calls and are able to move personnel from other support duties into the *1-2-3* pool so we can handle a big push." And yes, Falaro says, he knows that push has just about come to shove.
—*E. B.*

Ventura

(continued)

"They give you ways to clip things together, but they're crude compared to an interactive graphics environment."

For *Ventura*'s next version, Meyer notes, customers are asking for style-sheet printouts and for expanded undo capabilities. Beyond that, release 2.0 will be "much easier to use and will include features that allow us to do documents that we can't do well or at all now." One example is legal documents, which often must be typeset but pose special problems, such as extremely long footnotes.

Meyer expects a big push toward "data base publishing" of phone lists, business information, catalogs, and other material. "This is a huge area for desktop publishing that no one talks about very much, because the output isn't very interesting [graphically]."

In hardware, the next big step will be full-page displays, Meyer suggests. "Once you've experienced a full-page display, it's hard to go back." If IBM defines a standard, you could see an explosion in display sales on the order of laser printers. He'd like to see such a fast, noninterlaced, 19-inch monitor and adapter selling for $1000; currently such systems cost at least twice that.

Ventura remains small, boasting a grand total of five employees. And desktop publishing's potential hasn't dimmed at all, in Meyer's eyes. "It has really changed the nature of how a lot of businesses produce documents of all different types. Some companies can't even conceive of what it would be like to go back again."
—*E. B.*

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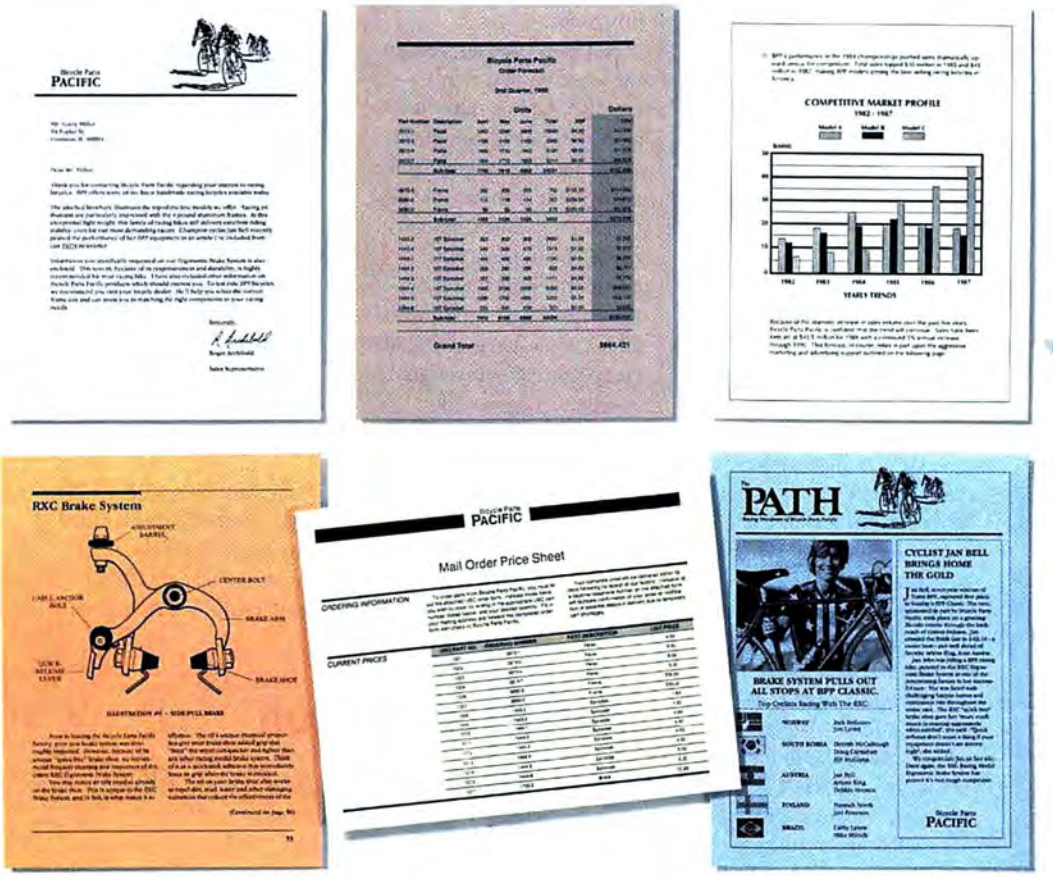

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Print samples were created using Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, and Aldus PageMaker

Circle 26 on reader service card

Thanks a Billion

Compaq Smashes All the Records Once More

Compaq Computer executives didn't plan it, didn't even see it coming, admits President Rod Canion. But when the numbers were all in for 1987, Compaq had doubled revenues, tripled profits, and passed the $1 billion sales mark (to $1.2 billion) faster than any other company in history.

STEVEN PLAHN/HEY

Rod Canion planned for stable growth, but Compaq hit $1 billion in sales in five years.

"The irony is that we never intended to set growth records," says Canion. "We have always been out to build a good, stable, slow-growth company. But then the PC market provided us with a tremendous opportunity, and we were poised to take advantage of that opportunity."

It's been a charmed life for a company born on a restaurant napkin—with a sketch of a brainstorm by Canion and Engineering Vice President Jim Harris. Compaq sold 53,000 Portables and logged a record-breaking $111 million in sales during 1983, its first full year of business.

The initial strategy was to give IBM PC users a way to take work home. But when IBM couldn't meet demand for the PC, Compaq reaped a windfall in IBM's unfilled orders. As it turned out, portability proved less important than 100 percent IBM compatibility.

On the other hand, Compaq wouldn't be where it is today if all it offered were clones, asserts Canion. "We have never played the game of being just like IBM but cheaper," he says. "In a nutshell, our strategy is to be better, and at a reasonable price."

In fact, Compaq list prices are often higher than those of comparable IBM models. The pricing works because, while careful never to stray from industry hardware and software standards, Compaq pushes the technology farther and faster than IBM—or anyone else.

The Houston firm launched the first IBM-compatible portable with the first dual-mode text/graphics monitor. It delivered the first IBM XT–compatible desktop with twice the performance of IBM's and four disk drives. It also delivered the first AT compatible with an 8-MHz clock instead of a 6-MHz one, and the first internal tape backup. More recently, Compaq became the first to bring out a 20-MHz processor.

Not everyone agreed on the wisdom of a September 1986 launch date for an 80386-based computer, seven months before IBM put its imprimatur on the technology. But Compaq made the market for 80386 machines, and by the end of 1987 still held a 70 percent share of 80386-computer sales through resellers, reports the Dallas-based market research firm Storeboard. "The 386 product is where we clearly launched the company into the forefront of the industry," asserts Canion.

The Compaq Deskpro 386, Deskpro 386/20, and Portable 386 boosted the company's market share to 15.4 percent of all personal computers shipped through resellers in 1987, says Storeboard chief operating officer JoeAnn Stahel. IBM's share slipped to 37.4 percent.

Compaq is one of the few companies doing in-house design and manufacturing its own BIOS, bus, custom silicon, and other crucial components. While Canion won't admit to ambitions to overtake IBM, analysts note that if IBM stumbles with its Micro Channel Architecture strategy, Compaq is the most obvious choice for leadership. —*Mike Hogan*

Mild Acceleration

Turbo Boards to Profit From OS/2 —If They Run

On the surface, OS/2 may seem to be the best thing that ever happened to the accelerator board suppliers.

After all, the market has grown to annual sales of $300 million largely on the strength of users' desires to keep pace with increasingly demanding applications. AST Research rules the crowded field with annual accelerator sales of $100 million, estimates Steve Nickel, an analyst for the Technology Group in Chicago. His figures show AST followed by Intel ($50 million) and Quadram ($40 million).

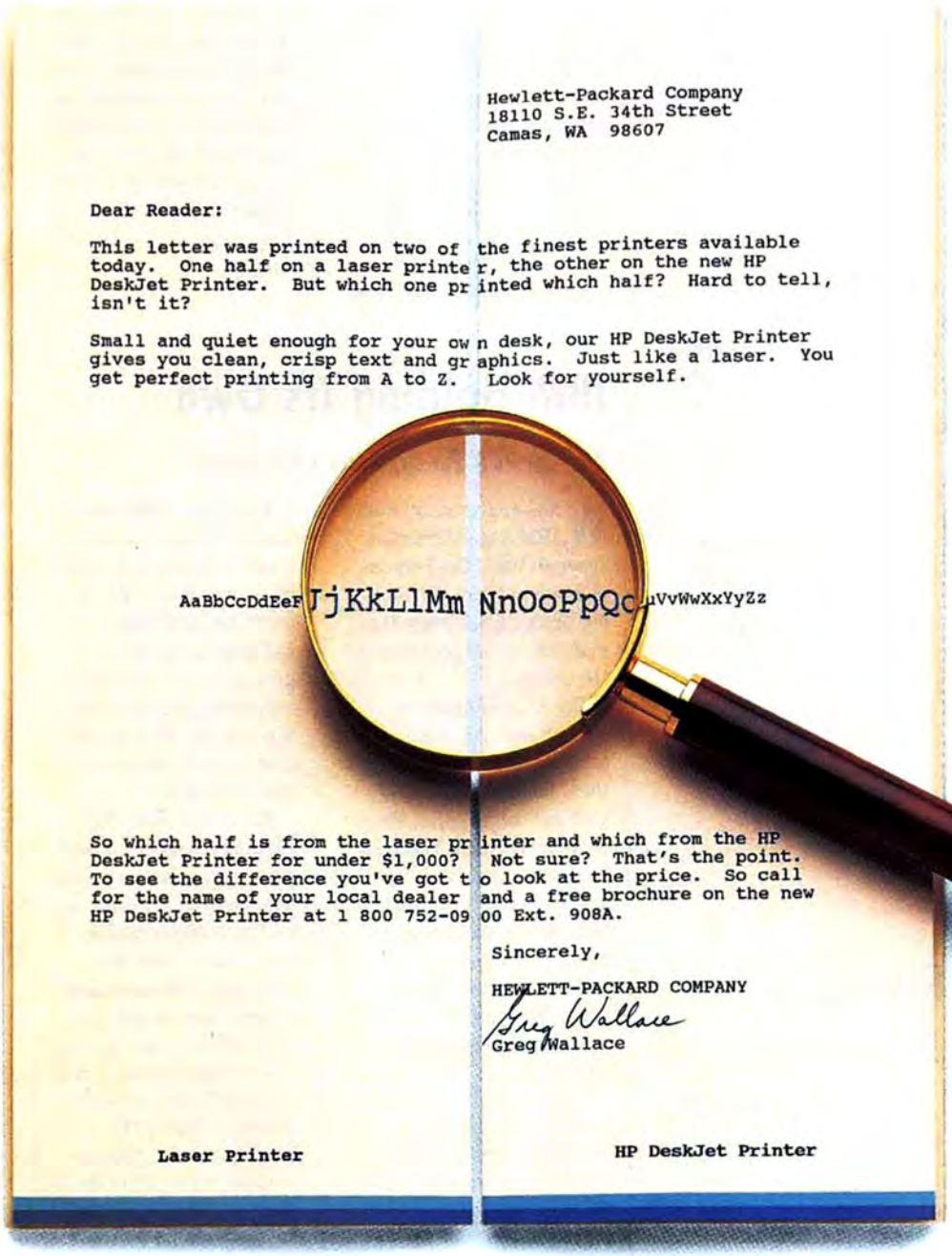
Now comes OS/2, an operating system that leaves some 10 million PCs out in the cold. But it could spell big trouble for the makers of accelerator boards.

"I'm skeptical of the market's potential for extensive growth," says John McCarthy, director of professional computing services for the Forrester Group in Cambridge, Massachusetts. "Accelerators just don't seem to provide a comfortable path to OS/2."

While users know that you can't run OS/2 without an 80286 or 80386 microprocessor, all too many mistakenly assume that's where the hardware requirements end. OS/2 also demands 3MB or 4MB of memory and a 20MB hard

(continues)

If you can see the difference, you must be looking at the price.



The New HP DeskJet Printer. Laser-Quality Output for Under $1000.

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Circle 29 on reader service card

Acceleration

(continued)

disk. The Presentation Manager adds a mouse and an EGA or VGA video system to the list.

"So when you add up the total cost, that $900 accelerator doesn't seem like such a bargain anymore," says Jonathan Yarmis, program director for the Gartner Group in Stamford, Connecticut.

MARC ROSENTHAL

Some analysts doubt that accelerated PCs will run OS/2. "Accelerator boards were temperamental enough in DOS systems," McCarthy says. "What kind of fluky incompatibilities are we going to see when we start mixing the suspect BIOS's found in a lot of clones with the suspect engineering of a lot of accelerator boards?"

Board makers loudly insist that their products will be OS/2 compatible. Almost as loudly, they bicker over why their competitors' products won't. AST, for instance, bills its $845 Xformer/286 motherboard replacement as the safest upgrade route. The company warns that Intel's In-Board 386 lacks the proper AT BIOS for OS/2. Intel, however, promises to release a special version of OS/2 for its products. Quadram has disclosed similar plans.

Installing the boards, which ranks as major surgery for the PC, remains a daunting task. The chore isn't helped by documentation that still leans toward the techie.

Another cloud on the horizon is the steadily shrinking price tag for new 286 systems. Tim Bajarin of Creative Strategies predicts that low-cost 80286 clones will sell for an average of under $1200 by year's end. By late 1989, he says, similar 80386 systems could reach the $1300 range. "At that point, the advantages of an accelerator board become a lot less apparent," Bajarin says.

Most 286 boards currently range in price from $350 to $650, and vendors doubt those low-margin prices will drop much. 386 boards run from $995 to $1995, prices that may dip slightly if 386 chips become more plentiful.

Still, accelerator boards can offer a fivefold speed-up or better for processor-intensive tasks on an XT and can at least double AT performance. "If you want to give DOS one last little kick, an accelerator might be the right move," Yarmis says. "Otherwise, it looks like a false economy." —*Daniel Brogan*

Gold Hill Still Rising

AI Supplier Committed to LISP

Like many artificial intelligence (AI) start-ups, Gold Hill Computers opened its doors only a few blocks from MIT's famed AI lab. Unlike most of those firms, though, Gold Hill has steadily prospered, growing in less than five years to 105 employees.

Formed by three MIT hotshots, Gold Hill has concentrated on supplying PC tools based on the LISP symbol-processing language. The software firm rose on two ground swells. The first was Common LISP, which is as close to a language standard as the AI community has seen and probably ever will see.

(continues)

IBM Holding Its Own

PC Sales Rebound Overseas

While analysts say that IBM lost PC market share in 1987, the Personal System/2 was still looking pretty good when the giant manufacturer closed the books.

Big Blue's annual report doesn't list PS/2 sales separately, lumping them instead into a workstation category that also holds other small business computers and typewriters. But IBM notes that revenues in this group increased 10.6 percent, to $10.4 billion, and attributes that directly to the new personal computer family.

Total workstation sales, however, did not quite match the 1985 results. And slightly over half of these revenues came from overseas. Overall, the giant posted sales of $54.2 billion, up from $51.3 billion the year before, and earnings of $5.3 billion, up from $4.8 billion. Staff slimmed to a mere 389,000 employees.

Last year IBM quietly sold off the investment it made in Intel a few years back. Big Blue made a profit but also helped itself and the industry by giving Intel a cash infusion during hard times—allowing the chip maker to forge ahead with products like the 80386.

Early this year, IBM announced one of its periodic reorganizations, this one aimed at pushing day-to-day decision making down a level from the chairman's management committee to a newly created "IBM United States." The changes didn't directly affect Entry Systems Division, IBM's PC branch, but did promise to speed up product development. "Decisions that formerly would take a month now will take a few days," says Frank King, ESD's vice president for development. —*E. B.*

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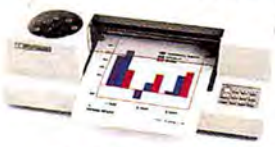

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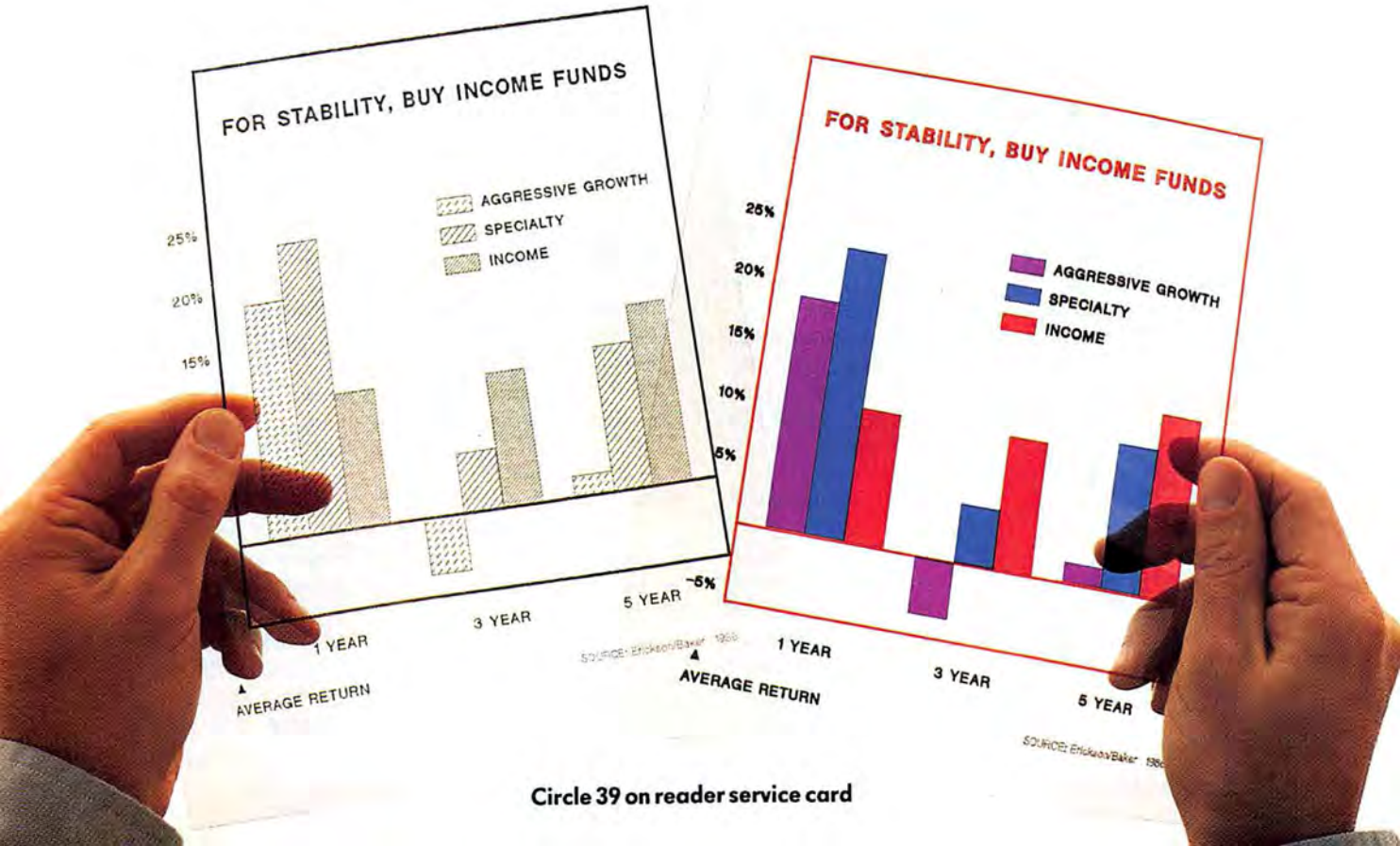


Circle 39 on reader service card

Gold Hill

(continued)

The second, more crucial event was the rapid shift toward running AI applications on powerful new PCs.

Gold Hill's founders succeeded "because they had a much better focus than almost any of their competitors," suggests Harvey Newquist, editor of the *AI Trends* newsletter in Scottsdale, Arizona. "They also addressed every level of AI that could be done at the PC level."

The first product, Golden Common LISP, appeared in 1984, along with a tutorial that Gold Hill hoped would proselytize for LISP. The following

Gold Hill's Eugene Wang hopes to double sales in 1988—despite turmoil in the AI industry.

year, the founders brought in industry veteran Carl Wolf as chief executive, and Gold Hill really began to pan out. Since then, the firm has steadily strengthened and refined its AI tools and surrounded them with a family of products.

Most important, last year Gold Hill plunged into the expert system generator market with *GoldWorks*, which now accounts for half of revenues, says Marketing Vice President Eugene Wang. Targeting the corporate market, Gold Hill has built up a consulting group and a direct sales force that numbers over 30, Wang notes.

But Newquist points out that Gold Hill can expect tougher competition in expert system tools from Neuron Data, Texas Instruments, Intellicorp, Inference, and other firms. "I think they've done a very good job with *GoldWorks*, but it's priced way too high at $7500," he adds. He also sees a widespread turn among expert system customers away from LISP toward more general-purpose languages. Though Gold Hill is expanding aggressively, says Newquist, "it's not yet breaking even."

Still, Gold Hill neatly avoided the bloodshed among AI firms in the past year. It posted revenues somewhere in the range of $10 million and hopes to double that this year, Wang says. In the long run, the firm remains committed to LISP and its commercial promise. "We're trying to build a $100 million company," he says. —*E. B.*

Scanners

(continued)

unit sales for scanners will jump from 26,000 in 1987 to 51,000 in 1988 and to 366,000 by 1991. But the market is crowded.

The scanner game is dominated by OEM vendors with Far Eastern connections, starting with Canon (selling to Hewlett-Packard and others), then Ricoh (supplying Datacopy and others), and Microtek (AST and Abaton). According to International Data Corporation (IDC), however, end-user sales are led by HP (23 percent), followed by Datacopy (12.5 percent) and Dest and AST (tied at 10.4 percent).

Partly due to this competition, Datek predicts a 10 percent compounded price decline between 1986 and 1991.

The scanner boom follows the popularity of desktop publishing packages that integrate text with digitized graphics. Vendors are addressing this market with scanners that recognize up to 256 levels of gray. Although these scanners are still quite expensive, ranging from $3000 to $9000, most entry-level scanners ($1500 to $2500) now offer 16 levels of gray.

Gray-scale recognition represents a big step in the reproduction of photographs (see "Imaging Becomes Electric" in this issue). Although image quality is still limited by printer resolution, you can produce a reasonably good halftone by sending a 256-level gray-scale image to a PostScript typesetter. Gray-scale scanners will play more important roles when gray-scale editing programs arrive on PCs.

IDC predicts that 75 percent of scanners will weigh in at 600 dpi by 1991. Several firms have developed color scanners, but their introduction may have to hang fire until low-cost color printers arrive.

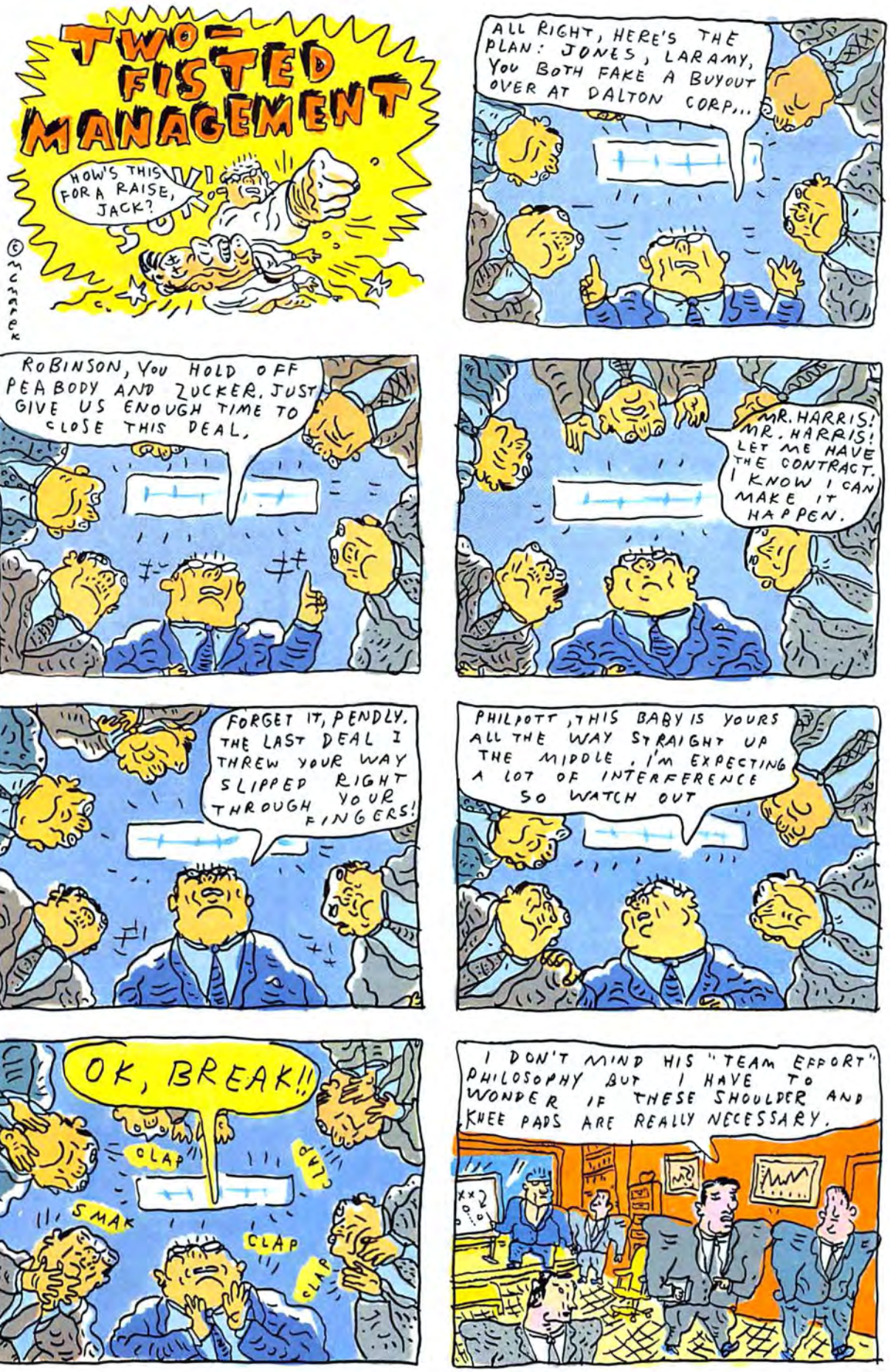
However, new applications are pushing the scanner market harder than new technology is. Scanners are increasingly employed as input devices for PC-fax systems, which combine a fax communications board and software to send text and images to Group 3 fax machines.

In contrast, sales are less than brisk for optical character recognition (OCR) systems that let you translate printed pages into editable text.

Nevertheless, OCR is expected to fit into mixed-use environments where image scanning, computer-aided design, and fax chores will also be performed.

The CAD market is snapping up droves of desktop scanners, although these lack the resolution and image size necessary for most CAD tasks. Scanners may find their vocation as input devices for image data bases, which are expected to blossom in the 1990s when erasable optical storage devices come of age. —*Eric Brown*

Daniel Brogan writes a column on personal computing for the Chicago Tribune, *Eric Brown is a* PC World *contributing editor, and Mike Hogan is* PC World's *news editor.* ●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LQ 2500 324 CPS, 108 NLQ	849
EX 800 300 CPS, 60 NLQ	399
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US Robotics 2400 direct internal	169
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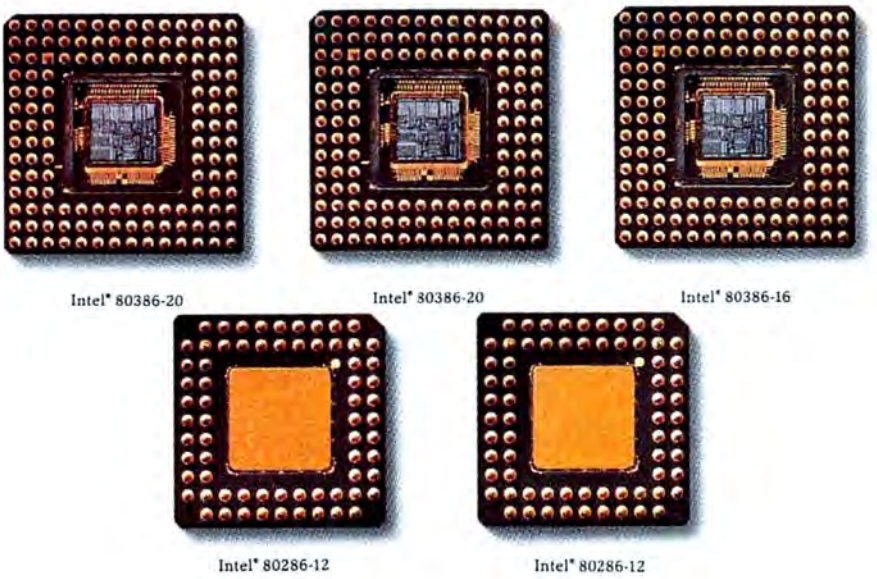

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COMPAQ personal computers offer far more than advanced, high-speed microprocessors. Each offers a combination of innovative features which work with the processor to maximize overall system performance. So there's nothing to slow you down.

Take system architecture, for example. The COMPAQ DESKPRO 386/20 and COMPAQ PORTABLE 386 are built around an advanced 32-bit concurrent bus architecture which exploits the speed of the computers' 20-MHz 80386 microprocessors. Two buses—one for memory and one for peripherals—eliminate information bottlenecks, allowing each component to run at its maximum speed. This ensures the highest system performance without sacrificing compatibility with industry-standard hardware and the world's largest library of business productivity software.

Similar performance enhancements are engineered into each subsystem of every COMPAQ personal computer. Each component is then optimized individually, yet designed to work as part of the total system.

For instance, COMPAQ Fixed Disk Drives deliver both high capacity and high performance. You can install up to a 300-megabyte fixed disk drive in the COMPAQ DESKPRO 386/20 and up to a 100-megabyte drive in the COMPAQ PORTABLE 386. More importantly, you can get to that data almost instantly thanks to some of the industry's fastest access times—averaging less than 30 milliseconds. When you combine this speed and capacity with disk caching, the result is the highest-performance storage subsystem in the industry. To take it one step further, Compaq helps you protect that data with internal high-

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PRODUCT OUTLOOK

118 PRODUCT OUTLOOK

SupersPort, SupersPort 286, TurbosPort 386
Laptop market leader Zenith takes up the gauntlet and produces three new powerful, fast, and feature-packed computers.

MultiSync MonoGraph
NEC's extra-large screen displays full-size newsletter and tabloid pages, with room to spare for tools and menus.

Ten Time
Konan's disk controller is a speed reader and writer; its 1:1 interleave and disk caching may boost your throughput tenfold.

Snapshot
Desktop publishing takes a great leap forward with new capabilities to capture, edit, enhance, and reproduce images from television and videotape.

VenturPlan
This simple package takes you by the hand and leads you painlessly through each critical step of creating a small-business plan.

Designer VGA and Designer VGA-2
Compatibles manufacturers were quick to join IBM's VGA graphics game. Now they are leapfrogging over the originator, offering even greater capability at a much lower price.

124 BRIEFLY NOTED

Hyundai Super-286, PC Terminal
Hyundai's AT-compatible file server and diskless workstation lay a sound foundation for LAN, CAD/CAM, and data base applications.

MultiSync GS
For budget-minded users, NEC brings mode switching and 64 shades of gray to monochrome monitors.

BocaRAM/30
PS/2 Models 25 and 30 users can now add LIM EMS in generous 2MB chunks, and speedy disk access is thrown in with the deal.

Numerikeys
This auxiliary numeric keypad has a tiny appetite for power but can boost your accuracy and speed, especially on a portable.

S.F.E. Utilities
For a modest price, Bourbaki ties ten frequently used utilities into one neat bundle with Something for Everyone.

Force Stick
Not your standard joystick, it's a pressure-sensitive, high-precision device designed with CAD, CAM, and CAE applications in mind.

128 UPDATE

Q&A 3.0
Beefed-up *Q&A* has new natural language ability and LAN support, yet it runs 30 percent faster.

Paradox 386
A solid data base cashes in on the 386 chip, becoming five times faster and able to tackle masses of data with hardly a blink.

Manuscript 2.0
With a pack of new desktop publishing features, Lotus substantially advances its word processing program.

Tapestry/8
Torus has an eight-user version of its large-network software at a more affordable price.

QuadMEG PS/Q
Quadram's updated add-on board combines LIM 4.0, a RAM disk utility, and a print spooler and comes up multitasking.

Accpac BPI Accounting
Computer Associates' full-function accounting series for the small-to-medium-size business offers new features at half the former price.

Mike Hogan

SupersPort, SupersPort 286, TurbosPort 386

Quest for Power

Ever since computer makers first decided to put PCs in laps, they've been trying to create machines that match the state of the art for desktops. Trouble is, desktop features and performance have been improving much faster than laptop screen and processor capabilities. Taking up the challenge, laptop market leader Zenith Computer has fielded yet another generation of hot-rod portables that combine bright screens, fast hard drives, muscular processors, and thrifty power usage.

Zenith maintains that a PC isn't really portable if it needs to be plugged in, so its SupersPort, SupersPort 286, and TurbosPort 386 all sport a variety of power-conservation features that let you rev them up for 3 to 5 hours between recharges. Not only can you adjust LCD screen brightness on all models, you can turn off backlighting completely and shut down power to your hard disk and ports when they aren't in use. As with a screen-blanking utility, power returns automatically when needed.

These Zenith portables are power misers by virtue of their CMOS and zero-wait-state designs. You can switch to slower speeds—down to 4.77 MHz from 8 MHz for the 80C88-2–equipped SupersPort, and from 12 Mhz down to 6 MHz for the 80C286-based SupersPort 286 and the 80386-based TurbosPort 386. A variable-size memory cache reduces the number of calls to your hard disk.

With the SupersPort and the SupersPort 286, you can choose a dual-floppy model and later replace one floppy with a hard disk. The SupersPort comes with its motherboard maximum of 640K of memory and either two 720K 3½-inch floppy drives or one floppy and a 21.4MB formatted hard disk. It has dedicated slots for both a 1MB memory add-in and a modem. It also accepts an 8087 coprocessor and a 23-key upgrade to its 78-key keyboard.

The SupersPort 286 comes standard with 1MB of memory and your choice of 1.44MB 3½-inch floppies or 28ms 20MB or 40MB hard drives. You can add a 24-key keypad to its 79-key keyboard as well as another 1MB of memory, a modem, and an 80287 coprocessor. Even the hard-disk–equipped SupersPort and SupersPort 286 models weigh under 12 pounds. Both systems are equipped with backlit supertwist screens.

TurbosPort 386's most striking feature is its new fluorescent-backlit LCD screen, which combines double-scan CGA resolution of 640 by 400 with a contrast ratio equal to that of gas plasma screens. Based on an innovative technology that Zenith calls page-white, the screen displays true black characters on a white background for easier viewing.

Zenith has employed a variety of power conservation techniques so that you can rev its TurbosPort 386 (top), SupersPort 286 (bottom), or SupersPort (not shown) for 3 to 5 hours between recharges.

The TurbosPort 386 runs at 12 MHz with zero wait states—faster than a 16-MHz counterpart with one wait state, according to Zenith. It comes with 2MB of system memory (expandable with a 1MB add-in board), a 28ms 40MB hard disk, and the same keyboard as the SupersPort 286, but offers an 80387 coprocessor option. It weighs 16 pounds.

The SupersPort ships with a 2.5 ampere-hour battery, the SupersPort 286 with a 4 amp-hour battery, and the TurbosPort 386 with an enhanced 1.5 amp-hour battery. All the batteries are detachable, so you can leave them behind to save weight if you'll have access to AC. The SupersPort and SupersPort 286, with 20MB hard disks, sell for $3599 and

$4899, respectively. The TurbosPort 386 with 40MB hard disk retails for $7499. Zenith Data Systems, 1000 Milwaukee Ave., Glenview, IL 60025; 312/699-4839.

MultiSync MonoGraph

The Big Picture

Desktop publishing always feels a little uncomfortable on the standard PC display. You just can't squeeze a newsletter page (much less a tabloid page) into an 8-inch window and expect to get the whole picture during editing.

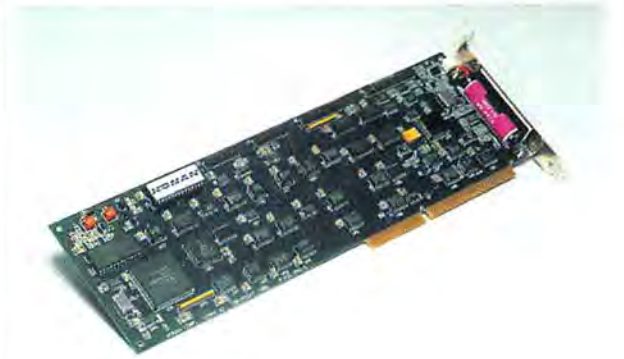
But NEC Home Electronics solves that problem with a jumbo desktop-publishing–specific display that puts more what-you-see in your WYSIWYG. NEC's MultiSync MonoGraph displays a full-size newsletter page or tabloid page on its 16-inch-square screen with a resolution of 1024 by 1024 pixels. In fact, using horizontal, or landscape, mode, you can display the double page of Aldus's *PageMaker* with plenty of room in the margin for icons, tools, and menus. *Ventura Publisher* runs in vertical, or portrait, mode with icons and associated paraphernalia on the side.

In fact, the MonoGraph's graphics standards are so high that DOS can't recognize them, so the adapter emulates the CGA during system start-up. Running CGA applications, the monitor displays in 640-by-400 double-scan mode, giving you twice the vertical resolution and an 8-by-16-dot character cell for near-EGA quality. When you switch between CGA applications and your desktop publisher, the monitor automatically adjusts in true MultiSync fashion.

The MultiSync MonoGraph's controller card, which sits in either an 8-bit or a 16-bit slot, includes an Intel 82786 graphics coprocessor to speed screen drawing, freeing the main processor for other tasks. Finally, the MultiSync MonoGraph features a 1:1 aspect ratio for rounder circles, 100-dpi screen density for higher-resolution characters, and a flicker-free display achieved with 70-Hz vertical refresh.

The MultiSync MonoGraph can display a full-size newsletter page as well as a larger newspaper page with a resolution of 1024 by 1024 pixels.

The MultiSync MonoGraph System sells for $1999. NEC Home Electronics, 1255 Michael Dr., Wood Dale, IL 60191; 800/447-4700 for literature; 800/NEC-SOFT for technical details.



Ten Time is a 16-bit intelligent controller that employs a 1:1 interleave, zero latency, and disk caching to reduce your disk I/O to eye blinks.

Ten Time

Squeezing Through the I/O Bottleneck

The new family of 386 processors is setting a blistering pace for other system components and focusing more attention on the slowest link in the processing chain—reading or writing to disk. If you're among those demanding PC users to whom 65ms seems an eternity and sub-30ms is barely tolerable, you'll be interested in a new floppy/hard disk controller from Konan Corporation.

Ten Time is a 16-bit intelligent controller that employs a 1:1 interleave, zero rotational latency, and disk caching to reduce your disk calls to eye blinks.

Konan's proprietary software places more than 90 percent of the data you'll need in a 128K battery-backed memory cache. That lets you retrieve even large worksheets, data bases, or desktop publishing files in as little as 1ms. Similarly, most disk writes go directly to one of Ten Time's cache memory buffers, so the CPU is seldom tied up while the disk does its thing. Ten Time's on-board processor automatically writes data to the disk in background mode, letting your CPU busy itself with more immediate tasks.

Of course, there's still a small percentage of data that's not cached and requires disk access, and Ten Time employs several techniques to minimize the milliseconds here too. For example, Ten Time's 1:1 interleave enables it to grab a track of data in

Disk Optimizer™. The original un-fragment software now has un-format. Un-believable!

It's still the safest, most effective way to put the zip back in hard disk performance.

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But have no fear with Disk Optimizer. Nothing will go wrong because nothing *can* go wrong. Even if you yank the plug from the wall in the middle of the program. It's because only Disk Optimizer copies each file, piece by piece, then checks the newly un-fragmented version for completeness. Only then does it go back and erase the fragmented version. Not power spikes, disk failures or DOS errors – not even earthquakes – can cause data loss. And only Disk Optimizer makes you that promise. So why trust your disk to anyone else?

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In addition to un-fragmenting, Disk Optimizer also lets you quickly choose the optimum layout for your disk. So your most-used files have the fastest access. And program and other unchanging files can be permanently un-fragmented and set aside on their own area on the disk.

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Oops! Make a simple mistake at the keyboard and you could wipe out your hard disk with a DOS Format command. But don't worry. "Un-format" will recover your entire disk, and all your data, in just moments. It's included with your new Disk Optimizer.

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Look for the new Disk Optimizer at software dealers everywhere. Or order directly from SoftLogic Solutions by calling us toll-free.

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–June 1987

"I find Disk Optimizer excellent. Disk access, even at 4.77MHz, is much faster. And loading 100 Fontasy fonts now takes seconds."
–Elizabeth Joan Doyle, Indiana

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Circle 18 on reader service card

one spin of the disk instead of the three required by hard disks with the standard 1:3 interleave. Ten Time also boasts "zero rotational latency"—it doesn't wait until it gets to the beginning of a track to start reading data. It picks up wherever the disk head lands, rearranging the data in cache memory. "Elevator seeks" reorder disk calls in the most efficient manner possible.

Overall, you can expect at least a threefold improvement in disk performance and probably a tenfold boost in throughput. Ten Time is available as a hard disk controller that supports up to two ST506-compatible Winchester drives, or in a hard/floppy version that controls and caches two 360K/1.2MB floppy drives. Since Ten Time's time-saving techniques also reduce head movement and data seeks by as much as 80 percent, you can expect longer life for your storage devices.

The Ten Time hard disk controller is $595. The hard/floppy controller is $695. Konan Corp., 4720 S. Ash Ave., Tempe, AZ 85282; 602/345-1300.

Snapshot

Freeze Frame

Desktop publishing has been in fast-forward motion ever since the rough concept emerged a few years ago. Now Aldus Corporation offers a page-making add-on that represents a giant step even for this expansive genre.

Snapshot opens a new chapter in the desktop publishing chronicle by offering you the ability to capture and edit images from any RS-170 video source, including a television set, video camera, or camcorder. The resulting images can be saved on disk as camera-ready halftones (with 256 levels of gray) and added to any of the most popular page makeup programs, like Aldus's *PageMaker*.

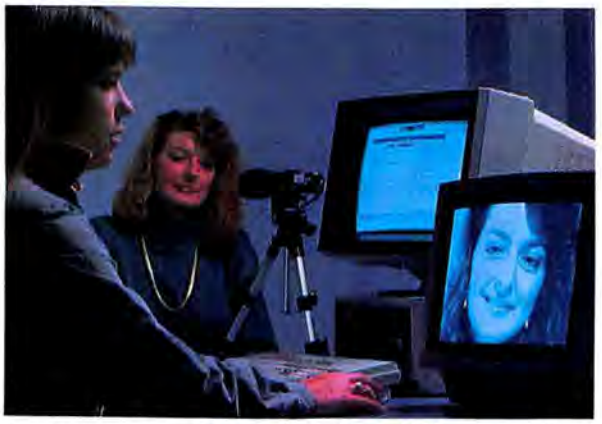
Snapshot freezes frames from a variety of color or black-and-white video sources, letting you capture images as clearly as your TV or video recorder does and even enhance their contrast and brightness. Once you have digitized the analog signal, you can use *Snapshot*'s comprehensive set of image-editing tools to further refine the images.

The program includes electronic filters for stripping out colors to produce sharper black-and-white images, and a "stretching" tool that lets you heighten contrast between two contiguous shades of gray. Alternatively, you can "blend" to reduce those differences. Special photographic effects like posterization and solarization pose no problem.

You can touch up your images using *Snapshot*'s electronic paintbrush or airbrush. The software lets you reduce an image to its outline or retouch it in increments of 1 to 128 pixels. You also can airbrush over a foreground or background to isolate a face or object, or "spray" areas with image patterns. *Snapshot* can repeat a portion of an image to create a pattern, or make composites of several isolated images from different frames. Images can be flipped both vertically and horizontally; an undo command corrects mistakes.

To conserve disk space, *Snapshot* saves images in 4 bit (16 levels of gray), 6 bit (64 levels) or 8 bit (256 levels) in either Microsoft's Tagged Image File Format (TIFF) or the Encapsulated PostScript Format (EPSF).

Snapshot requires an IBM AT or compatible with 640K of memory, a 20MB hard disk, an analog monitor, a video image conversion board, *Microsoft Windows*, and a *Windows*-compatible mouse or pointing device. The program retails for $495. Aldus dealers sell a black-and-white closed-circuit TV camera, an analog monitor, an image processing board, and cabling. The price of the total package ranges from $2500 to $2700. Aldus Corp., 411 First Ave. S #200, Seattle, WA 98104; 206/622-5500.



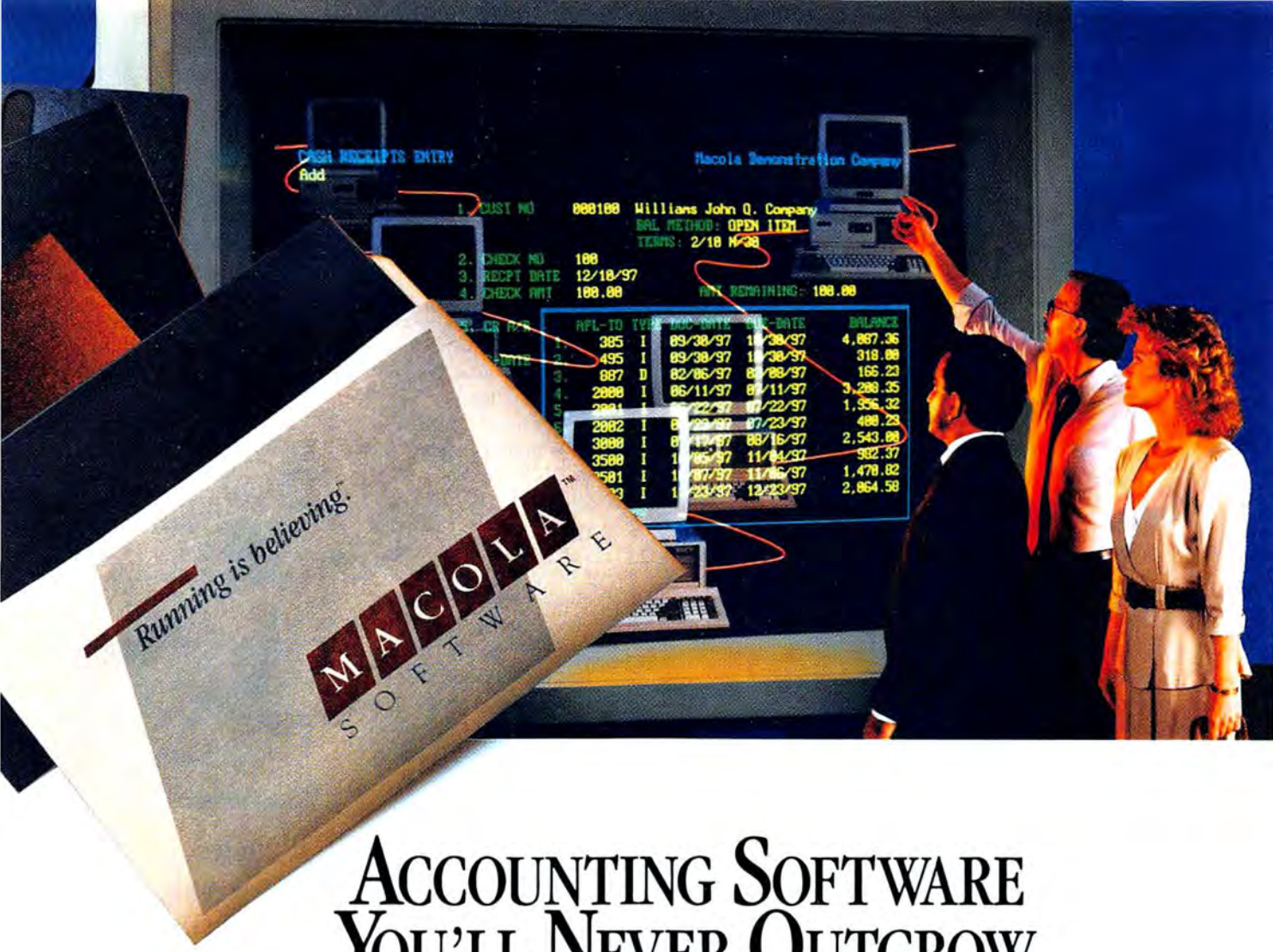
Snapshot opens a new chapter in the desktop publishing chronicle by letting you capture and edit images from any RS-170 video source, including a television set.

VenturPlan

Shortcut to Success

Plan your work and work your plan, goes the old saw. But most small businesses don't—that's one reason why four out of five fail within three years of opening their doors, according to Department of Commerce figures. Planning is difficult, time-consuming work, so it's not surprising many businesspeople sidestep the process. But Venture Software offers an easier way to draw this all-important road map to success.

VenturPlan combines data base, spreadsheet, and word processing functions to let you create a comprehensive business plan complete with goals, timetables, strategies, policies, and financials. The program steps you through the entire planning process painlessly by asking you questions. The answers form a central data base from which the necessary worksheets and reports are built.



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Speed and Data Integrity. Macola Software is written in Micro Focus COBOL for maximum speed and data integrity (source code available.) IBM has licensed Micro Focus COBOL as its SAA standard for the new PS/2 and OS/2.

Comprehensive Support. PC Magazine also determined "Macola's technical support, documentation and customization assistance meet the high standards set by the software."

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Circle 252 on reader service card

You move logically from the goal-setting module to modules for marketing, promotion, location selection, personnel policies, finances, and funding. Then *VenturPlan* helps you write your personal résumé and plan summary and fill in the appropriate bank forms. The program finishes with an evaluation module, which monitors certain issues raised by your plan and provides a "to do" list for attacking them.

You can follow the tutorial or move through the program as you will using the topic outline. A context-sensitive business adviser with several levels of information is available at the touch of the <F2> key.

Most important, *VenturPlan* eliminates much of the trauma of building worksheets, lining up report columns, and keeping number totals straight from one section of your plan to the next. Data entered in one module is automatically replicated in other modules when appropriate. Since amortization, depreciation, and other tables are built in, such calculations are automatic.

VenturPlan stores and processes up to 4000 interdependent variables, permitting you to perform "what if" analysis on financial data and create alternative scenarios for your business over a three-year period. Real and alternative balance sheets and income and cash-flow statements are created automatically.

This first version is tailored for small to midsize retail businesses and professional firms of up to 50 employees. Future releases are planned for service organizations and manufacturing concerns. *VenturPlan*, which sells for $495, requires 640K, 1.6MB of hard disk storage, and DOS 2.10 or a later version. Venture Software, 222 Third St., Cambridge, MA 02142; 617/491-6156.

Designer VGA, Designer VGA-2

Graphics Leapfrog

Few features of IBM's PS/2 line have been accepted as readily as the Video Graphics Array (VGA). While compatible-system manufacturers agonize over the PS/2's proprietary bus and resist the switch to 3½-inch floppy drives, graphics board and monitor manufacturers have been quick to leapfrog VGA graphics in capability and affordability.

Orchid Technology, for example, has just released two VGA adapter boards —Designer VGA for classic PCs and Designer VGA-2 for Micro Channel–equipped PS/2s—that take advantage of Tseng Labs' single-chip graphics processor to offer a wider range of graphics modes, resolutions, and colors at much lower prices than Big Blue's lineup.

In addition to the standard IBM VGA modes of 256 colors at 320 by 200 resolution and 16 colors at 640 by 480, these boards provide up to 256 colors at either 640 by 480 or 800 by 600 (an intermediate resolution that IBM doesn't offer), as well as up to 16 colors at the 1024 by 768 resolution favored by CAD/CAM and desktop publishing aficionados.

Designer VGA-2 costs $600 to $800 less than IBM's 8514/A Video Display Adapter. VGA-2 supports both IBM's 8514 interlaced display and noninterlaced compatibles at 1024 by 768, so you can trim system costs further by using one of the lower-cost multiscan monitors.

To produce 1024 by 768 resolution, the less-expensive Designer VGA must be used with an interlaced monitor, but it works with noninterlaced monitors at lower resolutions. Its single-chip solution makes available on a half card the functionality of an enhanced VGA board costing at least $100 more.

The Designer VGA, which retails for $445, is a half-slot card for XT- and AT-class machines and PS/2 Models 25 and 30. The Designer VGA-2 is a $699 Micro Channel–compatible card for PS/2 Models 50, 60, and 80. Both cards come standard with 512K worth of dynamic RAM rather than the usual 256K, enabling them to support more colors and modes. Orchid Technology, 45365 Northport Loop W, Fremont, CA 94538; 415/683-0300.

BRIEFLY NOTED

Hyundai Super-286, PC Terminal

Hyundai has introduced an AT-compatible file server and a diskless workstation that are the building blocks of a low-priced network. In terms of processor performance, Hyundai's Super-286 is an

The Super-286 is an AT-compatible file server that Hyundai offers as a building block for use with a low-cost LAN.

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PC Paintbrush+ reduces your memory requirements to 512K by trading off zoom-out editing and some typographic features. Like Publisher's Paintbrush, it supports gray-scale and B/W image scanners.

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Circle 219 on reader service card

upright, floor-standing version of the Super-286C small-footprint desktop. Like the desktop, the Super-286 has a zero-wait-state 80286 processor switchable to either 8 MHz or 10 MHz and a 1.2MB 5¼-inch floppy drive. But with a full 1MB complement of memory, six 8-bit and six 8/16-bit expansion slots, and room for up to five half-height drives, the Super-286 is much better suited for use as a LAN file server or for high-end data base or CAD/CAM applications. Hyundai offers a choice of 30MB, 40MB, 60MB, and 70MB fixed and removable hard drives. Other system components include two serial ports, a parallel port, a 101-key keyboard, MS-DOS 3.20, and GW BASIC version 3.20. An 80287 math coprocessor is optional. The Super-286 sells for $1695 without a monitor or video card so that you can configure it to fit your LAN plans.

Hyundai's PC Terminal is a diskless workstation with an Ethernet interface on the motherboard. Based on an 8088-2 processor switchable from 4.77 MHz to 8 MHz, it comes with 256K, four 8-bit expansion slots, a monochrome or color monitor, and an 84- or 101-key keyboard. The system, with monochrome monitor and 84-key keyboard, sells for $795. All Hyundai systems include an 18-month warranty. Hyundai Electronics America, 4401 Great America Pkwy., Santa Clara, CA 95054; 408/980-7561.

MultiSync GS

NEC Home Electronics has announced an intelligent gray-scale monitor that offers the same kind of mode switching in monochrome that NEC's popular MultiSync II multiscan monitor does in color. The MultiSync GS is for those concerned with price and satisfied with monochrome graphics. It provides up to 64 shades of gray in place of color images for every kind of graphics board from MDA through VGA and supports the Hercules 720 by 350 mode for extended-column spreadsheets. MultiSync GS accepts either digital or analog input signals, automatically adjusting its vertical and horizontal scanning frequency to match the video signal. It has a 14-inch, flat-screen CRT on a tilt-and-swivel base for enhanced contrast and minimal glare and comes with both a 9-pin adapter and a 9-to-15-pin adapter for connecting to IBM PS/2s. The MultiSync GS sells for $279, is compatible with classic PCs and all IBM PS/2 models, and comes with green, amber, or paper-white lettering on a black background. NEC Home Electronics, 1255 Michael Dr., Wood Dale, IL 60191; 800/447-4700 for literature, 800/NEC-SOFT for technical details.

BocaRAM/30

Boca Research has introduced an add-on board for IBM PS/2 Models 25 and 30 that provides 2MB of Lotus/Intel/Microsoft expanded memory specification 4.0 (LIM 4.0) memory. BocaRAM/30 is a full-length board using 150ns RAM chips in 256K increments. BocaRAM/30 also runs LIM 3.2 software and comes with menu-driven installation and diagnostic software. Also included is a print spooler for buffered printing and a RAM-disk utility. BocaRAM/30 comes in a no-memory version for $175, with 256K for $225, with 1MB for $345, or with 2MB for $545. Boca Research, 6401 Congress Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33487; 305/997-6227.

NEC's MultiSync GS offers up to 64 shades of gray in place of color images plus compatibility with graphics standards from MDA through VGA.

Numerikeys

You can speed data entry with an auxiliary numeric keyboard from Genest Technologies. Numerikeys, which uses only microwatts of power from the computer, should prove particularly handy for use with portables. It includes a separate 10-key keypad as well as cursor, symbol, and function keys, which are grouped differently than on a standard 84-key or 101-key keyboard and separated to enhance data entry accuracy. The keyboard attaches between the parallel port and printer cable and works even while printing is underway. Numerikeys sells for $129. Genest Technologies, 1331 E. Edinger Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705; 800/826-9641, 714/547-0880.

S.F.E. Utilities

Bourbaki has a $69 bundle of ten frequently used utilities called *S.F.E. Utilities* (Something For Everyone). Some are eminently simple, such as R.E. Boot, an alternative to <Ctrl>-<Alt>-<Delete> for system restart, or E.Z. Print, a RAM-resident print configuration utility. Most of the other utilities are oriented toward disk and file management, including H.D. TuneUp, which improves the performance of a hard disk by restructur-

"The Breakthru 286 performed flawlessly with every application we handed it, including copy-protected programs and nine memory-resident utilities at once."
Stephen Manes, PC Magazine

"...the Breakthru 286 was the card of choice."
PC BusinesSoftwareview (Rated #1)

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Dan A. Griffin
The Newsletter of the AutoCAD User's Group

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Ted Mirecki, PC Tech Journal (Rated #1)

"The 12-MHz Breakthru 286-12 speedup board is the fastest of those tested, but not the most expensive. On a dollar per-horsepower basis, it could be called the cheapest boost available for an XT."
Mark Welch, InfoWorld (Rated #1)

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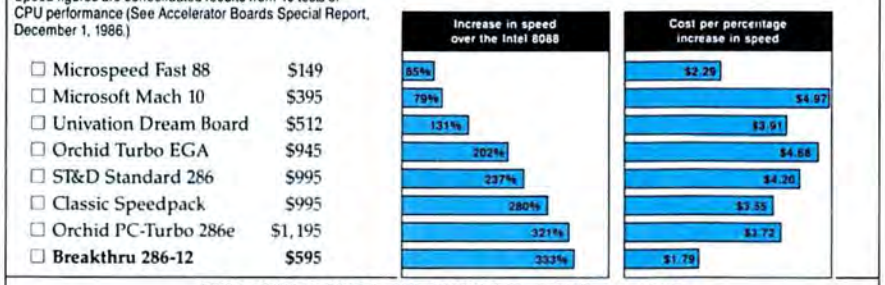
Accelerator Cards: Speed and Value

Speed figures are consolidated results from 10 tests of CPU performance (See Accelerator Boards Special Report, December 1, 1986.)



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PC MAGAZINE FIFTH ANNUAL BEST OF 1986

HERE'S WHY THESE TWO BOARDS ARE SO SPECIAL.

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Second, they are advanced. The BREAKTHRU 286 replaces the CPU of the PC or XT with an 80286 microprocessor that is faster than the one found in the AT. Has a 80287 math coprocessor slot for numeric intensive applications. A 16K cache memory provides zero-wait-access to the most recently used code and data. Speed switching software allows you to drop back to a lower speed on the fly for timing sensitive applications.

Third, you have full compatibility. All existing system RAM, hardware, and peripheral cards can be used without software modification. Our boards operate with LAN and mainframe communication products and conform to the Expanded Memory Specification (EMS). Software compatibility is virtually universal.

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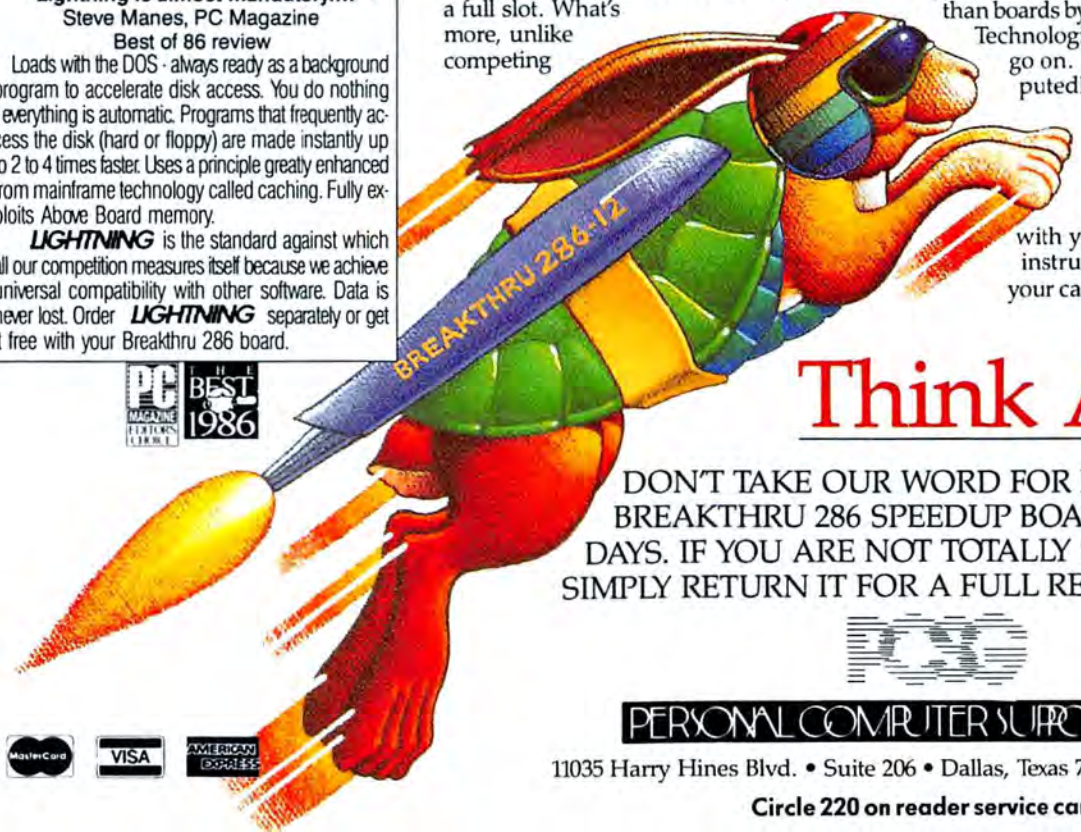
Fourth, these are the best. There are several other boards on the speedup market. We at PCSG have compared them all, but there simply is no comparison. Many cards offer only a marginal speedup in spite of their claims and others are just poorly engineered.

We are really excited about these products. PCSG makes the unabashed statement that the BREAKTHRU 286 card represents more advanced technology than boards by Orchid, Quadram, P.C. Technologies, Phoenix...we could go on. Breakthru 286 is undisputedly the turbo board with the biggest bang for the buck. And we include FREE the $89.95 acclaimed Lightning software. Call today with your credit card or COD instructions and we will ship your card the very next day.



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ing fragmented files into contiguous blocks. P.M. Map displays a map of memory-resident programs, showing loading order, size, beginning and ending memory addresses, and allocation holes. K.B. Pacer speeds up the keystroke-repeat rate. U.P. Today lets the user change the date on any file without altering the file. W.S. ASCII converts *WordStar* files to ASCII files. For security, E.N. Crypt uses a 12-character key to encrypt and decrypt files. P.C. Lockup locks the keyboard and blanks the screen when you are away from your PC. M.T. File erases a file—permanently. *S.F.E. Utilities* is available for $49 to registered *1dir+* users. Bourbaki, 615 W. Hays St., Boise, ID 83701; 208/342-5849.

Force Stick

Tactron Scientific has a new high-precision input device that looks like a joystick but operates differently from joysticks, mice, or graphics tablets. Tracton's Force Stick uses force transducers that sense how hard you push on the stick—rather than potentiometers that measure the distance the device moves. The Force Stick is intended for high-precision CAD, CAM, or CAE applications that call for greater control over rotation, zooming, and panning than other input methods provide. It's particularly well suited for remote manipulation applications, such as production line robotics, where you want to control the rate at which objects move as well as their direction. The harder you push, the faster the cursor moves; cross-screen response is quick since you move only your fingertips, not your hand. Soft touches move the cursor pixel by pixel. The Force Stick supports three mice protocols—from Microsoft, Summagraphics, and Mouse Systems—and sports six fingertip switches that act as mouse keys or programmable function keys. The Force Stick connects to a standard RS-232C serial port, requires no independent power supply, and has 9-to-15-pin converters for IBM PS/2s. Tactron offers two models: The $765 F3-2 is a single-stick device able to move along two axes, and the F3-4 is a four-axis device equipped with two sticks that sells for $965. Tactron Scientific, 7265 Mountain Trail, Dayton, OH 45459; 513/434-4117.

Force Stick looks like a joystick but uses force transducer technology for extreme sensitivity in high-precision CAD, CAM, or CAE applications.

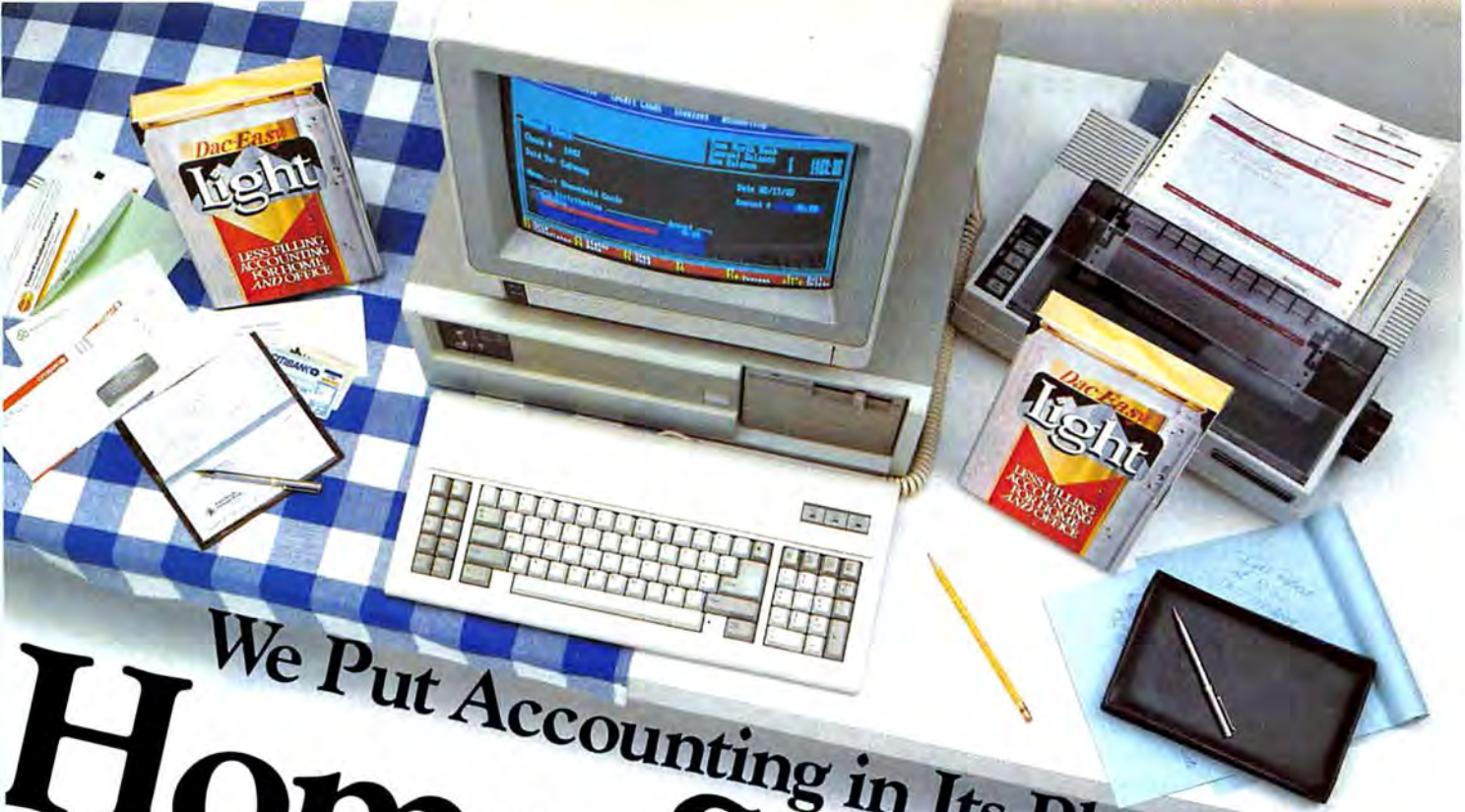
UPDATE

Q&A 3.0

Symantec has added quasi-relational capability, LAN support, and other features to its popular *Q&A* data base/word processor. *Q&A 3.0* lets you search on a field across multiple files in up to seven data bases, pulling the information into a file or report. You can use *Q&A 3.0*'s natural language query facility to program a sequence of searches of several fields in multiple files one field at a time, or add similar programming statements to forms by means of the customized menu. *Q&A 3.0* can lock data base files at the record level, allowing more than one user on a LAN to browse or read data but only one user to edit it. *Q&A 3.0*'s word processor lets you use up to nine fonts in any document on a letter-by-letter basis and has a simplified mail merge function. Search and replace has been enhanced so you can hunt for nonalphanumeric characters like page breaks and carriage returns. *Q&A 3.0*, which retails for $349, is more than 30 percent faster than previous versions. Upgrades from 2.0 cost $79, and you can buy a $199 LAN Pak for three additional users if you have *Q&A 3.0*. Symantec Corp., 10201 Torre Ave., Cupertino, CA 95014; 408/253-9600.

Paradox 386

Taking advantage of the 80386 processor, Borland International has made its *Paradox* relational data base up to five times faster at sorting, querying, and reporting. Incorporating PharLap Software's DOS Extender technology, *Paradox 386* teams up with the 80386 processor's 32-bit instruction set to speed operations and directly addresses up to 16MB of memory. Designed for users of large data bases such as massive order-entry systems, *Paradox 386* employs a virtual memory manager that caches files to reduce disk access and further enhance performance. Compatible with past versions, *Paradox 386* requires 640K and a hard disk and comes in both 3½-inch and



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Code #203

5¼-inch formats. It retails for $895; an upgrade costs $125 for registered owners of *Paradox 2.0*. Borland Int'l, 4585 Scotts Valley Dr., Scotts Valley, CA 95066; 408/438-8400.

Manuscript 2.0

Lotus Development Corporation has added desktop publishing features and other enhancements to the latest release of its *Manuscript* word processor. *Manuscript 2.0* supports winding columns, sophisticated hyphenation, justification rules, and paragraph and word-spacing control. It easily downloads fonts to a laser printer and supports a wider array of industry-standard graphics file formats in addition to those of Lotus products. Other major new features include macros, a thesaurus, a screen-capture utility, math functions, and phrase libraries for frequently used text or tables. *Manuscript 2.0* automatically imports *1-2-3* worksheets, readily mixes graphics with text, constructs sophisticated tables, and supports inter-document management for tables of contents, indexes, cross-references, and footnotes. Markers replace the backslash commands of release 1.0, simplifying and speeding the incorporation of pictures, worksheet data, equations, cross-references, screens, and other elements into documents. *Manuscript 1.0* documents are compatible with the new release. A stand-alone utility converts release 2.0 documents to the release 1.0 format. *Manuscript 2.0* retails for $495. Upgrades for registered *Manuscript 1.0* users are $75. Lotus Development Corp., 55 Cambridge Pkwy., Cambridge, MA 02142; 617/577-8500, ext. 1281.

Tapestry/8

Torus Systems has released a less expensive version of *Tapestry*, its icon-based, NETBIOS-compatible local area network system software. *Tapestry/8* is identical in function to the original large-network–oriented program, but whereas you used to pay $2500 for an eight-user configuration, *Tapestry/8* comes packaged for eight users for $795. Those who want to reconfigure *Tapestry/8* for more than eight nodes can pick up an upgrade pack for $2495. Torus charges $295 for each workstation added. In *Tapestry*, any node can be a file server. One of *Tapestry*'s most attractive attributes is its icon-based pulldown menus, which make it easy to use. The software includes an E-mail system and facilities for sharing network peripherals. Torus Systems, 240B Twin Dolphin Dr., Redwood City, CA 94065; 415/594-9336.

Mix text, graphics, and worksheet data on the same page with Lotus's Manuscript 2.0 word processor, then preview the page layout before printing.

QuadMEG PS/Q

Quadram has updated its QuadMEG PS/Q add-on board to provide LIM 4.0 expanded memory for IBM PS/2 Models 50 and 60. Previously, PS/Q supported LIM 3.2; with 4.0 it can now address larger increments of memory and perform multitasking operations. The new capability comes with the QuadMaster IV software supplied with the board, which also includes a RAM disk utility and a print spooler. Owners of existing PS/Q boards can get the new software free. QuadMEG PS/Q adds 4MB of expanded memory to PS/2 Models 50 and 60 and is compatible with OS/2 and programs using the protected mode of the Intel 80286 chip. The board includes three Micro Channel Architecture identification numbers, avoiding conflict with other cards. QuadMEG PS/Q comes in a 512K configuration for $545, 2MB for $1095, and 4MB for $1995. Quadram, One Quad Way, Norcross, GA 30093-2919; 404/923-6666.

Accpac BPI Accounting

Computer Associates is shipping an enhanced, less expensive version of the *BPI Accounting* series the company acquired last year. Designed for small to medium-size businesses with general accounting needs and no need for vertical-market or specialized applications, *Accpac BPI Accounting* is a full-function series that includes separate modules for general accounting, accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, and inventory control. The old price has been cut in half, to $395 per module. For those just starting out, *Accpac BPI Accounting*'s general accounting module includes a general ledger and limited versions of accounts receivable, accounts payable, and payroll. You can choose 12- or 13-period accounting, and you can keep 10 periods open at one time. A suspend function enables you to switch between tasks and programs without losing data. *Accpac BPI Accounting* requires 512K, a hard drive, and DOS 3.00 or a later version. Computer Associates Int'l, 2195 Fortune Dr., San Jose, CA 95131-1820; 408/432-1727. ●

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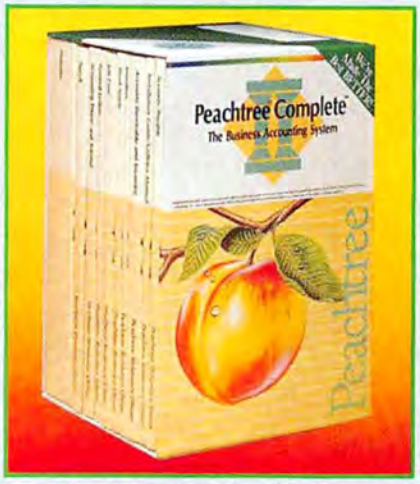

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**InfoWorld*, December 1987.

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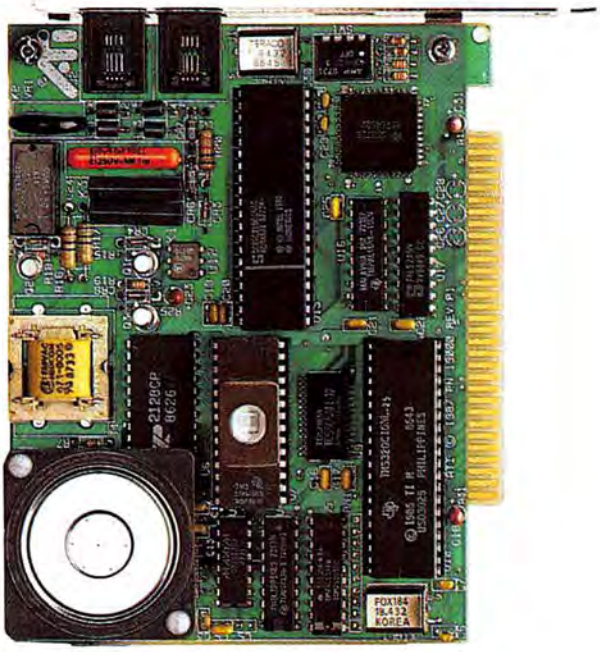

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1-2-3 Enters the Third Dimension

Lotus revamps its franchise spreadsheet with three-dimensional worksheets, fancier graphics, more powerful data base functions, and greater ease of use.

Eric Bender

History's most successful software application will be relaunched this fall. Release 3 of Lotus Development's *1-2-3* will boast three-dimensional worksheets, enriched graphics, enhanced data base functions, stronger auditing safeguards, and other improvements designed to speed use.

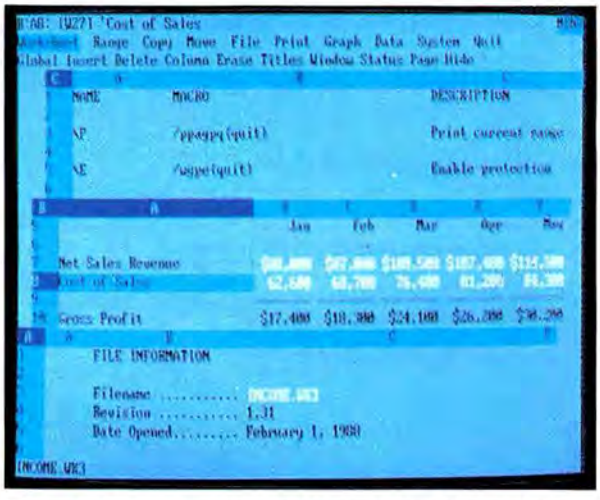
Release 3 will maintain the franchise spreadsheet's look and feel and will accept files and macros from earlier releases and export files to them. The $495 program will look essentially identical under DOS and OS/2 and will ship in one package with one set of documentation. The 2½-year-old release 2.01 will still be sold.

Adding a Dimension

Are three-dimensional spreadsheets just a fad, like 3-D movies? No, because the added dimension has major advantages for all but the simplest worksheets.

"The main benefit is structure—the ability to organize a worksheet in a sensible way," explains Scott Tucker, Lotus's product design manager for PC spreadsheets. If you separate multiple activities into different worksheets, says Tucker, "you don't have to worry so much about organization." For example, you can place macros on a second worksheet and delete rows on your first without jeopardizing the macros.

The 3-D architecture also drastically simplifies the process of consolidating multiple worksheets. Rather than having to reference all the appropriate cell ranges in a number of linked worksheets (as with *Excel*), users can simply select a three-dimensional range, or "cube," of data from all worksheets loaded into memory at the same time. Release 3 users will also be able to create links between separate worksheet files, as with *Excel*.



Working in three dimensions lets you divide a large worksheet into smaller, linked ones. Here, title page, calculations, and macros have been placed on individual worksheets.

Release 3's opening screen is familiar and two-dimensional; the clue to the added dimension is the presence of an extra 'A' in the top left corner. This designates sheet A; so the top-left cell is A:A1. If you open a second sheet, the top left cell is called B:A1.

You can open up to 256 sheets per file and load multiple files into memory, and you can view three consecutive sheets at a time.

Navigation is straightforward: <Ctrl>-<Page Up> and <Ctrl>-<Page Down> are the keystrokes you need to know to use three dimensions. Beyond that, procedures for entering commands, formulas, values, and labels all remain unchanged, making it easy to link a formula on one sheet to data on another. If all linked sheets are in

memory, they're updated automatically when a change is made.

You can adjust column width and other parameters individually or globally. Once you're finished, you can store all the sheets together in a single file (the new format is dubbed .WK3). You also can split the sheets into multiple files or join multiple worksheet files into one.

You must follow some rules of the road to ensure proper updating of data between files: If you always want to have the correct value, either make all your links one-way, Tucker advises, or bring all files with two-way links into memory, since linked files that remain on the disk aren't updated.

Release 3 is written in C rather than assembler but counteracts C's slowness by using minimal recalc (recalculating only those cells affected by changes since the last recalculation) and background recalc (releasing the cursor while the worksheet finishes crunching numbers off screen).

The OS/2 code exploits up to 16MB of memory. The DOS version pushes that barrier even further —to 32MB—with the Lotus/Intel/Microsoft (LIM) expanded memory specification 4.0. More practically, it exploits all available memory (conventional or expanded).

Upgraded Graphics, Data Base

Graphs are much easier to create (and save) than in earlier versions, Tucker says. They can be displayed next to worksheets or data bases, with changes automatically reflected in the graph, and a graph can be printed from within a worksheet via standard menu print commands.

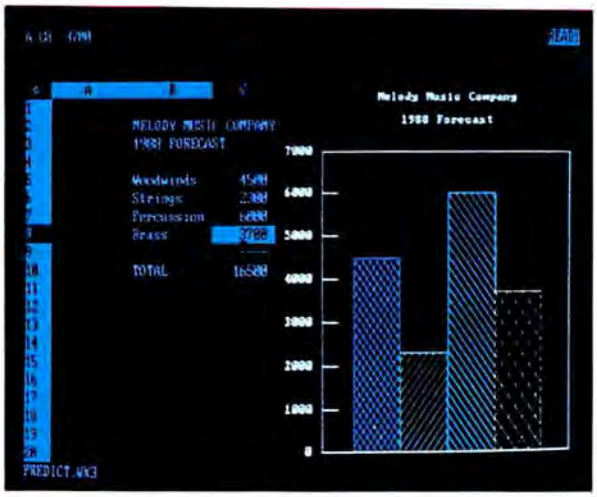
New chart types include text, open/high/low/close, mixed line and bar, area, and horizontal. Control over hatching patterns, color, and text fonts has been greatly enhanced. Release 3 can print text and graphics on the same page, supports PostScript, and provides print queuing.

The new release's enhanced data base functions will allow it to handle many more data base applications, Tucker claims. You can sort on up to 256 keys. And while individual data bases remain limited to 8192 records, "a limited relational capability lets you join two data bases that share a common field."

Lotus also is adding direct access to external data base managers such as *dBASE*.

Maintaining Control

Users who invested heavily in *1-2-3* add-ins will be disappointed to learn that release 3 won't work with them. Tucker expects a new crop of add-ins to begin appearing a few months after the package ships.



1-2-3 release 3 can display charts on the same screen with a worksheet or data base. If the worksheet is updated, the chart will be redrawn.

The new version does borrow a few niceties from the *HAL* add-in, including an undo feature and automatic cell formatting. This last aids tasks like plugging in quarterly dates, formerly a real pain.

Among auditing features, the Worksheet Windows Map gives a compressed view of a worksheet using separate symbols to represent numbers, formulas, and labels and thereby pinpointing, for example, a label lurking where a formula should be. Additionally, you can annotate number formula cells with a note of up to 512 characters, or annotate range names and display those in a table.

Release 3 also includes search and replace functions, a keystroke recorder, supplemental macro commands, the ability to switch instantly between two screen display modes, and a flexible system of network file locking. And, unsurprisingly, release 3 adds layers of context-sensitive help.

At press time, release 3 was scheduled to be available in the fourth quarter for $495. Registered owners of release 2.01 will be able to upgrade for $150, and release 1A owners can step up for $200. Release 3 will require 512K and either DOS 2.00 or a later version, or OS/2; a hard disk is recommended. Release 3 will not be copy protected. ●

Eric Bender is PC World's *East Coast editor.*

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For more information, see Products Featured in This Issue.

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WordPerfect Desktop Publisher

WordPerfect 5.0 will offer a whole new universe of features. Top-notch desktop publishing capabilities will allow you to create better output than ever before.

Ralph Blodgett

WordPerfect 5.0 is no *PageMaker*, but the new release of the popular word processor crosses the line between word processing and desktop publishing. With advanced support for graphics and fonts, as well as leading and kerning control, page preview capabilities, and PostScript support, *WordPerfect 5.0* is clearly geared to users who want superior output. But the program's new features mean a big boost in system requirements: 512K is mandatory; 640K is recommended.

Graphic Improvements

If you've been hoping for better graphics support, you're in luck. Version 5.0 imports images created in *PC Paint*, *Publisher's Paintbrush*, *Dr. Halo II*, and *Windows Paint*, as well as CGM metafiles, HPGL plotter files, *1-2-3* and *Symphony* .PIC files, *GEM* files, and TIFF scanner files.

Imported images can be resized horizontally or vertically, cropped, and even rotated—a capability missing from high-end desktop publishing programs such as *Ventura Publisher* and *PageMaker*. You can treat text as an image, place it inside its own box, and add a gray screen (the percentage of gray is user definable). Version 5.0 draws boxes automatically for figures and tables, and you will be able to create horizontal and vertical lines of varying thicknesses and shades of gray to separate sections of text.

As in *Ventura Publisher*, text flows around images automatically. You will be able to specify that a given section of text and graphics remain together; if you later decide to modify the layout, the text and graphics unit will still be linked.

When it's time to take a look at your document, you will be able to preview images and fonts on a single page or on two facing pages, either full-size or magnified 200 percent. But you won't be able to edit in preview mode.

Font Formatting As You Like It

WordPerfect 5.0 boosts font support dramatically. In addition to bold, italic, outline and shadow, superscript, subscript, small caps, redline, strikeout, and single- and double-underline font styles, version 5.0 provides six automatically formatting fonts: fine, small, regular, large, very large, and extra large. Or you will be able to select your own—up to 250 per document. At press time, WordPerfect announced it would ship version 5.0 with several Bitstream disk-based fonts, including Dutch and Swiss. Once you specify which printer(s) you're using, *WordPerfect* keeps track of available built-in fonts, font cartridges, and downloadable fonts and automatically formats the document to match the printer and its fonts.

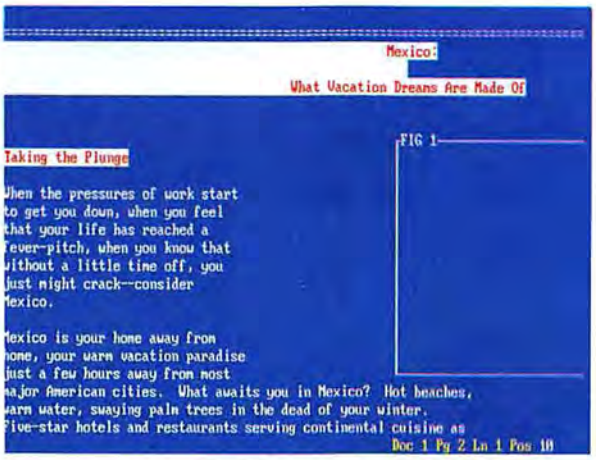
If, for example, you move a document formatted for the LaserJet II to a system with an Epson dot matrix printer, *WordPerfect 5.0* will reformat the entire document's fonts to match the Epson's fonts. Similarly, if you create a document using Helvetica but later decide to print the document in Times Roman, *WordPerfect* will adjust all settings.

If you use a Hercules InColor Card or Graphics Card Plus and a multiscan monitor, you will be able to view all the font styles on screen during editing. Without a Hercules card, the text is color coded to indicate different sizes and styles.

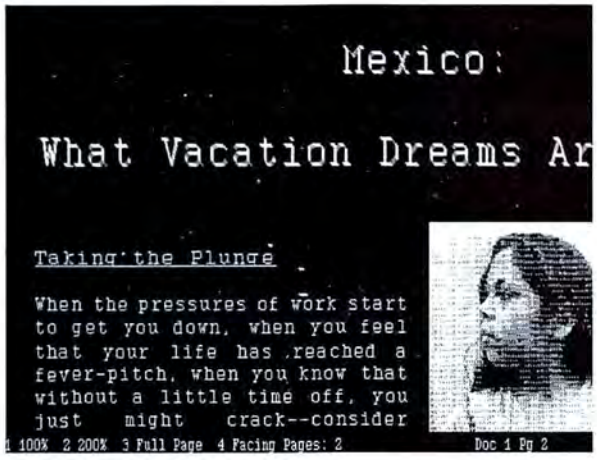
To the Mac and Back

Tabs and margin settings are now measured in inches, centimeters, points, or characters. This makes using *WordPerfect* files on both IBM-compatible and Macintosh computers easier, because the Mac version also uses inches or centimeters. To use *WordPerfect 5.0* files with the Macintosh, Apple II, or Amiga versions of *WordPerfect*, you will have to save those files in version 4.2's format. If you own a LaserWriter or one of the new breed of PC-compatible PostScript printers, note that *WordPerfect 5.0* provides full PostScript support.

The new *WordPerfect* also offers widow and orphan control and precise control over leading (line spacing). The program



In editing mode, different fonts appear in different colors (unless you have a Hercules card), and the graphic is represented by a box.



In WordPerfect's preview mode, you can view the document shown in the screen above as it will appear in print.

kerns text automatically, and you will be able to modify the kerning function to increase or decrease the space between specific letters.

Better Menus and Macros

Desktop publishing tools are not *WordPerfect*'s only improvements. The menus will let you select many items by using mnemonics, such as *G* for *Graphic*. With version 5.0 you will be able to use up to 1500 different characters, compared to the old ASCII limit of 256. Several new character sets are now supported, including Greek, Hebrew, Math, and Symbol.

Additions to the macro function include a built-in editor and the ability to assign macros to any key or set of keys. You will be able to redefine all the function keys if you wish, nest macros, add input statements, and create conditional macros. However, macros created with version 4.2 won't be compatible with the new *WordPerfect*—you'll have to recreate them from scratch.

For work groups, an interesting feature is version 5.0's ability to compare an edited document on screen with an unedited version on disk, and display (with redlining and strikeout) every editorial addition and deletion. With version 4.2 you had to print the document to see redlining changes.

WordPerfect 5.0 was due to be shipped as of press time. Version 5.0 lists for $495; an upgrade from version 4.2 costs $60. If you purchased *WordPerfect 4.2* between January 31 and April 30, the update is free. ●

Ralph Blodgett is the author of Using WordPerfect: Macintosh Version *(Que Corp., Carmel, Indiana, 1988) and the forthcoming* Advanced WordPerfect Version 5.0 *(Scott, Foresman & Co., Glenview, Illinois).*

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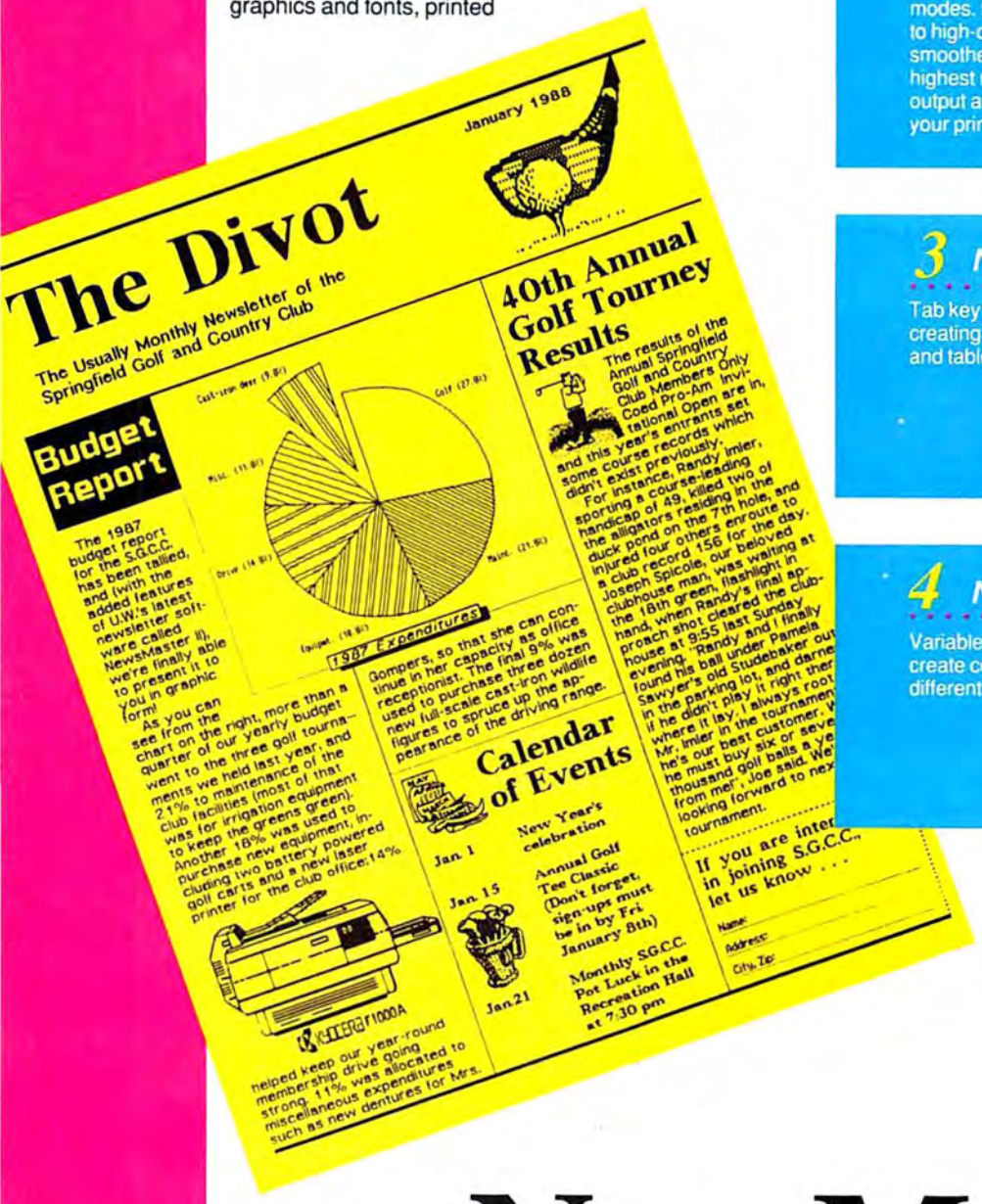

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PostScript Printers' Progress

Affordable PostScript printers have finally arrived, promising typographic muscle, gangbuster graphics, and LaserJet compatibility. PC World scrutinizes five PostScript printers to see if they meet expectations.

Daniel Miles Kehoe

Laser printers have traditionally been segregated into two camps. The Hewlett-Packard LaserJet and its clones huddled under the PC's banner, while the Apple LaserWriter, the sole PostScript printer, hoisted the flag of the Macintosh. With the release of a battalion of moderately priced PC-oriented PostScript printers, such distinctions have crumbled for good—and users on both sides will be the beneficiaries.

The HP LaserJet single-handedly redefined the notion of letter quality output, rendering the daisy wheel printer an anachronism. Now the desktop publishing boom threatens the LaserJet with the same fate. Programs such as *PageMaker* and *Ventura Publisher* can quickly use up the LaserJet Series II's 512K of RAM and meager collection of internal fonts. You can add more memory, font cartridges, and nonscalable downloadable fonts, of course, but that would raise the cost higher than that of the cheapest PostScript printer reviewed here—and without gaining the unique advantages PostScript offers.

If the LaserJet forces font-hungry users to dine à la carte, a PostScript printer provides prix fixe convenience. In addition to speaking Adobe's versatile PostScript page description language, which provides software developers with a variety of graphics and typographic features, the reviewed printers pack at least 1.5MB of RAM and 35 built-in scalable fonts from Times Roman to Century Schoolbook. (By contrast, all fonts for the LaserJet are fixed and usually can't exceed 36 points.) PostScript fonts also include kerned letter pairs, allowing publishing programs that feature automatic kerning, such as *PageMaker*, to generate far more readable text.

Perhaps just as important, these new PostScript printers step out of the shadow

PHOTO: WES GOWEC

The Silentwriter LC890's durable LED engine and reliable PostScript printing make it ideal for office duty. (Note: The LC890's faceplate confusingly reads "NEC Silentwriter LC800 PostScript Page Printer.")

of the Apple LaserWriter. They can easily fit into a PC-dominated office, because they emulate the LaserJet and other popular printers and feature parallel ports for plug-and-print operations. At the same time, the Apple Macintosh across the hall isn't excluded—serial and AppleTalk connectors are standard on all but the IBM model.

Of course, LaserJet partisans are quick to point out the competition's disadvantages. *Cheap* PostScript printers still cost $2000 more than a basic LaserJet Series II and are currently limited to 3MB of RAM. And though PostScript printers can adroitly print complex graphics, the Series II is faster at outputting text and large bit-mapped images. Software support for PostScript in the PC world is also rather limited.

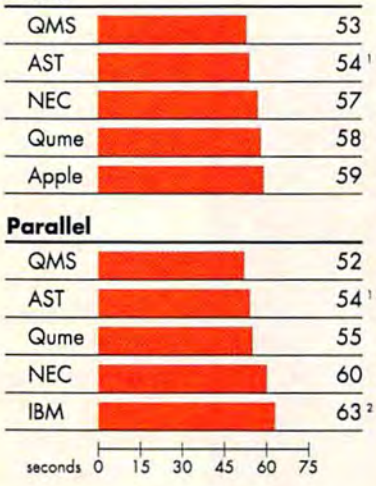
But the software drought is ending as *1-2-3* release 3, *Excel*, *Quattro*, *WordPerfect 5.0*, and other major applications with PostScript drivers come to market. And

NSTL TEST REPORT

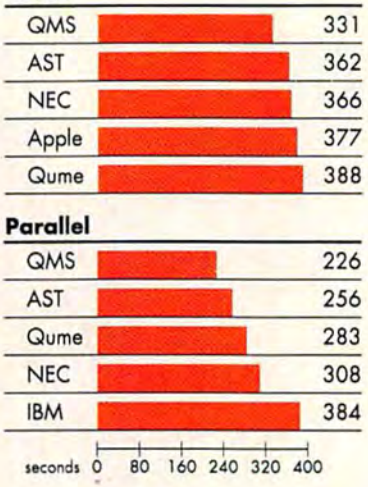
PostScript Printers Roundup

Other printers are faster, but the NEC Silentwriter's steady performance, durable engine, and dependable paper handling make it the best buy.

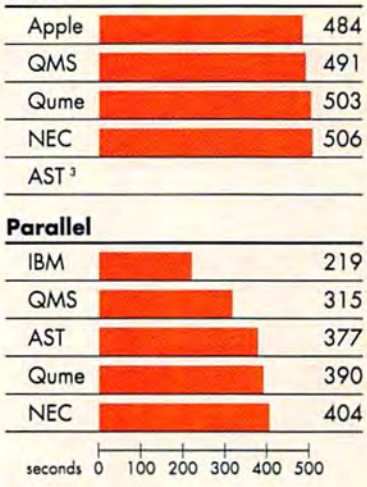
Text, one font



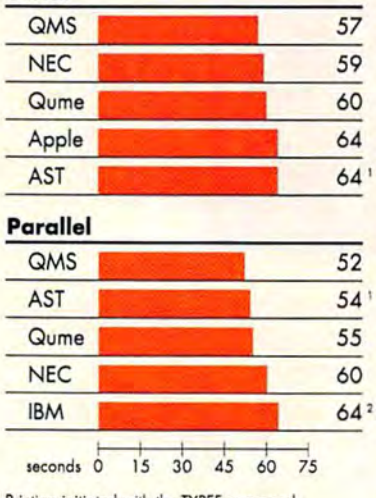
Complex images/fonts



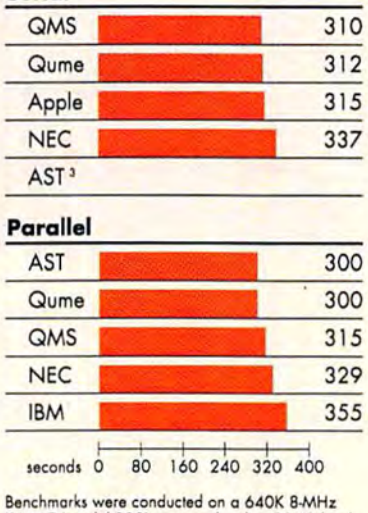
Full-page image



Text, four fonts



Newsletter



[1] Printing initiated with the TYPEF command
[2] Printing initiated with the PPPRINT command
[3] Would not print PageMaker documents properly through serial port.

Benchmarks were conducted on a 640K 8-MHz IBM AT (Model 339) equipped with a 30MB hard disk, an IBM Enhanced Graphics Adapter, and an IBM Enhanced Color Display. Text printing, typical of everyday word processing, was tested using *XyWrite III 3.52* (text, one font and four fonts). A mixture of desktop publishing tasks were performed using *Ventura Publisher 1.1* (complex images/fonts) and, running under *Microsoft Windows 2.03*, *PageMaker 1.0a* for the PC (newsletter and full-page image). Timing began when the command to print was issued and ended when the last page came to rest in the output tray.

Text, one font
This benchmark timed the printing of four 50-line pages in 12-point Courier.

Text, four fonts
This benchmark timed the printing of four 50-line pages of 12-point Times, Bookman, Helvetica, and Courier typefaces.

Complex images/fonts
This benchmark timed the printing of five pages consisting of a scanned photo, a line drawing, a raster graphics image, and text in different typefaces and sizes.

Newsletter
This benchmark timed the printing of eight pages made up of elements typical of a newsletter, including various type sizes and fonts. The original document was created on an Apple Macintosh with *PageMaker 2.0* for the Macintosh and then sent to the AT over a TOPS network.

Full-page image
This benchmark timed the printing of a 6½-by-9-inch digitized photograph at 300 dpi.

Data based on tests designed and conducted by National Software Testing Laboratories (NSTL). All rights reserved.

you can't beat the radical change in the price/power ratio: A PostScript printer that cost $8000 last year can now be had for $5000. This may not be a steal, but you can't buy more printer for the money.

Accordingly, *PC World* evaluated the first round of PostScript printers in that price range: the NEC Silentwriter LC890, the AST TurboLaser/PS, the Qume Scripten, the IBM Personal Pageprinter, and the QMS-PS 810. Image quality and speed tests conducted by National Software Testing Laboratories (NSTL) helped answer the question: Do these printers deliver on PostScript's promise of convenience and versatility?

Installation Pitfalls

A laser printer engine dictates not only a printer's durability, paper handling talents, and sharpness of output but also its ease of installation and maintenance. For example, the QMS-PS 810 uses a Canon engine, which combines toner cartridge and image system (an organic photoconductor, or OPC) in a single unit that pops into place in minutes. Flip open the printer's cover, slide the unit into a bay in the hood, pull out a plastic tab, close the printer, add paper to the tray, and you're ready to go. You don't have to worry about spilling toner or damaging the light-sensitive but fully shielded imaging unit.

The AST TurboLaser/PS, the NEC Silentwriter LC890, the Qume Scripten, and the IBM Personal Pageprinter use separate toner and OPC cartridges. In-

NSTL BENCHMARK TESTING

The exclusive test facility for *PC World*, **National Software Testing Laboratories (NSTL)**, is an independent organization that specializes in evaluating personal computer hardware and software. A recognized pioneer in state-of-the-art test design, **NSTL** believes that the most useful benchmark tests measure how well products perform when executing typical business tasks. **NSTL** testers follow detailed test plans that simulate normal operating conditions. A controlled testing methodology ensures objective, accurate, and consistent results and gives consumers a sound basis for making purchase decisions. **NSTL** publishes its test results in *Software Digest Ratings Report*® and *PC Digest*.™ Neither publication accepts advertising. **NSTL** is located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

FEATURES EVALUATION

PostScript Printers

The NEC Silentwriter LC890 and the QMS-PS 810 combine ample features with versatile printing.

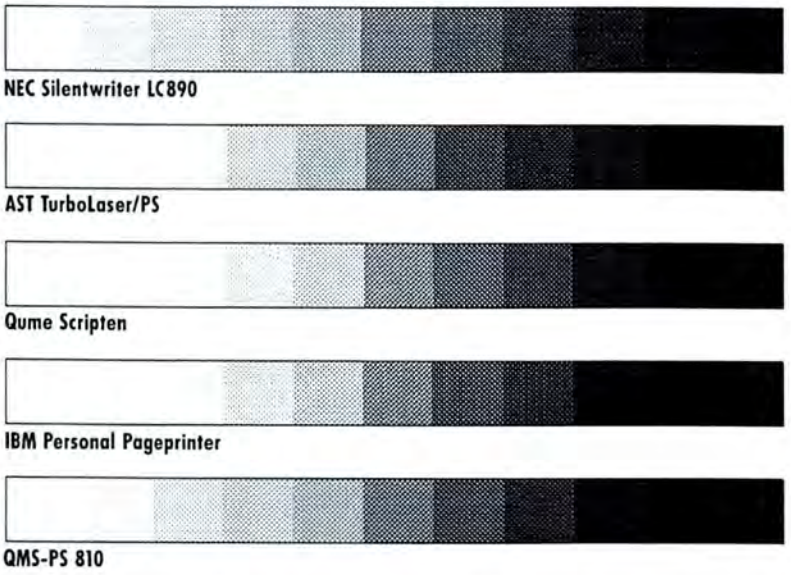
● Yes
○ No
◒ Deficient

	Apple LaserWriter Plus	AST TurboLaser/PS	IBM Personal Pageprinter	NEC Silentwriter LC890	QMS-PS 810	Qume Scripten
Configuration						
PostScript version	42.2	47	47	47	47	47
Processor speed (MHz)	11.8	12.5	10	10	16	12.5
RAM (MB)	1.5	3	2	3	2	3
Number of internal fonts	35	35	43	35	35	35
Engine	Canon LBP-CX	Ricoh 4081	Ricoh 4216	NEC LC800	Canon LBP-SX	Hitachi SL-100
Warranty (parts & labor)	n/a	90 days	1 year	1 year	1 year	60 days
Rated speed (ppm)	8	8	6	8	8	10
Rated engine life (thousands of pages)	180	600	180	600	300	300
Cost per page (cents)	6	4	3	3	4	6
Centronics parallel port	○	●	●	●	●	●
Serial port	●	●	○	●	●	●
AppleTalk port	●	●	○	●	●	●
Paper handling						
Paper capacity (sheets)	250	500	250	1000	500	250
Single-sheet feeder	●	○	●	●	●	●
Prints legal-size paper	○	○	●	●	●	●
Prints envelopes	○	○	○	◒ [1]	●	○
Emulation						
HP LaserJet Plus	○	◒ [2]	○	●	◒ [3]	●
Supports downloadable LaserJet Plus fonts	○	◒ [2]	○	●	●	●
Diablo 630	●	◒ [2]	○	●	●	●
IBM Proprinter XL	○	○	●	○	○	○
HPGL plotter	○	◒ [2]	○	●	●	○

[1] Test unit jammed on envelopes.

[2] HP LaserJet Plus, Diablo 630, and HPGL emulations are available only on optional boards.

[3] Some fonts not recognized.



If shades at either end of the gray scale blend together, dark areas in scanned images will be muddy and highlights washed out.

stalling the OPC in one of these printers is a challenge, because it is not shielded yet will deteriorate if touched or exposed to strong light. The OPC fits into a slot inside the printer, and you must ensure that it's properly aligned so you don't scratch it when you close the cover. Adding a toner cartridge is even more ticklish—you slip the rectangular plastic case into a matching trough, pull out a tab, and toner pours into the trough. If you're a little too exuberant or rock the printer, clouds of toner may also fill the inside of the machine.

Setting up the TurboLaser/PS and the Personal Pageprinter is particularly irksome. The drawer that holds the TurboLaser/PS's OPC cartridge can easily leave its track, damaging the unit. And in the why-did-they-do-that category, IBM pulls the controller circuitry out of the printer and puts it on an expansion board you must install in your computer. This approach also compels you to download the PostScript interpreter and fonts to the controller's memory every time you turn on the computer. This is one printer newcomers shouldn't tackle.

Once these printers are set up, making the PC connection simply involves hooking the appropriate cable to each device's parallel port.

Looking Like LaserJets

As with hard disks, a PostScript printer's personality and performance are largely determined by its controller circuitry. A PostScript controller is essentially a sophisticated dedicated computer, complete with a Motorola 68000 microprocessor (which converts application-generated PostScript code into a page image); 1.5MB or more of RAM (for page images and fonts); and ROM chips holding the PostScript interpreter, typefaces, and printer emulations written by the manufacturer. As you might expect, the faster the processor (and to a lesser extent, the more RAM), the faster the printer—something to keep in mind when you're evaluating printers using the same engine but different controllers.

If you plan on running something besides *PageMaker* or *Ventura*, make sure the printer in question offers emulations your programs support. HP LaserJet Plus emulation is standard on the NEC Silentwriter LC890, the QMS-PS 810, and the Qume Scripten; AST TurboLaser/PS owners must purchase an HP-emulation board for $695.

The LaserJet simulations built into the three printers are surprisingly complete, including all Times Roman, Helvetica, and Courier cartridge fonts in all sizes; the LaserJet's internal Courier font; and all HP and compatible third-party downloadable fonts. The masquerade isn't perfect—font widths aren't identical, so a document produced on a LaserJet and on one of these printers will look slightly different. (Purists take note: The Silentwriter LC890, QMS-PS 810, and Scripten accept HP-compatible downloadable fonts.) In NSTL HP-emulation tests, the LC890 and Scripten played the LaserJet role flawlessly. The QMS-PS 810, however, sometimes printed text in the wrong font, inserted nonsense characters, or failed to print text at all.

IBM, which should know better, offers only IBM Proprinter XL emulation with the Pageprinter. Older programs such as *dBASE* and *WordStar* hit the market before the Proprinter appeared—so check your inventory before buying.

Output Up Close

People buy PostScript printers for one reason—to look good on paper. Looking good—producing razor-sharp text, graphics, and other images—is largely a function of the print engine's ability to precisely position tiny particles of toner on paper and fuse them in place. Although the controllers in the reviewed units can resolve images at 300 dpi, not every engine can maintain that level.

NSTL used the *PS BenchMark* PostScript printer test program to gauge each unit's ability to reproduce 32 shades of gray and lines 1 pixel wide. If a printer can lay down such fine lines unerringly, it will undoubtedly reproduce details in drawings made with drafting programs such as *AutoCAD*. As part of the evaluation, text was also printed out and compared. If a printer's fine lines are inconsistent, clarity suffers, and misshapen serifs on letterforms make text harder to read. The gray-scale test verifies an engine's knack for accurately reproducing scanned images, especially photographs. If the shades at either end of the scale blend together, the printer isn't printing all 32 levels of gray—and for that reason dark areas in scanned pictures will be muddy and highlights washed out.

The test results may surprise you: The all-around winner is the IBM Pageprinter. Step out of the winner's circle, however, and the jostling begins. In the fine-lines test, the Qume Scripten and the AST TurboLaser/PS come in a close second, followed more distantly by the QMS-PS 810 and the NEC Silentwriter LC890.

The silver medal for text output goes to the QMS, which printed crisp, evenly black characters. The NEC Silentwriter LC890, which formed some rough-edged letters, takes the bronze, followed by the Scripten, which printed jagged diagonals and sometimes filled in letters. Bringing up the rear is the TurboLaser/PS, which produced smeared, shadowy type.

The results of the gray-scale contest fall along similar lines. The QMS-PS 810 equaled the Pageprinter in differentiating all 32 shades of gray. The rest of the crowd tended to print near-black shades as black. And dead last, once again, is the TurboLaser/PS, which was uneven at both ends of the gray-scale spectrum.

Speed Limits

Desktop publishers know the value of patience, for printing is a waiting game—especially with PostScript printers. If you know what factors to consider, however, you can pick a PostScript printer with some oomph. Print engine speed doesn't make much difference, as long as it's in the range of 3 to 4 pages per minute. But a controller with a swift 68000 can easily shave minutes off print time. Thus it's no surprise that the QMS-PS 810, with its 16-MHz 68000, beats all comers at printing any kind of page.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

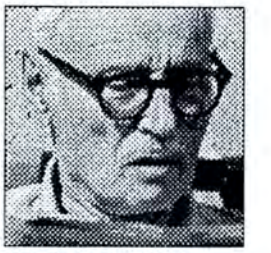
NEC Silentwriter LC890

PostScript laser printer

BEST BUY

The LC890 is the price/performance/reliability winner. The NEC LED engine is rugged, and the no-holds-barred warranty, dual paper bins, and a convenient LCD front panel set the printer apart. Two faults: The LC890 chokes on envelopes, and the type suffers from "jaggies."

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Configuration	●			
Paper handling		●		
Emulations	●			
Text quality			●	
Graphics quality			●	
Speed		●		
Overall value	●			



NEC Silentwriter LC890

AST TurboLaser/PS

Qume Scripten

IBM Personal Pageprinter

QMS-PS 810

The QMS-PS 810 and the IBM Pageprinter were tops at printing the 32 levels of gray required for scanned images.

The PostScript Pack: AST TurboLaser/PS (upper left), Qume Scripten (upper right), IBM Personal Pageprinter (lower left), and QMS-PS 810 (lower right).

Printer memory is also critical because of the way PostScript handles fonts. When a page requires a font, the printer creates a bit map of each character and stores it in RAM. This technique, known as font caching, explains why PostScript printers produce second and subsequent pages faster than a first page: The fonts you used the first time around are already waiting in RAM. If memory is limited, some bit maps are purged to make room for new ones. With less restricted memory, fewer fonts are bumped, and fewer need to be recreated.

Available RAM also dictates the number of downloadable fonts that can be accommodated and the size of the printed page. Because PostScript always dedicates about 1.25MB for the page image and its fonts, the more memory the printer has, the better.

PRINTERS LAID BARE

NEC Silentwriter LC890

If any machine can fill the dual role of general office printer and desktop publishing tool, it's the LC890. LaserJet and Diablo 630 emulations are solid, image reproduction is surefooted, and engine life is a whopping 600,000 pages. Such specs are all the more impressive when you consider that the LC890 doesn't rely on a laser but rather on an array of light-emitting diodes (LEDs).

Perhaps because NEC designed the engine itself, the LC890's warranty is the best of the bunch—one year parts and labor and free on-site service during the first 90 days (within 50 miles of an NEC service center). Budget-conscious users will also appreciate the LC890's estimated cost: 3 cents per page. Though the printer looks downright homely, you'll grow to love its liquid crystal display front panel and dual paper bins. The LCD not only displays status messages but also serves as a window into a multilevel menu system for selecting parallel and serial printer ports, paper trays, printer emulations, and so on. To switch to LaserJet Plus emulation, for example, you press the panel's Menu, Next, and Select buttons in sequence and then cycle through the choices until 'LaserJet' appears. Press Select, and the emulation is active—no muss, no fuss, and no software commands. You can also print out a page listing the PostScript version, available fonts, number of pages printed to date, and current printer emulation. The Silentwriter manual guides you step-by-step through installation and clearly details how to use the LCD front panel. Users, however, may be confused by references to a technical manual that isn't included with the printer.

The LC890's dual paper trays can accommodate both letter- and legal-size sheets. Look between the trays, and you'll find a manual feeder that the printer activates as soon as paper is entered. In short, the LC890's paper handling is superior on all counts but one—the test printer choked on envelopes.

AST TurboLaser/PS

The AST TurboLaser/PS is built for heavy use and has an estimated engine life of 600,000 pages. It's also one of the fastest printers in the group, but as NSTL's tests show, its output is nothing to brag about. Other limitations abound: The printer is restricted to letter-size paper, lacks a manual feed tray, and can't handle envelopes. The only external control is a switch on the back of the unit that selects a serial, parallel, or AppleTalk port.

Front panel lights indicate low toner level, paper jams, empty paper trays, and the like. Every time you turn on the printer, it spits out a page listing resident fonts, the version of PostScript, the hardware interface in use, and the current printer emulation. Of all the printers reviewed here, the AST has the best manual. It's well designed, comprehensive, and copiously illustrated. AST sells a LaserJet/Diablo emulation board for $695. For another $995 you can add 1.5MB of memory and Epson, HPGL, and Lasergraphics language emulation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AST TurboLaser/PS

PostScript laser printer

AST erred in using the Ricoh 4081 engine for a PostScript printer. Toner splatter makes for messy type and graphics output. Offering HP LaserJet Plus emulation as an expensive upgrade adds up to another minus. The product's documentation is the best of the lot, however.

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Configuration				●
Paper handling				●
Emulations (n/a)				
Text quality				●
Graphics quality				●
Speed	●			
Overall value			●	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Qume Scripten

PostScript laser printer

No single attribute warrants acclaim or infamy. The Qume Scripten is fast and functional, but text quality is mediocre. One glaring oversight: There is no light to indicate whether data is being received.

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Configuration			●	
Paper handling		●		
Emulations		●		
Text quality			●	
Graphics quality		●		
Speed		●		
Overall value		●		

Qume Scripten

The Scripten's massive Hitachi engine makes it the largest and heaviest printer reviewed. Its life expectancy is also half that of the NEC and AST printers. In addition to its separate imaging units and toner cartridge, the Qume requires a third component, a developer cartridge.

The Scripten's image quality and speed are adequate. Its print is very consistent from page to page, with none of the intermittent ghosting, streaking, and fade-out that occasionally mar pages produced by the other printers. Unfortunately, the Scripten also consistently muddies type. For example, the letter *e* in 9-point Courier Bold is always filled in.

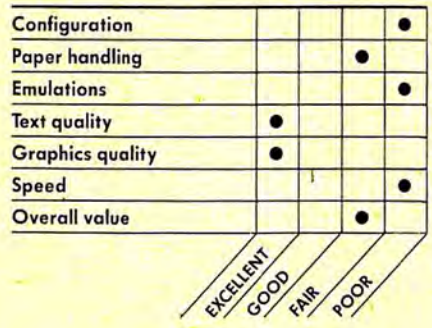
The Scripten does offer a smattering of conveniences and two user manuals—a guide to operations and a PostScript supplement. The documentation is exceptionally clear but has one hitch: The operations guide says that the Scripten doesn't emulate the LaserJet Plus, while the sup-

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

IBM Personal Pageprinter

PostScript laser printer

Instead of delivering on PostScript's promises of convenience and versatility, IBM serves up inconvenience and delays. The controller's placement on a PC expansion board requires a host of device drivers and utilities. This aggravation is all the more galling because the printer produces excellent text and graphics.



plement correctly states that it does. There's a manual-feed tray triggered by a front panel button, a formfeed button for ejecting pages when a LaserJet program fails to issue an end-of-page message, a print density knob, an interface selection switch in the back, and a self-test button that issues a page noting printer port, available emulations, and resident fonts. The Scripten prints letter- and legal-size paper, but not envelopes. One notable omission is an indicator light to show that the printer is receiving or processing data. Since some PostScript files can take half an hour to print, users might easily wait that long only to discover the printer isn't working.

IBM Personal Pageprinter

The Pageprinter is a double-edged sword. As NSTL's tests show, it produces top-notch text and graphics; but installing and using the Pageprinter is too complicated for novices or even intermediate users.

Prospective buyers should also consider the printer's potential staying power. The Pageprinter's 6-ppm Ricoh engine is small, light, and rated at 180,000 pages. Curiously, the printer fails to provide HP LaserJet Plus emulation, and it's the only unit reviewed that lacks both serial and AppleTalk interfaces.

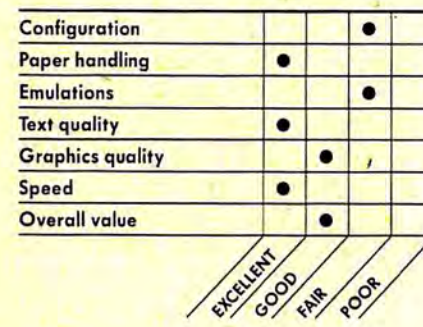
IBM's bus-based controller certainly complicates everyday operations. Every time you turn your computer on, you must run a utility that copies the PostScript interpreter and the desired fonts into the controller's RAM. You must also run a separate font-caching utility if you hope to achieve acceptable performance. IBM has spread the Pageprinter documentation across three manuals, each of which is well written and very detailed. However, flipping back and forth to find information doesn't help in learning to use this already complex printer. The Pageprinter clearly isn't for those who are new to PostScript, who use Macintoshes, who need a rugged office printer, or who are simply in a rush. Question is, who is the Pageprinter for?

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

QMS-PS 810

PostScript laser printer

The QMS-PS 810 is the speedster in the group and the second most expensive. Output is crisp and clean. However, QMS didn't deliver all the goods: LaserJet Plus emulation is faulty, controls are hard to use, paper capacity is paltry, and the 1MB memory upgrade is costly.



QMS-PS 810

The QMS-PS 810 is a superior product that seems to have left the drawing board a little early. It's the fastest printer in the group and its output is superb, but LaserJet emulation is wobbly—and that calls into question its reliability as a general office printer. The QMS-PS 810 is a snap to set up and comes with a full complement of printer interfaces and three emulations. Yet front panel controls are missing, and status lights indicate only whether the printer is running, out of paper, or jammed.

There's nothing flashy about the QMS-PS 810 manual, but the appendix details the differences between the printer's HP LaserJet Plus emulation and genuine HP fonts. The manual also contains sample PostScript programs that you can download to the PC to, for example, print error messages for help in pinpointing malfunctions during a print job.

The QMS-PS 810 prints letter- and legal-size paper and handles envelopes better than any other printer tested. A manual paper-feed tray is conveniently located at the front of the printer. Users will find output disappointing for the first 500 pages, but after that text and graphics output become comparable to the Pageprinter's.

PostScript Picks

Which PostScript printer you should buy depends on what you're willing to live with—and without. At this point, the QMS-PS 810 is the top recommendation for desktop publishers who are concerned mostly about speed and sharp output with PostScript-based packages. It doesn't, however, deserve a spot in most offices until complete LaserJet compatibility is assured and a set of user-friendly controls makes its way to the front panel.

Until that happens, the NEC Silentwriter LC890 is the leader of this pack. It's not a glamorous machine—just a solid, easy-to-use printer that's fast, durable, and competent. Just as important, the LC890's excellent HP emulation will enable users to take advantage of PostScript without sacrificing their existing applications. And in a market where users must still contend with too many standards, that's the name of the game. ●

Daniel Miles Kehoe is a product manager at The Printer Works, a laser printer retailer in Hayward, California. His PS BenchMark *program and* PostScript Buyers Report *are distributed by Peachpit Press, Berkeley, California.*

WHERE TO BUY

AST TurboLaser/PS
AST Research
2121 Alton Ave.
Irvine, CA 92714
714/863-1333
List price: $4595, toner $96 (5000-page duty cycle), OPC $180 (10,000-page duty cycle)
Accessories: HP LaserJet emulation and Diablo 630 emulation board $695; 512K memory upgrade $395; 1.5MB memory upgrade, Epson and HPGL emulation, Lasergraphics language $995

IBM Personal Pageprinter
IBM
Information Systems Group
900 King St.
Rye Brook, NY 10573
201/358-5689
List price: $4999, toner $29 (1500-page duty cycle), OPC $199 (20,000-page duty cycle)

NEC Silentwriter LC890
NEC Information Systems
1414 Massachusetts Ave.
Boxborough, MA 01719
617/264-8000
List price: $4795, toner $20 (3000-page duty cycle), OPC $110 (7000-page duty cycle)

QMS-PS 810
QMS Inc.
P.O. Box 81250
Mobile, AL 36689
205/633-4300
List price: $5495, toner cartridge $130 (4000-page duty cycle)

Qume Scripten
Qume Corp.
2350 Qume Dr.
San Jose, CA 95131
800/223-2479
List price: $5595, toner $80 (5000-page duty cycle), OPC $475 (30,000-page duty cycle), developer $550 (50,000-page duty cycle)

For more information, see Products Featured in This Issue.

Imaging Becomes Electric

What's desktop publishing without high-quality graphics? Image scanners from Datacopy, Dest, Hewlett-Packard, Microtek, and Advanced Vision Research offer different approaches to putting pictures on line.

Richard Jantz

For desktop publishers allergic to cutting and pasting, the only way to integrate hard copy art with text is by using an image scanner. These increasingly affordable input devices devour photos, drawings, diagrams, and any other hard copy; then—with the aid of accompanying software—they generate 300-dot-per-inch (dpi) image files that you can drop into a page layout program or send directly to a laser printer.

This review evaluates five leading low-cost scanners: the Datacopy Model 730, the Dest PC Scan 2020, the Hewlett-Packard ScanJet, the Microtek MSF-300C, and the Advanced Vision Research (AVR) MegaScan II. In all cases, software plays a key role in performance—from determining the quality of scanned images and the way you edit those images to supporting file formats readable by such programs as *PageMaker* and *Ventura Publisher*.

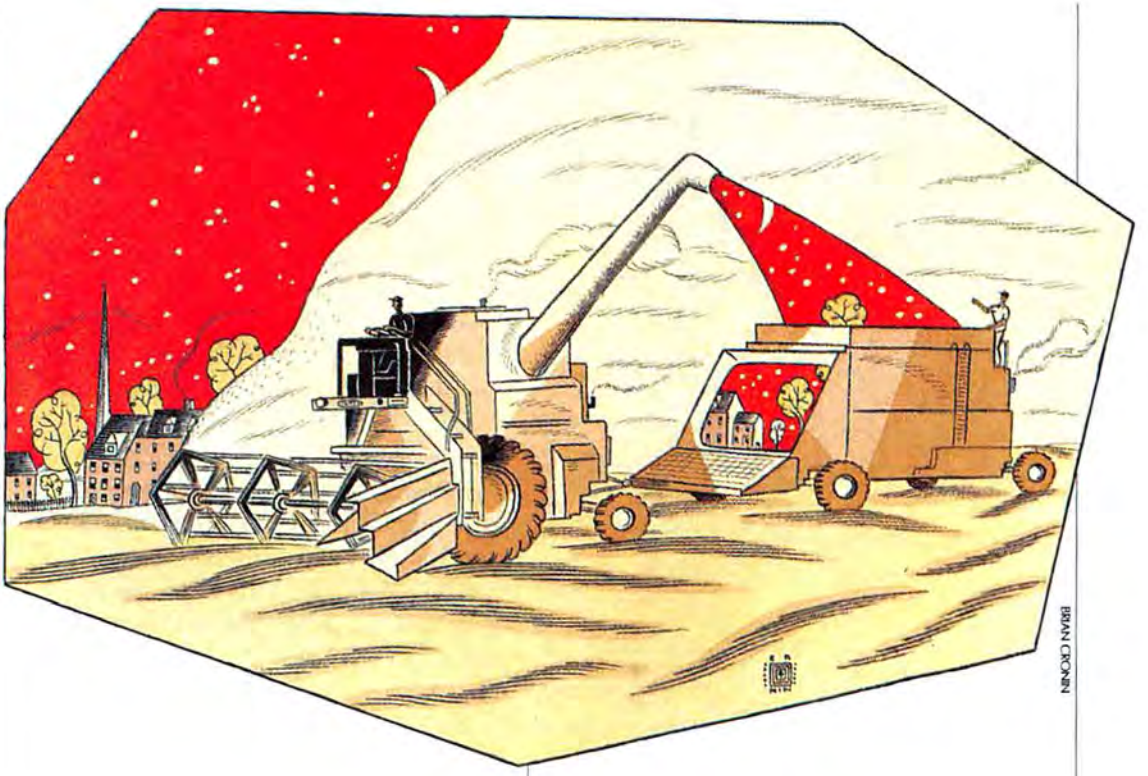
The Graying of Desktop Scanners

With black-and-white line art, such as a logo or drawing, all five scanners produce fine results. However, the quality of scanned photos and other continuous-tone images is another story.

In the printing industry, a photo is converted into a *halftone* by rephotographing the image through a fine screen that creates different densities of black-and-white dots, which we perceive as gray. A scanner's job is to emulate this process. Until recently, most desktop scanners could create halftones only by *dithering*—grouping equal-size dots in cells and then arranging the cells in different patterns to simulate gray.

But with the emergence of *gray-scale* scanner systems—which capture and manipulate multiple bits of data, or levels of gray, for each dot—a PC-generated halftone can be as striking as a camera halftone. When a gray scale and a dithered halftone are printed on a 300-dpi laser printer, the difference isn't that great, but with a high-resolution typesetter, such as a PostScript-compatible Linotronic at 1270 or 2540 dpi, there's no comparison. Some gray-scale images look so good it's impossible to tell them from a camera halftone without a magnifying glass.

Gray scaling is a function of both hardware and software. For instance, the Datacopy Model 730 hardware supports gray scaling, but its software cannot produce gray-scale image files. Conversely, neither the Microtek MSF-300C nor the MegaScan II can benefit from gray-scal-



BRIAN CRONIN

ing software, because they both lack gray-scaling hardware. Of the scanners reviewed here, only the Dest PC Scan 2020 and the Hewlett-Packard ScanJet can produce gray-scale image files right out of the box.

In addition to having superior quality, gray-scale images can be resized without worry, whereas dithered images often produce messy interference patterns when enlarged or reduced. But gray scaling also has its share of minuses. It requires at least AT-class processing power and about 4MB of storage for each full-page, 300-dpi, 16-shade image, and the final image must be printed on a typesetter to make the process worthwhile. Moreover, although most scanning software can compress image files to save disk space, gray-scale files—which are much larger—can't be compressed. Clearly, gray scaling isn't for everyone, especially those who use scanners primarily for line art and don't mind the lack of tonal quality or the computerized look of an occasional dithered photo.

Scanning the Field

The most obvious distinction between scanners is basic physical design. Most scanners are either flatbed or paper fed. A flatbed scanner resembles a small photocopier; the hard copy image lies flat while the scanner's photo mechanism moves back and forth underneath. With paper-fed scanners, a pair of rollers pulls the page over the unit's stationary scanning mechanism.

FEATURES EVALUATION

Leading Scanners Compared

Gray-scaling capabilities are key to high-resolution image quality

● Yes
○ No
◒ Deficient

	Datacopy Model 730	Dest PC Scan 2020	HP ScanJet	Microtek MSF-300C	AVR MegaScan
Scanning options					
Gray scaling	◒ [1]	● [2]	● [3]	○	○
Resolution (dpi)					
300	●	●	●	●	●
200	●	●	○	●	○
150	●	○	●	●	○
Other	●	●	●	●	○
Dithering patterns	3	4	3	2	3
Contrast/brightness settings	3/1	1/63	3/1	3/5	4/1
Image editing					
Cut, copy, paste	●	◒	●	●	●
Invert, Flip, Rotate	◒	○	◒	●	●
Undo command	●	○	○	●	○
Views (enlarged or reduced)	5	3	3	8	6
Pixel editing	●	○ [4]	○ [4]	●	●
Drawing tools	○	○	○	●	●
File compatibility					
TIFF	●	●	●	●	●
.PCX	●	●	●	●	●
EPSF	○	●	○	○	○
GEM	○	○	●	○	●

[1] 16 levels of gray, supported in hardware only.
[2] Offers 256 levels of gray.
[3] Offers 16 levels of gray.
[4] Pixel editing is only available with the bundled PC Paintbrush Plus.

While paper-fed models are generally cheaper and more durable, flatbeds excel at scanning images from bound volumes and oversize originals. With flatbeds it's also much easier to adjust the original image to correct alignment problems. With the exception of the Dest PC Scan 2020, all the scanners reviewed here are flatbeds.

Each system tested comes with an interface board and cable. Depending on your system setup, you may have to reconfigure the board for a different interrupt, DMA channel, or I/O port address using either jumpers or DIP switches. Happily, the boards' default settings worked flawlessly in all cases with the IBM AT used for testing.

Each package comes with a batch installation file that automatically copies the scanning software to your hard disk. Most of these installation programs also conveniently add any required statements regarding devices, paths, and buffers to your computer's CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files. Four of the scanner programs run under *Microsoft Windows*, and all but one include run-time versions of *Windows*.

But a scanner's most important software feature may be the assortment of file formats it supports. While virtually any scanning program can send an image file directly to the printer, the ability to transfer the file to a page layout program is paramount. Two image file formats are de facto industry standards: the tagged image file format (TIFF), which is compatible with *PageMaker;* and *PC Paintbrush*'s .PCX format, which is compatible with both *PageMaker* and *Ventura Publisher.* Both of these formats support (but are not restricted to) gray scaling; all the scanners reviewed can produce files in either TIFF or .PCX format.

Aside from merely cranking out image files, nearly all scanner software enables you to edit images. Software functionality varies widely, from crude cleanup capabilities to feature sets as robust as those of any paint program. Most packages also

enable you to reduce scanning resolution from the maximum of 300 dpi to 150 dpi or less—a must for quick-and-dirty jobs where you need to save time and disk space.

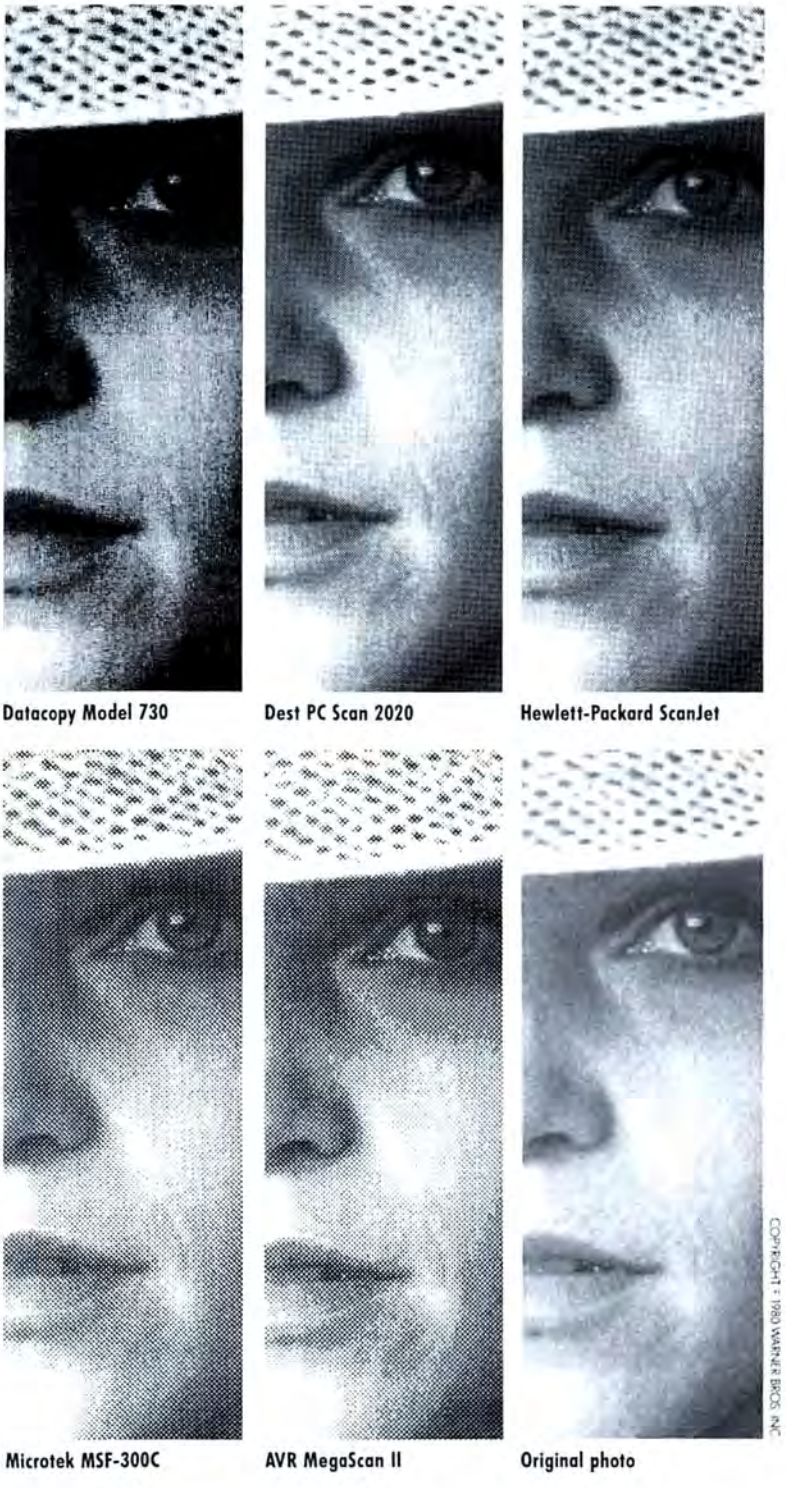
At the bottom of the list of scanner buying concerns is speed. Even though scanner speed varied widely in our tests (see **FIGURE 1**), resign yourself to the fact that scanning is time-consuming, and that gray scaling—one of the most desirable features—will probably multiply the time involved by a factor of 4.

Datacopy Model 730

The $2495 Datacopy Model 730 is a scanner in transition. Although the hardware has the potential to capture up to 16 gray levels, Datacopy's scanning software isn't yet up to the task, and its image-editing capabilities are second-rate. Fortunately, Datacopy includes a copy of *PC Paintbrush Plus*, which you can use in place of the company's lackluster software.

The Datacopy Model 730's scanning software, PC Image, has only three pull-down menus and a modicum of features. The program provides three contrast settings and a choice of 300-, 240-, 200-, or 150-dpi resolution. Other commonplace features include the ability to invert an image (positive to negative), mirror an image (flop it horizontally), and scan part of a page (with a scalable window). Only two dithering options are offered. Unlike the other *Windows*-based scanners reviewed, the Datacopy doesn't come with a run-time version of *Windows*.

After scanning, you can use the Datacopy's software to display the image in several views and zoom in by a power of 4 to 8 to edit the image at the pixel level. However, you're better off using the popular and versatile *PC Paintbrush Plus*. It includes a device driver for the Model 730 scanner (which means you can use the program also to control scanning), along with a full complement of editing tools. Best of all, by the time you read this, Datacopy Corporation will probably be bundling the latest version (1.50) of *PC Paintbrush Plus* with the Model 730,



These five scanned images were printed on a 1270-dpi Linotronic (the original photo is at the bottom right). Note the superior quality of the images produced by the only two gray-scaling scanners in the roundup, the Hewlett-Packard ScanJet and the Dest PC Scan 2020. Output from the remaining scanners was produced with the best dithering pattern offered by each scanner's native software.

STAN MUSILEK

The Datacopy 730 boasts a big price and 16 gray scales but has second-rate software.

which should enable you to create gray-scale halftones with the unit.

Although *PC Paintbrush Plus* supports only the .PCX file format, PC Image offers .PCX plus TIFF and Datacopy's own image format, which is supported by *PageMaker*. File compression is available only in Datacopy's native format.

For the gray-scale market, Datacopy intends to introduce two new systems. The $3395 Model 830, which will read 64 levels of gray, and the $5495 Model 840, which will handle 256 levels, may already be available by the time you read this. In the meantime, the appeal of the rather pricey Datacopy Model 730 is limited to those content with line art and dithered halftones.

Dest PC Scan 2020

It's hard to find a more persuasive argument for using a scanner than the superior image quality offered by the new sheet-fed Dest PC Scan 2020. Able to record 8 bits of data per pixel for a total of 256 levels of gray, the $2885 PC Scan 2020 is by far the most powerful gray-scale system reviewed.

Publish Pac, Dest's image processing software, provides an intuitive, *Windows*-based user interface. You can choose one of four dithering patterns in addition to gray scaling. *Publish Pac* automatically adjusts the contrast, but you can override it with one of three manual settings.

A quick preview mode is useful for selecting the precise scanning area. You can scan at 75, 150, or 300 dpi and even create custom resolutions. And unlike the other systems tested, the Dest unit has optical character recognition (OCR) built into both software and hardware—an outstanding value.

Understandably, scanning at 256 levels of gray takes longer than scanning at 16 levels; *printing* a large gray-scale image can take as long as reading the Sunday *New York Times*. But the biggest concern is managing the system's voracious appetite for memory. For example, because *Publish Pac* needs 8.4MB of storage space to create a temporary file for a full-page, 300-dpi, 256-shade image—and another 8.4MB to save it—you need a whopping 16.8MB of free space just to get in the door.

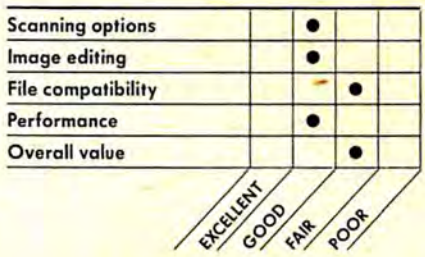
After scanning an image, you can use *Publish Pac*'s editing capabilities to cut,

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Datacopy Model 730

Desktop scanner

Datacopy's Model 730 reads 16 gray levels, but the unit's image processing software lacks gray-scale functions. Tapping this flatbed scanner's real power requires PC Paintbrush Plus 1.50 (an earlier, non-gray-scale version of this package was included with the unit tested). Considering its high price and modicum of features, this scanner is the least attractive of those tested.



copy, paste, clear, and crop the image and zoom in up to eight times to display detailed views. Like its Datacopy counterpart, the Dest package includes a copy of *PC Paintbrush Plus*. In addition to the .PCX format, you can choose TIFF; Dest's proprietary image format; or Encapsulated PostScript Format (EPSF), an increasingly popular standard that enables you to send files directly to any PostScript device. Handily, *Publish Pac* lets you save images in different file formats and convert them from one format to another.

For all of its strengths, however, the PC Scan 2020 suffers from a major weakness: its physical design. Because it's a small sheet-fed model, you can't scan bound volumes, oversize originals, or delicate artwork. Worse still, the input tray accepts 8½-by-11-inch paper only in portrait position, so you can't scan common 8-by-10 photos in landscape orientation. Although you can try to rotate the image 90 degrees in another program, such as *Publisher's Paintbrush*, desktop publishers might be wise to wait until Dest releases a flatbed version of this otherwise superb system.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dest PC Scan 2020

Desktop scanner

The most powerful gray-scale scanner reviewed, Dest's PC Scan 2020 recognizes 256 gray levels. The image processing software features OCR capability, and PC Paintbrush Plus is included for extensive image editing. Aside from disk-hungry images and high price, the unit's biggest drawback is its paper-fed design, which prohibits scanning books or large materials.

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Scanning options	●			
Image editing		●		
File compatibility		●		
Performance	●			
Overall value	●			

STAN MUSILEK

Dest's scanner offers sharp images, 256 gray scales, and Windows-based software.

Hewlett-Packard ScanJet

At $1990, the Hewlett-Packard ScanJet is the least expensive unit in this roundup, yet it fully supports 16 levels of gray. Bundled with this unit is Hewlett-Packard's *Windows*-based image processing software, Scanning Gallery; an excellent user guide; and a handy test program that verifies whether the board and scanner are correctly installed.

Scanning Gallery uses two windows: one for scanning and one for editing. The scanner window lets you save images in different file formats, convert images from one format to another, and change scanner settings. Each time you scan an image, you can choose a preview scan or a final scan. With either mode, you can pick one of three intensities, decide whether or not you want gray scaling, and invert the image to make it camera ready for a photo negative.

The final scan mode lets you pick from resolutions of 75, 150, or 300 dpi. As with the Dest PC Scan 2020, you can select a custom resolution and even choose separate horizontal and vertical resolutions. For the best image quality, the resolution should match that of your printer.

In addition to gray scaling, the ScanJet offers four dithering patterns. The user

STAN MUSEK

HP's scanner bargain: superb halftones, great image software, and a hot price

guide takes pains to explain the advantages and disadvantages of each option and provides instructions on how to handle scanned images with *PageMaker*, *Ventura Publisher*, and other applications.

But the real joy is the software's easy-to-use preview mode. In this mode, the ScanJet scans very quickly and displays a scaled-down likeness of the image in the scanning window. Selecting only a portion of this image for the final scan is fast and trouble free.

Scanning Gallery's editing window offers cut, copy, paste, clear, crop, and undo features; unfortunately, you can't edit on the pixel level. When printing gray-scale images, you can opt for a fast but rough draft version.

In addition to offering TIFF and .PCX formats, Scanning Gallery offers the *Ventura*-compatible GEM format as well as the .MSP format used by *Windows Paint*. As an added convenience for *PC Paintbrush* users, you can save .PCX images in one of three formats: black and white, 4 shades of gray, or 16 shades of gray.

When printed on a Linotronic typesetter at 1270 dpi, a ScanJet gray-scale halftone was quite impressive. On a PostScript-based LaserWriter Plus, tests of the scanner's dithered halftones produced some of the best results in the roundup. If your publications demand quality halftones at a bargain price, the HP ScanJet is the scanner system to beat.

Microtek MSF-300C

Except for its lack of gray-scale capabilities, the $1995 Microtek MSF-300C is the most fully functional scanner system reviewed. What puts this system at the head of the class is Microtek's highly regarded image processing software, EyeStar Plus, which offers an abundance of scanning and editing features.

Like Scanning Gallery, the *Windows*-based EyeStar Plus centers on two windows—but with different contents than Gallery's. The Normal View window shows the scanned image at full resolution, while the Reduced View overlays the first with a full-page version of the image. Each of these windows contains a tool palette and a menu bar chock-full of options. The Reduced View window lets you control the scanner and its attributes, save and load scanned images, magnify a fixed area for viewing, create a text file to add

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hewlett-Packard ScanJet

Desktop scanner

With Hewlett-Packard's ScanJet, you can create halftones with 16 levels of gray. The Linotronic gray-scale halftones stand as the best-looking images produced by any of the five scanners. If you don't need gray-scale images, the flatbed ScanJet also produces excellent dithered halftones and line art. Well-documented software rounds out this bargain-priced system.

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Scanning options	●			
Image editing		●		
File compatibility	●			
Performance	●			
Overall value	●			

to an image, and perform basic image editing functions like cut, copy, paste, invert, undo, and so on.

The Microtek MSF-300C offers only two scanning modes: line art and halftones. But the control that EyeStar Plus gives you over the light and dark areas of the image is truly impressive. When you scan a photo, you can choose from three contrast settings, five brightness intensities, eight dithering patterns, and seven scaling options. Fortunately, the EyeStar Plus user guide amply illustrates the different combinations of attributes.

The Normal View window's capabilities are similar to those of *Windows Paint*. In fact, the painting and drawing tools are so complete, a separate paint program would be redundant. You can even display different reductions of a scanned image in yet a third window and select one of five views in either line art or halftone mode.

Images scanned with the MSF-300C scanner can have a resolution of 75 to 300 dpi (with five levels in between) and can be saved in four file formats: TIFF, .MSP, .PCX, and .IMG—EyeStar Plus's native format. File compression is available for .PCX and .IMG formats.

STAN MUSILEK

Microtek's scanner has first-rate editing features, but no true gray scaling.

The MSF-300C's outstanding editing features establish it as a solid entry. Of course, lack of true gray-scale capabilities make it history as far as the latest high-quality systems are concerned. But if you're willing to pay the price, don't fret: Microtek's new MSF-300G is a 256-gray-level flatbed scanner that should be available for under $4000 by the time you read this.

AVR MegaScan II

The AVR MegaScan II is well suited to desktop publishers who use *Ventura Publisher*, *GEM Publisher*, and *The Office Publisher*, because AVR's image processing software, MegaScan, runs under the GEM environment. Although the MegaScan II lacks gray-scaling capability, it provides an impressive range of scanning and processing effects for both line art and photos. The scanner's biggest drawback is its fixed resolution of 300 dpi—a nuisance if you want to create many full-page images but lack storage space.

Like EyeStar Plus's, MegaScan's editing functions resemble those of a paint program, though EyeStar has a slight

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Microtek MSF-300C

Desktop scanner

Microtek's reputation for first-class scanner systems is borne out by this well-engineered flatbed scanner, which includes excellent image-processing and editing software. Though it's not a gray-scale image scanner, you won't find a richer assortment of adjustments and controls for line art and dithered halftones than this versatile system offers.

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Scanning options	●			
Image editing		●		
File compatibility	●			
Performance	●			
Overall value	●			

STAN MUSILEK

AVR's Ventura-oriented scanner—nifty effects marred by a fixed 300-dpi resolution

edge. You can scan 8.5-by-11.7-inch originals and then use the program's editing tools to erase, reverse, mirror, move, copy, and scale the images. The width of drawing tools can be adjusted from 1 to 99 pixels.

One of the program's most interesting components is MegaWrite, a text editor that enables you to create text files of up to 30K and place them next to a scanned image. You can also import and position small ASCII text files. Another appealing feature is the ability to place MegaScan's embedded codes in a text file to create rules, boxes, and other graphics for enhancing text.

Best of all are the options you use to retouch scanned photos and line art. You can scale, lighten, darken, reverse, posterize, and otherwise enhance images; an exotic outline option eliminates details, leaving a skeletal image of all major shapes. For even more variety, you can apply the line art effects to photos, and vice versa. MegaScan uses file compression and saves scanned images in GEM, TIFF, and .PCX formats, as well as in its own proprietary format.

MegaScan includes a two-disk supplement that actually rewrites *Ventura Publisher*, enabling you to run the scanner from inside this popular publishing package. MegaScan adds an AVR scan option to *Ventura*'s Desk menu and provides dialog boxes that control the scan and save the file. Obviously, this approach has an edge in turnkey operations.

At $2695, the MegaScan II package is the most expensive non-gray-scale unit reviewed. One reason for this price is the MegaBuffer, an interface board that holds 1.3MB of RAM. Unlike most scanner systems, which store images on a hard disk as they're scanned, MegaScan stores a full-page, 300-dpi image on its interface card, hastening the initial scanning process. Moreover, with an optional ($495) adapter from AVR, you can use MegaBuffer like a JLaser card and send files directly to Canon-based laser printers.

In addition to the MegaScan and MegaWrite, you get MegaDisk (a RAM disk utility for MegaBuffer) and MegaFreeze (a snapshot utility that captures screen images for MegaScan). Be prepared to make room for this full-function system on your hard disk—the software requires as much as 1.5MB.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AVR MegaScan II

Desktop scanner

The Megascan II is an excellent flatbed scanner system for 300-dpi line art and dithered halftones. It's a natural for Ventura Publisher users, who can run the scanner from within this popular package with the aid of a special patch program. The scanner's interface board has 1.3MB of RAM for holding scanned images, but you can also use this RAM to expand the memory of Canon-based laser printers.

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Scanning options		●		
Image editing	●			
File compatibility	●			
Performance		●		
Overall value		●		

Although a bit pricey, the MegaScan II's editing features and various extras make it an excellent scanner system for line art and dithered images. If your documents don't require gray-scaled images and you use *Ventura*, this substantial system deserves serious consideration.

The Scanners Are Coming

The ability to produce a commercial-looking halftone with a PC-based system should be especially exciting for desktop publishers who currently use—or are thinking of moving up to—professional typesetting services. Thanks to the gray-scale units reviewed here, scheduling time on a Linotronic may soon rival buying tickets to *The Phantom of the Opera*.

With 256 levels of gray, solid editing software, and built-in OCR capability, the Dest PC Scan 2020 is clearly the most powerful gray-scale scanner in this roundup. Nonetheless, if an entrée into gray-scale scanning is your main concern, several factors make the HP ScanJet the best buy—beginning with a price $900 cheaper than the Dest and a flatbed, rather than paper-fed, design. Moreover, even with Linotronic output you'll have trouble distinguishing 256 gray levels, especially in the darker range. Though limited to 16 gray levels, the ScanJet produces fine results on a typesetter and requires less space and less time to process a gray-scale halftone image.

If you use *PageMaker* and don't need gray scaling, and if creative control over the image is paramount, consider the *Windows*-based Microtek MSF-300C. *Ventura* users should investigate the AVR MegaScan II for its tight integration with the GEM environment and editing features that are almost as complete as those of the MSF-300C. Even with the MegaScan II's monster buffer board, however, the system's high price makes the Microtek MSF-300C a better deal.

Bringing up the rear is the Datacopy Model 730. This scanner lacks gray scaling and offers limited dithering capabilities. The inclusion of *PC Paintbrush Plus* is probably this unit's best value, especially when it's bundled with the new gray-scale version of the package.

Even if you use a 300-dpi laser printer exclusively, picking a scanner with gray-scale capabilities is a smart choice. Future, higher-resolution desktop laser printers promise output that clearly shows the gray-scaled image's superior quality. And because gray scaling offers the only viable way to integrate quality photographic images with typeset quality text (short of cutting and pasting), a gray-scale scanner may open new doors. Gray-scale scanning technology is another step helping to bridge the gap between professional and desktop publishers. ●

Richard Jantz, a desktop publishing consultant and freelance writer in Berkeley, California, is the author of The Complete Scanner Handbook *(Peachpit Press, Berkeley, California, 1988).*

WHERE TO BUY

Model 730
Datacopy Corp.
1215 Terra Bella Ave.
Mountain View, CA 94043
800/821-2898
List price: $2495, automatic document feeder $595
Requirements: 512K, two disk drives (hard disk recommended), DOS 2.00 or later version

PC Scan 2020
Dest Corp.
1201 Cadillac Ct.
Milpitas, CA 95035
408/946-7100
List price: $2885, automatic document feeder $695
Requirements: 362K (640K recommended), hard disk, DOS 2.00 or later version

ScanJet
Hewlett-Packard Co.
3000 Hanover St.
P.O. Box 10301
Palo Alto, CA 94303
415/857-1501
List price: $1990, automatic document feeder $595
Requirements: 512K (640K recommended), hard disk, DOS 2.10 or later version

MSF-300C
Microtek Lab Inc.
16901 S. Western Ave.
Gardena, CA 90247
213/321-2121
List price: $1995
Requirements: 384K, two floppy drives (hard disk recommended), DOS 2.00 or later version

MegaScan II
Advanced Vision Research, Inc.
2201 Qume Dr.
San Jose, CA 95131
408/434-1115
List price: $2695, laser printer controller $495
Requirements: 384K, hard disk, DOS 3.00 or later version

For more information, see Products Featured in This Issue.

Byline—For Better Business Documents

Need to create polished output—without high-end desktop publishing? Byline makes it easy to create attractive documents.

Lan Barnes

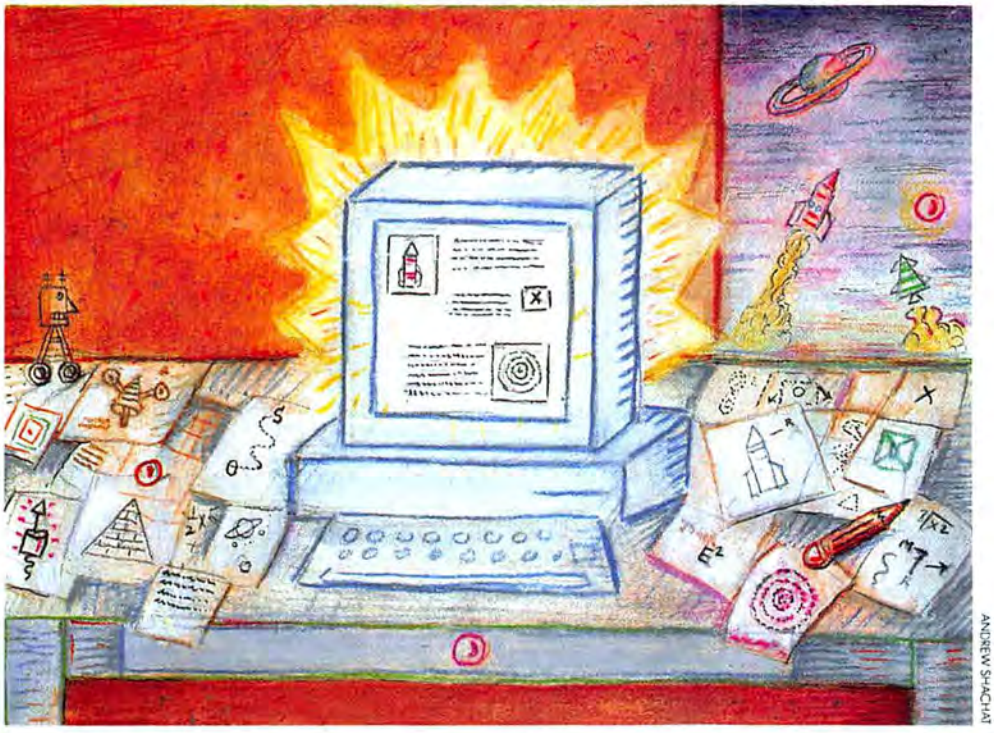
Because business documents need to look smart, desktop publishing programs have surged in popularity. But for many users, heavyweights such as *Ventura Publisher* and *PageMaker* offer too much, too soon. *PageMaker* is a designer's tool; *Ventura* is geared to users who deal with long documents and are proficient at desktop publishing. If you simply want to produce handsome business reports, these programs are overly specialized.

Enter *Byline*, Ashton-Tate's new desktop publishing software. With its emphasis on ease of use and its hooks to *dBASE*, *1-2-3*, and a host of word processors, *Byline* is aimed at professionals who view desktop publishing as a useful adjunct to their main job responsibilities. And at $295, *Byline* is much cheaper than *Ventura* or *PageMaker*.

Demands Are Few

Even if you have fairly low-end equipment, *Byline* is likely to work on your system; its minimum requirements are 384K, two floppy drives, and DOS 2.00 or a later version. (Using *dBASE III Plus* requires a hard disk and 512K.) Since *Byline* supports EGA, CGA, and monochrome Hercules video adapters, just about any monitor will work. However, at press time *Byline*'s printer support was sparse: It included the Epson FX and LQ series, the Toshiba 3-in-1, the Hewlett-Packard LaserJet B and F cartridges, and PostScript printers. Drivers were in the works for Okidata and C. Itoh dot matrix printers, according to Ashton-Tate.

Byline installs without a hitch in a little over a megabyte of hard disk space, not including a tutorial subdirectory that uses about 373K. But like *Ventura Publisher*, *Byline* uses space efficiently. Instead of creating huge master documents containing text and graphics files and formatting information, *Byline* creates a small merge file with pointers to the files you need. As a result, if you change your source text files, the change is automatically reflected in your *Byline* document—and vice versa. The advantage of this approach is that you can set up a report format once—say, for a catalog or a budget that you issue frequently—and when you make subsequent changes in your source files, your *Byline* document will automatically reflect them.



ANDREW SHACHAT

A Program for Beginners

The nice thing about *Byline* is that it targets publishing newcomers. The documentation includes a thorough tutorial, a reference section, a glossary, an index, and a welcome primer on page design. Context-sensitive on-line help instructs you when you enter data, and explanatory error messages pop up if your entry is invalid.

When you start *Byline*, the display is split vertically, with a page shown on one side and a menu area on the other. The page area displays the default 8½-by-11-inch page compressed to fit its half of the screen, but even so, 12-point type is almost legible. Of course, you can also work with a page using the entire screen.

To create a *Byline* document, you first define a *text element* or a *photo element* (*photo* means *graphic*). An element is essentially a frame for the formatting you desire. Every element can contain different formatting specs, which you specify on the menu for that element.

Once you've defined the element, you load the actual text or graphics file and it pops up on screen. *Byline* isn't as accommodating as *Ventura*, but you can pull in ASCII, *dBASE III Plus*, *1-2-3*, *Symphony*, *MultiMate*, *WordStar*, *WordPerfect*, *XyWrite*, *PC Paintbrush*, *Publisher's Paintbrush*, and *1-2-3* and *Symphony* .PIC files, among others, without any conversion.

After loading the appropriate file, you manipulate the text or graphic element, either by typing sizing information into the menu area (say, to position a picture

FEATURES EVALUATION

Byline Meets Ventura and PageMaker

Byline doesn't aim to compete with Ventura Publisher or PageMaker, but a comparison shows that it offers a good set of basic tools.

Pagination and layout controls	Byline 1.0	PageMaker 1.0a	Ventura 1.1
Style sheets/templates	◒[1]	○	●
Automatic text flow across pages	◒[2]	○	●
Separate left- and right-page formats	●	●	●
Automatic page numbering	●	●	●
Adjustable widow and orphan control	○	○	●
Automatic column balancing on last page	○	○	●
Automatic table-of-contents generation	○	○	●
Automatic index generation	○	○	●
Automatic footnotes	○	○	●
Graphics anchored to text	○	○	●
Captions anchored to graphics	○	○	●
Master headers and footers	●	●	●
Typographic features			
Automatic hyphenation	○	●	●
Manual hyphenation	○	●	●
User-expandable exception dictionary	○	●	●
Automatic kerning	●	●	●
Manual kerning	●	●	●
Tracking control	○	○	●
Automatic horizontal rules	●	○	●
Automatic vertical rules	●	○	●
Tab stops per paragraph	n/a	20	16
Measurement units			
inches	●	●	●
millimeters	●	●	●
picas and points	●	●	●
fractional points	●	○	●
Automatic first-line indents	○	○	●
Reverse type	○	●	◒[3]
Supports LaserJet font cartridges	◒[4]	●	◒[5]
Supports third-party downloadable fonts	○	◒[6]	●
Supports PostScript	●	●	●

[1] Automatic formatting can be achieved by copying a page or using macros.

[2] To make text to flow across pages, you must copy a page format or define a new text element.

[3] Using font color option.

Text/Graphics handling	Byline 1.0	PageMaker 1.0a	Ventura 1.1
Undo command	◒[7]	●	◒[7]
Word wrap	●	●	●
Cut and paste	●	●	●
Global search and replace	●	○	○
Macros	●	○	○
Mouse support	○	●	●
Automatic text flow around graphics	○	○	●
Graphics tools (line draw, box draw)	○	●	●
Scales graphics	●	●	●
Rotates graphics	○	○	○
Crops graphics	●	●	●
Imports text files			
ASCII	●	●	●
DCA	○	●	●
dBASE	●	○	○
1-2-3 release 1A	●	○	○
1-2-3 release 2.0	●	○	○
MultiMate	●	●	●
WordStar	●	●	●
WordPerfect	●	●	●
Word	○	●	●
XyWrite III	●	●	●
Imports graphics files			
EPS	○	●	●
GEM	○	○	●
MAC	●	●	●
MSP	●	●	●
PCX	●	●	●
PIC	●	●	●
TIFF	○	●	○

● Yes ○ No ◒ Deficient

[4] B and F cartridges only; built-in fonts include Times, Swiss, Bookman, Courier, and dBASE.

[5] F cartridge only; built-in fonts include Swiss (Helvetica), Dutch (Times-Roman), Symbol, and Courier.

[6] Using installation utility.

[7] Applies to deletions and insertions only.

on the page) or directly, using the cursor keys. Both approaches may seem klutzy at first if you've ever used a mouse to size and move on-screen objects, but most keyboard-oriented users will find the process intuitive. Surprisingly, *Byline* doesn't support a mouse.

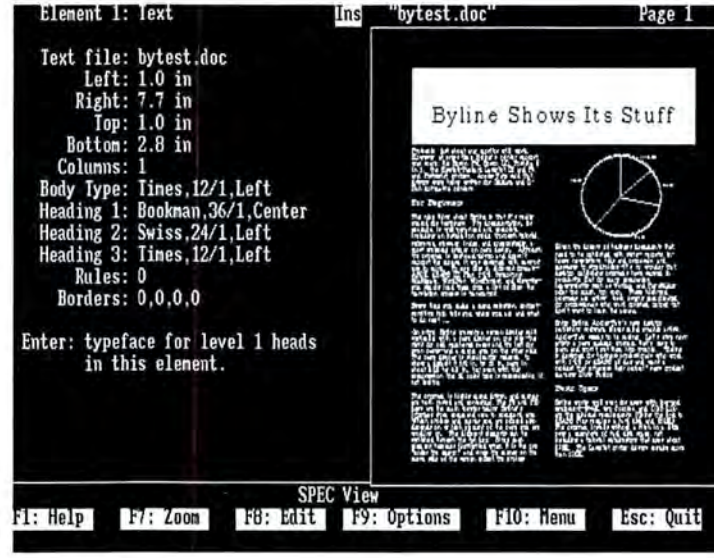
To perform further desktop publishing tasks—choosing a font, selecting a point size, adjusting the text right, left, center, or even mirrored—you simply position the cursor in the element's menu area and press <F9>. You can then select the desired action from a list of available options. *Byline* comes with five fonts—Times, Swiss, Bookman, Courier, and dBASE, a monospace serif type with a boxy look. Third-party fonts are not supported.

Text and Graphics Editing

Ventura Publisher and *PageMaker* have rudimentary text editors; *Byline* goes them one better. When you press <F8> (the word processing key), the menu area disappears and your text is writ large on screen. At that point you can amend the text by adding bold or italic formatting, for example, or selecting the text you want to appear as subheads. You can attach explanatory notes to each document, too, much as you would add notes to a cell in a spreadsheet; the only size limit is available memory.

Kerning (adjusting the spaces between letters for visual clarity) occurs automatically when you print. But if you're not satisfied with the kerning, you can edit *Byline*'s built-in kerning tables and view the changes before you print.

Byline allows you to crop graph files; however, you can't edit them. At the element menu, you can specify borders for graphics (or text). When you run across a graphics format that *Byline* doesn't support, the Camera utility enables you to make a screen capture of the graphic you need and then use it in *Byline*.



Byline's split screen is easy to understand and use. Page layout can be controlled from the menu area on the left.

Limits to Consider

Byline seeks to deliver ease of use, and for the most part it succeeds. It's only when you want to do something fancy that the program is recalcitrant. For example, *Byline* provides three levels of automatically formatted, adjustable subheads, but if you want to create a fourth you're out of luck, unless you define each additional heading as a separate element—a time-consuming chore. Moreover, there is no way to mix typefaces within a paragraph, a trivial operation in *Ventura* or *PageMaker*. Hyphenation and color are not available. And sizing an element can entail trial and error, because the text or graphic itself disappears from view while you're sizing it, leaving only a highlighted block.

Byline's zoom feature, which lets you examine a page close up, has its flaws, too. It magnifies only the top or bottom half of the page, and it cannot scroll. Worse yet, *Byline* reloads the elements each time you page up or down, which causes delays. On a 6-MHz AT, it took nearly 10 seconds to page to the upper part of the document (which contained both graphics and text elements) and about the same amount of time to return from zoom mode to regular page display.

Moreover, *Byline* doesn't provide much in the way of global formatting. If you create a page format that you like, you can

copy it over to subsequent pages. You can also use *Byline*'s macro facility to create macros for formatting and other tasks. Otherwise, when you're ready to create the second page of your document, you must define and position each element just as you did for the first page.

Clearly, *Byline* was designed for business users who want to set up short documents quickly and easily and use the same simple format over and over. If you need to produce long, intricately designed documents or toy with fancy typographic functions, turn to a high-end desktop publishing package.

Data Base Publishing

Byline's hooks into *dBASE* are certain to win it converts, especially among users who want output that surpasses what they can create with *dBASE*. To include information from data base records, you create a text element and insert variable-field codes—such as <.NAME>—from a special *Byline* menu that displays the codes from your .DBF file. You can print out as many records as you like on one page.

You can also use the data base as a mail merge file—for example, to send out a notice about a sale to all the customers in your data base. Simply create a form letter, load it into *Byline*, and enter the variable fields, such as name and address. For word processing–mail merge users, this process will seem very familiar.

Remember, any subsequent changes in a text file—say, an update to a price list—will automatically be reflected when you view or print your *Byline* document. Using the Archive utility, you can save the publication as it is, so that you maintain a record of every issue of a catalog or newsletter. This utility is also useful for gathering the publication and all its source files in one place or into one file, for telecommunicating or printing on another system.

Who Should Buy

Byline deserves a strong recommendation if you have simple formatting in mind and if you work primarily with *1-2-3* or *dBASE* files to create directories, catalogs, price lists, and so on. *Byline* protects users from trouble, and its ease of use, low price, and excellent merge printing make it worth a look.

On the other hand, *Byline* is not a full-featured desktop publishing program. Any trained artist, or anyone aspiring to that level of design, will eventually be frustrated by *Byline*'s limited capabilities. As products such as *WordPerfect 5.0* and *Samna Word IV* incorporate more and more desktop publishing features, potential *Byline* users should consider whether such word processors will meet their needs for polished output. ●

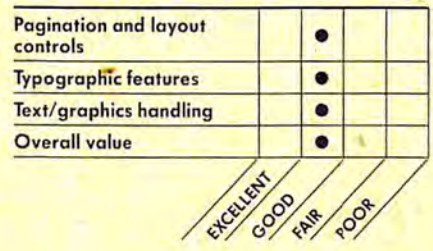
Lau Barnes is the author of dBASE Demystified *(McGraw-Hill, New York, 1987).*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Byline

Desktop publishing software

Byline is a solid package for users with limited desktop publishing needs. It's easy to learn and offers a host of conveniences—an excellent text editor with a search-and-replace feature, a macro function, electronic Post-it notes, automatic or manual kerning, and handy utilities. But Byline isn't the tool for documents with fancy or changeable layouts.



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Hewlett-Packard Vectra ES/12

AT-compatible system

PROS: Fast CPU, special port for HP peripherals, disk caching software included

CONS: Expensive

If speed is the name of the game, Hewlett-Packard's high-velocity Vectra ES/12 holds four winning cards. For starters, this AT clone has a hot 12-MHz 80286 CPU. Fast dynamic RAM on the motherboard, a proprietary memory expansion board designed to keep pace with the CPU, and powerful disk caching software are equally important. But the fifth card in HP's hand—price—is not such a winner. The ES/12 is likely to please everyone in the office except the accounting department.

Three versions of the ES/12 are available. The low-end Model 10 comes out of the box with 640K of 100-nanosecond dynamic RAM on the motherboard, a 1.2MB floppy drive, a disk controller, a 101-key keyboard, MS-DOS 3.20, and a decent collection of utilities. This configuration will set you back a cool $2995 and does not include a video adapter, monitor, or hard drive. At the high end, a fully loaded Model 40, with a fast 40MB hard disk and HP's own EGA video board and enhanced color monitor, runs about $5500. At these prices the ES/12 is not exactly a smart bet, considering you can buy a high-speed 286 hard disk system (or a low-end 386) for $3000.

As high-speed CPUs become more commonplace, finding expansion memory that's fast enough to work with them is becoming as hard as filling an inside straight. HP's proprietary 12-MHz memory board does the job—but you'll have to pay a lot. Prices range from $1695 for the 2MB version to a whopping $4995 for the 8MB model. While there's nothing to stop

you from saving money by sliding a standard memory-expansion board into one of the ES/12's 8-MHz 8/16-bit slots, performance will slow down significantly.

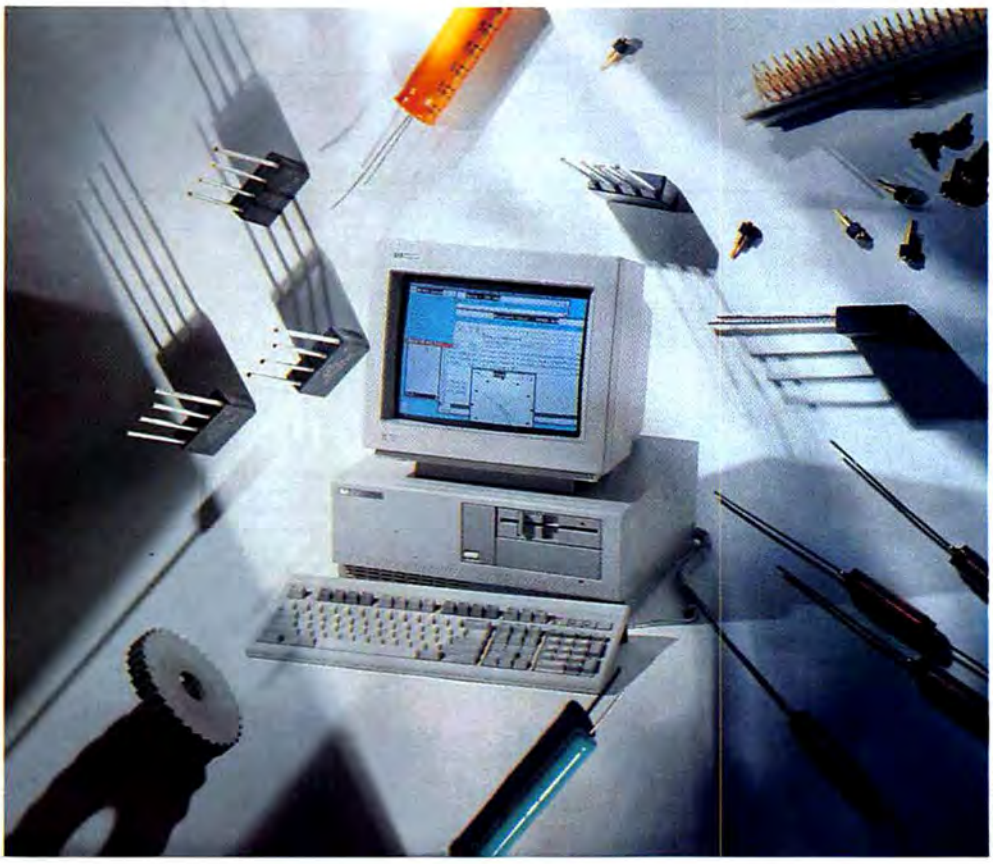
Fast disk access is one of the HP's strongest suits. The ES/12's 40MB Seagate hard drive has a sprightly average access speed of 28 milliseconds. HPCache, Hewlett-Packard's disk caching software, further quickens disk access. HPCache is easy to install and configure and seems to work without a hitch. It includes a neat on-screen readout that lets you know just how many disk accesses you've avoided. In informal tests using a wide variety of software, the CPU found the data it needed in cache memory about 60 percent of the time.

Thanks to its combination of speed-conscious features, the ES/12 performs on a par with the fastest 80286 systems. With a 128K disk cache installed, it outran (or held its own against) Compaq's 12-MHz Deskpro in three tests out of five. Without a cache its performance was less impressive, but still perfectly respectable.

If 12 MHz is too fast for your software, HP has provided not one but three ways to alter the Vectra's speed. You can toggle between 8 MHz and 12 MHz by entering a command at the DOS prompt or using a hot key; the latter beeps once to signal slow speed, twice to signal fast. Or you can preset the computer to power up at whichever clock speed you like.

The system unit is compact, but there's still space for three half-height drives. Along with the device bays, you'll find a 134-watt power supply, a lithium battery, and an 80287 coprocessor socket.

When it comes to expansion, the Vectra differs a bit from the standard AT. The



MARK JOHANN

Hewlett-Packard's ES/12 is a fast AT-compatible system that includes high-speed motherboard RAM, disk caching software, and a 12-MHz memory expansion board so add-on RAM can keep pace with the CPU.

HP's motherboard incorporates eight expansion slots, but only four of them will hold standard 8/16-bit boards—two less than the IBM AT. On the other hand, Hewlett-Packard has contrived to leave all four 8/16-bit slots available by installing the drive controller in an 8-bit slot. Of the remaining four slots, three are standard 8-bit slots and one is designed for the 12-MHz memory board.

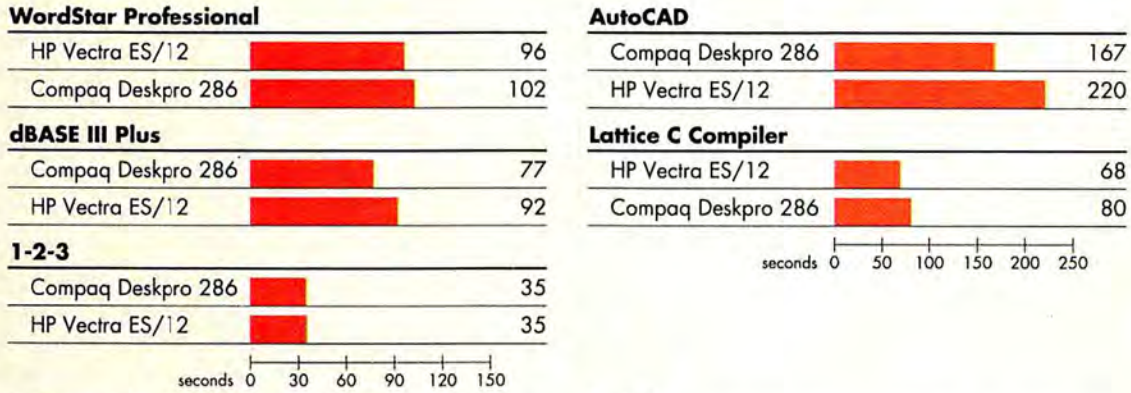
HP's drive controller can handle only three drives (as opposed to the industry norm of four)—two floppies and a hard drive, or two hard drives and a floppy. The controller serves as a multifunction board as well, providing an RS-232C serial port and a parallel port—both with clearly marked jumpers in case you need to add and configure additional ports. HP makes a mouse, a stylus, and a tablet especially for the Vectra series; the ES/12 supplies the special Human Interface Link port you'll need to hook them up.

All too often an AT compatible's keyboard has a soft, cheesy touch or is poorly laid out. In contrast, the Vectra's keyboard is a sheer delight. Laid out in the familiar 101-key style, with 12 function keys along the top and separate numeric and cursor control keypads, it boasts an unusually solid touch. The clicking volume can be controlled via <Ctrl>-<Alt>-

NSTL TEST REPORT

HP Vectra ES/12

The HP Vectra ES/12 shows its stuff by beating or tying the Compaq Deskpro 286 in three tests out of five.



The Compaq Deskpro 286 was tested with a disk cache using 192K of extended memory. The HP Vectra ES/12 was tested with a disk cache using 128K of conventional memory.

WordStar Professional
Although disk access plays a small part in this benchmark, processing and memory access speeds are the most significant factors. The test measures the time required to perform four operations on a 15,364-word document.

dBASE III Plus
Disk access speed is the most significant factor for this benchmark. The test measures the time required to produce a report based on a three-file join, select, and sort.

1-2-3
Because no disk access is required, this benchmark depends almost entirely on the processing and memory access speeds of the systems. In this test, a *1-2-3* macro executes a series of recalculations within a 50-by-50-cell matrix.

AutoCAD
Disk access, processing, and memory access speeds all contribute to a product's performance in this benchmark. However, the speed and type of math coprocessor used by the system are the most important factors. The test uses the sample office drawing provided with *AutoCAD* and measures the time required to retrieve and display the drawing, zoom in on a small detail within the drawing, zoom out to reveal the entire drawing, and print the entire drawing.

Lattice C Compiler
In this benchmark, the sequential disk access rate is the most important factor. Applications such as file managers commonly rely on this type of disk access. The test measures the time required to compile and link two 1000-line programs and is performed automatically using a DOS batch file.

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Circle 14 on reader service card

<Gray Minus> or <Ctrl>-<Alt>-<Gray Plus>. Little touches like these make the Vectra ES/12 a real pleasure to use. There's a front-mounted power switch, the cover is easy to remove, and the fan is barely audible. The front ventilation grill is recessed to avoid desktop clutter that might block air flow. Finally, the security lock (found on every AT since the dawn of time) is now a $50 option; you don't pay for it unless you want it.

The help screens in the ES/12's setup software are so well written you may never need to open the manual. The utility software is also extremely easy to install and master. If you do need the manual, you'll find it excellent—liberally sprinkled with diagrams, checklists, and clear step-by-step instructions.

Frequently, new machines are plagued with problems, but the ES/12 proved so bug free that only one relatively minor annoyance is worth mentioning: You have to remove the power switch assembly before you can install the coprocessor.

The ES/12's innovations add up to a winning hand, combining nice ergonomic touches like the solid keyboard and the front-mounted power switch with high-performance design features. Unfortunately, the steep price is likely to discourage players from recognizing the ES/12's virtues. That's a real shame because, price aside, this AT compatible's lightning performance has what it takes to win almost any game. —*Paul Meyers*

WHERE TO BUY

Vectra ES/12
Hewlett-Packard
Personal Computer Business Unit
974 E. Arques Ave.
P.O. Box 486
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
408/746-5000
List price: Model 10 (1.2MB floppy drive) $2995, Model 20 (1.2MB floppy drive, 20MB hard disk) $3195, Model 40 (1.2MB floppy drive, 40MB hard disk) $4195; EGA board $495; enhanced color monitor $845; monochrome video adapter $325; 12-inch monochrome display $325; touch-screen option for monochrome displays $505; 12-MHz memory expansion boards: 2MB $1695, 4MB $2795, 8MB $4995; security lock $50
For more information, see Products Featured in This Issue.

AST Hot Shot/286

80286-based accelerator board

PROS: Fast, speed switchable

CONS: Complicated installation, 80287 coprocessor requires an 8087 on the motherboard, expensive

Plenty of PCs, XTs, and their 8088-based clones are still in service: dependable, time-tested, inexpensive—and very, very slow. You can grow cobwebs waiting for those workhorses to manipulate massive spreadsheets or format a long document. AST's Hot Shot/286 accelerator board—which packs a 10-MHz 80286 chip and a socket for an 80287 math coprocessor on an 8-bit half-card—provides your trusty XT with enough processing speed to blow those cobwebs away.

At $645, the Hot Shot can save you at least $1000 over the cost of a new 80286 computer. Sad to say, that's the extent of the good news. The Hot Shot (which costs twice as much as comparable units) isn't up to AST's usually high design standards.

For instance, to help speed data input and output, most turbo boards use on-board cache memory. The Hot Shot/286 has no on-board memory; instead, it sets aside a portion of system RAM to use as a memory cache. DIP switches control the size of the cache and allow you to install it in either base memory or high memory (above 640K).

While this caching technique knocks a few bucks off the price tag by eliminating the need for on-board memory chips, it introduces problems. For one thing, the cache is addressable only in slow 8-bit mode. For another, installing the cache in base memory eats up precious RAM. However, installing it in high memory can be tricky for inexperienced users because high memory is used for video and other

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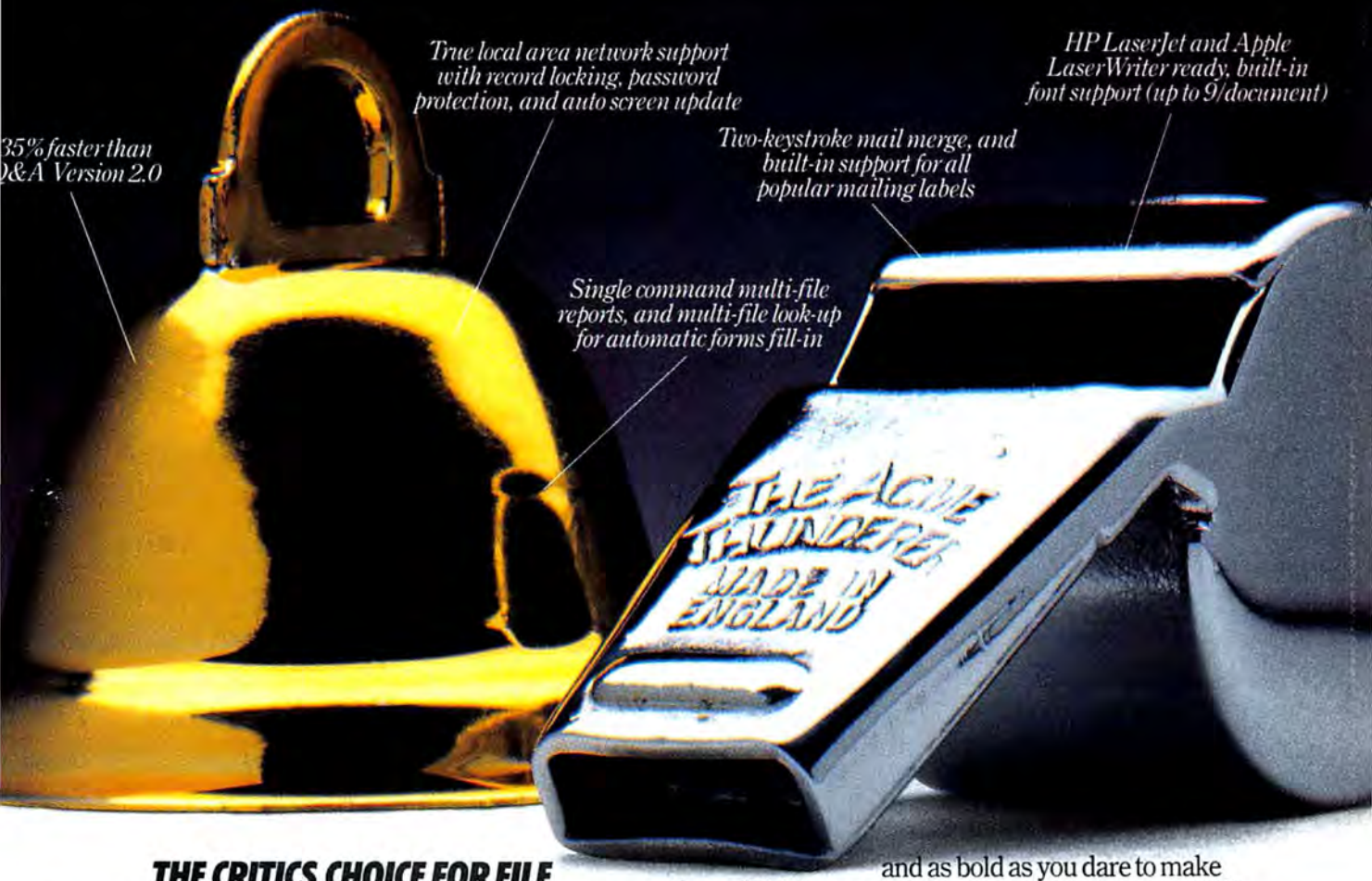

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system necessities, and the installation software doesn't help prevent conflicts.

In any case, installing the Hot Shot is tough—despite well-written documentation. Slipping the board into an empty slot is easy enough, but then you need to put together a complicated cable socket (which should have been done at the factory), pry the 8088 chip from the motherboard, and plug it into the top of a connector at the end of a ribbon cable attached to the Hot Shot. Finally, you slide the connector into the vacant 8088 slot on the motherboard.

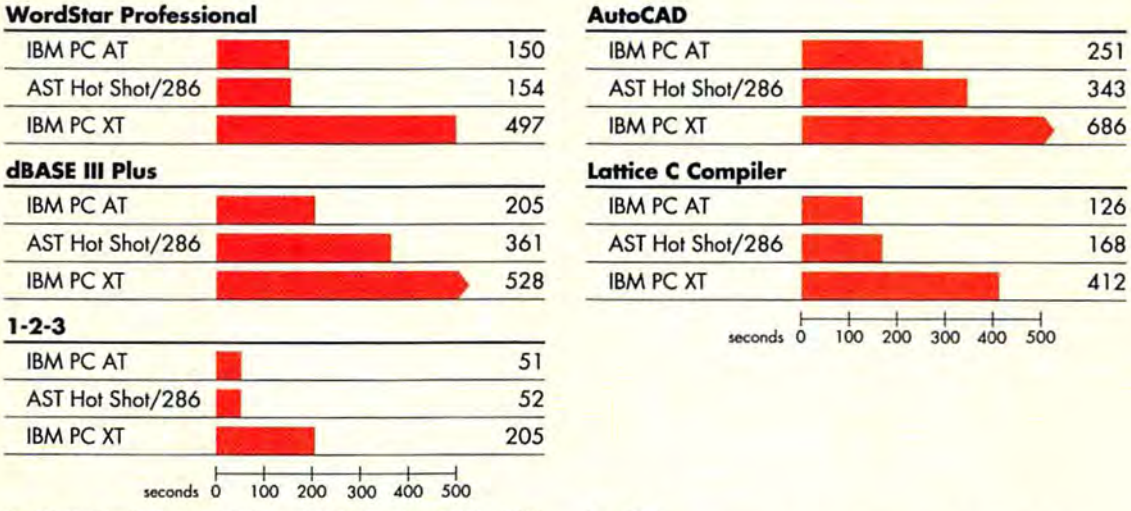
Still, some nice design touches compensate for the complex cable-socket construction. DIP switches are accessible from the rear, so settings can be changed without removing the board or lifting the system cover. A jumper setting determines whether the system starts up at 4.77 MHz (for the 8088) or 10 MHz (with the 80286). A hot-key toggle enables the PC to jump from one CPU to the other during operation.

Performance is not a problem. The Hot Shot zipped through National Software

NSTL TEST REPORT

AST Hot Shot/286

AST's Hot Shot/286 accelerator board pushes a poky IBM PC XT to near-AT velocity on WordStar, 1-2-3, and Lattice C Compiler benchmarks.



The AST Hot Shot/286 was installed in an IBM PC XT with a 10MB hard disk. The IBM PC AT tested was an 8-MHz Model 339 with a 30MB hard disk.

WordStar Professional
Although disk access plays a small part in this benchmark, processing and memory access speeds are the most significant factors. The test measures the time required to perform four operations on a 15,364-word document.

dBASE III Plus
Disk access speed is the most significant factor for this benchmark. The test measures the time required to produce a report based on a three-file join, select, and sort.

1-2-3
Because no disk access is required, this benchmark depends almost entirely on the processing and memory access speeds of the systems. In this test, a 1-2-3 macro executes a series of recalculations within a 50-by-50-cell matrix.

AutoCAD
Disk access, processing, and memory access speeds all contribute to a product's performance in this benchmark. However, the speed and type of math coprocessor used by the system are the most important factors. The test uses the sample office drawing provided with *AutoCAD* and measures the time required to retrieve and display the drawing, zoom in on a small detail within the drawing, zoom out to reveal the entire drawing, and print the entire drawing.

Lattice C Compiler
In this benchmark, the sequential disk access rate is the most important factor. Applications such as file managers commonly rely on this type of disk access. The test measures the time required to compile and link two 1000-line programs and is performed automatically using a DOS batch file.

Data based on tests designed and conducted by National Software Testing Laboratories (NSTL). All rights reserved.

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PC Magazine, Chris Johnston

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Testing Laboratories (NSTL) tests at an admirable clip. An IBM PC XT took 205 seconds to recalculate the test *1-2-3* spreadsheet. With the Hot Shot installed, the same XT whizzed through the recalc in 52 seconds—only 1 second longer than a PC AT.

While the speed increase over a stock XT is impressive, the Hot Shot is no bargain. At $645, it costs about twice as much as other half-slot 80286 accelerator boards, such as Orchid's Tiny Turbo or the Turbo ChargeCard 286 from Compuadd, which offer similar performance for $295. What's worse, if you want to install an 80287 math coprocessor to speed up applications that require extensive number crunching, you'll need an 8087 math coprocessor on the motherboard.

Quality and support have given AST an enviable reputation as the IBM of expansion board companies, but the Hot Shot's design fails to justify a price that's much too steep. The lofty price, the hidden cost for an 8087 math coprocessor, and the intricate socket assembly make the Hot Shot a poor choice for speed-hungry but cost-conscious users. —*Lewis Perdue*

WHERE TO BUY

Hot Shot/286
AST Research
2121 Alton Ave.
Irvine, CA 92714-4992
714/863-1333
List price: $645, 80287 math coprocessor $195
Requirements: IBM PC, XT, or compatible
For more information, see Products Featured in This Issue.

NEC MultiSync II

Multiscan monitor

PROS: Compatible with all popular video modes, easily accessible controls

CONS: Excessive glare, muddy hues at low brightness, clouded VGA images

New and improved are promotional buzzwords used to hawk everything from diet soda to diapers. So when NEC replaces the world's best-selling color monitor—the MultiSync—with the "new and improved" MultiSync II, it makes you wonder how much is new and whether anything has really improved. The answers: plenty, and yes.

As you might expect, the MultiSync II has a new look. (As you might not expect, it costs no more than the original.) The monitor is housed in a sleek, modern cabinet; gone are the square corners and severe lines. The MultiSync II is a bit taller than the original, thanks to an apron located beneath the screen. A sturdier tilt-and-swivel stand is part of the package.

NEC has heeded customer complaints and placed frequently needed controls within easy reach. Vertical and horizontal controls have moved from the cramped, hard-to-reach compartment atop the machine and may now be found behind a small door on the front apron. Controls for contrast and brightness are located outside the door for even faster access. Best of all, the power switch has been moved up front, ending the infamous "gorilla reach" around the monitor formerly required to turn the machine on or off.

Unlike the old MultiSync, which did not work properly with the IBM Monochrome Display Adapter and refused to work at all with the Hercules Graphics Card, the redesigned MultiSync II accommodates these boards. Text generated by these adapters can now be displayed with near-monochrome sharpness.

Two new switches increase the display options for monochrome operation. The first simply toggles color off and on. The second sends monochrome characters to the screen in white, amber, or green; unfortunately, neither switch provides inverse video (black on white) in text mode.

The MultiSync II boasts improved switching electronics. Users with VGA boards no longer need to switch manually to analog mode; the MultiSync's circuitry tests the incoming signal from the video

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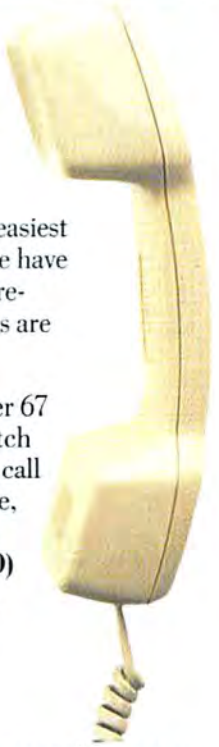

All in all, there's one big reason why many big organizations put Samna in charge of word processing. Quite simply, its combination of power, ease of use and productivity is unrivaled.

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adapter and automatically adjusts for digital or analog transmission, scanning frequency, resolution, and color requirements. Furthermore, unlike the original MultiSync, whose image tended to roll when you switched from VGA text to VGA graphics (see "Magical Multiscan Tour," *PCW*, September 1987), the MultiSync II shows no loss of stability during changeover.

The switching electronics' wider vertical capture range (50 to 80 Hz versus 56 to 62 Hz) makes the monitor compatible with a larger selection of graphics boards, including many proprietary CAD/CAM display adapters. For operation with non-IBM-compatible video modes, three rear-mounted slide switches allow manual control of many color-switching functions; frequency scanning and frequency lock remain automatic.

Unfortunately, the display electronics are neither new nor improved. The 13-inch screen looks just like the original monitor in virtually every respect. As always, color convergence is excellent; you won't find colors running together or characters tinged with an alien hue. However, vibrant colors fade to muddy if the brightness control is turned down, the contrast control still changes lime green to brown if set too low, and the 0.31mm-dot-pitch CRT retains the original maximum screen resolution of 800 by 560 pixels.

There are three problems—one old (VGA) and two new (glare and focus). NEC has thoughtfully included a 9-to-15-pin adapter for the VGA mode but failed to remedy the soft white veil that clouds VGA images and reduces contrast. Glare is much worse than before. In the old design, a deep bezel shaded the screen from incoming light; with bezel depth on the new version reduced to less than an inch, glare has increased noticeably. Focus on the MultiSync II seems slightly softer than on the original; presumably, this is due to factory misadjustment of the test unit and not a design flaw.

Overall, most of the changes in the new, improved MultiSync II really are improvements. Synchronization and circuit switching are now the best in the industry. The new monochrome text modes increase viewing options, and moving the controls up front is a great idea. While shortcomings in the VGA mode and the increase in glare are regrettable, the MultiSync II's improved, rock-solid sync circuitry (at the same old price) will continue to set the multiscan standard by which all other monitors are judged.
—TJ Byers

WHERE TO BUY

MultiSync II
NEC Home Electronics
1255 Michael Dr.
Wood Dale, IL 60191
312/860-9500
List price: $899
For more information, see Products Featured in This Issue.

Verticom 2Page Display

High-resolution monitor and graphics board

PROS: High performance, font caching

CONS: Supports only four applications, incompatible with some computers, poor documentation

Desktop publishers who are bored waiting for their large-screen monitors to slowly repaint over a million pixels every time the image changes will find Verticom's 2Page Display a godsend. The 2Page graphics board, one of the first to be designed around Intel's 82786 graphics coprocessor, provides the processing power required to drive the high-resolution, large-screen monitor at top speed.

The $2395 2Page system includes a 19-inch monitor (the same paper-white, high-resolution Phillips monochrome unit used with high-end Sun and Apollo workstations), a graphics board equipped with the coprocessor and 512K of RAM, and software drivers for *Ventura Publisher*,

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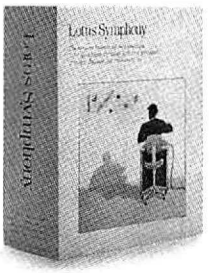

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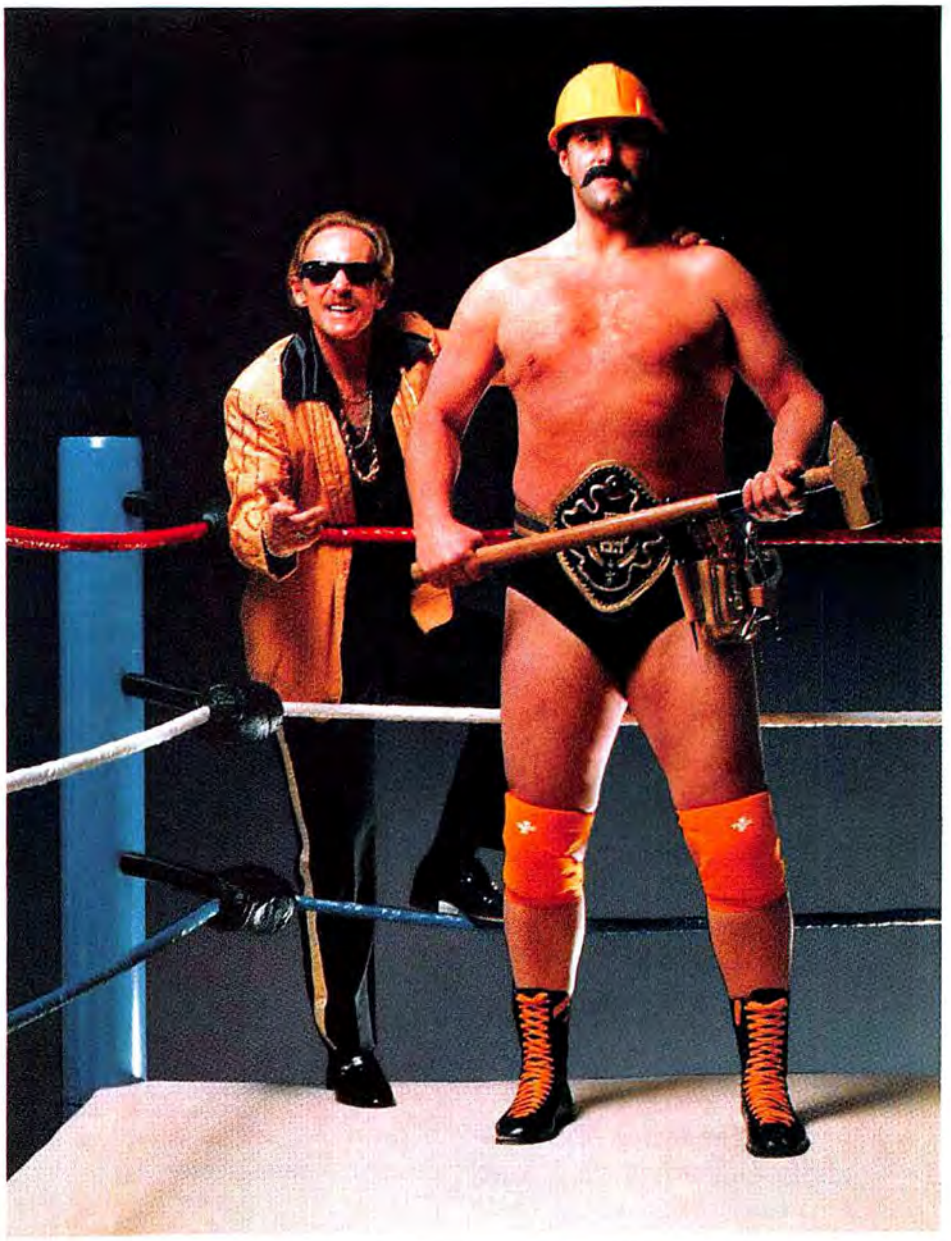

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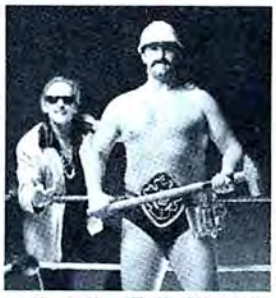
As Well As Characters Like These.

THE BIG EVENT

The Marketing Events Newsletter Of The Civic Arena Manager

Issue Number 36 — *Spring/Summer 1988*

Event Staff Pin Big Attendance Figures On Wrestling Matches



Manager Marty "The Mink" Mintz with "The Human SledgeHammer"

"Let me tell you one thing. Do you really think I care who I have to beat to a pulp to defend my belt? That is, if I can find anyone without a wide yeller streak down his back to take me on. My daddy always said, 'If you can't stand the heat, kick out a window.' And brother, I see a lot of broken glass!"

The rantings of a mad man? Perhaps. But "The Human Sledge-Hammer" and dozens of other wrestlers like him are just mad enough to bring wrestling fans by the thousands to civic arenas all across the country.

For many marketing managers wrestling matches have become the rock concert attractions of the '80s.

"Wrestling is a proven sports attraction," says Bernie Turk, events manager for the Los Angeles County Sports Dome.

"It seems everytime you flip through the channels on your television, you run across a wrestling match. They're on Saturday morning cartoons. You go in a toy store and you see their action dolls. People just can't seem to get enough of them."

Industry attendance figures seem to prove Turk's point.

In the first two months of the year, there were 37 wrestling matches held in the country. From a 57,000 seat arena in Denver to a 3,000 seat junior college gym in Raleigh. Total attendance for the matches has been estimated to be in excess of 500,000.

And it doesn't show any sign of slowing down.

More Facilities Benefiting From Hotel Tax

Seattle and Bismarck, North Dakota are just two cities that have passed legislation to enact an "entertainment tax." Hotel and motel rooms, along with restaurants, add a surcharge to each customer's bill to help finance improvements to public convention, meeting and entertainment facilities.

"It's worked wonders for us," says Linda Connell, the chairperson of the Bismarck Meetings Group. "The amount of the tax, which varies depending on the item taxed, hasn't affected us negatively in any way at all."

"We were a little leery at first of visitors complaining about the tax, but it's so little no one seems to really notice. But even though it seems small, it really adds up quickly."

How has the tax helped Bismarck?

"Very well," according to Connell. "This spring we'll be financing over 15,000 new square feet of exhibition space for our convention center. That's space that otherwise wouldn't have been available. Unless we passed a bond issue— which never seems to be a very popular idea."

For more information on how your city can benefit from similar legislation, please contact the public affairs office of *The Big Event*.

Deadline Approaching For Next Month's Articles

Remember, the deadline for all articles submitted to *The Big Event* is the 10th of each preceding month.

Send your pieces, double-spaced please, to Carol East, Events Coordinator, POB 8384, Seattle, WA 89382.

Dates To Remember

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Circle 113 on reader service card

MARK JOHANN

NEC's MultiSync II offers major improvements over its predecessor at no increase in cost. Important controls have been moved to the front for easy access, and the unit works with the Hercules Graphics Card.

AutoCAD, *PageMaker*, and *Windows*. The system produces 1280-by-960-pixel resolution.

The board offers two display modes: single page and facing page. When using *Ventura Publisher* in single-page mode, you can see 80 percent of the page (you lose 10 percent at the top and the bottom); in facing-page mode you can see 100 percent of both pages. Characters are reduced in size in this latter mode but are still large enough to read and edit easily.

The graphics board is the heart of the 2Page system. Since high-resolution, large-screen systems shuffle so many pixels around, they tend to be slower than conventional displays. The 2Page's Intel 82786 shoulders this screen-painting burden, speeding redraws and freeing the CPU for other work. The board's extra video memory speeds up the process by caching screen fonts for DTP programs and entire drawings for *AutoCAD*.

Unfortunately, the visual performance of the Phillips monitor is less than impeccable. While the image at center screen is true and has excellent contrast, images are slightly distorted and fuzzy along the top and sides of the screen, and straight lines take on a noticeable curve.

The manual is poorly written. Fortunately, you can ignore the documentation and go straight to the lucid READ.ME files on an accompanying system disk. In any case, the menu-driven installation programs are quite easy to use. Just answer a few questions about your hard disk and your mouse (if you have one), and the program automatically installs the Verticom driver.

This system's power has a price—and not just in dollars. Most desktop publishers need all the expanded memory they can get, but the 2Page driver conflicts with some expanded memory managers (EMMs). The Intel AboveBoard, AST Advantage, and Compaq 386 EMMs are all supported. Also, Verticom's technical support staff was helpful in suggesting ways to modify my CONFIG.SYS file so AST's EMM would coexist peaceably with the 2Page. Still, it might be smart to make sure your EMM will work *before* putting down $2395.

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You may also encounter hardware conflicts. The lack of a large-screen display standard means that compatibility problems can be expected. Although the 2Page runs happily on almost all PCs from major vendors, it doesn't work with the popular PC's Limited 80286 PC, and it may clash with other clones as well. Again, before you buy, ask Verticom to verify that the 2Page will work with your computer.

Furthermore, the applications you can run on the Verticom system in high-res 1280 by 960 mode are severely limited; it desperately needs more high-resolution drivers. On the other hand, the newly updated *Ventura* driver is particularly fine, providing faster operation and better screen fonts than the old version, while making *Ventura*'s sidebar and dialog boxes easier to read. Verticom promises eight new drivers in the near future.

The 2Page Display offers an adequate CGA emulation mode, but it does not include emulations for the more popular EGA and Hercules modes. Furthermore, while Verticom's CGA emulation works with most programs, it doesn't show you any more information than a regular display does. By contrast, Micro Display Systems' Genius CGA emulation supports 66 lines of text for most leading word processors, and the Wyse WY-700 offers special high-resolution text for its CGA mode. Enhancements like those would make the Verticom more versatile and practical.

Still, if a small display (or a slow, big one) is driving you crazy, the Verticom 2Page Display can provide a measure of relief. If you routinely design documents with facing pages, or if you frequently need to incorporate *AutoCAD* drawings into *Ventura* documents, the 2Page will probably increase your productivity enough to justify the high-end $2395 price tag. But unless your computer is dedicated primarily to desktop publishing, you may be happier with a large-screen display that supports a wider range of hardware and software. —*Jesse Berst*

WHERE TO BUY

2Page Display
Verticom
545 Weddell Dr.
Sunnyvale, CA 94089-2114
408/747-1222
List price: $2395
Requirements: 128K, DOS 2.10 or later version
For more information, see Products Featured in This Issue.

Hewlett-Packard RuggedWriter 480

Wide-carriage 24-pin dot matrix printer

PROS: Very fast, excellent NLQ and graphics output

CONS: Can't print envelopes, clumsy paper path, expensive

Hewlett-Packard plotters and laser printers have long been industry standards by which other print engines are judged. Now the company that brought you the LaserJet has released its first 24-pin dot matrix printer, the RuggedWriter 480. It should come as no surprise that the machine performs like a champ—delivering amazing speed, excellent print quality, and high-resolution graphics. Its single major failing is an inability to print envelopes.

The RuggedWriter is packed with features, including a wide carriage, forward and reverse formfeeds, and a built-in 2K print buffer. The top-mounted control keypad, complete with indicator lights, provides easy access to NLQ, draft, and compressed print modes; and formfeed, linefeed, and paper path selection. Two banks of DIP switches allow you to select either Hewlett-Packard's Printer Control Language (PCL) or Epson LQ-1000 emulation. An optional cartridge provides four additional fonts, plus 16K of RAM that can be used either as a print buffer or to store downloadable fonts. Unfortunately, these features do not come cheap; the

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RuggedWriter's $1695 base price approaches that of bottom-end laser printers.

If you don't require (or can't afford) laser-sharp print quality but still need to crank out good-looking spreadsheets, charts, and text, this printer is made for you. In NLQ mode, the RuggedWriter's 24-pin printhead produces near letter quality text (using a 36 by 24 matrix) that will pass for daisy wheel output to all but the most suspicious.

Best of all, even in NLQ mode the RuggedWriter is incredibly fast. A four-page, double-spaced, 800-word document, liberally sprinkled with boldface text and underlines, took only 11 seconds per page—significantly faster than many high-priced printers working in draft mode. Predictably, the RuggedWriter's draft speed was even hotter: 7.5 seconds per page.

When the RuggedWriter moves into graphics mode, it really struts its stuff. PCL mode is limited to two grades of graphics: normal resolution (90 dots per inch) and high resolution (180 dpi). Epson mode, however, offers no fewer than ten choices, ranging from 60 dpi to a classy-looking 360 by 180 dpi that produces dense black tones, subtle details, and crisp highlights. In any of its high-resolution modes, the RuggedWriter's graphics are in a different class from the muddy scrawl produced by most dot matrix printers.

The RuggedWriter offers three ways to handle paper: a built-in tractor for fanfold, a hand feed for single sheets, and an optional ($250) cut-sheet feeder. The hand feeder and the sheet feeder seem quite reliable, and you can use either without removing fanfold paper; the single sheets simply roll up in front of the fanfold.

On the other hand, HP made a mistake when it mounted the fanfold intake slot on the bottom front edge of the printer. Threading paper is tricky; unless you have room to stack it in front of the printer, you must elevate the RuggedWriter and feed the paper from underneath. Two thick books will do the elevation job, but HP would prefer to sell you an optional desk stand for $99 or a floor stand for $275. Considering its high price, the RuggedWriter ought to be capable of handling this problem out of the box, without expensive add-ons.

The RuggedWriter's most glaring flaw is its inability to print envelopes. Although the printer easily handles wide sheets, multipart forms, and mailing labels, it seems incapable of addressing envelopes without mangling or smearing them, or both.

If you've got the bucks, the RuggedWriter has a lot of bang. Its print quality is outstanding, and it may well be the fastest nonlaser printer ever made. In spite of its curious bottom-loading paper feed, it's a well-designed machine whose only Achilles' heel is its inability to print envelopes. If you can live without envelope capability, it's a tempting buy. Otherwise, you may be happier with a slower, more versatile printer. —*Paul Meyers*

WHERE TO BUY

RuggedWriter 480
Hewlett-Packard
1820 Embarcadero Rd.
Palo Alto, CA 94303
800/752-0900
List price: with parallel and serial ports $1695, with HP-IB port and serial port $1895; sheet feeder $250; font cartridge $150; desktop printer stand $99, floor printer stand $275; cable $50
For more information, see Products Featured in This Issue.

Paul Meyers is a San Francisco-based video producer and freelance writer specializing in science and technology. Lewis Perdue is the author of Supercharging Your PC *(Osborne/McGraw-Hill, Berkeley, California, 1987). TJ Byers is a contributing editor for* PC World. *Jesse Berst is coauthor of the best-selling* Inside Xerox Ventura Publisher *(1987) and* Publishing Power with Ventura *(New Riders, Westlake Village, California, 1988).*

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Circle 68 on reader service card

194 **The Office Publisher 1.0**
Pros will appreciate the new typesetting talents and sharp-looking output, but desktop publishing neophytes might get lost.

198 **VP-Planner Plus 2.0**
1-2-3's best-known clone adds some handy features and lets you slice and dice data in five dimensions.

204 **Boyan D3**
A shareware heritage is no bar to this full-featured communication package's ambitions.

208 **Zoomracks II**
Is it hypertext? Even if it isn't, *Zoomracks*' index-card metaphor offers a handy way to move and link bits of text and information.

210 **Q-DOS II 2.0**
Yet another hard disk manager? Q-DOS II is fast, easy to use, and costs what *Xtree Pro* ought to.

The Office Publisher 1.0

Desktop publishing program

PROS: Offers style sheets and templates, extensive typographic controls and automatic forms generation, context-sensitive help

CONS: Hard to learn and use, poor compatibility with object-oriented graphics programs, expensive

PageMaker and *Ventura Publisher* rule the PC desktop publishing landscape the way the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center dominate the lower Manhattan skyline. Though other page layout programs keep springing up, few match the ease with which this pair integrates text and graphics to produce a full range of business publications. The latest challenger is Laser Friendly's *The Office Publisher.* It boasts extensive typesetting controls and style sheets, but its $995 price and steep learning curve may restrict its appeal to professional publishers.

Originally designed as a PC interface to Compugraphic typesetting equipment, *Office Publisher* resembles another modified high-end typesetting system, *Harvard Professional Publisher* (see "Ivy League Publishing," *PCW*, July 1987). It's an ambitious, feature-packed program that includes batch pagination (up to 32,000 pages per document), style sheets, automatic text flow, templates for common business documents, automatic forms generation, password protection, user-definable zoom settings, global search and search and replace, pixel editing of imported bit-mapped graphics, and excellent typographic controls.

Office Publisher also lets you select options from pulldown menus with a mouse or keyboard commands, compose pages on screen with text and graphics files im-

ported from other programs, and print finished documents on laser and dot matrix printers and PostScript-based typesetters.

The program produces sharp-looking output, especially office forms: appraisals, invoices, ledgers, inventories, deeds, registration cards, and other records. Unfortunately, *Office Publisher* takes a circuitous approach to page layout. Where *Ventura* puts everything you need on a single screen, for example, *Office Publisher* uses one screen for a main menu and another for page layout. From the main menu you manage files, open documents, configure system options, and—sigh!—convert files into *Office Publisher*'s proprietary format. In fact, it's essential at this stage to convert all the text and graphics files you plan on using, because you can't import them later during page layout.

Nor do you get much in the way of file compatibility. *Office Publisher* imports files from most popular word processing and bit-mapped graphics formats but reads only object-oriented graphics files generated by *1-2-3* and *Symphony*, which seriously limits its appeal to CAD/CAM, engineering, and scientific groups.

One of *Office Publisher*'s most annoying features is an interface that is both complicated and inconsistent. The opening screen consists of a large work area bounded by scroll bars, pulldown menus, and a control panel that gives you access to the four main page layout modes: Layout (for designing pages), Text (for editing text), Style (for applying typographic specifications), and Retouch (for editing bit-mapped graphics). The problem is that *Office Publisher*'s commands and nomenclature are confusing, and many of its dialog boxes poorly designed and crammed with options. Even with its tutorials and context-sensitive on-line help, *Office Publisher* will stymie would-be PC publishers who have limited typesetting experience.

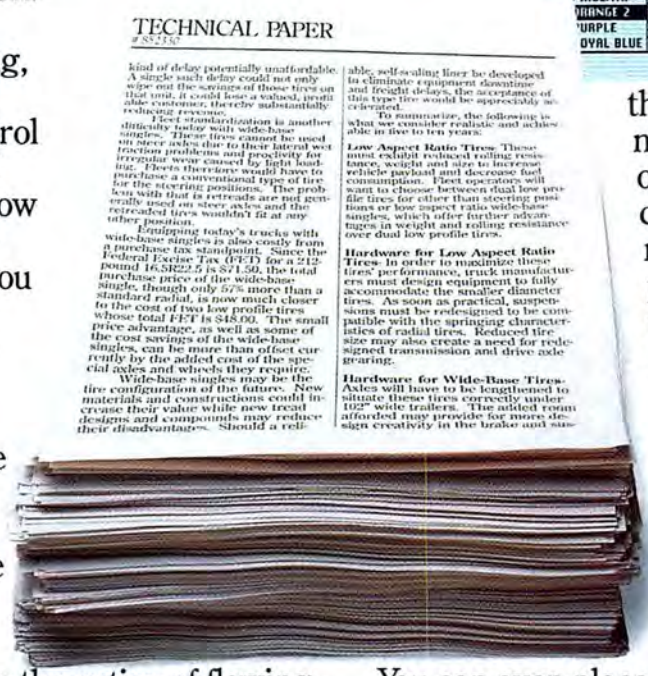
Installing *Office Publisher*'s nine disks (five disks for PS/2 systems) takes an easy 15 minutes and requires at least 2MB of hard disk space (depending on the hard-

PageMaker

Three years after inventing desktop publishing, the people at Aldus have just re-invented it. With a new version of PageMaker® dedicated to one simple proposition: freedom of choice.

From the beginning, PageMaker has given people unequalled control over all the elements of their publications. But now we've added many new features that also give you the ability to assemble even the longest documents with a couple clicks of your mouse. With PageMaker 3.0 the choice is always yours.

Here are a few of the new ways you'll have to exercise it.


TECHNICAL PAPER

kind of delay potentially unaffordable. A single such delay could not only wipe out the savings of those tires on that trip, it could lose a valued, profitable customer, thereby substantially reducing revenue.

Fleet standardization is another difficulty today with wide-base singles. These tires cannot be used on steer axles due to their lateral wet traction problems and proclivity for irregular wear caused by light loading. Fleets therefore would have to purchase a conventional type of tire for the steering positions. The problem with that is retreads are not generally used on steer axles and the retreaded tires wouldn't fit at any other position.

Equipping today's trucks with wide-base singles is also costly from a purchase tax standpoint. Since the Federal Excise Tax (FET) for a 242-pound 16.5R22.5 is $71.50, the total purchase price of the wide-base single, though only 57% more than a standard radial, is now much closer to the cost of two low profile tires whose total FET is $48.00. The small price advantage, as well as some of the cost savings of the wide-base singles, can be more than offset currently by the added cost of the special axles and wheels they require.

Wide-base singles may be the tire configuration of the future. New materials and constructions could increase their value while new tread designs and compounds may reduce their disadvantages. Should a reliable, self-sealing liner be developed to eliminate equipment downtime and freight delays, the acceptance of this type tire would be appreciably accelerated.

To summarize, the following is what we consider realistic and achievable in five to ten years:

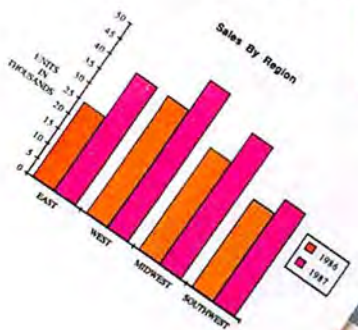
Low Aspect Ratio Tires- These must exhibit reduced rolling resistance, weight and size to increase vehicle payload and decrease fuel consumption. Fleet operators will want to choose between dual low profile tires for other than steering positions or low aspect ratio wide-base singles, which offer further advantages in weight and rolling resistance over dual low profile tires.

Hardware for Low Aspect Ratio Tires- In order to maximize these tires' performance, truck manufacturers must design equipment to fully accommodate the smaller diameter tires. As soon as practical, suspensions must be redesigned to be compatible with the springing characteristics of radial tires. Reduced tire size may also create a need for redesigned transmission and drive axle gearing.

Hardware for Wide-Base Tires- Axles will have to be lengthened to situate these tires correctly under 102" wide trailers. The added room afforded may provide for more design creativity in the brake and sus-

Autoflow

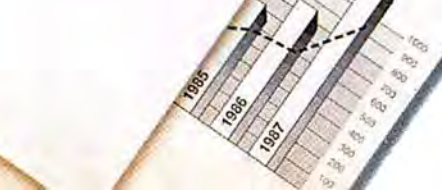
Now you have the option of flowing text automatically to speed up long-document creation or placing it column by column for shorter, more design-intensive pieces.



Text Wrap

Our new text wrap function gives you the choice of flowing text through an object, jumping over it or wrapping around it, like you see here.

And when you move a graphic, your text will automatically reflow around it. You can also control the margin between text and image and, with a custom wrap feature, fit text to even the oddest shape.



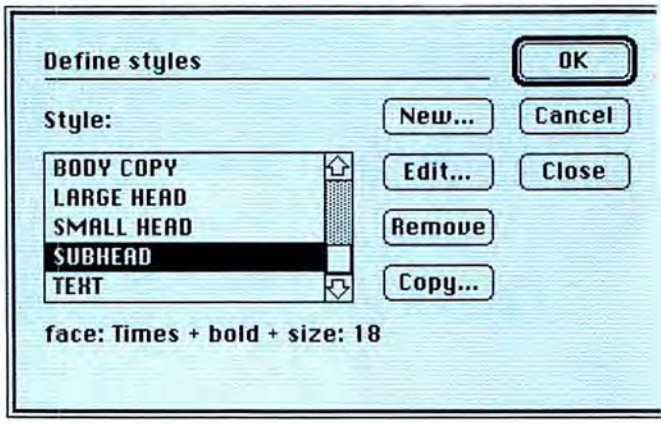
Spot Color

Mix a virtually unlimited palette of colors based on any one of three standard color models: RGB, CMYK or HLS. Then you can tag any element in the publication with a color by just clicking your pointer on it.

And, when you print your document, PageMaker 3.0 gives you the choice of a single composite image or separate sheets for each color used. You can even place registration marks in the corners of your separated output for accurate assembly by a professional printer.

Style Sheets

PageMaker's style sheets give you the ability to create and apply style formats, including color, for all your text. And that allows you to reformat an entire story or document in a single operation.



Is Turning 3.0

You can also tag text in your word processor, database or spreadsheet for instant formatting in PageMaker. And any style commands from Microsoft® Word files are read directly.

Templates

Since professionally designed templates are now included with PageMaker, it's easy to give every document you create a designer's touch.

You use the templates like blueprints, placing your own headlines, text and graphics according to the designated styles and sizes.

Image Control

You can now adjust the lightness or contrast of any scanned image or bit-map graphic you place in PageMaker. And if you want to further customize a graphic, you can use one of our built-in special effects, or even create one of your own.

High Quality Fonts

In addition to supporting a wide range of PostScript® fonts, PageMaker for the PC now expands the capabilities of the HP LaserJet Series II and other PCL output devices.

That's because we're including four Bitstream® fonts and Fontware,™ a special font generator, at no extra cost.

So you'll be able to create bit-map and screen fonts from 6 to 72 points in many versatile type faces. PageMaker 3.0 comes complete with Bold, Roman, Italic and Bold Italic variations of Dutch and Swiss (Bitstream's versions of Times and Helvetica) along with the Courier and Symbol typefaces. Which will give many people the ability to do even more with PageMaker.

EEEEEEEEEEEE

If all this has whetted your appetite to find out more, visit your authorized Aldus dealer today.

And ask for the program that did a number on PageMaker.

ALDUS PageMaker®

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SERIAL NUMBER: 12247

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Thank you!

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY:

Model Number: _____ Date: ___/___/___

Name (Last) (First) (MI)
Title
Company
Address
City State
Zip Code Country
Phone - - Ext.

The Office Publisher is excellent for generating forms. For this order form you create a "comb" (a blank line with vertical boxes for each character) simply by drawing a rectangle and answering some dialog box prompts.

ware configuration), but a whopping 4MB is recommended to ensure sufficient room for your documents and graphics. Unlike *Ventura*, which efficiently leaves all imported text and *GEM*-based graphics in their original source files, *Office Publisher*'s required conversion of text and graphics files eats up even more space.

At press time Laser Friendly was preparing to release *Office Publisher* version 1.1. The company says that enhancements will include extra word processor and printer support, function-key character formatting, and much faster screen redraws and text entry.

Seasoned desktop publishers who don't mind paying top dollar for the privilege of wrestling with dialog boxes may find *Office Publisher*'s extensive features worthwhile. But unless the program's interface is radically modified, *Office Publisher* won't ever emerge from the long shadows cast by the Big Two. —*Richard Jantz*

WHERE TO BUY

The Office Publisher 1.0
Laser Friendly
930 Benicia Ave.
Sunnyvale, CA 94086
408/730-1921
List price: $995
Requirements: 640K, hard disk, DOS 2.10 or later version, graphics card and display; mouse recommended
Not copy protected
For more information, see Products Featured in This Issue.

VP-Planner Plus 2.0

Multidimensional spreadsheet

BEST BUY

PROS: Easier access to multidimensional data base, improved report generator, no longer copy protected

CONS: Limited text editor, macros not fully compatible with 1-2-3

The appearance of *VP-Planner Plus* is persuasive evidence that litigation doesn't stop innovation. In the face of a heavy-handed lawsuit from Lotus, Paperback Software has released a major upgrade of the program that moved the phrase *look and feel* from the classroom to the courts.

Garden-variety spreadsheet users won't notice much difference; *VP-Planner Plus* looks like a solid *1-2-3* release 2.0 clone that costs a third as much as the real McCoy. But those who manage multiple departments, perform complicated financial consolidations, or work with massive amounts of spreadsheet data will prize the program's much-improved access to its multidimensional data base.

Paperback has scrapped *VP-Planner*'s opening menu and added a set of tiled pulldown menus to its *1-2-3*-like command line. The program is now compatible with *1-2-3* release 2.*x* worksheets and has gained a text editor and improved its report generator. *VP-Planner Plus* is no speed demon, though: It trails *Excel*, *Surpass*, and *1-2-3* in NSTL tests—and it can't access expanded memory.

Working more easily with the multidimensional data base, however, is what the *Plus* is all about. Suppose your com-

(continues)

Shouldn't all this be in your computer instead of on it?

Remember the early allure of PCs? How they were going to make your office work easier and your life more organized? Well, Lotus® Metro™ 1.1 delivers on that promise.

Metro is a memory resident desktop manager which runs behind application programs such as 1-2-3® and Symphony.® It's a two-for-one product combining 12 valuable accessories with a powerful macro generator.

The accessories all use the familiar Lotus interface, and include an appointment book, phone book, calculator, DOS file manager, list manager, basic word processing, notepad, clipboard, watch, among other features. The macro generator helps you simplify difficult or repetitive tasks.

If available RAM is an issue, Metro now includes "The Swapper" allowing you to run its accessories using as little as 64K of RAM. Or if need be, you can unload the whole program with a single keystroke.

Because Metro is designed to the highest standards of 1-2-3, it's highly reliable in protecting data. And it does everything listed here, and more, for only $85.*

All of this makes Metro sound pretty impressive—and it is. So impressive that PC Magazine selected Metro as Editor's Choice in 1987 in the categories of Desktop Organizer and Keyboard Macros Programs.

Metro 1.1 has both 5.25″ and 3.5″ disk versions packaged in the same box. So visit your Lotus Authorized Dealer today, or call Lotus directly at 1-800-345-1043 and ask for product ACE-1690 to order Metro.

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Introducing Lotus Metro 1.1

Lotus Metro 1.1

System Requirements: Lotus Metro runs on IBM,® COMPAQ,® Toshiba® and other computers. For specific system compatibilities consult your Lotus Authorized Dealer. Metro requires two 5.25" double sided disk drives or one 3.5" disk drive. Hard disk not required but strongly recommended.
Minimum of 64K required with Swapper, 125K without. DOS 2.1 or higher. Swapper requires a hard disk, extended RAM with VDISK, or Intel AboveBoard with Intel RAM Disk. Metro is unprotected and runs with a wide variety of software programs, including 1-2-3 and Symphony. When you purchase Lotus Metro directly from Lotus, take your first 30 days to try it. If after 30 days, Lotus Metro does not perform as described and you've purchased it directly from Lotus, we'll gladly give you a full refund.

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*Suggested Retail Price

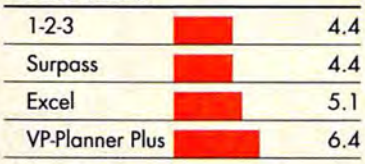
NSTL TEST REPORT

VP-Planner Plus

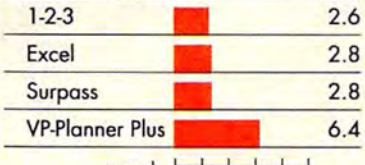
Jostled by an aggressive gang of new spreadsheet programs, VP-Planner Plus generally trails the pack, with less than competitive calculation speed.

Addition

75 x 75 cells

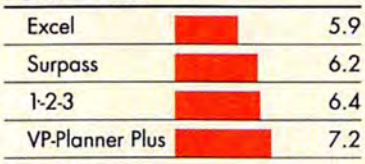


25 x 75 cells

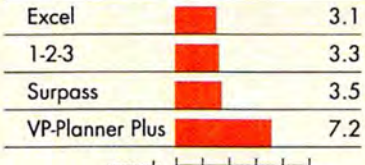


Division

75 x 75 cells

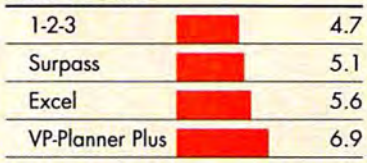


25 x 75 cells



Multiplication

75 x 75 cells



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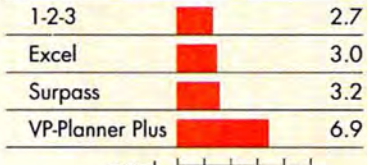
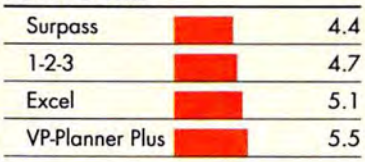


Multiplication with coprocessor

75 x 75 cells



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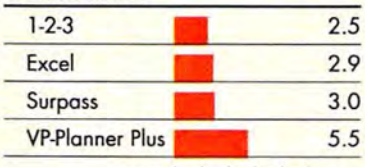
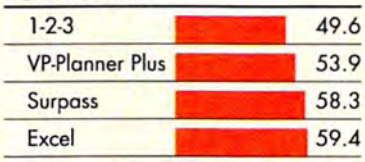


Exponentiation

75 x 75 cells



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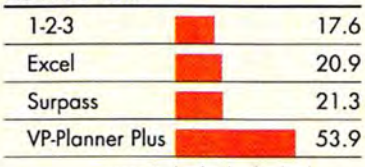
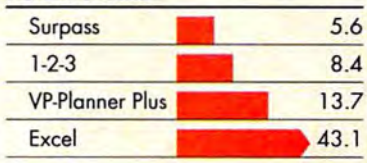


Exponentiation with coprocessor

75 x 75 cells



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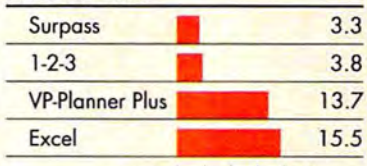

Benchmarks were performed on an IBM AT Model 339 running at 8 MHz, equipped with a 30MB hard disk and a 2MB AST RAMpage 286 memory expansion board providing expanded memory. Tests were performed on *1-2-3* with *Speedup*. All cells were given a starting value of 0 and formatted to display fixed numerics with 2 decimal places. Column width was set globally at 5. For all tests, all cells except A1 contained similar formulas. For example, in the multiplication test, B1 contained the formula, *A1 * 1.01*, C1 contained *B1 * 1.01*, and so on.

Complete recalculation (75-by-75-cell matrix)
For the complete recalculation tests, the value in cell A1 was changed to 1, except for the exponentiation benchmarks, where it was changed to 2.

Partial recalculation (25-by-75-cell matrix)
After the full recalculation benchmarks were completed, the cursor was moved to cell A51. The formula in that cell was replaced with 0. Next, the numeral 1 was entered into cell A51, except for exponentiation tests, where 2 was entered.

[1] VP-Planner Plus locked when the exponentiation test was performed with the coprocessor installed. The program did not lock up every time the recalculation was executed but would generally lock up after one or more recalculations were performed.

Data based on tests designed and conducted by National Software Testing Laboratories (NSTL). All rights reserved.

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Shutter. Door slamming test of 500,000 opens and closes typifies the extent to which Kao goes to test every component.

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Kao is committed to total vertical manufacturing integration because a single flaw at any step in the diskette manufacturing process can result in data loss.

From raw materials to final packaging, 100 years of Kao leadership in surface science technology goes into every Kao diskette.

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Circle 236 on reader service card

pany distributes ice cream through a group of retail stores. To compute income and expenses for a given store, a conventional spreadsheet would do just fine. But what if you wanted to answer a question like, How much raspberry did the Seattle store actually sell in May?

If you juggle this kind of sales data with *1-2-3*, you probably have to stuff each store's data into separate worksheets and link them with an elaborate maze of macros. *VP-Planner Plus*, on the other hand, imports and stores such information on disk in its relational data base. So getting the ice cream sales information involves slicing out the appropriate cross section of data and displaying it in a worksheet for analysis and editing. (As with conventional spreadsheets, this data cross section must fit into available RAM in order to be displayed in the worksheet, but *VP-*

FEATURES EVALUATION

VP-Planner Plus Compared to 1-2-3

VP-Planner Plus has more graph, print, and macro features than 1-2-3 and manages multidimensional data bases to boot.

	VP-Planner Plus	1-2-3 release 2.01
Data entry and editing		
Reads/writes ASCII	●	●
Reads/writes .WKS and .WK1	●	●
Reads/writes .DBF	●	●
Undo command	●	◒ [1]
Goto feature	●	●
Global search and replace	●	○
Searches using wild cards	●	●
Underlining/boldface in cells	●	○
Invisible/hide feature	●	●
Background recalculation	●	○
Minimal recalculation	●	◒ [2]
Password protection	●	●
Supports mouse	●	○
Capacity		
Maximum number of rows	9999	8192
Maximum number of columns	256	256
Maximum number of windows per screen	6	2
Maximum number of keys sorted concurrently	4	2
Supports expanded memory	○	●
Supports multidimensional data bases	● [3]	○
Supports dynamically linked files	○	◒ [1]
Supports math coprocessor	●	●

	VP-Planner Plus	1-2-3 release 2.01
Reporting and graphs		
Maximum report width (in characters per line)	255	240
Automatic page numbering	●	●
Number of graph types	6	6
Number of colors supported	16	7
Free text on graphs	○	○
Prints sideways	●	○
Spooler	●	○
Macro/Programming		
Macro libraries	●	○
Macro learn mode	●	◒ [1]
Creates macro transcript files	●	○
Input statements	●	●
Step mode	●	●
Trace cells option	●	●
DOS access from macro procedure	●	○
Reads/writes 1-2-3 macros	●	●

● Yes ○ No ◒ Deficient

[1] With Lotus's HAL.
[2] With Lotus's Speedup.
[3] Five dimensions.

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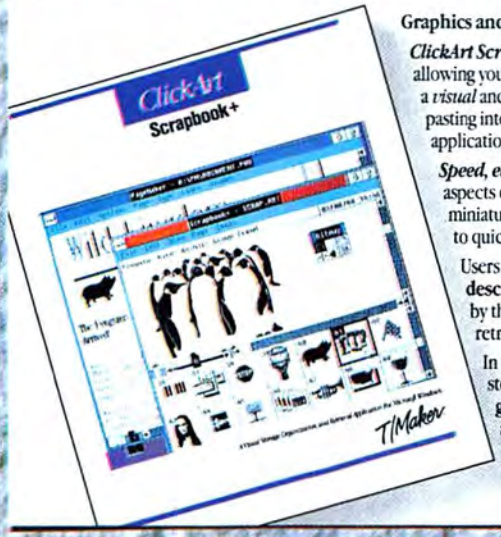

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Circle 123 on reader service card

Planner Plus's data base is limited only by free disk space.) The process obviously isn't for amateurs, but it beats the *1-2-3* approach.

VP-Planner gave users a window into this array of multiple worksheets, but structuring—and getting data out of—the multidimensional data base was a chore. With *VP-Planner Plus*, nearly all operations are done via the worksheet. To define the data base's structure, for example, you load a special worksheet called DIM.WKS, define the dimensions (time, amounts, etc.) and their categories (months, gallons), enter the appropriate field types, and finally, interconnect the dimensions and categories with formula-like logic statements.

Best of all, you can adapt a multidimensional data base to new uses; in the old *VP-Planner*, you always had to start from scratch. *VP Planner Plus* also lets you test the physical integrity of the data base (much the way DOS checks a file's integrity), tighten the structure of the data base if too many files have been deleted, and password-protect worksheets and data bases.

Although more pedestrian, *VP-Planner Plus*'s other enhancements are welcome. The report generator enables you to print text, .PIC files, and raw worksheet data contained in one document. A Tools Draw option lets you draw boxes and lines. The program's new text editor is adequate but suffers from slow cursor movement and paragraph formatting and lacks page format functions.

If you're an experienced *1-2-3* user, you will find that *VP-Planner Plus* has a number of minor eccentricities. For example, the program uses the *1-2-3* release 1A .WKS file extension instead of release 2.*x*'s .WK1. And many *1-2-3 2.0* macros must be edited before they will work in *VP-Planner Plus*. If you're lonely for the old look and feel, you can suppress *VP-Planner Plus*'s pop-up menus and use a *1-2-3*–like command line—and promptly become an accessory after the fact in the Lotus lawsuit.

With *VP-Planner Plus*, Paperback has upgraded a solid piece of software at a price that still looks like a bargain. The real beneficiaries will be the number crunchers who need to cross-tabulate data and whose worksheet recalcs are measured not in minutes but hours. For them, *VP-Planner Plus* is a must buy—regardless of what Lotus has in mind. —*Alan Southerton*

WHERE TO BUY

VP-Planner Plus 2.0
Paperback Software Int'l
2830 9th St.
Berkeley, CA 94710
415/644-2116
List price: $179.95
Requirements: 384K (448K for multidimensional data base), DOS 2.00 or later version
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Boyan D3

Telecommunications program

PROS: Adaptable, easy to use; has modular transfer protocols, scroll-back buffer, and redial queue; inexpensive

CONS: ANSI-only terminal emulation, lacks host and learn modes as well as script and text editors

If *ProComm* and *Qmodem* are the Goliaths of shareware communications programs, *Boyan* must be the new David. A comprehensive general communications package, *Boyan* combines enough convenient features to endear it to on-line junkies everywhere. Although it's difficult to learn, *Boyan* makes up in power what it sometimes lacks in polish.

Like *ProComm* and *PC-Talk*, *Boyan* lacks menus but offers a pop-up summary screen of its mnemonic <Alt>-*key* commands; <Alt>-D, for example, brings up the dialing directory—the base of operations for communications sessions.

Besides providing such basics as file transfer protocols, macros, and a script language, *Boyan* offers a number of un-

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1 Advanced Revelation's Application Processor puts the end user in control

Most applications must be ultimately maintained by the users; able to write reports without any programming expertise. Customize their application by adding new fields of information, define new edit patterns, add entirely new windows.

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3 Advanced Revelation's Dictionary Driven Database centralizes intelligence

A solid PC application must be built around a superior database. One where all the information is centralized for ease of update and ease of maintenance.

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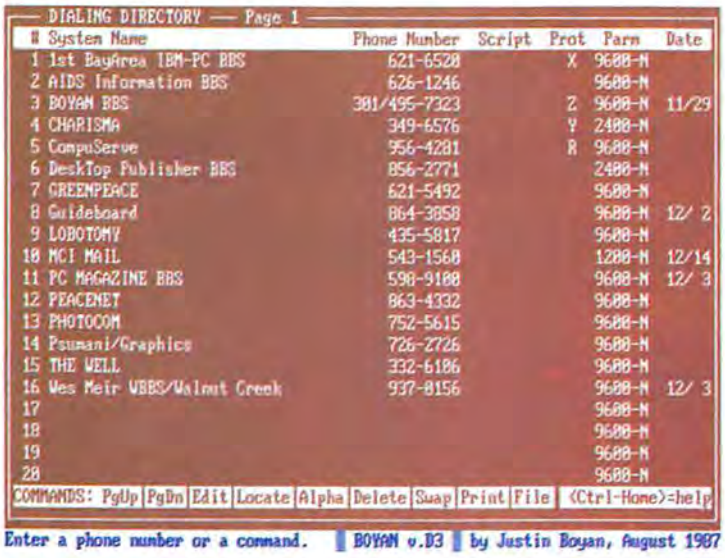
Circle 224 on reader service card



Boyan's dialing directory is home base for telecommunications sessions. Along with listing phone numbers, parameters, and transfer protocols, it can run complex log-on scripts that automate remote system connections.

usual touches: context-sensitive help screens, redial, and limited background processing reminiscent of Lotus's *Express*. A scroll-back buffer lets you peruse extensive on-line sessions for needed data without having to save volumes of unwanted information to disk. Justin Boyan, the program's 17-year-old author, reportedly wrote this remarkable package to help pay his way through college. Considering the program's quality, Boyan's college days shouldn't be darkened by economic blight.

The program is easy to install and a model of convenience once it's up and running. The dialing directory lists phone numbers, communications parameters, default file transfer protocols, and log-on scripts for up to 200 entries. You can search the directory, sort it, or mark a range of entries to delete, save to disk, or print out. If at first you don't connect, *Boyan* automatically plunks each dialed number into a 20-entry redial queue. Jump into the redial area, tap a key, and *Boyan* cycles through all listed numbers until a connection is made—convenient for BBS habitués. The dialing directory also reports the last date each service or system was accessed.

The convenience continues on line, as *Boyan* lets you control everything from communications parameters and screen colors to reconfiguring the default directory for file transfers. It also provides a split-screen mode, translation and filter tables, screen dump, disk and printer log files, and complete status-line information. On-line file and directory management is also exemplary. *Boyan* not only permits you to delete, rename, copy, and view files, it also sorts directories automatically. Given enough system memory, *Boyan* can even download data in the background while you run other applications up front.

Those who must frequently purge their disks of superfluous downloaded BBS effluvia will appreciate *Boyan*'s scroll-back buffer. The program automatically saves all incoming text into RAM for perusal during or after a session. You can search the buffer for text strings and mark passages for routing to disk or printer.

Boyan's list of built-in file transfer protocols is ample for most users: ASCII, XMODEM, YMODEM, and YMODEM G. If you need more, however, the program is designed to accept additional protocol modules. *Boyan* comes with several: Kermit, ZMODEM, Sealink, and Megalink. Others are available from most BBS systems.

Along with 10 macros earmarked for special functions, such as session start-up and conclusion, *Boyan* supports up to 60 user-definable macros. Combined with the sophisticated script language, these macros let you direct the program to automatically log on to any number of services, download mail unattended, and so on. Using the script language, however, isn't for novices. The manual doesn't adequately explain *Boyan*'s unusual macro-and-script combinations and is short on substantive examples. The program also lacks a learn mode and log-on scripts for commercial on-line services. Moreover, *Boyan*'s ANSI-only terminal emulation limits its ability to connect to mainframes. Missing altogether are a host mode and a script editor; you must write or edit scripts with a text editor and copy the resulting file to the directory containing *Boyan*. If these shortcomings prove

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Circle 93 on reader service card

overwhelming, Boyan Communications offers customer support by way of a 24-hour BBS board—the only method, by the way, of contacting the company.

Although any single *Boyan* feature can be found in other packages, the program is so easy to use it will appeal both to hard-core BBS trollers and to corporate communicators. Justin Boyan claims he will rectify the current version's omissions, but you needn't wait. This program is already a match for shareware and commercial Goliaths alike. —*Art Wilcox*

WHERE TO BUY

Boyan D3
Boyan Communications
9458 Two Hills Ct.
Columbia, MD 21045
919/682-4225 (BBS)
List price: $45
Requirements: 192K, DOS 2.00 or later version
Not copy protected
For more information, see Products Featured in This Issue.

Zoomracks II

Memory-resident personal data manager

PROS: Useful for a variety of applications, has macros to automate data manipulation and report generation

CONS: Sluggish on 8088- and 8086-based systems, data bases limited by available RAM, can't use expanded memory

Successful software designs are often based on real-life tools—consider the spreadsheet metaphor used by *1-2-3*. The creators of *Zoomracks* have taken a similar path, building a memory-resident data management program that uses racks of file cards as its visual and conceptual metaphor. Some have hailed *Zoomracks* as a precursor to hypertext; it's actually a clever free-form data base for people whose filing needs fall somewhere between cocktail napkins and *dBASE III Plus*. The program handles daily schedules, memos, phone logs, and client contacts and can even perform mail merges.

Zoomracks' options are grouped into <Alt>-*key*–invoked submenus—listed on an opening menu—that let you edit and search records, print reports, and change system defaults. Although this design isn't as intuitive as pulldown menus, it's friendly enough and promotes exploration. For any command you enter, another can undo it, and if you get lost, you can retrace your steps by pressing <Esc> without losing data. A help file (not context sensitive, unfortunately) is always available via <F1>.

Racks, the equivalent of data base files, hold "index cards" that can contain up to 27 fields; fields can hold an amazing 250 80-character lines. Nine racks can reside in memory at any time (an on-screen "fuel gauge" measures RAM consumption), and you can display all of them at once. Just bear in mind that the program can't use expanded memory, so work space is limited to about 400K. You can scroll back and forth through a rack of cards using function keys or search the first line of each card in the rack for matching text strings. Moving from rack to rack is a two-keystroke maneuver.

Creating a rack is easy: First press <Insert>, then Z; *Zoomracks* will prompt you to name the rack and its fields. You can add fields to the current line or start them on a new line. When all the fields are placed, <Shift>-<F3> saves the layout for use by every card in the rack. Changing a rack's field structure is also easy—you can cut, copy, and paste lines and fields and specify fields' display lengths.

To enter data in a card, press <Insert>, then Q; the cursor will jump to the first field. <Tab> moves you to subsequent fields, and <Enter> saves the card. Each rack's format is mirrored on screen and in print, but you can modify the appearance of output by funneling data through custom memo, report, or other forms stored on cards in separate racks.

Unlike many flat-file data managers, *Zoomracks* lets you pull data from a num-

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Zoomracks displays the first line of each card—the equivalent of a data base record—in its file rack. You zoom cards to view or edit their contents and can print data in forms, letters, and reports that you design.

ber of racks, but the process can be laboriously keystroke intensive. Even simple operations, such as copying a field from one rack to another, can mean typing your way into one submenu to select the copy command, backing out, then wading back in for the next command, and so on. Luckily, *Zoomracks* has a macro processor that can record keystrokes (and text) and play them back.

A *Zoomracks* macro, for example, could load a client address listing, search by ZIP code for East Coast addresses, copy contact names and telephone numbers to a differently formatted rack, and display the result for your morning dialing campaign. Alternatively, names and addresses could be merged with a form letter from another rack, then printed out for mailing. Individual macros are saved as cards in a special macro rack that's limited to 27 cards; you can create an unlimited number of macro racks, but only one can be loaded at any time.

Zoomracks is slow on a PC or XT but zips along on an AT, even when juggling multiple racks. It's not intended as a heavy-hitting data base—just as a fast and flexible way to manage bits and pieces of essential data. If you can live without pulldown menus and blockbuster data bases, *Zoomracks* may be the metaphor you've been looking for. —*Michael Ham*

WHERE TO BUY

Zoomracks II
Quickview Systems
146 Main St.
Los Altos, CA 94022
415/965-0327
List price: $119.95
Requirements: 384K, DOS 2.00 or later version
Not copy protected
For more information, see Products Featured in This Issue.

Q-DOS II 2.0

Hard disk file manager

PROS: Loads quickly, easy to use, good text editor

CONS: No tree-structured display, directory listings can temporarily be out of date

At first glance, hard disk managers are like toaster ovens, differing only in minor features. They all list the files on your disk; let you tag files and copy, move, rename, and delete them en masse; and display a tree diagram of the disk's directory structure. Yet their individual feel inspires the kind of loyalty that makes some people swear by Westinghouse instead of General Electric.

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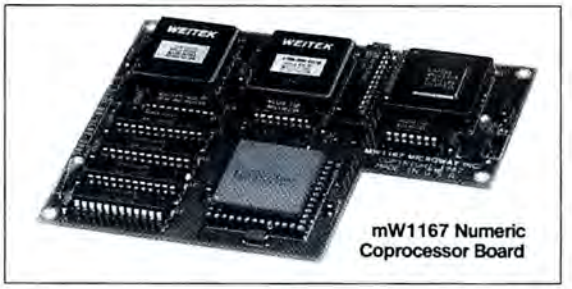

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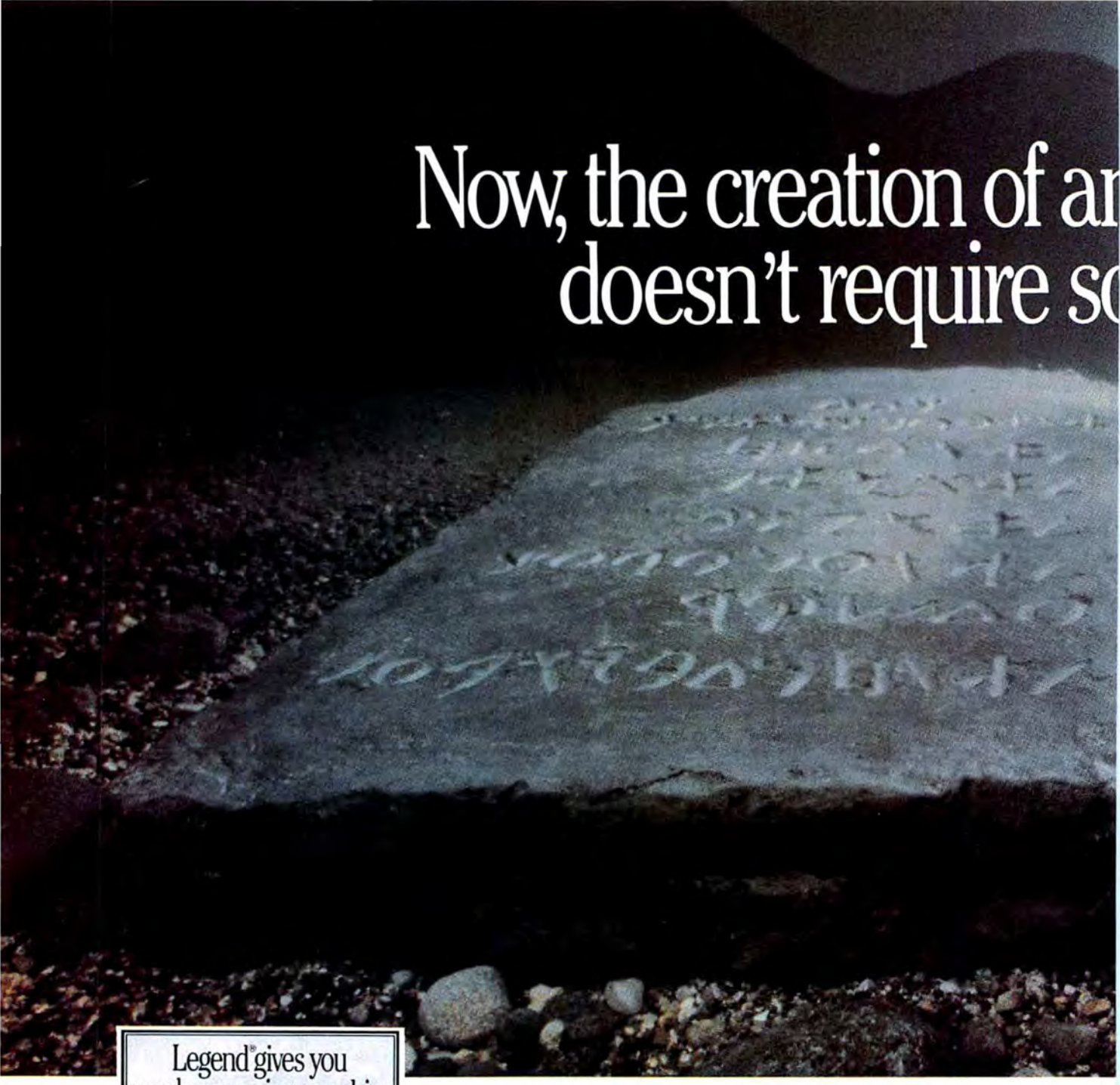

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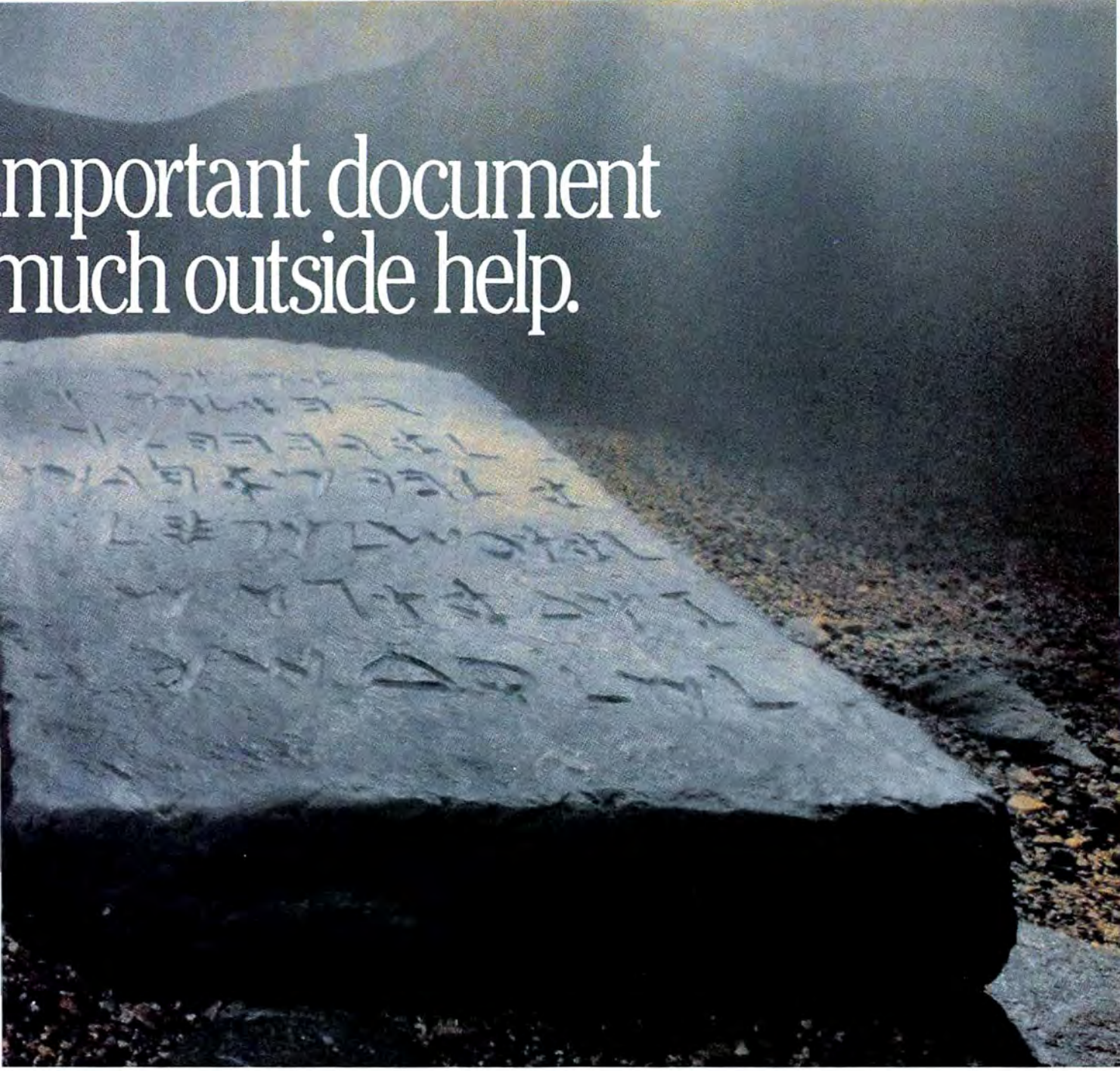

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It's easy to overlook files on a hard disk crowded with subdirectories and cryptic file names. Q-DOS II's Find command locates them in seconds and lets you use wild-card characters in your search.

tents. You can tag highlighted files by pressing the <Space> bar and sort a directory by file name, extension, date, or size. *Q-DOS II* initially displays the current path, a DOS-like directory listing, a command line, and a separate function key menu.

However, *Q-DOS II* doesn't lock you into its way of doing things. Press <F6>, and the program yields to a DOS prompt, where you can issue commands at will. Press <F6> again to enter the file name that was last highlighted in *Q-DOS II*'s directory listing. Pressing <F2> brings up the file name minus its extension, which makes it easy to run an executable file quickly. Type EXIT to return to *Q-DOS*.

Q-DOS II makes changing directories a breeze. Highlight the directory you want to log on to, press <F5>, and the program displays that directory's files. Type a period, and it instantly moves you back to the parent directory.

For amnesiacs in a hurry, *Q-DOS*'s Find command will rip through megabytes of files in just a few seconds, listing every occurrence of a named file (wild cards accepted) directory by directory. You can have *Q-DOS II* list its finds on the screen all at once or ask it to pause after each one.

One of *Q-DOS II*'s nicest features is QED, a snappy text editor that lets you create text; search and replace; do block deletes, copies, and moves; and view text in hexadecimal mode. QED is great for minor programming fixes and quick-and-dirty editing, and you can run it independently of *Q-DOS II*. If you don't like QED, you can configure the main program to default to your favorite text editor or word processor. *Q-DOS II*'s context-sensitive help makes the excellent documentation practically unnecessary.

Although it can temporarily lose track of frequently modified directories, *Q-DOS II*'s loading speed and text editor give it an edge over the classic file manager, *Xtree* (see "The Forest Through the Xtrees," *PCW*, July 1987). Further, though *Xtree Pro* comes with a text editor and refreshes the directory listing each time it's loaded, it costs a steep $128. For basic hard disk file management at a reasonable price, *Q-DOS II* is hard to beat—even though it can't make toast. —*David Weinberger*

WHERE TO BUY

Q-DOS II 2.0
Gazelle Systems
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Provo, UT 84601
801/377-1288
List price: $69.95
Requirements: 256K, DOS 2.00 or later version
Not copy protected
For more information, see Products Featured in This Issue.

Richard Jantz is a desktop publishing consultant in Berkeley, California, and the author of Ventura Publisher for the IBM PC: Mastering Desktop Publishing *(John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1987). Alan Southerton is a technical writer at Imaging Technology in Woburn, Massachusetts. Art Wilcox is a contributing editor for* PC World. *Michael Ham is the data processing product manager for CTB/McGraw-Hill in Monterey, California. David Weinberger is a staff writer for an electronic publishing software company.* ●

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Is desktop publishing worth the effort?

Desktop publishing is a learning experience, users say, but the benefits are real.

Bring desktop publishing into an office, and publications managers can immediately toss their XActo knives, rubber cement, and typesetting bills into the nearest circular file. So goes the myth, but is do-it-yourself publishing really that simple?

Marina Hirsch

Not exactly, publication managers say; first you have to put in the hours to learn your system. But once you know what you're doing, desktop publishing lives up to its billing.

"It amazed me," says Ted Hugger, marketing manager of Gougeon Brothers, a manufacturer of epoxy for boat building and maintenance in Bay City, Michigan. "I probably spent only a day or two indoctrinating myself in the program, and then I went right into our first publication."

Hugger produces catalogs and price lists, along with technical manuals and a quarterly newsletter. His company purchased Xerox's *Ventura Publisher* last spring on the recommendation of a consultant brought in to analyze Gougeon's computer needs. "We compiled spending histories on typesetting and printing," says Hugger. "Convincing the company that desktop publishing was where we needed to go was simply a matter of looking at the numbers."

The company wanted compatibility with *Microsoft Word*, the ability to handle large documents, and a reasonable learning curve. *Ventura* met all the requirements.

GWENDOLEN CATES

Ted Hugger, Marketing Director, Gougeon Brothers

While Hugger has some graphics background, he feels that *Ventura*'s style sheets let almost anyone create presentable documents. He accelerated his own training by taking a two-day, $325 documentation seminar from Xerox, which offers a range of *Ventura* courses nationwide. "I picked up techniques and shortcuts that might otherwise have taken me months to learn," he remarks.

Hugger upgraded his XT clone with a hard disk and faster processor, but rather than buying a laser printer, he turned to a local graphics consultant. "I use *Ventura*'s Copy All feature to save all my files to a disk, and then modem the disk's contents to the consultant, who loads it into his system and outputs it to either an Apple LaserWriter or, for a glossier look, a Linotronic 300 typesetting system," he explains.

While Gougeon can now make changes down to the last minute, Hugger calls such freedom a double-edged sword. "Traditional typesetting required greater lead time, and the expense was much greater, so we didn't edit as much as we would have liked. Now, it's a different story. Because there's never an end to people's changes, you have to impose deadlines."

He also cautions against too-widespread use of desktop publishing within a company: "Do you want an engineer you're paying $50,000 to $60,000 a year formatting a document?

"We haven't used the system as a money-saving tool," Hugger notes. "The money we saved we plowed right back into our publications, adding spot color and increasing the number of pages or the pressrun, or both."

Presentation Management

Lord, Geller, Federico, Einstein, Inc., is the Madison Avenue advertising agency that concocted the "M*A*S*H" ads for IBM's PS/2. The firm decided to move into desktop publishing more than a year ago, says graphics coordinator Joel Landy. "We were going into a meeting with IBM with a washed-out photocopied pie

chart," recalls Landy. "The powers that be took a look at it and decided, 'Let's not mess around—we've got to get with it.' "

Landy now supervises a small desktop publishing center, built around *PageMaker* on an AT. This system churns out time sheets and other administrative forms, flow charts, policy manuals, an internal newsletter, the office Christmas party invitations, and scripts used in storyboard frames for commercials.

Desktop publishing also turns out props for client presentations. "We can take anything we produce in *PageMaker*, put it on the laser printer, blow it up to 2½ feet by 1½ feet, and mount it on foam-core board. Then we can have the same material in standard 8½-by-11-inch format in the *leavebehind* [materials 'left behind' for a client]." Landy can create overhead transparencies as well.

Landy became familiar with *PageMaker* in two weeks and felt adept after two months. However, he would have welcomed a tutorial that explained graphics and publishing terms.

"We do a lot of writing in *PageMaker* itself," Landy says. "It's more immediate; you eliminate one step. When you use IBM's *Writing Assistant*, you save your files in ASCII and lose all the formatting. If you do everything in *PageMaker* from the get-go, you're formatting, laying down the type, and getting the typefaces you want—all in one shot."

"I find myself creating marketing campaigns more often. I can do a couple of letters and send them to the printer, and it's not going to cost me $1000."

There's one caveat, though. "If you do a lot of text editing in *PageMaker*, the program crashes quite often, so you've got to constantly save," Landy says. (Aldus expects this problem—particularly likely to strike during editing of tabbed text—to be resolved in version 3.0.)

Landy feels strongly about the need for a mouse: "Using *PageMaker* without a mouse is like trying to put salt in a shaker through the holes one grain at a time," he says. "Don't try it."

His wish list starts with the capacity to rotate text and objects. He'd also like an easy way to merge pages from one document to another. (Currently, you can merge pages by cutting and pasting with the *Windows* clipboard, which may impose size limits, Aldus says.) Furthermore, Landy would appreciate a selection of predrawn arrows and the ability to select objects, group them together, and keep them that way until he's finished.

A Solid Investment

Investment counselor Eric Kobren runs Mutual Fund Investors Associates, a four-person company in Needham, Massachusetts, that produces a monthly newsletter and a yearly guide to Fidelity mutual funds. Until last year, Kobren would hand hard copy to a typesetter who would then rekey it. That process drastically limited the newsletter's tables and charts. "The numbers may change at the last minute, but you can't redo a complicated graph at the last minute," he says. "I'd stay at the typesetters' until four o'clock in the morning, making changes."

After last October's market crash, his business became even more time-sensitive, and that hastened its switch to desktop publishing. Kobren soon discovered that "the big investment is in the learning; the cost of the software is irrelevant." A beta site tester for *PageMaker*, he says it takes a good 50 to 100 hours to really learn the package, but he doesn't complain. "It's natural when you're getting into a very new program."

After playing with *PageMaker* for weeks on his Wyse 386, Kobren rolled up his sleeves to crank out a 160-page guide. "I'm reporting on over 90 funds in my book, and each fund gets a bar graph and a line graph," he says. "It would have taken an artist hundreds of hours to do these graphs; *PageMaker* whizzed right through in two days. I imported Lotus worksheets into *Windows Graph*, created my graphs, wrote the text in *Word*, and then merged the graphs and text into *PageMaker*."

Kobren now hungers for faster, higher-resolution printers. "One problem with desktop publishing is the time it takes to print; it just took me about 3½ minutes to print out a page." Additionally, he declares, "300 dpi isn't enough for me. There are some 600-dpi printers out there, but you're talking about a $12,000 investment."

Another drawback, says Kobren, is that he now does more menial tasks. "People pay me hundreds of thousands of dollars for investment advice, and here I am figuring out font sizes. But on the other hand, it takes less time to do it myself than to tell a typesetter what I really want."

What suggestions does the adviser have for new publishers? "Find a person using a desktop publishing system who has the same needs that you do, and then buy exactly the same system, down to the mouse. Expect to overbuy—you buy what you need, and then you outgrow it and want something faster. Make the investment, and don't worry that prices are going to come down next week, because whatever you've bought will pay for itself. The time, the control, and the additional things you'll be able to do with this luxury are phenomenal."

For Kobren, those extras include more direct-mail campaigns. "I find myself creating marketing campaigns more often. I can do a couple of letters and send them to the printer, and it's not going to cost me $1000 to send them to a typesetter."

In the future, Kobren hopes that industry standards will simplify desktop publishing system configurations. "Because I happen to have an HP printer with HP soft fonts and a WYSE 700 monitor, I have to configure my

program differently than someone working with a PostScript printer and an EGA monitor—and that's very frustrating."

The Collegiate Publisher

Judy Brown, a PC technical/instructional coordinator at Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton, Wisconsin, quickly picked up *Ventura* when it appeared last year. "Our first project was a book more than 200 pages long addressing quality in education," says Brown. "Laser quality wasn't high enough for printing a book, so we generated text on our IBM 4381 mainframe, downloaded ASCII files to a PC XT, did layout in *Ventura*, and then sent the data by modem to a Linotronic 100, which produced typesetting film for the final book. It worked really well."

Brown oversees the publication of a monthly newsletter for district PC users and a bimonthly district-staff newsletter, as well as agendas, program announcements, forms, documents, brochures, and a catalog of shareware and public domain software. Next on the list for desktop conversion is the student newspaper. "There hasn't been anything we wanted to do that we couldn't do," she proclaims.

Before *Ventura*, Brown says, newsletter text would come off an IBM mainframe printer in a long column, and a pasteup artist would spend 8 hours cutting and pasting the column into the camera-ready copy. Today, she reports, camera-ready copy is produced right on the PC, and layout takes all of 2 hours.

Brown uses *WordPerfect* with a Princeton monitor, which lets her see full pages at a readable size, and produces output via an HP LaserJet. As she sees it, the system's main problem is that it's too easy for users to keep fiddling with the design. "You've just got to say no," says Brown. "When you've got all these options—moving a margin, adding a line—you tend to use all the different capabilities."

Her feature wish list is extensive. Like Gougeon Brothers' Hugger, she wants an undo command. She would also like shadowed boxes; the capability to break a box around text or titles (so text can overflow a box, for example); a more precise line-snap capability; better instructions and easier methods for cropping; an enhanced cross-hair cursor option (for alignment of text and graphics); and global search and replace.

A programmer with a graphics background, Brown taught herself *Ventura*. "I had to learn a new vocabulary, terms like *kerning* and *leading*, *em* and *en*. [Kerning adjusts the spacing between letters so they'll look better, and leading is the space between lines; *em* and *en* refer to dashes or spaces of particular lengths.] But once you get into desktop publishing, you're addicted," she says. "It's one, two o'clock in the morning, and you're trying something new." ●

Marina Hirsch is a freelance writer living in Berkeley, California.

BOB WAGNER

Joel Landy; Graphics Coordinator; Lord, Geller, Federico, Einstein, Inc.

HENRY HOLMES

Eric Kobren, Investment Counselor, Mutual Fund Investors Associates

Ventura Publisher and PageMaker Tools

Even the masters of the rasters need assistance now and then. With a little homework, you can find the right tools to make the most of your desktop publishing system.

Scott Spanbauer

Ventura Publisher and *PageMaker* don't dominate desktop publishing simply because they beat competing products to market. Like *1-2-3* and a precious few other software classics, they're tremendously powerful yet relatively easy to use.

But even these capable programs can use some help—as can most desktop publishers. Luckily, profit-minded developers have rushed to the scene with collections of tools for both neophyte and professional *Ventura* and *PageMaker* users. The lists that follow cover a broad spectrum of user needs: There are fill-in-the-blank templates for those who must quickly crank out professional-looking newsletters; font and file housekeeping utilities for full-time *Ventura* publishers; graphics tools for capturing and manipulating screen images; plus the raw materials of page design—downloadable fonts and clip art.

Keep in mind that this guide doesn't encompass the universe of graphics and publishing tools—such as *PC Paintbrush* and *GEM Draw*. Though many of the products listed work with other applications, all of them are especially useful with *Ventura* or *PageMaker*. Before you part with any cash, however, consider what to look for in each category.

Style Sheets, Templates, and Related Tools

PageMaker templates and *Ventura* style sheets guarantee professional-looking documents, even for beginners. Just make sure you like the look of the templates provided. Other utilities help you manage files, format printed output, and import spreadsheet and data base tables. Compare products that perform similar tasks and avoid those with features you don't plan to use.

Clip Art

The same rules apply when selecting clip art. A variety of ready-to-use image libraries can help you dress up your documents. Some clip art libraries include borders, icons, and pasteup fonts (decorative fonts you place on the page like a graphic image)—but buy only what you think you'll need. The quality of clip art varies too, so ask the vendor for a catalog of images and sample laser-printed output.

Graphics Tools

These utilities will help you manipulate graphics. Some capture screen images and save them as graphics files, some let you convert images in one graphics file format to another, while others let you create custom headlines and logos. When selecting graphics utilities for your publishing toolbox, make doubly sure they support the file formats recognized by your page layout and graphic design programs and your printer.

Font Utilities

These products let you alter or add characters to existing downloadable bit-mapped fonts or PostScript fonts—they even convert fonts from one format to the other. Just remember that typeface design isn't for amateurs.

Fonts

The fonts listed in the Buyers' Guide table fall into three categories: downloadable bit-mapped fonts in fixed sizes for the HP LaserJet and compatible printers, font generation programs that produce LaserJet-compatible bit-mapped fonts in a range of point sizes from a single master outline, and scalable fonts for PostScript printers such as the Apple LaserWriter and Texas Instruments' Omnilaser (see "PostScript Printers' Progress" in this issue). Fonts vary in quality and in the number of special characters they include. As always, ask the vendor to print out a complete sample of what's available before buying.

With a little research, you can assemble a desktop publishing toolbox that'll squeeze the maximum return out of your already substantial hardware and software investment. For detailed evaluations of these and other publishing tools, stay tuned to *PC World*.

Style Sheets, Templates, and Related Tools

Hyphenation Dictionary for Ventura Publisher

A user-expandable 130,000-entry upgrade to *Ventura*'s own English and Spanish hyphenation algorithms. Can run in expanded memory for instant execution. List price: $200; $625 with 2MB memory board and expanded memory manager. Edco Services, 12410 N. Dale Mabry Hwy., Tampa, FL 33618; 813/962-7800 (**VP**).

PageMaker Portfolios: Designs for Newsletters; Designs for Business Communications

Ready-to-load, predesigned page layout templates into which you insert text, graphics, and headlines. The newsletter portfolio offers 21 prefab multiple-page styles, while the business portfolio provides 12 templates for memos, reports, handbooks, and presentations. Both include a tutorial and helpful workbook. List price: *Designs for Newsletters* $79, *Designs for Business Communications* $99. Aldus Corp., 411 First Ave. #200, Seattle, WA 98104; 206/622-5500 (**PM**).

Style Sheet Secrets

Each of two volumes contains approximately 25 predesigned *Ventura* style sheets for instant forms, directories, reports, and other business publications—just add text and graphics. List price: $39.95 per volume. New Riders, P.O. Box 4846-V, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360; 818/991-5392 (**VP**).

Tabin

Formats any ASCII file holding tabular data (such as *1-2-3* .PRN files) for use in a *Ventura* document. The utility replaces spaces with tabs, maintaining vertical column alignment when tables are printed with *Ventura*'s proportional fonts. The program can also tag nontabular text, such as titles or captions, for regular formatting within *Ventura*. List price: $99. Corel Systems, 1600 Carling Ave., Ottawa, Ontario K1Z 7M4 Canada; 613/728-8200 (**VP**).

Table Manners

Like *Tabin*, this no-frills program converts *1-2-3* .PRN files or any tabular ASCII file for use in *Ventura*, but it also works with *PageMaker*. List price: $140. The Desktop Publishing Group, 978 Douglas Ave., Altamonte Springs, FL 32714; 800/257-8087, 305/862-7755 (**PM, VP**).

Ventura Designer Stylesheets

A collection of 30 prefab style sheets for newsletters, brochures, books, manuals, and reports. The company will also customize style sheets to your specifications. List price: $29.95 per style sheet. BCA/Desktop Designs, P.O. Box 2191, Walnut Creek, CA 94595; 415/946-1716 (**VP**).

Ventura Utilities

A cornucopia of tools that print out style sheet and tab settings; remap the keyboard for special characters; and copy, delete, and list chapter files and their attendant image and table files without loading *Ventura*. PostScript printer utilities let you print large files without time-out disasters and toggle a printer between PostScript and text mode. List price: $99. Corel Systems (**VP**).

VP/Saddle

Converts *Ventura* document print files to half-size, saddle-stitched documents that you can print out, fold in half, and staple into booklets. It can also print two copies of the same page on a single piece of paper to cut reproduction costs. *VP/Saddle* works only with PostScript printers. List price: $79. The Laser Edge, 360 17th St. #203, Oakland, CA 94612; 415/835-1581 (**VP**).

VP/Tabs

Converts *1-2-3* .PRN files and tags them for *Ventura*. List price: $89. The Laser Edge (**VP**).

VPToolbox

Displays and prints out style sheet settings, and copies or deletes chapter files in one operation without loading *Ventura*. List price: $99. SNA Inc., P.O. Box 3662, Princeton, NJ 08543; 609/683-1237 (**VP**).

Clip Art

ClickArt

Five volumes of images in *PC Paintbrush* (.PCX) format appropriate for informal newsletters and flyers. The number of images varies per volume; the business-oriented collection, which contains 1000, is the biggest. List price: $69.95 per volume. T/Maker, 1973 Landings Dr., Mountain View, CA 94043; 415/962-0195 (**PM, VP**).

ClickArt EPS Illustrations

For more professional-looking desktop publishing applications: 175 images relating to business, people, geography, and transportation in scalable Encapsulated PostScript Format (EPSF). List price: $129.95. T/Maker (**PM, VP**).

Desktop Art

Four volumes of clip art, each containing 200 business and general interest images in .PCX format. List price: $74.95 per volume. Dynamic Graphics, 6000 N. Forest Park Dr., Peoria, IL 61614; 800/255-8800, 309/688-8800 (**PM, VP**).

Digit Art

Over 1000 EPSF images divided into eight volumes offering business, industry, map, and transportation images as well as cartoon drawings, pasteup fonts, and decorative borders. List price: $99 to $149 per volume. Image Club Graphics, 2915 19th St. NE #206, Calgary, Alberta T2E 7A2 Canada; 800/661-9410, 403/250-1969 (**PM, VP**).

HotType

More than 100 exotic-looking pasteup fonts in EPSF in regular and boldface styles. List price: $150 per eight-font set. (A CD ROM disk containing the *HotType* fonts and all eight *Digit Art* volumes costs $999.) Image Club Graphics (**PM, VP**).

PC Quick-Art

Over a dozen volumes of business-oriented images, each containing 200 .PCX-format pictures. The series is frequently updated. List price: $59.95 per volume. PC Quick-Art, 394 S. Milledge Ave. #200, Athens, GA 30606; 404/543-1779 (**PM, VP**).

Publisher's PicturePacks

Three 200-image volumes in .PCX, PCC, and scalable CGM vector file formats are divided into Executive Management, Finance and Administration, and Sales and Marketing categories. The CGM file format is compatible only with *Ventura* version 1.1 and *PageMaker* version 3.0. List price: $99.95 per volume. MGI, 401 E. Main St., Richmond, VA 23219; 804/788-8844 (**PM, VP**).

Spellbinder Art Library

Fifty comic .PCX illustrations depicting cavemen, wizards, dancing bears, dinosaurs, and other people and animals. List price: $79. Lexisoft, P.O. Box 1950, Davis, CA 95617; 916/758-3630 (**PM, VP**).

Windows Clipart

Each of sixteen image libraries contains between 50 and 400 color and black-and-white images in a *Windows*-compatible file format. General-purpose maps, flags, signs, and office and computer images are prevalent; some volumes offer highly detailed engineering, architectural, and industrial images. List price: $49.95 per volume. Micrografx, 1820 N. Greenville, Richardson, TX 75081; 800/272-3729, 214/234-1769 (**PM**).

Downloadable Fonts for PageMaker and Ventura Publisher

The numbers in the table represent the range of point sizes available in a given typeface. Most typefaces, though not all, offer commonly used point sizes: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 18, 24, 30, 36, 48, and 72. Most typefaces (but again, not all) include bold, italic, and bold italic, along with a standard, or roman, style. Screen fonts are included for all font sizes shown in color. For manufacturer information, see Where to Buy.

		Downloadable fonts						
	Typeface sample and name	*Office Series, Professional Series* Alcatel Qume	*Magic Font* Computer Editype Systems	*Conofonts* Conographic	*Font Factory Library* The Font Factory	*Hewlett-Packard SoftFonts* Hewlett-Packard	*Balifonts* Janus Associates	*SDP Font Library* Lexisoft
PC World	American Typewriter							
PC World	Antique Olive	6-36			6-36			
PC World	Avant Garde	6-36			6-36			
PC World	Baskerville	6-36			6-36			
PC World	Bauhaus							
PC World	Benguiat			10-30				10-30
PC World	Bodoni					14-30		
PC World	Bookman							
PC World	Broadway					14-30		
PC World	Charter							
PC World	Cooper Black					14-30		
PC World	Dom Casual			10-30				10-30
PC World	Franklin Gothic							
PC World	Friz Quadrata							
PC World	Futura	6-36			6-36			
PC World	Galliard							
PC World	Garamond	6-36			6-36	7-30		
PC World	Gill Sans	6-36			6-36			
PC World	Goudy Old Style							
PC World	Helvetica (Swiss)	6-18			6-18	6-30		
PC World	Korinna							
PC World	Lubalin Graph							
PC World	Melior							
PC World	New Century Schoolbook	6-36			6-36	6-30		
PC World	Old English			10-30				10-30
PC World	Optima		8-72			6-30	6-30	
PC World	Palatino							
PC World	Rockwell	6-36			6-36			
PC World	Souvenir	6-36		6-30	6-36			6-30
PC World	Times Roman (Dutch)	6-36	8-72	6-30	6-36	6-30	8-24	6-30
PC World	Univers	6-36			6-36			
PC World	University Roman					14-30		
PC World	Zapf Chancery			10-30				10-30
	Approximate price per typeface	$100-$200	$100	$30-$125	$100-$200	$100-$200	$75	$125

* Used with Ventura Publisher: 1-254 points; with PageMaker: 4-127 points.

				Font generators					PostScript fonts	
Standard Series SoftCraft	*ZFonts* Straight-forward	*VS Library* VS Software	*LJ Fonts* Weaver Graphics	*Fontware* Bitstream	*Font Pac* Metro Software	*Typefoundry Series* SoftCraft	*Glyphix* SWFTE International	*Alphabets* Wilkes Publishing	*Adobe Font Library* Adobe Systems	*Adobe PostScript Typefaces* Alcatel Qume
			6-30				6-60		•	
	6-24	6-30					6-60			
		6-30	6-30	6-72	4-48	3-120	6-60		•	
	6-24	6-30	6-30				6-60		•	
		8-30						3-72		
			6-30						•	8-24
	6-24								•	8-24
		6-30	6-30		4-48				•	
		8-30		6-72		3-120	6-60			
				6-72		3-120				
				6-72		3-120			•	
	12, 24									
									•	8-24
			6-30						•	
	6-24	6-30		6-72		3-120			•	
				6-72		3-120			•	
	6-24	6-30	6-30	6-72		3-120	6-60		•	8-24
	6-24	6-30					6-60			
			6-30						•	8-24
	6-72	4-10	6-30	6-72	4-48	3-120	6-60	3-72	•	8-24
	6-24		6-30	6-72		3-120			•	8-24
			6-30						•	
			6-30						•	
	6-72	6-30	6-30	6-72		3-120	6-60	3-72	•	
10-40	14	8-30			4-48	3-120		3-72		
	6-24		6-30	6-72		3-120	6-60	3-72	•	8-24
	10-14		6-30	6-72		3-120	6-60		•	
		6-30					6-60			
	6-24	6-30	6-30	6-72		3-120			•	8-24
6-72	6-72	6-30	6-30	6-72	4-48	3-120	6-60	3-72		
		6-30					6-60		•	
				6-72		3-120			•	
			6-30				6-60		•	
$60	$100-$400	$170	$120	Program: $95 Outlines: $195	Program: $150 Outlines: $60-$80	Program: $95 Outlines: $195	Outlines: $25 (program included)	Program: $100 Outlines: $95	$185	$185

Downloadable Fonts for PageMaker and Ventura Publisher

WHERE TO BUY

Adobe Systems
1585 Charleston Rd.
P.O. Box 7900
Mountain View, CA 94039
415/961-4400

Alcatel Qume
500 Yosemite Dr.
Milpitas, CA 95035
408/920-2500

Bitstream Athenaeum House
215 First St.
Cambridge, MA 02142
617/497-6222

Computer Editype Systems
509 Cathedral Parkway #10A
New York, NY 10025
800/251-2223

Conographic
16802 Aston St.
Irvine, CA 92714
714/474-1188

The Font Factory
P.O. Box 5429
Kingwood, TX 77339
713/358-6954

Hewlett-Packard
P.O. Box 3640
Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3640
800/538-8787

Janus Associates
46 Chestnut St.
Boston, MA 02108
617/720-5085

Lexisoft
P.O. Box 1950
Davis, CA 95617
916/758-3630

Metro Software
2509 N. Campbell Ave. #214
Tucson, AZ 85719
800/621-1137

SoftCraft
16 N. Carroll St. #500
Madison, WI 53703
800/351-0500, 608/257-3300

Straightforward
3901 Via Oro Ave.
Long Beach, CA 90810
213/830-8773

SWFTE International
P.O. Box 5773
Wilmington, DE 19808
800/237-9383, 302/733-0956

VS Software
209 W. Second St.
Little Rock, AR 72216
501/376-2083

Weaver Graphics
Fox Pavilion Box 1132
Jenkintown, PA 19046
215/884-9286

Wilkes Publishing
25251 Paseo de Alicia #229
Laguna Hills, CA 92653
714/855-0730

For more information, see Products Featured in This Issue.

Graphics Tools

The Graphic Link

Converts images to and from many formats, such as .PCX, Tagged Image File Format (TIFF), *GEM*'s .IMG format—even *MacPaint*'s. The program also converts color images to gray-scale images or line drawings. List price: $99.95. PC Quick-Art **(PM, VP)**.

Headline

A utility that outlines, shadows, rotates, scales, and fills PostScript text and graphics to create a nearly endless variety of graphic effects suitable for producing headlines, logos, or display type. The program supplies some simple geometric forms (but no typefaces) and saves files in EPSF. List price: $185. Corel Systems **(PM, VP)**.

HiJaak

Captures CGA, EGA, MCGA, VGA, and Hercules screen images and saves them in a number of formats, including EPSF, TIFF, .PCX, *GEM*'s .IMG, and ASCII. It can also convert graphics files in batches from one supported format to another. List price: $89. Inset Systems, 12 Mill Plain Rd., Danbury, CT 06811; 203/794-0396 **(PM, VP)**.

Hotshot Grab

Captures MDA, CGA, EGA, MCGA, VGA, and Hercules screen images and converts them to *GEM*'s .IMG, .PCX, or TIFF. List price: $99.95. Symsoft, 444 First St., Los Altos, CA 94022; 415/941-1552 **(PM, VP)**.

Laser FX, Laser FX-Pak

Thirty special effects for modifying PostScript fonts; the utility saves modified text as an EPSF image. Six *Laser FX-Pak* volumes provide ten additional effects and five fill patterns each. List price: *Laser FX* $195, *Laser FX-Pak* $49 per volume. Postcraft Int'l, 3 King St., P.O. Box 938 #127, St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 6Z4 Canada; U.S. sales office: 805/257-1797 **(PM, VP)**.

LePrint Headliner

A headline utility that sets its own collection of scalable type in any size from 4 to 720 points, then saves it as a .PCX-format graphic. Standard and Extended editions come with 5 and 16 type styles, respectively; typefaces do not include bold or italic. List price: Standard $100,

Extended $250. LeBaugh Software, 10824 Old Mill Rd. #6, Omaha, NE 68154; 800/532-2844, 402/334-4820 **(PM, VP).**

Pizazz

A program that snags MDA, CGA, EGA, and Hercules screens and saves them in .PCX file format. You can manipulate the color and size of captured images and print them out. List price: $59.95. Application Techniques, 10 Lomar Park Dr., Pepperell, MA 01463; 617/433-5201 **(PM, VP).**

PS Portfolio

A collection of 25 programs that shade, outline, and create 3-D and other effects with PostScript typefaces and graphic images. The resulting images are saved in EPSF. Includes simple geometric shapes—stars, circles, and so on—but no fonts. List price: $59. Lexisoft **(PM, VP).**

Font Utilities

Font Effects

Adds special effects like shadowing, outlining, contouring, and shading to downloadable bit-mapped fonts; suitable for creating headlines or display type. List price: $95. SoftCraft, 16 N. Carroll St. #500, Madison, WI 53703; 800/351-0500, 608/257-3300 **(PM, VP).**

FontGen IV+

Allows you to edit downloadable bit-mapped fonts or create new ones from scratch for *Ventura* and *PageMaker*. Generates matching screen fonts for *Ventura* only. List price: $250. VS Software, 209 W. Second St., Little Rock, AR 72216; 501/376-2083 **(PM, VP).**

Newfont

Creates hollow, shadowed, shaded, stretched, skewed, and angled variations of PostScript fonts and installs them on *Ventura*'s font menu. List price: $185. Corel Systems **(VP).**

Publisher's Type Foundry

This font editing tool allows you to manipulate bit-mapped fonts or effect sweeping changes to the master outline from which bit-mapped fonts are derived. Font format translators can create either PostScript or LaserJet downloadable fonts, and you can convert a PostScript font to LaserJet format and vice versa. List price: $495. ZSoft, 1950 Spectrum Circle #A-495, Marietta, GA 30067; 404/428-0008 **(PM, VP).**

SoftCraft Font Editor

Edits existing downloadable bit-mapped fonts or creates entirely new ones, but lacks an outline editor and can't create PostScript fonts. List price: $290. SoftCraft **(PM, VP).**

Supplemental Font Pak

While *Ventura* supplies a smattering of sizes and weights of Swiss and Dutch fonts (similar to Helvetica and Times Roman), *Font Pak* fills in the gaps, offering medium, italic, bold, and bold italic versions of the fonts in sizes from 6 to 30 points. List price: $169.95. VS Software **(VP).**

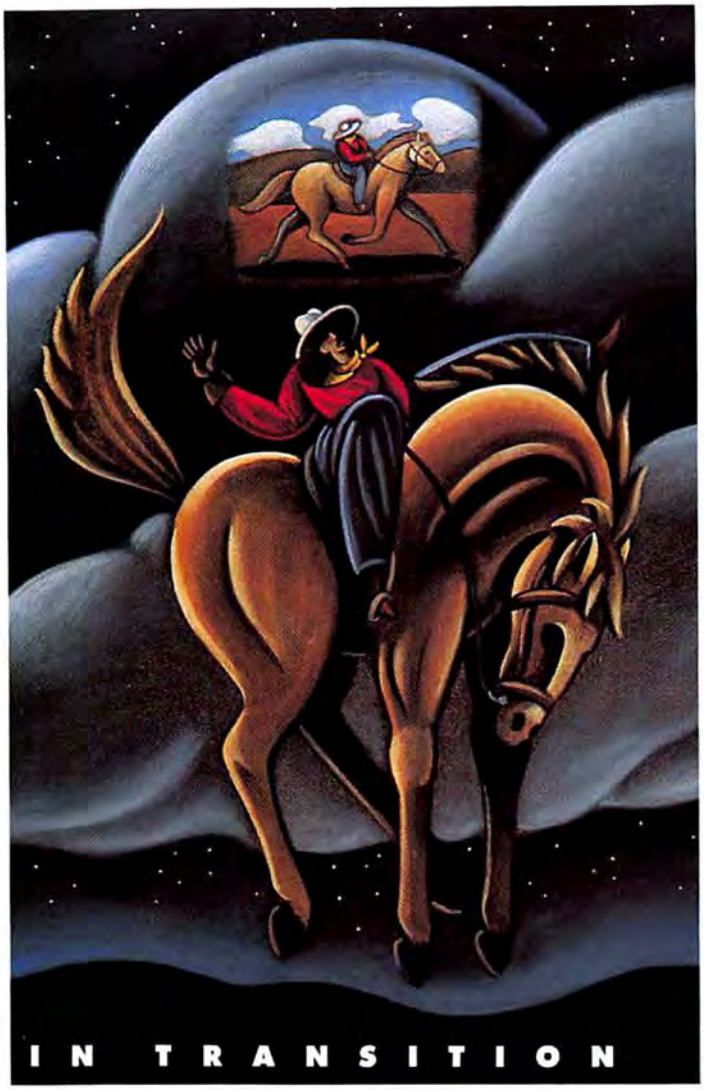
VP/Fonts

Installs downloadable bit-mapped fonts in a simple two-step process, bypassing *Ventura*'s own tedious and error-prone conversion utilities. List price: $79. The Laser Edge **(VP).**

WYSIfonts

Installs downloadable fonts and constructs a matching screen font and kerning table. List price: $95. SoftCraft **(PM, VP).** ●

Scott Spanbauer is an assistant editor for PC World.



OS/2

After years of promises from pundits, programmers, and PR people, OS/2 is a reality. Many industry analysts expect an OS/2 software explosion in 1989. Microsoft and IBM predict (somewhat optimistically) that as many as 1000 OS/2 applications will ship by the end of 1988.

At first most OS/2 applications will look and behave much like their DOS equivalents. Only a few programs will offer capabilities that DOS applications lack—the most compelling reason for switching to OS/2. And because you need an 80286 or an 80386 machine with a hard disk and at least 2MB of memory—not to mention the appetite for learning a new operating system—the first patrons of OS/2 will be power users.

However, thanks to the Presentation Manager—OS/2's *Windows*-like front end—entry-level users will be the ultimate beneficiaries of OS/2. The Presentation Manager's stan-

Michael Goodwin
and
Eric Knorr

The first OS/2 applications are here. PC World tells you what to expect just around the bend—and further up the road.

dardized user interface will enable users to master more programs with less effort; even the most complex OS/2 application will offer one-button installation and a familiar menu structure. OS/2's full flowering will be marked not only by more powerful programs but by easy, consistent access to that power.

In the Shadow of DOS

The transition to an ideal OS/2 environment won't happen overnight. The first OS/2 programs will generally be simple "ports" from DOS—the same code, rewritten, relinked, and recompiled, featuring the same user interface.

Microrim's OS/2 version of *R:base System V* is typical of the first round of OS/2 applications. "The features and functionality are the same as our latest *R:base* release for DOS," says Microrim president and CEO Dave Hall. "We did that intentionally to provide a painless migration path for users. The size of the memory we can access under OS/2 isn't significant in terms of the size of the data base. Any time you're converting 200,000 lines of code from one operating system to another, you're happy if it just runs."

Applications that are effectively clones of their DOS counterparts won't send users rushing to OS/2. Many analysts believe that OS/2's biggest initial attraction will be its support of powerful local area network (LAN) applications.

OS/2 is well suited to networks partly because it can access 16MB of memory directly. However, equally important is another, more fundamental OS/2 advantage: *multithreading*. A *thread* is a sequence of instructions that the computer executes (every DOS application is a single-threaded program). Under OS/2, not only can many different applications run at the same time, but a single application can run multiple threads simultaneously. Thus, OS/2 network software can assign a separate thread to each workstation, concurrently handling requests from multiple workstations rather than polling each node and handling requests consecutively.

A powerful OS/2 network operating system has already been developed jointly by Microsoft (which calls it *LAN Manager*) and 3Com (which will market it as *3Share Open*). In another joint venture, Ashton-Tate and Microsoft have teamed up to produce *SQL Server*, a souped-up data base engine written in Structured Query Language (SQL).

Thanks to large memory and multithreading, both these products enable OS/2 network applications to perform on the server, processing tasks that normally occur on workstations. With a powerful server, this increases performance and smooths arbitration of conflicting workstation requests for the same data.

SQL Server's support for a mixed operating system environment is an added advantage. Workstations will run DOS-based data management front ends that speak SQL, sending commands to *SQL Server*, which will handle the heavy-duty processing. Even if you want to exploit the powerful network data base features that OS/2 will deliver, you won't have to convert your whole shop, or even most of it, to the new operating system.

Applications in Transition

In the second round of OS/2 software releases—probably beginning early next year—not only network programs but workstation applications will begin to reap the benefits of mul-

tithreading and large memory. A growing number of programs will also use the Presentation Manager as their front end. In this transitional phase, the first fully optimized OS/2 applications will begin to emerge, but programs with either multithreading or the Presentation Manager—though not both—will be the rule.

Some software vendors are already close to releasing single-user applications that deftly exploit OS/2's advantages. *WordStar 2000*, which under DOS was forced to implement its powerful features via a series of memory-saving (but time-consuming) overlays, is a prime example of the kind of second-generation application that will benefit tremendously from OS/2.

According to Dave Cannon, MicroPro's director of product development, "From the user's point of view, the word processor itself will be just like the DOS version. But it does take advantage of multithreading and extra memory. For example, we're spinning off concurrent printing as a full background task. When you print something, the program comes back immediately to the editing menu."

David Intersimone, Borland's director of language and tools, notes that *SideKick Plus* for OS/2 will not be a RAM-resident program at all, but "a tightly integrated, multitasking program. OS/2 versions of Borland applications will use familiar keystrokes, so no retraining will be needed, but the rewritten versions will use bigger memory and take advantage of multithreading."

Lotus's vice president of research and development, David Reed, explains that both *1-2-3* release 3 and *Agenda* for OS/2 will take only partial advantage of OS/2's advanced features. "They use multithreading to do what they need to do, and do it faster," he says, "but they don't do anything new. There are a number of activities that go on in the background while you do other things, like printing and so on. Those work much faster using multithreaded code. Multitasking will allow you to run multi-

THE PARADOX OF PERFORMANCE

Is OS/2 faster than DOS? Slower? Benchmarks comparing the speed of a DIR under DOS and OS/2 are missing a critical point: Performance needs to be redefined in a multiprocessing environment.

Because OS/2 can run many applications at the same time and uses only one CPU to handle all the processing tasks, a DIR or COPY (or a complex application, for that matter) will run at different speeds depending on what other operations are running concurrently. The real question is, Can you get your work done faster under OS/2 than under DOS?

To arrive at that answer you must understand how OS/2 distributes CPU power among applications. If five applications all use the CPU all the time and you run them simultaneously, each will run at one-fifth speed compared to solo execution. However, this situation will rarely, if ever, happen. Most applications spend 90 percent of their time waiting for the user to strike a key, or updating the screen, or twiddling their binary thumbs while the hard disk looks for data.

OS/2 is designed to use every tick of CPU time; if one application isn't using the CPU, another program is moved into action. "If there's a thread that's waiting for disk I/O, for instance, we don't even schedule processor time for it," says Mark Mackaman, Microsoft's OS/2 product manager. "The system is smart enough to block the thread while the disk I/O executes, so it finds something else to go work on. When the thread becomes runnable again, the system resets priorities." The result is not easily summarized in old-fashioned performance tables.

Microsoft claims that if you compare the time it takes to perform an operation five times in a row with the time it takes to run it in five simultaneous OS/2 sessions (on a PC with plenty of memory to spare), the concurrent scenario finishes about 40 percent faster. As more OS/2 applications become available, *PC World* and National Software Testing Laboratories will provide hard figures. —*M. G.*

ple *1-2-3*s, and the external data base access mechanism will be able to access a data base running in another session."

A Mac-Like Future?

The future of OS/2—and the future of computing on the PC, if Microsoft and IBM have their way—looks suspiciously like the Macintosh environment. The ease of use of today's PC invariably suffers when compared with that of the Macintosh. The reason is obvious: Mac programs are so similar that if you know how to use one, it's easy to get up and running with another; when you learn a new PC program, you generally need to learn a new user interface from scratch. The Presentation Manager promises to change all that.

OS/2's designer, Gordon Letwin, puts it this way: "There will be a lot more consistency in program commands. It's like when you pick up a portable cassette player. Even though every manufacturer has different sets of buttons, you can usually figure out how to make it work without reading the manual."

According to Philippe Kahn, president of Borland, "The Presentation Manager is going to make a PC look like a Mac. It will be very similar to running a Mac with MultiFinder—except MultiFinder isn't really a multitasking environment."

Thanks to multitasking and multithreading, OS/2 applications promise to be much more powerful than their Mac counterparts. While it's impossible to predict precisely what kinds of features and capabilities will spring from programmers' brains, fully optimized OS/2 software will probably achieve an oft-stated goal of both vendor and user communities: Data will have to be keyed in only once. OS/2 applications will be able to import and export data in fully usable form, from word processor to spreadsheet to data base to another data base to on-screen calculator, and so on.

"Programs will no longer be monolithic entities," says Richard Schwartz, Ansa's vice president of research and development. "Programs are going to be able to tap other programs, use other programs, start them up, and exchange information. You can consider each application as a module that's capable of using other modules in the environment."

Future OS/2 applications will be able to share not just data but program capabilities. Gordon Letwin predicts that new standards—similar to the SQL standard—will emerge to enable diverse applications to take advantage of the same software en-

AN OS/2 GLOSSARY

Background task. A process that continues executing even though it is not currently displayed.

DOS compatibility environment (or DOS box). An OS/2 simulation of the DOS environment.

Multitasking. Two or more programs executing simultaneously.

Multithreading. Two or more threads of code, in the same program, executing simultaneously.

Piping. A system of data storage buffers used by OS/2 to enable applications to exchange data.

Presentation Manager. The graphics user interface, much like *Microsoft Windows*, for OS/2.

Protected mode. The operating mode of the 80286 chip that allows an operating system to use features that protect one application from another.

Session. A collection of threads executing together as a group under OS/2.

Session manager. An OS/2 system utility that switches between sessions; soon to be replaced by the Presentation Manager.

Thread. An instruction sequence (line of code) that the CPU executes.

Time slice. That portion of CPU time given to a thread before another thread gets access to the microprocessor. —*M. G.*

"Programs will no longer be monolithic entities. Programs are going to be able to tap other programs, use other programs, start them up, and exchange information."

gine. "If you have a spreadsheet program, it will have facilities to use a standard data base interface running under OS/2. Or if you need a 600MB data base, you can buy that and plug it in, and your old applications will automatically use the new facility."

This resource sharing will extend to what Robert Frankston, Lotus's chief scientist, calls trinkets—OS/2's equivalent of the Macintosh's desk accessories. "Under OS/2, these will be full-blown applications," asserts Frankston. "And with standards for cross-application sharing, you can have your phone book take full advantage of a SQL data base. To the user these trinkets will seem lightweight, but they'll have full functionality."

Ultimately, however, OS/2's greatest benefits may well be in communications. To Brett Walter, Symantec's vice president of research and development, the evolution of the new OS/2 environment is inseparable from the trend toward greater connectivity. "When you ask yourself what kinds of background tasks lend themselves to multitasking, the answer is communications," says Walter. "You may be working away on your spreadsheet or your word processor while sending a stack of mail back and forth. E-mail is comparable to the telephone in the effect it's going to have on business, and E-mail will benefit tremendously from OS/2."

Is This Trip Necessary?

While die-hard power users may want to install OS/2 just to check out the lay of the land, for most of us there's no rush.

A poster on the office wall at Microsoft shows The OS/2 logo stamped with a *Ghostbusters*-like encircled slash, which reads: "OS/2: Just Say No!" The poster is a joke, but Microsoft's OS/2 product manager, Mark Mackaman, is not kidding when he says, "Nobody but software developers should buy OS/2 until they're holding an application they've *got* to have, and it says 'Requires OS/2' on the box."

On the other hand, if you're the type who must boldly go where no one has gone before, take the controls and get going. One of the most intriguing things about the multitasking, multithreading, big-memory system is that nobody yet knows how far it can be pushed. And there's only one way to find out.

Michael Goodwin is an associate editor and Eric Knorr a senior editor for PC World.

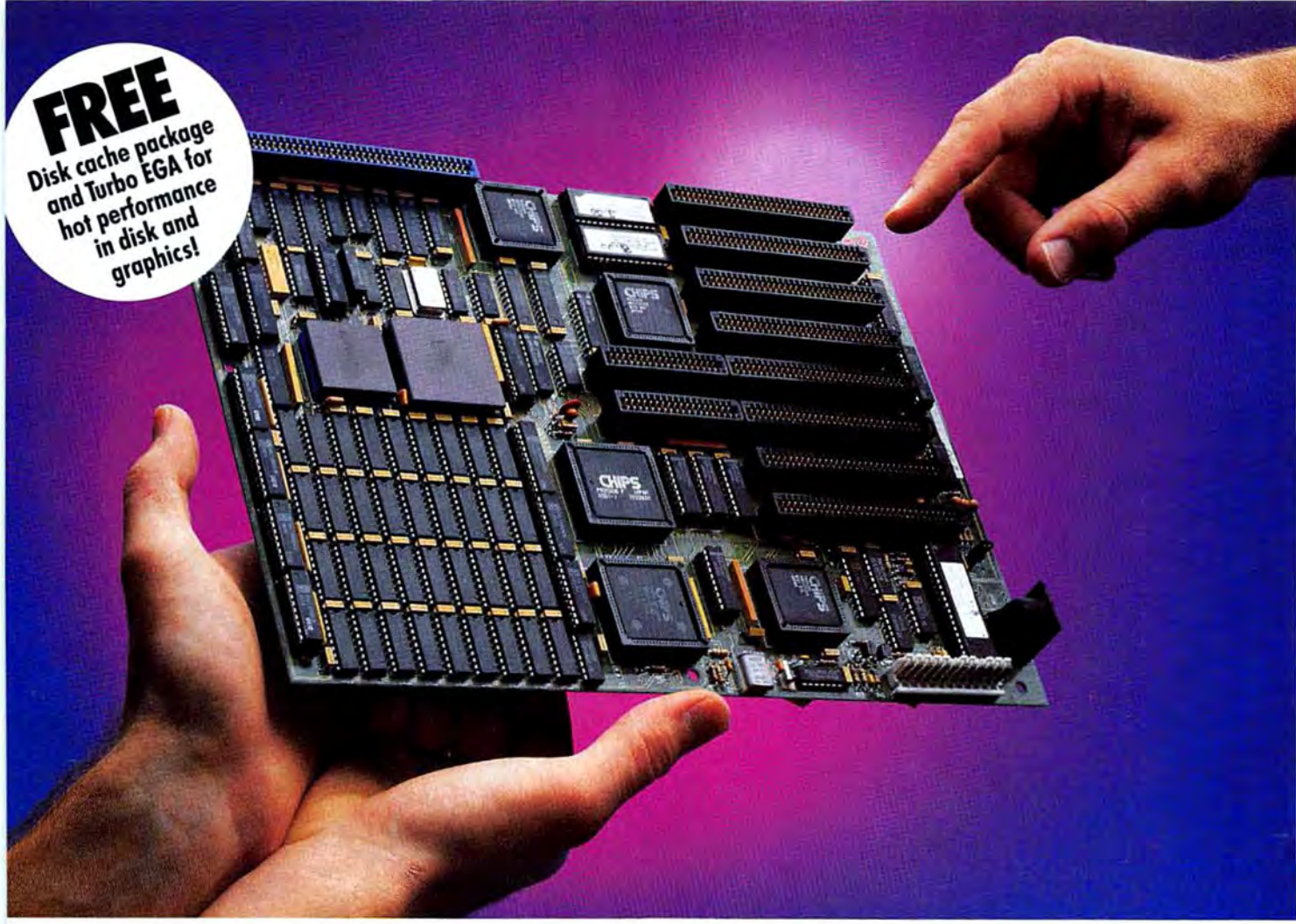
WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

Early OS/2 users will have only one or two OS/2 applications and lots of DOS applications. Microsoft has gone to great trouble to ensure backward compatibility; *most* DOS applications will run perfectly in OS/2's *DOS compatibility environment*, also known as the DOS box.

Nonetheless, users are likely to discover that the DOS box has its difficulties. Aside from offering only about 500K of user RAM rather than DOS's 640K, the DOS box refuses to run *any* telecommunications packages. When National Software Testing Laboratories tested ten of the most common PC applications—*Microsoft Word, 1-2-3, dBASE III Plus, WordStar Professional, Symphony, Paradox, SideKick, Freelance Plus, Framework II,* and *Microsoft Windows*—the sole major compatibility problem encountered was that (predictably) *Symphony*'s communications module would not run. (The only other problem was that *Windows*' 'Format a disk' option in the MS-DOS Executive would not execute.)

If you need an application that won't fit in the DOS box, you *must* be able to boot DOS itself—and that's easier said than done once OS/2 has been installed. Microsoft's OS/2 Development Kit provides a handy dual-boot option that asks the user whether to boot OS/2 or DOS when the system starts. Microsoft's OEM version of OS/2 retains this feature; unfortunately, IBM's version does not yet provide it.

Those who want to run DOS in standalone mode are faced with two alternatives, neither of which is ideal. You can buy Microsoft's version of OS/2 (with the dual-boot option) via an OEM like Zenith; it may run perfectly on your PC, but it may not. Or you can buy IBM's version and boot DOS from a floppy disk. —*M. G.*



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15 Ventura Publisher Speed Tips

Drum your fingers no more!

Here at last are 15 techniques—some free, some pricey—that kick Ventura into high gear.

Publishing

Ted Nace

Just as you can never be too thin or too rich, your desktop publishing program can never be too fast. Although *Ventura Publisher*'s reputation as a speed demon is well deserved, serious users agree that even this roadrunner could use a little help.

Depending on your whim and budget, kicking *Ventura* into overdrive can be as simple as choosing the right hyphenation routine or as expensive as buying an expanded memory board. But before you lay down the bucks, carefully consider the nature of your work with *Ventura*. If you typically generate stacks of multiple-page documents stuffed with graphics and digitized images, a high-speed printer controller like the JLaser board is probably in order. On the other hand, if you merely hate waiting for *Ventura* to load, consolidating all the fragmented files on your hard disk with a disk optimizing utility can be a cost-effective solution.

Working smarter makes a difference, too. Keyboard commands can eliminate excessive mouse mileage; inserting format codes in a text file before *Ventura* ingests it can speed formatting. Use any or all of the following 15 tips, and you can stop drumming your fingers—and get on with the business of desktop publishing.

1. USE A DISK CACHING UTILITY

Try this experiment. Load *Ventura* with a blank chapter by typing **VP** at the DOS prompt. Switch to the paragraph tagging mode by clicking the appropriate

TABLE 1

16 Top Keyboard Shortcuts

<Ctrl>-X	Displays the most recently accessed dialog box.
<Esc>	A high-speed backspace key. Clears the text off a line in a dialog box.
<Enter>	An alternative to selecting 'OK' with the mouse in a dialog box.
<Ctrl>-S	Saves a chapter.
<Delete>	Deletes the currently selected text or graphic.
<Insert>	Pastes the most recently deleted text or graphic onto the page.
<Shift>-<Insert>	Copies the currently selected graphic.
<Ctrl>-F	Applies the current default fill attributes to the selected graphic.
<Ctrl>-L	Applies the current default line attributes to the selected graphic.
<Ctrl>-E	Switches to enlarged view.
<Ctrl>-N	Switches to normal view.
<Ctrl>-R	Switches to reduced view.
<Ctrl>-U	Activates frame setting mode.
<Ctrl>-I	Activates paragraph tagging mode.
<Ctrl>-O	Activates text editing mode.
<Ctrl>-P	Activates graphics drawing mode.

icon; you'll notice that the system's hard disk light flashes. Select an option from a menu and the light blinks again. As you might surmise, *Ventura* keeps most of its code on disk. When you request a function, the program finds the appropriate overlay file and loads it into memory—a rather sluggish process.

You could take the shotgun approach and copy all of *Ventura*'s overlays into a RAM disk, but a simpler and more efficient solution is to create a disk cache. A disk caching program identifies the blocks of data that are frequently read from or written to disk and automatically stores them in a reserved section of RAM for quick access. Of course a cache won't improve performance at the beginning of a session, but once the utility observes the goings-on for a bit, performance jumps noticeably.

Because *Ventura* needs all 640K of a system's conventional memory to function effectively, you should pair the cache program with an expanded memory board containing about 1MB of RAM. (If you shop around, you can easily find an unpopulated board for under $400 and upgrade with RAM chips for as little as $100.) Note, too, that cache programs are a quirky breed; not every utility is suited to *Ventura* (see "Cache on Demand?" *PCW*, September 1987). One program that has proven effective is *Flash*, a versatile, feature-laden utility that can create a cache in either extended or expanded memory.

Configuring *Flash* is relatively straightforward. Just run its installation program, identify the drive to be cached (such as C:), and copy the appropriate files to the hard disk. To set up a 500K extended memory cache, you would simply type **FLASH 500/m=a** at the DOS prompt (or place the commands in a batch file) to indicate the amount and type of RAM being used. Run *Ventura*, repeat any operation a few times, and behold—the hard disk light stops flashing.

A cache won't speed up every facet of *Ventura*'s operation, but you'll find that loading documents or moving bit-mapped graphics around can take half

the time. Even better, other disk-intensive applications such as *dBASE* can take advantage of the cache, too.

2. CONSOLIDATE HARD DISK FILES

DOS is something of a digital squirrel. If it can't store that latest program or document in one neat contiguous block, it breaks the file up and stuffs pieces into any free space on the disk. Unfortunately, when you need the file—be it a *Ventura* overlay or a frequently used chapter—the hard disk's read/write heads can't suck it up in one sweep, but must poke around the disk. Disk optimizers, which reunite scattered file fragments, can cut the delays and minimize hard disk wear and tear.

One indication that disk optimizing is needed is if the hard disk light flashes rapidly when you load a program: Every blink means another portion of the disk is being searched. Diagnostic routines typically found in disk optimizers can provide more detailed information in the form of disk maps and statistical reports showing the degree of file fragmentation.

As with disk caching utilities, there's a universe of disk optimizers to choose from. Programs such as *DS Optimize*, Condense from the *Mace Utilities*, and Speed Disk from the *Norton Utilities Advanced Edition* can consolidate disk files in a matter of minutes without disturbing copy-protected or hidden system files. Before running an optimizer, however, make sure you back up the entire disk.

Running a disk optimizer like Speed Disk is simplicity itself. At the DOS prompt type **SD** *n:*, where *n:* is the drive you want tidied up. Speed Disk takes about 20 minutes to rearrange the files on a nearly full 20MB disk, graphically illustrating its progress along the way.

To wrest the most from this speed tip, look for disk optimizers like *DS Optimize* that allow you to specify the order in which coalesced files should appear on the disk. For maximum performance, install DOS first, then *Ventura*.

3. AVOID SWAPPING FILES TO DISK

If a chapter contains graphics or text files that are too large to fit in available memory, *Ventura* swaps out the excess to a temporary "spill" file on the hard disk. Not surprisingly, this is like strapping lead sneakers onto *Ventura*, since the program must continually access the disk for information.

The simplest way to minimize swapping is to free up RAM. The first step is to eliminate any memory-resident utilities. Next, break large chapters into smaller ones by exiting *Ventura* and divvying up the source text files. If *Ventura* is still cramped for space, you might even resort to an earlier version of DOS. DOS 3.10, for example, takes up approximately 37K of RAM; DOS 2.00, only 24K.

But these techniques liberate only a tincture of memory. A more effective solution involves redirecting *Ventura* spill files into a RAM disk created in expanded or extended memory. Any RAM disk program that supports expanded or extended memory will do, but budget-conscious desktop publishers may prefer DOS's own VDISK.SYS. To set up a 300K RAM disk in extended memory, simply place the statement DEVICE = VDISK.SYS 300/E in the system's CONFIG.SYS file. Assuming the RAM disk is drive D:, add /O = D: to the end of the last line in VP.BAT, and *Ventura* will know what to do.

4. GREEK THAT TEXT!

When you're laying out a document in Reduced or Facing Pages view, you're concerned mostly with the overall look of the pages—not with picking out fine details. For that reason, *Ventura* provides a "greeking" option, which represents text below a specified size as horizontal lines in these two views. This reduces the time *Ventura* takes to display a page, thereby speeding up your work.

Ventura's default setting is 6 screen pixels. To change the default, open the Options menu, select *Set Preferences*, and choose *Text to Greek: All* from the dialog box to greek all text.

5. SUPPRESS ON-SCREEN KERNING

Ventura's on-screen kerning function is the program's bid for what-you-see fame, since it attempts to show how printed text will appear when automatic kerning is in effect. But when on-screen kerning is active, page display is sluggish. Perhaps more important, on-screen kerning is imprecise. Unless you have a high-resolution full-page monitor, you must check printed

pages against what *Ventura* displays and adjust accordingly.

Keep in mind, too, that the LaserJet's internal, cartridge, and downloadable disk fonts can't be kerned automatically anyway, because they don't include a set of prekerned letter pairs. In short, automatic kerning is exclusively for those with PostScript printers. So if your system is not on the cutting edge, flip open the Options menu, click the *Set Preferences* option, and select *On-Screen Kerning: None.* If your publishing system can take advantage of automatic kerning but you still want to save time, limit kerning to the larger point sizes.

6. HIDE THOSE PICTURES!

Whenever you scroll a document or move a frame, *Ventura* must redraw any pictures on the page. To eliminate this performance bottleneck, select *Hide Pictures* from the Options menu. Images are represented as gray blocks, which are swiftly redrawn by the program.

7. SWITCH HYPHENATION ROUTINES

Ventura automatically hyphenates a chapter when it is first loaded and whenever a picture or a text file is imported. Depending on the hyphenation algorithm being used, the process may take a few seconds or long enough for you to grab a cup of java.

Ventura's default hyphenation routine (USENGLSH.HY1) is fast but prone to skipping hyphenation opportunities or simply breaking lines incorrectly. The slower routine (USENGLS2.HY2, found on the Utilities disk) is far more accurate but something of a RAM hog. In the best of all possible *Ventura* worlds, hyphenation would be both quick and unerring.

SLOW.BAT

```
CD\VENTURA
RENAME FAST.HY1 FAST.BAK
RENAME SLOW.BAK SLOW.HY1
CD\
VP.BAT
```

FAST.BAT

```
CD\VENTURA
RENAME SLOW.HY1 SLOW.BAK
RENAME FAST.BAK FAST.HY1
CD\
VP.BAT
```

LISTING 1: Here are two batch files that switch Ventura's hyphenation routines.

You can have your cake and keep *Ventura* running trim by using the fast algorithm during initial layout of a document and the slower algorithm toward the end of the process, when the correct line breaks really matter. Switching quickly between the two and reloading *Ventura* is simply a matter of writing a pair of batch files—and remembering that *Ventura* uses the hyphenation algorithm only when it has the .HY1 or .HY2 file extension.

Copy the USENGLS2.HY2 file to the \VENTURA subdirectory and rename it SLOW.BAK. Rename USENGLSH.HY1 as FAST.HY1, and create the batch files SLOW.BAT and FAST.BAT shown in **LISTING 1.** When you reach the point where accurate hyphenation is called for, exit to DOS and run SLOW.BAT; FAST.HY1 will be uninstalled, and SLOW.HY1 will take its place. When speed's the thing, run FAST.BAT, and *Ventura* will hyphenate documents in a flash.

8. INSTALL A HIGH-SPEED PRINTER INTERFACE

When a laser printer outputs mostly text, it's a page-per-minute device. When bit-mapped graphics are involved, it becomes an inscrutable oracle—you may have to wait 3 minutes or 10 minutes or even 30 minutes for enlightenment. The problem is particularly acute with PostScript printers, most of which rely on a serial interface to transport the megabytes of graphics data from PC to printer.

Install a JLaser Plus or LaserMaster CapCard board in your PC, however, and you can eliminate two bottlenecks at once. The boards come with

2MB and 1.5MB of RAM, respectively, both of which give *Ventura* enough room to assemble an entire page instead of sending it piecemeal to the printer. More important, both boards bypass the printer's serial or parallel port and connect directly to its high-speed video interface. The performance difference can be startling. For example, a three-column single-page document with seven fonts takes 150 seconds to emerge from an Apple LaserWriter, 69 seconds from a LaserJet Series II, and only 30 seconds from a LaserJet Plus equipped with a LaserMaster. Of course, there's no gain without pain: The boards sell for about $1000 each. But if your time and sanity are at a premium, the investment is worthwhile.

9. DOWNLOAD FONTS BEFORE RUNNING VENTURA

If you're like most *Ventura* users, you probably print out part or all of a document several times during a work session. Unfortunately, every time the print command is issued, *Ventura* laboriously copies (or downloads) the same fonts to the laser printer's memory. You can short-circuit this redundancy with the aid of Hewlett-Packard's *Pclpak* utility by permanently downloading the desired fonts before running *Ventura*. The process involves identifying the fonts in question, saving them in special disk files with *Pclpak*, and then copying the files to the printer.

Ventura's mouse-driven menu system is fast but hardly perfect. Save your strength by using keyboard commands.

Let's say you want to use *Ventura*'s 18-point and 24-point Swiss bold fonts for an advertising brochure you are creating with the LaserJet Plus. Slip the *Pclpak* disk into drive A: and copy PCLPAK.EXE and USENG.CAT to the hard disk's \VENTURA subdirectory. Type **PCLPAK** at the DOS prompt, and press **<Enter>**. At the first menu type **2** to select the LaserJet Plus, **M** to trigger the Managefiles function, and **D** to indicate the destination. (In this example, you would supply a file name, SW18B.) Type **Q** to escape the current menu, **F** for fonts, **D** for download, and **F** again for the 18-point font's file name. Type **HLVB3018.SFP** and press **<Enter>**. Display the Download Font menu by pressing **I**, **1**, and **<Enter>**, and make sure that under 'Current Settings' the temp/perm status is 'permanent'. Select *Go*, and *Pclpak* saves the font to disk. Repeat the procedure for the 24-point Swiss font, creating the font file SW24B, then exit *Pclpak*.

At this point you could manually copy the fonts to the device the LaserJet is attached to (COM1, LPT1, and so on). But you can automate this step with a batch file that contains the lines

```
COPY/B SW18B LPT1:
COPY/B SW24B LPT1:
```

Load *Ventura* and go to work; the fonts will be permanently installed until the printer is turned off or reset.

10. LOAD THE POSTSCRIPT PROLOGUE BEFORE VENTURA

Redundancy, it seems, is *Ventura*'s watchword. Before *Ventura* sends a file to a PostScript printer, it transmits the PS2-.PRE "prologue" file that contains PostScript definitions. You can shave 10 seconds off document print time by removing PS2.PRE from the \VENTURA subdirectory and instead copying a permanent version of the prologue, PERMVP.PS, to the printer before running *Ventura*. The file, found in the \POSTSCPT directory on the Utilities disk, can be downloaded to the printer by typing **COPY/B PERMVP-.PS LPT1:**. Remember to restore PS2.PRE to the \VENTURA directory before you create print files for outputting on other printers and typesetters.

11. USE KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

Ventura's unique pop-down, mouse-driven menu system is fast but hardly perfect. When you're modifying a style sheet or

fiddling with a graphic, you may have to return to the same menu option repeatedly—and that means racking up hundreds of mouse miles. Save your strength by using keyboard commands. The most useful is probably <Ctrl>-X, which displays the last dialog box. For a compendium of speedy shortcuts, see **TABLE 1.**

12. DOUBLE-CLICK FILE NAMES

To quickly load a file listed in a dialog box, double-click the name. This is the equivalent of highlighting a name and then selecting *OK*.

13. USE EFFICIENT TAGGING TECHNIQUES

You can quickly format elements in a *Ventura* document without a mouse by assigning tags to the PC's function keys. Select the *Assign Func. Keys* option from the Paragraph menu (or press <Ctrl>-K) and match the tag names with the function keys listed in the on-screen form. An extra speed bonus: You can now tag text while in the Text Editing mode.

You can also quickly format documents by inserting the appropriate style-sheet codes in the source text with a word processor. Open the file, locate an element (such as a headline), and at the beginning of the line type the @ symbol, the name of the tag (in capital letters), a space, an equal sign, and another space (for example, @SUBHEAD =). You can further accelerate the process by assigning formatting codes to key combinations with a macro processor such as *SuperKey* or *Keyworks*.

14. USE THE SHIFT KEY

If you expect to use the same graphics tool several times in a row, hold down the <Shift> key so you don't have to reselect the tool every time you release the mouse button. Hold down the <Shift> key while selecting paragraphs in the Paragraph Tagging mode, and you can tag several paragraphs at once.

15. STORE GRAPHIC DEFAULTS

Instead of tediously selecting line and fill attributes every time you create a graphic with *Ventura*'s drawing tools, save the current attributes as default settings. Select a graphic you're working on, then *Line Attributes* or *Fill Attributes* from the Graphic menu. Pick the desired attributes, and then select *Save To* from the dialog box. *Ventura* will automatically apply these new attributes to any picture you subsequently create. If you want to apply the defaults to existing graphics, select the graphic, then *Line Attributes* or *Fill Attributes* from the Graphic menu, and *Load From* from the dialog box. The image will be transformed in a flash. And that, after all, is what this article is all about. ●

Ted Nace is a contributing editor for PC World. *This article was adapted from his book* Ventura Tips and Tricks *(Peachpit Press, Berkeley, California, 1987).*

WHERE TO BUY

DS Optimize version 1.00a
Design Software
1275 W. Roosevelt Rd.
West Chicago, IL 60185
312/231-4540
List price: $69.95
Requirements: 256K, hard disk, DOS 2.00 or later version
Not copy protected

Flash version 5.0
Software Masters
6352 N. Guilford Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
317/253-8088
List price: $69.95
Requirements: 256K, DOS 2.00 or later version
Not copy protected

JLaser Plus
Tall Tree Systems
2585 E. Bayshore Rd.
Palo Alto, CA 94303
415/493-1980
List price: PC version $1000, AT version $1200
Requirements: PC, XT, or AT compatible; laser printer with Canon CX or SX engine

LaserMaster CapCard
LaserMaster Corp.
7156 Shady Oak Rd.
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
List price: $995; cables $95, cables for LaserJet and LaserJet Plus $195
Requirements: PC, XT, or AT compatible; laser printer with Canon CX engine

Mace Utilities
Paul Mace Software, Inc.
400 Williamson Way
Ashland, OR 97520
800/523-0258
List price: $99
Requirements: 256K, DOS 2.00 or later version
Not copy protected

The Norton Utilities, Advanced Edition
Peter Norton Computing, Inc.
2210 Wilshire Blvd.
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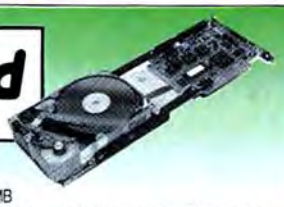

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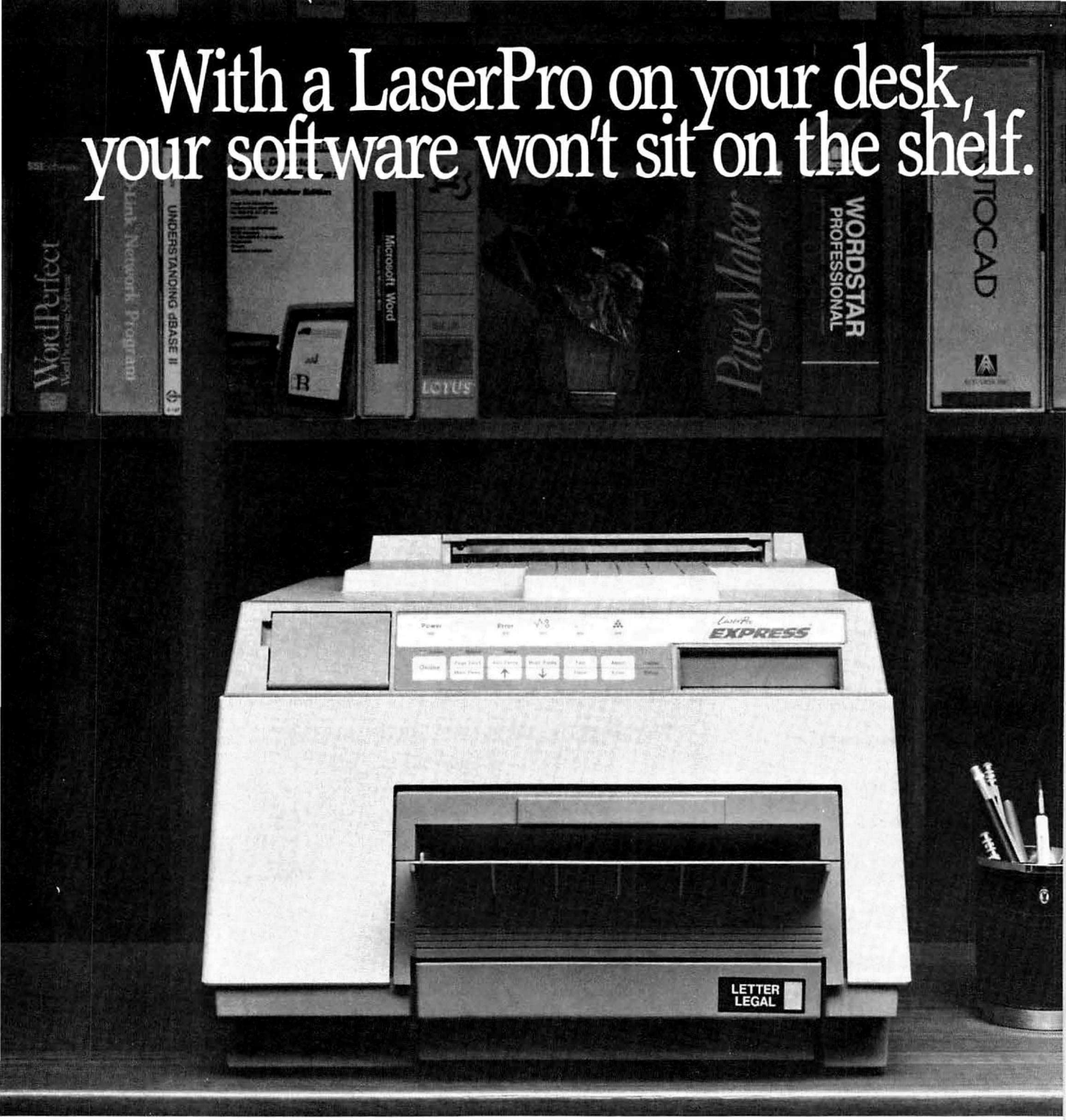

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Circle 17 on reader service card

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CONSUMER WATCH

Advice and information for the computer consumer

This month: Tips on protecting your PC from disaster, an overview of insurance coverage, plus a cautionary tale in Shop Talk

Anita Amirrezvani

Checkpoints for Complete Coverage

After using a PC at work, you may find that you can't live without one at home—for personal use as well as for unfinished business.

But if you part with $1000 or more for a system, don't ignore the issue of security. After all, a computer might be your most expensive purchase, after your home and car. With a little care, you can protect your investment—and your valuable data—from theft or damage. The following five tips will help you safeguard your system.

1. Buy a lock. Many office supply companies sell locks that make it virtually impossible for a thief to walk off with your equipment. One lock sold by Inmac, an office supply firm, consists of two large steel pads, a thick cable, and a lock. Both pads have a strong adhesive backing; you stick one to your computer and the other to your desk. That done, you attach the cable from one pad to the other and lock it. The Lock Kit is available for $39.95.

Another company—Anchor Pad, of Ventura, California—sells a full line of security products. Anchor Pad's $250 maximum-security system consists of a large adhesive pad locked to a swiveling shelfing system. The CPU sits on the pad on the bottom shelf; the monitor is held in place on the top shelf with steel posts. Both components can be unlocked and moved if necessary. "If someone steals your equipment when you use this system, we'll replace it up to $5000," says Anchor Pad marketing director Jeff Kennedy. The guarantee holds for three years and can be extended with an inspection. Anchor Pad also sells less expensive security systems that begin at about $70.

2. Check your insurance policy. Even if you have homeowner's or renter's insurance, your computer may not be fully covered if disaster strikes. State Farm, for example, limits computer coverage to $3000 under its homeowner's and renter's policies. Although some companies have higher limits—Farmer's and Allstate insure home computers up to $5000—most systems and their accompanying software are worth far more.

Worse yet, if you use your home computer primarily for business, you may not be covered at all. Aetna homeowner's policies, for example, exclude computers used mainly for business. "There's no cut-and-dried percentage for business use," says Aetna spokesperson Micaela Woodbridge. "But people who take a business tax deduction on their equipment should probably get business insurance coverage."

(continues)

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In House Acct.	112
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Smartcom II	79

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Fox Base Plus	195
Genifer	189
Paradox 2.0 Premium	435
PFS: Pro File	Low Price
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Q&A	189
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Revelation	464
R Base System V	Low Price
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Relate & Report	112
VP Info	65

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Fastback Plus	92
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Mace	55
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Norton Utilities	48
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Prokey 4.0	70
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Righwriter	75
Sidekick	55
Sideways	39
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Superkey	55
Turbo Lightning	55
XTree	35

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Q and A Write	Low Price
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Word Perfect Executive	106
Word Perfect Library	59
Wordstar Pro	233
Wordstar 2000+	194

— HARDWARE —

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Masterpiece+	99
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U.S. Robotics 2400	335

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MSP 15	315
MSP 20	285
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Premiere 35	471
Tribute 224	639
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P7 Parallel	595
8850	1059
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P960XL	1005
P2200	335
OKIDATA—Call on all models	
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STAR MICRONICS	
NB24-10	456
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ND10	275
NX1000	179
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Most homeowner's and renter's insurance policies specifically cover damage due to fire, lightning, windstorms, hail, theft, and vandalism. Off-the-shelf software is usually covered along with the hardware; however, coverage of blank media, media, custom programs, and damage from power surges not caused by lightning varies considerably from policy to policy.

Beyond that, consumers should check into the amount of their deductible. Of course, the higher the deductible, the cheaper the policy. But a deductible of, say, $500 means you'll be out a substantial sum if your PC is stolen or extensively damaged.

Then there's the issue of the type of coverage. Less expensive insurance policies cover the depreciated value of property—not its replacement value. And like cars, most computers depreciate rapidly once they roll out of the showroom.

3. Beef up your policy if needed. If your policy isn't sufficient, call your insurance agent for an overview of additional coverage. For current policyholders, extra insurance is usually cheap. Aetna, for example, charges its customers in New York City $8 for $1000 of added computer coverage, $38 for $5000, and $75 for $10,000—and there's no deductible. Similarly, State Farm offers $5000 extra coverage for about $20 yearly; the standard deductible on a State Farm renter's or homeowner's policy applies. On Allstate's deluxe homeowner's policy (good only on homes less than 25 years old), customers can increase the $5000 limitation on computer equipment to $10,000 for a $10 annual fee. Similarly, Farmer's offers $10,000 extra coverage for a variable amount.

Policies may also be available for those whose homes or apartments are not currently insured, although that's less common. According to State Farm spokesman David Hurst, authors who work at home can apply for insurance policies that specifically cover their computer equipment. And of course, commercial insurance policies are widely available.

4. Consider other sources of insurance. Two companies offer insurance policies specifically for computer owners. Safeware, a firm in Columbus, Ohio, insures computer hardware and software against the usual perils, and kicks in coverage for damage due to accidents and power surges. According to Safeware CEO Dave Johnston, power surges "are the number one cause of loss." Most major insurance companies exclude damage from power surges, except when caused by lightning.

Safeware also offers full replacement coverage for computer equipment with a standard $50 deductible. Annual fees begin at $39 for equipment valued at $2000 or less and range up to $149 for systems in the $14,000 to $17,000 range.

Similarly, Data Security Insurance in Boulder, Colorado, is an independent computer insurer. Unlike most others, the company includes custom programs on its list of covered equipment.

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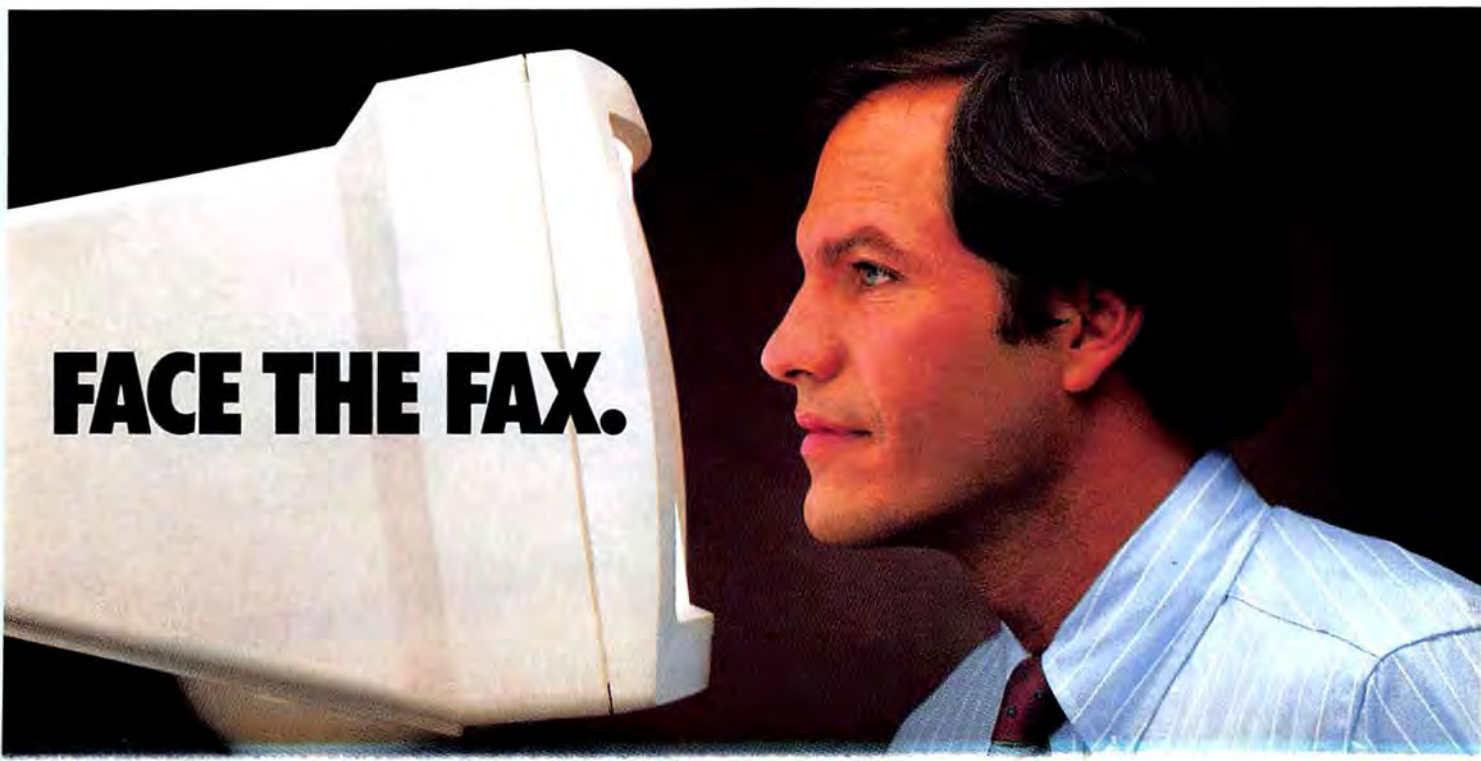

However, coverage is not blanket; when you apply for insurance, Data Security requires an itemized list of your equipment. The annual cost of an insurance policy with a $100 deductible is $35 for equipment worth $2000 or less, $75 for systems worth $5000 or less, and $25 for each additional $5000 up to $50,000. Policies are underwritten by Casualty Underwriters and the St. Paul Life Insurance Company.

5. Keep good records. If you buy insurance, make sure your records reflect the equipment you own. In case of theft or damage, you'll need a detailed inventory of your hardware and software, complete with purchase receipts. Store this information away from your home—for example, in a safe deposit box at your bank.

Raul Arias, Allstate's territorial underwriting manager in Cupertino, California, says that videotaping the contents of your home "is extremely helpful for claims adjusters, because then it's clear exactly what needs to be replaced." Most insurance companies will pay even if you don't have receipts, but it will take longer for you to prove your claim.

WHERE TO BUY

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Shop Talk

All Work and No Pay

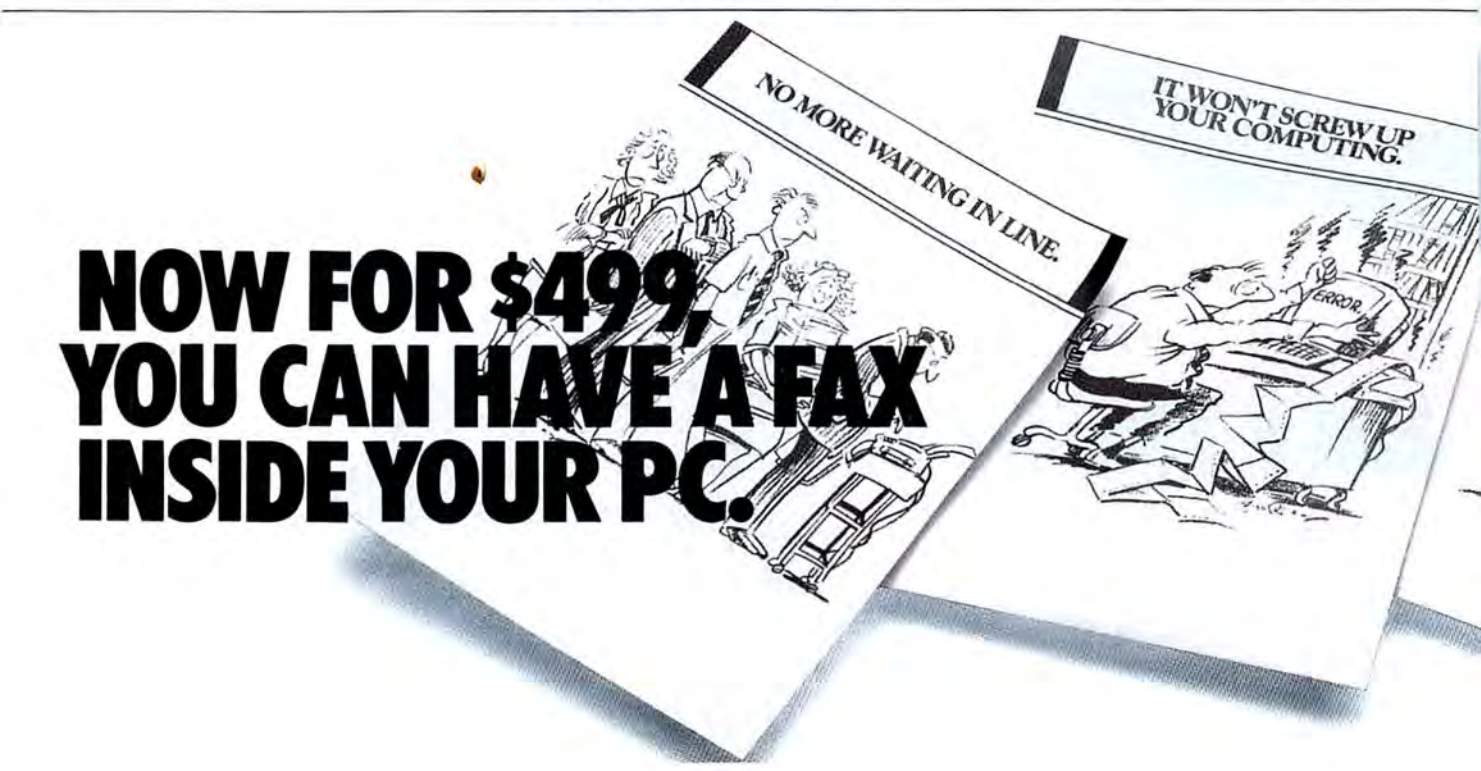
In March 1987 I answered an ad placed in *MIS Weekly* soliciting software reviewers for the Professional Software Programmers Association (PSPA). Subsequently, I was informed that I had been accepted as a reviewer but that writing for the organization required an initiation fee of $25 and annual dues of $78. On April 7, I forwarded a check for $103, which was cashed.

In May PSPA sent me *Software Carousel*, which I reviewed in time for a June 10 deadline. Payment for the article was supposed to occur once PSPA had placed the article in a newspaper or magazine.

Although I've written three letters to PSPA and called to track down my article, no one has answered. And I haven't heard another word about the services promised in the brochure: a monthly newsletter, free subscriptions to trade publications, technical and editorial assistance, and low-cost insurance.

Dave Phillips
Budd Lake, New Jersey

Editor's note: PC World *attempted to contact PSPA and*



discovered that the association's phone number had been disconnected. A letter sent via Federal Express to PSPA's Bay Avenue address in Capitola, California, was returned to sender. Another letter sent to an address in Cupertino, which was obtained from a court statement, went unanswered.

PC World *has learned of two suits filed in California small-claims court against Forrest C. Huff, president of PSPA. In a written statement to the court filed on April 20, 1987, plaintiff Chris Russell said she reviewed two software packages for PSPA in 1985. "Time after time I would call [about payment] and Mr. Huff would put me off." Eventually, Russell received $100. In 1986, according to her statement, she wrote another review for PSPA, but her attempts to get paid were futile.*

Plaintiff Mark Colen says he was hired by Huff in February 1986 at $8 per hour to edit reviews for PSPA. According to Colen's May 17, 1987, court statement: "The excuses Mr. Huff used to avoid paying me were of the 'I don't have the checkbook in the office' and 'I'll pay you next week' variety."

In separate decisions by the court, Russell was awarded $150 plus costs, and Colen was awarded $1393.35 plus costs. Huff appealed both cases to the California Superior Court, but because Huff did not appear at either hearing, both awards remain in effect. At press time neither plaintiff had been paid by Huff.

Others who filed statements before the court on behalf of the plaintiffs included Jean Lockwood, a PSPA reviewer who said that she had never been compensated for her work, and Carolyn Stallard, a former PSPA staff editor. According to Stallard in her statement: "I was seldom paid on time, and never the full amount owed... Mr. Huff's repeated failure to keep promises . . . led me to believe that my own reputation . . . might be damaged by my continued involvement with the organization." Stallard resigned in September 1986, but her name continued to be used without her permission on letters sent to prospective reviewers.

By Any Other Name

Consumer Watch blasted a mail-order firm from Beverly Hills called CompuSystems in December 1987. I was shocked at first because I've done business with a firm called CompuSystems in Columbia, South Carolina, and have nothing but praise for them.

I first contacted the company when I decided to buy an adapter board to mate my Tandy 1000 to a Cipher tape backup unit. Before ordering I wrote the company expressing my concerns about compatibility. Upon receiving my letter, the president of the company called me and admitted that to his knowledge the board had never been tested with the Tandy. He agreed to ship the board and software for a 30-day trial period; if it worked I would pay the agreed-upon amount.

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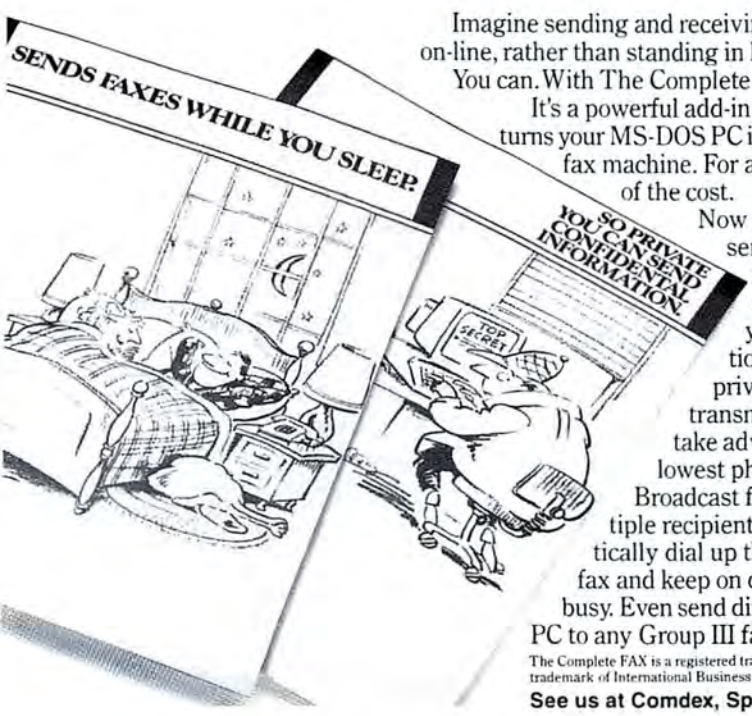

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Circle 44 on reader service card

To make a long story short, the board didn't work, but in the meantime CompuSystems engineers helped me solve another problem. All this was at no cost to me but involved considerable effort and expense on the part of CompuSystems.

W. C. Ellis
San Diego, California

Editor's note: CompuSystems president Nick Johnson says his company has been in business since 1976 and is the largest supplier of medical computer systems in South Carolina. CompuSystems sells two products nationally: a 20-MHz 386 motherboard for $1995, with trade-in of your AT motherboard; and a 25MB Cipher 5210 tape backup for $395. CompuSystems' phone number is 800/845-2712; 803/922-5528 South Carolina.

Meanwhile, according to Postal Inspector Gary Austin, the investigation of CompuSystems of Beverly Hills had slowed at press time due to a manpower shortage. As before, Austin advises consumers to mail complaints about CompuSystems to his attention at P.O. Box 4140, Burbank, CA 91503. "Eventually, if we can make restitution, we'll do that," says Austin. However, the main suspect in the case is still at large.

Orphans Not Wanted

I spent more than $700 for a Panasonic FX-600 computer in June 1987. Imagine my surprise when I tried to get two drive rails from my dealer and found I couldn't get the parts because Panasonic had recalled the com-

(continues)

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J120

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Circle 118 on reader service card

puters and dropped the line! What happens a year from now when the floppy disk controller or the power supply breaks? If I had bought a cheap clone, at least I'd be able to repair and update it myself with off-the-shelf parts.

Gregory Zagursky
Columbia, South Carolina

Panasonic responds: In April 1987 the U.S. government imposed a tariff on some types of microcomputers, including the Panasonic Business Partner FX-600. To abide by that tariff, Panasonic suspended dealer sales and shipments.

Still, we continued to service and support the FX-600 because our policy is to back all our machines for a minimum of seven years. But now the tariff policy has changed, and Panasonic plans to resume sales of the FX-600 this year.

Joel Port
Computer Products Manager

Got a gripe? Want to set the record straight? Write Consumer Watch, PC World, *501 Second St., San Francisco, CA 94107, or use MCI Mail PCWORLD/ 179-3813, CompuServe 74055,412, or The Source STE908. Include your name, city, state, and daytime telephone number with all correspondence. Letters may be edited for length and style. Due to the volume of mail we cannot acknowledge every letter.* ●

THE UPGRADE PATH

Hands-on advice for upgrading PCs, compatibles, and peripherals

A cautionary tale for Model 50 users, double-time processing for the Leading Edge Model D, and a new mouse in the house

Edited by Robert Luhn

A Tough DoublePlay for the Model 50

For all its high-tech charm, the PS/2 Model 50 is not much faster than the AT, a predicament that can be traced in part to the system's 80-millisecond (ms) 20MB hard disk drive. IBM's disk caching software compensates for some of the drive's sluggishness, but upgrading the system with a faster hard disk drive should yield real speed gains. Those who plan on using OS/2 will want to consider faster and bigger drives, too.

Enter Rodime. This venerable hard disk manufacturer recently released the DoublePlay, a 28ms 45MB hard disk for the Model 50 that sells for $1495. The drive even includes a kit for installing the evicted 20MB drive in a Model 25 or 30 or (with a bit of tinkering) a PC, an XT, or an AT.

Unfortunately, this is one upgrade that calls for a pro. The drive is poorly documented and difficult to install and configure. Chances are you won't notice much performance improvement once the DoublePlay is in place, anyway; the drive's data transfer rate isn't much higher than IBM's 20MB drive.

Although the Model 50's BIOS ROM supports 32 drive types, the DoublePlay isn't one of them. This leaves you with two choices. If you want to use OS/2, DOS 3.30, and later versions of these operating systems, you must format the DoublePlay as an IBM-compatible 37MB drive and say good-bye to 8MB of storage. If you need all 45MB, patch DOS 3.30 with Rodime's utilities, format the disk with this modified version of DOS, and install Rodime's special device driver. If you take the latter path, you can create nonbootable disk partitions exceeding 32MB—but the patches lock you into using DOS 3.30. Patches for OS/2, Xenix, and other operating systems aren't available.

Physical installation is easy and requires only a number 2 Phillips screwdriver. Before you start, back up the Model 50's original hard disk. If you plan on formatting the drive for 45MB, create a bootable 3½-inch floppy disk and copy the files from Rodime's installation disk onto it.

Boot the system with the Reference Disk (the Model 50's equivalent of Advanced Diagnostics) in drive A:, and park the hard disk drive's heads ('Prepare for relocation'). Unplug all external cables and then remove the Model 50's cover by loosening the two large thumbscrews at the back; you'll see the drive resting on a plastic shelf. Ground yourself, depress the two large tabs to the right of the drive, and slide the unit to the right until it separates from the Model 50's

(continues)

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HEWLETT PACKARD

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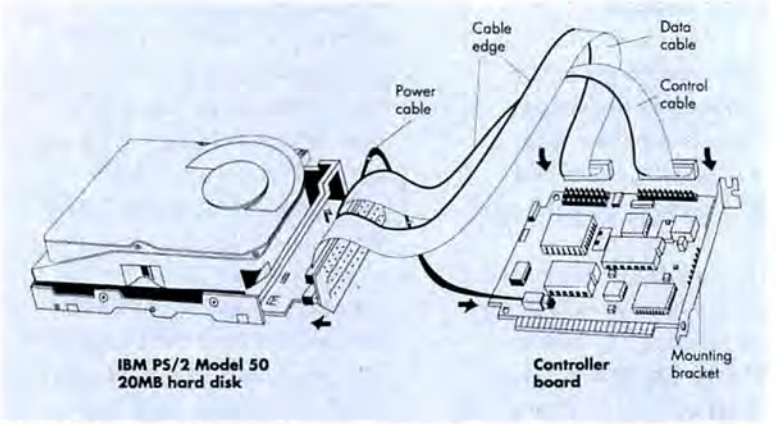

FIGURE 1: Installing the PS/2 Model 50's 20MB hard disk in another system is simple—until you have to connect the ribbon cables. Attach the cables to the drive as shown here. When you connect the cables to the controller board, make sure the same cable edges that pointed toward the power cable on the drive are pointing away from the controller's mounting bracket.

edge connector. Remove the drive and lay it upside down on a solid, flat surface.

On the bottom of the extracted drive are two plastic slides that fit into slots in the Model 50's chassis. Remove the slides, attach them to the DoublePlay, and pop the drive into the waiting bay. Reassemble the system.

Now the fun begins. If you're formatting the drive for 45MB, boot the system with the 3½-inch disk that you prepared earlier; a menu listing six options will appear. Run each item in sequence, following the instructions in Rodime's manual to the letter. Don't second-guess them or you'll end up in trouble. The machine will reboot several times as the installation program modifies DOS, adds a device driver, and creates a CONFIG.SYS file (make sure you don't overwrite the last when restoring your own files).

If you're treating the DoublePlay like a standard 37MB IBM drive, boot the system with the Reference Disk and select 'Change configuration' from the first menu that appears. Scroll to the bottom of the screen and specify that the hard disk is type 11, with arbitration set to 'Level _3'. Press <F10> to save these setup values in the system's battery-backed clock/calendar chip.

The system then reboots, and a menu appears automatically. Press <Ctrl>-A (an option not listed) to run DOS's diagnostics routines. Choose 'Format fixed disk' and go through the low-level format procedure. Along the way several urgent messages will flash on screen warning you that configuration data on the disk is not readable; ignore these messages and press on. The disk will be low-level formatted in about 20 minutes. Finally, boot the Model 50 with a DOS disk in drive A:, use FDISK and FORMAT to create partitions, and high-level format the hard disk in the usual manner.

And what of the Model 50's original 20MB drive? You can pop it into the Model 25's unused drive bay or replace one of the 3½-inch floppy disk drives in the Model 30. Rodime supplies a kit with all the fixin's—a PC-style hard disk controller, a TTL-to-CMOS adapter that plugs into the back of the drive, two ribbon cables, and a power cable. The company notes that some cables were incorrectly color coded; users should contact Rodime or authorized dealers for installation instructions.

Rodime claims its controller and the IBM drive will work in an IBM PC, XT, AT, or clone. Since the drive was designed for the Model 50's smaller bays, however, you'll need mounting brackets designed to hold a 3½-inch floppy disk drive in a 5¼-inch bay.

On balance, the DoublePlay is probably more trouble than it's worth. If you desperately need 45MB, never plan on running anything other than DOS 3.30, and can fathom maddeningly vague instructions, the DoublePlay may fit your needs. Otherwise, hold out until a speedy, adequately documented, and truly IBM-compatible drive hits the market. —*Michael Covington*

WHERE TO BUY

DoublePlay
Rodime
901 Broken Sound Pkwy. NW
Boca Raton, FL 33487
305/994-6200
List price: $1495
Requirements: DOS 3.30 or later version
For more information, see Products Featured in This Issue.

Twice the Leading Edge

Leading Edge's Model D is one of the most popular PC compatibles ever made. But older versions of the machine built around the 4.77-MHz 8088 are a little poky. If you don't feel like spending $500 on a turbo board, one cheap (but not so simple) fix is the D-Z Option Speed Up Kit from Innovation Computer Cor-

(continues)

poration. Once the kit—a 2-inch-square circuit board and external switch—is installed, the Model D can skip along at 7.8 MHz.

Installing the D-Z kit is the sticky part. Like the AT Turbo-Switch II (see "Poor Man's Turbo Board," *The Upgrade Path*, *PCW*, October 1987), the D-Z kit works its magic by essentially replacing the crystal on the Model D's motherboard that controls the microprocessor's clock speed. With most machines, this would involve simply popping the old crystal off the board, replacing it, and attaching a couple of wires. Because of the Model D's design, however, you must first remove the system's motherboard and solder a chip socket into place for the D-Z circuit board. Unless you're a very experienced upgrader—and you're in a mood to decipher Innovation's terse instructions—take the company's advice and pay a competent computer technician to do the job.

Before you take this leap, be advised that altering the Model D in this fashion invalidates Leading Edge's 20-month warranty. (This point is obviously moot if you bought your system before September 1986.) More important, Innovation notes that some machines may "malfunction or operate marginally" at 7.8 MHz. So don't make this upgrade lightly. Better still, save your money for that turbo board. —*R. L.*

WHERE TO BUY

D-Z Option Speed Up Kit
Innovation Computer Corp.
1325 Juniper St.
Cleveland, WI 53015
414/693-3416
List price: $149
For more information, see Products Featured in This Issue.

A Better Mouse

Most users scoffed when they heard Microsoft had developed a new mouse. A mouse, after all, is the simplest peripheral around. You roll it, click it, and that's it.

But Microsoft's mouse makeover has produced a surprisingly superior product. The new design relocates the ball from under your fingertips. As a result, the now all-white rodent is a dream to hold; it rolls like ice on Teflon; and best of all, it's easier to click. Keyboard aficionados might consider such huzzahs to be a tempest in a teacup. But if you use a mouse all day with your word processor or a click-intensive program like *PageMaker*, Microsoft's upgrade is just the thing.

Financially and physically, making the move is relatively painless. The serial-PS/2 and bus versions of the mouse cost from $150 to $200, depending on the software bundle you select: *Mouse Menus* and *Microsoft Paintbrush*, *EasyCAD*, or *Microsoft Windows 2.0* and *PC Paintbrush for Windows*. Installing the bus mouse examined here involves popping the supplied InPort bus-interface board into a free slot, attaching the mouse, and copying a file or two to your system. (If you buy the serial-PS/2 version, you'll have to choose from 9-pin and 25-pin serial cables, or a PS/2 mouse port adapter and cable. If your system already has an older bus mouse adapter card with the proper connector, you can just plug the mouse in and copy the new mouse drivers over.) The tools of the upgrade: small Phillips and flat-blade screwdrivers.

If you're upgrading a machine with a hard disk, park the drive; otherwise, just turn off the system, unplug all external cables, and remove the cover. Ground yourself, remove the InPort board, and lay it on top of its antistatic wrapper. You'll notice red

(continues)

MARK FARBIN

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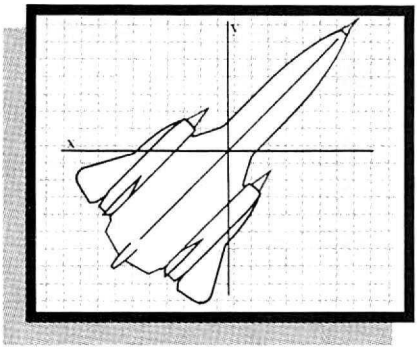

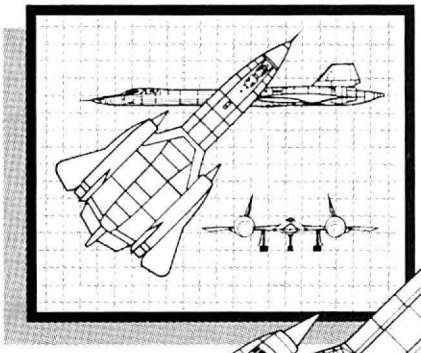

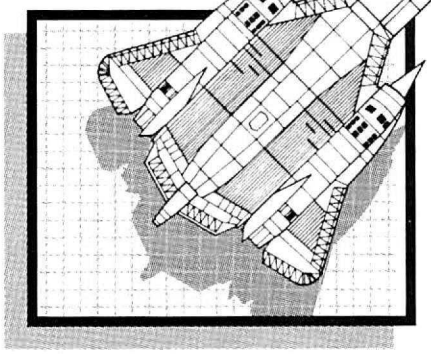

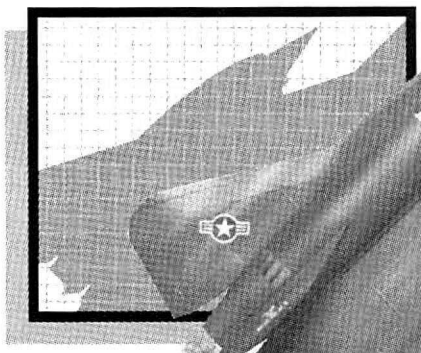

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plastic jumpers at three locations on the board. The top two blocks allow you to configure the InPort to work in the XT's short slot and with a second InPort board. The J4 block at the bottom of the board is where most of the action takes place.

Configuring the interface board is a process of elimination. The AT compatible used in this upgrade included a serial board and an EGA adapter; according to a table in the user manual, that meant pins 2 and 4 should *not* be covered. Slip the jumper over either pin 3 or 5 and you can put the board in a slot, connect the mouse, reassemble the system, and install the mouse driver. But don't put the hood back on just yet. If there's an expansion board that for some reason conflicts with the InPort, you'll need to remove the InPort and experiment with the jumper settings. However, chances are you won't have to—the upgraded system also included a parallel port, a game port, an AboveBoard, and a Ditron MegaPrint buffer board. The InPort worked uncomplainingly with all of them.

With the hood off, boot up the system and delete any old mouse drivers, such as MOUSE.COM and MOUSE.SYS, and remove any references to the latter in CONFIG.SYS. Then place the supplied Setup disk in drive A: and type MSETUP. Follow the prompts as the mouse driver and control panel program (a pop-up utility that adjusts the mouse's sensitivity to movement) are copied to the system disk. The setup program will also modify AUTOEXEC.BAT so that the mouse driver (and the control panel, if desired) is loaded automatically whenever the system is rebooted. Once software installation is complete, reboot the system, and the mouse is ready to roll. Note: If your applications were previously installed for a bus mouse, your work is done. But if you used a serial mouse, programs such as *Windows* and *Ventura Publisher* will have to be reinstalled. —*R. L.*

WHERE TO BUY

Microsoft Mouse
Microsoft Corp.
16011 N.E. 36th Way
Box 97107
Redmond, WA 98073-9717
800/426-9400, 206/882-8080
List price: with Mouse Menus and Microsoft Paintbrush $150, with EasyCAD $175, with Windows 2.0 and PC Paintbrush for Windows $200
Requirements: DOS 2.00 or later version, one disk drive, one free slot (bus mouse) or serial port (serial mouse)
For more information, see Products Featured in This Issue.

Michael Covington does artificial intelligence research at the University of Georgia. He has written more than 100 magazine articles on the PC and PC programming.

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Translate the jargon in computer ads, unearth the elusive hidden file, and learn more about the utility FILL.

Karl Koessel

Beginner's Bewilderment

Q. *I am interested in buying an IBM-compatible clone and, while researching various advertisements, have come across terms and phrases I don't fully understand. Can you tell me: (1) What's the difference between an 8-, a 16-, and a 32-bit CPU? (2) Of what significance is* MHz*? (3) What is* turbo mode*? (4) What does* wait state *mean (as in* zero-wait-state design*)? (5) What is the Norton SI rating? (6) What is a BIOS? What is the difference between a* legal *BIOS and a* Phoenix *BIOS?*

Fred A. Flook
Long Beach, California

A. Good questions, all. Those of us who work with PCs take a lot for granted; it's easy to forget that the terms we use daily can be as baffling as a foreign language to a new PC user.

1. The CPU (central processing unit), or processor, is the part of a PC that actually does the computing. The computing, or processing, is performed by manipulating sequences of electronic 1s and 0s, or *bits*. An 8-bit CPU can process 8 bits at once internally; a 16-bit CPU, 16; and a 32-bit CPU, 32. The greater the processor's bit width, the more powerful it is.

Each new member of a given product family—such as the Intel processors that drive IBM's microcomputers—has been designed with new or improved capabilities, such as faster operation. The IBM PC and XT use a 16-bit Intel 8088 processor. The PS/2 Models 25 and 30 house a 16-bit 8086; the AT and the PS/2 Models 50 and 60, a 16-bit 80286; and the PS/2 Model 80, a 32-bit 80386.

Bit width is also used to describe the number of bits a processor can pass between itself and memory at one time. The wider a processor's data path, the faster it can move data in and out. For example, the 8088 and 8086 are nearly identical, but although the 8088 processes 16 bits internally, its data path is only 8 bits wide, in contrast with the 16-bit data path of the 8086. The 8088's slower 8-bit data path was all that was required to connect to the 8-bit peripherals available in the early 1980s. A few years later, however, IBM introduced the AT, equipped with an expansion bus that enabled 16-bit devices to be connected to the AT's 80286 processor via a 16-bit data path. (The connectors, or slots, on the AT's expansion bus also accept most 8-bit, PC/XT-style expansion boards. When relevant, manufacturers distinguish between 8-bit, PC/XT-style and 16-bit, AT-only boards.) A year ago, IBM introduced the Personal System/2 family, whose top-of-the-line PS/2 Model 80 features a 32-bit data path.

(continues)

2. *MHz* is the abbreviation for *megahertz*, or 1 million cycles per second, and denotes the speed of computer system components. Generally, you will see *MHz* used in reference to processor speed. For example, the 8088 in the original PC runs at 4.77 MHz. Because processing a computer instruction requires a number of cycles (timing pulses), the faster a given type of processor is, the faster it can process an instruction: A 12-MHz 80286 executes a given instruction in half the time it takes a 6-MHz 80286. When you see *MHz* used to describe a system, you should understand that it applies only to the processor's speed. A system that used a 12-MHz 80286, for example, would run your application programs twice as fast as a system equipped with a 6-MHz 80286 only if every other system activity (such as reading or writing disk data or manipulating the video display) were also twice as fast.

You're also likely to see *MHz* used in connection with a computer system's expansion bus and expansion boards. Because so many expansion boards have been designed to work with processors running at up to 8 MHz, most manufacturers continue to use an 8-MHz, AT-compatible bus in systems that have faster processors.

Some manufacturers are producing *dual-bus* systems: One bus is dedicated to memory, and the other is for all other system enhancements. Those systems remain compatible with 8-MHz expansion cards but provide a faster (for example, 20-MHz) memory bus.

It's not unusual to find 10-MHz, zero-wait-state machines that outperform 12-MHz, one-wait-state machines.

3. *Turbo mode* originally referred to the faster speed available on a system that has been upgraded with an accelerator, or turbo, board. Such boards substitute a faster CPU for the system's original CPU. Because some software copy protection schemes are time dependent, turbo boards are designed to allow the PC they're installed in to run at a speed that permits such software to load, and then switch into turbo mode, speeding program execution. Fortunately, such copy protection schemes are rare nowadays.

In recent years, Intel has developed CPUs that can be driven at increasingly faster speeds, and the turbo marketing hype has found its way into system advertisements. You will sometimes see an ad that touts a system's faster turbo mode. From a marketing standpoint, this approach is better than pitching a fast machine that includes a "slow-down" feature.

4. *Wait states* are processor delays that some systems introduce after the processor executes an instruction that accesses system memory or performs other system I/O (input/output). To minimize costs, a system may use memory and I/O subsystems that cannot respond as fast as its high-speed processor would like. Wait states are used to ensure that those subsystems have concluded their function before the processor executes the next instruction. It's not unusual to find 10-MHz, zero-wait-state machines that outperform 12-MHz, one-wait-state machines.

5. Peter Norton is the author of the popular *Norton Utilities*, a collection of small programs, the best known of which enables you to "unerase" a file after you mistakenly delete it. The *SI (system index) rating* is generated by a program Peter wrote to compute a system's performance relative to that of the original IBM PC. An SI of 6.0, for example, means that on average, the system functions at six times the speed of the original PC. Version 4.0 of the *Utilities* also measures disk performance.

6. *BIOS* stands for *basic input/output system*. The BIOS is a collection of service routines that perform basic hardware functions, such as reading from or writing to the disk or putting characters on the screen. These routines isolate the operating system and application program from specific hardware devices. Because BIOS routines are in ROM (read-only memory), programs can ask the BIOS (or ask the operating system to ask the BIOS) to perform a service. Thus, the programmer does not

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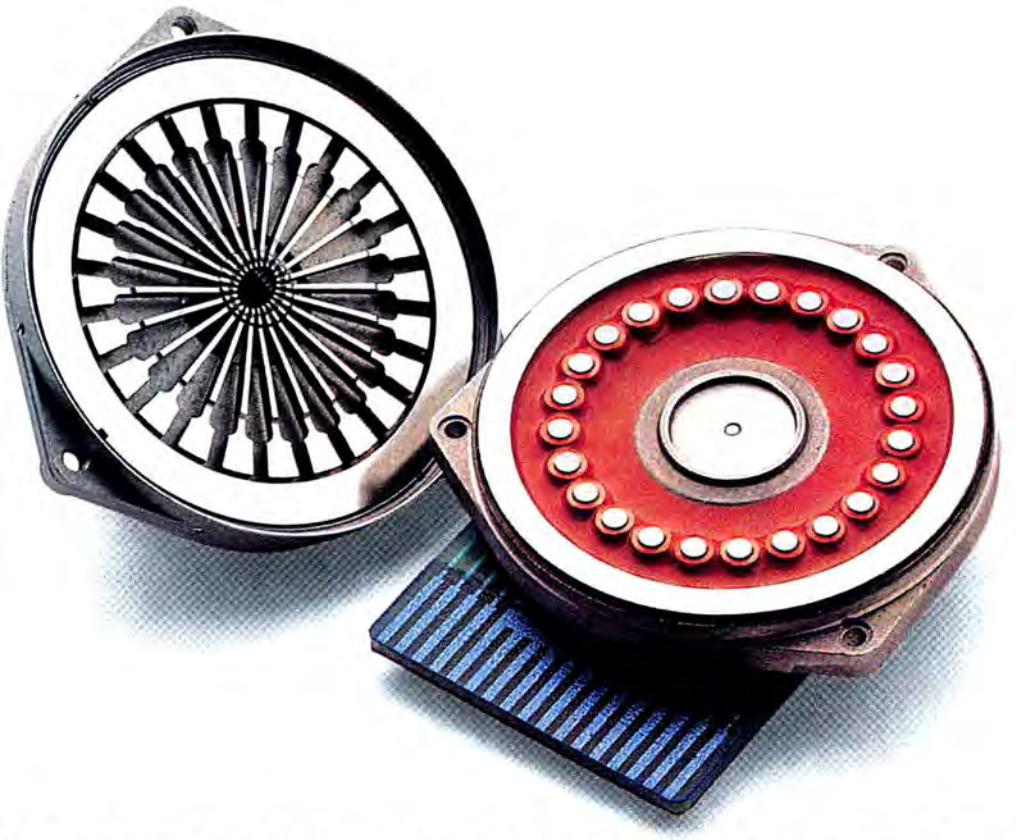

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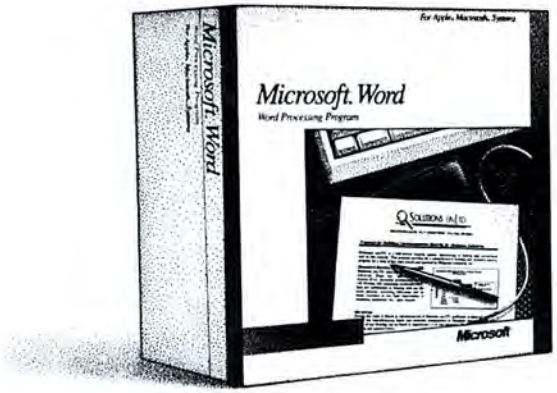

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need to write code to perform basic functions and can concentrate on designing applications that are easy to use and do what you want. Easier programming also shortens the development cycle, resulting in quicker and less expensive updates.

In order for a clone to run IBM PC applications, its BIOS must perform exactly the same tasks as IBM's BIOS. However, simply copying IBM's BIOS would be a violation of copyright law. Because in the early days of the PC almost every would-be clone manufacturer lacked the funds to fight a legal battle if IBM challenged its BIOS, clone makers looked for a company that could document "independent development" of its BIOS, ensuring that it had been engineered legally. Phoenix Technologies was the first company to do this and is still the best known. Thus, a Phoenix BIOS is a legal BIOS; however, it's not the only legal one. Since Phoenix developed its BIOS, Award Software and American Megatrends International have developed BIOS's that are just as fast and compatible, if not more so.

Hunting the Hidden File

Q. *I have a hidden file called ~CAROSEL.TMP in the root directory of my hard disk. I know it's there because when I try to back up the root directory, the file name* \~CAROSEL.TMP *appears as the computer fills more than two 720K disks. (I don't know the exact number—I've never been patient enough to wait and see how many disks the file takes up before I terminate the backup with <Ctrl>-<Break>.) Also, CHKDSK/F tells me I have close to 2MB in hidden files.*

How can I delete this large and pesky beast? I've tried several ways, but to no avail. Here's a clue: I had been using Software Carousel. *When I decided to discontinue using this program, I simply deleted it.*

R. H. Newman-Evans
Somerville, New Jersey

A. The simplest solution is to use a utility program that can delete hidden files (some DOS shell and file-management programs include this capability). In lieu of such a one-step utility, you can use a utility, such as Peter Norton's FA (File Attribute) program, that can change a file's attribute so that the file is no longer hidden, and then delete the file using DOS. Although it's a tedious process, you can also use DEBUG (from the DOS Supplemental Programs disk) to "unhide" a file. But first, do a complete backup. The DEBUG procedure rewrites disk sectors, and any mistake may destroy the disk's data.

Load DEBUG. The hyphen prompt will appear. Type **L 0 2 0 80** and press **<Enter>**. The L command loads—beginning at memory offset 0 of the CS register—disk data into memory from drive 2's (drive C:'s) first sector (0), and it continues to load data until 1280 (80 hex) sectors have been loaded. Now type **S 0 FFFF "~CAROSEL"** and press **<Enter>**. That command searches (S) from offset 0 through offset FFFF (hex) for the string ~CAROSEL. If the hyphen prompt reappears without DEBUG first displaying an address (in the form of *xxxx:yyyy*), type **L 0 2 80 80** and press **<Enter>** to load the second 80 hex sectors of data, and issue the search command again. When the address value is displayed, type **D** followed by the *yyyy* portion of the displayed address and press **<Enter>**.

Several lines of hex code will be displayed along with some ASCII characters on the right side of the display, beginning with ~CAROSEL. Type **E** followed by the first 3 digits of the *yyyy* portion and then a **B**. That command tells DEBUG that you want to edit the *yyy*Bth byte, ~CAROSEL.TMP's attribute byte. Press **<Enter>**. Type **0** and press **<Enter>** again. That changes the attribute byte to 0. Now, very carefully, retype the last L (load) command that you used, but substitute a W for the L. Press **<Enter>**. That command writes (W) the sector data, along with the changed attribute byte, back to the sectors from which the data came. Finally, press **Q** and **<Enter>** to quit DEBUG. The file is now unhidden and can be deleted.

Finding FILL

Q. *Where can I buy Jean Lalonde's public-domain utility, FILL.EXE, which facilitates copying large groups of files from a hard disk directory to floppies? It was recommended by a reader in "Full FILLing*

(continues)

Utility" [The Help Screen, *February 1988] because its organizational savvy minimizes the required number of floppy disks.*

Al George
Canton, Ohio

A. FILL.EXE and its companion documentation file, FILL-.DOC, are not for sale—they are available free and can be found on CompuServe or on BIX (*Byte* magazine's Info Exchange). You can freely use and redistribute the program as long as the documentation file and the program's copyright remain intact and you do not charge other users (except for the floppy disk). The author welcomes comments and can be reached on line on CompuServe (ID: 76606,671) or on BIX (BIX name: jlalonde). Mail can be sent to Jean Lalonde, P.O. Box 721, Station "R," Montreal, Quebec, H2S-3M4 Canada. FILL is written in Logitech's Modula-2/86 release 2.0 (A), and the source files are available for $25 from the author.

Do you have any questions concerning the IBM PC or compatibles? Send them to The Help Screen, PC World, *501 Second St., San Francisco, CA 94107 or electronically to MCI Mail PC-WORLD/179-3813, CompuServe 74055,412, or The Source STE908.* ●

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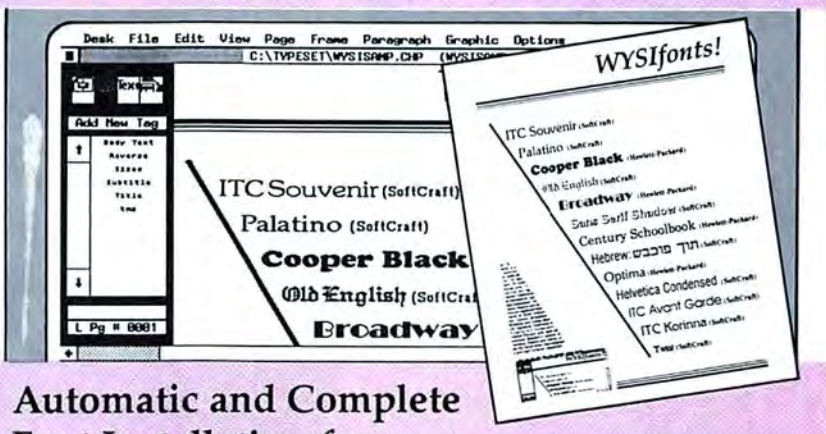

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STAR-DOT-STAR

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A global exchange of personal computer discoveries

Write batch files that know the day of the week, program WordStar data entry screens, and improve a dBASE application documenter.

Edited by Tom Swan

Batch of the Day

It's impossible to write batch files that perform differently based on the day of the week, or so I thought until I wrote DATECHEK.COM. This 8-byte utility allows a single batch file to run a disk optimizer on Mondays, download electronic mail on Tuesdays, perform backups on Fridays, and bring up your favorite computer game on Saturdays.

To create DATECHEK.COM, execute DEBUG.COM (from the DOS Supplemental Programs disk) and type the bold characters in **FIGURE 1,** pressing <Enter> at the end of each line as indicated. The program calls DOS function 2A, which returns the weekday as a number from 0 to 6. Examine this value with an IF ERRORLEVEL batch command. Sunday is 0, Monday 1, Tuesday 2, Wednesday 3, Thursday 4, Friday 5, and Saturday 6.

In an example of DATECHEK at work, DAYCHECK.BAT **[LISTING 1]** displays the day of the week. The REM statements indicate where to insert commands to run various utilities on different days. In your own batch files, be sure to check higher ERRORLEVEL values first because values greater than or equal to ERRORLEVEL evaluate as true, executing the GOTO statements.

Rusty Brown
Irving, Texas

Editor's note: Talk about short but sweet! At 8 bytes, DATECHEK.COM has to be the shortest useful .COM file around. On my system, I added the commands in **LISTING 2** *to AUTOEXEC.BAT so that CHKDSK would execute every Monday morning. (The DOS manual recommends running CHKDSK periodically "to ensure the integrity of the [disk's] file structures.")* **LISTING 2** *also shows how to test for a specific day without using the seven GOTOs in* **LISTING 1.** *The IF ERRORLEVEL command eliminates days with higher numbers than the one you want. The IF NOT ERRORLEVEL command eliminates days with lower numbers.*

Programming WordStar Data Entry Screens

WordStar's repeat-printing and ask-for-variable dot commands (.dv and .av) let me program mail-merge data-entry screens that operate like data base forms. I've found this to be a real time-saver when creating name and address lists for merge printing with *WordStar 4.0* master documents.

ASKADDR **[FIGURE 2]** creates a name-and-address nondocument data file, prompting individually for items. The dot commands separate items with commas, add quotes around items containing commas, and print the results to a nondocument file,

(continues)

ready for merge printing. Change the 100 in the .rp command to the number of records you have to enter.

After saving ASKADDR to disk, type **M** from *WordStar*'s opening menu. Specify **ASKADDR** as the file name to print. Press **<Enter>** repeatedly until you see 'Name of Printer?' Then type **XTRACT > ADDR.LST** to send output to the disk file ADDR.LST. Specify a different file name after the greater-than symbol if you prefer not to overwrite an existing file.

In a few seconds, you'll see a 'Print Wait' message at the top right of your screen. Press **P** to display the data entry form. Type your data, pressing <Enter> to move to subsequent fields and also for blank fields. Take care to correct each line before pressing <Enter>—you can't return to previous fields to fix typos. Don't worry too much about minor goofs, though; you can always edit mistakes later.

After you've finished entering records, *WordStar* returns to the opening menu. Type **N** and **ADDR.LST** to edit your data file. Correct any mistakes and save. You can now mail merge the names and addresses in ADDR.LST with any master document.

Virginia Shovlin
Mentor, Ohio

Editor's note: To stop entering records before you reach the maximum number specified by .rp, press <Ctrl>-U. The non-document data file will be saved. The first .dm (display message) in ASKADDR displays an optional prompt above the entry form created by the .av commands. You can edit these commands to display other messages and create custom forms. Begin each field with .av, followed by a prompt string in quotes, a comma, and a unique field name. Finally, as shown in ASKADDR after the clear-screen command (.cs), list each field name within the "& and &" delimiters, separating each field name with commas, in the order you want data written to disk. If you have many fields to enter, remove the empty .dm commands, which display blank lines between prompts.

Improved dBASE Documenter

George Salguero's data base documenter ["dBASE Documenter," *.*, *PCW*, November 1987] inspired me to offer several improvements. My version, DOC2.PRG [shown in **LISTING 3**], doesn't require you to manually create a temporary data base file. It also does some error checking that George left out.

Giles A. Birch
Boston, Massachusetts

Editor's note: With DOC2.PRG on disk, type **DO DOC2** at the dBASE *dot prompt to run the program. Enter any .DBF file name (do not type the .DBF file-*

(continues)

```
ECHO OFF
DATECHEK
IF ERRORLEVEL 6 GOTO SAT
IF ERRORLEVEL 5 GOTO FRI
IF ERRORLEVEL 4 GOTO THU
IF ERRORLEVEL 3 GOTO WED
IF ERRORLEVEL 2 GOTO TUE
IF ERRORLEVEL 1 GOTO MON
IF ERRORLEVEL 0 GOTO SUN
:SUN
ECHO Today is Sunday
REM  Insert Sunday commands
GOTO EXIT
:MON
ECHO Today is Monday
REM  Insert Monday commands
GOTO EXIT
:TUE
ECHO Today is Tuesday
REM  Insert Tuesday commands
GOTO EXIT
:WED
ECHO Today is Wednesday
REM  Insert Wednesday commands
GOTO EXIT
:THU
ECHO Today is Thursday
REM  Insert Thursday commands
GOTO EXIT
:FRI
ECHO Today is Friday
REM  Insert Friday commands
GOTO EXIT
:SAT
ECHO Today is Saturday
REM  Insert Saturday commands
:EXIT
```

LISTING 1: DAYCHECK.BAT demonstrates one way to test for the errorlevel returned by DATECHEK.COM.

```
ECHO OFF
DATECHEK
REM The following IF commands test for errorlevel=1 and 1 only
IF ERRORLEVEL 2 GOTO NOCHECK
IF NOT ERRORLEVEL 1 GOTO NOCHECK
ECHO ************************************************************
ECHO Welcome to the I-Hate-Mondays CHKDSK maintenance program
ECHO ************************************************************
CHKDSK /F
ECHO Maintenance complete.  See you next Monday.
PAUSE
:NOCHECK
ECHO ON
```

LISTING 2: Use these commands in your AUTOEXEC.BAT file to run CHKDSK every Monday, courtesy of DATECHEK.COM. Note how IF and IF NOT are used to exclude errorlevels not equal to 1.

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```
-N DATECHEK.COM                    <Enter>
-A                                 <Enter>
xxxx:0100 MOV AH,2A                <Enter>
xxxx:0102 INT 21                   <Enter>
xxxx:0104 MOV AH,4C                <Enter>
xxxx:0106 INT 21                   <Enter>
xxxx:0108                          <Enter>
-RCX                               <Enter>
CX 0000
:8                                 <Enter>
-W                                 <Enter>
Writing 0008 bytes
-Q                                 <Enter>
```

FIGURE 1: Run DEBUG and type the text shown in bold to create DATECHEK.COM.

name extension) to create a .DEF text file containing the data file's structure. This text is automatically loaded into the dBASE *editor for viewing or modification. Press* **<Esc>** *to return to the file prompt. Type another name or press <Esc> again to quit the program. DOC2 creates the temporary file Q$$$.DBF, deleting an old file of the same name if one exists. You could name the temporary file anything else, but it's best to use an obscure name like Q$$$ that other programs are unlikely to need.*

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(Turn page for Softstrips)

```
..        WordStar Nondocument Data File Maker
.rp 100
.mt 0
.mb 0
.pl 1
.po 0
.pf off
.op
.dm Type name and address. Press Enter for blank lines.
.dm
.av "Name ........... : ",Name
.dm
.av "Address ........ : ",Address
.dm
.av "City, State, ZIP : ",CityStZip
.cs
"&Name&","&Address&","&CityStZip&"
```

FIGURE 2: ASKADDR displays an entry form for entering records into a WordStar nondocument data file.

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```
** DOC2.PRG
** BUILDS AN ASCII DEF FILE CONTAINING A .DBF FILE'S STRUCTURE

CLEAR
SET CONFIRM ON
SET TALK OFF
DO WHILE .T.
   STORE SPACE(8) TO dbfile
   @ 10,10 SAY "ENTER DBF FILE NAME: " GET dbfile PICTURE "!!!!!!!!"
   READ
   STORE TRIM(dbfile) TO dbfile
* if no file name was given, quit
   IF LEN(dbfile) = 0
      EXIT
   ENDIF
* if the file can't be found, say so and try again
   IF .NOT. FILE(dbfile+".DBF")
      @ 12,10 SAY dbfile+".DBF NOT FOUND."
      LOOP
   ENDIF
* define the name of text file where the structure will be written
   STORE dbfile+".DEF" TO altfile
   USE &dbfile
* copy the structure
   DELETE FILE Q$$$.DBF
   COPY STRUCTURE EXTENDED TO Q$$$
   USE Q$$$
* set up the text file to receive output
   SET ALTERNATE TO &altfile
   SET ALTERNATE ON
   ?
   ? "FIELD NAME   TYPE      LENG   DEC"
   ?
* output a line for each record in the test database
* tailoring the output for every possible kind of field
   DO WHILE .NOT. EOF()
      ? FIELD_NAME+"   "
      DO CASE
         CASE FIELD_TYPE = "N"
            ?? "NUMERIC    "+STR(FIELD_LEN,3)+"  "+STR(FIELD_DEC,3)
         CASE FIELD_TYPE = "C"
            ?? "CHARACTER  "+STR(FIELD_LEN,3)
         CASE FIELD_TYPE = "D"
            ?? "DATE         8"
         CASE FIELD_TYPE = "L"
            ?? "LOGICAL      1"
         CASE FIELD_TYPE = "M"
            ?? "MEMO"
      ENDCASE
      SKIP
   ENDDO
* last carriage return flushes the buffer
* (without this you lose the last line of output)
   ?
   SET ALTERNATE OFF
   SET ALTERNATE TO
   USE
* look at and modify the text file
   MODIFY COMMAND &altfile
ENDDO
SET CONFIRM OFF
SET TALK ON
RETURN
```

LISTING 3: DOC2.PRG is an improved dBASE data file documenter.

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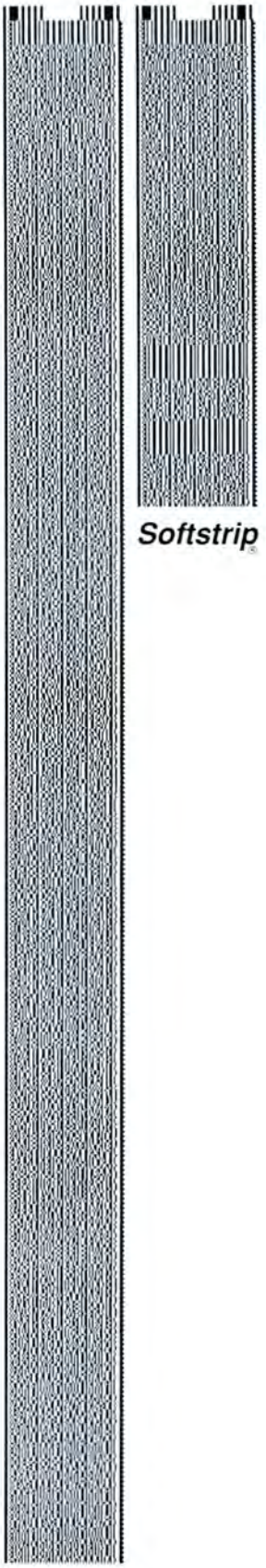

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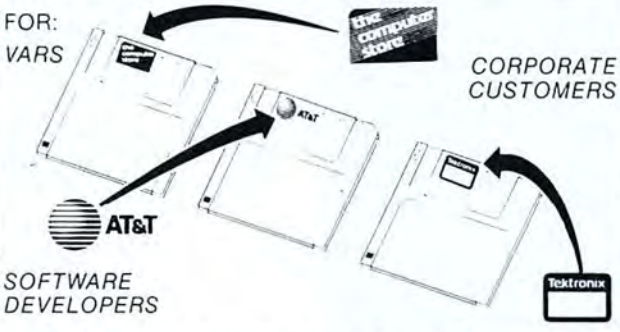

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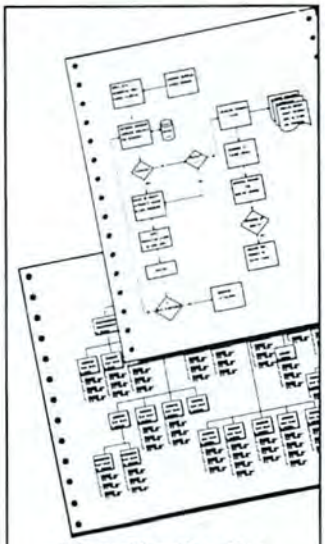

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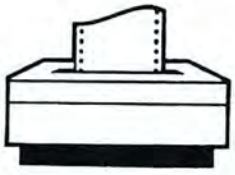

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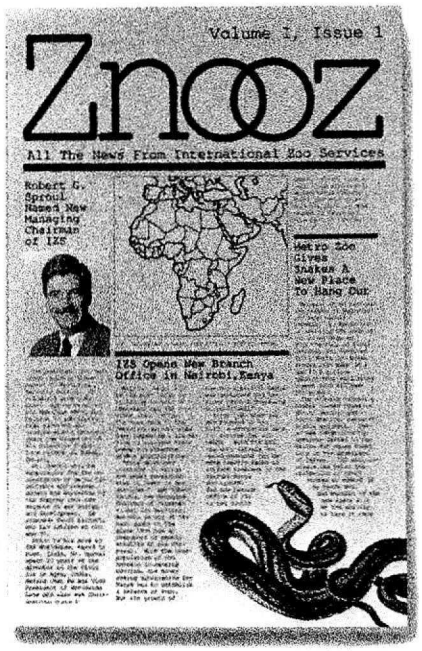

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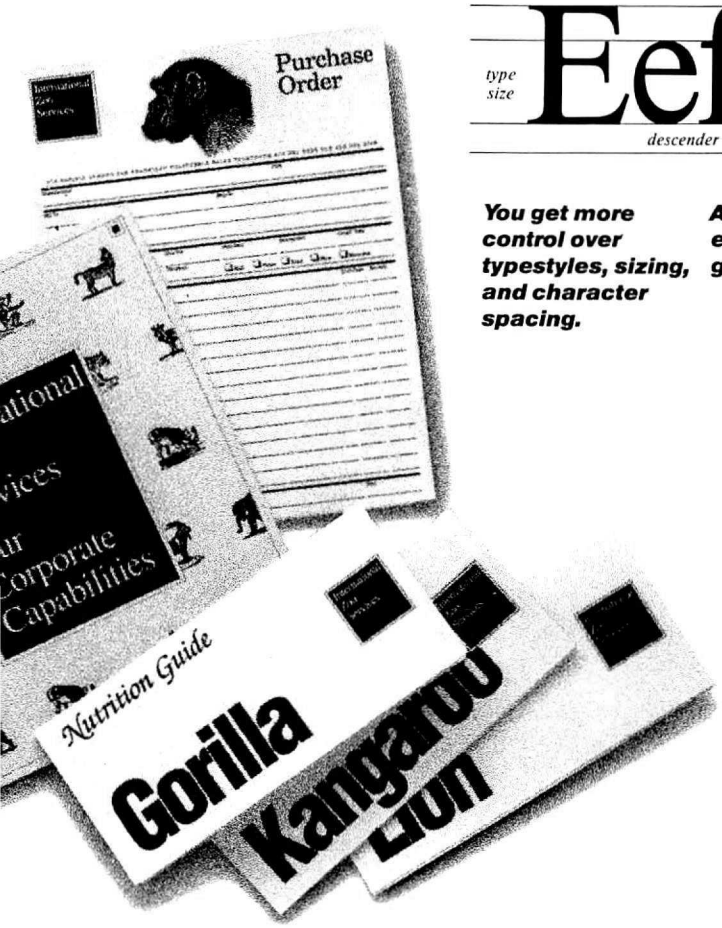

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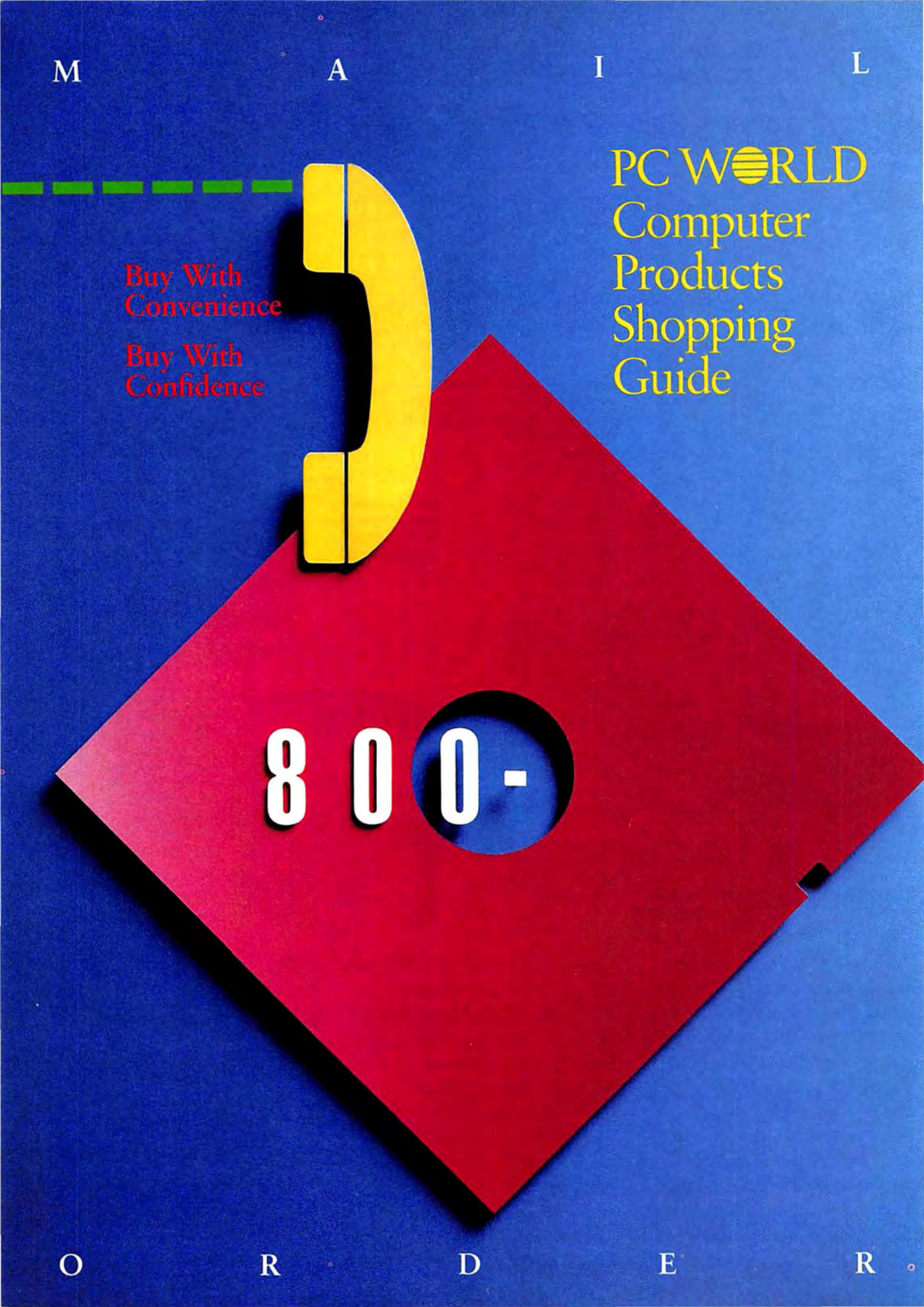
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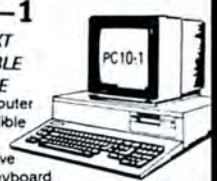

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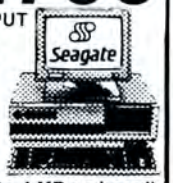

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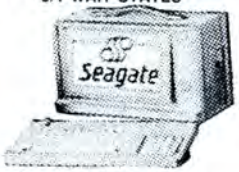

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The Aha Principle and the Whack Corollary

Steve Bass

So what's the problem with IBM?" asked my friend Harry one day, busy interacting with QuickBASIC 4.0.

"What problem?" I parried, not wanting to be the bearer of bad news.

"Come on," he responded between debugs, "we haven't seen an edition of *Exchange* in months." Actually, it had been considerably longer since IBM sent our user group an issue of its excellent on-disk support magazine.

"Maybe it just became too expensive," I suggested, concentrating harder on the monitor's QB4 code.

"Humph," he humphed, turning back to his ill-designed AT keyboard. Harry didn't know the history.

It began with Gene Barlow, IBM's former group support manager, whose job it had been to watch over user groups. He managed a telephone support staff, a toll-free bulletin board, and best of all, this unique on-disk publication.

Started in early 1984, *Exchange* was brilliant, slick, and practical—full of great utility programs and tips. It was widely disseminated by user group librarians, keeping the IBM name ever in front of the multitudes.

But the *Exchange* of disks came to a screeching halt in 1985 when the monthly turned into a much less valuable hard-copy magazine. Of course, IBM still kept its bulletin board open to user group activists; it even supplied a meeting room for the first User Group Summit at COMDEX/Fall '86.

But soon the magazine was coming out every other month, then quarterly; then it shrank to a 4-page newsletter. Late last year, it finally merged into something called *Systems*, a mainframe-oriented journal with very little to say about PCs. The Blue giveth and the Blue taketh away.

Meanwhile, bulletin board access and support staff were cut back; the offer of COMDEX meeting space was withdrawn, and Barlow finally was transferred to "a real job."

"Harry," I began diplomatically, "maybe IBM is miffed because of all the clones that users are buying."

"Hell," he exploded, "I'm a loyal IBM user. Just look at this hardware!"

"Let me explain it another way," I persevered. "In Gestalt therapy, patients are encouraged to explore their problems from different angles and to discover their own solutions through flashes of insight. It's called the Aha Principle.

"For example, after years of not knowing that our user group existed, Microsoft saw the light late last year; then, when 300 representatives from 60 user groups showed up at our COMDEX/Fall summit, a lot of other vendors 'discovered' us as well."

"But what about IBM? They were there too, right?"

"Ah, yes, well, we may need to apply a slightly different technique with IBM. We call it the Whack Corollary, as in whack them upside the head with a two-by-four to get their attention."

Harry quickly grasped the next step. "Let's invite everyone to the COMDEX/Spring summit! IBM will fall in line when they see everyone else supporting us."

"Oh, they'll all be there," I reassured him, "Microsoft, Intel, Lotus—everyone. But..."

"Of course," mused Harry, by now thumbing through the IBM clone ads in Saturday's paper, "if you have to whack them, maybe it's already too late."

"I sure hope not," I said. "Say, are you going to finish this program, or what?" ●

Steve Bass is a family therapist in private practice and president of the Pasadena, California, IBM Users' Group.

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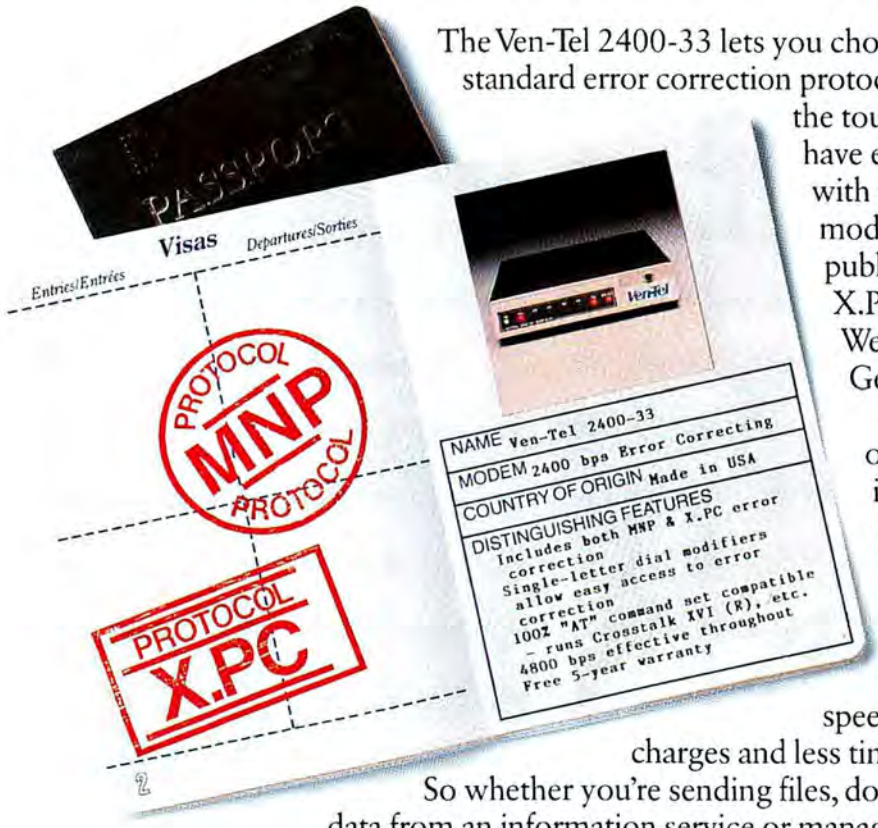

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