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WORD PROCESSORS

New Windows Packages
Take On the Old Standbys

SSS PRIGERUSTERS

10 Fully Loaded SX Systems From \$2500

DESKTOP PUBLISHING WITH WINDOWS

PageMaker ys. Ventura 44 अंग्रे-उंग्रांच्या Monitors

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To open. Open.







PCW\RLD



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Your Next Word Processor 155

Cover design by Bill Jensen Cover photograph by David Arky

COVER STORIES

REVIEWS

Will Your Next Word Processor Wear Windows? Should you buy a Windows package with easy access to fonts and graphics, or a character-based program keyed to fast text editing? Our review of the most popular programs from both sides of the fence reveals which one is right for you. George Campbell.

FEATURES

Face-Off: PageMaker vs. Ventura Watch as a pair of layout experts put the top two desktop publishing packages through their paces, and discover which program best suits your needs. Christine Whyte and Richard Jantz.



Color Peripherals





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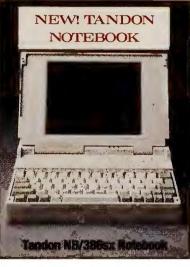
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Storage: 1.2MB OR 1.44MB diskette drive.

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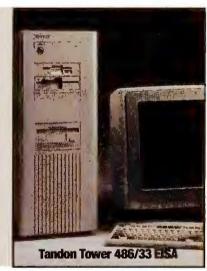
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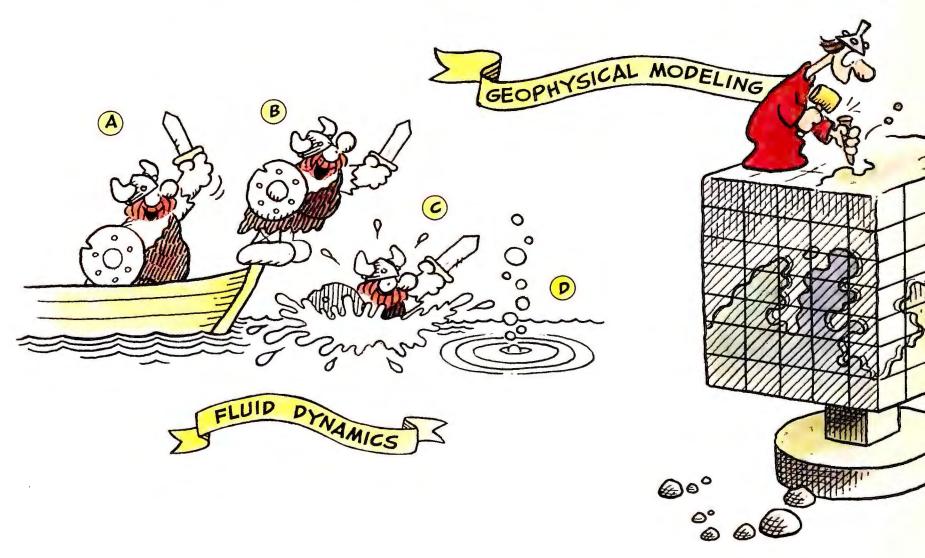
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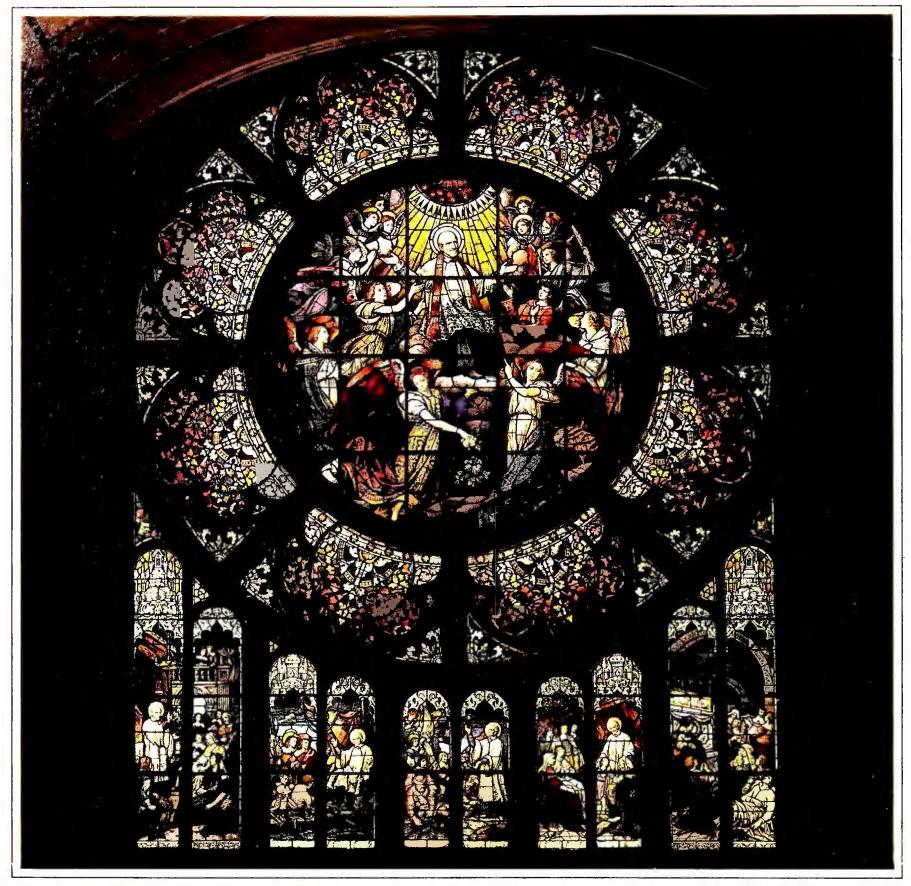
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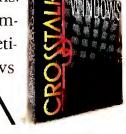
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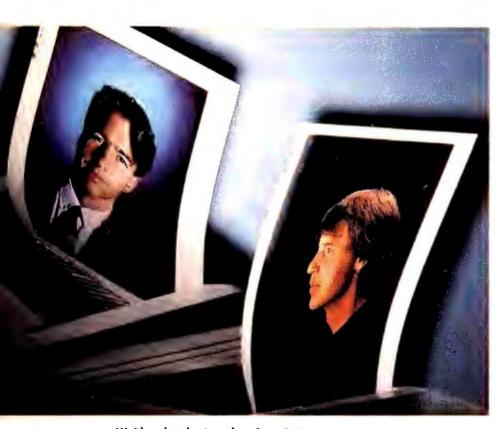
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We'd rather be in color: Associate Editor Daniel Tynan (left) and author Bob Weibel show off their shades.

see a slew of black-and-white handouts on new products, and after a while, I have trouble telling one handout from another," laments Associate Editor Daniel Tynan, coauthor of this month's cover story. "If you're creating a document or a presentation that's supposed to leave a lasting impression, do it with color."

You should have a color monitor already. But if you want to do more than admire colorful charts on screen, check out the Buyers' Guide to color printers, plotters, scanners, and slide recorders. For less money than you might think, you can buy the hardware to turn out memorable color flip charts, information-packed technical drawings, and slick 35mm slide presentations.

According to Bob Weibel, the cover story's other coauthor, you can't underestimate color's clout. While making a pitch for his own desktop publishing business, he's seen the evidence firsthand: "When color documents slide across the table, the deal closes a lot faster."

It's a color world, after all. But why is now the time to consider color output? As Weibel notes, you can now buy a 300-dots-per-inch color thermal printer for the same price the original black-and-white Hewlett-Packard LaserJet cost—and that means a mass market can't be far away. Tynan notes that at least one major printer manufacturer expects to sell as many color thermal printers this year as PostScript lasers.

Tynan observes that, as with the garden-variety laser printer, the proliferation of choices will be too much for some users. "Today's profusion of font options leaves users in danger of creating documents that look like

Color Comes Through

ransom notes. Users are at even more risk of aesthetic disaster with color, since you can cram millions of colors into a single image."

Another problem involves matching the hues you see on screen to what comes out of the printer. Even on professional systems, this is dicey. "Ambient lighting near the monitor has a big effect on the quality of the preview," says Weibel. "Even the humidity level of the paper comes into play. As a printing professional, I've seen output look very different two weeks after it was printed, just because of a humidity change."

Professional systems have color standards to help match printer to monitor, but for PCs, no mainstream standard exists. In moments of frustration, Tynan feels that getting PC color hardware units to work together is "like hooking your blender to your VCR and programming it to pulverize."

Fortunately, color accuracy counts most when you want to print scanned photos—a task not really suited to the under-\$10,000 class of printers we've focused on here. Instead, think logos, charts, drawings, and color typography. With such relatively undemanding tasks, Weibel suggests, you shouldn't split hairs about output quality. "If you have to hold output from two printers side by side to tell the difference, go for the unit that's easier to use, more expandable, and less expensive to operate."

If you're still bound and determined to drop four-color photos of your wares into marketing materials, you won't have long to wait. Predicts Weibel, "In another two years, you'll still pay \$7000 for a color printer—but it'll give you photographic quality."

■

Eric Knorr

Editor

There is a difference and a











STANDARD CONFIGURATION

Microprocessor: 80286 running at 16MHz. Special Features: GE on-site service. Storage: 40Mb IDE hard drive. 1.44Mb or

1.2Mb floppy disk drive.

Memory: 1Mb RAM Expansion: 7 expansion slots (6 16-bit

and 1 8-bit). I/O Ports: 1 parallel and 2 serial ports.

Video: TTL monochrome monitor with video adapter.

Keyboard: Enhanced 101 keyboard with tactile/click touch.

Compatibility: DOS, OS/2, Novell, Unix.

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AUSTIN 386/SX16 WINSTATION

STANDARD CONFIGURATION Microprocessor: 80386SX running

at 16MHz.

Special Features: Pre-loaded with Microsoft Windows 3.0 and MS-DOS 4.01. Microsoft mouse. GE on-site service.

Storage: 40Mb IDE hard drive. 1.44Mb or

1.2Mb floppy disk drive. Memory: 2Mb RAM

Expansion: 7 expansion slots (6 16-bit and 1 8-bit).

I/O Ports: 1 parallel and 2 serial ports. Video: 14" VGA color monitor with 16-bit VGA color video adapter.

Keyboard: Enhanced 101 keyboard with

tactile/click touch.

Compatibility: DOS, OS/2, Novell, Unix

AUSTIN 386/SX20 WINSTATION STANDARD CONFIGURATION

Microprocessor: 80386SX running

at 20MHz. Special Features: Pre-loaded with

Microsoft Windows 3.0 and MS-DOS 4.01. Microsoft mouse. GE on-site service. Storage: 40Mb IDE hard drive. 1.44Mb or

1.2Mb floppy disk drive. Memory: 2Mb RAM

Expansion: 7 expansion slots (6 16-bit and 1 8-bit).

I/O Ports: 1 parallel and 2 serial ports. Video: 14" VGA color monitor, 16-bit VGA color video adapter.

Keyboard: Enhanced 101 keyboard with

tactile/click touch. Compatibility: DOS, OS/2, Novell, Unix.

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AUSTIN 386/25 WINSTATION STANDARD CONFIGURATION

Microprocessor: 80386 running

Special Features: Pre-loaded with Microsoft Windows 3.0 and MS-DOS 4.01. Microsoft mouse. GE on-site service. Small footprint chassis.

Storage: 85Mb IDE hard drive. 1.44Mb or 1.2Mb floppy disk drive.

Memory: 2Mb RAM Expansion: 7 expansion slots (6 16-bit

and 1 8-bit).

1/0 Ports: 1 parallel and 2 serial ports.

Video: 14" VGA color monitor, 16-bit VGA color video adapter. Keyboard: Enhanced 101 keyboard with

tactile/click touch.

Compatibility: DOS, OS/2, Novell, Unix.



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AUSTIN 386/33 WINSTATION STANDARD CONFIGURATION

Microprocessor: 80386 running at 33MHz.

Special Features: 128K system cache. Pre-loaded with Microsoft Windows 3.0 and MS-DOS 4.01. Microsoft mouse. GE on-site service. Small footprint chassis. Storage: 125Mb IDE hard drive with 32K cache. 1.44Mb or 1.2Mb floppy disk drive. Memory: 4Mb RAM

Expansion: 7 expansion slots (6 16-bit and 1 8-bit).

I/O Ports: 1 parallel and 2 serial ports.
Video: 14" VGA color monitor. 16-bit VGA color video adapter.

Keyboard: Enhanced 101 keyboard with

tactile/click touch. Compatibility: DOS, OS/2, Novell, Unix.

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Special Features: Internal 8K cache and floating point unit. Pre-loaded with Microsoft Windows 3.0 and MS-DOS 4.01. Microsoft mouse. GE on-site service. Storage: 125Mb IDE hard drive with 32K cache. 1.44Mb or 1.2Mb floppy disk drive. **Memory:** 4Mb RAM (expands to 32Mb on system board).

Expansion: 8 ISA expansion slots. I/O Ports: 1 parallel and 2 serial ports.
Video: 14" VGA color monitor. 16-bit VGA color video adapter.

Keyboard: Enhanced 101 keyboard with

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Compatibility: DOS, OS/2, Novell, Unix.

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Storage: 1.2Gb SCSI hard drive. 1.44 Mb
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Memory: 8Mb RAM (expands to 64Mb on
system board).

Memory: 8MB RAM (expands to 64MB of system board).

Expansion: 8 32-bit EISA bus master.

I/O Ports: 2 parallel and 2 serial ports.

Video: 14" VGA monochrome monitor.

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Keyboard: Enhanced 101 keyboard.

Compatibility: DOS, OS/2, Novell, Unix.

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Storage: 20Mb hard drive. 1.44Mb floppy disk drive.

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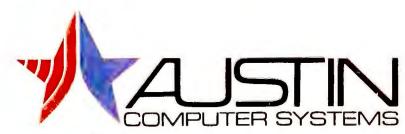




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OS/2 Outdoes Windows

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Struggling to regain leadership in system software after its split with Microsoft, IBM has launched a massive campaign for its OS/2 operating system—cutting current pricing to below DOS's, investing heavily in marketing and support

programs, and promising a new version this fall with unexcelled support for DOS and *Windows* applications.

OS/2 2.0 will offer fast, 32-bit performance (Microsoft's upcoming Windows 3.1 is still a 16-bit environment) and an upgraded user interface. And OS/2 2.0 multitasks DOS applications (giving each an impressive 620K of memory even with network and mouse support) and Windows apps with better protection against system crashes than Windows provides. IBM also claims to have solved nagging installation and printing problems.

Analysts caution that even with its performance advantages, OS/2 2.0 will have trouble beating *Windows*' huge momentum. Only 600,000 copies of OS/2 have sold to date, while *Windows 3.0* shipments have reached 4 million. And while corporate customers still invest heavily in in-house OS/2 projects, OS/2 application work has dwindled to a trickle among independent software vendors.

To further complicate matters, Microsoft plans to release late this year a software developers' kit for OS/2 3.0—not a follow-on to 2.0, but a

IBM's OS/2 2.0 Strikes Back



IBM's latest offers safer multitasking and performance advantages over Windows.

built-from-scratch 32-bit alternative that will run DOS, *Windows*, and OS/2 packages.

OS/2 2.0 may not stop the Windows juggernaut, but IBM is doing what it needs to do for many corporate clients, notes Yankee Group analyst Paul Zagaeski. OS/2 2.0 will sell for under \$200, with upgrades from IBM's DOS for \$99 through year-end. (Pricing on OS/2 1.3 has dropped to \$150, while DOS lists at \$165.)

Zenith Has First 386SL Notebook

During June, Zenith Data Systems will ship the first notebook PC using Intel's 386SL, a microprocessor with built-in power management. Zenith's \$5500 MastersPort 386SL is a 6.8-pound notebook offering 3 hours of battery-powered computing you can use over days or weeks without exiting an application.

Because of Zenith's long experience with software-based power conservation, Intel sought its help in designing power management extensions right into the 386SL processor, says Intel marketing manager David Ryan. The 386SL's clock can be turned down to 0 MHz, compared to 2 to 8 MHz for the 20 MHz 386SX. The two-chip 386SL solution also takes up 40 percent less real estate on the system board than do comparable 386SX designs, letting system makers add more batteries, more storage, or better displays—or produce thinner or lighter systems. These characteristics will make the 386SL a must for pen-based systems, predicts Ryan.

A keystroke puts the MastersPort 386SL in "rest/resume" mode, where it can remain for up to three weeks, drawing a fraction of a percent of normal power—about as much as a keyboard's LED. A user could make a desktop presentation or unobtrusively take notes in a meeting, turning the computer "on and off" without rebooting.

Although the 386SL is now available in quantity, other vendors have been slow to announce. Dean McCarron, vice president at Instat, predicts several vendors will announce and sell about 120,000 systems this year, followed by 500,000 next year. The current reluctance, he explains, is due to the chip's relatively high price and vendors' desire to recoup their investments in the deluge of recent 386SXs.

AT&T Safari Lets Road Warriors Phone Home More Often

AT&T Computer Systems has introduced a high-end notebook PC with an emphasis on communications to let some 26 million out-of-office professionals stay out of the office longer without losing touch.

At 7.5 pounds, 9.5 by 12 inches, and a minimum sticker of \$5399, the Safari NSX/20 is a little heavier, larger, and costlier than most of the breed. But those trade-offs yield a 10-inch diagonal VGA display, a full-sized, full-travel keyboard, and more memory and storage than average.

"One of most companies' expense reduction goals is to get sales professionals out of their \$32-per-square-foot office buildings and have them function at home or in transit," explains Ed Coute, Safari general manager. To accomplish that, sales and service people, accountants, realtors, and software engineers need desktop functionality.

Standard features in the art deco-style Safari include twin batteries for up to 6 hours of computing between recharges, and a 2400-bps V.22bis modem with MNP-5 data compression and error correction for downloading files and E-mail through AT&T's EasyLink electronic mail network using the bun-

dled Access Plus software.

AT&T also plans an internal 9600-bps data/fax modem for third quarter. By then, users should also be able to buy a plug-in wireless paging device for taking messages off the TeleFind global paging network and downloading them to the Safari. A cellular modem will offer still greater flexibility next year with wireless E-mail access.

"We don't want to have just another laptop," explains Ray Tringali, vice president in charge of reseller support. "We are trying to show that AT&T Computer Systems leads in communications."

Intel Shows Cheap 486

Hoping to move users more quickly from 386 to 486 computing and head off 386 clone makers, Intel is shipping a 20-MHz 486SX processor that offers about 45 percent more performance than a 33-MHz 386 for little or no price premi-

um. The 486SX processor alone costs vendors \$50 more than the \$208 processor for the 386, but saves about \$175 in other chips, so even early 486SX systems will be very competitively priced. One of the first, AST's \$3695 Premium II 486SX/20, is actually

When Is 20 MHz Faster Than 33?



Extensive integration makes a 20-MHz 4865X run about 45 percent faster than a 386/33.

less expensive than a comparably configured 33-MHz 386-based system.

Because 486s have more transistors and a higher level of component integration, they can process about twice as many instructions as 386s at the same clock speed, explains

Intel product manager Frank Bryan. But the way Intel brings the 486SX to market is complex. The 486SX is fabricated as though it were a 20-MHz 486DX, but the math coprocessor is not enabled because Intel research shows that only 30 percent of computer users need one. This provides higher manufacturing yields and lets Intel price the chip lower than the \$588 25-MHz 486DX.

Intel will also sell a 487SX-20 math coprocessor that at \$799 is about \$200 cheaper than the 33-MHz counterpart for the 386. The company asks vendors to include a coprocessor socket on their system boards, but because the 487SX-20 is nothing

more than a regular 20-MHz 486DX with the coprocessor enabled, some vendors already are breaking ranks and creating one-socket designs. That could cut them off from unspecified future upgrades planned for this "performance socket," warns Bryan.

The strategy to move customers up is partly a defense against 386 clones, says Instat vice president Dean McCarron. "I think the 486SX will really take off," he adds. "It has the right name, the right level of performance and, most important, the right price." McCarron expects Intel to ship about 230,000 486SX processors this year and 1.1 million next year—about as many as the 25-MHz 486DX.

PC, Mini Vendors Work on RISC Design

Seeking to let PC users move up to higher-powered Reduced Instruction Set Computer (RISC) systems without abandoning their current software, Compaq, Microsoft, and 19 other major vendors are collaborating on a RISC standard that will run DOS, Windows, and UNIX programs.

The Advanced Computing Environment (ACE) group, whose annual revenues total a respectable \$50 billion, is designing a computer architecture around MIPS Computer Systems' 64-bit R4000 processor. Its systems should arrive next year and run software atop either Microsoft's nextgeneration OS/2 3.0 or Santa Cruz Operation's UNIXbased Open Desktop. Apps written for either environment need only be recompiled to run on RISC machines or PCs.

With RISC machines monopolizing a workstation market that increasingly competes with high-end PCs, vendors such as Compag are challenged to offer RISC options without abandoning PC standards. "Our customers have told us they want multiple choices, and they want these choices to interoperate with one another," says Compag president Rod Canion. Since vendors don't know if the R4000 or Intel's upcoming 586 will predominate, "it's really important to have a common software base," adds Mike Perez, Compaq's director of systems engineering.

ACE membership includes Acer, NEC, Olivetti, SCO, Silicon Graphics, Zenith Data Systems, and DEC but not workstation heavyweights Hewlett-Packard, IBM, or Sun, which are deeply committed to their own RISC architectures. ACE could score big for Compaq, Microsoft, and others, but analysts are skeptical that a successful computer can be designed by a committee of competitors.

Borland Cashes In on OOP, Engine

Borland's investments in object-oriented programming (OOP) and a data base engine that is usable across its entire product line are finally reaping financial rewards and giving it a programming edge that could make it the first major company to offer a fully relational data base manager for Windows.

Borland showed an early version of Paradox for Windows at a recent developers' conference, displaying the ability to treat data as objects and vice versa. Separating the interface layer from the data engine could make data base applications easier to program, let users include graphics and even animation in record fields, and more easily access other data forms such as SQL data bases. Eventually, Borland's Paradox, Object Vision, Quattro Pro, and Sidekick will all access Paradox Engine-managed data more quickly and transparently via the Windows interface.

Borland's investments in this technology and last year's reorganization are letting it bring new products to market more quickly and more profitably, says Senior Vice President Spencer Leyton. Borland ended fiscal year 1991 on March 31 with a 127 percent increase in profits to \$26.8 million on a 100 percent increase in revenues to \$226.8 million.

That makes Borland the seventh-largest company on the just-released Soft-letter 100 list and gives it the cash to keep its products competitive with those of Lotus, Microsoft, and Ashton-Tate in markets those giants once owned.

Inside, Borland "just gets more done with fewer employees," notes Soft-letter publisher Jeffrey Tarter. Outside, he says, it cuts fat and stays close to customers with results-oriented direct sales. "They aren't wasting a lot of dollars massaging semicompetent dealers."



The Hottest Value
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Just Got Even Hotter!

INTRODUCING THE NEW (



NEW MINI DESKTOP 286 AND 386SX MODELS ARE BIG ON PERFORMANCE!

Sometimes the best things come in small packages. This saying definitely applies to Gateway 2000's spunky little 286 and 386SX computers. These systems now come in a space-saving mini desktop model that's sizzling with powerful new features.

The motherboard in the 286 and 386SX systems was custom-designed and manufactured for Gateway 2000 using ASICs (Application Specific Integrated Circuits) to create a cleaner, more reliable board. We integrated the floppy drive controller, the video chip set and the I/O card on the motherboard, to leave five 16-bit slots open in the standard configuration.

The Gateway 2000 286 system operates at 16 MHz, rather than 12 MHz, for better performance. Our 386SX is available as a 16 MHz or a 20 MHz system. The 386SX-20 includes a 32K cache, which makes this system another truly outstanding Gateway price/performer.

HOT-PERFORMANCE 386 AND 486 SYSTEMS ARE IN ICY GRAY, CURVILINEAR MODELS

Although Gateway's 386 and 486 systems look entirely new, we limited changes on the inside to fine-tuning performance and reliability. In the

Midwest, we firmly believe in the adage, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

And these award-winning, price/performance systems did not need fixing.

All 386 and 486 systems include a fast and reliable IDE (Integrated Drive Electronics) hard drive with built-in cache. For added reliability and lower RF emissions, we've incorporated ASICs in the design of our motherboards whenever the change improved cost/performance. Because our 386 and 486 computers already include the fastest, most reliable video card on the market, the only way we could improve video performance was to increase the size of video RAM. So we did. All Gateway 2000 386 and 486 systems come standard with 1 MB video RAM. We also made our new Crystal Scan 1024NI color monitor standard with these systems. The 1024NI is non-interlaced, giving you a flicker-free video display with up to 1024 x 768 resolution.

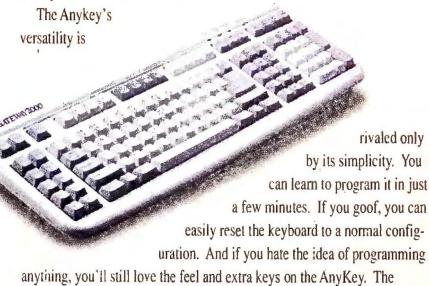
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We call our new 124-key programmable keyboard the AnyKey because any key can be programmed to perform any function – anything you can imagine, quickly and easily. Or you can remap the keys to create your own keyboard layout. It's a revolutionary new concept designed to let you talk to your personal computer in a very personal way.

FATEWAY 2000 COMPUTERS



The AnyKey includes a numeric pad and a separate, full-function cursor pad with diagonal keys, plus two sets of function keys located along the top and left side.



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AnyKey keyboard is an option with all Gateway 2000 computer systems.

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Possibly the most dramatic news about our new product line is price. When a manufacturer introduces a new product line, you expect to see an eruption of price hikes. But then you've come to know Gateway is not like most manufacturers. Prices on systems in our new line are better than ever. And that goes for quality and service too, making the hottest value in the industry even hotter.

LOOKING AHEAD

The introduction of our new product line represents almost a year of design and engineering. But it's just one phase in a process of continuous improvement that we employ at Gateway. Each day, Gateway 2000 employees come to work with one primary goal in mind: to provide you with better prices, performance, quality and service. We're committed to making Gateway 2000 the only logical choice in microcomputers.



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- Intel^{fM} 80286 Processor
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- 1.44 MB 3.5" Drive
- 40 MB 17ms IDE Drive with 32K Cache
- 16-Bit VGA with 512K
- 14" Crystal Scan 1024
- Color VGA Monitor
- 1 Parallel/2 Serial Ports 1 PS/2 Mouse Port
- 101 Key Keyboard
- MS DOS™ 3.3 or 4.01

\$1395

16MHZ 386SX VGA

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- 2 MB RAM
- 1.2 MB 5.25" Drive
- 1.44 MB 3.5" Drive
- 40 MB 17ms IDE Drive with 32K Cache
- 16-Bit VGA with 512K
- 14" Crystal Scan 1024 Color VGA Monitor
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- 1 PS/2 Mouse Port
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- MicrosoftTM Mouse
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20MHZ 386SX CACHE

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- 32K Cache RAM
- 4 MB RAM
- 1.2 MB 5.25" Drive
- 1.44 MB 3.5" Drive
- 80 MB 17ms IDE Drive with 32K Cache
- 16-Bit VGA with 512K
- 14" Crystal Scan 1024 Color VGA Monitor
- 1 Parallel/2 Serial Ports
- 1 PS/2 Mouse Port
- 101 Key Keyboard
- Microsoft Mouse
- MS DOS 3.3 or 4.01
- MS Windows 3.0

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25MHZ 386 VGA

- Intel 80386 Processor
- 4 MB RAM
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- 80 MB 17ms IDE Drive with 32K Cache
- 16-Bit VGA with 1 MB
- 14" Crystal Scan 1024NI Color VGA Monitor
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- 101 Key Keyboard
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33MHZ 386 CACHE

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- 4 MB RAM
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- 101 Key Keyboard
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25MHZ 486 CACHE

- Intel 80486 Processor with Co-Pro and 8K Internal Cache
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- 1.44 MB 3.5" Drive
- 200 MB 15ms IDE Drive with 64K Multi-Segmented Cache
- 16-Bit VGA with 1 MB
- 14" Crystal Scan 1024NI Color VGA Monitor
- 1 Parallel/2 Serial Ports
- 101 Key Keyboard
- Microsoft Mouse MS DOS 3.3 or 4.01
- MS Windows 3.0





Intel 80486 Processor with Co-Pro and 8K Internal Cache

33MHZ 486 CACHE

- 64K Cache RAM
- 8 MB RAM, Expands to 64 MB
- 1.2 MB 5.25" Drive
- 1.44 MB 3.5" Drive
- 200 MB 17ms IDE Drive with 64K Multi-Segmented Cache
- 16-Bit VGA with 1 MB
- 14" Crystal Scan 1024NI Color VGA Monitor
- 1 Parallel/2 Serial Ports
- 101 Key Keyboard
- Microsoft Mouse
- MS DOS 3.3 or 4.01 MS Windows 3.0

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Microsoft's Choice

Microsoft is in trouble with IBM, Apple, software developers, and the United States government. Is this any way for a standard-setter to live?

If you've been watching lately, you know it's been good news/bad news time over at Microsoft. First the good news: The software giant scored sales of almost \$500 million in the first quarter of 1991, making it more than twice the size of Lotus, its largest competitor.

Now the bad news: Microsoft's marriage with IBM has hit the rocks, the lawsuit with Apple over *Windows* copyrights took a turn for the worse, the Federal Trade Commission is investigating Microsoft's business practices, and software developers are steaming over the company's *Windows* application advantage.

What's wrong with this picture? By aggressively expanding the PC market with DOS, Windows, languages, and applications, Microsoft has helped to create enormous opportunities for hardware and software vendors while providing unprecedented freedom of choice for users. Lotus now stands to make about \$800 million in revenues in 1991 and WordPerfect will make about \$500 million. Apple is number one in personal computer sales, ahead of IBM, thanks in part to applications like Microsoft Excel, Word, and Works. And the IBM PC-compatible world itself is now over 60 million strong and still growing.

Hardball, Redmond Style

If software vendors don't seem appreciative, it's because they don't like the way Microsoft has parlayed its standard-setting role in operating systems into incredible success in applications. At an estimated \$1 billion this year, Microsoft's application sales alone are enough to qualify it as the biggest PC software vendor in history, surpassing Lotus, WordPerfect, and everybody else. Numerous software developers privately complain that Microsoft grew to this size by passing important information between its operating system and applications groups before circulating it among other vendors, especially where Windows is concerned. As a result, Microsoft is the only major vendor with a full suite of Windows software already in users' hands.

Meanwhile, IBM is mad at Microsoft for putting its weight behind the DOS-Windows combination rather than focusing on OS/2. And it's a safe bet that Apple's not happy with the latest Windows sales figures, which show the environment already outstripping the Macintosh in number of users.

In contrast, Microsoft points out that interchange between the company's applications and operating system groups is responsible for major *Windows* innovations like object linking and embedding (OLE). *Windows* is a success story not because Microsoft failed to support OS/2—the company has more OS/2 applications than any other PC vendor—

but rather because users gave *Windows* an overwhelmingly enthusiastic reception in comparison to the lame response they gave to OS/2. And *Windows*-Macintosh compatibility only serves to boost the Mac as a mainstream business machine.

The Best Solution: Split the Difference?

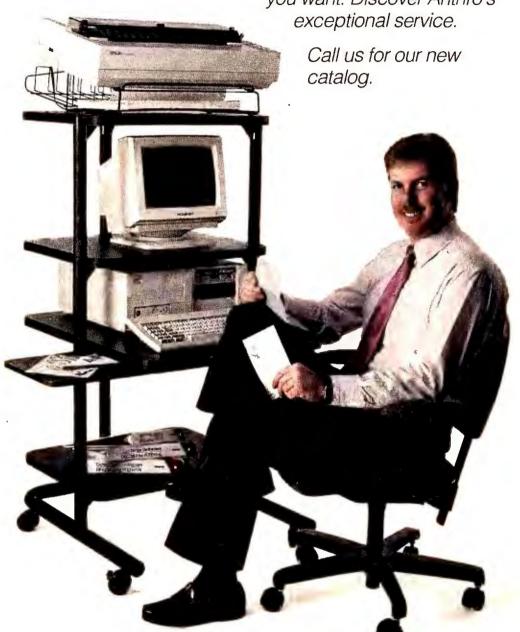
As a solution to this impasse, many software developers privately favor a government order to split Microsoft's applications and operating system divisions into separate companies. The two new companies would each still tower over the PC industry, but at least Microsoft's competitors in the application arena could expect equitable treatment from their new operating system vendor. Few observers think the FTC will ultimately order such a drastic action, however.

But if that's all it takes to put Microsoft's competitors more at ease with the industry giant, then the company can take steps today to smooth relations with the rest of the PC world. Witness Compaq: Its EISA consortium brought competitors together to challenge IBM for control of the next-generation PC standard, and the group held together because it functioned like a full-fledged standards organization. Microsoft could adopt the same policy with Windows and OS/2, opening up its development program to the software community at large for comments, improvements, and (continues)

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collaborative effort, while keeping its application side at bay until new operating system standards became available to all.

We expect 1991 to continue to be a banner year for Microsoft: DOS 5.0 promises to be the most popular upgrade the operating system has ever undergone; Windows 3.1 will work out most of the kinks of the earlier version and deliver some important new capabilities to boot; most important PC vendors will deliver Windows versions of their products; and Microsoft will take advantage of this software wave to launch new and upgraded packages itself. As the industry's de facto leader, it should also take the opportunity to change the nature of its competitive relationships. That's the only way Microsoft can ensure that Windows will become the same broad, user-driven standard that DOS is today.

As always, I'm interested in your opinions on this or any other subject. Write to me at *PC World*, 501 Second St. #600, San Francisco, CA 94107; fax 415/442-1891; MCI Mail Richard Landry/301-3685.

■

POWER TIP NO. 185

DisplayWrite Text Searches With Norton Utilities

DisplayWrite uses the EBCDIC coding scheme for storing data rather than the ASCII standard used by most DOS applications. This makes DisplayWrite document files impenetrable to most text search programs. To search DisplayWrite files for text with Norton Utilities 4.5's Text Search program (TS.EXE), use the /EBCDIC extension, as in ts *.doc "text to search for" /ebcdic.

Freda Miller

Berkeley, California

44THE MOST POWEREIL COMPUTERS AREITE ONES PEOPLE ACTUALLY IISE⁷⁷

-Apple Computer

First off, let's get one thing straight.
We totally agree with Apple.
A truly powerful computer is measured in how often it's used.

IFYOU LISTEN TO APPLE, THIS IS THE MOST POWERFUL COMPUTER IN THE WORLD.

But while Apple has taken great strides in making the personal computer more useful, we've gone substantially farther.

Introducing the T2000SX notebook computer.

Quite simply, the T2000 SX is a more useful personal computer because it allows you to work how you want to work. When you want to work. And where you want to work.

Painstakingly engineered with you clearly in mind, the T2000SX will help you work more efficiently than ever before.

Virtually every feature you can find on a desktop computer, you will



Our technologically superior battery can be fully recharged in a mere ninety minutes.

find on the T2000SX: An 80386 SX processor with a math coprocessor socket, VGA compatible display, 1 MB (expandable to 9MB) of 80 nsec RAM, a 40 MB hard disk with 19 msec access time and 1.5 MB/sec data transfer rate.



The T2000SX has a 40MB hard disk with 19 msec access time.

But more important than the specs themselves, is the way the T2000SX lets you

use them. Which is more often.

Our fluorescent side-lit screen provides even distribution

Welcome to the next generation in personal computing.

Because the T2000SX can fit easily into a briefcase (it weighs a scant 6.9 pounds), you can take it anywhere you go and use it in more ways than you can imagine.

Need to make revisions to a



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Our internal AutoResume back up battery automatically saves your work if your main battery runs out.

business proposal? The T2000SX gives you the freedom to do it from a train. The client wants an estimate on costs? You can give it to him right then and there—wherever there is.

No more wasting time running

TOSHIBA

back to the office. Because the office is always with you.

But just in case there's something



Our user-installed memory card allows you to add up to 8 MB of memory yourself.

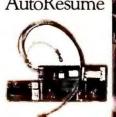
> back at the office you still need, you can get back to it with our optional built-in modem. Which supports industry standard error corrections and data compression (CCITT V.42, V.42bis, MNP® 5). It even supports cellular data communications via our optional smart cable adapter.

The T2000SX also has a unique feature you won't find on any other computer in the world. It is called AutoResume.

AutoResume: Think of it as a bookmark for your computer.

AutoResume automatically saves whatever vou're working on whenever you turn the computer off. And it lets you go directly to the program you were using last when you're ready to start up again. So you don't have to reboot, restart your application and reload your files.

AutoResume



The T2000SX has an optional modem that allows data communications via a cellular phone.

also helps save on battery life and it allows you to change batteries without losing an ounce of information.

As for batter-



The T2000SX comes complete with Hypertext on-line ies, the T2000SX documentation.

touts the latest in battery technology Nickel Hydride. Nickel Hydride delivers 22% more watt-hours per pound than NiCad and it doesn't suffer from memory effect.

In keeping with the Toshiba tradition, the T2000SX also offers superior ergonomics. Like full-size, standard-spaced keys on a keyboard which has a full set of 12 dedicated function and 8 cursor control keys. And a VGA compatible, reversible black on white or white on black high resolution display.

Okay, let's wrap this thing up.

These are just a few of the reasons why we believe the T2000SX is the most useful, and therefore, most powerful computer in the world. And why P.C. Week Labs said, "the T2000SX offers performance comparable to the LTE 386s/20, plus many of the design features that have made Toshiba a market leader in portable PCs."

We invite you to learn more about the T2000SX and Toshiba's best-selling line of portable computers by calling us at 1-800-457-7777 for a complete information kit.

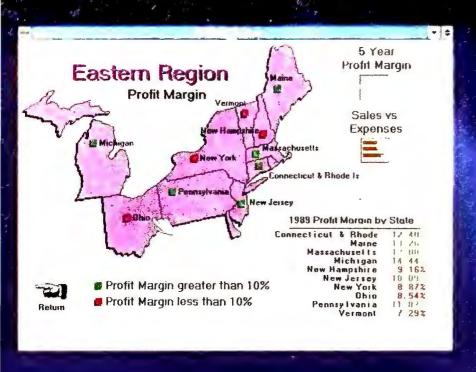
In closing, we'd like to thank you for reading our ad.

We'd also like to thank our friends at Apple for giving us such a wonderful endorsement.

> In Touch with Tomorrow TOSHIBA

Will You Stay On Course In Today's Ocean Of Information?

Navigate Through Information With LIGHTSHIP, The Data-Driven™ Windows EIS



The right information can guide you through rocky business waters. LightShip; the Windows 3.0-based executive information system (EIS), brings that information to you in a graphical, easy-to-understand format. Imagine seeing exceptions for each sales region every day. Or detecting production and shipping bottlenecks before they occur. LightShip can bring you the business information you need in colorful screens of charts, tables, graphs, and images.

But LightShip isn't merely fixed reports or pretty pictures. It is dynamic information based on Data-Driven™ hot spots that link your PC to real-time information in spread-sheets, database files, text files, even images. And that information can reside on your PC, LAN server, mini, mainframe, or in external sources, which means you can put LightShip to work today in your existing environment, without a major investment.

With its codeless, visual programming environment, LightShip EIS development is fast and easy, using simple point-and-click operations. Data-Driven hot spots mean those applications are flexible and self-maintaining. LightShip applications can access and present thousands of screens of information without redundant multi-screen programming and time-consuming maintenance.



Chart your organization's direction with the right information. LightShip is a remarkable EIS product at an even more remarkable price: \$795. For a demonstration disk or more information, call (617) 350-7035.

Circle 216 on reader service card

LIGHTSHIP



A Division of Pilot Executive Software "Delivering Success in EIS"



LETTERS

Reactions and responses from the PC World community



486s: Raising Your Rates?

Alice LaPlante's March "Pro vs. Con: Are You Ready for a 486?" [the follow-on story to "33-MHz 486s: Ultimate PC Power"] really caught my eye. As an information systems VP and a personal customer of Southern California Gas, I was outraged by the "buy-too-much" attitude of their systems evaluation manager, Bob Holmes. Let's be realistic. In private business we have to be patient and slug it out with existing equipment. Most of us are just trying to make it through the recession without major equipment failures. Utility companies have the advantage over the rest of us with their guaranteed, noncompetitive market. If my business had that kind of locked-in profit, I'd probably have that "Full speed ahead—buy those 486s" attitude too!

Pete Mc Kenney Manhattan Beach, California

Two Scents Worth

Joe Guyette's reaction to a rose-scented ad [Letters, March 1991], is off base. If you follow his suggestion and substitute after-shave for the rose fragrance, just think of all the women who'll have to explain that scent to their husbands. Many women subscribe to and read PC World. Welcome to the nineties, gentlemen!

Joy L. Thompson Los Lunas, New Mexico

No Longer Down, Down Under

Thank you, thank you, for the improvement in distribution in Australia. We received the February issue on January 24. In the past, we'd have received it sometime in March, if we were lucky. We often feel neglected down under. This is a real boost to our ego!

J. Miles Baulkham Hills, Australia

SX Versus DX

I'm becoming confused by all the numbers and letters used to designate computer CPUs these days. For instance, your February review "Value Alert! 20-MHz 386SX Systems" suggests that we bypass 16-MHz SXs in favor of 20-MHz SXs. But what does either of these chips offer in comparison to the regular 386? And is there a difference between a 386 and a 386DX?

J. Hugh Currie Lower Sackville, Nova Scotia Canada

Simply put, 386DX is the correct name for the full 386 chip. The 386SX is like a 386 on the inside and a 286 on the outside. Its smaller size makes it much less expensive to manufacture, and because of its outer similarities to the 286, the SX is a snap to design into systems based on existing AT architecture. Although the SX duplicates the internal functioning of a DX of comparable speed, overall system performance slows because the SX passes data to and from memory 16 bits at a time compared to the full 386's 32 bits. And the SX, like the 286, handles only 16MB of RAM, which is 1/256 the capability of its big brother DX.—Ed.

Watching Prodigy

I'd like to add to the February Consumer Watch comments on Prodigy. I tried the service when it was first offered but quit because of the 5-minute log-on and Prodigy's low level of support for my hardware configuration. It takes me less than a minute to log on to GEnie or CompuServe, and I can access either service or MCI Mail from my Commodore 128 at home. But Prodigy's proprietary software is not available for Commodore. Graphics are nice, but not at the sacrifice of speed. Let Prodigy conform to computer communications standards or die a natural death.

Kenneth Bush Indianapolis, Indiana

You Can't Wait Forever!

I do nightly unattended long-distance file transfers, and I just had to respond to "Waiting Forever With Procomm" on page 217 in the February issue. The advice to insert "forever" as an alternative parameter in the WAITFOR command (continues) sounds like a good way to rack up a horrendous CompuServe bill. For instance, if there's line noise, the script may never read the target string—and there you'll be, waiting forever on line! If the default 30 seconds isn't long enough, specify another number that is. Then, to save phone and on-line charges, you can build in error loops with the IF

command to ensure that your scripts go as planned or get aborted.

Tom McCaughey Nikiski, Alaska

Great-Looking Dot Matrix Output

Your January "Easy Fonts for Great-Looking Documents" was excellent, and we gleaned a lot of much-needed information about expanding our font options. But let's set the record straight about the quality of output available from dot matrix printers. Our Fujitsu 24-pin dot matrix color graphics printer produces output of much better quality than any of the dot matrix examples shown in your article. In fact, it approaches the quality of the LaserJet and DeskJet with certain fonts.

June Windblad Loring Windblad Westminster, British Columbia Canada

A Perfect Word Processor?

I read "Perfect Mail Merges for Mass Marketing" in March, and I wish someone would explain to me what makes WordPerfect so popular. Any secretary required to use the program should be paid an extra \$5000 a year. I can compose a Word form letter with straight typing—no need to burrow repeatedly into the roots of a menu tree or punch up a series of finger-bending function-key combinations. "Create mass mailings quickly" with WordPerfect? Do people really go through all that to create a form letter?

Richard Zigler Marion, Michigan

I give up. It seems that as far as you're concerned, there's only one word processor-WordPerfect. I've been using WordStar for four years up to version 5.5. It may not be the most user-friendly program, but I've learned to live with it. I can't remember a recent issue where you featured WordStar tips.

Arnold Beichman Stanford, California

We have to be responsive to the majority of our readers, who use WordPerfect. But don't think we've forgotten about other word processing favorites. We regularly run Power Tips and User Group Tips for a wide range of word processors. For example, the first of this month's User Group Tips is de-(continues)

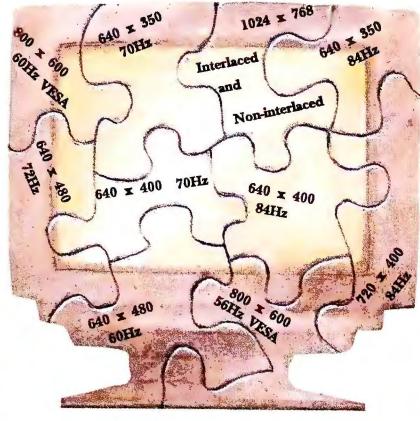


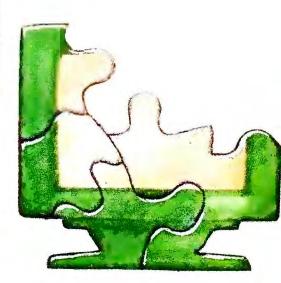
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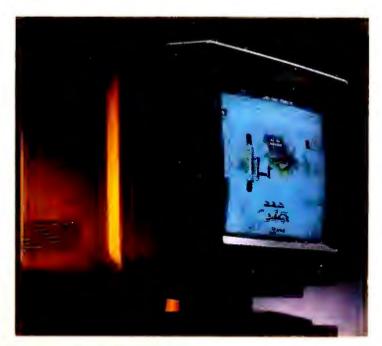






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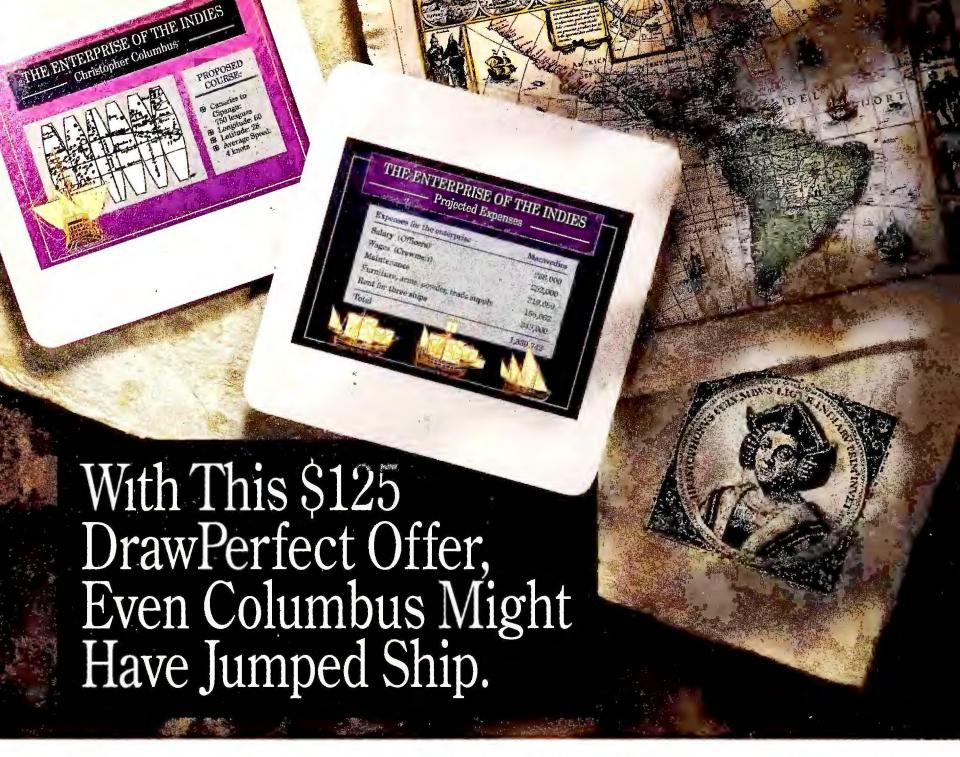


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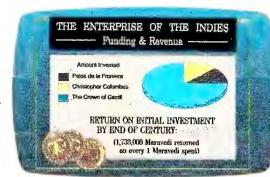
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WordPerfect

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voted to our readers who use WordStar. Check it out for a quick way to convert your WordStar files for use with any word processor. —Ed.

World Class Accounting

I think you did well to explain the accounting and personal finance categories on this March's World Class Ballot. But as far as I'm concerned, you should go a step further and split the accounting class into two groups. All-in-one programs, such as DacEasy, contain General Ledger (GL), Accounts Receivable (AR), and Accounts Payable (AP) in one integrated program, but they provide only basic reports. Modular programs, on the other hand, like Great Plains Accounting Series or Accpac Plus, have a central GL that integrates with separate AR, AP, Inventory, or Payroll modules. These programs have multiuser capabilities, provide extensive standard reports, and have custom report generators.

Jody Braaten Great Plains Software Fargo, North Dakota

A Low Cost for High Speed

Your article on 9600-bps modems in February ["Users Turn Toward Higher-Speed Modems," Industry Outlook] is enjoyable and timely, but I'd like to point out one error. You contrast the U.S. Robotics internal Courier V.32 modem, which lists for \$895, with the \$1199 Hayes Ultra 96 incorporating V.42 and V.42bis and imply that you have to pay more for these added features. Actually, the fully featured Courier V.32 also incorporates these protocols. We use our own chip technology employing off-theshelf microprocessors to keep costs down. As a result of our high quality and low prices, CompuServe has selected our modem for its 9600-bps service. If people pay more for the Hayes modem, it's not because of features or performance.

Jonathan Zakin U.S. Robotics Skokie, Illinois

Corrections and Clarifications

"A Little Bit More" in April's User Group Tips contains a serious error. If you type the command more > filename to list a file on screen, you will overwrite the file you are trying to view. The correct command is more < filename. PC World regrets the error.

Our March "Perfect Mail Merges for

Mass Marketing" has an error on page 218. We instructed you to enter a marker for the Last-Order field by pressing <F7><Backspace>. Actually, you should press <F7><Cursor Left> to get back to the editing screen and inside the IF statement.

Our Features Evaluation in April's (continues)

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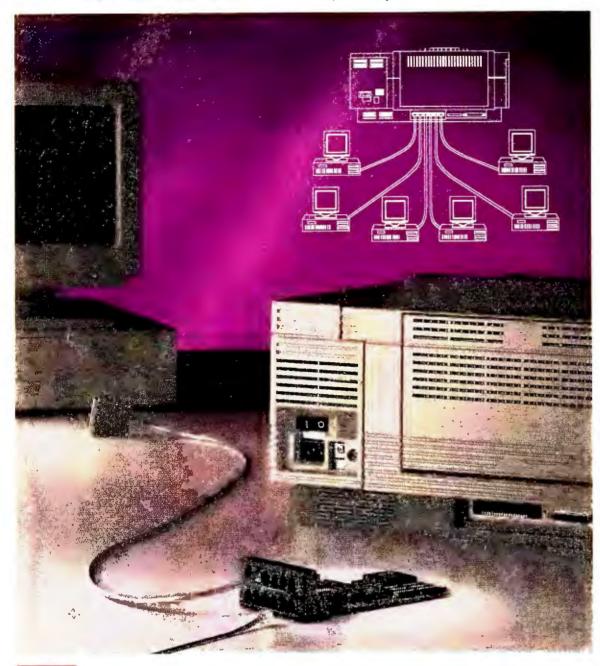
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LETTERS

"33-MHz 386s: Survival of the Fastest" erroneously reported the AT&T 6386/33 WGS's coprocessor support. The AT&T does support the Weitek 3167.

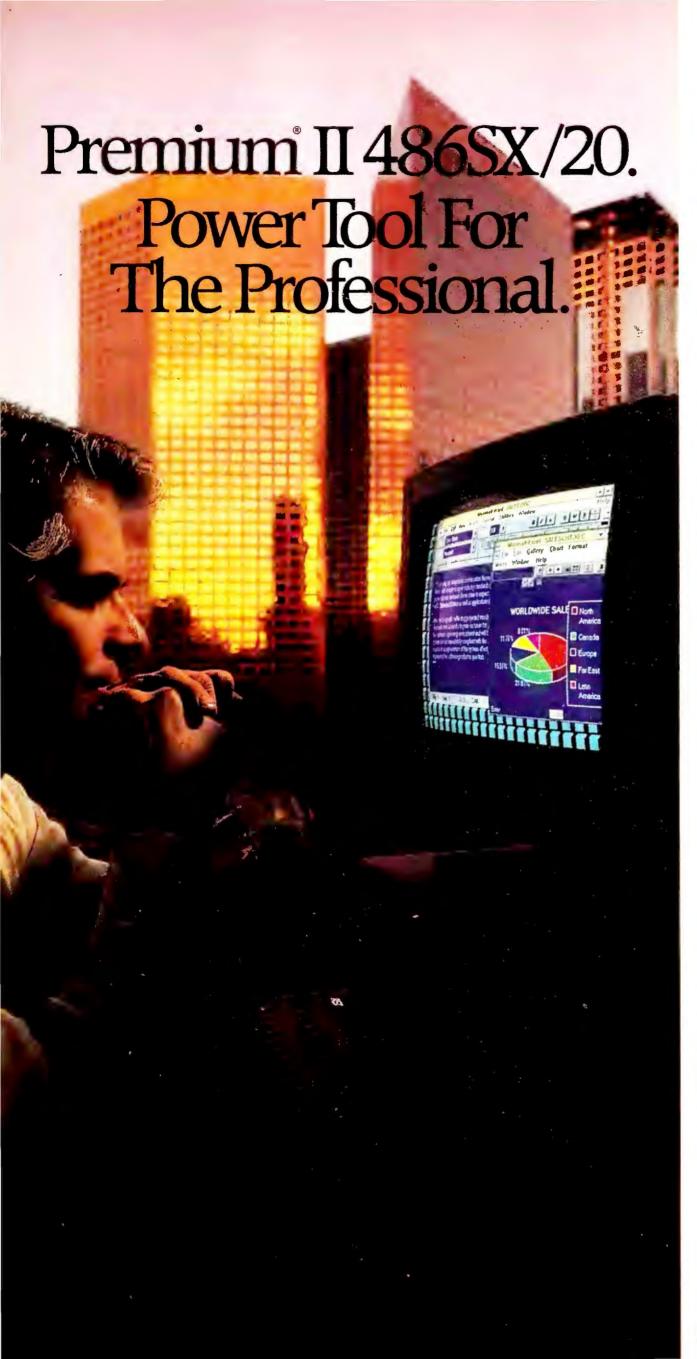
Our April communications review "Easier Tools for the On-Line World" mentioned a mail-order price for *Procomm Plus 2.0* that didn't reflect the cost increase of this upgraded version. Purchasers are likely to find mail-order prices ranging from \$65 to \$80 for version 2.0. *PC World* regrets any confusion this error may have created.

POWER TIP NO. 179

Revealing Tab Settings in WordPerfect

If you frequently change tab settings in WordPerfect, you probably want to be able to see your settings. You can display tab set indicators in Word-Perfect 4.2 and later versions using either Reveal Codes (<Alt>-<F3>) or Window (<Ctrl>-<F3>1#, where # is the number of lines to view). A 25-line display actually shows 24 lines because of the status line, so entering < Ctrl>-<F3> W23 places the window divider at the bottom of the screen. This allows you to view the document in a nearly full edit screen but still see the tab sets.

Charles R. Bovell Hixson, Tennessee



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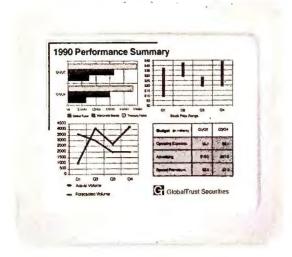
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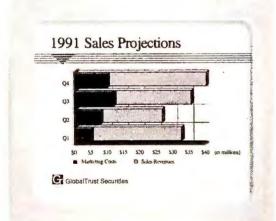
















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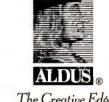
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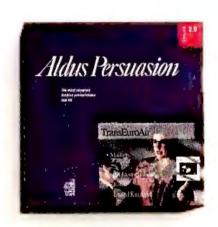
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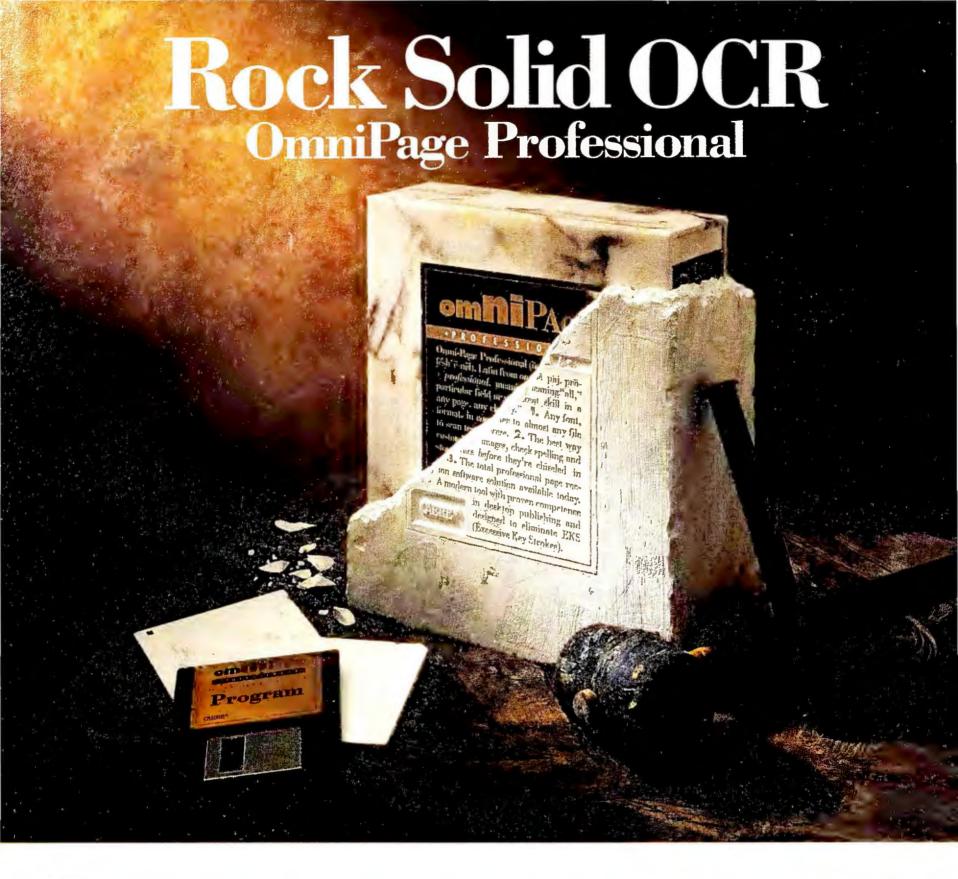
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Karl Koessel and Robert Lauriston

Quiet on the Set

Q.I'm irritated by beeps and other sounds from my IBM PS/2 Model 30, particularly when the machine starts up but also when I'm running applications. Is there a utility that can silence the beep, or can I disconnect the speaker cable inside the computer? (I looked but couldn't find the speaker.)

Shinya Shima Ota-ku, Japan

A. Software can't silence your system during start-up because you can't run it until after the system has started. Furthermore, shareware and public domain utilities that can turn off the speaker won't do you much good, because most programs just turn it back on. The only

reliable solution is to break the connection to the speaker. On the Model 30, the speaker is a silver cylinder about ½ inch in diameter and ½ inch high with a small hole in the top. It's mounted directly onto the motherboard at the front left corner, right behind the IBM logo. You can break it off the motherboard, but you probably won't be able to replace it.

On other PS/2 models, you can mute the system by cutting the small metal tab that connects the speaker to a plugin assembly (which also holds the system's CMOS battery). Silencing the speaker on standard PC/XT/AT systems isn't as drastic an operation: Just pull the speaker wires' connector off its pins on the motherboard or cut one of the wires. In either case, soldering a potentiometer volume control (plus, optionally, an earphone jack) across the broken connection would let you adjust the speaker to a comfortable level or run noisy programs without distracting others in your office. Note that semiconductors can be damaged by heat, so be very careful when soldering inside your system.

CHKDSK's Files

Q. I've been taught to run the DOS command CHKDSK/F periodically to ensure the integrity of the files on the hard disk. But what do I do with the lost cluster files that I find in the root directory after running the command? How do I figure out where they came from, and how do I put them back?

Bryan Kimsey Los Alamos, New Mexico

A. CHKDSK doesn't exactly create the FILExxxx.CHK files. It simply finds

clusters that the file allocation table shows as being in use but that aren't assigned to a file, and adds a directory entry file name to assign them to. Often, the data in such clusters no longer has a place in which it belongs, as is the case when through some software error, clusters holding parts of an application's temporary files, or of deleted files, are marked incorrectly as being in use.

Very rarely, a lost cluster holds part of an application, rendering the application inoperable. However, applications are easily restored or reinstalled. Real trouble surfaces when a lost cluster holds lost data. Unless that data is ASCII text, it's virtually impossible to determine which file it belongs to, much less merge it back in. But if you don't restore that file, your next backup will include a deficient version. So although you can generally erase the CHK files without concern, you should also verify the validity of all valuable data files, restoring them if necessary.

Three Floppy Drives

Q. I've got two 5½-inch floppy drives and a 65MB hard disk (partitioned into two logical drives) in my AT compatible. I'd like to add a third, 3½-inch, floppy drive. I know there are controllers that can handle four floppy drives. My question is, can I keep my drive letter assignments the same—A: and B: for my current floppy drives, C: and D: for the hard disk—and designate the new drive E:?

J. E. Brendtke Port Richey, Florida

A. With most multidrive controllers, you can. Just check with the board's manufacturer before you buy. One other *(continues)*

thing to keep in mind is that most power supplies have only four power connectors. If yours is typical, you'll need a "splitter" to let you plug power into the new drive. Note also that unless the controller comes with software to modify DOS 2.x, you need DOS 3.2 or a later version to use a 720K drive, and DOS 3.3 or a later version for a 1.44MB drive.

For the utmost in compatibility, check out CompatiCard from Micro Solutions. This four-floppy controller includes its own ROM routines to support a variety of floppy drive formats and has switches to change interrupt levels and I/O addresses in case the card's default settings conflict with other devices in your system. You can even boot from any of the drives.

WHERE TO BUY

CompatiCard

. .

Micro Solutions Computer Products -132 W. Lincoln Hwy. DeKalb, Illinois 60115 815/756-3411, 815/756-2928 (fax) LIST PRICE: \$95 for II, \$149 for IV Reader service no. 640

Endnotes as Bibliography

Q. As an assistant professor of veterinary anesthesiology, I write scientific research articles. My word processor's endnote feature just isn't up to the job of producing my bibliographies in the format required by the American Journal of Veterinary Research. For instance, it won't let multiple notes in text reference the same endnote. This means I have to spend a lot of time manually reformatting before I can submit my article for publication. Is there a way to make my computer do these things?

Ron E. Mandsager Stillwater, Oklahoma

A. Regardless of what word processing program you use, endnotes aren't appropriate for producing a bibliography. Most word processors won't produce

bibliographies automatically. One that will is Dragonfly Software's *Nota Bene*.

An easier option than switching word processors is the bibliography version of Notebook II from Pro/Tem Software, a text-oriented data base that stores your references. Instead of marking the references with endnotes in your word processing document, you use special Notebook tags. When you're ready to print, you run your word processing document through Notebook's Bibliography utility, which puts the references in correct format and appends the properly formatted bibliography. Pro/ Tem includes templates for bibliographies as defined by the four most popular academic style manuals; templates for several hundred journals requiring other formats are available from third parties.

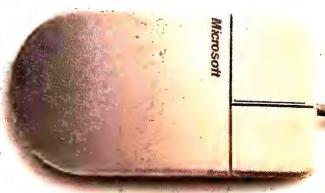
Another alternative is *Endnote*, a similar program that has been popular on the Macintosh and was recently ported to DOS.



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Endnote

Niles & Associates 2000 Hearst St. Berkeley, CA 94709 415/655-6666, 415/649-8179 (fax)

LIST PRICE: \$149
Reader service no. 642

Lost Time

Q. My system used to set the date and time automatically. But ever since I upgraded to DOS 3.3 from the DOS 2.11 that came with my XT compatible, I've had to enter the date and time manually every time I start the system. How can I access the internal clock?

Harry L. DeShaies Colorado Springs, Colorado A. Because your system isn't an AT compatible, you must run a special utility that reads the date and time from a clock on an expansion board and then sets the system clock. If you can't find CLOCK.COM, SETCLOCK.COM, or a similarly named utility on your hard disk, look on the disks that came with the system or with a clock/calendar upgrade board. Copy the utility to your hard disk's DOS directory, and add the command to AUTOEXEC.BAT.

How does...? What can...? Should I...? Send your PC questions to The Help Screen, PC World, 501 Second St. #600, San Francisco, CA 94107-1431; CompuServe 74055,412; MCI Mail PC World Editorial; or 415/442-1891 (fax). Questions with the broadest appeal will be published.

⊜

Karl Koessel is the technical editor and Robert Lauriston a contributing editor for PC World.

POWER TIP NO. 180

Importing 1-2-3 Worksheets in WordStar

If you use WordStar Professional 5.0 or a later version, it's easy to import 1-2-3 worksheets. With a WordStar document open, press < Ctrl>-KR, and type the path and name of the WK1 file you wish to view, edit, or print. You can either specify the worksheet range or press < Enter> to accept the whole worksheet. To print the worksheet, adjust the margins, and print it as you would any text.

Michael Goodwin Associate Editor

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NETWORK Q&A

Use WordPerfect's Start-Up Options to Minimize Network Traffic

Keith Nickerson

Q. We have quite a few heavy WordPerfect users on our LAN. As I understand it, many WordPerfect functions download additional program code that's stored on the server. The traffic generated by these overlay files is slowing our network. What can we do?

Clorella Blundish Atlanta, Georgia

A. Like many applications, WordPerfect is too large to fit entirely into a DOS workstation's base memory. To get around this limit (the infamous 640K barrier), programmers use overlay files, which hold program code for various routines. Overlay files are not loaded into memory with the application. Instead, every time you invoke a command for one of those routines, the application loads the appropriate portion of an overlay file into a specific area of memory, overwriting any previous overlay code. The best way to reduce the impact of this overlay traffic is to reduce the frequency with which programs must access those files from the file server.

WordPerfect's most commonly used extra code is in WP.FIL, an approximately 600K file normally stored in the same directory as WP.EXE. Starting WordPerfect with WP /R (instead of just WP) loads the code from WP.FIL into expanded memory. Because that overlay code is then available from the local workstation, the program's overlay traffic on your network wire is minimized, and the performance of Word-Perfect itself is improved. To use the /R option, you must have at least 620K of expanded memory free (or about 300K if you're still using WordPerfect 5.0).

Temporary files also generate network traffic. *WordPerfect* creates temporary "overflow" files to store whatever portion of your documents won't fit into memory. By default, WordPerfect puts these files in the directory that holds WP.EXE. If you access WordPerfect over the network, these files will be placed on the file server, generating network traffic. You can direct the temporary files to a local directory with the /D start-up option—for instance, WP /D-C:\TEMP. WordPerfect's background print spooler also creates temporary files. To redirect them to a local drive, use the /PF start-up option: for example, WP/PF-C:\TEMP. Assuming your hardware allows, you'll get the best performance and least LAN traffic by combining all these options.

If you like, you can assign these options via a DOS SET command, which lets users forget all the start-up options and enter just WP at the DOS prompt. Many LAN administrators also assign WordPerfect user IDs with the /U start-up option, which makes sure people don't accidentally lose their settings by entering the wrong initials. For a user whose log-in initials are KTN, you'd add SET WP=/R /D-C:\TEMP /PF-C:\TEMP /PF-C:\TEMP /U-KTN to AUTOEXEC.BAT.

On systems without expanded memory, you can reduce network traffic by copying WP.FIL to a directory on a local drive. When you start WordPerfect while logged to the local directory, the program will use that copy of WP.FIL rather than the one on the server, eliminating much of the overlay traffic on the network. This makes upgrading a pain, however, as you have to copy a new release's WP.FIL to every such workstation. Furthermore, older XT and AT systems often run WordPerfect more slowly off their sluggish local hard disks than they do off a fast file server.

If, like most of our readers, you're running NetWare on your LAN, one final trick to speed up *WordPerfect*'s performance is to print directly to network print queues rather than using Net-

Ware's Capture utility. At the Select Printer: Edit menu, change the Port to Other (Shift>-<F7>sepo), then enter the name of the desired print queue.

One final tip: A new book, Running WordPerfect on NetWare by Joni Taylor of WordPerfect Corporation, provides an exhaustive examination of this topic. It's well worth a look if you're investigating ways to manage and streamline WordPerfect on your NetWare LAN.

■

Keith Nickerson is the editor of Net-Ware Advisor and a member of the publishing team at Business Systems Group, a Houston-based systems integration firm.

WHERE TO BUY

Running WordPerfect on NetWare

M&T Books

501 Galveston Dr.

Redwood City, CA 94063

800/533-4372, 800/356-2002 California

LIST PRICE: \$29.95
Reader service no. 643

POWER TIP NO. 181

Easy LaserJet Printing With Norton Utilities

Norton Utilities 4.5's LP (Line Print) program assumes you can print 66 lines on a page, but the HP LaserJet allows only 62. In order to use LP easily with the LaserJet, create a simple one-line batch file:

Ip %1 /h62. Call it HPLP.BAT and put it in a directory listed in your system's PATH command. To print a text file, simply type hplp filename.

Lincoln Spector Assistant Editor

PEACHTREE ACCOUNTING MAKES

hen you're running your own business, every financial decision is an important one. Why not make sure you are getting the most out of your business dollars by using the best value in accounting software, The Peachtree Double Bonus Bundle

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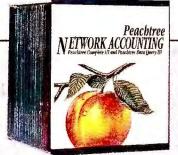
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-PC Resource

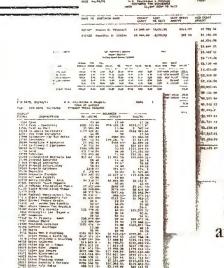
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-Computers in Accounting



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Peachtree has combined two high-powered programs into one value-packed bundle—Peachtree Complete III, a comprehensive accounting system, and Peachtree Data Query III, a custom reporting and analysis tool

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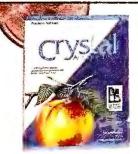
- · General Ledger
- Accounts Payable
- Accounts Receivable
- · Payroll
- Inventory
- · Invoicing
- · Purchase Order
- Fixed Assets
- · Job Cost

The management reporting capabilities of Peachtree Data Query III provide you with personalized views of the accounting data in your Peachtree Complete III files. Whether you choose one of the 50 pre-defined reports or customize your own, PDQ lets you get to the meaning behind the numbers with historical reports and complex analyses to give you a more complete picture of your business finances.

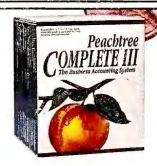
"The reports will impress you, your accountant, your banker and the IRS... a wonderful tool to help get your business on the right track, and keep it that way in the coming years."

-Journal of the Chicago Computer Society

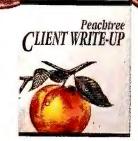
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■

'I have installed and set up Peachtree for many small businesses. After the first 30 days, I become the Maytag® Repairman.''

> -Karen R. Gooding Economy Bookkeeping, Hilton Head Island, SC.

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- · Comparative financial statements.

Accounts Payable

- Partial payment of invoices.
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- · Prints miscellaneous and interest 1099s and handles magnetic media.

Accounts Receivable/Invoicing

- Open item or balance forward customers
- Supports partial payments.Multiple "Ship To" addresses per

Purchase Order

- Issues purchase orders for either stocked or non-stocked items.
- Inventory update upon receipt of items.
- Ability to generate A/P invoice from purchase order.

- Built-in federal, state, city and county tax tables for all 50 states.
- Automatic payroll processing supporting hourly, salaried, commission or drawagainst-commission pay types.

- Supports Cafeteria and 401K Plans.
- Optional Peachtree Complete Tax Service available.

Inventory

- Supports LIFO, FIFO, Specific Unit, standard and average costing methods.
- Optional serial number tracking.
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Job Cost

- · Tracks costs and profitability on a jobby-job basis.
- Interfaces with A/P, A/R and Payroll.

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- Handles 13 methods of depreciation.
- Handles short taxable year.
- · Mid-quarter convention.

Peachtree Data Query III

- Transfer accounting information in ASCII or WKS formats to spreadsheet and database programs such as dBASE and Lotus 1-2-3.
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"I would highly recommend Peachtree... a peach of a program." -New Jersey PC User Group News

In a recent survey by Accounting Today magazine, Peachtree was recommended by accountants almost twice as often as the nearest competitor. When Reseller Management asked resellers which accounting package they recommend, Peachtree came out on top again, with 25% of resellers recommending it.

Most importantly, users recommend Peachtree! Based on reader response, Computer Shopper named Peachtree Software the Best Buy in Accounting Software for 1990. More than 400,000 small businesses trust their accounting to Peachtree

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> > -Jack J. Neymark Jack J. Neymark Accounting Services

Convenient technical support may be purchased from Authorized Support Centers in over 60 cities across the country or through prepaid support contracts directly from Peachtree. We stand behind our products with a 60-day money back guarantee when you buy directly from Peachtree. If you aren't satisfied with your Peachtree product, simply return it within 60 days for a prompt refund (less a restocking fee.)



In Georgia, add applicable sales tax Telephone number required on all orders



Hardware Specifications: Requires PC/MS-DOS version 3.0 or higher (DOS 3.1 required for Network Accounting) with 640k of memory and a hard disk. For use with IBM® PC, PC XT, PC AT, Personal System/2™ and compatibles. Alternate media optionally available. Not copy protected. Product names referenced are trademarks and registered trademarks of their respective manufacturers.



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(Mac SE)

(Mac II)

(IBM XT/AT & PS/2 Model 30)



CONSUMER WATCH

Advice and information for the computer consumer

Beware of computers that come with preinstalled software on the hard disk but without manuals or licensing agreements. Chances are you've got pirated copies.

Roberta Furger

No Manuals With the Software? You May Have an Illegal Copy

I recently purchased a computer that was advertised as including Windows 3.0 and MS-DOS 4.1. When the computer arrived, both Windows and DOS were installed on the hard disk, but neither the original floppy disks nor the usual license agreements were included.

Software on disks was included with the last computer I bought. Have the conventions changed? Am I correct in assuming that I am purchasing the rights to the software? How does Microsoft record these sales if the purchaser receives copies only on the hard disk?

Richard R. Pulliam Chula Vista, California

Editor's note: Many computer manufacturers and dealers now preinstall DOS and other software on the hard disk-a legitimate practice that can save the PC buyer time during setup. In these instances, however, the buyer should still receive a complete set of manuals, floppy disks, and the standard license agreements and registration cards for the software, according to Sara Brown, litigation assistant at the Software Publishers Association. Documentation and registration cards are particularly important. Brown suggests that anyone who fails to receive either of these two items contact the manufacturer to verify that the copies are legal. Microsoft's toll-free number is 800/662-6796.

A Deal That Was Too Good to Be True

I ordered a Canon flatbed scanner (with interface card and cable) from Nevada Systems Inc. (NSI) of Torrance, California. When I placed my order I was told the price included everything I needed to run the unit.

When I received the scanner (about a week later), it was not in its original packaging, and the interface board and cable were not included. I called NSI, and the salesman told me the boards were on back order. I was not told this when I placed the order, and I would not have purchased the unit if I'd known.

I have called NSI once a week since the middle of December to find out when I would receive the board and cable. I have been told that the board was shipped and then, when I didn't receive it, that the order hadn't come in as expected or that they hadn't received enough units to send mine.

I have had \$879 tied up since Decem-

ber 3, 1990, in something I have yet to receive.

Nancy A. Butler Enfield, Connecticut

Editor's note: Consumer Watch received four letters from NSI customers (continues)



BUG WATCH

Up-to-date information about hardware and software bugs

Andrew Tobias' Managing Your Money 7.0

An install error in the latest version of Andrew Tobias' Managing Your Money from MECA Software prevents some users from correctly converting data from version 6.0 of the program to the current version. MECA is working on a maintenance release to fix the conversion problem and other maintenance issues. It will be automatically sent free of charge to all registered users this spring.

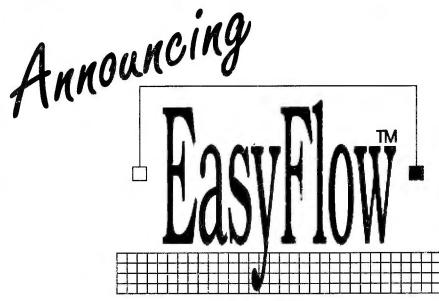
MECA Software 203/222-9087

Ventura Publisher 3.0 for Windows

Intermittent problems have been reported with printing Ventura documents that contain PCX files. Although the items (such as bit-mapped graphics) appear to be aligned correctly when viewed on screen, when printed out, the bottom third of the graphic can get cut off, with either blank space or a bar-code type symbol appearing at the top of the frame. A spokesperson for Ventura says the company is aware of the problem and is working on a fix, but declined to give a release date.

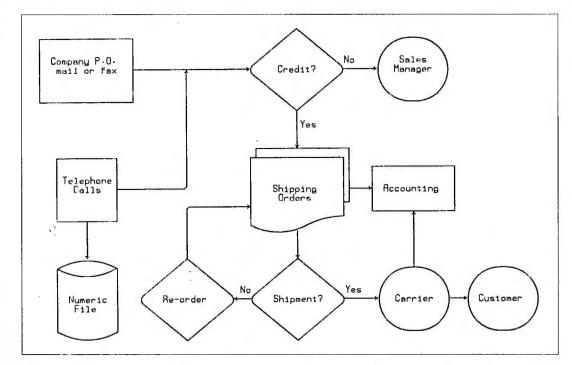
Ventura Software 800/822-8221

Have you run into a software bug or hardware incompatibilty? Call us at 415/978-3253 with the details. We'll investigate problems and publish those of broadest interest.



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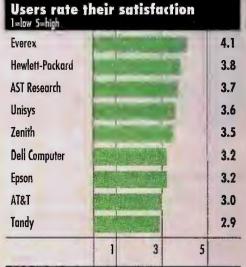
HavenTree Software Limited P.O. Box 1093 - M Thousand Island Park, NY 13692 Information: (613) 544-6035 ext.47 Fax: (613) 544-9632

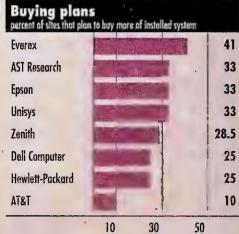


RATE YOUR SATISFACTION: PC Compatibles

Corporate customers are turning increasingly to compatibles makers for high-quality systems at lower prices than comparable units from IBM or Compaq. Zenith Data Systems is at the top of the list of compatibles makers. It does not rate as high in user satisfaction or purchase plans, however. Instead, systems from Everex rate highest in both those categories, reflecting the company's reputation for high-performance systems and competitive prices.

Installed base at survey sites 1289 Zenith **AST Research** 940 589 Unisys 477 Tandy 352 Everex 329 Hewlett-Packard AT&T 290 232 Epson **Dell Computer** 179





Source: International Data Corp. From a survey of 200 large organizations, each with at least 50 PCs.

(continues)

who took the company up on its offer of low-priced scanners, which were selling for less than half the suggested retail price. Customers report having paid for—but not received—products, receiving incomplete orders (scanners minus interface cards), or getting seemingly used merchandise.

After receiving inquiries from Consumer Watch, NSI contacted customers with unfulfilled orders to begin rectifying outstanding problems.

According to president Chuck Campbell, NSI, which frequently purchases discontinued merchandise, bought 1900 Canon scanners but did not receive all the necessary interface cards. Although customers writing to Consumer Watch say they were not informed of the shortage of boards prior to placing their orders, Campbell says he indicated at the time of sale that the items were on back order.

Unfulfilled Promises

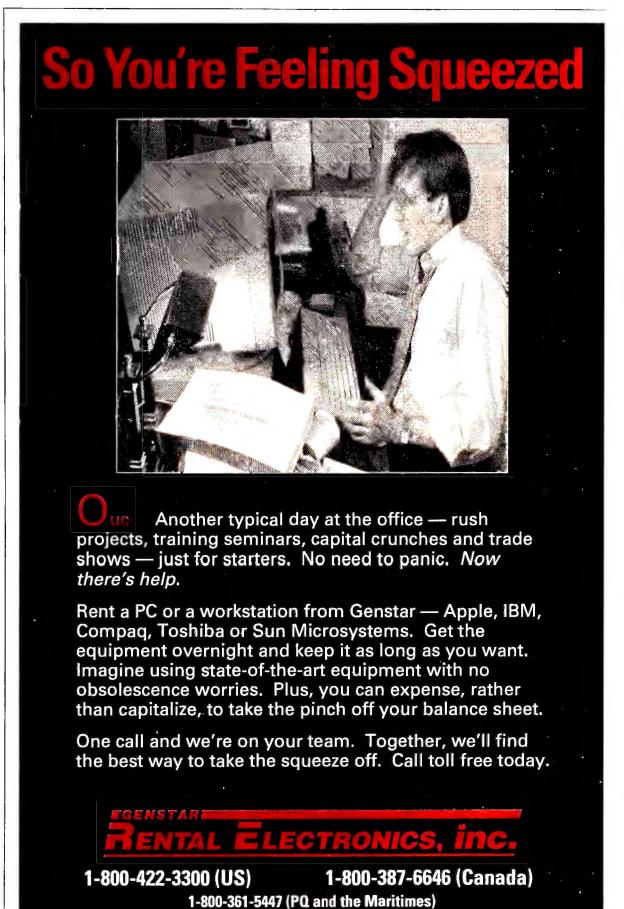
Northgate's ad states, "We hear you." Unfortunately, getting them to respond is another matter. I received my hard drive—equipped Slimline 386 minus the 64K cache I had ordered. Further, my credit card was charged a month before my computer was shipped, contrary to Northgate's advertised policy. To the five letters I sent concerning these problems Northgate responded only once. Attempts to contact the company by phone from my duty station in Germany have proved expensive and futile.

The one reply I received from Northgate said they would reimburse me for telephone costs (\$38.95) arising from the delayed shipment of my system. They also acknowledged the hard disk error and agreed to supply a hard disk with cache. I was also told I would be reimbursed \$38.57 for credit card costs due to the billing error.

Unfortunately, Northgate hasn't followed through on its promises, and my subsequent three letters have gone unanswered.

Michael S. Vaughn APO, New York Editor's note: After being contacted by Consumer Watch, Northgate has sent Mr. Vaughn the correct hard drive and reimbursed him for his phone costs and credit card interest. According to Northgate customer satisfaction representative William Everson, the lengthy delay (the new hard drive and refund were originally promised by

Northgate in December 1989) was due to changes in personnel and failure to refer the matter to the customer satisfaction department. The fact that several letters and phone calls went unanswered, however, indicates a need to revamp the system—which, according to Everson, is being done. (continues)



Impress yourself.



(This impression courtesy of Microsoft Excel and Word for Windows.)



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er, you will not only get excited about your work, but a lot of other people will get excited about the work you do.

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Weekly Sales Report: Heavy Power Tools Thanks to the resurgence of woodworking as a hobby, sales in joiners, lathes and jig saws are more than holding their own. Because sales related to this winter activity customarily fall off this time of year, we're launching a 20% Off Power Tool Sale in April. See next week's report for details.

We're also picking up the slack with strong sales in easonal items. Sales of indoor and outdoor paint and paint applies just continue their upward spiral -- now at supplies just contin 147% of forecast. Area sales reflected one of our best weeks so far The proposed ban on gas lawn mowers has thrown that market into a tailspin, while electric mower sales are soaring. With spring on the way, it's time to start this year. The Westside again leads the pack opline Summary What a terrific week! Our *Do-It-Yourself* pro motion has depleted our dealers' stock by up to 50% in just the first five days. As a result, we're 18,300 units ahead of our most optimistic forecasts.

Congratulations to Chet for coming up with the \$60,000 promotional theme, and to Tim. Barney and Bill for \$50,000 persuading 92% of our dealers to participate. Hand Tools It's been a record week for hand tool sales. Over 7,500 units and still climbing. Astounding. What are people tacking with all those tack hammers? \$30,000 Light Power Tools With 450 sales in just the first week (that's 175 above forecast), our new Super Scale Power Sander looks like its going to hit it big.
Wish we could say the same for small power saws. Monthly sales dropped in January, but sh

(This impression courtesy of the Hewlett-Packard LaserJet III printer.)

strong recovery in February and March,



The Hewlett-Packard LaserJet III family of printers. The perfect companion to Microsoft Windows applications.

scalable fonts supported by our Windows applications. So you get thou-

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sands of font choices. As well as the ability to print in record speed.

We are below forecast -- with 675 predicted, but

only 605 out the door. We've got to push harder.

And to ensure that you get crisp, clear out-

put, HP developed a new technology they call Resolution Enhancement. But you'll call it simply amazing.

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operates your printer in the background.

Now you can get both at one great price of \$129.95 - a savings of over 25%.

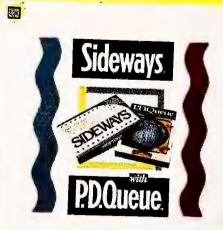
Ask for "Sideways with P.D.Queue" at your software dealer or call us at 1-800-822-3865 ext. 228.

Sideways®

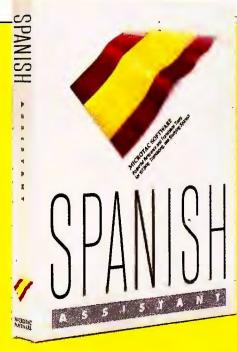


FOR 1-2-3 RELEASE 2 AND SYMPHONY.

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Shareware Developer Comes Through

In January of 1990, I purchased a shareware program for creating computerbased tutorials from a Los Angelesbased firm called Computer Knowledge. Six weeks later I received the software and the user's manual. Every-(continues)

PCW#RLD SERVICE **EXCELLENCE**



Each month Consumer Watch recognizes one PC company's commit-

ment to service based on reports from readers.

Last November I purchased a 386-25 tower computer with a Sony monitor from Gateway 2000. Everything worked fine initially, except that the video board had an unacceptably loud hum. Gateway shipped at no cost a replacement board, but while Windows worked in color with the new board, everything else stayed in monochrome. Gateway tried to correct the problem with two other boards, new software, and a new monitor. Finally, they shipped a complete system.

When installing the new system I discovered the problem was specific to the monitor cable (which I had not changed, despite Gateway's having sent one earlier). Gateway had needlessly spent a large amount of money on consultation and shipping.

When I offered to reimburse Gateway for the shipping costs, they refused my offer. Not merely does Gateway stand behind its products, they insist on satisfying their customers—at their own expense.

Douglas Purl Missoula, Montana

Until now, sharing a printer could cause excessive wear on some of your equipment.



If you're on a sneaker network running between several PCs and one printer, your patience and productivity—among other things—are probably wearing a little thin.

And it could be worse. Major manufacturers report that you may actually damage your laser printer if you use a mechanical switchbox. But now there's The Logical Connection Jr.™

The Logical Connection Jr. safely connects four PCs to a single parallel printer using easy-to-install phone wires.

Working entirely with its own memory, it manages all incoming print jobs simultaneously in the background, freeing your PCs for business while it prints jobs in the order received. And although it runs beautifully without any software, it comes with a powerful utility program that maximizes printing speed. And it does all that for less than \$60 per PC.

To find out more about The Logical Connection Jr., call 1-800-388-0362. Buy it, and we'll foot the bill for a free copy of Mace Performance, the \$69 hard disk optimizer. Just write

and return it to us.

This is a limited-time offer, so step on it.

"sneaker network" on



Fifth Generation Systems, Inc. 10049 N. Reiger Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70809 Technical Support: (504) 291-7283 thing worked as expected.

I ordered an update in June of last year so that I could create my own opening screen (something not possible with the basic program). The newer version was supposed to be available in July, but by the end of that month I hadn't received anything. August, September, and October passed without a word.

By this time I was losing my trust in shareware. I wrote a letter to the president of Computer Knowledge and enclosed a copy of my money order in the hope that the company was still in business.

At the end of December I received the program with a letter of apology, telling me they had misplaced my order unopened. Not only did I receive the program, but the president enclosed my uncashed money order (for \$105), plus another application that I had not ordered. My trust in shareware has been restored.

Ferry Strube
The Netherlands

Credit Due, but not Forthcoming

I purchased a math coprocessor from Unitex of Irvine, California, which failed and was returned during the warranty period. I was told that a new unit would be shipped and charged against my credit card, but that my account would be credited as soon as the defective chip was received.

When I called to find out why the credit had not been issued, I was told the credit department was behind in its paperwork. I have spoken with Unitex employees four times and have been promised immediate action each time.

At no time has Unitex denied that they owe me a refund; they just keep making excuses about why it hasn't been issued yet. I can't believe that my \$249 is worth so much trouble to them, unless they are in financial straits.

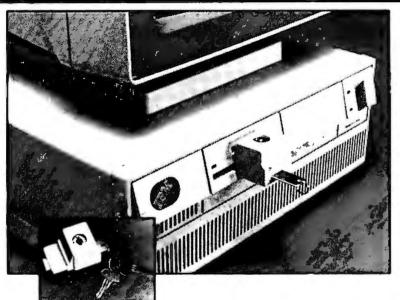
Steve Peaslee Stockton, Kansas

Editor's note: Unitex's attorney Richard Brownstein told Consumer Watch that the company has filed for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the U.S. bankruptcy laws. A reorganization plan is expected to be filed toward the end of the second quarter of this year.

Customers owed money or products have been included on the company's list of creditors, which was submitted to the court last March, and should have received official notification of the reorganization proceedings. No refunds or back-ordered products will be shipped, however, until after the reorganization plan has been approved.

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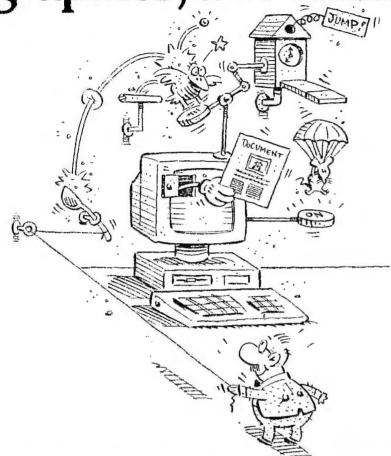




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■

POWER TIP NO. 182

Switching Screen Modes in Windows 3.0

If you have a super-VGA card and monitor, you'll probably want to install high-resolution drivers for Windows 3.0. But you may also want to be able to switch from one resolution to another. So that you can do this, set up Windows for the standard 640-by-480 VGA mode, exit to the DOS prompt, and enter md\640x480. Go to your Windows subdirectory, and enter copy *.ini 640x480 to copy the configuration files into their own directory. Follow the installation instructions that come with your high-resolution drivers; then make another directory, such as \800x600 or \1024x768, and copy the INI files into that. Finally, create a batch file for each video mode you've installed and place them in a directory that's named in your PATH.

Here's a sample batch file called WIN800.BAT (substitute your own drive and directory names):

@echo off

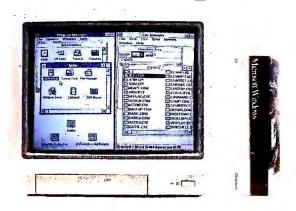
cls

copy c:\800x600 c:\windows > nul win

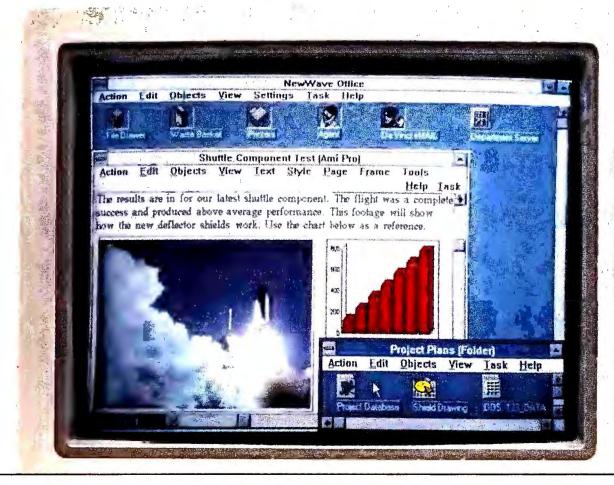
Start Windows in any screen mode by executing the appropriate batch file.

George Campbell Contributing Editor

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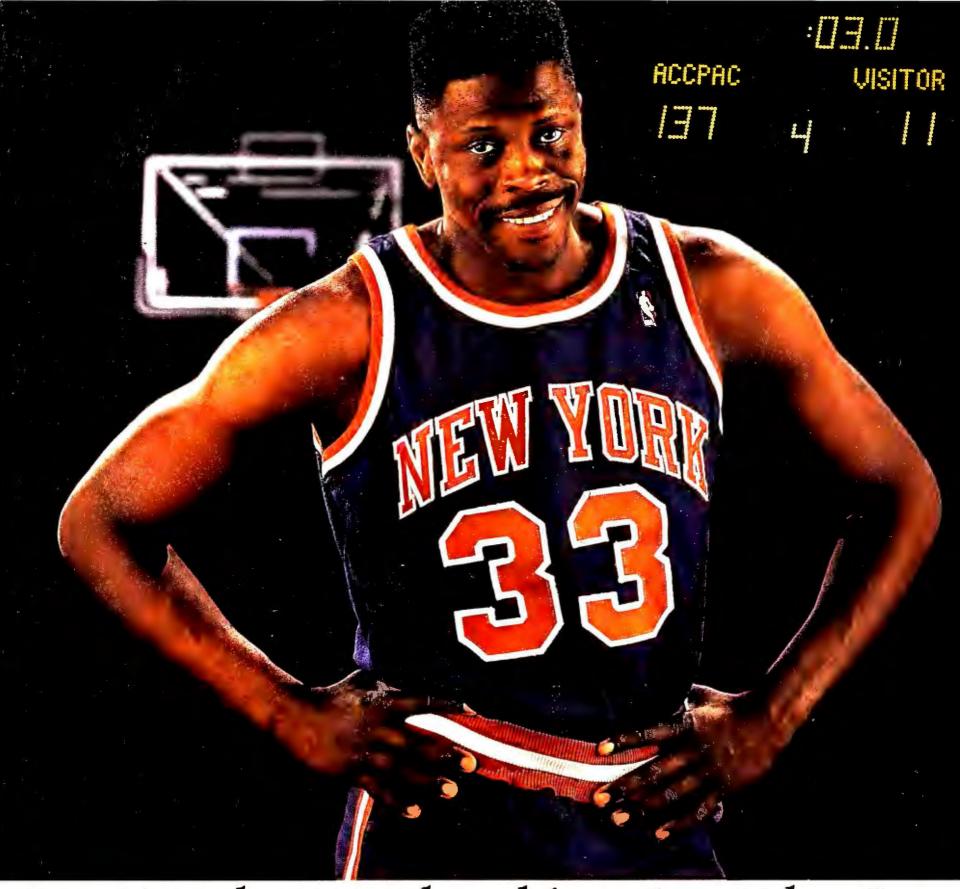
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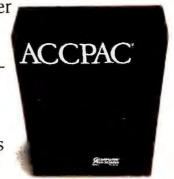


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MANAGER'S FILE #3

Getting the Most Out of Consultants

Consultants, like lawyers, often get a bad rap. Although U.S. businesses spend millions of dollars each year on consulting services, more often than not you hear about the disasters, not the successes.

Still, few companies have the experience and expertise necessary to design and maintain a computing architecture that's going to ensure competitiveness over the long haul. For most businesses, turning to an outside expert is inevitable. So what can you do to ensure that your money and time are well spent?

Understanding your company's needs and conveying them clearly to the consultant are key, say business-people and consultants alike. You may not know what you want or need from a technical perspective, but a good consultant should be able to translate your business goals into technical solutions. That means finding someone who "speaks your language"—someone who knows your business and has assisted other companies in similar circumstances.

One Size Doesn't Fit All

As the technology gets more complex, consultants tend to specialize in one particular facet of computer design and installation. So the person who designs a strategic data base for your company's sales force isn't likely to be the one who recommends a strategy for connecting all your departments via a local area network. And your network designer is probably not going to be the person who installs the hardware and software. Be prepared, then, to deal with not one but a series of providers, particularly on larger, more complex projects such as implementation of strategic systems.

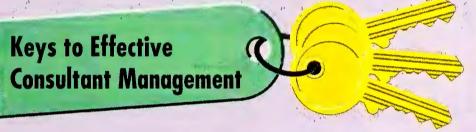
Regardless of the project, beware of your consultant's prior affiliations—either with particular hardware and software companies or with certain computing strategies or approaches. You'll minimize the risk of having to retrofit a solution to your needs if you're aware of someone's preferences ahead of time. You may want to consider splitting projects into design and implementation phases. By dividing responsibility in this way you minimize the danger that the recommended solution is

based primarily on a consultant's financial motives.

Set Specific Goals

Your work isn't over once you've hired the consultant. It's important to have clearly defined checkpoints throughout the project so you can evaluate progress. Make sure you've developed measurable criteria by which you can assess performance, and keep open the option of terminating the relationship if either you or the consultant is dissatisfied.

■



It takes a lot of work to ensure a successful consulting arrangement, but knowing what you want and communicating your needs to the consultant increase your chances for success.

Before hiring:

- Conduct a detailed needs assessment—know what you want before you sign a contract.
- Obtain references from associates in your field; ask specific questions about reliability, responsiveness, quality of work performed.
- Look for someone with a proven track record; review prior work (if hiring a consultant to create an application) and visit installations (for strategic systems design).
- Make sure that the consultant's style matches that of your organization.

When negotiating:

- Establish clear areas of responsibility and authority.
- ✓ Have a legal counsel review the contract.
- ✓ Determine "ownership" of code at project completion.
- ✓ Obtain a detailed cost breakdown.
- Establish a specific time frame for project completion.

When working with a consultant:

- ✓ Designate a company liaison.
- ✓ Involve users in system design.
- Develop specific checkpoints for evaluating progress.

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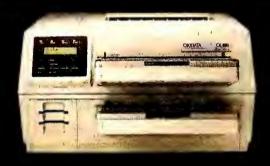
The OL820: W/built-in font scaling \$1999



The OL840: W/PostScript \$2999



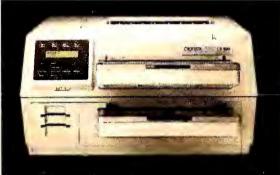
The OL800: W/200 sheet 2nd paper tray



The OL820: W/200 sheet 2nd paper tray



The OL840: W/200 sheet 2nd paper tray



The OL800: W/multi-user port (3 add'l users)*



The OL820: W/multi-user port (3 add'l users)*



The OL840: AppleTalk Network Ready

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Besides having more resident scalable fonts than the LaserJet III (13 versus 8), the OL820 also has more brains. Thanks to a unique hardware chip designed by Okidata engineers, it instantly solves complex font scaling, type rotation and grayscaling problems "on the fly"—problems the LaserJet has to go back to its software to work out.

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the LaserJet III is still thinking about printing its first page. In fact, InfoWorld magazine found the Okidata OL820 to be "the fastest office printer we've tested."

Second paper tray and 4-station workgroup options are available for your Okidata OL820 as well.

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If Adobe PostScript® printing is on your menu, the Okidata OL840 offers it for \$700 less than a comparably equipped HP. Yet that low list price includes 35 genuine Adobe PostScript fonts, plus 26 bitmapped fonts (4 typefaces); 2 megabytes of installed RAM; plus serial, parallel, and AppleTalk Network® interfaces. You can connect the OL840 to both PC and Macintosh® workstations, and switch between systems instantly.

And the OL840 still leaves you with plenty of options—a second paper tray, extra memory, and a wide selection of additional PostScript fonts on easy-to-install ROM cards.

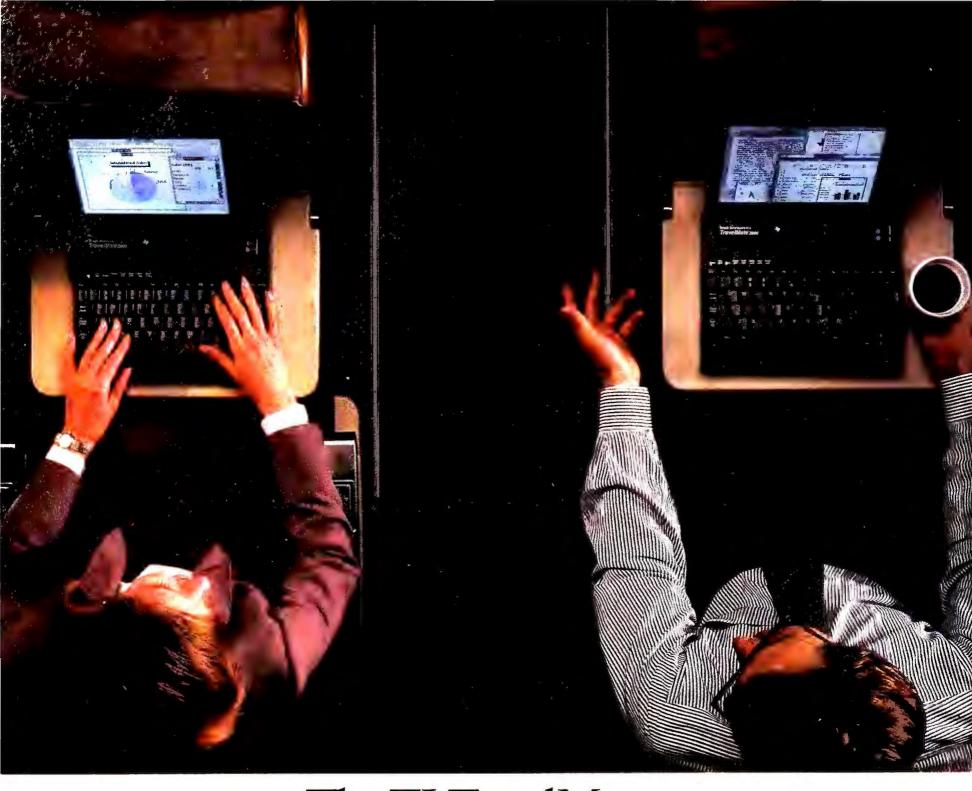
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OUTLOOK INDUSTRY

Edited by ERIC BENDER

Traditional Dealers, Software Stores Pressured

Superstores Leap Retailing Bounds

Giant Outlets Offer Bargains, Diversity of Products



"In Dallas, the superstores have driven most of the other retailers out of business," notes consultant Jim Hoisington.

U sers everywhere about ing more and more about sers everywhere are talkcomputer "superstores" as the cheapest, easiest way to buy hardware and software. These huge warehouses stock tens of thousands of name-brand PC hardware, software, peripheral, and related office products at 60 to 80 percent off retail the lowest prices in town.

A superstore is to the local ComputerLand or Businessland what a gigantic supermarket is to a corner momand-pop grocery. It offers low prices coupled with a wide selection of products. Usually located outside traditional shopping districts in warehouses from 15,000 to 35,000 square feet in size, superstores provide ample parking and even loading docks for their more voracious consumers.

Chains such as Comp USA (formerly Soft Warehouse) and Micro Center stretch across the country. Nationwide, 78 superstores will be open by year-end, estimates Seymour Merrin, president of Merrin Associates, in Palo Alto, California. He attributes this meteoric rise—at a time when traditional PC retailers are suffering financial woesto the increasing sophistication of users.

"It's rare that I can find a computer salesman who knows more than I do," says Paul Bryant, an assistant vice president at the International Bank of Japan in Los Angeles. "A technology warehouse where I can tell them to send me 300 of a given product immediately, pay the lowest price, and not have to listen to a naive sales pitch is therefore very attractive."

Crowding Out Dealers

When a superstore enters a region, traditional retailers' prices drop almost immediately. Many of these stores

can't take the pressure, notes Jim Hoisington, a Dallas PC consultant and president of the North Texas PC User Group, who lives across the street from a Comp USA store. On weekends Hoisington battles hoards of buyers who overflow two parking lots and street parking for blocks in all directions. "In Dallas, the superstores have driven most of the other retailers out of business," he says.

Superstores stock even more business titles than software-only stores—as many as 3000. Although peripherals such as printers, fax boards, and modems are offered from just about every vendor, the choice of PCs generally excludes IBM, Compaq, and Apple. There are some exceptions among superstores that started out as retailers.

As they kept overhead costs to an absolute minimum, superstores got a reputation for skimpy service and support. However, buyers say this is changing. The major chains now have reputable carry-in service departments—some even offer third-party on-site service contracts. And most superstores have added corporate sales staffs that are assigned to business accounts.

Super Advice?

Ken Zoline, a Chicago networking consultant, has listened in at the service counters of local superstores and says the level of help is inadequate. Others point out, however, that this problem is hardly limited to superstores.

"I'm not sure that superstores are worse offenders than nonsuperstores in terms of giving out bad advice," says Sanford Rosen, president of The PC Consulting Company in Columbus. The no-questions-asked, 30-day moneyback guarantee most superstores offer makes purchasing much less risky, he says.

Many PC users find help both before and after the purchase by pairing superstores with independent consultants. "A knowledge-provider who is not a reseller has much lower overhead, and so services can be offered much less expensively," Merrin points out. -Alice LaPlante

Superstores on the March

Top six chains, projections for

| Chain | | nber itores | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--|
| Comp USA | notionwide | 33 | |
| CompuAdd | nationwide | 8 | |
| Intelligent Electronics | Northeost | 8 | |
| Inacomp | not onnounced | 6 | |
| Micro Center | Midwest/ Southeast | 5 | |
| Fry's | California | 3 | |
| | COMPUTERS | | |

Superstore chains are branching out across the U.S., with 78 according to Merrin Associates. While traditional dealers strugwill more than double this year to \$2.8 billion.

outlets expected by year-end, gle, revenues for superstores

Small Businesses Struggle Into Windows

A Minefield of Problems Waiting to Be Discovered

When Udo Winkler picked up a copy of Windows 3.0 for his laptop last fall, he had no inkling of the trouble in store. Winkler, a wholesale hardware salesman who works from his home in Running Springs, California, couldn't get past the second Windows installation disk on his TurbosPort 386.

During the next ten weeks he called Microsoft's Windows support line repeatedly, only to remain on hold for 45 minutes or more each time before hanging up in disgust. Finally, after holding on for an hour and 20 minutes, he reached a technician who promised to call back but never did. In frustration, Winkler complained to several magazines; that expedient produced a call from Microsoft, and, at last, a solution to his installation woes.

Well, sort of. Microsoft could guide him through installation, but only if Windows was installed in CGA mode—a crippled configuration. The company also informed Winkler that his troubles lay in the computer's BIOS rather than Microsoft's package. Still, Winkler is bitter. "I spent-the money for all these products, and they just kind of dropped the ball," he says. Winkler estimates he's spent more than \$150 on phone charges to Redmond. He's still trying to get through to Zenith for a BIOS upgrade, and he can't run Windows yet.

Small Companies, Big Snags

Winkler's problem is extreme but not uncommon: As one of the first widely sold protectedmode packages, *Windows 3.0* reveals incompatibilities and bugs in BIOSes, drivers, and applications that previously



Udo Winkler spent more than \$150 on phone calls to Microsoft, but Windows still won't run acceptably on his laptop.

passed undetected. Large companies that have considerable support resources take these snags in stride, but smaller firms can't. And when things go wrong, they blame Microsoft.

Factor in Windows sales that have surprised even Microsoft, and you get a phone support nightmare. "I can appreciate how frustrating that is," responds Windows product manager John Roberts. He reports that the company has nearly tripled phone staff since last year and launched several programs this spring aimed at delivering key installation and configuration tips to users, including a 20-page magazine sent to all registered users, free workshops held around the country, and a \$14.50 resource kit.

"We realize that people are experiencing migration issues, and we have answers," says Roberts. He hopes that by giving users more tools and information, they'll diagnose more problems on their own.

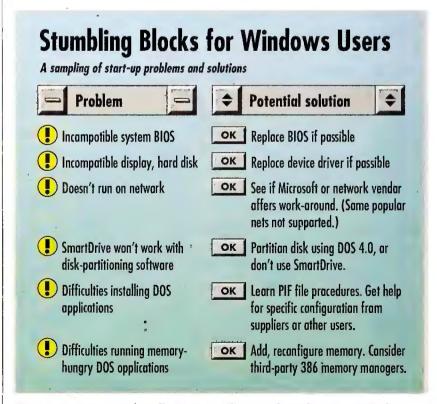
He also says that PC manufacturers need to address incompatibility problems. Jordan Rosenberg, consultant and cofounder of the user

group San Francisco Business Computers, agrees. "I had a hell of a problem with *Windows* and my Plus Hardcard driver, and [Plus] doesn't tell you until you call....Whoever knew about the problem, Microsoft or Plus, should have told me." He gives Microsoft the benefit of the doubt, explaining that "they have always treated me very well as a customer."

Not for Novices?

Most problems arise for users still struggling to understand how their computers work, says Carole Patton, editor of ACKnowledge, the Windows Letter in Mendham, New Jersey. "Anybody who understands memory and networking is not going to have problems," she maintains. Jim Weiler, director of the Boston Computer Society's Windows group, believes that Microsoft isn't the best place to go for hand-holding. "So many people are getting into Windows, and they don't know that they need support until it's too late. I tell them that Compu-Serve is the best source of information."

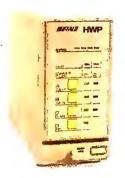
Nevertheless, a small business that can't afford to spend a lot of time on CompuServe Windows forums or pay for third-party support may fall through the cracks. The bottom line, Patton stresses, is that Windows may be too sophisticated for such firms. "I don't see Windows being a success with smaller companies for a year or two, until all the complexities are covered up." —Scott Spanbauer



Users report many hurdles in installing and configuring Windows. While Microsoft offers various resources, asking your peers or joining a CompuServe forum may afford a quicker solution.

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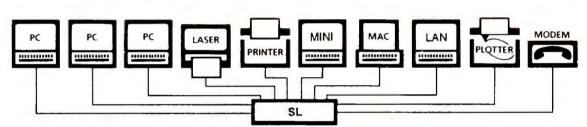
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PostScript Stays Standard

Adobe Expands Font Capabilities

Starting late this year, you'll be able to take special Post-Script fonts and manipulate them almost at will—altering size, weight, width, and style—and they won't lose their good looks.

This is the promise of Adobe Systems' Multiple Master technology, hailed by analysts and users alike. "For professional designers, it adds a level of control to publishing that has been missing since the advent of electronic type on the PC," comments Joseph Prieboy, consultant for Home Box Office in New York City.

Multiple Master technology also demonstrates Adobe's determination to hold its ground in high-end printing—and to create spin-offs that ease user headaches in general.

. For instance, notes Adobe chairman John Warnock, take the letter or worksheet that doesn't quite fit onto a single page—with these malleable fonts, you can condense or expand the type so it fits neatly with no loss of quality. Or when someone sends you a document formatted with a font you lack, you normally must fix it manually to make it print out properly. But a Multiple Master font could automatically mimic the original font's exact size so that the document printed out in fine style. "This will have a huge impact on the way we communicate with each other," Warnock predicts.

Technology and Partnerships

Over the past two years, Adobe has been feeling pinched between Hewlett-Packard LaserJets and compatibles, which sell at much higher volume than PostScript devices, and a strange-bedfellows partnership between Micro-

soft and Apple at the high end. The Mountain View, California, firm has held its territory partly through advances such as Multiple Masters, better color support, and upcoming fax integration products. More important has been friendlier relations with other vendors—including lower licensing fees.

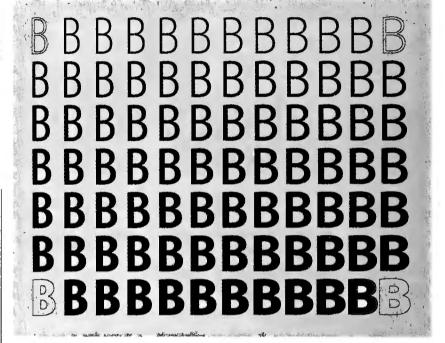
Apple, Epson, and HP are among the major players introducing PostScript products this year. RISC-powered designs have helped to overcome PostScript's nagging performance limitations. Hordes of LaserJets and compatibles go out the door with a PostScript cartridge—a trend that will be bolstered by new networkoriented printers. Even Post-Script compatibles, like the PhoenixPage embedded in Pacific Data's fast-selling cartridges, end up as a net plus for the PostScript standard.

"A lot of vendors see Post-Script as a way around HP," comments Carolyn Perrier, product manager for nonimpact printers at Epson America in Torrance, California. "PostScript printer prices will continue to erode very rapidly."

TrueType to Your Word

Adobe's biggest challenge remains TrueType and True-Image, the rival font/page-description—language combo from Microsoft and Apple that will run on today's PostScript devices. The challenge has remained purely verbal for much longer than expected. Apple finally shipped its first True-Type products in March (and

But when Windows 3.1 finally ships, the rules of the game will change because TrueType will be included free. "If you get in the Windows box the same 13 fonts that Adobe ships, why go out and buy them from Adobe?" asks Dennis Adler, manager of Microsoft's type effort. "TrueType will be widespread on Intel and Mac platforms, prob-



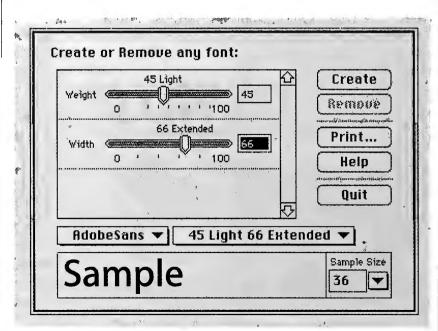
Adobe's Multiple Master technology is designed to give you almost unlimited variations on a given typeface. Here, the system can generate any combination of weight and width between four "master" fonts.

fell on its face due to surprising installation problems). For the PC, TrueType will most likely celebrate its second birthday as vaporware in September.

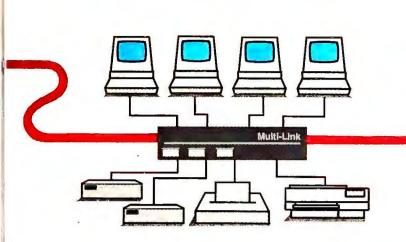
ably mostly at the low end," predicts Jonathan Seybold of The Seybold Report on Desktop Publishing in Malibu, California.

However, while users are intrigued by True'Type, they're wary about calls for new hardware. "PostScript is the one standard we use around the company for professional graphics," Joseph Prieboy says. "I don't care whether my users want PostScript or TrueType fonts," says another corporate user. "I do want to buy one printer environment through the corporation." —E. B.

Alice LaPlante is a freelance writer in Palo Alto, California, and Scott Spanbauer is a PC World contributing editor.



Upcoming PostScript font software will offer users unprecedented flexibility, as this Macintosh prototype shows.



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Changing Trends in Windows 3.0 Use

Exclusive PC World Surveys Chart Windows Use and Satisfaction

businesses are latching on to Windows 3.0 in a big way, according to two surveys of PC World readers. More than half of all respondents report that their companies are running the operating environment. Personal use is lagging behind, however, with fewer than one-third of the readers surveyed using Win-

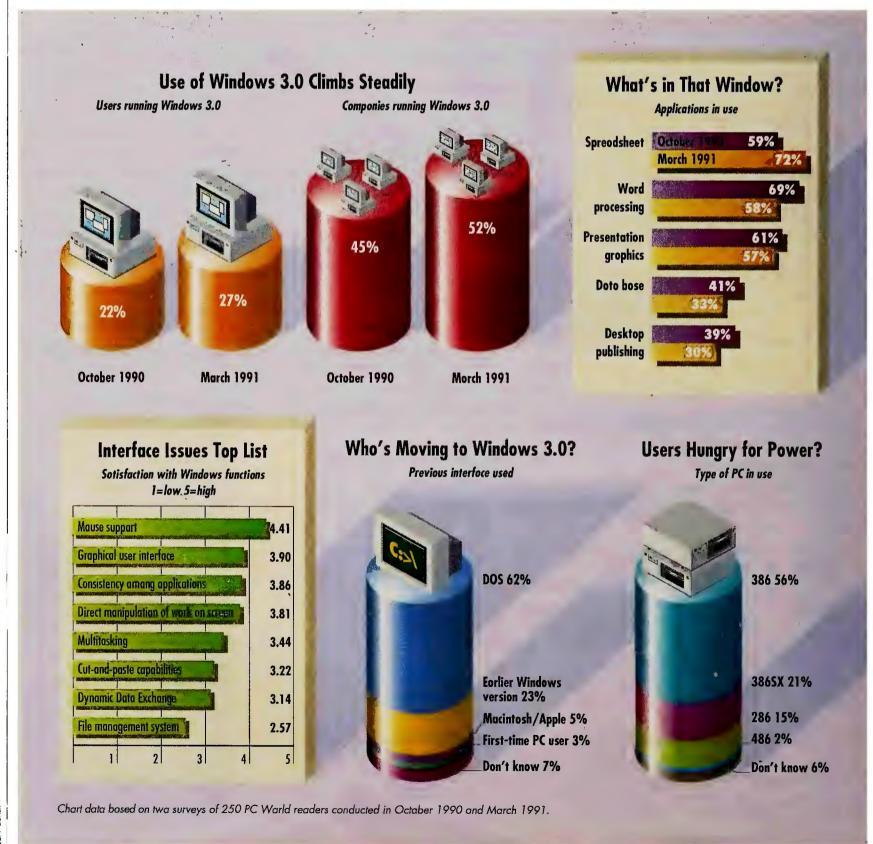
dows themselves.

Word processing packages, which boasted the largest installed base of all applications run under *Windows* last October, have moved to the number two position behind spreadsheets. A whopping 72 percent of readers surveyed run their spreadsheet under *Windows* (although not all of them are

running *Windows* spreadsheets). Over 75 percent of respondents are running *Windows* on a 386-based system, with only 15 percent using a 286, which Microsoft identifies as the minimum system required.

According to our survey, Windows' more basic interface features rate highest in

user satisfaction. The relatively low ratings of some of the high-end functions reflect the fact that a full 62 percent of *Windows* users surveyed moved to Microsoft's graphical environment from plain old DOS and are likely still getting used to the *Windows* way of computing. —*Roberta Furger*



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|--|------------|---------------|----------|----------|----------------|----------------------------|----------|-------------|---------------|----------|---------------|-------------|--|
| PC W\RLD 80286-based desktop PCs | LEI . | Average | LOW | 臺 | Boston | Chicago Chicago | Dallas | Los Angeles | Miomi derdole | New York | San Francisco | Washington, | |
| AST Bravo/286 | \$1695 | \$1268 | \$895 | \$1500 | \$1329 | \$1283 | \$1298 | \$1182 | \$1400 | \$1385 | \$1151 | \$129 | |
| Compaq Deskpro 286n | \$2399 | \$1809 | \$1295 | \$2176 | \$1805 | \$1753 | \$2008 | \$1586 | \$1947 | \$1866 | \$1720 | \$178 | |
| Dell 210 | \$1400 | \$1400 | \$1400 | \$1400 | \$1400 | \$1400 | \$1400 | \$1400 | \$1400 | \$1400 | \$1400 | \$140 | |
| IBM PS/2 50 Z-031 | \$2745 | \$2016 | \$1399 | \$2470 | \$2019 | \$2045 | \$2014 | \$1839 | \$2187 | \$2004 | \$1851 | \$210 | |
| Tandy 2500 XL/2 | \$1959 | 1 \$1959 | \$1959 | \$1959 | \$1959 | \$1959 | \$1959 | \$1959 | \$1969 | \$1959 | \$1959 | \$195 | |
| 80386SX-based desktop PCs | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AST Bravo/386SX | \$2845 | \$2121 | \$1779 | \$2495 | \$2196 | \$2190 | \$2280 | \$2020 | \$2296 | \$2241 | \$1908 | \$212 | |
| Compaq Deskpro 386s | \$2999 | \$2402 | \$1900 | \$2890 | \$2447 | \$2400 | \$2670 | \$2276 | \$2521 | \$2402 | \$2298 | \$22 | |
| Dell System 316 SX | \$1600 | \$1600 | \$1600 | \$1600 | \$1600 | \$1600 | \$1600 | \$1600 | \$1600 | \$1600 | \$1600 | \$160 | |
| Epson Equity 386SX Plus | \$2999 | \$1726 | \$1295 | \$2150 | \$1718 | \$1870 | \$1917 | \$1562 | \$1756 | \$1695 | \$1645 | \$17 | |
| IBM PS/2 55-061 | \$3295 | \$2628 | \$1999 | \$3223 | \$2594 | \$2548 | \$2737 | \$2557 | \$2704 | \$2711 | \$2371 | \$271 | |
| NEC PowerMate SX+ | \$2149 | \$1907 | \$1499 | \$2550 | \$1835 | \$2043 | \$2033 | \$1951 | \$1830 | \$2088 | n/a¹ | \$19 | |
| 80386DX-based desktop PC | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AST Premium 386/25 | \$5595 | \$4056 | \$3149 | \$5000 | \$4004 | \$4233 | \$4098 | \$3835 | \$4650 | \$4511 | \$3704 | \$41. | |
| Compaq Deskpro 386/33L | \$7999 | \$6220 | \$4999 | \$7874 | \$6605 | \$6319 | \$5815 | \$5766 | \$5997 | \$6362 | \$6300 | \$600 | |
| Epson Equity 386/25 Plus | 54999 | \$3481 | \$2679 | \$4249 | \$3581 | \$3658 | \$3678 | \$3375 | \$3500 | \$3580 | \$3601 | \$313 | |
| IBM PS/2 70-061 | \$4745 | \$3406 | \$2950 | \$4270 | \$3378 | \$3474 | \$3411 | \$3208 | \$3420 | \$3625 | \$3101 | \$317 | |
| IBM PS/2 70-A61 | \$6245 | \$4728 | \$4285 | \$5620 | \$4686 | \$4693 | \$4736 | \$4690 | \$4991 | \$5028 | \$4309 | \$46 | |
| Tandon 386/33 | \$3079 | \$3079 | \$3079 | \$3079 | \$3079 | \$3079 | \$3079 | \$3079 | \$3079 | \$3079 | \$3079 | \$30 | |
| Tandy 4033 LX | \$5898 | \$5898 | \$5898 | \$5898 | \$5898 | \$5898 | \$5898 | \$5898 | \$5898 | \$5898 | \$5898 | \$58 | |
| 80486-based desktop PCs | | | | | | | | | | | , | | |
| AST Premium 486/25E | \$8595 | \$6362 | \$4799 | \$7500 | \$6756 | \$6503 | \$6450 | \$5987 | \$6586 | \$6661 | \$5722 | 651 | |
| Compog Deskpro 486/33L | \$10,999 | 58872 | \$7127 | \$11,391 | \$9039 | \$9397 | \$8905 | \$8176 | \$8282 | \$8849 | 58799 | \$84 | |
| Dell 425E | \$5700 | \$5700 | \$5700 | \$5700 | \$5700 | \$5700 | \$5700 | \$5700 | \$5700 | \$5700 | \$5700 | \$57 | |
| IBM PS/2 95 XP | \$17,745 | \$13,113 | \$10,650 | \$15,500 | \$12,580 | \$13,223 | \$14,206 | \$12,609 | \$12,920 | \$13,063 | \$13,105 | \$12,6 | |
| NEC PowerMote 486/25E | \$9899 | \$6665 | \$5500 | \$7919 | \$6899 | \$6688 | \$7450 | \$6360 | \$6563 | \$6407 | n/a¹ | \$64 | |
| Portables/laptops | | / | | | J | THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN | | | | | | | |
| Compaq LTE/286 | \$3499 | \$2555 | \$2049 | \$3000 | \$2654 | \$2576 | \$2593 | \$2494 | \$2633 | \$2558 | \$2446 | \$24 | |
| Compaq LTE 386s/20 | \$6499 | \$4831 | \$4290 | \$5975 | \$4891 | \$4783 | \$4783 | \$4887 | \$4894 | \$4953 | \$4897 | \$466 | |
| Dell 320LT | \$3799 | \$3799 | \$3799 | \$3799 | \$3799 | \$3799 | \$3799 | \$3799 | \$3799 | \$3799 | 53799 | \$379 | |
| Epson Equity LT-386SX | \$5598 | \$3563 | \$2995 | \$4249 | \$3517 | \$3824 | \$3551 | \$3065 | \$3301 | \$3460 | \$3645 | \$370 | |
| IBM P70 386 | \$7695 | \$5793 | \$41/9 | \$7000 | \$5641 | \$5784 | \$5849 | \$5465 | \$5708 | \$6212 | \$5410 | \$555 | |
| Toshiba T1000SE | \$1499 | \$1055 | \$798 | \$1350 | \$1101 | \$1114 | \$1130 | \$1002 | \$1023 | \$966 | \$979 | \$113 | |
| Toshiba T3100e | \$3699 | \$2707 | \$2199 | \$3300 | \$2863 | \$2771 | \$2834 | \$2701 | \$2795 | \$2432 | \$2699 | \$279 | |

From an IDC survey of more than 180 computer dealers in eight metropolitan areas. Figures based on at least four price quotes for each machine. Prices are based on manufacturer's standard configuration without monitor. Due to the limited number of NEC dealers in the Son Francisco areo, IDC was unable to collect enough price quotes.

Big-Apple Buyers Pay Big for Compaq Notebook

Retail pricing for Compaq LTE 386s/20 in eight metropolitan regions



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Reason #2 Dazzling Performance.

In one recent '386 review, *PC Magazine* awarded ZEOS Editor's Choice. "The ZEOS '386 blows away every other computer...a smart choice" is what they said. And in another recent review, *Government Computer News* said the ZEOS 33MHz '386 is "arguably the fastest MS-DOS and OS/2 micro in the world."

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Reason #4

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Reason #8

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TWO-FISTED MANAGEMENT

















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don't want to infringe on anyone's freedom of expression. But Charisma gives you so many graphic possibilities in one powerful, Windowscompatible program,

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Once you try it, you'll understand why. Charisma's extensive word and

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Most Common Usages for Yellow Pencils.

1989

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Break out information logically and understandably with a variety of chart types. Then use the Harmony Palette for a unifying blend of just the right colors.

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screens. And with more than 30 import and export filters for graphic formats—including Harvard Graphics—Charisma gives you more power and control than ever before.

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*Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Micrografx, Inc. 1303 Arapoha, Richardson TX 75081 - (214) 234-1769 (customers outside North America please dial extension 3710). Micrografx has offices in Las Angeles, Pons, London, Munica, Sydney and Copenhagen.

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PRE VIEW

PC WORLD OFFERS FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF PRERELEASE HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE

1-2-3 Dresses for Success

Release 2.3 boosts the all-time best-seller with major add-ins, enhanced graphs, and other much-needed improvements.



The new 1-2-3 sports the most compliant spreadsheet interface this side of Windows. You can put live graphs beside your data, import CGM graphics, and dress up reports with fancy fonts.

Richard Scoville

or years Lotus has struggled with a tricky riddle: How can you revamp the world's best-selling computer program without changing its classic command structure?

Lotus's current answer: add-ins. Graft a few features to the core 1-2-3 engine, then attach some serious accessories—a WYSIWYG graphical user interface just like release 3.1's, with on-board draw program, text editing, and styles; the file management Viewer from Lotus's *Magellan*, and

an Auditor to help you unravel tangled formulas. Then, make it run fast in as little as 512K of memory.

The new release 2.3 narrows inconsistencies between Lotus's low-end and high-end DOS spreadsheets. Release 2.3 is essentially a subset of 3.1, with all of 3.1's presentation skills but without its advanced data base or 3-D worksheets. (Lotus will ship a 3.1+ upgrade concurrent with 2.3 and at the same price. It includes the Viewer, the Auditor, a few new graph options and printer drivers from 2.3; and

the Solver technology from 1-2-3/G.)

1-2-3 users will encounter few surprises in release 2.3. The command structure of the core program is basically unchanged, except for some new graph options and a few other minor additions. The screen has gained a white background, and the frame headings indicate the current row and column position (as in release 3.x and Quattro Pro).

WYSIWYG Is Good to Get

As with the new *Quattro Pro*, the big news for 1-2-3 is a WY-

SIWYG interface. Instead of Windows-like pulldown menus, release 2.3 retains Lotus-style menus, with mouseable, more extensive setting sheets. (Lotus aficionados will find this approach a natural extension of what they're doing, but novices may find the menu tree initially hard to grasp.) But 2.3 turns out to have the most compliant graphical user interface this side of Excel, with a flexible spreadsheet publishing system and good speed-up tools.

The interface is attractive and handles well when you're scrolling or mousing. Mouse operation of commands and settings sheets is smooth and fast. For instance, you can select a range with the mouse, then execute several commands on the same range. You

SNAPSHOT

1-2-3 for DOS release 2.3

Add-ins baast the most papular spreadsheet's power and usability.

KEY FEATURES

- WYSIWYG interface
- Improved graphs
- Magellan-style file Viewer
- Auditor to analyze worksheet formula structure
- Background printing

AVAILABILITY

May 1991

PRICING

\$495, upgrades \$150

Lotus Development Corp.

55 Cambridge Pkwy. Cambridge, MA 02142 800/343-5414

Reader service no. 706

can also adjust row height and column width.

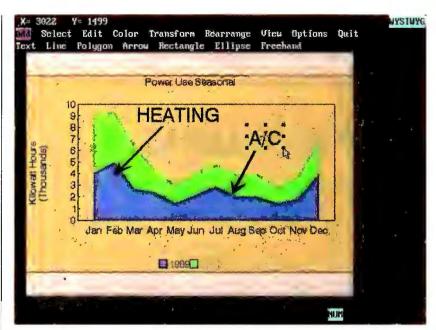
What-you-see is impressive; so is what-you-get. You can control the font, including boldface, italics, and underlining; three Bitstream fonts are provided. You can attach a live graph or an external CGM file to a worksheet range, then edit the graph or image with a built-in draw program that looks and feels like Lotus's *Freelance*. You can add text, rectangles, lines, and other vector elements; rotate objects; and arrange them in layers.

A text editor lets you define a "page" within a worksheet range; in this page you can enter and edit text, complete with justification control and other enhancements. A nifty shortcut lets you center titles at the top of a report. In addition, you can put lines around cells, shade them, and add drop shadows.

Fancy formatting gets tedious if there's no way to automate the process. Release 2.3's format styles let you assign a name to a collection of settings, then apply those settings quickly to additional ranges. As with *Excel*'s Copy Special command, you can also copy format characteristics from one range to another.

More Generous Graphs

The new graphics features are a subset of release 3.1+'s and almost a match for Quattro Pro's lineup. You can choose high/low graphs, mixed-line and horizontal bar charts, and area display for line graphs. Three-dimensional effects are available for bar charts. You can display the y-axis on both sides of the graph, but you can't set up two independent y-axes. You can suppress display of selected sides of the graph frame, and you can choose whether to leave a margin between the frame and the first data point. As it does with



You can enhance your graphs with a Freelance-like drawing tool that lets you add text and annotations, control color, and align objects on a grid.

range names, release 2.3 generates a table of graph names for reference and macro use.

These are welcome additions, but there's still work to be done, at least on the beta version: Y-axes and frame edges are confusingly referred to as "left" and "right," but when you rotate the graph to horizontal, "left" becomes the bottom and "right" is on top.

The View From the Disk

The Viewer add-in is based on Lotus's much-acclaimed Magellan file manager. It lets you peek inside worksheets on disk, select a cell to build a linked formula, or browse ASCII and 1-2-3 text files. In contrast to the regular 1-2-3 File commands, the Viewer provides excellent point-andshoot navigation of directories, and you can use cursor keys to move around inside a displayed worksheet. It represents another grafted-on user interface, but one that's simple to understand.

However, the Viewer's features could go a great deal further. Why not let us navigate with <F5> (Go To) and <F3> (Range Names) in the displayed worksheet, or select and copy cells from the disk sheet to the screen clipboard?

Sounding Out Formula Errors

Many a hapless spreadsheeter has foundered on formula shoals. But with 1-2-3's Auditor add-in, help is near.

In your efforts to trace formula errors, the Auditor lets you select a formula, then identifies all the cells to which the formula refers. Or you can pick a cell, and the Auditor will find the formulas that refer to it. It can highlight the resulting cells, move the cell pointer to them, or list the results as a table in your worksheet. It also identifies circular references and traces the recalculation order of formulas.

The Auditor sounds great, but it's no panacea for sloppy work—just a way to make the hitherto impossible task of finding formula errors merely onerous. *Quattro*'s auditor works about as well; neither is as agile or useful as an *Excel* Info Window, which has notes, references, and dependent cells that show you where you are in the formula process.

The Little Extras

Other features make life a little easier. The settings sheets from release 2.2 have been groomed and extended. And they work well: For operations such as printing, graphing, sorting, and global settings, you get a near-full-screen display of current options. Settings sheets are mouseable in WYSIWYG or character mode. If you don't have a mouse, press <F2>, and edit selections inside the settings sheet instead of proceeding with the normal 1-2-3 menus.

One subtle but important enhancement is that the program lifts the restrictions on expanded memory that have waylaid users of big worksheets. You can elect to store both data and cell tables in expanded memory, thus increasing the maximum size of your worksheets.

Another welcome change: 1-2-3 alerts you if you're about to retrieve a worksheet without saving your current one.

Background printing is available, but you must load a memory-resident utility before entering 1-2-3. You get improved printer control with print preview and an automatic compression feature that shrinks a large print range onto a single page, and you can change the worksheet frame into a ruler. And release 2.3 supports PostScript.

Spreadsheets Do Battle

1-2-3 release 2.3 lacks Quattro's complex interfile formulas, external data base links, and goal seeking, but users interested in those capabilities should make the comparison with 1-2-3 release 3.1+.

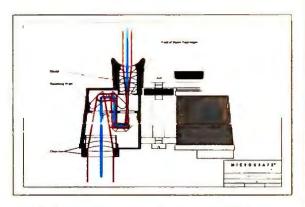
2.3 offers most of the features on a spreadsheeter's wish list. Its WYSIWYG interface is smooth and tractable, it offers formatting timesavers, and its settings sheets are comprehensible. If you want a slick graphical interface to add flavor to your number crunching, 2.3 is worth a taste.

■

Richard Scoville is a contributing editor for PC World.

Focus on Precision Illustration With New Designer 3.1

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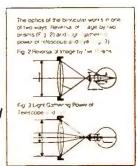
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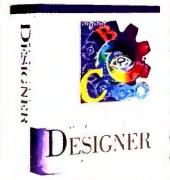
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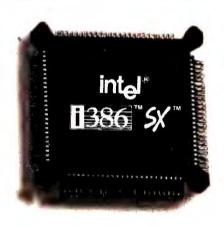


a laptop. soul of a PS/2.

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Making a computer light enough to take anywhere and small enough to sit on a lap isn't enough. Making it perform like one that sits on a desk is the true challenge. That's why IBM has created a computer that delivers true portability without sacrificing true performance the Personal System/2[®] Laptop 40 SX. At just 7.7 pounds it's clearly a lightweight computer. But it certainly doesn't act like one.

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The PS/2⁶ Laptop looks great from the outside. But its true beauty lics inside, where you'll find uncompromised computing power. It has the same 386SX[™]/20 MHz processor found in best-selling desktop models. A 3.5" 1.44MB disk drive and 2.5" 60MB

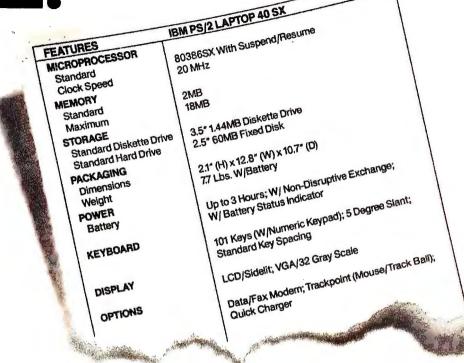
fixed disk provide fast access to programs and data, and standard 2MB RAM is expandable to 18MB.

Instead of compromising comfort by altering the keyboard, the PS/2 Laptop has a full-size keyboard spaced and arranged the same way as a desktop PS/2's. And instead of squeezing information onto a pint-size screen, it has a sidelit LCD that offers a 10"-diagonal viewing arca. It delivers sharp, clear text and graphics with VCA quality in 32 shades of gray. With so much to offer, the PS/2 Laptop succeeds at

being small, without being small-minded.

THE PS/2 LAPTOP IS ONE LAPTOP NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.

IBM knows it's not how small you make it it's how you make it small. The PS/2 Laptop has system status icons that monitor assorted functions and battery life. Extensive power management controls include the ability to change batteries in the



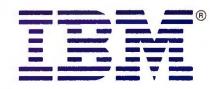
middle of an application without exiting and a special feature that suspends power when the screen is closed, then returns to full power when reopened, resuming applications where they were left off without the need to save to the hard drive.

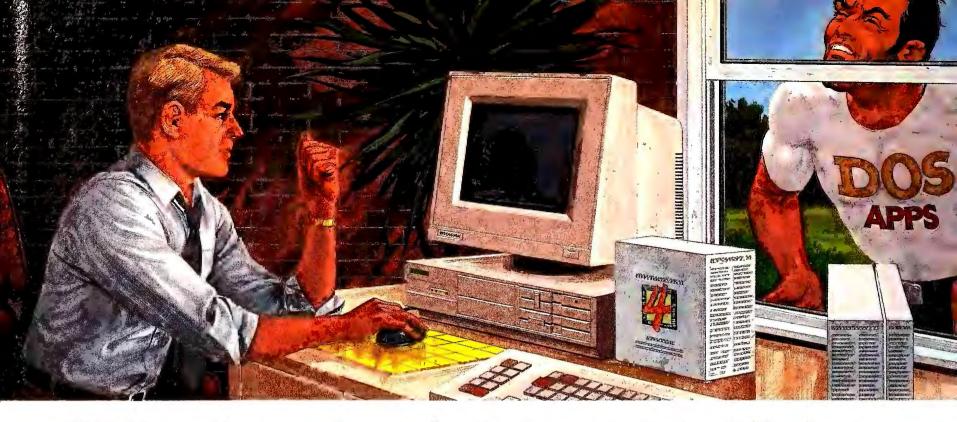
Of course, it comes with an AC adapter, and a 2400 BPS Data Modem/9600 BPS Fax Modem is available, as well as a special mouse that doubles as a trackball when turned over. And the PS/2 Laptop comes with something no laptop should be without an international warranty* backed by thousands of Authorized Remarketers worldwide, so service and support are never far away.

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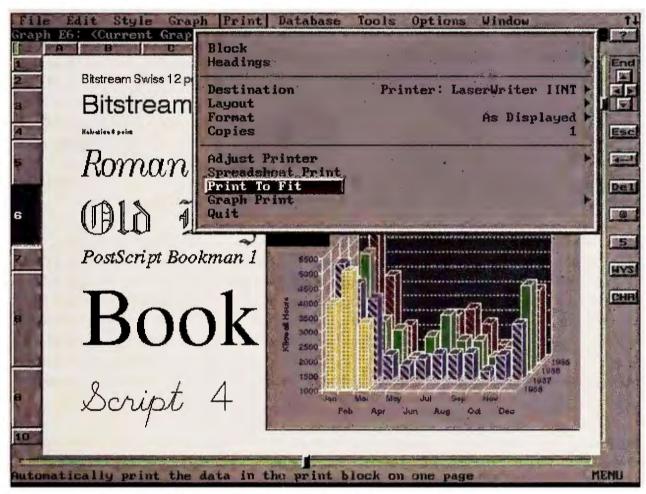
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Quattro Pro Adds Pizzazz

Quattro Pro 3.0 offers a snazzy new interface, improved printing, and automated slide shows—plus a host of other business presentation features.



The addition of a WYSIWYG display in Quattro Pro 3.0 enables you to see your fonts and graphics on screen just as they will appear in a printed document or slide.

Richard Scoville

At its debut, Borland International's Quattro Pro offered pulldown menus and spreadsheet publishing features that put the original 1-2-3 to shame. Version 2.0 continued that tradition by adding superior graphics capabilities for both data analysis and presentations.

Quattro Pro 3.0 tops them all, providing a new graphical interface and even better presentation features. That means better output for users who require sophisticated presentation capabilities but don't need the advanced analytical features of such hardware-hungry products as Excel 3.0 and 1-2-3 release 3.1.

A Dazzling New Look

The changes to *Quattro Pro's* interface are not just cosmetic. Having a WYSIWYG interface means that your worksheet appears on screen just as it will look in print, requiring fewer test printouts to get the page just right.

To cut down on all that scrolling when you move through a big worksheet, *Quattro*'s normal screen area has been enlarged: It displays 23 rows, and an extra half column in width. You can zoom the view from 25 to 200 percent of normal size, checking any fine publishing details before printing. Row height and column width are now easily adjusted with a mouse, so it's easier to tweak the spacing.

With version 3.0, you can also attach live graphs to spreadsheet ranges, checking on trends as you plug in new numbers. *Quattro*'s annotator lets you draw diagrams and import CGM files, so you can spruce up your worksheet with these graphs as well.

Overall, *Quattro*'s new interface is attractive and functional, but it lacks the support for multiple operations that competitors offer. You can't select multiple ranges and then issue a single command, as in *Excel*, nor can you execute multiple commands on a single preselected range, as in *1-2-3* release 2.3 and 3.1.

More Powerful Printing

If you've ever wrestled with

big reports, you'd kill for *Quattro Pro*'s Print-to-Fit function. Select a big print range, and you can adjust the whole thing to fit on a single page—and say good-bye to repeated trips to the printer.

For really wide spreadsheets, you can print sideways on a dot matrix printer, just as with Funk Software's venerable *Sideways* utility for 1-2-3. Take a wide worksheet, block it, issue Print, and *Quattro* will print long rows across the page breaks to create one huge report.

Graphical Gizmos

The new Quattro also includes some handy twists on its su-

SNAPSHOT

Quattro Pro 3.0

A snozzy graphical upgrade dresses up Quattra Pra ond odds frills for great business presentations.

KEY FEATURES

- WYSIWYG interface with Bitstream screen fonts and zoomable views
- Print enhancements, including Print-to-Fit sizing and banner printing
- Enhanced graphics annotator
- Supports attachment of live graphs to worksheets
- Special slide-show effects such as wipes, dissolves, and spirals
- Digitized sound effects

AVAILABILITY

Immediote

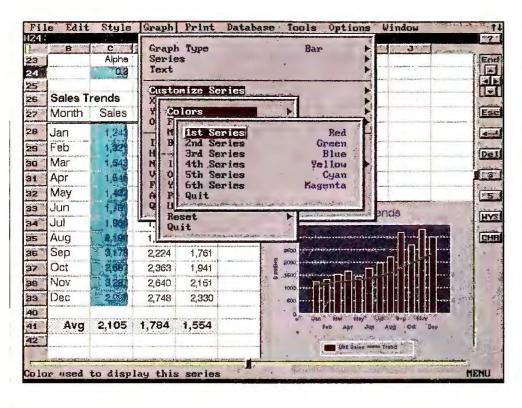
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\$495; upgrode from version 2.0 \$49.95, from version 1.0 \$99.95; PraView Pawer Pack \$49.95 with upgrode

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Reader service no. 707



Quattro Pro allows you to insert a spreadsheet graph anywhere on your worksheet and redraws the graph automatically when spreadsheet data is changed.

perb graphics annotator, the built-in drawing program that lets you enhance data graphs or create diagrams. There's now a scalable snap-to grid, which allows you to automatically align such objects as bullets, boxes, or clip art. A new

graph-aligning tool precisely aligns the tops, bottoms, or sides of a group of objects. These features are a big help in getting professional-quality layout with a minimum of fuss.

Quattro 2.0 or 1-2-3 users know the frustration of mak-

ing changes to a graph, only to lose them by neglecting to recreate the graph name. *Quattro 3.0* ends that aggravation with a feature that automatically saves changes to named graphs.

Borland also includes a se-

ries of presentation aids in its *ProView Power Pack*, which is available free with version 3.0 (upgraders pay \$49.95). *Power Pack* includes Bitstream fonts and 100 color images for spiffing up your business shows.

Power Pack emphasizes training aids and ease of use. For example, a set of templates provides consistent background designs as well as suggested type sizes and spacing for titles and bullets. Additionally, the new macro library includes a helpful feature that applies a template to a set of specified graphs, contributing to uniform design.

Slide Shows Sound Off

Quattro 2.0 pioneered the spreadsheet-cum-presentation graphics program with its annotator, hypertext buttons, and slide shows. Now 3.0's Power Pack forges ahead with some remarkable new gad-

Introducing Pocket Edition™ 2400

The people who wrote the book on modems proudly present the Pocket

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phone line and your computer's serial por you'll never find yourself searching for an outlet to plug it into.

The Pocket Edition is incredibly compayet it contains many of the features you expect from our "full-size" Hayes modematis ideal for working remotely with your

Once again, Hayes has set modems will



getry for adding special effects to your presentations.

You create a Quattro 2.0 slide show by setting up a table of graph names and time codes. With 3.0, you can add another column of codes to get snazzy transition effects like wipes, dissolves, and spirals.

Power Pack also includes digitized sound effects. If you've specified a sound file in your slide-show table, for instance, Quattro can herald the next slide with a tinny but easily recognizable drum roll that issues from the PC's speaker. Such features are helpful if you need to whip up an entertaining in-house show.

A Matter for Further Analysis

Quattro Pro 3.0's interface has changed, but its main capabilities remain the same. It's certain to appeal to users who want all the capabilities of 1-2-3 release 2.2, plus superior

BACKGHOLDE World Traders Dkg Button Increment 4% Visible Off Snap-to Off South America (22.0%) Europ North America

fou can jazz up business data by adding dip art or using exploded a > charts. With Quattro's graphics annotator, you can label sections of a pie and add customized colors.

presentation graphics. However, Quattro doesn't offer some advanced tools useful to engineers and financial managers that are currently found in products like 1-2-3 3.1 and Excel 3.0: a full-powered solver (for nonlinear equations), true 3-D worksheets, and smart consolidation.

Still, Quattro Pro 3.0 improves on an already great program while running in only 512K. For users who don't own a 386, it's one of the best choices available, and it's particularly recommended for users who want to show off their data in the best possible light. ⊜

Richard Scoville is a contributing editor for PC World.

ompany's computer system. It keeps you in ouch with electronic mail. You can even use to deliver a FAX with an on-line service. And while the Pocket Edition was created or people on the go, it's also a great spaceaver for those who stay at home. At the suggested retail price of \$179

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DacEasy[™]Accounting won't do your accounting for you, but it will make it easier to manage.

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- Unlimited transactions.
- Context-sensitive & indexed help
- Instant lookup capability
- Mouse support (optional)
- Built-in backup/restore routines
- Recurring transaction option
- Complete line of forms & checks available

General Ledger

- Modifiable sample chart of accounts
- Allows 13 user defined periods
- Allows up to 18 months open
- Auto-reversing transactions

Accounts Receivable

- Open invoice/balance forward/cash
- Flexible aging reports
- Automatic finance charges
- Supports partial payments

Accounts Payable

- Prints 1099 (Misc)
- Multiple checking accounts

Cash Management

- Handles deposits, prints checks
- Account reconciliation
- Writes checks from G.L.

- Unlimited number of sales tax rates
- Sales journals & credit memos
- Automatic revenue and cost allocation by dept.
- Point-of-sale invoicing
- Sales analysis report

Inventory

Supports last purchase, average and standard costing

Product Assembly

- Internal product building before billing
- Unlimited number of items per product

Purchase Order

- Multiple tax rates per vendor
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Circle 94 on reader service card

Harvard Graphics Scores Again

The leader in PC graphics gets a timely upgrade, with more presentation tricks and improved drawing features.



Harvard Graphics' new drawing tools offer improved color and graphics.

Richard Jantz

With its simple, fill-in-the-blanks approach to chart building and editing, Software Publishing's Harvard Graphics remains the most popular of presentation graphics packages. While Windows-based products such as Microsoft's PowerPoint offer better desktop presentation tools for getting your arms around an entire presentation (such as light-table-like slide sorters), Harvard Graphics is still the top choice for DOS users.

Now comes *Harvard Graphics 3.0*, a major upgrade featuring a smoother interface, new templates for creating consistent presentations, and vastly improved drawing tools—all welcome enhancements. The latest version is a must-have upgrade for *Har*-

vard's huge following. Veteran users will find that charts contain new shapes, such as 3-D pie slices, cylinders, and pyramids, while streamlined menus and pop-up forms make program navigation easier.

Achieving Global Control

Though some of PowerPoint's very helpful desktop presentation tools-such as an integrated outliner, and a slide sorter for organizing a presentation—are still missing from Harvard, new global presentation features are a step in the right direction. You can create a unified, consistent presentation using a master form to control titles, fonts, colors, rules, and backgrounds. You can also save the master form as a permanent template and generate speaker notes to accompany charts.

As in previous versions, *Harvard* will link to an external spreadsheet file, and you can update charts based on this file with a single command. One new plus is that you can view either a 1-2-3 or *Excel* spreadsheet from within *Harvard* and simply highlight the data ranges you want to import into a chart.

Drawing Enhancements

The revamped drawing module now uses icon-based tools and provides the point-and-click simplicity of *Windows* packages. This module lets you perform some impressive new tricks: You can add scanned images (TIFF or PCX files) to charts, "evolve" one object into another (say, gradually change a circle into a square), and "animate" an object during an on-screen

presentation to give the illusion of movement, such as an arrow shooting across the screen.

To make your presentation even more presentable, you can take advantage of the program's support for 64 colors (up from 16), blended colors, and Bitstream scalable fonts with multiple fonts per chart.

If you're not yet wedded to Windows, Harvard 3.0 is the program to beat for presentation graphics. However, if you love Harvard but are migrating to Windows, don't fret: Software Publishing is promising Harvard for Windows later this year.

■

Richard Jantz is a contributing editor for PC World and author of Ventura for Windows (John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1991).

SNAPSHOT

Harvard Graphics 3.0

An upgrade to longtime favorite Harvard Graphics offers enhanced presentation tools and is a must-have for veteran users.

KEY FEATURES

- New global presentation controls
- Broader range of chart styles
- Animation effects
- Supports Bitstream scalable fonts
- Supports 64 colors per chart

AVAILABILITY

June 1991

PRICING

\$595, upgrade from Harvard Graphics 2.3 \$125

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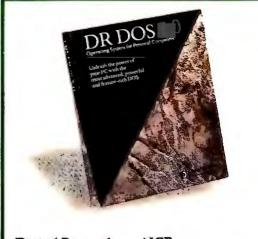
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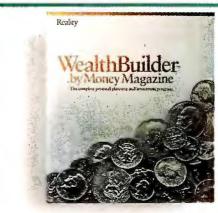
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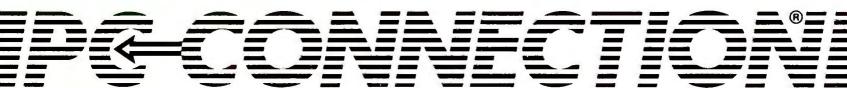


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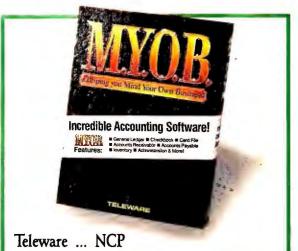


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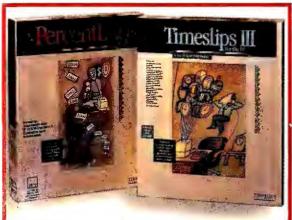


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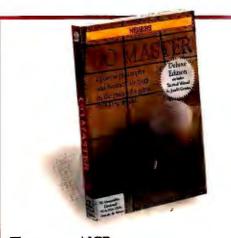
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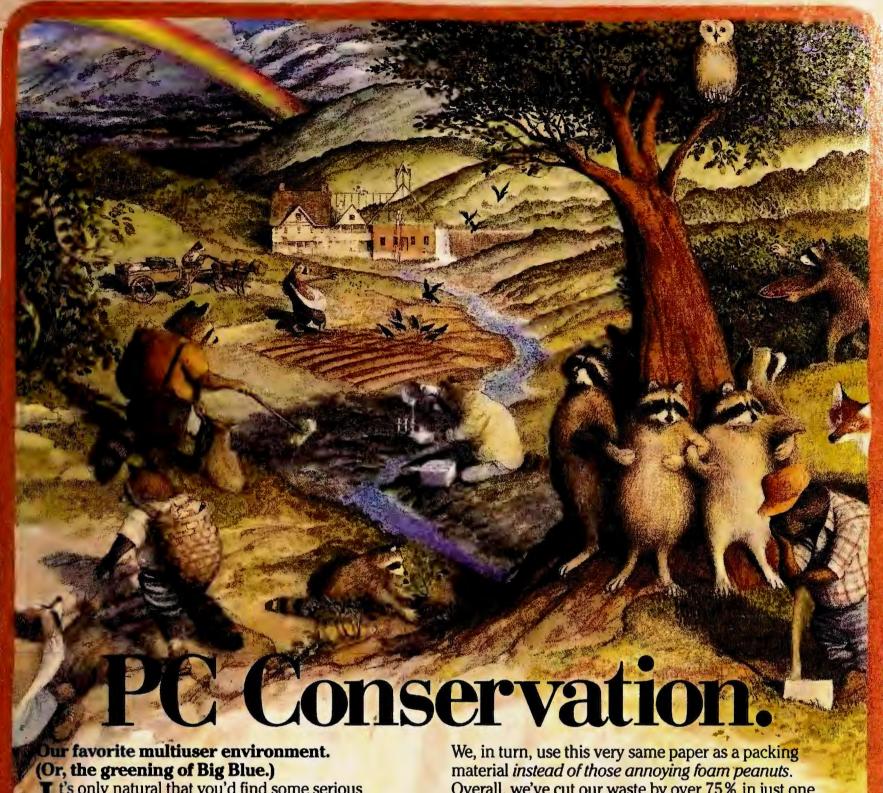
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| 7061 | BOCARAM/XT 0K (0-2 Meg, L/M 4.0) 99. |
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| 6999 | I/O Board for Microchannel (S/S/P) 109. |
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| 7400 | 2 Position Laser Compatible Switch Box. 109. |
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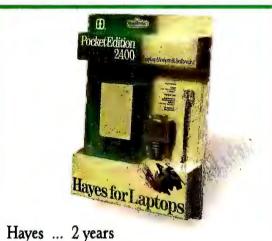


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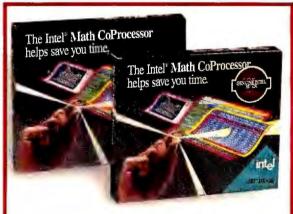
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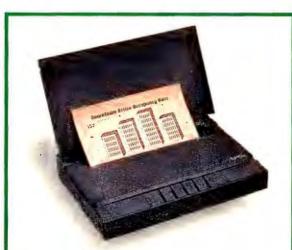
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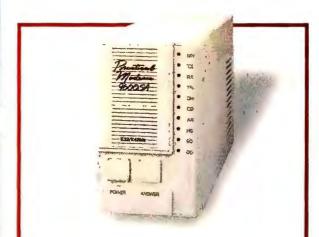
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IBM (VGA)



IBM (VGA)



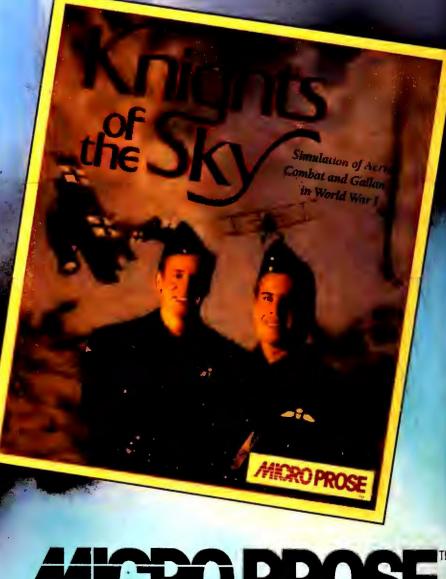
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IBM (EGA)

- Knights of the Sky was developed for all IBM-PC Tandy/compatibles. The graphics and animation are dazzling and smooth with any graphics system, at any machine speed.
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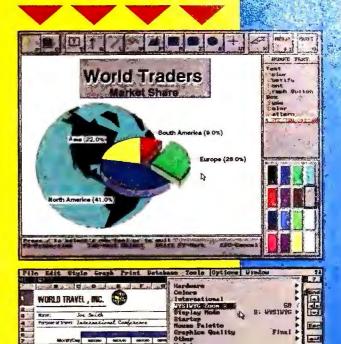
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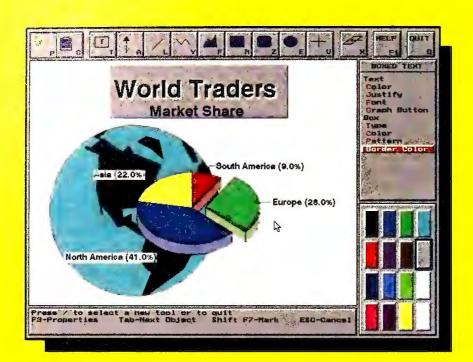
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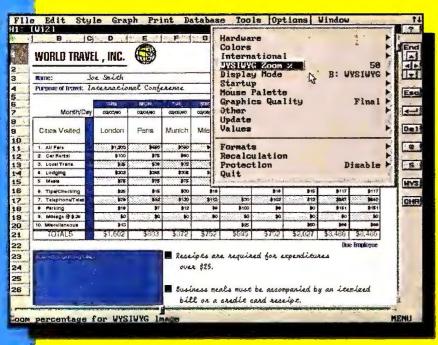
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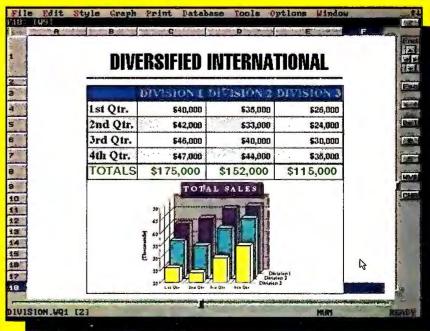
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See Other Side for Details

The Personal LaserJet, Take III

HP's latest laser printer looks like the IIP but packs the wallop of a LaserJet III. And it's only \$1595.



The IIIP, HP's newest personal laser, delivers PCL 5 scalable fonts and graphics in a pint-size box.

Robert Luhn

The HP LaserJet IIP is the PC's Sancho Panza—and small wonder. For \$1295 (around \$800 on the street), this tough little printer delivers crisp text and graphics yet fits easily on a desk.

Now Hewlett-Packard has lifted personal printing to another level. The LaserJet IIIP gives you the same compact footprint as the IIP but adds an armada of features—including a faster processor, double the standard RAM, and all the font-scaling goodies of the LaserJet III—for just \$300 more.

Sharper, Faster Output

Like its 8-page-per-minute (ppm) big brother, the 4-ppm IIIP sports HP's PCL 5 printer language and the Intellifont

type system. You can scale fonts to 999 points, rotate text and graphics, print finer shades of gray, and create special effects such as reverse (white-on-black) type. And it features HP's Resolution Enhancement technology, which changes the size and position of printed dots to create jaggy-free text and curves (though it doesn't affect bitmapped graphics much).

The IIIP also should improve on its predecessor's slugabed reputation. Though it uses the same engine as the IIP, the prerelease IIIP examined here is roughly 30 percent faster, thanks to its 16-MHz processor, 1MB of standard RAM (expandable to 5MB), and a superfast parallel port that accepts 55K of data per second for speedy file downloads. (By comparison, the

IIP's port runs at 10K per second.) You should see even greater performance gains when printing vector graphics from programs such as *Harvard Graphics* and *Freelance* that support the IIIP's enhanced HP-GL/2 language.

But the IIIP also shares its sibling's shortcomings. Like the III, it comes with only two scalable type families (CG Times and Univers) in four styles; to add more, you must buy cartridges or software fonts. Paper handling is also minimal: The IIIP's paper tray holds a paltry 70 pages, and a 250-sheet cassette will run you another \$195.

Fortunately, buying a IIIP doesn't mean abandoning your HP add-ons. The printer can use IIP or III RAM boards and font cartridges (including PostScript cartridges) and

any IIP paper tray or toner cartridge. If your application lacks a IIIP driver, don't sweat; install the program for the IIID, and you can access all of the IIIP's features.

The Personal Choice

The IIIP isn't built for shouldering network work loads or producing complex documents, but its scalable fonts, speed, and sharp output will win the loyalty of many users looking for a faithful desktop companion. Although HP will keep the IIP on the market (and plans to offer a PCL 5 cartridge in the fall), there's really no question—the IIIP is worth the extra bucks.

■

Robert Luhn is a contributing editor for PC World.

SNAPSHOT

HP LaserJet IIIP

HP's newest personal laser is still small and cheap, but it has the font and graphics panache of the LaserJet III.

KEY FEATURES

- Same compact footprint as IIP
- Resolution Enhancement for sharper, smoother text and
- PCL 5 with on-the-fly font scaling, text rotation, and special effects
- 16-MHz processor and fast parallel port
- Comes with 1MB of RAM and 8 scalable typefaces

AVAILABILITY

April 1991

PRICING

\$1595

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Reader service no. 702



PRODUCT

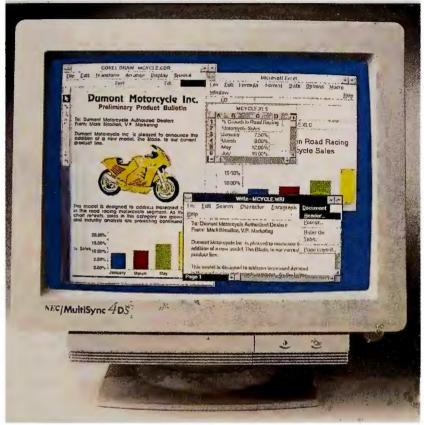
OUTLOOM



Edited by MIKE HOGAN

MultiSync 4Ds, 3Ds

Monitoring Your Health and Safety



The 16-inch MultiSync 4Ds provides the best in emission controls and ergonomic niceties as well as reducing sources of eye fatigue.

Whether monitor ergonomics and emissions are subjects of deep concern to you or only of mild interest, it's impossible to ignore them now that several states are considering adopting Swedish government rules for limiting monitor emissions.

This year the Swedish agency MPR expanded its guidelines to include extremely-low-frequency (ELF) emissions (see Consumer Watch, May 1991), a challenge that NEC Technologies meets with the MultiSync 4Ds. This 16-inch monitor not only is one of the first to comply with the newest MPR specifications, but it successfully addresses a slew of ergonomic issues.

The MultiSync 4Ds makes a three-pronged attack on electric and magnetic emissions. A cancellation yoke over the tube limits stray magnetic

fields; grounding wires drain off power supply and transformer fields; and additional shielding reduces radio wave emissions. The combination of these three elements reduces very-low-frequency (VLF) and ELF electric and magnetic emissions to levels within the new MPR limits. As a bonus, a coating on the screen dissipates static electricity, eliminating that annoying layer of dust that has probably gathered on your current screen.

But emissions controls are only the start. Front-mounted switches mean you don't have to hug the display to turn it on, or tweak its image from the rear. A .28mm dot pitch and dynamic beam focusing combine to provide sharp focus and clarity. And a noninterlaced 70-Hz refresh rate reduces irritating screen flicker, along with eye fatigue-one issue that the much-ballyhooed Swedish studies do not

The rest of the 4Ds feature set is equally strong. Its 16inch screen is large enough for all but the most demanding users of Windows, spreadsheet, or CAD programs. A 1024-by-768-pixel resolution displays images from most high-resolution drivers in all their glory. The combination of tube design and dynamic beam focusing keeps images sharp even in the corners—a must with Windows.

As you might expect, the reassurance of having a verylow-emissions monitor comes at a price: \$1499. You may not find the investment worthwhile unless you need a large-screen display and plan to spend a few hundred more on a super-VGA card that will do the monitor justice. If price is an object, NEC offers the MultiSync 3DS at a more attractive \$1049. However, the older monitor was made to meet earlier Swedish VLF magnetic standards and doesn't satisfy the recent recommendations.

-Matthew Lake

IN BRIEF

MultiSync 4Ds, 3Ds

This big multiscan monitor reduces electric and magnetic emissions and combines high resolution with ergonomic features.

NEC Technologies,

1255 Michael Dr. Wood Dale, IL 60191-1094 800/366-3632, 708/860-5618 (fax)

Reader service no. 675

INSIDE PRODUCT OUTLOOK

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Tandy 1000 RLX

More Is Better, at Home or at the Office

When Tandy introduced its 1000 RL home PC in August 1990, it said an 8086 processor with 512K of RAM and a monochrome CGA display was enough for folks who were just going to catalog their butterfly collections and keep a few recipes.

But enough is never sufficient, and the upgrades just keep coming. Predictably, Tandy has introduced a better home PC, a lot better home PC, for just a few dollars more.

IN BRIEF

Tandy 1000 RLX

More is as desirable at home as at the office, and Tandy's home PC has been beefed up with a 286 CPU, VGA color, 1MB of RAM, and a 40MB hard drive.

Tandy Corp.

400 Atrium One Tandy Center Fort Worth, TX 76102 817/390-3011

Reader service no. 678

The 1000 RLX comes with a 10-MHz 286, 1MB of RAM, a color VGA display, and a 40MB hard drive for \$1600 (\$1200 in the single-floppy version). By comparison, a CGA color version of the 1000 RL with only 640K of RAM and a 20MB hard drive remains \$1360.

Tandy added a 28ms 40MB IDE Smartdrive to the RLX for those who need to handle still more butterfly specs and maybe bring a little work home. DOS 3.3 and other system programs are preinstalled on the disk and loaded in ROM as well; press the On button, and you'll be computing.

Up on the screen is the *DeskMate* character-based graphical environment, with its handy set of DOS and desktop utilities easily accessible from a pulldown scroll bar. You scroll down to the *DeskMate* editor, address book, or draw utilities, or pick custom home application from the information center or home organizer menus.

Walk away, and the 1000



Tandy offers an upscale home PC with a 286 CPU, VGA color, a 40MB hard drive, and a big bundle of software.

RLX screen will blank after a user-defined period of time. The Smartdrive will doze off 5 minutes later, so the system uses about as much power as a clock radio. Hit a key, and take up exactly where you left off.

The 101-key keyboard is sculpted for easy typing, and Tandy throws in a two-button mouse. You get the same 1.44MB floppy and whisperquiet, fanless operation as

with the 1000 RL. Put a \$150 2400-bps internal modem in the single 8/16-bit expansion slot, and you can connect to the PC-Link consumer network from the *DeskMate* screen or use the *DeskMate* communications module for regular intercomputer communications. And of course, the 1000 RLX still has the *Good Housekeeping* Seal of Approval. —*Mike Hogan*

Finance10

Financial Calculations at Your Fingertips

Usually when you want to know the future value of an investment, a bond yield, or some other financial equation, you're in the middle of something else—a letter, a spreadsheet, an accounting program.

You can reach for the good old Hewlett-Packard calculator, or you can pop up Finance10, a utility that brings the answers to detailed financial calculations within easy reach of finance professionals and home users. You can run Finance10 either as a standalone application or as a TSR

that requires only 8K of RAM.

The program includes a suite of ten ready-to-use modules preloaded with the formulas for calculating bond-to-yield maturity, depreciation, internal rate of return, lease-versus-purchase figures, loan amortization schedules, and present value/future value. It also is helpful in compiling and tracking personal assets and making buy/sell/lease decisions for, say, a car or a house.

All ten modules are selected from the main menu and share the same fill-in-theblank interface. You choose the function you want, punch in numbers when prompted, and press the <F10> key for a quick answer—no calculator modes to deal with, no formulas to remember.

Finance10 also includes two pop-up calculators. One is a tape calculator for doing simple math. The second is an accountant's calculator with almost twice the number of keys and functions, including some special keys for financial and statistical calculations.

Finance10's \$69.95 retail price includes unlimited telephone technical support as well as bundled coupons worth

more than \$1000 off a variety of other software products, including *XtreePro Gold* and *Who-What-When*. The package requires DOS 3.0 or a later version. —*Roberta Furger*

IN BRIEF

Finance10

A pop-up utility provides quick answers to complex financial questions.

Financial Software Co.

P.O. Box 481290 Los Angeles, CA 90048 800/332-2983, 213/931-1529 (fax)

Reader service no. 687

Quick, do you know the first name in microprocessors?





356

The Complete Font Cartridge Library, PacificPage XL

The Mother of All Font Cartridges



The Complete Font Cartridge Library crams 51 scalable font outlines—roughly 4MB of data—into a single cartridge for HP's LaserJet III and IIID printers.

Pacific Data Products has made its reputation—and a tidy sum of money—by providing the missing pieces in the HP LaserJet picture. Now Pacific Data is solving a few puzzles of its own, introducing an enhanced scalable-font cartridge and a RISC-based accelerator board for faster PostScript processing.

The Complete Font Cartridge Library crams 51 scalable PCL 5 font outlines—roughly 4MB of data—into a single cartridge for HP's LaserJet III and IIID printers. The \$399 cartridge combines all the fonts offered in the \$299 Pacific Outlines I and II cartridges, leaving the printer's second slot free for Post-Script-emulation or another font cartridge.

The font library features Agfa Compugraphic's scalable Intellifonts: 12 font families in four styles, plus ITC Zapf Dingbats, Cooper Black, and Letraset faces. Matching screen fonts for *Windows 3.0* and *Ventura* are available on request from Pacific Data, but installing all of them requires a whopping 5.5MB of hard disk space.

The \$499 PacificPage PE

cartridge is well known for squeezing low-cost PostScript output from a LaserJet, but no one's ever accused it of being in much of a hurry. Fortui960 processor does best. The XL plugs into one of the two memory slots in your LaserJet IIP, III, or IIID and speeds processing of complex Post-Script graphics files by an estimated 200 to 700 percent. You can also download Adobe Type 1 fonts to its 2MB of onboard RAM.

nately, the PacificPage XL ac-

celerator board gives the slug-

gish cartridge a needed boost.

part of handling PostScript

files, and that's what the XL's

Crunching numbers is a big

For transferring data or handling files in the LaserJet's native PCL mode, you must rely on the printer's built-in M68000 processor. When the printer switches from Post-Script to PCL, the XL's 2MB of RAM can be used for storing page data or downloading fonts—just like a normal memory upgrade board.

However, the accelerator

board won't work without the cartridge, which is why the XL is available only as a \$999 bundle with the PacificPage PE 4.0 or as a \$499 upgrade for current PE 4.0 owners. The XL is not compatible with previous versions of the PacificPage cartridge. —Daniel Tynan

IN BRIEF

The Complete Font Cartridge Library, PacificPage XL

Pacific Data Products speeds up its sluggish PostScript cartridge and adds a passel of scalable fonts to its LaserJet III offering.

Pacific Data Products 9125 Rehco Rd. San Diego, CA 92121 619/552-0880, 619/552-0889 (fax) Reader service no. 683

Systat 5.0, QCStat, Sample

"What If..."

Knowledge about your product and your market is fundamental to business success. If you can't manage the first, plan to be born to rich parents. If you come up short on the second, *Systat* can help. Version 5.0 of this statistical program will help you explore the who, what, how, and why of your business.

Systat 5.0 features a new menu-driven interface with integrated modules, but its most significant improvements are the QCStat and Sample addons that bring quality control and marketing to Systat 5.0's regular statistical suite.

Sample helps you analyze the characteristics of a target market—for instance, detecting industrywide trends and identifying the populations best suited to your products and services, using your existing Systat 5.0 data files to perform probability tests. Sample writes its own files and notations on population selections and sends the results back to Systat. Additionally, Systat saves information about the testing specifications and commands, so you can keep track of how populations for a given test were selected. You can slice your population in a variety of ways-anything from a basic random sample to highly complex samples that use stratification, clustering, and variable probabilities.

QCStat employs Systat 5.0 data files for both on- and off-line quality-control analysis. QCStat produces control charts based on the sample's distribution, and it designs experiments to test new methods of improving your products or services. In addition to eight types of Shewhart charts, QCStat can plot seven other

control charts such as boxplot, Pareto, and linear regression.

QCStat's command line interface writes Systat and ASCII data files that can be fed into Systat's internal graphics application, Sygraph. Both add-ons require the \$895 Systat 5.0. QCStat retails for \$400, while Sample is \$110; the upgrade to Systat 5.0 is \$195. —Cathy Smith

IN BRIEF

Systat 5.0, QCStat, Sample

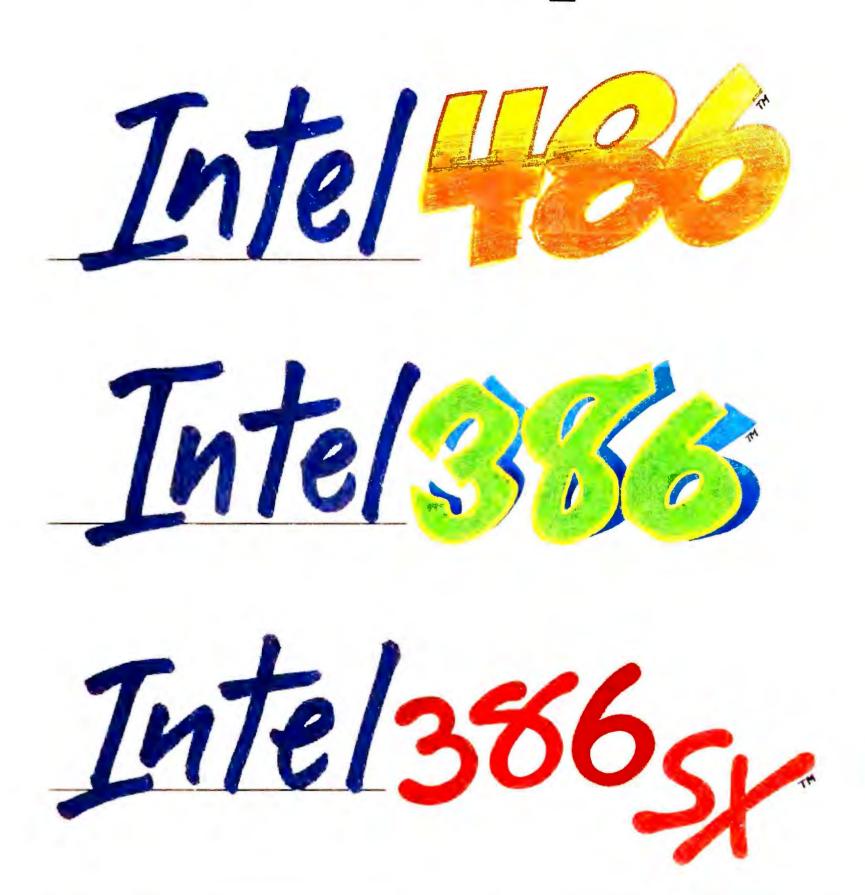
A new interface and addons help you analyze markets and production methodology.

Systat, Inc.

1800 Sherman Ave Evanston, IL 60201 708/864-5670, 708/492-3567 (fax)

Reader service no. 690

Time's up.



You scored perfectly. Because Intel is the world's leader in microprocessor design and development. It's also the company that introduced the first microprocessor. And when it comes to investing money into the technology, Intel is first again. Giving you the assurance that with an Intel microprocessor inside your computer, you'll have the power and compatibility to take you into the future.

So if you want all that working for you, make sure the 386SX, 386 or 486 computer you choose has the first name in microprocessors inside. Intel.



Relay Gold 5.0 for Windows

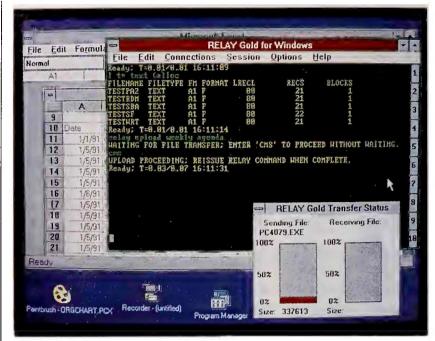
Multiple Windows on All Kinds of Corporate Communications

f you're tired of dealing with the company mainframe on its terms, relax. PC-to-mainframe software maven Microcom has brought the pointand-click simplicity of Windows to its Relay Gold line.

In addition to providing myriad mainframe idiomseverything from ANSI, Telex, and DEC VT 100/VT 220/VT 52 terminal emulations to those for TeleVideo 910 and IBM 3101, 3270, and 3278-Relay Gold 5.0 for Windows handles PC-to-PC communications with aplomb.

Relay Gold 5.0 incorporates all features of the Windows environment-from cutand-paste functions to full DDE support. Pop-up programmable keyboards and sizable windows enable you to juggle up to 15 simultaneous unattended and/or background comm sessions.

Relay Gold can directly control 3270 boards and sup-



Mainframe data transfers become as intuitive as those between PCs, with this high-end communication package.

ports token ring networks, LAN modem sharing, and LAN gateways such as SNA/ SDLC and X.25. Relay Gold speaks through synchronous modems as well-if you purchase the optional \$149 SDLC Dial-Up Module.

Microcom doesn't scrimp on PC-to-PC communications features, either. Relay Gold offers a convenient phone directory, a learn mode, and a hearty transfer protocol list that includes standards like CompuServe B-Plus, Kermit,

and XMODEM. Relay Gold's own proprietary protocol provides on-the-fly data compression and encryption, as well as simultaneous two-way file transfers.

If all you do is talk to other PCs, you may find Relay Gold 5.0 for Windows' \$399 price hard to swallow. But if you have to parley with the mainframe on a regular basis, Relay Gold speaks your lingo. Current Relay users can upgrade for \$95. —Art Wilcox



NetWare 386 3.11

NetWare Broadens Links, Price Ranges

With version 3.11 of NetWare 386, Novell finally delivers most of the value-added networking facilities it has been promising since the unveiling of its powerhouse network operating system. But all this comes at a price: Novell has raised the cost of the full 250user product more than 60 percent to a hefty \$12,495, and many of the new capabilities are extra-cost add-ons. On the other hand, a new 20-user version gives smaller LANs a major price break of more than \$4000 from the \$7995 charged for that many nodes before.

The basic 3.11 package includes a mix of goodies—some for enterprise-scale networks, others for those of lesser size. They include improved backup, support for OS/2 1.3 and TCP/IP (a communications protocol for connecting a wide variety of computers), and compatibility with IBM's popular NetView network management utility. There's also support for a variety of software standards upon which UNIX developers can build network applications.

The rest of NetWare's new tricks are sold separately as NetWare Loadable Modules. Macintosh support is better than that in NetWare 286: Macs can send output to any

printer on the LAN, not just those hooked to the AppleTalk cable. NetWare NFS gives UNIX workstations full LAN access, including shared NetWare server drives and LAN printers. An upgrade to

Novell's MHS E-mail-

IN BRIEF

NetWare 386 3.11

Novell delivers not only Macintosh and UNIX connectivity but lots of enterprisewide capabilities.

Novell, Inc.

122 East 1700 South Provo, UT 84606 800/453-1267, 801/429-7000

Reader service no. 677

interchange utility allows MHS-compatible E-mail programs to attach up to 64 files and can send a single transmission to multiple recipients on a remote LAN.

Two mainframe-oriented options round out Novell's new offerings. NetWare FTAM links LANs to OSI (European government) and GOSIP (U.S. government) networks and internetworks. LAN WorkPlace for DOS 4.0 hooks DOS or Windows users to a variety of IBM, DEC, and UNIX mainframes and minicomputers.

NetWare 386 3.11 costs \$3495 per server for 20 users, \$6995 for 100, \$12,495 for 250; upgrades from earlier versions of NetWare 386 are free. NLMs are variously priced. -Robert Lauriston



LIKE A BOLT FROM THE BLUE,

your hard disk will eventually come crashing down. Manufacturers expect it. They even give hard disks an "MTBF" rating—the Mean Time Between Failures.

Before you lose your valuable data, back it up with Fastback Plus.

BACKUPS IN A FLASH With Fastback Plus, you can do things that DOS Backup never dreamed of. Like back up all your daily file changes in less than a minute. Or blaze through your entire hard disk at three megabytes a minute on 386 machines, or 10 megabytes in four minutes on an AT. It even formats your backup diskettes – automatically.

STRIKING SIMPLICITY Fastback Plus has three user levels – beginner, intermediate and advanced. Simple menus tell you how long your backup will take, and

how many diskettes you'll need. And a unique data compression feature cuts the number of diskettes you need in half. You can even automate the entire process with one-touch macros.

DAZZLING SAFETY Only Fastback plus gives you reliable Advanced Error Correction. To illustrate, we punched a hole

larger than a .22 calibre slug right through a backup diskette – and retrieved all the data! That's security. And if you need help dodging even bigger bullets, our technical support staff will surprise you with its courtesy and ingenuity. Just call, and you're guaranteed same-day service.

GLOWING REVIEWS *PC Magazine* said it best in giving Fastback Plus its prestigious 1989 Editor's Choice Award: "Fastback Plus has virtually everything a backup program needs: top-speed performance, clear menus, every imaginable option, even a built-in macro program for automating complex tasks. A superb achievement."

A POWERFUL GUARANTEE Use Fastback Plus for 30 days, and if you're not completely satisfied, return it for a full refund. You have nothing to lose. And everything to save.

FREE PYRO For a limited time, get a FREE copy of Pyro! TH, our popular screensaving program just for writing "Pyro" on the Fastback Plus registration card before you return it. That's a \$49.95 value—free!

Call now for complete details and the dealer nearest you.

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This product is in no way associated with or has origination in Fisher Scientific or Allied Corporation.

Lotus Notes 2.0

Group Comm Tool Extends Its Reach

In its first year, Lotus Notes dramatically remapped the way some critical information flows within dozens of large corporations. Lotus has since beefed up its innovative group communications package and lowered price and distribution barriers—a few inches, anyway—so that smaller firms

will have an easier time buying into the network tool.

Easier access to *Notes 2.0* also means a *Windows 3.0* look, more application integration hooks, and a workable system so that laptop users can do serious *Notes* work from a remote location. *Notes 2.0* will automatically route their work

Lotte Notes

| July Left New Mail Compose Style Options | July Left New Lost Style Page Frame Looks | July Left New Lost Style Page Frame Looks | July Left New Lost Style Page Frame Looks | July Left New Lost Style Page Frame Looks | July Left New Lost Style Page Frame Looks | July Left New Lost Style Page Frame Looks | July Left New Lost Style Page Frame Looks | July Left New Looks | July Lef

Thanks to Dynamic Data Exchange, you can easily move data between Notes 2.0 and other Windows 3.0 applications.

once the laptop is connected by modem or network, and remote updates are handled much more quickly.

Notes gains the ability to exchange data with other Windows applications via DDE hot links. It implements the new OLE (Object Linking and Embedding) standard, which lets you automatically invoke Windows OLE applications to work on material created within them. (For example, if you've inserted an Excel 3.0 worksheet within a Notes message, you can make changes on the worksheet simply by clicking on it to launch Excel.)

Previously, *Notes* images were limited to 64K, but that ceiling has been bumped up to 4GB, and Lotus has added automatic compression/decompression to help you manage those larger bit maps. *Notes 2.0* also provides enhanced electronic-mail features and a wide repertoire of file import/export options. The package runs over NetWare, OS/2 *LAN Manager* and its derivatives', and VINES nets.

Lotus hasn't overlooked se-

IN BRIEF

Lotus Notes 2.0

Get into group communication more easily, thanks to powerful Windows application hooks, useful remote support, and wider distribution.

Lotus Development Corp.

55 Cambridge Pkwy. Cambridge, MA 02142 800/343-5414 617/693-3981 (fax) Reader service no. 682

curity. The public-key encryption technology has been bolstered with physical encryption of data as it is written to disk. You also can encrypt fields within a document and documents within a data base.

Citing high support requirements, Lotus still sells Notes direct for \$62,500 per 200 users. But the package is also offered now through selected value-added resellers in much smaller quantities, with pricing set by the reseller. —Eric Bender

Volkswriter 2, Volkswriter 4 2.0, Volkswriter 6

Three of a Kind Make for an Easy Draw

t's not easy picking a word processor with just the right degree of sophistication. Choose wrong or outgrow your word processor, and you must write off its cost, perform cumbersome file conversions, and then start all over again at the bottom of the learning curve.

Volkswriter introduces a word processing threesome that makes the climb easier. Your entry-level, intermediate, and high-end choices all have the same user interface and file format, and other differences are smoothed over by a flexible upgrade (and down-

grade) policy. This structure also makes it easier for advanced and beginning users to cohabit peacefully in the same work environment.

The centerpiece of the troika is version 2.0 of the long-running *Volkswriter 4*. New features include a graphics page preview, improved proportional font support, macros, and automatic recognition of file formats during document conversion. Previously, style and synonym checkers cost extra, but now *Grammatik IV* and a 310,000-word thesaurus are built into the \$249 product.

A scaled-down version—the \$149 *Volkswriter 2*—is aimed at the home market and the casual business user. It has the same interface and basic feature set as its big brother but lacks the style checker, thesaurus, and page preview.

You'll have to wait awhile for the third leg of the triad: Volkswriter is recasting *Total Word*, its high-end word processor, into *Volkswriter 6*. Due in the third quarter, this \$449 advanced word processor will add personal publishing features to *Volkswriter 4*'s basic feature mix, including an integrated outliner.

Volkswriter lets you move up or down the product line. Upgrading from *Volkswriter 2* to 4 costs \$79 and from 4 to 6 \$149; moving from 6 down to 4 costs \$125 and from 4 to 2 \$75. Upgrades from Total Word will be \$50. —Eric Brown

IN BRIEF

Volkswriter 2, Volkswriter 4 2.0, Volkswriter 6

Volkswriter's common file format and interface for advanced, medium, and lowend word processors make it easy to trade up or down.

Volkswriter, Inc.

One Lower Ragsdale Dr., Bldg. 2 #100 Monterey, CA 93940 408/648-3000, 408/648-3016 (fax) Reader service no. 693



LIKE A BOLT FROM THE BLUE,

your hard disk will eventually come crashing down. Manufacturers expect it. They even give hard disks an "MTBF" rating—the Mean Time Between Failures.

Before you lose your valuable data, back it up with Fastback Plus.

BACKUPS IN A FLASH With Fastback Plus, you can do things that DOS Backup never dreamed of. Like back up all your daily file changes in less than a minute. Or blaze through your entire hard disk at three megabytes a minute on 386 machines, or 10 megabytes in four minutes on an AT. It even formats your backup diskettes—automatically.

STRIKING SIMPLICITY Fastback Plus has three user levels – beginner, intermediate and advanced. Simple menus tell you how long your backup will take, and

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DAZZLING SAFETY Only Fastback plus gives you reliable Advanced Error Correction. To illustrate, we punched a hole

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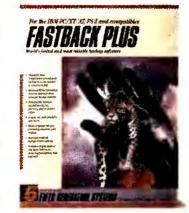
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MicroPag 452

One-Slot Shopping for VGA and More

With the proliferation of printers, scanners, internal fax modems, and networks, your PC stands a chance of becoming as overpopulated as a rabbit warren in springtime.

The MicroPaq 452 multifunction board solves PC overpopulation problems by giving you a disk controller, ports aplenty, and a graphics adapt-

IN BRIEF

MicroPaq 452

This VGA-compatible board provides a disk controller, serial and parallel ports, and impressive continuous edge graphics and takes up only a single expansion slot.

Monolithic Systems Corp.

7050 Tucson Way Englewood, CO 80112 303/790-7400, 303/790-7118 (fax) **Reader service no. 685** er upgrade that leaves your old VGA in the dust.

The MicroPaq 452 incorporates a new graphics chip from Edsun Laboratories with continuous edge graphics (CEG), an antialiasing technology that makes images and text on a standard VGA or multiscan monitor look almost three times sharper. With its vast palette of 742,000 colors, images and gradual fills have near-photographic quality. The video section of the board is fully compatible with VGA, super VGA (800 by 600 resolution with 16 colors), and nonstandard resolutions of 960 by 720 pixels with 16 colors, and 1024 by 768 with 16 colors.

In addition to driving your display, the MicroPaq provides more ports than most people need—analog and digital monitor outputs, VGA and EGA connectors, two serial ports, and one parallel port. If you have no more than one

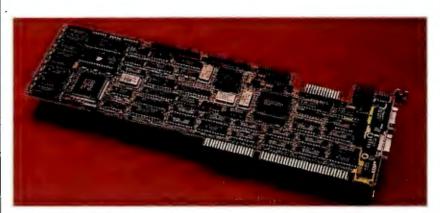
hard disk and two floppies, the board can handle all your disk controller needs as well. Operating at bus speeds up to 12.5 MHz and equipped with a full 1MB of video memory, the XTheight board is a neat solution to a crowded PC shell.

However, not everything is rosy in multifunction land. If any of the board's functions are duplicated on your motherboard or another addin, you'll either have to fiddle with DIP switches or, much worse, try to slip sleeves on the board's jumpers. This is not a task for the fainthearted.

If you don't need all the

board's functions, you might consider the company's upcoming MicroVGA card, which provides only the video offerings of the MicroPaq. Furthermore, the allure of CEG's beautiful images hides the current lack of a full complement of drivers. Before buying, you should check whether your applications are supported.

Nonetheless, for the task at hand, this \$725 board, which comes with a five-year limited warranty, provides a lot in a small space, saving your expansion slots for *real* expansion. —*Matthew Lake*



The MicroPaq 452 saves I/O slots by combining a hard and floppy disk controller, ports aplenty, and a continuous edge graphics (CEG) VGA adapter on a single board.

Oracle Card for Windows

SQL Meets Hypertext Under Windows

If SQL ever becomes a standard in the PC world, it will be by virtue of programs that let people avoid it. Only easy-to-use front ends, for defining SQL tables as well as entering and querying data, can offer the advantages of client-server data handling without the headaches of yet another obscure language.

Enter Oracle Card for Windows, a graphic, hypertextlike front end that gives Windows 3.0 users easier access to Oracle Server on OS/2-based servers and large-system data bases. The Oracle Card environment lets you graphically create data base

applications by designing stacks of cards that interact with each other and your SQL-stored data.

Oracle Card won't relieve your company completely of the need for a SQL expert—someone still has to set up the server and each user account. But the average user can define and alter tables through Oracle Card without extensive knowledge of the underlying server, as well as give other work-group members access to those tables.

Like most hypertext environments, *Oracle Card* lets you paint or paste graphics into your cards, which can be turned into buttons so that clicking a picture or a portion of a picture will set a process in motion. The graphic images you use in your interface, along with others, can be stored in a data base. You can query through a menu-driven module or—if you prefer—directly with SQL SELECT commands.

Oracle Card's use is limited to offices that have standardized on Oracle Server. When we last compared OS/2-based SQL servers (October 1990), we found Oracle Server to be unusually difficult to set up and most appropriate for offices where at least part of the data is on mainframes or minis.

Oracle Card for Windows requires a 286 system, Win-

dows 3.0, and a whopping 3MB of RAM. Unavailable at your local computer store, it will be sold only through VARs, specialized network resellers, and directly from Oracle for \$299. No run-time version is available. —Lincoln Spector

IN BRIEF

Oracle Card for Windows

This hypertext program gives you easy access to Oracle SQL data bases.

Oracle Corp.

500 Oracle Pkwy. #20D Redwood Shores, CA 94065 800/672-2531 Reader service no. 684

TI microLaser™ printers open new windows.



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1-800-527-3500.

The microLaser PS17 has earned the 1990 PC World Best Buy award; microLaser PS35 has earned the 1990 InfoWorld Excellent Value award and 4½ mice from MacUser, October 1990.



TI suggested retail price. (Dealers' prices may vary.) microLaser is a trademark of Texas Instruments Incorporated. Adobe, PostScript and the PostScript Logo are registered trademarks of Adobe Systems, Inc. Microsoft is a registered trademark and Windows is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation. ©1991 TI 71816

Panasonic KX-P1124i, IBM Proprinter 24P

Dot's All, Folks

The age of the low-cost laser may be upon us, but dot matrix printers can still make an impact. Industry giants Panasonic and IBM have both rolled out sub-\$500 24-pin units aimed at an increasingly competitive personal printer market; the differences between the narrow carriage offerings are striking.

Panasonic's \$499.95 KX-P1124i is the next step in the evolution of its top-selling KX-P1124, adding speed, enhanced font and paper capabilities, and an easy-to-use control panel. Feature for feature, IBM's \$499 Proprinter 24P can't match it, but its respectable speed and font options

should satisfy most true Blue users who are tired of sharing the work-group laser.

The KX-P1124i comes with 11 typefaces—3 draft, 7 letter quality, and 1 super letter quality (SLQ)—in sizes from 5 characters per inch (cpi) to 20 cpi, plus proportional spacing. The SLQ font produces text of near-laserlike quality, but at a loss of print speed. The printer hits a top speed of 300 characters per second (cps) at 15 cpi, hums along nicely at 240 cps in 12-cpi draft and 80 cps in letter quality, and downshifts to 40 cps for SLQ text. Graphics print at a full 360 by 360 dots per inch (dpi).

IBM's 24P offers seven fonts (six letter quality) at sizes ranging from 10 to 24 cpi, plus proportional spacing. Print speeds top out at 192 cps in 12-cpi draft and 64 cps in letter-quality mode, comparable to most 24-pin printers in this price range. Graphics print at 180 by 360 dpi.

The Panasonic's paper handling is top-notch. The unit accepts continuous-form paper, single cut sheets, and envelopes; comes with an adjustable push/pull tractor; and prints four-part forms.

IBM's 24P comes with an unexpandable 32K print buffer and a parallel port and handles three-part forms, envelopes, continuous sheets, and single cut sheets. An automatic cut-sheet feeder costs \$199; a pull tractor is \$69.

The Panasonic's 12K print buffer expands to 44K via a \$60 upgrade. A parallel port is standard (serial optional), and emulations include Epson LQ-850 and IBM Proprinter X24E. —Daniel Tynan

IN BRIEF

Panasonic KX-P1124i

The best-selling KX-P1124 gets an upgrade with faster printing, more fonts, and better paper handling.

Panasonic Communications & Systems Co.

2 Panasonic Way Secaucus, NJ 07094 800/742-8086, 201/348-9090

Reader service no. 680

IBM Proprinter 24P

Big Blue's latest 24-pin printer gives you all the basics for under \$500.

IBM Information Products Co.

740 New Circle Rd. Lexington, KY 40511 800/426-2468

Reader service no. 681

LANstep

Hayes Steps Into the LAN Market

Longtime modem standardbearer Hayes Microcomputer is venturing into a new form of connectivity with a network operating system designed to be easy to use for first-time LAN buyers and small work groups.

LANstep is a peer-to-peer network that makes life easier for LAN members, starting with a symbol-based interface that provides access to network resources. Users can customize this screen to create symbols representing frequently used applications and activities and call them from within LANstep.

The LANstep workstation software permits sharing of directories, applications, and up to three printers. Each printer has its own spool, and users can cancel and monitor their own print jobs. Network users get a list of available

printers and of shared applications and directories for which they have access rights.

The electronic-mail facility offers most of the features you would expect, such as mail forwarding, distribution lists, registered mail, copies, blind copies, attachments, and text editing. Hayes has a mail gateway for sending messages to remote LANstep networks via modem or direct asynchronous connection.

LANstep runs on any NETBIOS network, but to ease installation it comes preconfigured for specified ethernet, token ring, and ArcNet network interface cards and common packages such as Windows 3.0, Word, 1-2-3, dBASE, and Hayes's own Smartcom Executive. Just pick the cards and applications you want to use from a menu, or select 'Other' to install a

network driver or application that doesn't appear on the list.

While LANstep's operation is virtually administrationfree, someone must periodically create new user IDs and assign printer, directory, file, and application access rights—assigning passwords to permit modify, read-only, or no-permission access. Tools for this part-time administrator include a log of network users, and a display of statistics with the size of shared network disks, their percentage of free space, and the number of unusable blocks.

LANstep doesn't require a dedicated server, but you do need to run the server software on one machine; it looks like a client-server network to users because they can share resources without having to know where they are housed. AT-class or better workstations can run under LANstep and gain full access rights to the network; lesser PCs can run under DOS and share only

printers. LANstep system software needs 28K of conventional memory and 1.5MB of extended memory on the "server," 28K of conventional memory and 1MB of extended on every LANstep node, and 122K on DOS workstations (only 9K of which needs to be conventional memory).

LANstep costs \$595 for the first five users and \$395 for each additional five users; the LANstep Mail Gateway is \$395. —Cheryl Goldberg

IN BRIEF

LANstep

A peer-to-peer operating system adds some unique touches for ease of use and administration.

Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc.

P.O. Box 105203 Atlanta, GA 30348 404/441-1617

Reader service no. 676

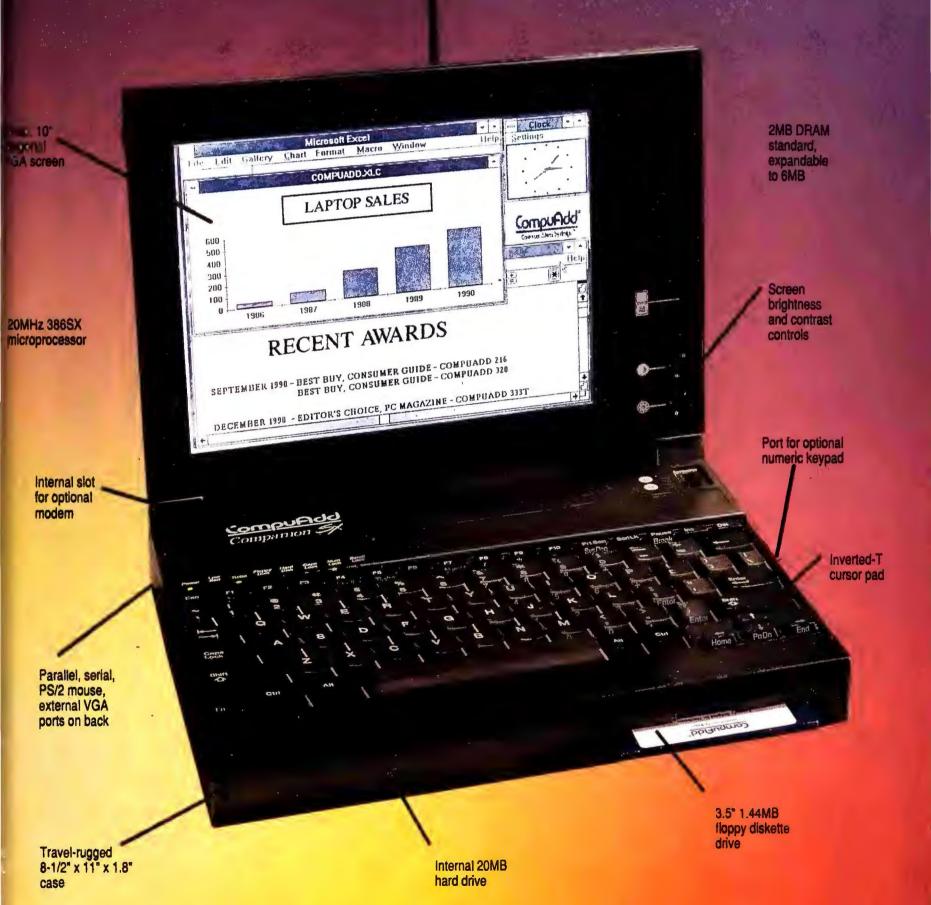
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Add on the optional numeric keypad for quick data entry.

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lighter than the Compaq LTE 386s/20!

Packed with features you expect on a 386 desktop computer, this 8-1/2" x 11" notebook sports a 20MB hard drive and a 1.44MB 3.5" floppy diskette drive! Plus you can expand the standard 2MB DRAM all the way to 6MB.

Now you can run Windows applications on the road with the power of a desktop 386SX. And you get the security and convenience of a computer that

stows in your briefcase — with plenty of room to spare!

CompuAdd extras include MS-DOS 4.01 preloaded on the hard drive. Add in CompuAdd's award-winning customer service, and you have a system that travels light but works like a heavyweight! This notebook-sized wonder gives you a 10" diagonal, mono VGA display that's crisp and legible in a variety of lighting conditions. And the built in CPT

built-in CRT interface lets you hook up your full-sized color VGA monitor for desktop use.

The 79-key keyboard has separate cursor movement keys arranged in the inverted -T preferred on desktop keyboards. It also has the feel



Add an optional modem to keep in touch on the road.

of your desktop keyboard, with solid tactile response and plenty of room between keys.

Standard I/O ports — parallel, serial, PS/2 mouse and external VGA monitor — are conveniently located behind a hinged door.

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keypad or add an optional internal modem to keep in touch when you're on the road.

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the CompuAdd CompanionSX!



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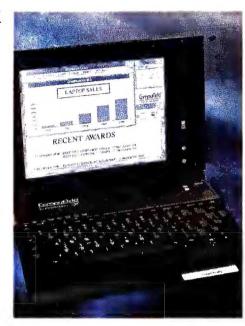
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from remote computers and send error-free file transfers. All this plus a crisp, 10" VGA display!

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The CompuAdd 320st Laptop upgrades our hottest-selling laptop to 20MHz! It packs the power of the 386SX microprocessor into a convenient laptop — at a price far below competitive models! Plus you get FREE CompuAdd MS-DOS 4.01, LapLink II communications software and a carrying case.

You'll find the crisp, clear VGA display and spacious keyboard a pleasure to use. And if you want to use your desktop color monitor and expanded 101-key keyboard when you're not on the road, simply plug them into the built-in external ports.

CompuAdd also offers portable printers, projectors and data displays to make your 320st a complete office on the road! Check out the savings when you buy CompuAdd's 320st Kit with Diconix printer and modem/send-only fax.

CompuAdd CompanionSX

- 386SX microprocessor running at 20MHz
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- Built-in serial, parallel printer, numeric keypad, PS/2 mouse and external VGA ports
- High-resolution 640x480 mono VGA display
- 10" diagonal LCD screen
- 20MB hard disk drive with 23ms access
- 79-key keyboard with 101-key emulation and 12 function keys
- FREE! CompuAdd MS-DOS 4.01
- Rechargeable/removeable internal battery pack
- Modular AC adapter
- Dimensions: 8.5 x 11 x 1.8 System Price: \$3595 (62301)

CompuAdd 320sl Laptop

- 386SX microprocessor running at 20MHz
- Standard 2MB DRAM expandable to 6MB
- Built-in serial, parallel printer, external VGA monitor, external keyboard and 5.25" drive ports
- High-resolution 640x480 mono VGA display
- 8.75" diagonal LCD screen
- 3.5" 1.44MB high-density diskette drive
- 40MB hard disk drive with 28ms access
 - (call for optional 100MB drive prices)
- 85-key keyboard with 101-key emulation, 12 function keys and four cursor keys
- FREE! CompuAdd MS-DOS 4.01 and LapLink II
- FREE! Carrying case

System Price: \$2895 (62205) Kit Price: \$3349 (62208)



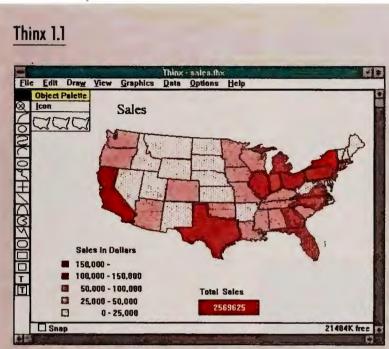
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UPDATE

New Versions of Your Favorite Products



Thinx's vector-based drawing tools let you perform what-if analyses such as sales estimates graphically.

Bell Atlantic's Thinx software, which lets you marry data base and spreadsheet data to objects for graphical what-iffing, has added a new training module, new applications, and bundled clip art to version 1.1. Clip art for the Windows 3.0—compatible applications includes basic geometric shapes and popular business graphics, all of which can be modified with Thinx's vector-based

drawing tools. The \$495 Thinx 1.1 also includes four ready-to-use sample applications for office planning, staff organization, product management, and sales forecasting and evaluation. The Thinx QuickTour uses these applications to step new users through the program. Bell Atlantic, 145 Fayette St., 3rd fl., C&P Building, Morgantown, WV 26505; 800/688-4469.

Reader service no. 694

PC File 6.0

The popular shareware nonprogrammable data manager has undergone a radical facelift. In version 6.0, *PC File*'s old keyboard-driven cascading menus are replaced by standard mouse-supporting pulldowns, along with scroll bars, windows, dialog boxes, and everything that makes up a modern interface. Another important improvement surfaces in the table view, which is no longer read-only. And simple report design is easier, thanks to predesigned options. *PC File* retails for \$149.95. Buttonware, Inc., P.O. Box 96058, Bellevue, WA 98009; 800/528-8866, 206/454-1838 (fax).

Reader service no. 698

Calendar Creator Plus 4.0

Version 4.0 of Calendar Creator Plus goes beyond print-

ing top-notch calendars. With its new support for the Agfa Compugraphic Intellifont system, you can print crisp type at any size between 6 and 72 points at resolutions up to 300 dpi. The program comes with two fonts and supports all Intellifont typefaces. You also can illustrate your calendar with PCX graphics-scanned logos, or clip art from Calendar Creator's substantial library. Calendar Creator Plus 4.0 retails for \$69.95. Power Up Software Corp., 2929 Campus Dr., San Mateo, CA 94403. 415/345-5900, 415/ 349-1356 (fax).

Reader service no. 699

CheckFree 3.0

Two-way electronic mail and simplified payment inquiry and cancellation procedures are two of the new features in CheckFree 3.0, the recent upgrade to the electronic bill payment package. CheckFree users will now receive inquiry replies electronically any time they log into the service. The program also features new hot keys for quicker navigation through menu options; mouse support; and more detailed information on the merchants you regularly send payments to. Version 3.0 exports in Microsoft Excel file format. CheckFree 3.0 retails for \$29.95. Upgrades are free for registered users. CheckFree Corp., 720 Greencrest Dr., Westerville, OH, 43081; 800/ 882-5280, 304/284-1350 (fax).

Reader service no. 695

R:base 3.1A

R: base 3.1A lets you more easily integrate your other ap-

plications into *R:base* as menu items. By including those applications as selections on the main menu, you can shell out to them and then return to exactly where you left off. Version 3.1A is the first installment in Microrim's plan to upgrade the \$795 *R:base* every four months. Each upgrade is \$99; a year's worth is \$129. Microrim Corp., 15395 S.E. 30th Pl., Bellevue, WA 98007; 800/248-2001, 206/746-9350 (fax).

Reader service no. 696

Compaq Intelligent Array Expansion System

s Windows 3.0 using more room on your home PC than you anticipated? Now you can pack a Compaq Systempro multiprocessor server with almost 20GB (that's gigabytes, with a G) of fast hard disk. The Compaq Intelligent Array Expansion System ships with 2.6GB standard plus a 32-bit controller for a trifling \$21,999. You can expand storage to 9.1GB by adding five 1.3GB drives at \$9099 a pop, and then repeating the process to reach the maximum. If your Systempro started with its normal complement of 1.7GB, you'll need only \$134,988 to bring that up to 19.88GB-more than enough for those new Windows utilities. Of course, the Systempro and tape backup are extra. Compaq Computer Corp., P.O. Box 692000, Houston, TX 77269-2000; 800/345-1518.

Reader service no. 700

For more information about any product, contact the manufacturer or circle the number on the reader service card.

After I Bombed with dBASE, I Almost Gave Up Automating Our Invoices...

Simpler Than dBASE and Paradox — More Powerful Than Q&A!

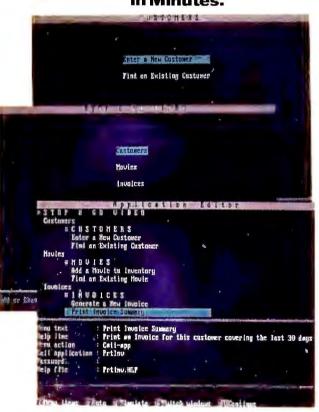
t our Monday morning staff meeting, I announced I was going to automate our invoicing system later that afternoon. Skepticism ran high. "Paul, you promised me an application like that two years ago," said Marge. "You couldn't do it and neither could that dBASE programmer you hired. It'll never happen."

On the other side of the room, Tim, a new employee whispered to Richard, "I didn't know the boss was a programmer too." "He's not," said Richard. "Couldn't write code to save his life. But he keeps trying because he thinks it's vital to the business.

I had already tried three times before to program a database: first with dBASE (much too complicated). Then I tried Q&A (not powerful enough). Then I bought Paradox (just like dBASE). All were either too complicated or not powerful enough.

This time I was confident. Why? Because I just bought Alpha FOUR, the powerful database for nonprogrammers like me. I spent 45 minutes over the weekend with Alpha FOUR's audio cassette tour. So I knew how easy application designs with Alpha FOUR would be, even the first time. I knew within hours, I'd be able to build a fully relational customer tracking and billing system, complete with custom menus, beautiful screens, extensive help messages and automatic error-correction for trouble-free data entry. And that's exactly what I did. You should have seen Marge's face when the first, perfectly formatted invoice came off the printer!

I Developed My Application in Minutes.



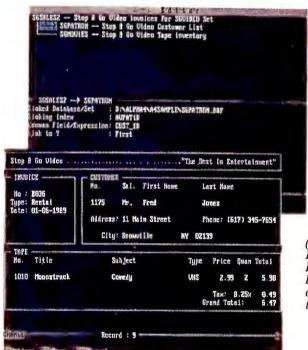
First, I needed a system of menus and submenus. Was I ever surprised to see how easy that was! With Alpha FOUR's "Application Editor" I wrote an outline of my menus and sub-menus. (Look at the screen.) Alpha FOUR automatically created my multi-level menus right from there. Changing my menus was just as easy. I inserted and moved a few around until I got it just right — nice and simple for my new employees.

I Made My Data **Entry Bulletproof.**

I've got a high employee turnover rate, so I needed something simple that a new hire could run right from the screen. I wanted my system absolutely safe and secure, so no "accidents" or mistakes could damage the data I've worked so hard to gather. That's when I really started to appreciate the well-thought-out way Alpha FOUR works. The "validation" capabilities ensure data gets entered correctly. I set it up so Social Security numbers must be 9 digits long (otherwise a custom error message is displayed).

When I enter a new customer, Alpha FOUR automatically skips over unneeded fields (determined by my validation rules). And best of all — I use "lookup" fields whenever I can. So when I get to the "Customer Type" field, a window pops up with my choices. All I do is highlight and hit ENTER. No chance of an error!

I'll Never Enter Data Twice Again.



I always ran out of power with other simple-touse databases; they weren't relational, meaning I couldn't link up separate files that share a common field. But with Alpha FOUR I easily created different databases for customers, invoices and inventory, and linked them all together just by drawing the links between the databases on the screen. (Look at my screen.) Now, we never have to enter the same information twice. I can display and edit information from up to 10 databases on one screen all at the same time. Before, when I changed a customer's address, I had to do it in 3 different places. Never again. And my database files are so much smaller now — because the actual data is only stored in one database.

Forms and Reports Look Great!

Alpha FOUR's Report Writer was even more impressive. I "painted" reports and invoices on-screen. They looked exactly like I wanted them to much better than our old paper forms. This "What You See Is What You Get" approach to report writing gives me the flexibility I need to create meaningful and detailed reports that really get my point across.

Totally dBASE Compatible.

I was delighted to hear Alpha FOUR is totally compatible with dBASE .dbf files. Our mailing list went right into the new application without even having to be converted! And when my Alpha FOUR application grows, it'll import those Lotus 1-2-3 files used over in accounting. In fact, Alpha FOUR can import and export Lotus 1-2-3, Symphony, VisiCalc, PFS, MultiMate, WordPerfect and other packages.

And Now I Get Fancy...

First I breezed through the tutorial just to get a fully operational application, but now I have the time to dress it up and make it fancy. First I'll change my menus to 3D boxes for the menu selections, and change some of the colors here and there. Alpha FOUR makes it all so easy. Then I'll customize some of the data entry screens so they look just like the paper forms the employees are used to working with. I know — I'll call up Alpha's free Bulletin

Board Service and get some tips from other Alpha FOUR users.

In the future, I'll use Alpha FOUR's "Documentation" program to print out a full report of my database design, complete with all the details. That way, someone else can pick up where I left off and further expand the system.

SAVE '450 With This Ad! NOW JUST \$99!

If you already have any database software, integrated package* or mail list manager, or if you are currently using your spreadsheet to manage data, you can upgrade to Alpha Four for just \$99.

Qualifying packages include programming databases (dBASE II, III and IV, Paradox, Clipper, Foxbase Fox Pro, Revelation, etc.), flat-file databases (Q&A, PFS:Professional File, Rapid File, etc.), integrated packages (Microsoft Works, PFS:First Choice, Lotus Works, etc.), and mailing list managers (FastPak Mail, etc.) or spreadsheets with databases (Lotus L2 2 Quattry Pro). Patril profes \$5.00 tus 1-2-3, Quattro Pro). Retail price \$549.







Alpha FOUR Version 1.1

CQ3455-5 Alpha FOUR V1.1 5¼ " \$99.00

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hy settle for two-dimensional charts when you can create explosive 3-D charts in just seconds with 3-D CHARTS TO-GO? This easy-to-use system will produce 3-D Pie, Bar, Area, Text and Line charts instantly, using your existing Excel numbers through its advanced clipboard. The innovative "split-screen" feature allows you to see both the data and the chart together for fast editing you don't have to flip-flop between two applications when you create charts. And 3-D CHARTS TO-GO will give you three different chart views: Perspective, Isometric and Oblique.

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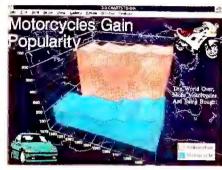
3-D CHARTS TO-GO allows you to interactively control the size of your charts - so you see the adjustments as you make them! Sizing is as easy as clicking to get the exact size you need. Click again and adjust the viewing distance, click once more and change the rotation angle to add unique perspective to your chart. This rotation-angle control allows enormous flexibility in presenting your charts so that the data is clearly displayed. Quickly select from 17 different chart drawing patterns and 8 foreground and 8 background colors. Want to get crazy? Click to create a host of available special effects on the background and shadows to enhance the three-dimensional effect.

There's more, like the ability to select your choice of chart quality: Draft, Fine Black and White and Fine Color. And 3-D CHARTS TO-GO gives you

creative freedom when adding type to your charts. Your chart's title, subtitle, descriptive lines, labels, legend and footnotes can all be individually sized, colored and employ different fonts.

What makes 3-D CHARTS TO-GO even more impressive (and useful) is its ability to use data from Excel (and many other Windows-based applica-You'll quickly export numbers to 3-D CHARTS TO-GO without exiting Excel. You can easily merge up to 10 individual charts, print them

together and perform fast, accudata comparison. If you're a **PageMaker** user. you can enhance documents containing financial in-



formation and grids following the same simple steps. And since 3-D CHARTS TO-GO supports .WMF, .PCX and .BMP file import formats, you can add professionally prepared clip art images to your charts to make them even more visually striking.

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3-D CHARTS TO-GO

CQ1300 3-D CHARTS TO-GO 51/4 " & 31/2" Requires Windows 3.0 and 640K.





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rofessional Mailing to the masses — that's the theory behind Arc Tangent's decision to lower their price from thousands (and requiring special hardware) to hundreds (and run on any PC)

The Cadillac of mailing list software, this is the most advanced, professional-level package available on any PC. Certified by the U.S. Postal Service, you get a highly compressed version of the 3.2 gigabyte U.S. Post Office file on a single CD!

Eradicate bad addresses by checking your list against every valid address in the United States. Put advanced, professional-level features on your desktop that before were only available to huge mailing houses. Slash costs to the bone and get increased response from your mailings.



The Arc Tangent system is engineered for substantial mailing lists and saves you thousands of dollars. It could pay for itself on the first mailing!

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The heart of the system, Professional Mail generates and manages your entire mailing — including these advanced features:

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- Presorting of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Class Mail
- Supports 5-digit, Zip+4, Zip+4 Barcode, Basic Bulk, and Carrier Route
- Prints required Post Office reports
- Samples new lists (Test a list by mailing to every 10th address.)
- Highly personalized form letters
- Print any mailing label, including Zip + 4 Barcodes
- · Convert valuable lists from dBase and others
- Novell network version available

ZIP++

With a CD of every valid address in the U.S, ZIP++ cleans your lists for the highest accuracy you can get. Give it an address and ZIP++ will tell you what postman will deliver it! (And print the Carrier Route with the address.) Save money on postage and printing, improve the quality of your mailings, and get the best results possible.

- Correct bad addresses
- Missing City? ZIP++ can still find it.
- Insert Zip+4 codes
- Insert Carrier Route codes
- Compare each address against the USPS database of all mailing addresses in the US

- Highly accurate updated 4 times a year
- Slash rates with Zip+4 codes
- Slash rates even more with Carrier Route codes
- · Bare-bone rates with Barcodes printed on dotmatrix, laser, or direct-impression printers
- Certified by the U.S. Post Office for accuracy

Merge-Purge

Rid your lists of bad and undeliverable addresses and get real savings. Merge-Purge has the same professional-level features of Professional Mail, but is sold separately for those who want the power of Professional Mail's merge-purge capabilities while managing their lists with dBase, R:Base, ASCII and other general-purpose database files.

- Detect dupes, near-dupes, or "sound-alike" dupes on up to 6 lists at once.
- · Merge dupes from 6 files into one file
- · Handles any size list

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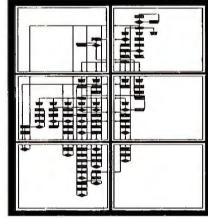
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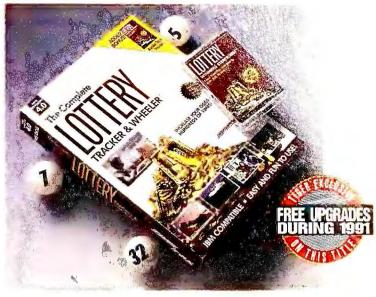
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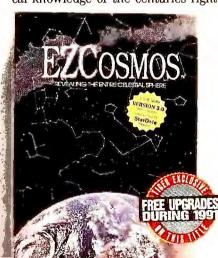
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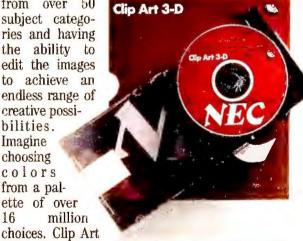
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TIGERSOFTWARE

The First 800 DPI Scanning System...

Unmatched Resolution, 64 Levels of Gray, Scans to 640,000 Dots per Square Inch!

here is no other system available that can scan images, text, logos, photos, illustrations and designs with more precision than the Marstek M800W scanner and the incredible battery of image processing and OCR software in this exclusive Tiger-Software bundle!

The Marstek M800W scanner's unmatched technology delivers the cleanest images from any original. This is a professional scanning and imaging package, unlike anything else available today, allowing you to capture anything on your screen by simply passing the scanner over it! And its OCR (optical character recognition) software allows you to scan text from anywhere. Just pass the scanner over it and use it in any application - without re-keying.

The Marstek M800W also includes: Image-In Scan & Paint, Image-In Plus, Image-In Read and Image-In Vert (an \$1100 value), for fine tuning your scanned images as well as providing a toolbox of sophisticated image manipulation features. Perfect for desktop publishing applications, as well as the new breed of Windows word processors, the Marstek M800W is extremely flexible, featuring advanced "yellow/green" scanning lights to capture the finest details — even from originals the size of a postage stamp! And the M800W's special Inverse Scanning capability creates a wide variety of special effects.

800 DPI Plus an Unbeatable Software Package!

While 800 DPI technology will make your images scream, it's the software Tiger has assembled to

accompany this technological marvel that makes this offer irresistible! Over \$1100 in free software to crop, flop, invert, alter, enhance, posterize, retouch, digitize, resize, smooth and pattern-fill images - and to read, translate and convert text from any printed page for use in your documents. This image reading/processing software is used in higherend imaging and publishing systems. And because it's so simple, anyone can produce the highest quality results with very little effort. Everything you need is included - the scanner, interface kit, Image-In software and comprehensive user's guide.

BONUS!

FREE with The Marstek M800W Image-In & Perceive Personal

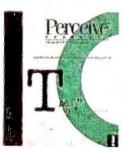
Image-In: The Premiere Image **Processing Software...**

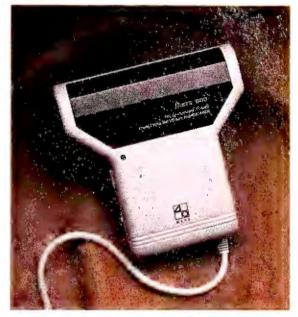
Introducing the Image-In Scanning system. Here's the toolbox of highly advanced, simple-to-use software products for Windows that allows you complete control over your scanned images -- including painting, gray scale, image processing, OCR (Optical Character Recognition) and RTV (Rastor To Vector) conversions.

Perceive Personal

For Marstek Model 105W Plus and 800W Hand Scanners.

Perceive Personal now brings advanced, full page OCR (Optical Character Recognition) to PC/ compatible hand





scanners. It combines the power of true "omnifont" (automatic) OCR with the convenience of full-page text recognition in the powerful Microsoft® Win-

Marstek

| Marstek | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|--|
| CQ6180 M800W w/Image-in & Perceive | \$399.00 | |
| CQ6175 M800W w/Image-in ONLY | \$299.00 | |
| CQ6190 M105W (400 dpi) w/Image-In | | |
| & Perceive | \$329.00 | |
| CQ6185 M105W With Image-In ONLY | \$229.00 | |
| CQ6140 Marstek Mouse E22 | \$59.00 | |

Powerful Windows Performance, Amazingly Modest Pricetags.

Perfect Screens, **Lightning-Fast** Memory, Extra Ports.

oca Research, the priceperformance leader in the microcomputer industry, comes through with a full range of solutions at prices you can afford.



Basic VGA. The lowest-priced, 16bit, standard VGA board made in North America. Available in two models -640×480 or 800×600 .

Super VGA w/512KB. Add 800×600 in 256 colors and 1024×768 in 16 colors. The 16-bit design is 50% faster than 8-bit boards.

SuperVGA w/1MB. All the above plus 1024 x 768 in 256 colors in either interlaced or non-interlaced modes.

BOCARAM/AT Plus. Boca memory boards (in your choice of DIPS or SIMMS) are top-rated by PC Week and approved by Novell. Expandable to 8MB per board and available in four configurations (see the price box). Supports conventional, extended or expanded memory.

IO/XT. Add extra serial and parallel ports in any PC. The IO/XT has a built-in clock/calendar and is available with one serial and one parallel

port — or two serial and one parallel port.

10/AT. For ATs and above, the IO/AT does not include a clock/calendar. Also available with two serial and two parallel ports (including one bidirectional parallel port).

BOCA boards come with a 5year Warranty, free technical support, and a 24-hour BBS.

Boca Boards

| IO/XT or AT w/IS & 1P \$65.00 |
|------------------------------------|
| IO/XT or AT w/2S & 1P \$70.00 |
| IO/AT w/2S & 2P \$75.00 |
| AT Plus SIMM w/0MB \$120.00 |
| AT Plus DIP w/0MB \$130.00 |
| AT Plus DIP or SIMM w/2MB \$280.00 |
| AT Plus DIP or SIMM w/4MB \$399.00 |
| AT Plus DIP or SIMM w/8MB \$699.00 |
| Basic VGA 640×480 \$70.00 |
| Basic VGA 800×600 \$75.00 |
| Super VGA w/512KB \$135.00 |
| Super VGA w/1MB \$165.00 |
| |

If You Work with Images, DoDOT Is a MUST!

DoDOT Starts Where Paint Programs Leave

work with images and screen captures all day long, and DoDOT is one of my vital tools. I do the graphic images here at TigerSoftware. DoDOT is the only application I've found that can capture a Windows screen with all 256 colors. DoDOT gives me the file conversions I need to handle anyone's image, no matter what format it's in.

If you work with images like me, vou know the barrier you hit when you hear, "Sorry, but I can only take TIFF files." Or how about getting images from a Mac to your DOS machine? This is when I load DoDOT. DoDOT can open, convert, and save in a multitude of valuable formats. For the Mac, the PC, in or out of Windows, I count on DoDOT.

See It? Like It? Capture It!

It's fun to work in Windows, and it's even more fun when you can capture what you see on the screen to use in your paint program, word processor, or just to print. DoDOT will capture the entire screen, any window, or a specific area you define - and then save it in your favorite format.



DoDOT Does Dots.

Images are basically dots on your screen. DoDOT takes total control of your dots and puts them at your disposal. Convert color images to shades of grey, or convert to different patterns of black & white for printing (called dithering). Invert from Black/ White to White/Black. Separate colors so a local print shop can print color images in your publication.

Halcyon Software

CQ5040 DoDOT 54 " & 31/2" .. \$139.95 Requires Windows 3.0 and 640K.

TIGERSOFTWARE

Turn Your PC into a Fax Machine!

Send, Receive and Re-route Faxes — Even Remotely!

our PC is the perfect fax machine: it connects to a modem, it has powerful printing capabilities and contains plenty of storage space. It allows you to use software that automatically transmits faxes at a certain time, or even to send faxes from a remote computer, like your client's office (fax yourself the report you forgot to bring!). Your PC's print drivers allow you to send crisp, clean facsimile documents right from your desktop or laptop PC. You

The fax

that fits

MAGAZINE

EDITOR'S

CHOICE

could preview the document, change fonts, add special effects, transmit at 9600 bps and more. Of course, using your PC would make it much easier to manage and archive your faxed communications. And, using your laser or dot-matrix printer, you can receive faxes ON PLAIN PAPER. All you need is the compact, affordable little board known as Fax96.

Tiger presents the price-busting fax board that has swept the industry, and captured *PC MAGA-ZINE's* "Editor's Choice" with its flawless reliability record. And Fax96 is fully Group 3 compatible. No other fax board can match Fax96's incredible

99.91% error-free transmission rating. In speed tests, using identical documents, Fax96 delivered a finished facsimile over fourteen seconds ahead of the nearest finisher. Fax96 is fast, because it doesn't have to scan documents before transmitting, so your faxes cost significantly less. "scanless" And document imaging elimidirt nates and transmission "noise" that translate to dots, lines and patterns on the finished fax.

Features:

- Full 9600 BPS Group III compatibility.
- Background Receive operation.
- Automatic Transmittal Sheet generation.
- Automatic Redial.
- Automatic Log of sent and received messages.
- Compatible with laser and dot-matrix printers.
- Shares your existing phone line.
- Remote control for sending faxes.

Direct Scanner Control.

With your scanner, Fax96 will directly control the scanner and send the image as a fax. Fax96 supports all the popular scanners. If you want to use your own scanner program, simply save the image as a .TIF or .PCX file, then send it from Fax96.

Share One Phone Line.

Don't install another phone line for your fax. Save money with advanced "1-Liner" faxboard. 1-Liner shares your existing phone line, meaning it will automatically recognize and answer another fax machine, or pass a regular voice call to your telephone answering machine.

Fax It Fancy.

Big letters, small letter, in the typeface of this paragraph, or maybe the typeface used in the head-

line — you can fax fancy with "Faxo-graphy" software. Really create an effect at the other end with professional and impressive faxes.



| CQ6240 Fax96 board w/software \$195.00 |
|--|
| CQ6250 1-Liner board w/software\$295.00 |
| CQ6260 Faxography Software |
| PC, MS-DOS 2.1 or higher, 512 KB RAM, hard disk. |

If You Bill Your Time

Easily Prevent Billable Time from "Slipping through the Cracks."

o you know which jobs are the most profitable and which ones are a complete waste of time? Do you know which clients have outstanding accounts receivable? Are you billing all of the time you're entitled to or do billable hours "slip through the cracks?" For people who bill for their time, tracking it may be the toughest job of all. Many professionals, including architects, law firms, designers, CPAs, ad agencies, engineers, repair services,

project managers and others are turning to the software system designed specifically to calculate and report all time spent

on each job.

Timeslips® III is fast, easy, flexible time and expense recording along with a complete set of financial and productivity analysis tools. It's so simple to use, it practically runs itself, and features a pop-up timer function that can be accessed anytime from within any application.

Different clients require different bills. With Timeslips III you have the power of custom billing.

Have a client on the

phone? Press TSTimer's hot key to track time and jot down notes.

 Returning from a business trip? Just type in your expenses.

Send, receive, print

and manage your faxes

the award-winning Fax96.

quickly and easily with

 Spend hours writing an analysis? Tell Timeslips III who is paying for it.

Want to manipulate your *Timeslips III* data? Export it to Lotus 1-2-3 or word processors.

Need to know who's billing the most hours this month? Timeslips III knows.

The Time and Billing Software of Choice.

Timeslips III lets you record, analyze, and bill both time and expenses with ease and complete accuracy. In fact, many customers report up to a 25%

increase in billable time once they have installed Timeslips III.

Track 250 activities, for as many as 250 people, working on 128 projects per client — with a maximum of 3,400 clients.

- Detail services by activity, expense, project, or matter with complete descriptions.
- Automate your invoice preparation with convenient macros. Include several types of flat fees, such as absolute,
- minimum, maximum or base.
- · Itemize and/or include totals for hours and expenses.
- Include dates, previous balances, aged receivables, employee initials, customized messages on your bills.



FREE BONUS!

Timeslips III Speller™ — FREE! Prevent Spelling Errors in Bills and Reports.

TSSpeller is an electronic spell-checker tailored specifically for use with Timeslips III time/expensetracking and billing software. Depending on how you choose to work with it, TSSpeller can:

- monitor your keystrokes and report an apparent spelling error or "typo" immediately;
 • check a field/block of text after entering it;
- scan all your slips (or a subset) before printing.

TIMESLIPS CORPORATION

| Timeslips® III | | |
|--|----------|--|
| CQ3300-5 Timeslips III 5¼" | \$239.95 | |
| CQ3300-3 Timeslips III 31/2" | | |
| CQ3306 8-User Network Edition | \$599.95 | |
| IBM PC, XT, AT, PS/2, compatibles with 384K. | | |

TIGERSOFTWARE

Make Your PC Run up to 60 Times Faster!

Unleash Your System's Hidden Potential for Blistering Speed!

rapped deep within the architecture of your computer lies an enormous untapped potential for speed. Unfortunately, this vast resource has been neglected because no one could devise a way to unleash it. Until now.

FAST! is the brilliant caching system that actually increases the speed of your computer by up to 60 times! Simple to install, a snap to use, this software solution can make a stock XT outrun a full-blown 386! In tests, we loaded a 386 with FAST! and we almost blew the doors off the lab!

How Can It Be Possible?

How can a software package have such a shattering impact on my computer? Although the authors are keeping the secret to themselves, they have shared information about where the slowdowns are within your system, where the speed is trapped and what has to be done to harness it.

They do tell us specifically, that the biggest system slowdown for your system is waiting for disk reads. When you use an application, you use it in "chunks" of various sizes, depending on the functions you are performing. Sure, you load it all at once, but it's used in bits and pieces. Your system must read back and forth, searching for these chunks of programs as they are needed by the application.

A Perfectly Logical Solution...

One of the keys to the FAST! design is the addition of "intuitive logic" to the technique of caching, so your system actually anticipates what your CPU will be seeking and reads the information directly

from the hard disk (or floppy) into a special buffer created within your RAM. This information is, in reality, retrieved before the system asks for it!

As a result, your CPU simply spends no time waiting for disk reads, so processing can be done as fast as the system is capable

— faster than you've ever seen it! The more diskintensive the application is, the more dramatic the increase in speed can be achieved using FAST! Database, spreadsheet and complex CAD systems, word processing, data transfer and more will achieve maximum response with FAST!

FAST! is also good for your system. By reducing the chaotic searches for data on your hard disk, it actually extends its life, reducing the damaging effects of constant wear. It's good for your software applications because they'll run leaner and faster, so you'll be more productive.

FAST! Under Windows 3.0!

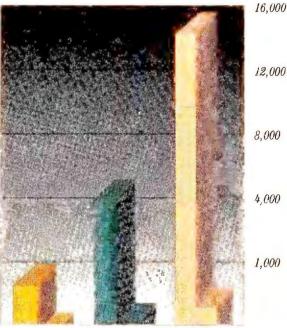
Charles Bermant, author of The Windows 3.0 Comparison, wrote "One solution (to the speed problem) is to replace Windows' disk cache, SMARTDRV.SYS, with another cache. One such program, FAST!, has made my recent Windows life a lot easier. FAST! makes everything appear faster."

On a standard Drive Evaluation Comparison test, FAST! increased performance over 1700% — and 550% over Windows' caching software!



With FAST! vs. Without FAST!

Data Transfer Rates In Kılobytes Per Second



With FAST! Without With EAST! Without With FAST! Without IBMAT 38625Mhz



FAST

CQ3460-5 FAST! 5½" \$79.95 CQ3460-3 FAST! 3½" \$79.95 FAST! will run on the IBM PG, XT, AT, PS/2 and compatible: with 128K RAM and DOS 2.1 or greater Supports fixed or Jappy disk systems, and supports conventional, expanded or extended memory.

Avoid Hard Disk "Heart Attack."

Fragmentation is Inevitable and Fatal!

hen your hard disk was new, it ran lean and swift, retrieving files in just a few seconds. But as you added programs and files, your hard disk became fat and sluggish. The fact is a fragmented, "dirty" hard disk can take up to 100 seconds to retrieve a file that used to take 10 seconds—

that's 10 times slower!

The problem? Fragmentation kills hard disk performance. It causes excessive head movement across the media, creating bad spots throughout the drive. It's aggravating and dangerous! A fragmented hard disk, left unmaintained, is almost certain to



crash. That means major data loss. Disk Optimizer 4.0's sleek, *easy-to-use menu system* makes hard disk maintenance simple.

Why Optimize?

Simply everyone who owns a hard disk, and relies on the speed and convenience it gives them. But unfortunately, DOS is doing its best to slow hard disks — by breaking files up into pieces. Storing different chunks in different places. As a result, loading is slower. Sorting is slower. Everything takes longer because your hard disk has to chase around picking up and laying down pieces of your file.

After un-fragmenting with Disk Optimizer, a file that once occupied 20 different sectors in 20 different locations is now in one contiguous piece. The next time your drive reads it, there's just one place it has to look.

FREE Cubit! When You Buy Disk Optimizer

SOFTLOGIC SOLUTIONS

Disk Optimizer

Open and Run 12 Programs at Once!

magine switching programs on your computer as quickly and easily as you change channels on your TV! No more 10 step routines just to exit one program to work in another. Just switch and you're in your spreadsheet for work on the budget, switch you're in your word processor to zip off a memo, switch over to your database to add items to your mailing list, and then just switch back to your spreadsheet — to the exact spot you left off!

Software Carousel Release 5.0 allows you to load up to 12 programs when you begin work and simply switch between them all day long, or load several sessions of the same program, each with a different file, and snap back and forth to work on several spreadsheets, reports, letters — anything you need — all at once.

Not everyone will want Software Carousel to work exactly the same. There are a number of convenient ways to configure Software Carousel to suit everybody's needs and tastes.

New Print'n' Run.

Print 'n' Run works by directing printer output from any application running in a Software Carousel partition into a configurable pool of Software Carousel memory. Print 'n' Run, simultaneously sends the output to the printer as fast as the printer can take it.



NEW! 5.0 Features.

New Personal Message Center lets users write and display messages on screen and automatically stack programs at a particular time of day.

And new SNIP 'N' SNAP is a powerful cut and paste facility that enables users to transfer text or numerical information from an application or file running in one Software Carousel work area to another.

FREE Double DOS!

SOFTLOGIC SOLUTIONS

Software Carousel

CQ3405-5 Software Carousel 5.0 5¼" \$89.95 CQ3405-3 Software Carousel 5.0 3½" \$89.95

TIGERSOFTWARE

Create Dozens of Legal Documents for Home and Business.

Binding Legal Documents To Protect Your Family, **Business and Property.**

By simply typing answers to questions on your screen, Personal Law Firm actually "writes" binding legal documents customized to your specific situation and ready to sign. From wills to maintenance agreements; work for hire agreements to warranty documents; promissory notes and commercial leases to demand letters, Personal Law Firm gets your agreements in writing fast.

With over 500 pages of concise, informative doc-

umentation and reference, Personal Law Firm is the most comprehensive legal package available today. Just select the type of document from the Main Menu. There's plenty of background material about each document you prepare, along with explanations of the applicable laws that govern them.

The Importance Of A Will.

It's a nightmare you hope never happens. An untimely accident or illness leaves your family without a breadwinner — and without a will. In such cases, the state immediately moves in to divide your estate as it sees fit, with no regard-for your wishes. Your survivors will face a long, uphill battle to reclaim

> what a will would have granted them instantly upon your death,

without question.

Yet, 3 out of 4 people every year die without one.

Perhaps you feel that in the event of an illness or accident that leaves you completely dependent on life support, it should not be prolonged. You can create a Living Will to state in writing your under wishes specific circumstances.

Personal Law Firm covers virtually any everyday personal or business legal situation. For example, a restaurant owner from Chicago recently wrote us to relate this situation: A customer raved about his family recipe "Sauce Katrina" served at his restaurant, and asked for the recipe. Several

months later, the restaurant's chef ran across "Sauce Katrina" bottled and for sale at the local epicurian shop with a label bearing the exact ingredients and the customer's name. A demand letter went out the next day from the restaurant owner to the customer asking sales of the sauce be stopped. The customer agreed. With no legal fees and no further misunderstanding.

To protect yourself against these unforeseen problems, you must get all agreements you enter into in writing. Personal Law Firm is the fastest, most inexpensive way to provide that protection.

Personal Law Firm Includes:

Last Will and Testament Living Will Residential Lease Power of Attorney Living Together

Agreements Prenuptial Agreements Postnuptial Agreements Marital Settlement Agreements

Child Guardianship **Consent Form**

Commercial Real Estate Lease

Work for Hire Agreement Maintenance Agreement Personal Guarantee

Release of Lien **Promissory Note Trade Secret Protection** License of Intellectual Property

Assignment of Intellectual Property

Bill of Sale Warranty Agreement Software Escrow Agreement Letter of Offer to Purchase **Demand Letter**

Rejection of Goods Letter **Termination of Contract Notice of Contract Breach** Notice of Contract

Assignment

BLOCPublishir

Personal Law Firm

CQ1050 Law Firm 514 * & 31/2 " System Requirements: IBM PC, XT, AT, PS/2 and compatibles with 256K, one floppy, a hard disk and DOS 2.1 or greater. It requires an 80 character display (color or monochrome) and well support virtually any printer.

Connect Computers Without Expensive LANs

ANs are great. You can share printers, modems, faxes, and other expensive accessories, have E-Mail for inter-office memos, even

transfer files from other computers. But unfortunately vou pay the price both for the original purchase and the high cost of specialized support. You

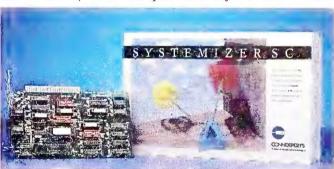
become a slave of LAN expert support forever thereafter.

Rut now there's a solution! Join 100,000 corporate power-users, and the U.S. and Canadian governments with the Systemizer® solution. You'll do all the things a LAN can do mentioned above -- at a fraction of the cost - with NO special expertise needed to install or use it.

There's a Systemizer solution available for any computer -- PCs, MACs, and others — plus the perfect future-benefit of connecting to fullblown LANs (like Novell), minis, and even mainframes. You'll never outgrow the Systemizer solution.

Start with the Systemizer SC - a card that plugs into any PC. Buy one

for each PC and you'll reap the benefits of connected computers. Wiring isn't a problem either. Plain phone wire is all it takes. Expand when you're ready with other Systemizer components and you'll have the best



of both worlds - an inexpensive and easy solution now, and an investment to build on in the future.

- Begin networking NOW, without changing existing hardware or software.
- Mix computers of all brands using other Systemizer components.
- Works with DOS and WINDOWS.
- Readily accommodates growth.
- · Easy installation.



CQ4040-5 Systemizer SC 54 * \$249.00 CQ4040-3 Systemizer SC 21/4" \$249.00 PC, XT, AT compatibles, hard disk use: 87K RAM.

Automatically Turn On Your PC When You Call It By Modem!

Compatible with ALL Remote Control and Communications Software.

ccasionally, we'll run across a product that's so well conceived, so desperately needed, we simply can't say enough about its importance to today's computing environment. Remote Power On/Off is just such an innovation.

Remote Power On/Off detects incoming calls and turns on the power for the PC, modem, printer and other peripherals that are plugged into its four outlets.

Don't Run Remote Computers 24 Hours a Day!

Just connect the Remote Power On/Off unit to your office PC (or any remote PC). Then, from your home or another location, actually turn on the remote PC and begin work. The included communications software allows you to access and use software applications, perform lightning fast data transfers, even use printers and other peripherals connected to the re-

The remote PC does not have to be running 24 hours a day. You'll see significant savings in energy costs (esti-



mates suggest that running a PC and laser printer 24 hours a day can cost an extra \$50 each month) and you'll reduce wear on the equipment.

Compatibility.

Remote Power On/Off is fully compatible with other communications packages such as Co-Session, Carbon Copy, pc ANYWHERE, Close Up and ProComm. You can even use Remote Power On/Off with the Apple Macintosh and many mini computers.

Server Technology, Inc.

Remote Power On/Off

CQ6300 Remote Power On/Off 54" & 34"

IBM PC, XT, AT and compatibles with 256K.

TIGERSOFTWARE

The Word Processor That Lets You Get the Most Out of Windows.

For Pages That Need Drama and Flair.

hen you made the decision to run Windows 3.0, you experienced the wonder of the Graphical User Interface. The fact is, there's only one Windows-based word processor that truly exploits the beauty of this remarkable operating system. Ami Pro.

Ami Pro was designed for Windows 3.0 from the ground up. It combines all of the features you counted on in your character-based word processor and combines a complete set of tools found only in desktop publishing applications.

More than word processing, more than desktop publishing, Ami Pro makes the best use of the powerful WYSIWYG environment and brings your documents to a new level of sophistication - and ironically, we found it much easier to use than Microsoft Word for Windows. Ami Pro's extremely intuitive nature makes it fast and fun to use.

View your documents as you edit them, including all text, headers, footers and footnotes. Use Ami Pro's "frames" (which can contain text for pagewithin-page formats) to pick-up-and-place graphics easily and position them precisely within the page. You'll see it right on-screen as you work!

Why Run Windows 3.0 if You Don't Make Use of Its Power?

Whether you're an executive who types only occasionally, or a heavy user who demands a long list of specialized features, you'll achieve impressive results with Windows 3.0 and Ami Pro. Occasional

users are out of the chute faster because Ami Pro is easier to learn and use.

Heavy users enjoy features they can't find anywhere else, like tables that allow you to perform math, automatically create charts and graphs (easily import data for charts from spreadsheets with 12 styles to choose from), draw, employ its Dynamic Data Exchange capabilities with other Windows applications and even create documents using its powerful style sheets. You can't do this with any other word processor under Windows. Why not use all the power that you paid for when you bought Windows 3.0 in the first place?

Have You Always Found Mixing Text and Graphics Difficult?

Who hasn't? But you'll actually have fun doing it with Ami Pro. Today, with most businesspeople drowning in paper, your documents need the snap that graphics provide. But you've always had to wrestle with different formats, complex import commands and then work for hours to position your images neatly within your text.

Ami Pro takes a far more enlightened approach. It includes a set of style guides that you can use to quickly put together ads, multi-column newsletters, brochures, letters, reports, presentations and even your everyday correspondence.

With Ami Pro's graphics handling features (and using its "frames" described above), inserting graphics is just a mouse-click away — in exact position, exactly the way you want them. No other word processor or desktop publisher under any platform makes it as easy for you to look good in print.



EXCLUSIVE TIGER PACK MIPRO **PLUS WINDOWS 3.0** THE LOGITECH MOUSE ALL JUST \$169!

Ami Pro

CQ5099 Ami Pro Competitive Upgrade 54 " & 34 ". \$119.95 CQ5095 Tiger Pack: Ami Pro Competitive Upgrade, Logitech Mouse and Microsoft Windows 3.0: 5\%" & 3\%" \$169.95 Sorry, free shipping is not included on this special offer.

A Better-Than-Windows File Manager; Create Custom Menu Selections!

File Organizer

In case you haven't noticed, Windows 3.0 isn't a FULLY graphical interface. But there is a true, fully icon-based system for manipulating files and programs in Windows 3.0. File Organizer actually replaces Windows' Program Manager and File Manager with a vivid, easy-tonavigate interface very similar to the Macintosh operating system.

In fact, File Organizer has file

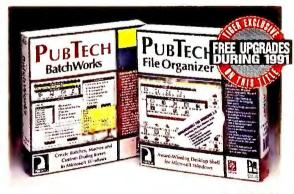
folders like the Mac; icons to represent programs, data files, printers and drives like the Mac — it even has a trash can like the Mac. It makes everything you do fast, easy and fun — the clumsy File Manager and Program Manager are replaced with one, single (and beautiful) interface!

BatchWorks

Only BatchWorks can give you the powerful tools - harnessed in a simple-to-use format — to totally automate all the features contained within the Windows programs you're running. Why can't this be done in Windows? The answer is simple. The Windows environment simply isn't capable enough to handle it.

BatchWorks allows you to quickly and easily create keyboard macros that automate repeated tasks in the Windows 3.0 environment. You can assign macros as menu commands in any or all Windows applications. BatchWorks records macros and batch files by learning keystrokes. It's easy and it saves time.

The BatchWorks scripting language provides a robust collection of easy-to-access commands that can



help you develop complex automation applications in just a few minutes.



PubTech

CQ5410 File Organizer \$199.00 CQ5420 BatchWorks \$99.00 Dual Media. Require Windows 3.0 and 640K.

Corel Draw! + NEC CD = Picture Power!

Corel Draw! on CD?

hat's right. Now you can get the world's best drawing program on CD. Pop in this CD and discover a truckload of exciting and powerful graphics tools. You get over 150 typefaces, over 3000 symbols and designs, a free Pantone® color license, a free copy of CorelTRACE, and more.



In addition to all the fabulous features of Corel Draw! 2.0, you get over 3500 extra professional, color clipart images! Not just your average clipart, this is from ArtRight — a leader in the art business. PC Mag recently awarded ArtRight their Editor's Choice Award after reviewing lots of clipart (including Arts & Letters).

This same clipart alone (without Corel Draw!) is still sold on diskette for \$1192 and takes up 43 diskettes. But you can have it on a single CD for a fraction of the cost. And as a bonus

 your CD clipart is not compressed, meaning it will load up to 10 times faster than the diskette version!

NEC CD Reader

Why settle for an offbrand when you can have the best? The NEC CDR-36 is the latest



release in a long line of proven CD Readers. Tried and true, this sleek new CD Reader will welcome you into the world of CDs. You'll soon fall in love with the vast amounts of information CDs place at your fingertips. Perhaps next you'll add an entire encyclopedia on a single CD to your library — or maybe all the phone books in the U.S. (Think about the mailing and telemarketing possibilities!)

COREL

Corel Draw! & CDR-36

CQ8635 Corel Draw! CD-ROM & NEC CDR-36 Reader \$999.00

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Disk Version \$399.00 Requires AT or above, hard disk, 640K, Win-

dows 3.0, mouse.

TIGERSOFTWARE

Razor-Sharp 262,144 Color Hand Scanner!

Unmatched Resolution and Color that Fits in the Palm of Your Hand!

magine an instrument that you can quickly pass over a graphic image, logo, design, drawing, chart, photograph — and instantly capture it to your computer screen. Brilliant colors and unmatched resolution can be yours with the Marstek family of scanners.

The new M-6000CG Super Color scanner absorbs an astonishing 262,144 different colors from any printed page or photo! Scan in your photo albums, your wedding picture, or your graduation photo and display it onscreen with lifelike realism. Produce high-impact documents and presentations with the power of graphic images. The possibilities are limitless. The M-6000CG also scans in true 64 gray scales with 400 dpi. In color mode, the M-6000CG scans in 200 dpi. (200 dpi is just right for photos and artwork. Picture this: If you have a standard VGA monitor and scan in a 3" wide photo — it fills your entire screen with a perfectly duplicated image.)

For precise scanning of anything small, you need the M800 — delivering an incredible, unmatched 800 dots per inch. 800 dpi means crisper, cleaner, more highly detailed images for use in desktop published documents, reports, proposals, newsletters, flyers, and brochures. Scan in a postage stamp and it fills the

screen with stunning detail.

And with a host of special effects and patterns built right in, controlling the look of the image is simple - and fun! The images you scan will reproduce as if they were originals, and they can be stored in TIF. PIX, PCX, CUT, IMG and MSP formats.

Or imagine simply scanning text from printed pages, magazines and books — no more re-keying!



cal character recognition (OCR) software to turn the scanned text into ASCII — ready to use in your word processing or desktop publishing application.

And the whole system is ready to run right out of the box. The installation is fast and easy, the technology is simply amazing.

The Marstek Family Of Mice.

The Marstek Mice are designed for higher performance. They're 100% Microsoft compatible and impeccably accurate — but they come with a surprisingly modest price tag. We tested the Marstek Mice (E22 and P93 models) for accuracy and speed against other leading nameplates, and it equalled or outperformed the Microsoft Mouse, Logitech's Series 9, and several others. The secret is in the outer shell design and durable construction. You'll notice a silkier movement and an increased feeling of control the very first time you use it. The Marstek E22 and P93 also feature buttons with firm, clean clicks. A far cry from the "mushy" buttons you find on other mice, great for fast, rapid-fire computing.

BONUS!

Free When You Buy A Marstek Hand Scanner.

Marstek CAT Reader or Perceive Personal/ DOS OCR Software -- These packages allow fast, easy optical character reading (OCR) for text pages. Imagine having the ability to simply SCAN text instead of re-keying it! You'll improve efficiency for a variety of office tasks.

PC Paintbrush Plus or Rainbow Paint - the industry's most respected and capable paint programs — put the most extensive electronic palette at your fingertips - colors, image blending and more.

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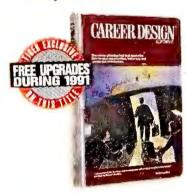
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Design The Perfect Career Move!

Turn Your Computer Into A Personal Career Advisor.

ne of the hardest tasks any adult faces is looking for a new job. Whether you're just out of college, returning to the work force, laid off, fired or just looking for a new job, the whole situation is fraught with anxiety and stress.



Career Design will help you design the perfect career move. Using a multi-phase approach that focuses you in the right direction every step of the way, Career Design always gives you the help you need.

More than just a resume-writing program, Career Design gives you control of your career direction.

Discover Hidden Talents.

With Career Design, you'll get help answering the three important

questions: "Who Am I?," "What Do I Want?," and "How Do I Get There?." These answers determine the direction you should go and Career Design helps you get there.

Career Design focuses you more clearly on what you want to accomplish with your life. Through a series of enjoyable and informative exercises you'll discover what your true interests and aspirations are.

When you're ready to write your resume, Career Design gives you 7 proven formulas to use, plus a powerful stand-alone word processor. There's even a section that lets you practice your answers to over 100 of the most commonly asked interview questions.

"I was dazzled by its thoroughness and ease of use. I would definitely recommend it to anyone who is even remotely considering a career move," says Joyce Lain Kennedy, careers columist, Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Career Design

Career Design

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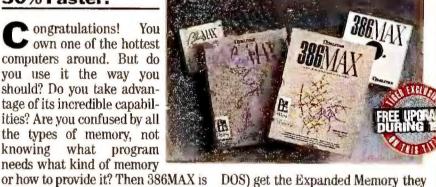
ongratulations! You own one of the hottest computers around. But do you use it the way you should? Do you take advantage of its incredible capabilities? Are you confused by all the types of memory, not knowing what program needs what kind of memory

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With 386MAX your Windows applications get all the memory your system has to offer — plus any programs you run out of Windows (from



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DOS) get the Expanded Memory they need! You get the best of both worlds! You can even run pop-up utilities reliably in Windows -- thanks to a special feature of 386MAX that allows many TSRs to appear more than once in multiple windows!

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TIGERSOFTWARE

How Do You Fill In Pre-Printed Forms?

Eliminate One Of The Office's **Most Time-Consuming,** Tedious Tasks.

re you still filling in insurance forms, legal and tax forms, government forms, invoices, medical and Federal Express forms by hand? Or struggling through the trial-and-error nightmare of using a typewriter? The fact is, filling in pre-printed forms is a classic example of inefficiency, with a high margin for error. The PC can be a great assistant in filling in forms, and FormFiller $3.\tilde{0}$ is the premier forms fill-in software for even the most complex multipage, multi-part, and double-sided forms.

FormFiller 3.0 actually synchronizes your computer printer (a critical first step), to locate blanks and place information on the form with pinpointprecise accuracy, and it works with virtually any

dot-matrix, daisywheel or laser printer.

This powerful software streamlines data entry with a host of on-screen guides and error-checking features. These features not only speed the process, but virtually eliminate errors as well — errors that can be very costly. Along with FormFiller 3.0's extensive data validation features there's plenty of fully context-sensitive help available for any function.

With FormFiller 3.0, you can decide the order in which the blanks should be filled in, give certain areas color codes for fast visual recognition, include non-printable notes to instruct data entry, "lock" certain information into the form so it won't have to be manually entered each time the form is filled out. You can also quickly set up FormFiller 3.0 to import and automatically fill-in forms directly from your database, and "batch print" your forms.

The system doesn't stop there. It contains a complete set of financial and mathematical functions that you can easily assign to particular blanks to perform a specific calculation whenever value is entered. Or you can automatically perform a series of calculations on a series of numbers. For example, you could quickly instruct FormFiller 3.0 to calculate the extended prices of all items listed on an invoice, total them, deduct a discount, figure and deduct taxes and calculate the final total. There are over 40 math functions in all, including amortization, interest, present and future values, depreciation, percentages - dozens of others!

There's more! FormFiller 3.0 includes a unique "Look-up" feature that stores pieces of information and automatically places them into position with just a menu selection. Part numbers, shipping and billing addresses, names, phone numbers, account numbers, payment terms and hundreds of other details can be organized and stored and retrieved anvtime — without looking for them or retyping them. In addition, FormFiller 3.0 allows you to control exactly HOW the data is to appear and be printed. For example, negative numbers can be entered and automatically appear and print in parentheses. Enter a series of 10 digits into a specific field and FormFiller 3.0 displays them as an area code and telephone number, or make the data entered into certain spaces on the form automatically print bold.

This all means that a form that may have taken fifteen or twenty minutes to fully complete (possibly containing errors), now may require as little as one minute to fully complete, including a check for er-

FormFiller 3.0 can, in fact, slash the fill-in time required for any form by as much as 80 percent. By



creating a "master template" of the form, FormFiller 3.0 can match any spacing, even if the spacing changes throughout the form or is inconsistent from blank to blank.

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FormFiller 3.0

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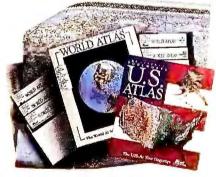
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his innovative program brings the entire globe to your computer screen, combining a complete atlas, almanac and world fact book into one exciting, informative package. You'll have instant access to over 240 fully detailed, EGA/VGA color maps along with a vast database of useful international information. You'll explore the geography, people, government and economy of any nation on Earth, including such details as climates, population, language, labor force, military strength, industry, highways and more.

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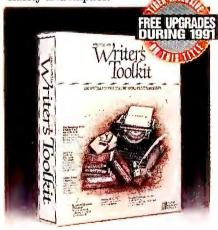
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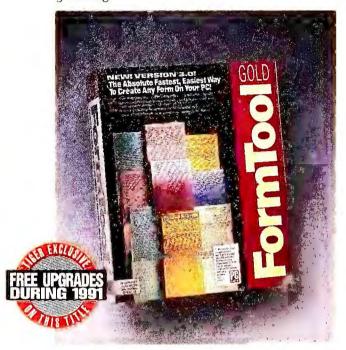
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Just Sit Down and Create a **Great Form...**

t's easy to see why FormTool is the best-selling forms package in the world. It's the fastest, easiest way to create, edit, manage and print custom, professional forms for immediate information gathering.



The ability to quickly gather data and put it to work is critical to corporate information flow. Form-Tool's "Intelligent Line Drawing" and its hardware compatibility make it an indispensable tool for businesses of any size. That's why FormTool has found a home in well over half of the Fortune 500 list, along with thousands of educational institutions, government agencies, hospitals and financial organizations around the world. They've discovered FormTool's productive power.

Unlike its competitors, FormTool doesn't require additional memory, a graphics card, color display, mouse or scanner. It runs beautifully on anything from an XT to a 486. FormTool now supports hundreds of dot matrix, letter-quality, daisywheel, thermal as well as Hewlett-Packard printers, and new support for PostScript lasers.

Draw Forms Fast.

FormTool streamlines the PC's ability to draw forms. Lines of any weight, boxes of any size, grids of any complexity and more can be quickly drawn with just a few keystrokes. If a grid isn't quite right, one keystroke re-draws it to meet your exact specifications, then displays it on the screen with our WYSIWYG display. Zoom in to see a close-up of your form, then zoom out for the full page view. If you spot a problem, quickly make the revision, preview it again - then print it.

This preview capability combines the advantages of a graphics-based, on-screen display with text-based, lightning-fast processing times and makes FormTool even easier to use — and enhances creativity and accuracy in the design process.

Instant Revisions.

FormTool's ability to make instant revisions to your forms gives you the flexibility to create exactly the proper form to meet the requirements of your work flow. Ideal for users of any experience level.

Enter Text in Seconds.

To handle text, FormTool contains a formsoriented word processor that allows you to move quickly through the form inserting captions, instructions, word-wrapped text and special symbols, and characters. FormTool will enter your text into position automatically.

An All New Forms Manager.

And FormTool Gold contains an all new Forms Manager that makes organizing, retrieving and archiving forms faster and more efficient.

Includes a built-in backup and restore, the ability to instantly view forms from a list on your screen and a new set of features that allow you to "move," "copy," or "delete" forms from the Forms Manager.

FormTool's Forms Manager also includes hard disk directory support, allowing you to store forms anywhere — or you can assemble form sets in just seconds using the sleek new menu system.

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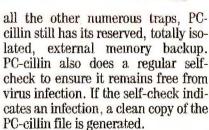
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hat does this key do again? Which key begins a Block? If you ever ask yourself questions like these — here's your answer. Quick Template tells what your Function Keys and Control keys do, from within your program. Whether it's WordPerfect, dBase, or a long list of others, Quick Template puts the help you need at your fingertips.

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| CQ Y3024 | NEC Multisync 2A | \$512 |
| CQ Y3034 | NEC Multisync 3D Monitor | \$707 |
| CQ Y3044 CQ Y3054 | NEC Multisync 4D Monitor | \$1,195 |
| | NEC Multisync 5D Monitor | \$2,495 |
| | DTECHNOLOGIES | |
| CQ Y3074 | Orchid Technologies ProDesigner VGA II | ¢202 |
| CQ Y3084 | 512k (1024X768) | \$303 \$125 |
| CQ Y3094 | Orchid Technologies ProDesigner/e (256k) | \$212 |
| CQ Y3104 | Orchid Technologies Tiny Turbo XTRA | \$290 |
| PLUST | EVELOPMENT | |
| CQ Y3124 | | |
| 04 10121 | HardCard II 40Meg (19ms) | \$428 |
| CQ Y3134 | Plus Development | |
| | HardCard II 80Meg (19ms) | \$685 |
| QUART | ERDECK | |
| CQ Y3154 | Quarterdeck QRAM 1.0 | \$53 |
| CQ Y3164 | Quarterdeck Expanded Mem. Mgr 386 5.1. | \$69 |
| CQ Y3174 CQ Y3184 | Quarterdeck DESQView 386 5.1 | \$144 \$86 |
| CQ Y3194 | Quarterdeck Manifest 1.0 | \$39 |
| _ | | 400 |
| | TY TECHNOLOGIES | £150 |
| CQ Y3214 | Reality Technologies WealthBuilder 1.1 | \$150 |
| | ARE PUBLISHING | |
| CQ Y3234 | Software Pub. Pfs: First Pub. 3.0 | \$99 |
| CQ Y3244 CQ Y3254 | Software Pub. Pfs: First Choice 3.02 Software Pub. Harvard Graphics 2.3 | \$110 \$355 |
| CQ Y3264 | Software Pub. First Choice Network 2.0 | \$330 |
| CQ Y3274 | Software Pub. First Graphics 1.0 | \$101 |
| CQ Y3284 | Software Pub. Pfs: Preface 1.0 w/Viruscan. | \$49 |
| SYMAN | ITEC | |
| CQ Y3304 | Symantec Grandview 2.0 | \$212 |
| CQ Y3314 | Symantec Q&A 3.0 | \$237 |
| CQ Y3324 | Symantec Timeline 4.0 | \$489 |
| CQ Y3334 | Symantec Northon Commander 3.0 | \$105 |
| CQ Y3344 CQ Y3354 | Symantec The Norton Utilities 5.0 Symantec The North Backup 1.1 | \$124 \$107 |
| | | 9107 |
| | MPLETE PC | |
| CQ Y3424 | The Complete PC The Complete Half Pg. Scanner 400 | \$201 |
| CQ Y3434 | | 9201 |
| 06 10101 | The Complete Page Scanner | \$599 |
| CQ Y3444 | The Complete PC | |
| | The Complete Communicator | \$470 |
| CQ Y3454 | The Complete PC | + 40F |
| CO VOAGA | The Complete Fax 9600 The Complete PC The Complete | \$425 |
| CQ Y3464 | Answering Machine | \$268 |
| CQ Y3474 | The Complete PC The Complete | +=00 |
| | Flatbed Scanner NEW | \$1031 |
| TIMEW | ORKS | |
| CQ Y3494 | Timeworks Publish It! 1.2 | \$150 |
| TRAVE | LING SOFTWARE | |
| CQ Y3514 | | \$35 |
| CQ Y3524 | | \$95 |
| VIDEO | 7 | |
| CQ Y3544 | Video 7 Vega VGA (800X600) | \$154 |
| CQ Y3554 | Video 7 VRAM VGA 512k (1024X768) | \$387 |
| WORD | PERFECT CORP. | |
| CQ Y3574 | WordPerfect Corp. WordPerfect 5.1 | \$273 |
| CQ Y3584 | WordPerfect Corp. DrawPerfect 1.1 | \$297 |
| CQ Y3594 | WordPerfect Corp. Letter Perfect | \$147 |
| WORD | STAR INTERNATIONAL | |
| CQ Y3614 | WordStar International WordStar Prof. 6.0 . | \$285 |
| XTREE | | |
| CQ Y3634 | XTree XTreePro Gold | \$99 |
| | | |
| TICE | DVELLOW SHEET DOLL | OV |

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People's Choice: 20-MHz 386SXs

Never has so much computer cost so little. Discover the top values among ten new 20-MHz SX systems—and learn which companies back them with solid service and support.

Robert Lauriston

ast, economical, and ready to run all the latest software, today's 20-MHz 386SX systems make it foolish to consider anything less capable. For only a couple of hundred bucks more than a similarly configured 16-MHz SX, you can get a machine that's likely to be a full 34 percent faster—a visible and welcome difference, especially if you're using *Microsoft Windows*.

What's more, most 20-MHz SXs are better able to keep up with software's ever-increasing hardware requirements than their 16-MHz cousins, thanks to more room for drives, expansion boards, and fast (CPU-speed) RAM. So with that extra power comes a system that will hold its value longer.

Everything's relative, of course. Compared to 25- or 33-MHz 386DXs, these SX machines are not particularly fast. You wouldn't want one for a file server or a heavy-duty graphics workstation—and multitasking four or five *Windows* applications can slow down an SX to the point of pain. But for most people, a 20-MHz SX has all the speed you'll need for a long time to come.

SXs on Parade

We looked at SX-20s only four months ago ("Value Alert! 20-MHz 386SX Systems," February 1991), but so many machines have come out since then that we had no trou-

ble finding ten hot systems that weren't available the last time around. For a real-world comparison, we priced and speed-tested each system in an ample, *Windows*-ready configuration, which included at least 4MB of RAM, a 100MB or larger hard disk, and color VGA graphics. And since dealer discounts vary (and mail-order companies don't discount at all), we used *street prices*, not list prices, to compare these systems. *PC World* researchers obtained and averaged price quotes from 90 dealers in eight cities across the United States.

You'll want an SX system that's fast, can take plenty of fast RAM, and comes with strong service and support from the manufacturer, all at a reasonable price. Performance is particularly important since it varies greatly in this category; if you're not careful you could end up paying a 20-MHz price for a system that's not much faster than a 16. Our *PC World* performance tests simulate real-world applications, and at least one of them should fit your own work habits.

When Windows turns sluggish, you can usually feed it RAM chips to perk it up. But RAM installed on a conventional memory card will slow down an SX, so make sure your new system can accept plenty of RAM on the motherboard or in a special fast-RAM slot. A 16MB ceiling is none too high. For a detailed guide to SX



buying issues, see "Buying Smart: SX Excellence."

Whether you're a novice or the office computer doctor, at some point you'll have to talk to someone who knows more than you do; you may even need him or her to come to your office. You should therefore demand prompt, knowledgeable telephone technical support—either local or toll-free—as well as an on-site repair option. With this review, *PC World* initiates tough new guidelines for grading the customer service and technical support you're likely to get from the companies that make these systems and the stores that are authorized to sell them (see "How We Rate Service and Support").

Which System Should You Buy?

Naturally, we compared the new kids on the block with the best of the last batch to see if any of the newcomers could beat the previous winners. Only the CompuAdd 320sc measures up to the two Best Buys from our February review—the Compaq Deskpro 386s/20 and the NCR PC386sx20. The Best Buy CompuAdd 320sc is faster than most, offers superb service, and comes with DOS and *Windows* already installed. The Zeos 386SX-20 comes close—it's faster, cheaper, and more expandable than any of the three Best Buys—but quality-control problems knock it out of the winners' circle.

The CompuAdd 320sc may be the only Best Buy this go-around, but there are several other good SX values. And that's good news for the smart PC buyer.

Robert Lauriston is a contributing editor for PC World. Cathy Smith is a PC World editorial assistant.

Acer 1120/SX

PROS: Low price, great ergonomics, good keyboard, two-year warranty **CONS:** 8MB fast-RAM limit, low drive capacity

Acer designed the 1120/SX with human beings in mind—human beings on a budget! At \$2651, this is the second cheapest system in the roundup. Moreover, the system and monitor controls, as well as the keyboard and mouse jacks, are up front where you can reach them easily, and the keyboard has a crisp feel to it. You won't be able to put 51/4-inch floppy, 31/2-inch floppy, and tape drives into the Acer, however; the 51/4-inch drive uses up two of the three front-access bays.

Acer's service and support are outstanding, with a toll-free number open 12 hours a day and a good two-year warranty. At times we had to wait for a technician, but never for more than 4 minutes. Despite its unexceptional performance, the 1120/SX is a good value.

The Acer's elegant design puts all controls up front for easy access.

Within the AGI's ample case are only three drive bays and four free slots.



AGI Model 3000B

PROS: Relatively fast

CONS: 8MB fast-RAM limit; poor ergonomics

The \$2915 3000B is slightly faster and slightly cheaper than average, but not enough to set it apart from the crowd. It has many of the problems of a small-footprint machine—without the small footprint. To shave a mere 4 inches off the width of a standard AT case, AGI cut the usual five drive bays to three; that's enough for a LAN workstation but not for a stand-alone system. The keyboard feels mushy, and it's the only system reviewed that makes you use a screwdriver to adjust some common monitor controls.

AGI—a new division of Everex—responded quickly to our service calls, which is a good thing since the number is a toll call. Like the service that comes with it, the 3000B is good but not great.

ALR BusinessVEISA 32CSX

PROS: CPU upgrade path, relatively fast

CONS: Expensive, mushy keyboard, poor construction

Thanks to a CPU upgrade option, you can't really outgrow the Business VEISA 32CSX, and that justifies its \$4538 cost—the highest in the roundup. But don't be fooled: Until you upgrade to a 386DX or 486 CPU, you can't use the three 32-bit EISA slots for EISA boards. The CPU upgrade also raises the fast-RAM limit to 49MB.

The VEISA has its flaws: The power switch on our test unit didn't work right—a problem ALR says it has fixed in newer units. And we had to wait for up to 10 minutes for a technician to answer the central support line. Fortunately, your local dealer has access to a direct line. What do *you* have access to? A great upgrade path, and that makes the VEISA worth considering.

The ALR BusinessVEISA can be upgraded to a full 386 or 486.

Buying Smart: SX Excellence

So how do you pick which 20-MHz 386SX to buy? Do you run down to your local Park 'n' DOS and buy the cheapest SX/20 they sell? Or the one with the most colorful ads? Hey, at these prices, how can you lose?

An SX may be a low-cost computer, but you should still expect it to be fast, long lasting, and backed by solid support. This makes performance, fast-RAM capacity, and quality of service your key buying criteria.



PERFORMANCE

Performance varies widely from system to

system and from one application to another. A computer may zip through Windows, for instance, only to slog through 1-2-3. So it's important to check our Test Report to see how well a system did on the applications you use most often.

Although many factors, including video controller and hard disk speed, affect performance, a memory cache controller makes the biggest difference. A cache places a small amount of very fast—and very expensive—RAM between the CPU and the main memory. By keeping frequently used code in the cache as well as main memory, system performance is increased significantly: All the cache systems were faster than any of the cacheless systems. But don't let the size of the cache fool you. A small but well-designed cache will speed your system more than a large but poorly designed one.



FAST-RAM CAPACITY

Windows, 1-2-3, Word-Perfect, and Paradox all

run faster with extra RAM, and your memory requirements are almost certain to go up—while the price of RAM is likely to go down.

For RAM to keep up with a 20-MHz CPU, it must be placed on the motherboard or on a special card in a proprietary fast-RAM slot; a standard-slot memory card intended for a 286 will only slow your system down. Since you can never install more fast RAM than a system was originally designed to hold, look for a computer that will let you upgrade to 16MB—the most the SX chip will support.



EXPANDABILITY

You'll need a way to install tape drives, fax

cards, and whatever other accessories you may buy in the coming years. The more drive bays and expansion slots at your disposal, the greater your freedom to add functionality to your aging system.

You probably won't use an SX system as a network file server, so you don't need massive drive or board capacity. SXs make dandy network workstations, though, and in this mode—using the server's hard disks and peripherals—three drive bays and three free slots should be plenty. If you're planning to use your SX computer as a stand-alone, non-networked system, your needs are sure to increase. You'll want four bays (for two floppy drives, a tape backup, and a hard disk), and slots (for fax/ modem boards, CD ROM drive controllers, network interface cards, high-capacity hard disk controllers, and so on).



DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

A computer workstation

should be designed for your comfort, not the other way around. Look for

easy-to-reach system and monitor controls, a sharp display, a quiet fan and hard drive, and a comfortable and responsive keyboard. Don't put too much emphasis on the keyboard, however—even if it is arguably the most ergonomically important part of the computer. You can, after all, buy an excellent replacement keyboard for less than \$100.

Clever layout inside the case will make it easier to add or swap boards, drives, or RAM. A small footprint can save desk space, though even the smallest of these systems is only 2 inches shorter, front to back, than a standard AT case.



SERVICE AND SUPPORT

Whether you buy your system from a local

dealer or order it direct from the manufacturer, you should demand and get top-quality service and support. With this issue, PC World introduces a new policy for judging the telephone-based technical support offered by system manufacturers and their authorized dealers. We tested the quality of vendors' centralized support by calling them and seeing for ourselves what sort of service they provide. Since we couldn't test local stores as closely, we scrutinized vendors' policies to make sure they were requiring their dealers to properly support you, and giving dealers what they need to do the job.

In addition to telephone support, you should demand at least a one-year warranty, but a longer term will save you money in case of trouble.

And on-site service—through your dealer or a contracted service center—will save you a lot of that trouble. See "How We Rate Service and Support" for further details.

FEATURES EVALUATION

CompuAdd Design and Support Are Key to Success

With so many similar units vying for your SX dollar, benefits like support and design details give a standout like the CompuAdd 320sc the Best Buy edge.

| • Yes O Na | Moder /SX | VEISA - 30008 | Alla Business | a B | st 325 | A02037 | Supers | 38652 1 38652 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 | 3865A Decis | Leos |
|--|------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------|--------------|---|----------------------------|------|
| n∕a =nat applicable \ | ST / 6 | 30 | | The state of | | | 22 \ 3 | a Real | 3865A 3865A Decision | 3 |
| | | 03 | × 6. | | | | | 590/ | sion | |
| indard features | \ | \ | 1 | | \ | \ | \ | 8 | | |
| Street price ¹ | \$2651 | \$2915 ² | \$453B | \$3158 | \$2B95 | \$30073 | \$414B4 | \$24355 | \$3162 | \$2 |
| List price | \$3535 | \$3620° | \$5672 | \$3158 | \$3630 | \$30073 | \$41484 | \$2988 ⁵ | \$4161 | \$2 |
| 80387SX coprocessor support | • | • | • | | • | • | • | • | • | |
| Mouse port | • | 0 | • | | 0 | 0 | • | 0 | 0 | (|
| Setup utility in ROM | • | • | • | | • | • | 0 | • | 0 | |
| Fast-RAM copocity | BMB | 8MB | 16MB ⁷ | 16MB ^a | ВМВ | 5MB | 5MB | 5MB | ВМВ | 16 |
| pandability | | - | | | | | | | | |
| 8/16- bit slots/number free | 4/4 | 6/4 | 5/39 | 3/3 | 5/4 | 3/2 | 3/3 | 4/4 | 6/5 | 7 |
| 8-bit slots/number free | 0/0 | 2/0 | 1/1 | 2/2 | 1/1 | 1/1 | 0/0 | 0/0 | 2/1 | 1 |
| External/internal drive bays ¹⁰ | 311/1 | 3/0 | 3/1 | 2/2 | 3/1 | 2/1 | 3/0 | 3/1 | 3/1 | 4 |
| Lorgest hord disk option | 100MB | n/a 12 | 1.2GB | 200MB | 200MB | 200MB | 440MB | 300MB | 110MB | 1. |
| sign and construction | | | | | | | | | | |
| Compact footprint 13 | • | 0 | 0 | WXOF- | 0 | 0 | • | • | 0 | |
| Front-panel on/off switch | • | 0 | • | | | • | • | • | 0 | (|
| vice and support | | , | | | | | | | | |
| Warranty period (months) | 24 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 1 |
| On-site service available | ●15 | 1.5 | ● 15 | 15 | • | • | ● 1.5 | • | ● 15 | 1 |
| Vendor support | | | , | | | 1 | | | | |
| Central support/toll-free | 0/0 | •/0 | 0/0 | #10/a E | 0/0 | 0/0 | 0/0 | 0/0 | •/0 | • |
| Daily support (hours) | 12 | 11 | 10 | | 10 | 24 | 8 | 12 | В | 7 |
| Weekend support | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | • | 0 | 0 | O ¹⁵ | |
| Electronic BBS | • | • | • | Library | • | • | • | • | • | |
| Vendor-to-deoler support | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dedicated support staff required | 0 | 0 | 0 | jeto | 0 | 0 | • | 0 | 0 | n |
| Support staff training required | ●16 | ●16 | • 16 | | ● ¹⁶ | 0 | • | 0 | • | n |
| Dedicoted support line for dealers | • | 0 | • | | 0 | 0 | • | • | • | n |
| Inventory and ports requirement | 1 6 | 1 6 | 16 | Malfr 1 | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | n |

Except as nated, price based an 4MB RAM, 100MB ar larger hord disk, 1.2MB 5 ½-inch (ar 1.44MB 3½-inch) floppy drive, VGA and calor manitar, ot leost one parallel and twa seriol ports (ar ane serial and ane mause part), 101-key keyboord, mause, and DOS 3.3 or loter versian. If the vendor doesn't offer o mouse, we odded \$99 ta the street price ond \$125 ta the list price to represent the cast of a basic Microsoft Mouse.

² Includes 160MB ESDI hord disk ond cantraller.

³ Includes 5MB RAM and 110MB IDE hard disk.

⁴ Includes 5MB RAM and 105MB IDE hard disk.

⁵ Includes 5MB RAM and 104MB IDE hord disk.

⁶ Includes 130MB IDE hord disk, second flappy drive, and gome port.

⁷ Up to 16MB additional capacity for expanded memory. Total is 49MB if microprocessor is upgraded.

⁸ Up to 16MB additional capacity far expanded memory.

⁹ Three ore 32-bit EISA slots; one ISA slot (two if fost-RAM exponsion boord is installed); can't hald o full-length boord.

¹⁰ Holf-height, third-height, ar 3½-inch bays. Except os noted, at least ane externolly-accessible bay is half-height 5½-inch.

¹¹ All bays are 3½-inch; two jaining 3½-inch bays con hold ane 5½-inch drive; other bay is third-height.

¹² Hard disks are sald and instolled by deoler only.

¹³ No more than 16 inches wide or deep.

^{14 60-}manth warranty on the keyboard.

¹⁵ Extra-cast optian.

¹⁶ Required of Authorized Service Centers; nat a requirement of the deoler.

CompuAdd 320sc

PROS: Fast, great service, DOS and Windows already installed **CONS:** Mushy keyboard

If you want to be up and running yesterday, this Best Buy is for you. From step-by-step directions

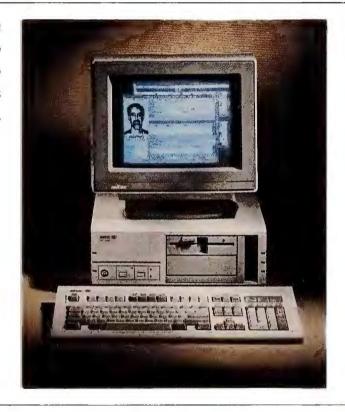
on the shipping box to the preinstalled copy of *Windows*, the \$3158 CompuAdd 320sc is easy to set up. And if you do have a problem, you can expect first-rate service and support from any of the 91 CompuAdd stores across the country.

The 320sc also proved a good performer, rating second in this roundup and even beating the Compaq (one of February's Best Buys) in the 1-2-3 test. But forget about getting two floppy drives and a tape drive into this system at the same time; only two of the four bays have front access. Still, if you think easy setup is more important than limitless drive bays, the 320sc is your Best Buy.



The Compu-Add's low-rise case has room for only two external drives.

The Mitac is a sturdy machine at a reasonable price, but it's sluggish.



Mitac MPC-2386e

PROS: Prompt service, good keyboard **CONS:** Very slow, 8MB fast-RAM limit

If you're going to use a Mitac MPC-2386e, be prepared to wait. This \$2895 creeper came in last in the important 1-2-3 test, and second to last in most of the others. It wasn't on average the slowest computer in the roundup—but it was close. And you'll find that upgrading it is no picnic. Before you can add RAM, for instance, you have to expose the mother-board's memory sockets, and that involves partially dismantling the system.

If it weren't for the short hours, Mitac's service and central tech support would shine. One year of on-site service is included in the price, and we got very prompt responses to our questions on its toll-free support line. But fast service doesn't make up for slow performance.

Tandon SL 320SX

PROS: Terrific service

CONS: 5MB fast-RAM ceiling, few drive bays, slow

The best description for the \$3007 Tandon SL 320SX is "claustrophobic." The 5MB fast-RAM ceiling will soon seem cramped and the case already seems cramped. The chassis is almost as big as an AT's, and you will find only three bays; two of them are front-loading and the other is difficult to install a drive in. The Tandon placed near the bottom in our benchmarks, coming in last in the Paradox test.

On the bright side, Tandon's service policies are tops. If you start seeing ominous error messages at 3 a.m., a technician is waiting at an 800 number. We also tried during business hours (when the wait is longer), and we always got through right away. If the SL 320SX were as fast, or as impressive, as Tandon's support, we'd recommend that you buy it.



Installing
a hard drive
in the Tandon
requires skill
and dexterity.

How We Rate Service and Support

Cathy Smith

Vendors may boast about size, speed, and enormous upgrade capacity, but when your computer isn't working properly, those words are meaningless. If you can't get competent help right away, your work won't get done on time.

How does PC World rate service and support? To receive an Excellent rating, a system must come with a one-year warranty and an on-site service option. A vendor must offer either prompt, central, toll-free, 12-hour-a-day telephone support or require that dealers offer phone support via trained personnel. In the latter case, the vendor must provide the training and have a dedicated phone line for dealer tech support.

High-quality telephone support is the keystone of a good service policy—whether it comes from the vendor or your local computer store.

You're unlikely to get excellent support from both of these sources, but you should demand it of at least one.

Since you can't solve all your prob-

lems over the telephone, having a repairperson nearby—preferably one who makes housecalls—is your next priority.

Quick access to a technician is the most important element of good central telephone support, followed by a toll-free number and—if you work late nights or weekends—long support hours. Without identifying ourselves, PC World called technical support phone lines morning, noon, and night, asking about hard disks crashing, upgrades ruining the system, and the location of that elusive "any key." We found out which vendors answered their phones right away and which ones let you sample local radio stations for 15 minutes.

Unfortunately, surveying authorized dealers in a similar fashion is beyond our means. We can't call your local store, but we can find out which vendors are taking the necessary steps to ensure their authorized dealers will support you properly. We learned which vendors require

their dealers to keep full-time support technicians on the payroll, and which vendors offer (and require) training for their dealers' support staffs. We also found out which vendors have a direct technical support line for dealers.

If something goes wrong with your PC, you'll want on-site service—a repair specialist who comes to you. If a vendor doesn't require dealers or service centers to provide on-site service options, buy elsewhere. If possible, look for a vendor that requires its dealers or centers to keep replacement parts in stock.

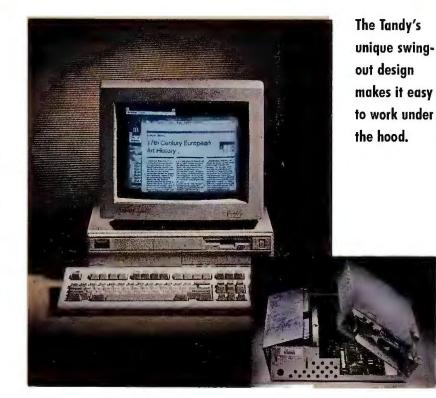
PC World can't really judge the quality of your local dealer, but you can. Find out if the store has dedicated support people on staff and whether they make house calls. Ask your salesperson a highly technical question and see if he or she can answer it. Ask other users about their experiences. And if you like a dealer, establish a relationship; regular customers always get the best service.

Tandy 4020SX

PROS: Clever fold-out design, small footprint **CONS:** Limited fast-RAM capacity, expensive

The 4020SX has the same major flaw as the Tandon: a stingy 5MB fast-RAM ceiling that you're likely to hit before you know it. But at least the 4020SX is well designed: It's the smallest machine in the roundup yet one of the easiest to upgrade. Once you remove two screws, pop the cover, and fold the hard drive bays out on their hinges, you've got unhampered access to every component in the system. If you're on a network, you'll find the three bays (all front loading) and three slots acceptable—but they're tight if you stand alone.

Every Radio Shack Computer Center in the country has a trained technician ready to answer your questions and repair your system. But great support isn't enough to justify the 4020's steep \$4148 price tag and low RAM capacity.



WORLD TEST REPORT

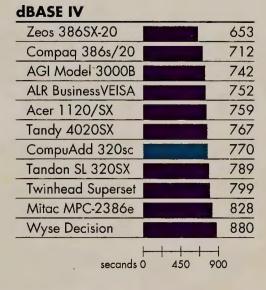
Zeos Speed Unsurpassed

The Zeos 386SX-20 leads the pack, coming in first in five out of six tests, with Best Buy CompuAdd 320sc on its coattails. One of the two Best Buys from our February roundup, the Compaq Deskpro 386s/20, is among the top contenders.

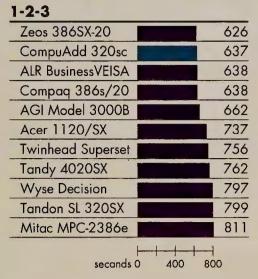
Best Buy

WordPerfect Zeos 386SX-20 82 Compaq 386s/20 86 CompuAdd 320sc 87 AGI Model 3000B 90 ALR BusinessVEISA 90 Acer 1120/SX 97 Tandy 4020SX 100 102 Tandon SL 320SX Mitac MPC-2386e 103 Twinhead Superset 106 Wyse Decision 107 50 seconds 0

| AutoCAD | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Compaq 386s/20 | 305 |
| Zeos 386SX-20 | 327 |
| CompuAdd 320sc | 357 |
| ALR BusinessVEISA | 380 |
| Acer 1120/SX | 391 |
| AGI Model 3000B | 399 |
| Tandon SL 320SX | 436 |
| Twinhead Superset | 436 |
| Tandy 4020SX | 455 |
| Mitac MPC-2386e | 460 |
| Wyse Decision | 489 |
| secands C | 250 500 |



Windows 3.0 Zeos 386SX-20 144 AGI Model 3000B 152 Compaq 386s/20 155 ALR BusinessVEISA 161 Acer 1120/SX 163 Tandy 4020SX 163 CompuAdd 320sc 164 Twinhead Superset 168 173 Tandon SL 320SX Mitac MPC-2386e 187 Wyse Decision 204



Paradox Zeos 386SX-20 827 Acer 1120/SX 991 993 ALR BusinessVEISA 995 Tandy 4020SX Compaq 386s/20 996 1006 CompuAdd 320sc Wyse Decision 1034 1035 AGI Model 3000B 1036 Twinhead Superset Mitac MPC-2386e 1048 Tandon SL 320SX 1050 seconds 0

We tested all the computers with 4MB RAM except the Tandon and the Twinhead, which had 5MB RAM. We used the vendor's versian af DOS, and the systems had the following sizes af hard disk: Acer, Mitac, NCR 100MB; Twinhead 104MB; Tandy 105MB; ALR 106MB; CompuAdd, Tandan, Wyse 110MB; Compaq 120MB; Zeos 130MB; AGI 160MB.

seconds 0

100

WordPerfect

We reformat three WardPerfect 5.1 dacuments that vary in size from 5K ta 55K. The files are basic text with some boldface and underlined text; ane of the documents includes a TIFF image.

dBASE IV 1.1

With the caching feature enabled, we camplete an unindexed search far a single recard in a

100,000-recard parts table. Then we index the table, run the transaction processing madule, and past 600 records.

In the 1-2-3 2.2 test, we complete the following operations: First, we load the application, followed by three separate worksheets (arithmetic, financial, and scientific). We make various changes and run recalcs an each. Finally we use the MAPS add-in from Management Advisary Services of Seattle to run a number of financial forecasts.

AutoCAD

We use AutoCAD release 10 to load a 500K drawing. We then mask layers, change zooms, and remave the hidden lines.

Windows 3.0

Timing begins and ends at the DOS prampt. We launch *Windows* along with a macro that loads

Microsaft Excel with a financial worksheet and initiates a recalc. Then the macro loads Samna's Ami Prafessional along with a 50K document, in which is placed a 500K TIFF image. Finally, the macro launches Micrografx Designer, apens a drawing, displays it on screen, and exits to DOS.

Paradox

Starting with an arders table, we compare each record with an available stock table. The applicatian finds the current price for the items and inserts the resulting recard into an invaice table.

Data based on tests designed and conducted by the PC World Test Center. All rights reserved.

dFacts Are In.

| DATABASE COMPARISON TABLE | dBASE IV version 1.1 | Paradox version 3.5 | FoxPro version 1.02 | |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--|
| EASE OF USE | | | | |
| Control Center organizes data, queries, forms, reports, labels, applications on one screen | Yes | No | No | |
| Create applications without programming | Yes | Yes | No | |
| Modem pulldown menus for all Design Tools | Yes | No | Limited | |
| Query by Example (QBE) for easy access to information | Yes | Yes | No | |
| Context specific help by menu item | Yes | No | No | |
| PRODUCTIVITY | | | | |
| Quick Layout for automatic forms, reports and labels | Yes | No | Yes | |
| Application Generator for quick application development | Yes | Yes | No | |
| Automatic code generation for all Design Tools | Yes | No | - No | |
| Automatic maintenance of multiple indexes for ordering data | Yes | No | No | |
| Memo fields for notes, letters, descriptions | Yes | · ` No | Yes | |
| POWER & FLEXIBILITY | | | | |
| Bold, underline, italic, subscript, superscript text for high impact reports and labels | Yes | No | No | |
| User Defined Functions for extending programming language | Yes | No | yes Yes | |
| Data input validity checking in forms | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| Multi-user transaction processing ensures data integrity | Yes | No | No | |
| Number of file formats imported/exported | 7 | 6 | 3 | |
| INDUSTRY STANDARDS | | | | |
| #1 Selling, #1 Rated multiuser database; over 3 million users (1)(2) | Yes | No | No | |
| Compatible with dBASE III PLUS data and applications | Yes | No . | Yes | |
| Compatible versions for DOS, VAX VMS, Macintosh, SunOS and other UNIX platforms (3) | Yes | No | Limited | |
| Structured Query Language (SQL) integrated with programming language | Yes | No | No | |

(1) dBASE III PLUS and dBASE IV comprise approximately 55% of PC database systems sold (3 times nearest competitor) according to the most recent report by the market research firm Audits & Surveys (Oct. 1990) (2) Software Digest rated dBASE IV #1 among multiuser databases, October 1990 (3) Versions of dBASE IV are shipping for DOS, VAX, and SunOS. Macintosh and other UNIX Platforms are announced.

Based on what our customers tell us, we made a list of some of the most important features to look for in data management software.

Then we compared the new dBASE IV® version 1.1 with two other database products.

As you can see, dBASE IV offers exclusive advantages in

many categories.

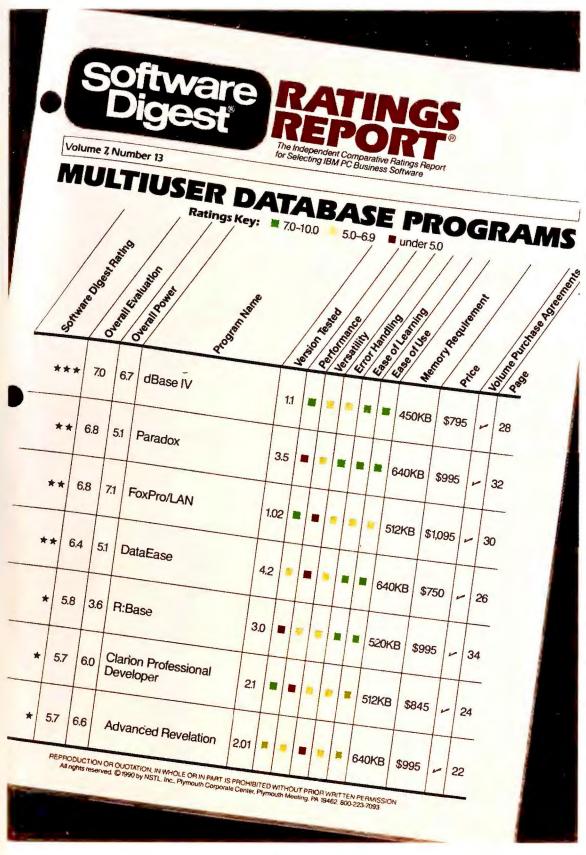
For instance, only dBASE IV lets you access all its functions from a single screen. Called the Control Center, this screen lets you manage existing data, and create new tables, queries, reports, forms and labels totally without programming.

When all the facts are on the table, it's easy to see which database software is best.

Of course we aren't the only ones who have come to this particular conclusion.

Software Digest rates dBASE IV version 1.1 the #1 Multiuser Database (Vol. 7, No. 13, Oct. '90).

dTruth Comes Out.



Perhaps the most independent publication in the industry, *Software Digest* accepts no advertising whatsoever. Corporations pay hundreds of dollars a year to receive their monthly reviews—which are considered highly unbiased and objective. Their exhaustive, 75-page report concludes:

"Among the top ranking programs, dBASE IV (version 1.1) is the most well-rounded, with solid performance, versatility, and usability." Commenting on speed, *Software Digest* points out that "dBASE IV produces all three test reports as fast as or faster than FoxPro/LAN." As for Ease of Use and Ease of Learning, dBASE IV scored in the Excellent Range as many times as any other multiuser database product tested.

For a free evaluation kit, including competitive details and a free demo disk,

call toll-free: 1-800-437-4329 ext. 1416. Better yet, call 1-800-2ASHTON to upgrade to the new dBASE IV now.



The truth is, no other database can do so much to improve productivity.

Ashton-Tate

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CompuAdd Speed and Support Add Up to a Best Buy

Only one of this new batch of SX/20s measures up to February's leading contenders.

For low-cost, entry-level systems, nothing beats 20-MHz SXs for 386-specific software compatibility and price/performance ratio. The best of these SXs are fast and able to hold up to 16MB of CPU-speed RAM. The **CompuAdd 320sc** joins two Best Buys from our February roundup: Compaq's Deskpro 386s/20 and NCR's PC386sx20. While the speedy **Zeos** 386SX-20 beats all comers in performance tests, compatibility problems suggest poor quality control.

| | Model of | VEISA - | MR Business: | mila. 320m | 1am- | Jon St. 3205X | Superser. | 386sx/ | Leo- | £ 3865X-70 |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------|--------------|-------------|------|---|-----------|-----------|------|------------|
| Performance | Fair | Good | Good | Good | Poor | Fair | Foir | Fair | Poor | Excellent |
| CPU-speed RAM | Good | Good | Excellent | Excellent | Good | Foir | Fair | Fair | Good | Excellent |
| Expandability | Good | Good | Excellent | Good | Good | Fair | Good | Excellent | Good | Excellent |
| Design and construction | Excellent | Foir | Fair | Excellent | Foir | Fair | Excellent | Fair | Foir | Poor |
| Service and support | Excellent | Good | Good | Excellent | Good | Excellent | Excellent | Excellent | Good | Good |
| Price | Excellent | Good | Poor | Good | Good | Good | Poor | Excellent | Good | Good |
| Overall value | Good | Good | Good | Excellent | Fair | Foir | Foir | Good | Fair | Good |
| | | | | BEST BUY | | W. C. | | | | |
| Reader service no. | 622 | 623 | 624 | 625 | 626 | 627 | 628 | 629 | 630 | 631 |

How we rate 20-MHz 386SX systems

We rate these systems based on information in the Features Evaluation and the Test Repart, combined with our opinians of quality and reliability.

Performance is derived fram standard-deviation analysis of benchmark results, giving extra weight to the *WordPerfect*, 1-2-3, and *Windaws* tests.

CPU-speed RAM refers to the amount of RAM that is available to the CPU without wait states. To win an Excellent, a system must accept 16MB.

Expandability cavers the number and type of free slats and drive bays available. An Excellent rating requires faur apen slots, faur drive bays, and a tatal of 300MB af hard disk starage.

Design and construction considers the footprint, manufacture, keybaard, manitar, campatibility, cantrals, and ease af warking inside. An Excellent rating requires quality of mast of these features and freedam fram major design flaws.

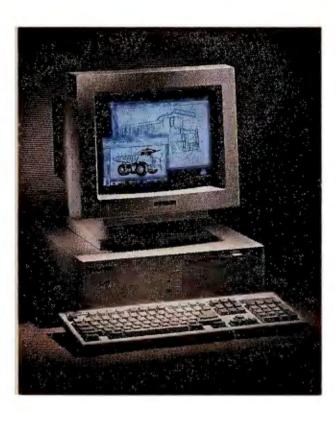
Service and support rates the quality of techni-

cal support and repair service (see "How We Rate Service and Suppart").

Price ratings are calculated using standard deviation from the average street price, determined from our survey of 90 dealers in eight U.S. cities.

Overall value is averaged from all of the above criteria, with special emphasis placed on performance, CPU-speed RAM, and service and suppart.

Installing a disk drive in the Twinhead is a major challenge.



Twinhead Superset 590/20

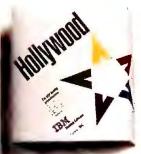
PROS: Very low price, excellent service, good keyboard

CONS: 5MB fast-RAM capacity, slow

If money's tight and top performance isn't important, the Superset 590/20 is a good choice. Although it's slow and sticks you with a 5MB RAM limit, its virtues make it worth considering for light work. At \$2435, the 590/20 is the least expensive SX in the roundup. And Twinhead's excellent support is second only to Tandon's.

Considering the manual—the only one to come without an index—first-rate support is important. Twinhead's toll-free number is open 12 hours a day, and we never called without getting a technician immediately. Technically speaking, the Twinhead is not a great machine, but when you add it up, the top-notch service and rock-bottom price make it worth considering.

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re pretty good it won't be exactly here you want to go.

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view feature and lets you view and edit your entire presentation as a whole, not just page by page, so even sweeping changes aren't a big deal. And finally, you

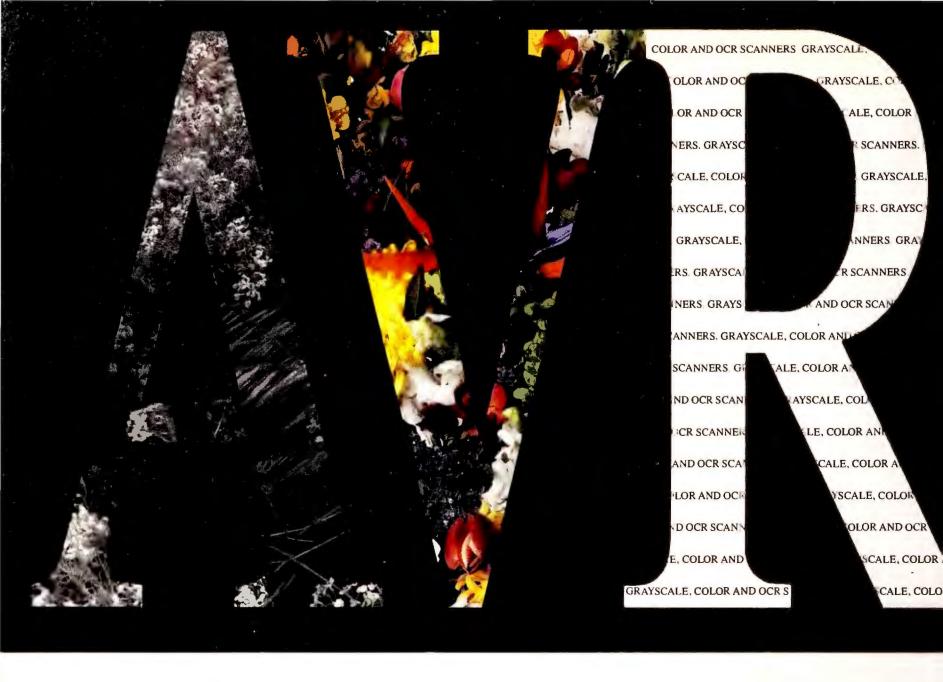
can produce your award-winning output in any combination of slides, overheads or hard copy. Or for some real show biz, present it in a lively screen-show format.

Hollywood runs in the Windows[™] 3.0 environment and gives you a supporting cast of fully scalable fonts, dynamic special effects, a comprehensive spellchecker and more. And because it's compatible with most popular graphics and spreadsheet software, importing and changing data is easy, too.

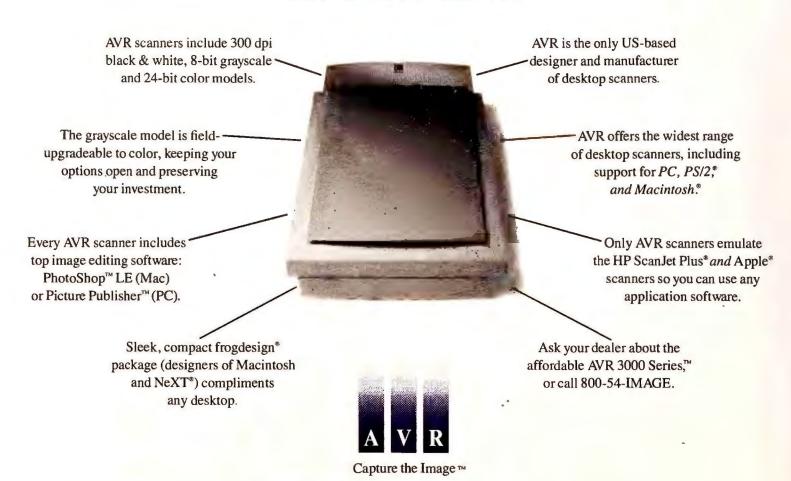


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Desktop Software



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2201 Qume Drive, San Jose, CA 95131-9801, Phone: 408-434-1115, Fax: 408-434-0968

Surveying the Field: 20-MHz SX Systems

In this article, we've examined ten of the latest and most interesting 20-MHz SX systems—a fraction of the units shipping at press time. The table below gives you a broader view of the field. Six of the 20 listed were reviewed in our February issue; Compaq's Deskpro 386s/20 and NCR's PC386sx20 won Best Buys.

| | List price1 | Fast-RAM capacity | 8/16-bit slots/ number free | 8-bit slots/ number free | Drive bays ² | Compact footprint ³ | Wasranty (months) | On-site service |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| *ALR PowerFlex 20CSX | \$42984 | 5MB | 5/45 | 1/1 | 4 | N | 12 | Y6 |
| Arche Triumph 386SX/20 | \$3769 | 16MB | 4/4 | 1/1 | 4 | Υ | 24 | Y7 |
| *AST Premium II 386SX/20 | \$37708 | 16MB | 2/29 | 1/1 | 5 | N | 12 | Y7 |
| AT&T 6386SX/EL20 WGS | \$5400 | 20MB | 3/3 | 0/0 | 3 | N | 12 | Y7 |
| Austin 386SX/20 | \$256810 | 8MB | 6/5 | 1/1 | 4 | Y | 12 | Υ |
| *Compaq Deskpro 386s/20 | \$731610 | 16MB | 4/4 | 0/0 | 5 | Υ | 12 | Υ7 |
| Toll 320LX | \$3378 | 8MB | 6/5 | 2/2 | 5 | N | 12 | Υ |
| Eltech Model 2200 | \$2499 | 8MB | 6/6 | 2/2 | 5 | N | 12 | Υ |
| Epson Equity 386SX/20 | \$4691 | 14MB | 3/2 | 1/1 | 3 | N | 12 | Υ7 |
| Tyerex Step 386SX/20 | \$4185 | 16MB | 6/5 | 2/2 | 4 | γιι | 12 | Υ |
| FastMicro FastData SX/20 | \$1979 | 8MB | 6/4 | 2/2 | 5 | Υ - | 12 | Υ |
| Gateway 2000 386SX/20 Coche | \$202012 | 16MB | 5/5 | 0/0 | 3 | N | 12 | үіз |
| Grid 386isx-20 | \$502814 | 16MB | 5/3 | 0/0 | 4 | N | 12 | Υ6 |
| Hyundai Super-386STc | \$3848 | 16MB | 4/3 | 1/1 | 3 | Υ | 18 | γ6 |
| Leading Edge D3/SX20c | \$387415 | 8MB | 4/4 | 0/0 | 4 | Υ , | 2016 | Y16 |
| *NCR PC386sx20 | \$5744 | 16MB | 4/4 | 0/0 | 4 | N | 12 | Υ6 |
| *NEC PowerMate SX/20 | \$4946 | 12MB | 4/3 | 0/0 | 3 | N | 12 | Y 7 |
| Northgate SlimLine 386/SX 20 | \$299917 | 8MB | 3/3 | 2/2 | 3 | N | 1218 | Y |
| Packard Bell Legend 520SX | \$419919 | 16MB | 3/3 - | 1/1 | 4 . | N | 12 | Υ |
| Zenith Data Systems 386SX/20 | \$4997 | 8MB | 6/4 | 0/0 | 2 | Y | 12 | Υ7 |

Reviewed in February 1991.

Except as noted, price based on 4MB RAM, 100MB or larger hard disk, 1.2MB (or 1.44MB 3½-inch) floppy drive, VGA and color VGA monitor, at least one parallel and two serial parts or one serial port and one mouse part, 101-key keyboord, mouse, and DOS 3.3 or later version. If the vendor doesn't offer a mouse, we added \$99 to the street price and \$125 to the list price. Half-height, third-height, or 3½-inch bays. Except as noted, at least one externally accessible bay is half-height 5¼-inch.

8 Includes BOMB hord disk.
9 System also includes two free 8/16/32-bit slots.
10 Includes 120MB-125MB hard drive.
11 Also ovoilable with a larger footprint and on additional drive bay.
12 Includes 120MB hord disk, extra serial port, and Windows 3.0.
13 Free within 100 miles of a TRW service center.
14 Includes SMB RAM, 800-by-600 VGA and monitor, one extra parallel and one extra serial port.
15 Includes both 1.2MB and 1.44MB floppies.
16 End user con chaose a 6-month an-site service warranty or 20-month parts-and-labor warranty.
17 Includes 1.2MB and 1.44MB floppies and Windows 3.0.
18 Five years for the keyboard.
19 Includes 125MB hard disk, 1.2MB and 1.44MB floppies, and internal 2400-bps fax-modem.

WHERE TO BUY

Advanced Logic Research, Inc.

9401 Jeronimo Irvine, CA 92718 800/444-4257

Reader service no. 770

Arche Technologies

48881 Koto Rd. Fremont, CA 94539 800/422-4674

Reader service no. 771

AST Research Inc.

16215 Alton Pkwy. Irvine, CA 92713-9658 714/727-4141

Reader service no. 772

AT&T

One Speedwell Ave. Morristown, NJ 07920 800/247-1212 Reader service no. 773

Austin Computer

10300 Metric Blvd. Austin, TX 78578 800/752-1577

Reader service no. 774

Compaq Computer

20555 State Hwy. 249 P.O. Box 692000 Houston, TX 77269-2000 800/231-0900

Reader service no. 775

Dell Computer Corp.

9505 Arboretum Blvd. Austin, TX 78759-7299 800/426-5150

Reader service no. 776

Eltech Research Corp.

47266 Benicia St. Fremont, CA 94538 415/438-0990

Reader service no. 777

Epson America 20770 Madrona Ave. Torronce, CA 90503

213/782-0770 Reader service no. 778

Everex Systems, Inc. 48431 Milmont Dr. Fremont, CA 94538

800/821-0806

Reader service no. 779

FastMicro

3655 E. La Salle St. Phoenix, AZ 85040 800/441-3278

Reader service no. 780

Gateway 2000

610 Goteway Dr. North Sioux City, SD 57049 800/523-2000

Reader service no. 781

Grid Systems Corp. 47211 Lakeview Blvd. Fremont, CA 94538

415/656-4700 Reader service no. 782

Hyundai Electronics

166 Baypointe Pkwy. San Jose, CA 95134 800/727-6972

Reader service no. 783

Leading Edge

117 Flanders Rd. Westborough, MA 01581 800/874-3340

Reader service no. 784

NCR Corp.

Workstation Products Div. 1601 S. Main St. PCD-1 Dayton, OH 45479 800/544-3333

Reader service no. 785

NEC Technologies

1414 Massachusetts Ave. Boxbarough, MA 01719 800/632-4636, 800/343-4418 Massachusetts and Conado

Reader service no. 786

Northgate Computer Systems

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Reader service no. 787

Packard Bell

9425 Conoga Ave. Chotsworth, CA 91311 818/773-4400

Reader service no. 788

Zenith Data Systems

2150 E. Lake Cook Rd. Buffalo Grove, IL 60089 800/553-0331

Reader service no. 789

For more information about all products in this sidebar, circle reader service no. 912.

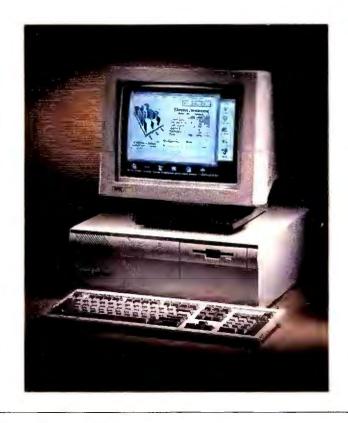
Wyse Decision 386sx/20

PROS: Prompt telephone support

CONS: Very slow, strange keyboard layout

Performance hounds be warned: The Wyse Decision 386sx/20 is the slowest machine in the roundup, coming in last in four out of six tests. Compared to this, even the Mitac's performance looks good. Slow speed aside, there's little to say about the \$3162 386sx/20; its fast RAM, drive, and board capacities are adequate but unexceptional. One odd detail: The keyboard is laid out with a narrow <Alt> key, a double-width <Ctrl> key, and a <Select> key that, according to the manual, "has no function." Come again?

Wyse offers both vendor and dealer-based support, but the central line is a toll call, and dealers aren't required to keep a technician on staff. All things considered, the Wyse Decision is not a smart buy.



The Wyse provides ample room to expand, but it's the slowest SX in the roundup.

The Zeos's clever design leaves lots of room for drives and boards.



Zeos 386SX-20

PROS: Very fast, plenty of drive and board room, money-back guarantee **CONS:** Quality-control problems

The \$2795 386SX-20 is the fastest, most expandable SX in the roundup. It would have rated a Best Buy if we hadn't encountered some problems testing it. The first 386SX-20 we tested couldn't load 1-2-3 release 3, and the second corrupted dBASE data files—an inconsistency that suggests quality-control rather than compatibility problems. During the one-year warranty period, Zeos will replace a defective part or system within 24 hours.

Zeos's phone support is open around the clock, seven days a week. Rather than keeping us on hold, they took our number and called us back between 14 and 35 minutes later. The Zeos's blazing speed and reasonable price make it a good buy. Just be prepared to make use of Zeos's warranty.

■

WHERE TO BUY

Acer 1120/SX

Acer America Corp. 401 Charcot Ave. San Jose, CA 95131 800/733-2237, 408/922-0176 (fax) LIST PRICE: with 2MB RAM; 1.44MB floppy; IDE; one parallel, two serial, one mouse port; 101-key keyboard; 800 by 600 VGA; DOS 3.3; Windows 3.0 \$1995. With 3MB RAM, 40MB IDE hard disk, mouse \$2549 ACCESSORIES: 1MB

RAM \$110, 4MB RAM \$390; 100MB IDE hard disk \$875; 1.2MB floppy \$117; 14-inch VGA color display \$445, DOS 4.01 \$150 WARRANTY: two years EXTENDED WARRAN-TY: through dealer SUPPORT: toll-free number, M–F 6–6, BBS Reader service no. 622

AGI Model 3000B AGI Computer 48431 Milmont Dr. Fremont, CA 94538 800/821-0806 LIST PRICE: with 2MB RAM; 1.2MB floppy drive, parallel, serial port; 101-key keyboard \$1950. With 4MB RAM \$2150 **ACCESSORIES: 1MB** RAM \$170, 1024 by 768 VGA card \$295, 14-inch VGA color display \$590, DOS 4.01 \$110 WARRANTY: one year, on-site service optional

EXTENDED WARRAN-TY: through dealer SUPPORT: toll number M–F 6–5, BBS

Reader service no. 623

ALR BusinessVEISA 32CSX

Advanced Logic Research, Inc. 9401 Jeronimo Irvine, CA 92718 800/444-4257, 714/581-9240 (fax) LIST PRICE: with 1MB RAM; 1.2MB floppy; parallel, serial, mouse port. 101-key key-

board \$2799. With 2MB RAM, 40MB IDE hard disk, 800 by 600 VGA card \$4299; with 106MB IDE hard disk, VGA card \$4999 ACCESSORIES: 1MB RAM \$199; 40MB IDE hard disk \$949, 80MB IDE hard disk \$1099, 106MB IDE hard disk \$1399, 1.44MB floppy with mounting kit \$250; 14-inch 800 by 600 VGA color display (continues)

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WHERE TO BUY

(continued) \$699; DOS 4.01 \$150 WARRANTY: one year EXTENDED WARRAN-TY: through dealer or SUPPORT: toll voice and fax numbers M-F 7-5, BBS

Reader service no. 624

CompuAdd 320sc

CompuAdd Corp. 12303 Technology Blvd. Austin, TX 78727 800/627-1967, 512/335-6236 (fax) LIST PRICE: with 1MB RAM; 1.44MB or 1.2MB floppy; one parallel, two serial, one game port; 1024 by 768 VGA; 101-key keyboard; DOS 4.01; Windows 3.0 \$1295 ACCESSORIES: 2MB

RAM \$340; 40MB IDE hard disk \$429, 80MB IDE hard disk \$699, 110MB IDE hard disk \$799; 1.2MB floppy \$75; 14-inch 640 by 480 VGA color display WARRANTY: one year optional on-site service EXTENDED WARRAN-TY: available SUPPORT: toll-free number M-F 8-7, BBS Reader service no. 625

Mitac MPC-2386e

American Mitac Corp. 410 E. Plumeria Dr. San Jose, CA 95134 800/648-2287, 408/432-0866 (fax) LIST PRICE: with 1MB RAM, 1.2MB floppy, one parallel and two serial ports, 800 by 600 VGA, 101-key

keyboard, mouse, DOS 4.01, Windows 3.0 \$1995 ACCESSORIES: 1MB RAM (installed) \$100; 40MB hard disk with controller \$470, 100MB hard disk with controller \$770, 200MB hard disk with controller \$1170; 1.44MB floppy \$95, 14-inch VGA monochrome display \$175, 14-inch 1024 by 768 VGA color display

WARRANTY: one year including free on-site service EXTENDED WARRAN-TY: available SUPPORT: toll-free number M-F 7:30-5:30, BBS Reader service no. 626 Tandon SL 320SX

Tandon 405 Science Dr. Moorpark, CA 93021 800/800-8850, 805/378-7801 (fax) LIST PRICE; with 1MB RAM, 1.44MB or 1.2MB floppy, 40MB IDE hard disk, VGA monochrome card, one parallel and two serial ports, 101-key keyboard, DOS 3.3 or DOS 4.01 \$1999; with 3MB RAM, 110MB IDE hard disk, color VGA card and display, mouse, Windows 3.0 \$2807; with 5MB RAM \$3007 ACCESSORIES: 110MB IDE hard disk \$329, 200MB IDE hard disk \$859; 1.44MB or 1.2MB floppy \$89;

640 by 480 VGA card

and 14-inch color

display \$279 WARRANTY: one year including free on-site service EXTENDED WARRAN-TY: available SUPPORT: toll-free number, 24 hours a day, toll fax, BBS Reader service no. 627

Tandy 4020SX

Tandy Corp. 1800 One Tandy Center Fort Worth, TX 76102 817/390-3011, 817/390-3802 (fax) LIST PRICE: with 1MB RAM; 1.44MB floppy; 1024 by 768 VGA; one parallel, one serial, one mouse port; IDE; 101-key keyboard \$1999 ACCESSORIES: 1MB



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checker inside the latest versions of your favorite DOS and Windows word processors like MS Word, WordPerfect, WordStar, and Ami Pro, just to name a few. Simply click your mouse or tap a hot key inside a DOS word processor. Or in Windows, click on "Grammatik" in the same pull down menu as your spelling checker. In seconds, Grammatik proofreads every sentence in your document. It checks for thousands of errors in grammar, style, syntax, improper sentence construction, subject/verb agreement, passive voice, spelling and more. (It even checks personal words and abbreviations you've added to your word processor's

Software - **See your software dealer for details. Grammatik is a trademark of Wang Laboratories. Other product names are trademarks of their respective holders. 1991

RAM \$200, 2MB RAM \$300; 52MB IDE hard disk \$599, 105MB IDE hard disk \$899, 170MB SCSI hard disk-no controller \$1899, SCSI host adapter \$350; 1.2MB floppy \$170; 14-inch color VGA display \$500; DOS 3.3 \$100, DOS 4.01 \$140, Windows 3.0 WARRANTY: one year **EXTENDED WARRAN-**TY: through dealer SUPPORT: through dealer and in-house and on-line service **BBSs**

Reader service no. 628

Twinhead Superset 590/20

Twinhead Corp. 1537 Centre Pointe Dr. Milpitas, CA 95035

800/545-8946, 408/945-1080 (fax) LIST PRICE: with 1MB RAM, IDE, 1024 by 768 VGA, 1.2MB or 1.44MB floppy, 101key keyboard, DOS 4.01, utilities \$1695 **ACCESSORIES: 1MB** RAM \$55; 40MB IDE hard disk \$249, 80MB IDE hard disk \$349, 104MB IDE hard disk \$395, 1.44MB or 1.2MB floppy \$79; 14inch VGA color display \$395, Windows 3.0 \$99 WARRANTY: one year, free on-site service EXTENDED WARRAN-TY: available

SUPPORT: toll-free

number, M-F 6-6,

Reader service no. 629

Wyse Decision 386sx/20

Wyse Technology 3471 N. First St. San Jose, CA 95134-1803 800/438-9973 LIST PRICE: with 1MB RAM, 1.44MB or 1.2MB floppy, IDE, one parallel and two serial ports, 102-key enhanced keyboard, DOS 4.01, utilities \$1999; with 40MB IDE hard disk \$2599; with 110MB IDE hard disk \$3099 ACCESSORIES: VGA

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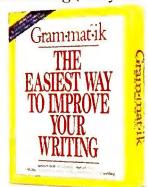
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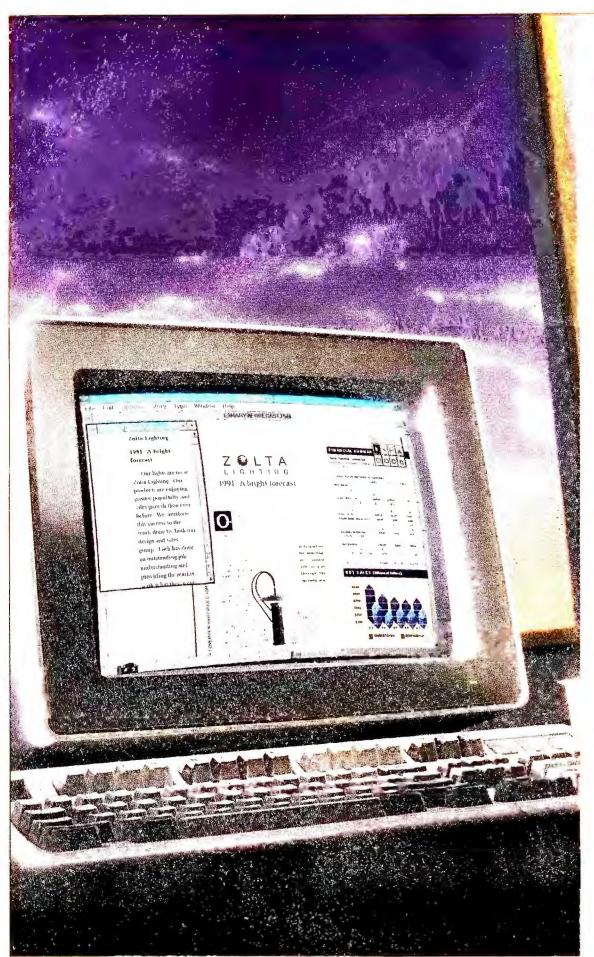
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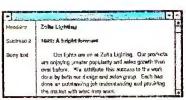


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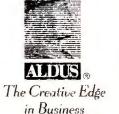


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Will Your Next Word Processor Wear Windows?

True or false—Windows word processors are easier to use. True in most cases, but traditional programs still have their place.

George Campbell



hances are you're a *WordPerfect* user. Nothing wrong with that—it's a very powerful program, and because there are so many other *WordPerfect* users out there, help with its complex inner workings is usually close at hand. But it's also likely that you're incorporating more and more fonts and graphics in your documents. If so, it's time you looked into *Windows*-based word processors like *Ami Pro* and *Word for Windows*—packages that make complex formatting and font control much easier.

Character-based programs like *WordPerfect* and *Word* still have a place, especially with users who are stuck with slower systems. To get decent performance with a *Windows* word processor, you'll need a 386SX PC

with at least 2MB (and preferably 4MB) of RAM and a VGA display. Even on a capable 386, you'll find *Windows* word processors somewhat slower than their character-based rivals.

But few users will mind waiting a second or two longer to reformat a file if they can shave minutes off a job like setting up a table, changing fonts, or importing and scaling a logo. Character-based programs bog down when you move beyond simple formatting, but with graphical interfaces that sport icons, interactive dialog boxes, and flexible graphics manipulation, *Windows* packages make creating complex documents relatively easy. Their editing screens show accurate images of the printed page, including fonts, so you don't have to flip to a

Buying Smart: Sizing Up Word Processing Tools

Most users call on their word processor more often than any other application. For most, ease of use, editing, and formatting are the most important features, followed by customization and automation, performance, and graphics handling.



EASE OF USE

Look for well-organized menus that you can con-

trol with a mouse, along with keyboard shortcuts. Icons let you select common commands with a single click. You should also be able to decide which icons to display and assign selected commands or macros to icons or menus. Also, look for context-sensitive help and good documentation.



EDITING

All these packages provide essentials such as

cut and paste; word, line, sentence, and paragraph delete; global search and replace; and undo commands. Look for the ability to display multiple files at once and to edit documents in several views, ranging from draft text to complete graphics. Most will want an editing screen that accurately represents printed output—at the very least, demand a page preview mode.

More advanced editing features can be broken down into three categories:

Writing aids. At a minimum, you need a complete spelling checker

with custom, user-defined dictionaries and a thesaurus that offers synonyms and definitions. An outliner is a big help, especially if you can expand and collapse the outline and include standard text. Only one program here includes a built-in grammar checker.

Long-document options. At the very least, look for automatic table of contents and index generation. You may also want bookmarks for jumping to fixed locations in a file, and cross-references, which automatically update tables, figures, and "see page xx" references as your document changes. Academic users will want capable footnoting tools, and engineers and financial experts will want an equation editor.

Group editing tools. If you're on a LAN, you'll want such multiuser tools as annotations, which embed hidden notes within documents, and redlining, which compares documents and marks suggested additions and deletions automatically. Work groups also need complete document summaries that include revision tracking (automatic marking of who edited what and when). LAN support that allows users to browse files that others are working on—but not to edit them—is essential.



FORMATTING

Today's documents are more complex than ever.

Demand a full range of text format-

ting and page layout features such as the ability to format newspaperlike snaking columns. It should be easy to select fonts, and you want to be able to use scalable fonts on printers that support them.

Style sheets let you quickly tag paragraphs with style formatting, making it unnecessary to repeat complex commands. Look for style sheets that you can save separately from the document so you can copy them easily to other documents. More advanced desktop publishing features include kerning and tracking, which let you modify the space between letters and words—a handy feature for headlines.



CUSTOMIZATION AND AUTOMATION

These business-oriented

features help you link your word processor with other applications. Most important is a macro language with a learn mode that lets you automatically record keystrokes for later playback. Just in case you require more advanced automation, make sure the language is programmable, so you can write the macros directly. One nice touch is an automated template function that lets you set up forms and documents with custom formatting and prompts for users to fill in the blanks.

Look for a mail merge function (which matches form letters with lists of addresses) equipped with user prompts. Conditional commands let you further customize your mailing,

separate preview mode to view the overall effect. Also, *Windows* packages function more logically than *WordPerfect*—you select the text and *then* act upon it, rather than vice versa.

If you're still unsure whether *Windows* word processing is the answer, you'll find help in these pages. First, investigate our decision tree ("Know Your Options: Pick Your Word Proces-

sor") to find the right questions to ask. Then check out "Five Problems in Search of a Word Processor" to see what applications best match your situation. Next, see "Windows Word Pro-

for example, by inserting an extra paragraph for customers above a certain income. Spreadsheet links that can automatically insert the latest worksheet version are helpful. You'll then want a table editor to format the worksheet by easily adjusting columns and adding lines and shading.



PERFORMANCE

Speed is important, yet our tests show sur-

prisingly small differences among most of the packages. Word 5.5 is the overall champ, followed closely by WordPerfect. The Windows group is a bit slower, but still pretty quick on a 386. Users of 286 systems will find that the Windows packages run much more slowly. See the PC World Test Report for more details.



GRAPHICS

Graphics are playing an expanding role in busi-

ness documents. A program should import a variety of formats; let you move, crop, or scale an image with the mouse alone; and wrap text around graphics automatically. Look for a frame-based approach to text and graphics—because you simply draw frames in which to pour text and graphics instead of assigning coordinates, it's easier to move and resize the elements. Additional features like drawing, charting, and scanning modules are nice extras—you may not need to buy separate packages for these functions.

cessing—Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down?" for two opposing views on the subject. Finally, our "Buying Smart" sidebar is your guide to the make-orbreak features to look for.

Ami Pro 1.2



PROS: Easy to use, flexible editing views, superb graphics handling, business graphics

CONS: Weak outliner, no redlining, no cross-references

Beg or borrow time on a system running *Ami Pro*, and you'll soon see what a word processor *should* be. Matching rival *Word for Windows* at formatting and all but the most advanced editing tools, *Ami Pro* has an edge in ease of use and a solid advantage at graphics. It's the Best Buy for *Windows* users.

Ami Pro's interface is the easiest to use in the roundup. A customizable icon bar runs down the left of the screen—you can select 12 icons from a long list or assign your own macros to icons. The program lacks its Windows rivals' push-button ribbon for quick text formatting, but you can set up similar functions in the icon bar. Most will appreciate the optional floating style-sheet window—properly positioned, it can reduce the distance your mouse travels when you're tagging paragraphs with styles. You can also select tags from pulldown menus or with function keys.

Ami Pro provides the most flexible screen views in the roundup—you can choose from full-page, half-page, magnified, and fast draft views or create your own custom magnification. With version 1.2, Ami Pro's vexing lack of windowing support is a thing of the past—you can open up to nine files at once, and cut and paste among them. Ami Pro's macro language is powerful, letting you create new menus or add your own macros to existing menus.

The style sheets are unsurpassed. Unlike with *Word for Windows*, you can create or alter a style using a single dialog box, and because style sheets travel separately from documents, it's a little easier to store and apply them. Not only are *Ami Pro*'s one-stop dialog boxes well organized, but they show examples—if you alter a setting, the changes show up in a preview window, so

you don't have to wait for the screen to reformat to view the effect.

Ami Pro's layout and graphics skills are unmatched. Because you locate and manipulate text and graphics elements in frames, as in a desktop publishing program, they're easier to manipulate than in Word for Windows. After creating a frame, just drag it around or size it with the mouse. Another bonus: You can alter brightness and contrast on scanned TIFF images, so you don't need to use a separate scanning utility.

If you need a chart, a table, or a drawing on the spot to back up your document's message with images, the tools are built right in. The chart module offers bar, pie, and line styles, with legends and colors, in flat, three-dimensional, or even perspective formats.

Ami Pro has a few weak spots—for long documents, you'll miss Word for Windows' cross-referencing tools, which automatically update references to tables and figures, and Ami Pro's outliner can't expand and contract to include document text. Also missing is redlining—collaborative work groups will have to use a third-party program like ForComment to compare edits.

If you can live with these gaps, *Ami Pro* may well be your next word processor. Its ease of use, formatting prowess, and graphics power make it a Best Buy for just about everyone.

Legacy 1.1

PROS: Advanced desktop publishing features, text flow between frames

CONS: No macros, weak group editing tools, slow printing, poor menu organization, no multiple windows

NBI's *Legacy* offers a formidable formatting and graphics repertoire aimed at desktop publishers. Missing some advanced editing tools like math, macros, and redlining, *Legacy* can't match its *Windows* rivals, but it's a good value if light desktop publishing is your goal.

At press time, WordStar International announced that it had licensed the

FEATURES EVALUATION

Best Buys Combine Ease of Use, Abundant Features

Best Buy Ami Pro combines Windows' ease of use and uninterrupted view of the page with loads of formatting and graphics features. For those with less need for fonts and graphics (and for those without a 386), Best Buy Word 5.5 is nearly as easy and provides better group-editing features.

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Legacy source code from NBI and would sell the program under a new name. Later in the year, WordStar will modify the code and release WordStar for Windows. NBI, however, will continue to sell and update its own version.

NBI has taken good notes from the competition. Like *Word for Windows*,

Legacy offers an icon bar for quick font, formatting, and alignment changes. Like Ami Pro, it displays examples of some formatting choices in dialog boxes, but not for as many options. You can edit in a speedy draft view or one of three graphical views, and like Ami Pro, Legacy lets you set up a customized view

with whatever magnification you prefer.

Despite these pluses, *Legacy* is harder to learn and use than its *Windows* competitors. For example, to modify a frame, you must first click on an icon, then move to the pulldown menus, negating the benefit of the icon shortcut. Style controls are scattered among the

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|--|-------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
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| Text formats exported | 14 | 17 | 3 | 11 | 13 | 8 | 6 |
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Edit, Create, and Format menus, and styles are stored with the document, making it too easy to overwrite style sheets accidentally.

There are other annoyances. Network support is limited—when a file is in use, a second user can't browse it and the mail merge module lacks user prompts and conditional commands. *Legacy* is also a disk hog, storing all text and images in *Ventura*-like chapters—if you use a graphic in more than one document, it's wastefully duplicated in each file. Worse, you're limited to displaying one document at a time unless you load a second copy of *Legacy*, and

printing is the slowest in the roundup.

Legacy's big draw is its precise control over page layout. Like Ami Pro, it's a frame-based system and so is especially adept at handling graphics and boxed text. Legacy is the only program reviewed that lets you precisely position frames with snap-to columns and grids

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³ Multiple users may read files but con't sove them.

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⁹Must enter line-drowing characters one by one.

—horizontal and vertical lines that snap page elements into place as if they were magnetically attracted. Better yet, its letterspacing (kerning) and word spacing (tracking) controls are tops in the roundup. It's the only program that lets text flow between frames—perfect for newsletters with continuing stories. But where *Ami Pro's* frames are optional, *Legacy* makes you set up frames for even the simplest text documents—a bothersome extra step.

Legacy's lack of macros and weak mail merge rule it out for many offices. But it's a good deal for users who need some desktop publishing features for creating newsletters and don't want to master PageMaker or Ventura.

Microsoft Word 5.5



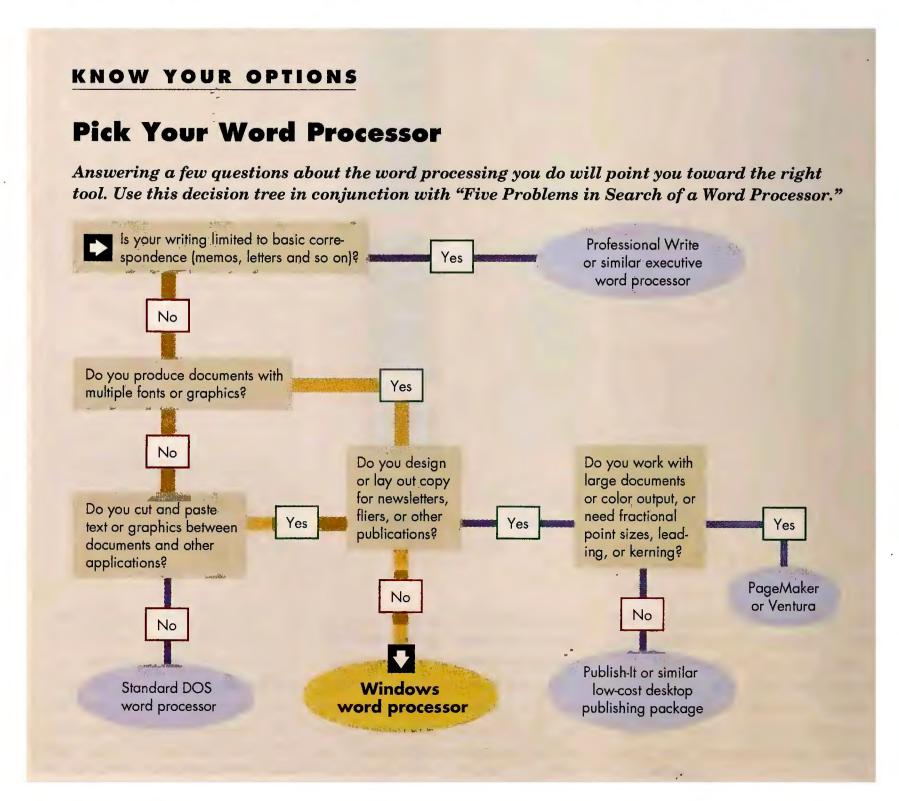
PROS: Easy Windows-like interface, fastest in roundup, powerful macro language, easy editing tools

CONS: No table editor, limited file import routines

Version 5.5 of *Microsoft Word* now works much like its *Word for Windows* cousin. *Word's* treasure chest of features is now more accessible, thanks to pulldown menus, pop-up dialog boxes, and fully adjustable windows. Equally powerful at editing and formatting and the fastest program in the roundup, *Word* is the Best Buy for non-*Windows* users.

Version 5.5 is much easier to learn and use than version 5.0. It's still character based, but it imitates *Word for Windows'* graphical interface—an icon-based Ribbon and Ruler puts most formatting tasks only a mouse click away. You can open up to nine windows and quickly block text for cut and paste or formatting. There are only a few text import routines, but you can buy an inexpensive conversion utility that imports and exports to all major formats.

New, well-designed dialog boxes simplify formatting, and *Word*'s powerful style sheets are much easier to use. *Word*'s graphics-handling skills are the best among the character-based products—you can even wrap text around



Five Problems in Search of a Word Processor

Which word processor fits your profile? That depends on how you'll use it. Below, look for the situation that best matches your own. That scenario will show you which features and performance issues to watch out for and will help you better interpret the Features Evaluation and PC World Test Report.

Corporate Word Processing Pool

Production is the key here. In most cases, employees will be doing simple, heads-down typing, with document layout decisions made elsewhere. Speed and simplicity are crucial. There are probably more 286 units than 386 PCs in this shop, so Windows programs are out.

Key features: Fast editing, excellent mail merge, style sheets, macro language, good network compatibility, group editing tools

Key tests: All

Recommendation: Word,

WordPerfect

Management

Managers need tools with easily accessible features. These users prepare memos, letters, reports, and presentations and frequently have state-of-the-art hardware, so a Windows application is appropriate.

Managers often include tables and graphics in their documents but usually lack the time to master advanced features.

Key features: Ease of use, excellent page formatting, table editor, spreadsheet links, easy graphics manipulation, charting

Key tests: Tests on complex files **Recommendation:** *Ami Pro*



Word Processing Professional

This category includes technical writers, journalists, academic users, editors, and creative writers. They work primarily with relatively unadorned text; powerful layout tools are largely unnecessary, but writing aids are a plus.

Key features: Speed, powerful editing tools, macro language, spelling checker, thesaurus, outliner, multiple-file windowing, file conversion tools, footnotes

Key tests: Tests on simple files **Recommendation:** Word,

WordPerfect

Collaborative Work Group

These users work together to prepare large compound documents designed by a variety of people.

Typically produced in a networked setting, the documents undergo numerous revisions. This scenario makes big demands on word processors, requiring the incorporation of spreadsheet data and charts to create large, complex reports.

Key features: Document summaries/revision tracking, redlining, annotations, outlining, long document features, powerful graphics manipulation, spreadsheet links, charting and table tools

Key tests: Tests on complex files **Recommendation:** Word for

Windows

Light Desktop Publishing

Users in this category prepare brochures, newsletters, and heavily formatted reports. Often gathering graphic and type elements from different sources, they need tools approaching full-scale desktop publishing programs. Because the screen must closely imitate printed output, state-of-the-art equipment is a given here, making a Windows program a natural choice.

Key features: Access to multiple fonts, extensive layout tools, frames for text and graphics, table editor, laser/PostScript printer support, file conversions, accurate screen images, spreadsheet links

Key tests: Tests on complex files **Recommendation:** Ami Pro, Legacy

images.

Advanced editing features are also complete. The mail merge and long-document features are powerful, and the outliner, which can include document text and collapse and expand, is outstanding. *Word*'s macro language is

second only to those in *Ami Pro* and *Word for Windows*—too bad it's largely incompatible with version 5.0's.

Academic and legal users who need formula editing, tables, and combined footnotes and endnotes will probably prefer *WordPerfect*. But for most busi-

ness applications where *Windows* isn't an option, *Word 5.5* is the Best Buy. If you're planning to move to *Windows* but don't have the horsepower to make the switch now, *Word 5.5* is a nice steppingstone, offering the feel of *Windows* without the overhead.

New EasyCAD 2.60 Tops the #1 Rated CAD Software

Number 1 in user satisfaction—PC Week poll.

In competition against other top CAD software for performance, hardware compatibility, ease of use and value, EasyCAD 2.05 handily won the award that counts most—User Satisfaction. Now the best is even better.

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PC WORLD said it best, "This easy-to-learn program is blindingly fast, and its flexibility, wealth of features and



excellent user interface match those of professional programs costing thousands of dollars more."

In fact, because it is written entirely in assembly language experts say new EasyCAD 2.60's speed rivals CAD packages costing up to twenty times more. So why spend well over \$2000 to get



what EasyCAD 2.60 can deliver for just \$169.95?

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EasyCAD 2.60's associative dimensioning feature allows you to rotate, stretch or change the scale factor of a drawing and all dimensions are instantly updated to reflect the change. This includes ordinate, angle, radius and diameter as well as other dimension formats. You never have to erase or re-enter dimensions.

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An enhanced memory manager lets you work through the largest drawings faster than ever.





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a 30-day money ba Customizeable pull-down menus, script and macro capabilities that automate complex or repetitive tasks, DXF for exchanging drawings and files with other

CAD programs and spread sheets. The list goes on.

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COMPUTING

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© 1991 Evolution Computing EasyCAD2 is a registered trademark of Evolution Computing as *Ami Pro*, nor is it as clever in its handling of graphics. Still, it's an excellent value for a variety of needs, and it's especially well suited for corporate work groups where group editing tools, macros, and templates are required for customization.

MultiMate 4.0

PROS: Grammar checker, built-in E-mail

CONS: Poor font support, slowest in roundup, confusing interface, no mouse support, weak formatting tools, no macros, no style sheets

Harking back to an age of dedicated word processors and daisy wheel printers, Ashton-Tate's *MultiMate* seems anachronistic. Version 4.0 attempts

modernization with pulldown menus, laser printer support, page preview, and graphics integration, and it's the only program in this review to give you grammar-checking and LAN E-mail modules. Yet the new features are often poorly implemented, and performance is by far the slowest in the roundup. Word and WordPerfect are much better choices.

Unlike most modern word processors, *MultiMate* makes you edit one page at a time—inserting text on a full page doesn't reformat the document. Editing is a slow, multikeystroke process, with prompts like 'Copy what?' and 'To where?' interrupting your editing. The lack of mouse support, context-sensitive help, and windowing doesn't help.

Formatting is difficult—there are no style sheets, and *MultiMate* uses confusing formatting codes. Worse, there are no shortcuts for using boldface or italic type—instead, you must change fonts. To print on LaserJet or Post-Script printers, you choose a special command (not Print) and fill out a lengthy dialog box.

To integrate graphics, you must use a separate add-on utility, and options are limited. While you can import numerous formats and even draw simple images, text doesn't wrap around graphics, and it's difficult to position images. Other features are also lacking—there's no table editor, outliner, or macro language.

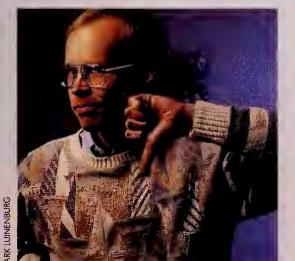
MultiMate does have its unique benefits. It includes the superb Grammatik

Windows Word Processing—Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down?



Thumbs up:

"I've been a diehard WordPerfect user for years, but I'm switching to Word for Windows. It's much easier to use because you don't have ta remember commands ar look at a template—all you do is select an icon. The structure is more logical—you select something and then you tell the program what to do with it. That can be difficult at first far DOS veterans, but it's faster for new users. Also, the mause makes it much easier to cut and paste text, and with the Clipbaard, it's easier to link up with my spreadsheet. If I'm copying a range from Excel, I don't have ta write dawn the range first—I can see the spreadsheet in another window and mark the range on screen. I can't wait to see WordPerfect far Windaws."—Nancy Louis, PC trainer and consultant, Newtown Square, Pennsylvania



Thumbs down:

"I've tried using Windows 3.0 an a 386 with 4MB of RAM, and I still dan't care for it. Jumping back and forth between the mouse and the keyboard gets irritating—I dan't like having to take my hand off the keyboard in order to use the mouse. I can move around faster by using arrow keys than mast people can with a mause—and once you know what you're doing, shortcut keys are faster. Also, we're bumping into technical prablems with Windows 3.0—it tends to lock up when you try to move large parts of a document, and we get unrecoverable application errors all the time."

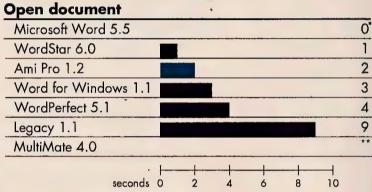
—Dann Sandell, business analyst, Minneapalis, Minnesota

PC WORLD TEST REPORT

Word and WordPerfect Zip Past Windows Rivals

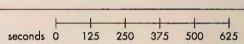
Ami Pro and Word for Windows are surprisingly fast (except in printing), but character-based Word and WordPerfect still have the performance edge.

Best Buy



Print document Microsoft Word 5.5 182 WordPerfect 5.1 185 WordStar 6.0 199 367 Ami Pro 1.2 Word for Windows 1.1 371 Legacy 1.1 622 MultiMate 4.0

Global search and replace—complex document



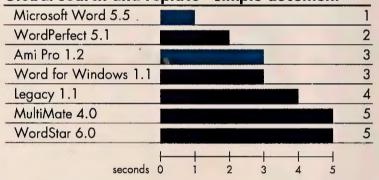
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4

Global search and replace—simple document





Microsoft Word 5.5

Word for Windows 1.1

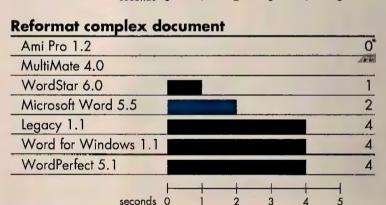
Ami Pro 1.2

Legacy 1.1

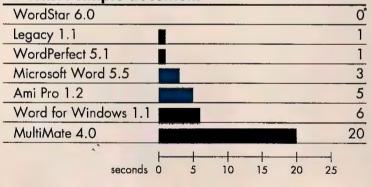
WordStar 6.0

WordPerfect 5.1

MultiMate 4.0



Reformat simple document



**MultiMate 4.0 is unable to handle proportionally spaced text. As a result, it cauldn't apen aur camplex document and was unable to camplete the test.

Global search and replace—simple document

We measure the time spent searching for 104 incidences of a six-letter word and replacing with a seven-letter word (from initiation of the command until cursor control is returned).

*Elapsed time was less than 1 secand.

All tests were performed on a 20-MHz Compaq Deskpro 386/20e with 2MB RAM and a 110MB hard disk. For tests of *Windows 3.0* products, we included a mouse and ran the tests in standard mode. For non-Windows products, we used Quarterdeck's QEMM 5.11 to convert 1MB of extended RAM into expanded memory. The products were benchmarked using a simple, 19-page text-only document and a $4\sqrt{2}$ -page complex document containing subheads, a 1-2-3 2.2 worksheet table, a monochrome PCX image, and a Lotus PIC graph. Simple document tests were printed on a Hewlett-Packard LaserJet Series II; complex documents used a QMS PS810 PostScript printer. We tested products offering more than one editing mode in their default mode.

Global search and replace—complex document We measure the time spent searching for 75 incidences of a seven-letter word and replacing with a ten-letter word (from initiation of the command until cursor control is returned).

Reformat simple document We enlarge the top margin from 1 inch to 11/2 inches and measure the time

Open document
We measure the time from initiation of the command until the complex

Reformat complex document

necessary to reformat.

We change the base font for the body text from Palatina to Times Roman and, if necessary, initiate a reformat command. The benchmark is taken only on the time spent reformatting.

Data based on tests designed and conducted by the PC World Test Center. All rights reserved.

document is open.

We measure the time to print the complex document from initiation of the command until the last page is ejected from the printer.

It's probably because they want to avoid comparison. Next to our SyncMaster™4 the differences become very apparent. Our flat screen EVGA monitor lets you have a full inch more than NEC's Multisync 4D, yet it sells for the same price.

With its 17" display, the SyncMaster™4 gives you more space to create in, from larger windows to more legible text. And the flat surface screen does it all without the strain-producing glare you get from round face displays like the Multisync 4D. When

you include its additional up front controls for easy access, our SyncMaster™4 is the clear choice.

And the SyncMaster™4 is backed by Samsung, the world's largest monitor manufacturer and the 20th largest corporation worldwide.

So if you want to see your EVGA graphics come to life, look at a Samsung. Then call 1-800-624-8999, extension 85T for your nearest dealer.

It won't be hard to tell the difference.

| | Samsumg SyncMaster 4 | NEC Multisync 4D |
|-------------------------|---|--|
| CRT Diagonal size | 17 inches | 16 inches |
| Maximum Display size | 300mm x 224mm (HxV) | 290mm x217mm (HxV) |
| Screen type | Flat face | Round face |
| Cabinet depth | 453mm | 475mm |
| Controls | On / off up front Degauss up front pincusion up front | On/off recessed Degauss in back None |
| Modes | Supports EGA | None |
| Retail price | \$1499 | \$1499 |

Now you know why they don't show screen graphics in their ads.



Samsung 17" flat screen SyncMaster 4

NEC 16" round screen Multisync 4D

Unretouched Photography

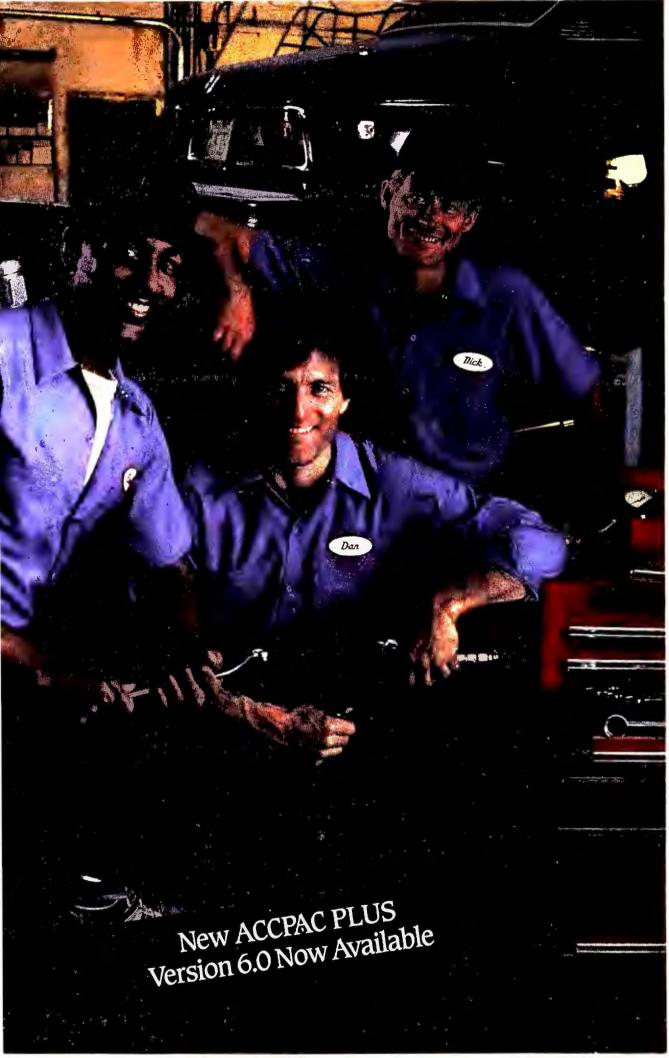


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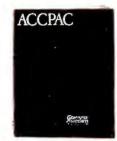
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Word Processing Best Buys for Windows and DOS

Ami Pro and Word edge out Word for Windows and WordPerfect.

These seven top word processors can handle anything from LAN-based group edits to nicely formatted newsletters. The Windows products make polished output a breeze, but they need powerful hardware to run at a decent clip.



Ami Pro takes Best Buy overall—it provides the friendliest interface, excellent editing and formatting, and superb graphics manipulation. Word for Windows can't match Ami's effortless icons, but it offers unsurpassed customization and automation to work groups. Ironically, Best Buy Word 5.5 boasts better ease of use than Word for Windows, along with terrific editing and long-document features. The ever-popular WordPerfect nearly matches Word 5.5 feature for feature, but Word 5.5 has the better interface.

| | iami pro | : Legary | Word 5.5 | Microsoft Word | A.O. | Wordperfect | Mordsiar |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|----------------|------|-------------|----------|
| Ease of use | Excellent | Fair | Excellent | Good | Poor | Good | Fair |
| Editing | Excellent | Good | Excellent | Excellent | Poor | Excellent | Fair |
| Formatting | Excellent | Excellent | Good | Excellent | Fair | Good | Fair |
| Customization and automation | Good | Fair | Good | Excellent | Poor | Excellent | Fair |
| Performance | Good | Fair | Excellent | Good | Poor | Excellent | Good |
| Graphics | Excellent | Excellent | Good | Good | Fair | Good | Fair |
| Overall value | Excellent | Good | Excellent | Excellent | Poor | Excellent | Fair |
| | BEST | | BEST BUY | ń | | • | |
| Reader service no. | 609 | 610 | 611 | 612 | 613 | 614 | 615 |

How we rate word processors

Our evaluations are based on information in the Features Evaluation and PC World Test Report, combined with our opinions of quality, reliability, ease of use, and suitability for word processing tasks.

Ease of use is critical in these much-used applications. To earn an Excellent rating, a program must have a consistent interface that makes it easy to edit and format text and manipulate graphics. It must offer mouse support, full menus and shortcut keystrakes, icon shortcuts, context-sensitive help, unlimited technical support, and goad manuals.

Editing tools should be fast and intuitive. An Excellent rating here demands fast editing commands, easy cut and paste, text selection with

the mouse, an undo command, and the ability ta cut and paste between multiple documents. A program must also offer one-step spell checking, a good thesaurus, and an integrated outliner; deliver solid long-document features; and include capable group editing taols.

Customization and automation covers features that let you persanalize the pragram and help you integrate the package with ather business applications. To win on Excellent, the program should provide a programmable macra language and a macro learn mode. It should also offer a table editor and powerful, conditional mail merge.

Formatting tools are key to preparing taday's complex documents. To be rated Excellent in this category, a program must offer a complete selection of formatting options, multiple columns,

style sheets far quick farmatting, easy selectian af fants, and an editing screen display that mimics the printed page.

Performance is based on PC World Test Center benchmarks. To earn an Excellent mark, a program must provide fast speeds in all six tests.

Graphics are becoming increasingly crucial. Here, an Excellent rating means that a pragram offers a frame-based approach to formatting graphics and permits scaling and cropping af images. Extra paints are given for a charting module and drawing tools.

Overall value weighs all of the categories above plus price and gives extra weight to ease af use, editing, and farmatting.

IV grammar and style checker, and the program excels at group editing—there's an excellent document summary and good redlining, annotations, and revision tracking. Network members can use a built-in MHS-compatible E-mail program. Unfortunately, the network version prohibits a second person from browsing files that are in use.

All told, even current *MultiMate* users should consider switching.

WordPerfect 5.1

PROS: Table and equation editors, excellent customer support, extensive printer and font support

CONS: Fairly difficult to learn

WordPerfect is an industry standard—and consequently, it's easy to overlook a few of its flaws. Cautious buyers can rest assured they won't be left out on a limb.

WordPerfect is bound to be supported for years to come, and you'll never have to go far to find knowledgeable users and add-on utilities. It's still not as easy to use as Word, but you'll find compensation in friendly, toll-free technical support, fast performance, and topnotch features. WordPerfect is an excellent all-around word processor, and it's especially fitting for academic and legal users. (continues)

Now you can upgra without upgradi

An unimpressive report is something you'll never have to create again.

Align titles or text across a range of columns-left, right, or center-with one simple command.

You can wrap text around graphs automatically

Add freehand drawings or symbols to call attention to critical data.

A feature that only 1-2-3 offers to DOS spreadsheet users is the ability to embed as many 'live' graphs on a worksheet as you'd like.

Improved, 3D-effect graphs can add even more impact to your report.

Mix bold, italics, underlines, colors, and typefaces to create over 100 text style combinations—more than any other spreadsheet

Thanks to Auto Compress, you can easily make an entire report fit on

WeCycle Waste Corporation The Materials Research Group Recommendation: FOCUS: ALUMINUM

-- pasearch Group provides the continue to

This stu basis fc expand : proport during



eCycle Waste Corporation

The Materials Research Group Recommendation:

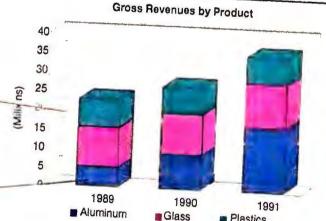
FOCUS

Aluminum

This study conducted by the Materials Research Group steen recommen ation that 1355 100 50 WeCycle continue to expand its aluminum recycling capacity ! another 70% over the next 6 years. The grant the night shows

the increasing proportion of an ess provided by the aluminum division during the past three years, now half of all revenues. It is our opinion that, at this rate of growth, num recycling will continue to offer our company its greatest opportunity for expansion over

the next decade, and certainly into the 21st century.



| | | Giass | Plastic | S |
|--|--------|---|---|---|
| WECYCLE P | RODUCT | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 |
| East Central West Total Glass | | 2,323,426 1,372,347 1,726,492 5,422,265 | 4,019,527 2,374,160 2,986,831 9,380,518 | 7,315,539 4,320,972 5,436,033 17,072,544 |
| East Central West Total Plastics | | 2,496,721 3,598,757 4,217,635 10,313,113 | 2,567,821 3,217,693 4,471,294 10,256,808 | 2,798,925 3,507,285 4,873,710 11,179,920 |
| East Central Was Total | | 2,897,493 1,873,938 2,378,942 7,150,373 | 3,171,243 1,823,697 1,967,421 6,962,361 | 3,234,668 1,860,171 2,006,769 7,101,608 |

Glass and Plastics

As can be inferred from the graph to the left, glass and plastics recycling has been holding steady throughout this same period, and has consequently become a smaller proportion of our overall sources of revenue.

Although this group would strongly recommend that WeCycle Waste Corporation do all that is necessary to increase its activities in these areas, our studies have shown that aluminum will become increasingly the material of choice in the shipping, heavy manufacturing and container industries.

Aluminum

It is our opinion that sources of aluminum products will be pressed close to their limits over the next decade.

Therefore, we propose that WeCycle Waste Corporation invest in more aluminum capacity during the next five years in order to take the best advantage of this increasing market demand.



le your spreadsheet 19 your hardware.

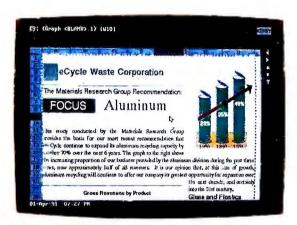
There's a lot to like about the new Lotus[®] 1-2-3[®] Release 2.3.

For starters, it's not just a graphical spreadsheet. It's a fast, graphical spreadsheet for DOS. It's easy to use. And it works as well on an older XT with just 512K of memory as it does on the newest 486 machine.

It also shares many features in common with our powerful 3D spreadsheet, Release 3.1. Including its superb spreadsheet formatting and publishing capabilities and full mouse support. Along with its popu-

lar Auto Compress feature that gives you a trouble-free way of making larger worksheets print on a single page.

We've also added new features you won't find in other spreadsheets. Like the



With its WYSIWYG graphical environment, you can do all your formatting 'live' on screen.

Viewer (based on Lotus Magellan*technology) which helps you find the file you want before retrieving it. And a very helpful Auditor that simplifies the job of documenting and analyzing complex worksheet logic.

Of course, you won't just like what Release 2.3 does. You'll like how it feels.

It's quick and smooth. With a WYSIWYG (what-you-see-is-what-you-get) graphical environment that lets you format text, data, and graphics "live" on screen. Plus, what you see on screen is what you'll get when you print. With the mouse, you can execute commands, highlight cells or ranges, open dialog boxes,

change type styles, fonts and point sizes. All with unparand ease. What's



alleled speed Lotus 1-2-3 Release 2.3 runs smoothly and quickly no matter what hardware you're running it on.

more, Release 2.3 gives you a wide range of printing and reporting capabilities. Including the capacity to place as many live graphs on a worksheet as you'd like.

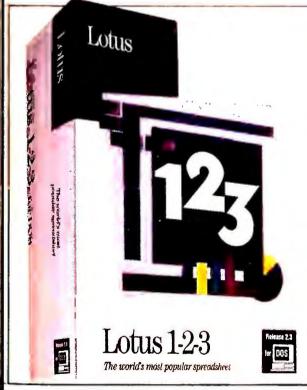
> Along with 96 type style combinations, new 3D-effect graphs, drawing and annotation tools, and the most font support. choices of colors and shading available.

Compatibility? As with any 1-2-3 product, it's no problem. Because Release 2.3 will read all of the files vou've created on previous versions of 1-2-3, including files you've formatted using Allways[™] and Impress. So you'll preserve all your work, as well as your training.

For more information about the new Release 2.3 or for upgrade details, call us today at 1-800-TRADE-UP, ext. 1112.

What's New In Lotus 1-2-3 Release 2.3.

- □ A WYSIWYG graphical environment with live on-screen formatting
- Lotus Magellan viewer technology for fast file previewing, retrieving and linking...all without leaving your active worksheet
- □ More graph types, including 3D-effect graphs and graph annotation capabilities
- Auto Compress, for a trouble-free way of making larger worksheets print on single page
- □ Dialog Boxes for an easier, more interactive way of working
- □ Text-editing for easy on-sheet word processing, including automatic word wrap, even around graphs
- □ The Auditor for documenting or highlighting your spreadsheet logic
- Improved memory management for building larger worksheets up to 12 MB in size
- New printer drivers that support all leading laser and dot-matrix printers
- Context-sensitive Help and an interactive tutorial



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Introducing the new It will create your next Not to mention



Automated Smart Features make it easier than ever to produce everything from simple word charts to impressive flow charts, diagrams and other business drawings.

Graphics for DOS offers get) environment where mouse you can do it all in record time.

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Freelance Graphics. presentation beautifully. automatically.

Now there's an even better version of Freelance® Plus, the award-winning graphics program praised by PC Magazine, PC World and Software Digest. It's so improved, in fact, we even changed its name. Introducing Freelance Graphics[™] 4.0. The best presentation graphics program for DOS.

For starters, we've added a graphical WYSIWYG environment. Which means you'll work with actual colors and fonts while creating your graphics. Plus,

you'll know what your output



For two consecutive years, Software Digest awarded Freelance Plus its highest-rating. Now with Freelance Graphics, we've made the best even better.

INTERNATIONAL PROFITS Record Sales Results



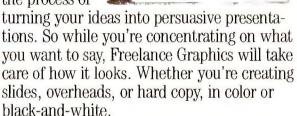
Only Freelance Graphics, with its unique automated Smart Features, can turn your rough ideas into a smooth presentation this easily.

will look like before you print.

And with the mouse you'll do it all from executing menu commands to moving a chart—in record time.

Yet what's really unique about the new Freelance Graphics is its *Smart Features*. Unlike other DOS graphics programs, its hard-working Smart Features automate

the process of



Here are a few of its *Smart Features*:

Portfolio, a built-in presentation manager, helps you organize and prepare your presentation; a Text Chart Outliner, complete with a spellchecker, creates stacks of text charts in seconds; Auto-charting makes weekly or monthly reporting a snap by printing hundreds of up-to-date charts with a single command; Smart Chart Update automatically recomposes a chart whenever the data changes... even if you've added annotations or symbols; and over 1,000 Pre-drawn Symbols and Design Backgrounds.

All of which means you can now create an incredibly impressive presentation. With incredible speed and ease.

The new Freelance Graphics. It could actually have you looking forward to your next presentation.

Upgrade to Freelance Graphics

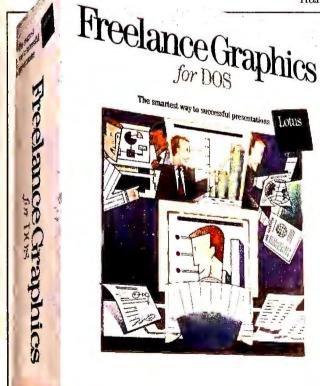
now and you won't just save time. You'll save money.

Right now we're offering—direct from Lotus—a price of just \$99.002 for anyone upgrading from an earlier version of Lotus Freelance or Graphwriter, or any other eligible³ graphics program, including Harvard Graphics.

Plus, you'll be covered by the Lotus Technology Guarantee. Which means a guaranteed price of just \$49.00 on our upcoming Freelance Graphics for Windows[™] product.

For information or to purchase your upgrade directly from Lotus, call us.4 Please have your credit card and eligible product package ready.

1-800-TRADE UP ext. 1100.



Developed by Symantec Corporation, especially for Freelance Graphics. 20ffer expires September 30, 1991, after which the Lotus direct upgrade price will be \$119. 3Eligible products for upgrade offer include all versions of the following products: Lotus

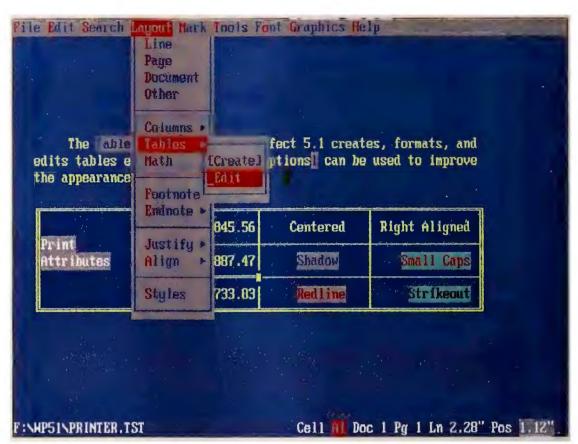
Freelance Plus or Graphwriter, Harvard Graphus, DrawPerfect, Applause II/Draw Applause, Graph Plus, Charisma, Microsoft Chart, Pixie, Gem Series, ChartMaster, Diagram Master, Freelance Graphus Upgrade also available at participating Lotus resellers

Freelance Graphics for DOS



With version 5.1's pulldown menus and mouse support, previously buried tools become more accessible. Improved ease of use is apparent in everything from editing, where the mouse supplements cumbersome block-marking commands, to complex formatting operations. Yet once new users get past the first layer of the optional pulldown menus, they may puzzle over the lessthan-intuitive dialog screens. Other annoyances: You can split the screen, but you can't load the same document into both parts. Also, WordPerfect still pushes text off the screen when you insert words, waiting until you move the cursor up or down before it reformats.

Bountiful formatting features include adjustable-width columns and graphics integration. Group workers will profit from top-notch redlining tools, plus a convenient tool for assembling long documents from individual files. WordPerfect is the only DOS-based package to offer both equation and table editors—the latter makes it easy to spice up imported spreadsheets with lines and shading. The program's custom keyboards aren't available in Word 5.5, and there's an excellent spell-



WordPerfect 5.1's pulldown menus make it far easier to access once-buried features. The new table editor lets you add shading and lines to imported spreadsheets and text tables.

ing checker. The extensive macro language, unlike *Word 5.5*'s, doesn't let you edit macros as text.

Thanks to its exhaustive feature set and superb technical support, *WordPerfect 5.1* is an excellent value. But *Word 5.5*'s simpler interface gives it the edge for most users.

Format Utilities Macro Insert Style Liturmal II Font ITimes Roman Helidarrow (modern k) Bookman (roman a) Times-Roman (roman i) entSchlik (momin 1) Fred Williamson Palating (reman k) Turchasing Agent Amalgamated Traps, Inc. 1234 First Street etropolis, CA 99111 ear Fred: I'm so pleased to hear about your firm's latest merger. equiring Traps 'R Us was a real coup for your firm and will offer you the retail exposure you've been seeking. I realize that there will be a period of uncertainty while you add etailing to your tool box, but I have every confidence that ou'll be as successful in this as you were when you merged. the Acme Spring Works into your organization. Microsoft Word (F1=Help) Edit document or press Alt to choose commands

Bringing Word for Windows interface innovations into the character-based world, Best Buy Word 5.5 makes font selection just a mouse click away.

WordStar 6.0

PROS: Fast editing, multipage preview, outliner, telecommunications and data management modules

CONS: Difficult formatting, no mouse support, weak macros, poor graphics integration

Like *MultiMate*, *WordStar 6.0* has its roots deep in the past. Unlike *Multi-Mate*, it's relatively up-to-date, and it's a possibility if your formatting needs are slim and you're looking for a fast editor. Overall, however, *WordStar*'s primitive formatting interface makes it only a fair value.

WordStar's popularity is based on editing speed, especially for touch typists who hate taking their hands off the home row—most cursor movements and commands can be given with <Ctrl>-key combinations. One nice touch for professional writers: With a single command, you can write a block of text directly into a new file without having to open a window.

New users will appreciate pulldown menus, but the lack of either mouse support or single-key menu commands is frustrating. Marking or formatting a block requires a command at the begin-

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pads, and slips of paper that littered my desk are gone ... I just put them into Agenda'.'

> -Grant Tipler, Manager, Corporate Banking, Head Office, The

Royal Bank of Canada

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President, Kessler-Ellis Products

"The two most important things in management are follow-up and follow-through. Agenda is essential for both" — Randy Fields, Chairman,

Mrs. Fields, Inc.

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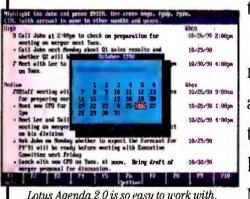
yourself what Agenda can do, send someone to the nearest software store to buy it. We're so sure you'll like it, we back it with a 30-day money-

back guarantee. Or, for a free demo disk,

call 1-800-842-8455, extension 929.

Finally, a word to everyone who read this ad all the way from the beginning.

Your ten minutes are about up. Get back to work.



you'll start getting better control of your professional life within 30 minutes.



Introducing New Lotus Agenda 2.0

ning and end of each block. The editing screen is cluttered with control characters and confusing dot commands, which are required for most formatting tasks. Style sheets are limited, and you can use only one style per file. The page preview, however, is the best in the character-based group, letting you display several pages at a time.

Printer support is excellent, as is footnoting, and the mail merge matches *Word for Windows'* for top billing. But *WordStar* has no table editor, line drawing, or programmable macros.

WordStar ships with a lot of extras, but they're poorly integrated—each module has its own interface and command structure. To integrate graphics, you must turn to a separate add-on product, and there are no graphics conversions. A capable single-user flat-file data manager is helpful in mail merge, but the external telecommunications module lacks a dialing directory.

Loyal *WordStar* users with 286 or 8088 hardware will profit from an upgrade to version 6.0, but for everyone

else, *Word 5.5* or *WordPerfect 5.1* makes more sense.

More Windows On the Horizon

How do you know if *Windows* makes sense for you? If everyone used *Windows 3.0* on a suitable platform, the answer would be simple. Most users who try *Ami Pro* or *Word for Windows* like what they see: Their documents look better, and complicated formatting jobs such as setting fonts go much faster.

Best Buy *Ami Pro* is ideal for most *Windows* users, especially those who work with graphics. *Word 5.5*'s easy new interface and powerful tools make it a Best Buy if you prefer (or are stuck with) plain old DOS.

Our two runners-up, Word for Windows and WordPerfect, came quite close to winning Best Buys. Word for Windows beats out Ami Pro if group editing and customization are crucial, and WordPerfect bests Word for users who need to integrate tables or organize long documents.

If you don't find your dream word

processor here, hot new packages are on the way. Soon after you read this, Word-Perfect for Windows should be shipping, as well as a Windows product from Symantec. Later this year, you can look for a Windows version of IBM's Signature. Based on XyWrite (and replacing DisplayWrite), the DOS-based Signature should be shipping when you read this. The latest trend is the spin-off: Software Publishing has weighed in with Professional Write Plus for Windows, which is based on Ami Pro, and WordStar for Windows will be shipping later this year.

George Campbell, who writes the column Words into Print, is a contributing editor for PC World.

For more information about all products in this article, circle reader service no. 902.

WHERE TO BUY

Ami Pro 1.2 Lotus Development Corp. Word Processing Division 5600 Glenridge Dr. #300 Atlanta, GA 30342 800/831-9679 LIST PRICE: \$495; \$199 for network nodes **REQUIREMENTS: AT or** compatible, 1MB RAM, DOS 3.1 or later version, hard disk, graphics, Windows 2.x or later version **TECHNICAL SUPPORT:** unlimited, toll number, M-F 8-7 OTHER SUPPORT: CompuServe, fax support, corporate extended support

Legacy 1.1NBI, Inc.
3375 Mitchell Ln.

Reader service no. 609

Boulder, CO 80301 800/624-1111 LIST PRICE: \$495 REQUIREMENTS: AT or compatible, 1MB RAM, DOS 3.2 or later version, hard disk, graphics, Windows 3.0 TECHNICAL SUPPORT: unlimited, toll-free, M–F 7–5 OTHER SUPPORT: CompuServe, fax support Reader service no. 610

P.O. Box 9001

Microsoft Word 5.5
Microsoft Corp.

One Microsoft Way Redmond, WA 98052-6399 800/426-9400 LIST PRICE: \$450, upgrade from 5.0 \$50 REQUIREMENTS: 384K RAM, DOS 2.0 or later version, two floppy drives or hard disk TECHNICAL SUPPORT: unlimited, toll number, M–F 6–6
OTHER SUPPORT: BBS, CompuServe, GEnie, corporate extended support

Reader service no. 611

Microsoft Word for Windows 1.1 LIST PRICE: \$495

REQUIREMENTS: AT or better, 1MB RAM, DOS 3.1 or later version, hard disk, graphics, Windows 3.0 TECHNICAL SUPPORT: unlimited, toll number, M–F 6–6 OTHER SUPPORT: BBS, CompuServe, GEnie, fax support, corporate extended support Reader service no. 612

MultiMate 4.0
Ashton-Tate Corp.
20101 Hamilton Ave.

Torrance, CA 90509-9972 800/227-4866 LIST PRICE: \$495 **REQUIREMENTS:** 384K RAM, DOS 3.1 or later version, hard disk **TECHNICAL SUPPORT:** unlimited, toll number, M-W, F 6-4:30, Th 6-4 OTHER SUPPORT: CompuServe, fax support Reader service no. 613

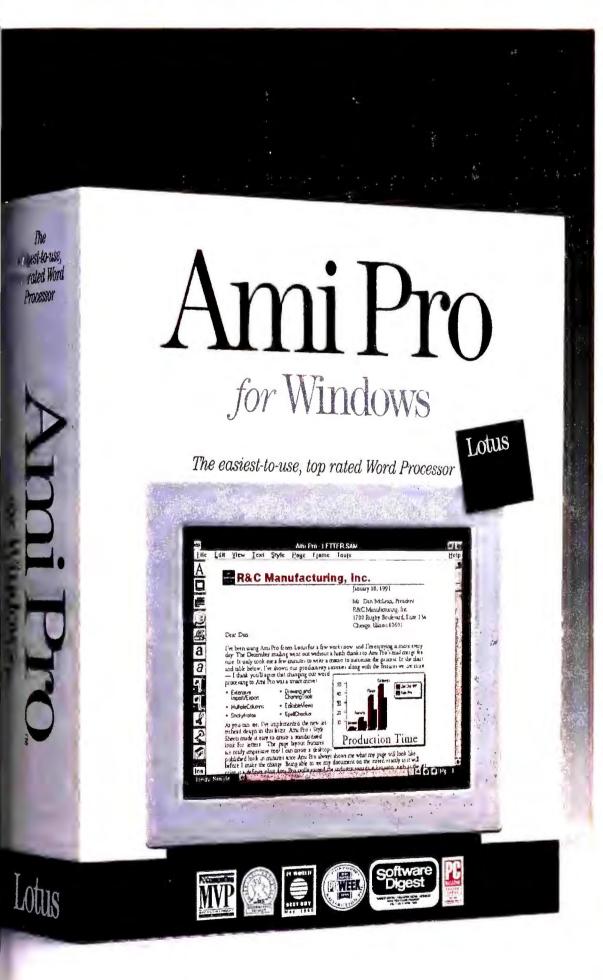
WordPerfect 5.1
WordPerfect Corp.
1555 N. Technology
Way
Orem, UT 84057
801/225-5000
LIST PRICE: \$495
REQUIREMENTS:
384K RAM, DOS 2.0
or later version, two
720K floppy drives or hard disk

TECHNICAL SUPPORT: unlimited, toll-free number, M–F 7–6 OTHER SUPPORT: BBS, CompuServe, fax support, corporate extended support Reader service no. 614

WordStar 6.0

WordStar Int'l 201 Alameda del Prado Novato, CA 94949 800/227-5609 LIST PRICE: \$495 REQUIREMENTS: 384K RAM, DOS 2.0 or later version, two floppy drives or hard disk **TECHNICAL SUPPORT:** unlimited, toll number, M-F7-4OTHER SUPPORT: CompuServe, fax support, corporate extended support Reader service no. 615

Pickawinner.



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from Lotus just once and you'll see why its the only word processor for Windows™ that's winning it all

...praise from experts and raves from users.

Designed to take full advantage of the Windows™ environment, Ami Pro combines power word processing with the power to create professional documents. And with its icons and interactive features, it's incredibly easy to learn and use.

No wonder Ami Pro has received top ratings from virtually all the industry experts, winning such coveted awards as PC World's Best Buy, The Buyer's Assurance Seal from InfoWorld and PC Magazine's Editor's Choice.

But that's not all. In a recent independent survey* users ranked Ami Pro "Best Overall" at a rate of more than two to one over

| Indep | endent User Si | urvey For Win | dens. |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Word Processing Features | Ami Pro for Windows | Word for Windows | WordPerfect for DOS |
| Best Overall | 50% | 22% | 16% |
| Ease of Learning | 47% | 28% | 8% |
| Ease of Use | 52 % | 23% | 8% |

Word for Windows and WordPerfect* for DOS.

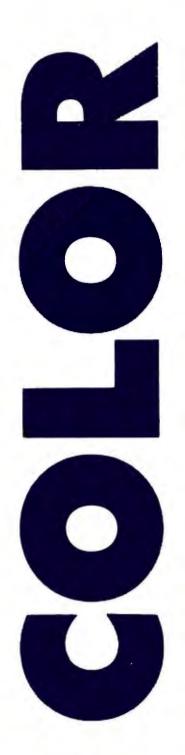
If you're ready to see first-hand what word processing for Windows is all about, call our toll free number, for a free working model of Ami Pro. Then go ahead and pick a winner.

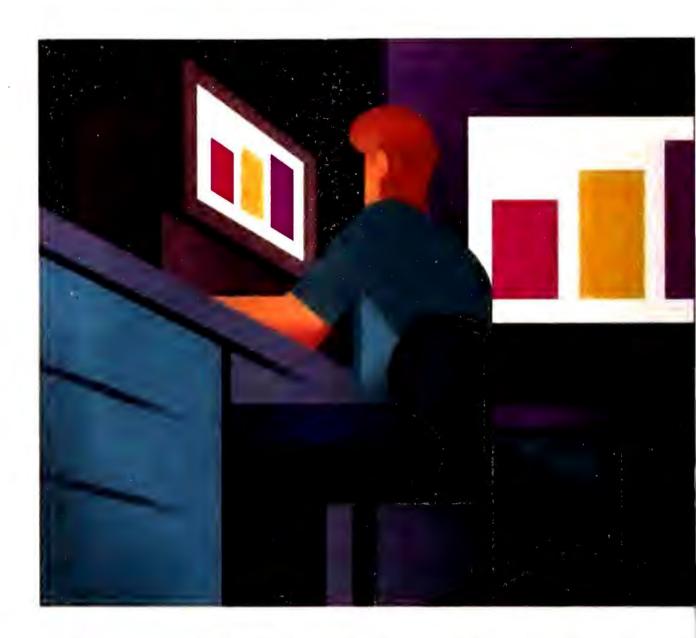
Call 1-800-831-9679 (In Canada 1-800-668-1509.)

Ami Pro for Windows from Lotus*

Word Processing Division, 5600 Glenridge Drive, Atlanta, GA 30342, 404-851-0007/1-800-831-9679

*Independently conducted Windows word processing Usage & Attitude Study, November, 1990. Figures cited are among Word for Windows users that are also users or triers of Ami Pro.





PERIPHERALS

Isn't it time you showed your true colors? Take your pick of over 100 color scanners, plotters, printers, and film recorders, and produce unforgettable documents and presentations.



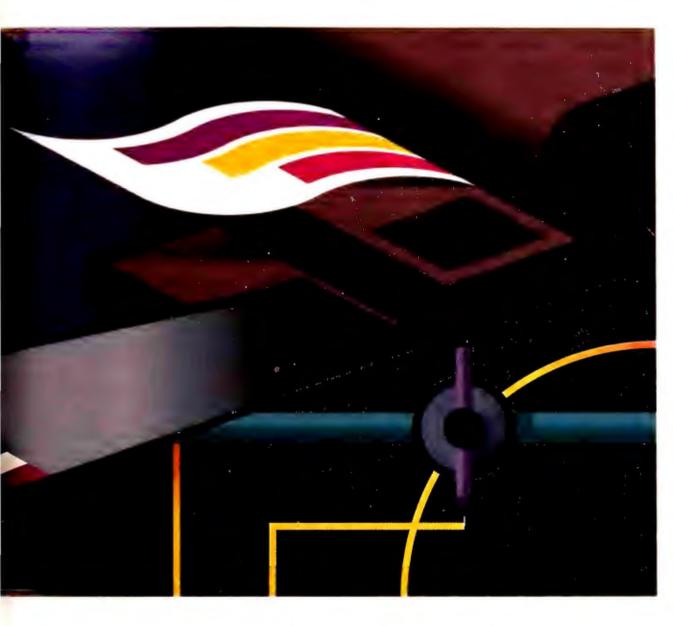
Climbing the ladder of success sometimes means showing off your fancy footwork in public. Whether you need pie charts for a weekly sales report, overhead transparencies for a board meeting, or state-of-the-art 35mm

slides to wow a big audience, color output gives you a leg up on the competition. Your information is easier to understand, your presentation more memorable.

The cost of color input and output devices has dropped low enough to make them viable presentation tools. Affordable color is here now—and savvy business users will be colorizing their presentations faster than you can say Ted Turner.

RON CHAN

Bob Weibel and Daniel Tynan



To help you move from the shadows of PC noir into the wonderful world of color, we've put together this comprehensive guide to color scanners, printers, plotters, and 35mm slide recorders—from \$300 dot matrix models to \$10,000 film machines. Along the way we'll discuss how you can use color, what features to look for, and some of the hidden costs.

LIGHTS, COLOR, ACTION

The kind of color devices you buy depends on what you want to produce and how much you want to spend. For simplicity's sake, we've divided the common uses of PC color into primary business applications (in-house documents and professional presentations) and secondary uses (proofing and technical printing).

In-House Documents A little color can go a long way toward making the sales figures in a printed pie chart crystal clear or sparking up a report or newsletter. If your documents and presentations are meant for in-house use, you don't need top-of-the-line colors or graphics capabilities, so you don't need to spend a lot of money. Dot matrix and ink jet printers and low-cost plotters give you spot-color printouts and transparencies for \$300 to \$3000.

Pro Presentations Short of mass hypnosis, the most effective way to mesmerize an audience is to make your pitch in color. Low-resolution text and graphics look scraggly and crude when projected as 35mm slides or overhead transparencies. Presentation Svengalis need the smoothest possible output and are willing to spend more to get it. For around \$2000, a color scanner lets you capture photographicquality images, add text and graphics, and use the enhanced images in 35mm slide shows. When there's a call to print full-color transparencies—or color flip charts for one-on-one presentations—smart users turn to 300-dot-per-inch (dpi) thermal wax printers, which start at around \$5000.

proofing Somewhere in your organization, someone is designing sales brochures, product packaging, or marketing hit pieces. PostScript-based thermal wax printers let you look at a *proof*, or full-color sample, of the design before giving the OK for final production. You'll save money by making corrections in-house instead of at the print shop, and you'll be happier with the final product.

Technical Printing Engineers and architects need color for creating complex schematics and diagrams but require greater precision and larger paper formats than the

average business user. Color plotters deliver both. But for sophisticated tasks like thermal analyses and 3-D modeling, you'll need the broader spectrum of colors offered by thermal wax devices.

ADVENTURES IN THE SCAN TRADE

Clip art and computer-generated charts are great cures for business users suffering from art failure. But sometimes presentations demand real-world images, such as photos of your company's products or personnel, and for that you'll need a color scanner. Our table lists 24 models—hand-held units, desktop machines, and 35mm slide scanners.

Remember, at this price level, scanned images can't match the quality of the original. To gauge quality, look at specs like maximum resolution (page scanners range from 75 dpi to 900 dpi, with 300 dpi being typical) and the number of colors you can capture (from a scant 64 per image to a full 16,777,216). More important, try a hands-on investigation. Use the scanner's software to zoom in and examine scanned images pixel by pixel. The images should be free of flaws, with different color dots properly aligned along the edge. Consistency is key: If the colors for the same image vary from scan to scan, you may have to spend a lot of time futzing with images to get them right.

Color-image files can be monstrous—as big as 30MB for a full-color page at 300 dpi—but you can decrease file size by scaling down the resolution. (For example, 72 dpi is fine for on-screen display and most print jobs.) Look for flexible resolution controls and a good set of image editing tools—preferably *Windows* based for easy file transfer. The software must save images in a format your applications can

| | | | Resolution (dpi) | Maximum colors | | | FILE FO | ORMATS ORTED | | | Reader service number |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Aanufacturer | Product | Price | | | Maximum scan size (inches) | Window based image editor | Color TIFF | PCX | EPS | Warranty | |
| HAND-HELD A4TECH | A4Color Scanner | \$699 | 90-270 | 256 | 7.5 x 5.5 | N | Υ- | Y | N | 1 year | 707 |
| DFI | CHS-4000 | \$695 | 100-400 | 64 | 4 x 201 | N | Y | Y | N | 1 year | 708 |
| KYE INT'L | GS-C105 Plus | \$799 | 100-400 | 4096 | 8.5 x 141 | Υ | Y | Υ | Υ | 1 year | 709 |
| MARSTEK | ColorArtist | \$695 | 50-200 | 262,144 | 8.5 x 111 | Υ | Y | Y | N | 1 year | 710 |
| MOUSE SYSTEMS | Pagebrush/Color/PC | \$799 | 100-400 | 4096 | 8.5 x 111 | Υ | Υ | Υ | N | 2 years | 710 |
| NCL AMERICA | Clearscan Color | \$695 | 100-400 | 4096 | 8.5 x 14 ¹ | N | Υ | Y | N | 1 year | 712 |
| DESKTOP AVR | AVR 3000/CL Plus | \$2590 | 12-300 | 16.8M | 8.5 x 14 | Y | Υ | N. | Y | 1 year | 713 |
| CHINON AMERICA | DS-3000 ² | \$995 | 75 | 4096 | 8.5 x 11 | Υ | Υ | Y | N | 1 year | 714 |
| EPSON AMERICA | Epson ES-300C | \$2494 | 50-600 | 16.8M | 8.5 x 11.7 | ~-Y | Y | Υ | Y | 1 year | 715 |
| HOWTEK | Personal Color Scanner | \$2295 \$8195 | 50-300 75-400 | 16.8M. | 8.5 x 14 | Y | Y | Y | N | 1 year | 716 |
| MICROTEK LAB | Scanmaster 3 MSF-300Z ScanMaker 600Z | \$2695 \$1995 | 75–300 75–600 | 16.8M 16.8M | 11.7×17 8.5×14 8.5×14 | Y | Y - | Y | Y | 90 days | 716 |
| NISCA | Spectra for the PC ³ | \$899 | 50-400 | 16.8M | 4×6 | Y | Y | Y | Y | 1 year | 718 |
| OBM | ProScan PS-3000 | \$9954 | 75-300 | 16.8M | 8.5 x 14 | Y | . Y. | N' | Y | 1 year | 719 |
| SHARP ELECTRONICS | JX-100 ³ JX-300 JX-450 | \$995 \$2345 \$5995 | 200 75–300 75–300 | 262,144 16.8M 16.8M | 4×6 8.5×11 11×17 ⁵ | N Y Y | Y Y Y | Y Y Y | 777 | 90 days 90 days 90 days | 720 720 720 |
| UMAX | UC300 | \$2495 | 1-300 | 16.8M | 8.5 x 14 | Y | Y | Y | Y | 1 year | 721 |
| XRS | OmniMedia 3c ⁶ | \$4500 | 75-300 | 16.8M | 8.5 x 14 | Υ | Y | Υ | Ÿ | l year | 722 |
| 35mm SLIDE SCAN BARNEYSCAN | INERS CIS-3515 | \$4495 | 1000 | 16.8M | 35mm | N, | Y | Y | Υ | 90 days | 723 |
| HOWTEK | Scanmaster 35 Plus | \$5795 | 13337 | 16.8M | 35mm | Y | Y | Y | N | 90 days | 724 |
| MICROTEK LAB | ScanMaker 1850 | \$2995 | 462-1850 | 16.8M | 35mm | Y | Y | Y | Y | 1 year | 725 |
| NIKON, INC. | LS-3500 | \$10,495 | 44008 | 16.8M | 35mm | Y | Y | Y | N | 1 year | 726 |

For more information about all products in this table, circle reader service no. 908.

accept, such as TIFF or PCX, or EPS if you plan to output scans directly to a PostScript device. Finally, consider the size and type of originals the unit can handle, especially if you scan glossy photos or transparencies.

Hand-Held Scanners

A hand scanner is like a Dustbuster—it's good for small jobs in tight corners, but you wouldn't want to do a whole room with one. At \$700 to \$1000, a hand-held scanner is the cheapest way to capture color images, good for onscreen slide shows. But hand scanners are limited in the number of colors and size of image they can capture, and they require a slow and steady hand for properly aligned images. If the image is wider than the scan head (typically $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 inches), you'll have to make two or more passes and stitch the image together via software. Look for models that let you scan full-size images and adjust resolution in increments of 50 dpi or less.

Desktop Scanners

If your presentations demand a steady diet of scanned images, do yourself a favor and fork out \$2000 or more for a full-page 300-dpi scanner. Desktop scanners present none of the alignment problems of hand-held units—just place the image on the glass, like on a photocopier—and they usually handle originals up to 8½ by 14 inches. Most also let you capture 8-bit (256 colors or gray shades) and 24-bit (16.8 million colors) images.

Do you really need 16 million colors? In most cases, the answer is no. Unless you have an expensive ·24-bit video board, you won't be able to see more than 256 colors on screen. The difference comes when you want to create 35mm slides: 24-bit color helps to create smooth gradients

(where one shade blends gradually into another) and simulate continuous color tones.

Look for scanner software that lets you specify resolution in fine increments (from 1 to 15 dpi) to fit your output device. Finally, since the unit will be sharing your desktop, consider factors like size, noise of operation, and how easy it is to place bulky items like books on the scanner.

35mm Slide Scanners

Simply put, slide scanners take digitized photos of 35mm slides, which are generally of higher quality than photographs. At \$3000 to \$10,000,

they'll burn a bigger hole in your budget than most fullpage scanners, but they produce more accurate colors. If you need to import images from an existing slide library or scan the highest-quality originals, slide scanners are a good investment. All the models listed in the table capture 24-bit images, and most come with powerful Windowsbased image editors. Look for a scanner that lets you select resolution and final image size from a quick preview scan and that doesn't require a special add-on board or monitor.

HUES YOU CAN USE

It's no good dressing up your color images if they've got nowhere to go. You need a color output device that gives you the right quality for the job, whether it's a down-and-dirty office newsletter or a high-powered presentation. Fortunately, you're not hurting for options. We've selected 46 machines—including dot matrix, ink jet, and thermal wax units—that let you print all the colors of the rainbow.

The key to buying a color printer is finding the right balance between output quality and cost. Quality varies depending on the device's resolution and color range and the

COLOR OUTPUT: THE PROOF IS IN THE PRINTING

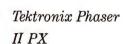






Epson LQ-2550







Compared to 2400-dpi Linotronic output (left), dot matrix and ink jet units create coarse images with visible interference patterns; thermals produce smoother color gradations.

type of media it prints on. Examine output samples printed on the kind of paper or film you plan to use. Top-notch color units produce smooth color gradients, solid colors free from banding (horizontal or vertical streaks), and minimal moiré effects (interference patterns that appear when color dots overlap at odd angles).

Besides the initial purchase price, give thought to cost per page. You should also consider paper types and sizes, built-in fonts, and the ability to add typefaces via downloading or cartridges. Speed is less of a consideration; at this price range, all color devices are slow. If you want to print more than a handful of color pages, you'll save time by printing out one original and using a color copier to produce the rest.

Finally, be prepared for some surprises at print time. Some screen colors can't be reproduced by printers—and vice versa—and colors vary depending on the monitor and printer. At press time Hewlett-Packard announced a Windows 3.0 driver for its PaintJet printer that matches screen and page colors, but industrywide color standards are probably at least a year away.

Dot Matrix

Color printing just doesn't get any cheaper than with dot matrix printers, which run from \$300 to \$2700 per unit and cost you less than a penny per page. Many (such as Citizen's \$499 GSX-140) are simply monochrome printers with a color upgrade kit—plug-in circuitry and a multicolored ribbon (typically red, yellow, blue, and black). The printer combines these colors to produce seven solid shades. though software drivers can simulate more by dithering (alternating colored dots).

Dot matrix units handle almost any kind of paper, but quality suffers with large blocks of solid shades; full-page graphics and transparencies are not recommended. Your typeface options are also limited, though some printers offer 80K or more RAM for downloaded fonts. Look for units that offer color dithering and print at a full 360 dpi for cleaner text and graphics.

Ink Jet

At \$1400 to \$2500 a pop, liquid ink jet printers cost more than most dot matrix units, but they deliver better quality. Most provide a color range comparable to that of pricey thermal transfer printers, though colors are less vivid. Still, they might be your best choice for paper handouts and reports—at 10 to 30 cents per page, they're far cheaper than thermals.

Ink jet printers can handle full-page graphics, if you're willing to wait 1½ to 4 minutes per page. You can use standard photocopier stock, but on paper with a high cotton content (such as quality letterhead), the ink tends to spread as it dries, producing fuzzy-looking text. Most vendors recommend specially coated stock to

PLOTTER CHARTS AS EASY AS PIE

Payroll Projects Payroll 21% Debt Service 6%

Landau Associates

Color pen plotters such as HP's 7550 Plus can generate sharp-looking overheads with just a handful of colors.

COLOR PRINTERS



EMULATIONS

| Manufacturer | Product | Price | RAM (standard/ maximum) | Rated speed | Resolution (dpi) | Maximum colors | PostScript | HP-GL | Resident typefaces |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|---|--|---|-------------------------|---|-------------|-----------------------|
| DOT MATRIX | | | | 4 | | | | 10. | |
| ALPS AMERICA | ALQ224/gx | \$7993 | 23K/256K | 336 cps | 360 | 7 | N | 'N. | 1 |
| CITIZEN AMERICA CORP. | GSX-145 GSX-140 200GX HSP-500 HSP-550 | \$649 \$499 \$299 \$499 \$699 | 8K/40K 8K/40K 8K/40K 8K/40K 8K/40K | 192 cps 192 cps 213 cps 300 cps 300 cps | 360 360 240 ⁶ 240 ⁶ 240 ⁶ | 7 7 7 7 | 7 | 22222 | 6 6 5 4 4 |
| C-TECH ELECTRONICS | ProWriter C-610C+ ProWriter C-715A | \$859 \$1499 | 32K/32K 32K/32K | 240 cps 300 cps | 360 ⁷ 360 ⁷ | 7 | N N | N. | 2 2 |
| EPSON AMERICA | Epson LQ-860 Epson LQ-2550 | \$949 \$1499 | 6K/38K 8K/40K | 300 cps 500 cps | 360 360 | 7 7 | 77 | N N | 5 9 |
| GENICOM | 3410XCQ 1040 | \$2704 \$1924 | 2K/2K 56K/56K | 400 cps 360 cps | 144 360 | 7 7 | Z Z | ZZ | 2 |
| NEC TECHNOLOGIES, INC. | Pinwriter P9300 Pinwriter P6200 Pinwriter 6300 | \$1395 \$749 \$999 | 80K/80K 80K/80K 80K/80K | 400 cps 300 cps 300 cps | 360 360 360 | 7 7 7 | 222 | 222 | 8 8 8 |
| OKIDATA | Microline 393c+ | \$1599 | 23K/40K | , 520 cps | 360 | 7 | N. | N_ | 4 |
| STAR MICRONICS AMERICA | XR-1500 Multi-Font XR-1000 Multi-Font NX-1020 Rainbow XB-2415 Multi-Font XB-2410 Multi-Font NX-2420 Rainbow | \$699 \$499 \$329 \$899 \$699 \$499 | 32K/160K 32K/160K 16K/16K 41K/201K 27K/59K 30K/62K | 300 cps 300 cps 225 cps 240 cps 240 cps 250 cps | 240 ⁶ 240 ⁶ 240 ⁶ 360 360 360 | 7 7 7 7 7 | 22222 | 22222 | 9 6 17- 17 |
| INK JET | P. | | 1, 3. | = 1 | - | 1 | | MG-EAR W | · += 27 % |
| DIGITAL EQUIPMENT CORP. | LJ 252 | \$1549 | 2K/2K | 167 cps | 180 | 255 | N | ·N |) |
| EASTMAN KODAK | Diconix Colar 4 | \$1495 | 64K/64K | 150 cps | 192 | 330 | N | N | 3 |
| HEWLETT-PACKARD | HP PaintJet HP PaintJet XL | \$1395 \$2495 | 5K/8K 189K/189K | 167 cps 167 cps | 180 180 | 16.8M 16.8M | 77. | 22 | 3 |
| SHARP ELECTRONICS | JX-730 | \$2195 | 19K/19K | 1/2 ppm | 180 | 16.8M | N | N | 1 |
| TEKTRONIX | Colorquick | \$2345 | 128K/128K | 1/2 ppm | 216 | 16.8M | N | e M | 1 |
| THERMAL WAX CALCOMP | ColorMaster ColorMaster Plus 6603 ColorMaster Plus 6613 | \$2999 \$6995 \$9995 | 1.5MB/1.5MB 6MB/6MB 10MB/10MB | l ppm l ppm l ppm | 200 300 300 | 16.8M 16.8M 16.8M | N Y Y | Y Y Y | 2 39 39 |
| GENERAL PARAMETRICS | Spectra-Star 410 Spectra-Star 420 Spectra-Star 430 | \$5995 \$6595 \$7995 | 1MB/1MB 4MB/4MB 6MB/6MB | l ppm l ppm l ppm | 300 300 300 | 16.8M 16.8M 16.8M | Υ10 Υ10 Υ | Y Y | 35/0 35/0 35 |
| MITSUBISHI ELECTRONICS AMERICA | G650-10 G370-10 | \$6995 \$5495 | OMB/OMB 1MB/1MB | 1 ppm 1 ppm | 300 300 | 262,000 262,000 | ZZ | ZZ | 2111 |
| NEC TECHNOLOGIES | Colormate PS 80 Colormate PS 40 | \$8995 \$6995 | 8MB/8MB 4MB/8MB | 3 ppm 3 ppm | 300 300 | 16.8M 16.8M | Y | ZZ | 35 17 |
| OCE GRAPHIC | G524I-PS | \$8990 | 5MB/8MB | 1 ppm | 300 | 16.8M | Υ | N | 35 |
| PANASONIC | EPL-8543 | \$7995 | 3MB/3MB | ²/₃ ppm | 203 | 226,000 | A15 | JY. | 3512 |
| QMS -: | ColorScript Model 10 | \$8995 | 5MB/8MB | 1 ppm | 300 | 16.8M | Y | Y12 | 35 |
| SEIKO INSTRUMENTS USA | ColorPoint PS 14 ColorPoint PS 4 | \$9999 \$6999 | OMB/34MB 6MB/34MB | 1 ppm 1 ppm | 300 | 16.8M 16.8M | Y | N N | 39 39 |
| TEKTRONIX | Phaser II PX Phaser II SX | \$7995 \$4995 | 6MB/10MB 1MB/5MB | I ppm I ppm | 300 300 | 11.39M 11.39M | Y Y12 | YN | 35 3512 |
| XEROX-VERSATEC | Versacolor | \$8995 | 16K/16K | 2/3 ppm | 300 | 250,000 | Y12 | N | 35 12 |

¹ A = 8.5" x 11" and 8.5" x 14", B = 11" x 17", C = \(\frac{1}{2} \) 8" x 24"; ISO and DIN sizes not listed.
2 P = parallel, S = serial.
3 Wide-carriage madel \$999.
4 Accepts continuous-form paper anly.

For more information about all products in this table, circle reader service no. 911.

reduce ink saturation.

Ink jets will print transparencies, but due to their lower resolutions (180 to 216 dpi), projected text may appear jaggy, and colors aren't as dense as with thermals. (At press time, HP announced brighter inks for its PaintJet line.) Look for models that offer 24-bit color output for smoother gradients. Since resident typefaces are minimal, you'll want a unit that accepts downloaded fonts.

Thermal Wax

Thermals produce sharper text and brighter colors than liquid ink jets, but they will cost you. For printing color transparencies and glossypaper flip charts, they can't be beat; just don't try to use plain paper stock.

Two years ago, thermal printers cost \$10,000 or more; now you can buy models like Tektronix's Phaser II SX for \$4995. Because thermals use

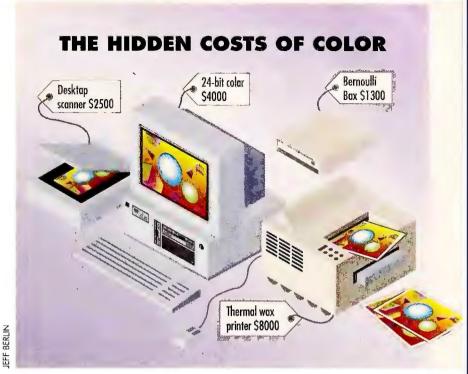
⁵ Serial port costs extra.
6 240 by 216 resalution.
7 360 by 180 resolution.
8 On-site service options

| Accepts font cartridge/ downloaded fonts | Prints transpar- encies | Maximum paper capacity | Media sizes ¹ | Ports ² | Warranty | Reader service number |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| */Y | Υ | 100 | Α | P,S | 1 year | 743 |
| N/Y | Y | n/a ⁴ | A | P,S5 | 2 years | 744 |
| N/Y N/Y | Y | n/a ⁴ n/a ⁴ | A A | P,S5 P,S5 | 2 years 2 years | 744 744 |
| N/Y | N | n/a4 | Α | PS5 | 2 years | 744 |
| N/Y | Y | n/a ⁴ | A | P,S ⁵ | 2 years | 744 |
| Y/Y | Y | 100 | A A,B | P,S P,S | 2 years 2 years | 745 745 |
| Y/Y Y/Y | N | 185 185 | A | P,S P,S | 2 years 1 year | 746 746 |
| N/N | N | 200 | A | P,S | 1 year | 747 |
| Y/Y | N | 150 | À | P,S | 1 year | 747 |
| Y/N | Y | 360 | A,B | P,S5 | l year | 748 |
| Y/N Y/N | Y | 360 360 | A,B A,B | P,S5 P,S5 | l year l year | 748 748 |
| Y/Y | Υ | 170 | A,B | P,S , | 1 year ··· | 749 |
| N/Y | N | 120 | A,B | P,S5 | 2 years | 750 |
| N/Y | N | 120 | A,B | P,S5 | 2 years | 750 |
| N/Y Y/Y | N | 120 120 | A,B A,B | P,S5 P,S5 | 2 years 2 years | 750 750 |
| Y/Y | Y | 120 | A,B | P,S5 | 2 years | 750 |
| Y/Y | N | 120 | A,B | P,S5 | 2 years | 750 |
| N/N | Υ | n/a ⁴ | Α | P,S5 | 1 year | 751 |
| N/Y | Y | 60 | A | P | 1 year | 752 |
| N/N Y/Y | Y | n/q ⁴ 200 | A A,B | P,S P,S | l year l year | 753 753 |
| N/N | Y | 100 | A,B | P P | 90 days | 754 |
| N/N | Y | 100 | A,B | . P | 90 days ⁸ | 755 |
| 14/14 | | 100 | 74,0 | | 70 ddys | /33 |
| N/Y | Υ | 100 | Α | P,S | 90 days | 756 |
| N/Y | Y | 100 | A | P,S P,S | 1 year ⁹ | 756 |
| N/Y | Y | 100 | A,B | P,S | 1 year ⁹ | 756 |
| N/Y N/Y | Y | 100 100 | A | P,S P,S | 90 days ⁹ 90 days ⁹ | 757 757 |
| N/Y | Υ | 100 | A | P,S · | 90 days9 | 757 |
| N/N N/N | Y | 100 100 | A,B A | P P | 6 months | 758 758 |
| N/Y | Y | 100 | A | P,S | 1 year | 759 |
| N/Y | Υ | 100 | A | P,S | 1 year | 759 |
| N/Y | Y | 100 | Α | P,S | l year | 760 |
| N/Y | Y | 100 | A | P | 1 year | 761 |
| N/Y | Y | 100 | A | P,S | 1 year | 762 |
| N/Y N/Y | Y | 80 ⁴ 145 ⁴ | A,B A | P,S P,S | 90 days ⁹ 90 days ⁹ | 763 763 |
| N/Y | Y | 100 | A | P.S | 1 year ⁸ | 764 |
| N/N | Υ | 100 | A | P,S | 1 year ⁸ | 764 |
| N/N | Υ | 250 | A | P | 90 days | 765 |

specially coated paper and an expensive Mylar film coated with colored wax, their colors are richer than ink jets', but the cost per page is exorbitant—from 40 cents to \$1.50. A full page of graphics prints

in 1 to 2 minutes, and colors are usually smooth and vivid.

Most thermal units are PostScript printers, providing 35 or more scalable typefaces and top graphics capabilities. Others come with software-



Moving into color is hardly a black-and-white proposition—how much you spend depends on the kind of jobs you need to do. If you need to edit full-color (24-bit) images or maintain a large image data base, you'll need a color system similar to the one shown above—a 386 with a \$4000 24-bit color video board and monitor, \$2500 desktop scanner, and \$8000 thermal wax printer, plus a \$1300 Bernoulli Box for storing and transporting large image files.

based PostScript interpreters like Freedom of Press—a cheaper but slower option. If you plan to print the final document on a high-resolution PostScript device such as a 1270-dpi Linotronic, you'll want a PostScript thermal printer to ensure accurate proofs. You'll also want at least 6MB of printer RAM for handling large images and downloaded fonts, plus the ability to print 24-bit color at a full 300 dpi for smooth color blends and crisp text. Some printers also let you reduce moiré patterns via software for fine-tuning full-page graphics.

THE PLOTS THICKEN

Color pen plotters are literally robots that draw on paper with an array of colored pens. Though employed primarily for complex technical diagrams, any of the 33 plotters in our table can also produce high-quality text and simple charts.

A plotter's color options typically depend on the num-

ber of pens it can hold (usually eight). That's not enough for sophisticated images but is sufficient for many pie and bar charts. Since plotters don't come with built-in typefaces -and use their RAM for storing pages, not downloading fonts—you must specify fonts via software such as Harvard Graphics. Plotters draw text characters as if they were simple graphics, but they do so more smoothly than most 300dpi printers, making them a fine choice for creating simple overheads.

The key to plotters is precision: The machine must be able to return to the exact point in a drawing where it started (repeatability) and draw lines of precise length (accuracy). Repeatability and accuracy measurements indicate relative margins of error—for example, a plotter with a .05mm accuracy rating might draw 10mm lines at 10.05mm. Resolution is also crucial—plotters that let you use (or address) smaller line seg-

COLOR PEN PLOTTERS



| Manufacturer | Product | Price | RAM (standard/ maximum) | Number af pens | Repeat- ability (mm/sec.) | Accuracy (mm) | Maximum accel- eratian ¹ | Resalutia (address- able, in mm) | | Warranty | Reader service number |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| CALCOMP | Artisan Plus 1026M | \$7995 | 1MB/3MB | 8 | .127 | .25 | 2.8 | .0125 | A-E | 1 year | 733 |
| HEWLETT- PACKARD | HP CalarPra HP 7475A HP DraftPra HP 7550 Plus HP DraftPra DXL | \$1495 \$1995 \$3995 \$3995 \$4995 | 60K/1MB 1MB/1MB 7.2K/7.2K 32K/2MB 31K/2MB | 8 6 8 8 8 | .1 .1 .1 .1 .1 .1 | n/a ³ n/a ³ .05 n/a ³ .5 | 1.2 2 2.8 6 2.8 | .025 .025 .025 .025 .025 | A A,C C,D A,C A-D | l year l year l year l year l year | 734 734 734 734 734 |
| HOUSTON INSTRUMENT | HI Image Maker DMP-52 DMP-52 MP DMP-61 DMP-62 | \$1195 \$3295 \$3895 \$3995 \$5300 | 1K/5K 1K/7K 1K/7K 16K/1MB 16K/1MB | 8 1 14 8 8 | .1 .05 .05 .05 | .1 .25 .25 .254 .254 | n/o ³ 5.65 5.65 5.65 2.8 | .025 .025 .025 .025 .025 | A,C,D A,C,D A-D A-F | 1 year 90 days 90 days 1 year 1 year | 735 735 735 735 735 |
| IOLINE CORP. | laline LP3500 laline LP3700 laline LP4000 loline Signature 5000 | \$2995 \$4195 \$4995 \$5995 | 14K/14K 14K/14K 4K/4K 25K/25K | 1 8 8 10 | .025 .025 .025 .025 | .063 .063 .025 .025 | .8 .8 2 3 | .025 .025 .025 .025 | A-D A-E A-E A-E | l year l year l year l year | 736 736 736 736 |
| JAPAN DIGITAL LABORATORY | JDL AutaPlotter XP JDL OmniPlatter | \$3495 \$6690 | 1.5MB/ 2.5MB 2MB/6MB | 15/20 ⁴ | .075 | .075 .075 | n/a n/a | .025 | A-C A-D | 90 days. 180 days | 737 |
| MUTOH AMERICA | iP530A iP530AL F-920A | \$4800 \$6300 \$8900 | 1MB/1MB 1MB/1MB 1MB/1MB | 8 8 86 | .001 .001 .1 | .1% ⁵ .1% ⁵ .1% ⁵ | 2.1 2.1 5.7 | .025 .025 .01 | A-D A-E A-E | l year l year l year | 738 738 738 |
| OCÉ GRAPHIC | G1022 G1824-C G1835-C | \$1190 \$4990 \$6990 | 4K/4K 1MB/1MB 1MB/1MB | 6 8 8 | .150 : * .1 .1 | .3% ⁵ .25 .25 | 2 3 6 | .025 .01 .01 | A, B A-E A-E | l year l year l year | 739 739 |
| ROLAND DIGITAL GROUP | SketchMate DXY-1300 GRX-300AR DPX-2500 | \$695 \$1995 \$4495 \$4995 | 5K/5K 1MB/1MB 1MB/1MB 1MB/1MB | 8 8 8 | n/a ³ .1 .1 .05 | n/a ³ . 1 . 1 . 1 | n/a ³ 3 3 3 | .025 .025 .025 .025 | A A-C A-D A-C | l year l year l year l year | 740 740 740 740 |
| UNITED INNOVATIONS | Mural Flatbed Platter | \$2195 | 24K/88K | 8 | .025 | .1%5 | 1 | .025 | A-Q_ | I year | 741 |
| ZETA GRAPHICS | ZETA 600 ZETA 912is ZETA 650 ZETA 924is ZETA 675 | \$4395 \$4450 \$6395 \$6450 \$7195 | 40K/1MB 18K/18K 40K/1MB 18K/18K 40K/1MB | 8 8 8 8 | .2 .1 .2 .1 | .01 .025 .01 .025 .01 | 4.2 3 4.2 3 4.2 | .0025 .0025 .0025 .0025 | A-E A,B A-E A-D A-E | 90 days 90 days 90 days 90 days 90 days | 742 742 742 742 742 |

For more information about all the products in this table, circle reader service no. 910.

DESKTOP SLIDE RECORDERS



| APPLICATION | CHIDDA |
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|----------------------------|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| Product | Price | Instant camera | Maximum resolv- tion (lines) | af CRT | Resident fonts (bit- mapped/ scalable) | Post- Script campat- ible | Win- daws 3.0 | Harvard Graphics | Lotus Free- lance | Color | PCX | Warranty | Reader service number |
| PraColor Film Recarder | \$5495 | \$1095 | 4096 | 7 | 4/4 | Y | Υ | Υ | Ŷ | Ý | Y, | 90 days | 727 |
| Calarfast | \$5999 | included | 4096 | 3.5 | 2/2 | N | Y | Υ | Y | Y | N | 2 years | 728 |
| LFR | \$8950 | \$1495 | 4000 | 6 | 8/1 | Y | Y | Y | Y2 | Y2 | Y2 | 90 days | 729 |
| Rubens/XLT FR-900 | \$9995 | \$850 | 2048 x 1376 ³ | 7 | 0/04 | N | N | N | N | Y | N | 90 days | 730 |
| Digital Palette CI-5000 | \$5995 | included | 4096 | 3.25 | 0/9 | N ₅ | . Y | γ2 | Y | Y2_ | Υ2 | 2 years | 731 |
| Screen Star Mantage FR1 | \$3995 \$6995 | \$495 \$895 | 2000 4000 | 3.5 3 | 0/0 ⁴ 8/8 | Y | Y | Y Y | Y | Y | YN | 1 year 1 year | 732 732 |
| | PraColor Film Recarder Calarfast LFR Rubens/XLT FR-900 Digital Palette CI-5000 Screen Star | PraColor Film Recarder Calarfast \$5999 LFR \$8950 Rubens/XLT \$9995 FR-900 Digital Palette CI-5000 Screen Star \$3995 | Product Price camera PraColor Film Recarder \$5495 \$1095 Calarfast \$5999 included LFR \$8950 \$1495 Rubens/XLT FR-900 \$9995 \$850 Digital Palette CI-5000 \$5995 included Screen Star \$3995 \$495 | Product Instant camera resolution (lines) PraColor Film Recarder \$5495 \$1095 4096 Calarfast \$5999 included 4096 LFR \$8950 \$1495 4000 Rubens/XLT FR-900 \$9995 \$850 2048 x 1376³ Digital Palette CI-5000 \$5995 included 4096 Screen Star \$3995 \$495 2000 | Product Price Instant camera tion (lines) CRT (inches)¹ PraColor Film Recarder \$5495 \$1095 4096 7 Calarfast \$5999 included 4096 3.5 LFR \$8950 \$1495 4000 6 Rubens/XLT FR-900 \$9995 \$850 2048 x 7 1376³ 7 Digital Palette CI-5000 \$5995 included 4096 3.25 Screen Star \$3995 \$495 2000 3.5 | Product Instant camera Maximum resolution (lines) Size af Line (bit-mapped) fonts (bit-mapped) PraColor Film Recarder \$5495 \$1095 4096 7 4/4 Calarfast \$5999 included 4096 3.5 2/2 LFR \$8950 \$1495 4000 6 8/1 Rubens/XLT FR-900 \$9995 \$850 2048 x 13763 7 0/04 Digital Palette CI-5000 \$5995 included 4096 3.25 0/9 Screen Star \$3995 \$495 2000 3.5 0/04 | Product Instant camera Maximum resolution (lines) Size af CRT (bit-mapped) scalable) Post-Script campatible PraColor Film Recarder \$5495 \$1095 4096 7 4/4 Y Calarfast \$5999 included 4096 3.5 2/2 N LFR \$8950 \$1495 4000 6 8/1 Y Rubens/XLT FR-900 \$9995 \$850 2048 x 1376³ 7 0/0⁴ N Digital Palette CI-5000 \$5995 included 4096 3.25 0/9 N⁵ Screen Star \$3995 \$495 2000 3.5 0/0⁴ Y | Product Price Instant camera Maximum resolution (lines) Size of CRT (bit-mapped) scalable Post-Script campatible Windaws 3.0 PraColor Film Recarder \$5495 \$1095 4096 7 4/4 Y Y Calarfast \$5999 included 4096 3.5 2/2 N Y LFR \$8950 \$1495 4000 6 8/1 Y Y Rubens/XLT FR-900 \$9995 \$850 2048 x 7 13763 7 0/04 N N Digital Palette CI-5000 \$5995 included 4096 3.25 0/9 N5 Y Screen Star \$3995 \$495 2000 3.5 0/04 Y Y | Product Instant camera Maximum resolution (lines) Size af CRT (mapped/ scalable) fonts (bit-mapped/ campatible) Post-Script campatible Windaws Harvard 3.0 PraColor Film Recarder \$5495 \$1095 4096 7 4/4 Y Y Y Calarfast \$5999 included 4096 3.5 2/2 N Y Y LFR \$8950 \$1495 4000 6 8/1 Y Y Y Rubens/XLT FR-900 \$9995 \$850 2048 x 1376³ 7 0/0⁴ N N N Digital Palette CI-5000 \$5995 included 4096 3.25 0/9 N5 Y Y Screen Star \$3995 \$495 2000 3.5 0/0⁴ Y Y Y | Product Instant camera Maximum resolution (lines) Size af (phit-mapped) (lines) Fost-Script (lines) Windows (lines) Harvard Graphics Lotus Free-lance PraColor Film Recarder \$5495 \$1095 4096 7 4/4 Y Y Y Y Calarfast \$5999 included 4096 3.5 2/2 N Y Y Y LFR \$8950 \$1495 4000 6 8/1 Y Y Y Y Rubens/XLT FR-900 \$9995 \$850 2048 x 1376³ 7 0/0⁴ N N N N Digital Palette CI-5000 \$5995 included 4096 3.25 0/9 N5 Y Y Y Screen Star \$3995 \$495 2000 3.5 0/0⁴ Y Y Y Y | Product Price Instant camera Kesident fonts (bit-mapped/ campat-tion (lines)) Post-Script mapped/ campat-campat-tible Win-daws free-daws Lotus Free-Inner fonts (bit-mapped/ campat-tible) Color Graphics Free-Inner free-Inner free-Inner fonts (lines) V Y | Product Price Instant camera Size of (lines) fonts (bit-mapped/campatible) Post-Script campatible Windragord Harvard Graphics Lotus Free-lance Color TIFF PCX PraColor Film Recarder \$5495 \$1095 4096 7 4/4 Y | Product Price Instant camera Kesident fonts (bit-mapped) scalable) Post-Color campatible Win-daws (bit-mapped) scalable Win-daws (bit-mapped) sca |

For more information about all products in this table, circle reader service no. 909.

 $^{^1}$ Meosured diagonally in g's. 2 Poper sizes: A = 8.5° x 171", B = 11" x 17", C = 18" x 24", D = 24" x 36", E = 36" x 48"; ISO and DIN sizes not included. 3 Information not available from vendor.

⁴ Dot motrix plotter emulotes 15 pens (AutoPlotter) or 20 pens (OmniPlotter).
5 Percent of distonce moved by pen.
6 Or 260 pencils.

¹ Meosured diagonally. ² Requires separate utility.

^{3 4096} x 2732 lines with additional RAM.

⁴ Uses screen fonts. 5 PostScript-composible model expected by June 1991.

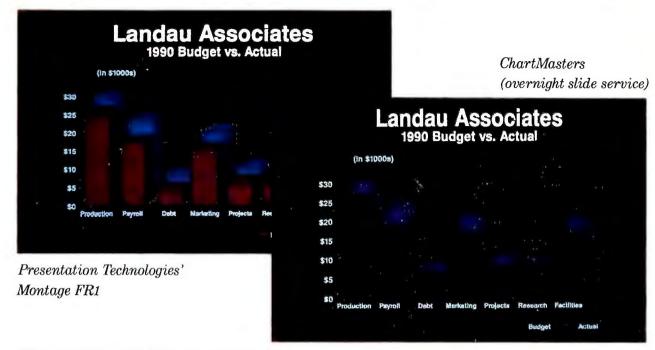
ments produce smoother curves.

Plotters are generally slow, though speed varies according to pen type and image complexity. Plotter pens change directions so often they rarely hit full throttle, so diagonal acceleration (measured in g's, or units of gravity) has more bearing on performance than maximum velocity. Cost depends largely on the types and sizes of paper the machine can handle—an A-size (8½-by-11inch) model starts at around \$700; an E-size (36-by-48inch) unit for creating largescale diagrams costs \$4000 or more. Make sure your graphics applications support the plotter you want to use. While all the plotters in the table support the HP-GL standard, specific device drivers let you do more with the machine.

COLOR ON THE SLIDE

A desktop slide recorder puts you in charge of slide production—a big plus when you need to make changes to a presentation and can't wait 24 hours for a service bureau to return your slides. Although they usually are big-ticket items, we've uncovered a hand-

OVERNIGHT OR OVER EASY—DO-IT-YOURSELF SLIDES



Film recorders offer faster turnaround on 35mm slides, with quality comparable to a service bureau's.

ful of recorders that give you complete control over slide production for under \$10,000.

But while a recorder can save you time, it won't necessarily save you money. If you buy a \$4000 model, you'll have to make around 250 slides before you realize any savings over the \$15 to \$20 per slide charged by service bureaus, and the quality usually isn't as good.

The recorders listed here capture images using a small

monochrome cathode ray tube (CRT) and color filters. Again, the main issue is slide quality, and eyeball judgments are more important than specs—a 4000-line slide from a \$12,000 recorder usually looks much sharper than one produced on a \$5000 unit, thanks to the pricier model's superior CRT and optics. Generally, bigger CRTs produce better-looking slides. Lower-cost recorders create fine slides for use with small audiences, but

if you project images to widths of 15 feet or more, you'll want to shell out for a higher-quality machine.

All the devices in the table support full 24-bit color, and most come with drivers for popular graphics packages. Make sure that the device supports the typefaces you use—PostScript support is a big plus. Most recorders offer an instant camera attachment that gives you quick sneak previews of slides; look for models that offer one as standard equipment.

HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU—IN COLOR

One day you'll be creating color documents and presentations—maybe not today or tomorrow, but soon, and for the rest of your life. Before you take the plunge, you need to decide on the level of color quality you need. Then look for products that offer the best combination of quality, convenience, cost, and serviceability. It could be the start of a beautiful friendship.

©

Bob Weibel is a freelance writer in Ashland, Oregon. Daniel Tynan is an associate editor for PC World.



Color scanners help bring real-life images to your PC. Whether you choose a desktop (left), hand-held (bottom), or 35mm-slide scanner depends on the kind and size of pictures you need to capture.

WHERE TO BUY

A4Tech (USA) Corp. 124 Raymond St. Hasbrouk Heights, NJ 07604

201/288-3060 (fax)

Agfa Compugraphic One Ramland Rd. Orangeburg, NY 10962 914/365-0190, 914/359-3201 (fax)

Alps America 3553 N. First St. San Jose, CA 95134 800/825-2577,. 408/432-8337, 408/432-6035 (fax)

AVR, Inc. 2201 Qume Dr. San Jose, CA 95131 800/544-6243, 408/434-0968 (fax)

Barneyscan Corp. 1125 Atlantic Ave. Alameda, CA 94501-1145 415/521-3388, 415/521-9780 (fax)

CalComp 2411 W. LaPalma Ave. Anaheim, CA 92803 800/225-2667, 714/821-2832 (fax)

Chinon America, Inc. 660 Maple Ave. Torrance, CA 90503 800/441-0222, 213/533-1727 (fax)

Citizen America Corp. P.O. Box 4003 Santa Monica, CA 90411-4003 213/453-0614, 213/453-2814 (fax)

C-Tech Electronics, Inc. P.O. Box 19673 Irvine, CA 92713-9673 714/833-1165, 714/757-4533 (fax)

DFI Inc. 2544 Port St. W. Sacramento, CA 95691 916/373-1234, 916/373-0221 (fax)

Digital Equipment Corp. 805/388-8709, 6 Technology Park Dr.

Westford Technology Park Westford, MA 01886-1197 508/351-4401, 508/635-8556 (fax)

Eastman Kodak Co. 901 Elmgrove Rd. Rochester, NY 14653 800/344-0006

Epson America, Inc. 20770 Madrona Ave. Torrance, CA 90509-2842 800/289-3776

GCC Technologies 580 Winter St. Waltham, MA 02154 800/422-7777, 617/890-0822 (fax)

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Genicom One Genicom Dr. Waynesboro, VA 22980-1999 800/443-6426, 703/949-1392 (fax)

Hewlett-Packard Co. 19310 Pruneridge Ave. Cupertino, CA 95014 800/752-0900

Houston Instrument 8500 Cameron Rd. Austin, TX 78753 800/444-3425, 512/835-1916 (fax)

Howtek Inc. 21 Park Ave. Hudson, NH 03051 800/444-6983, 603/880-3843 (fax)

Ioline Corp. 12020 113th Ave. NE Kirkland, WA 98034 206/821-2140, 206/823-8898 (fax)

Japan Digital Laboratory Co. 4770 Calle Quetzal Camarillo, CA 93012 805/388-8708 (fax)

KYE Int'l 2605 E. Cedar St.

Ontario, CA 91761 800/456-7593

Lasergraphics, Inc. 20 Ada Irvine, CA 92718 714/727-2651, 714/727-2653 (fax)

Marstek Inc. 17795 Skypark Cir., Ste. F Irvine, CA 92714 800/366-4620, 714/833-7813 (fax)

Microtek Lab, Inc. 680 Knox St. Torrance, CA 90502 800/654-4160, 213/321-2121, 213/538-1193 (fax)

Mitsubishi Electronics America, Inc. 991 Knox St. Torrance, CA 90502 800/843-2515, 213/527-7661 (fax)

Mouse Systems Corp. 47505 Seabridge Dr. Fremont, CA 94538 415/656-1117, 415/656-4409 (fax)

Mutoh America Inc. 895 Cambridge Dr. Elk Grove Village, IL 60007 708/952-8880, 708/952-8808 (fax)

NCL America Computer

Products 1753 S. Main St. Milpitas, CA 95035 800/521-0121, 408/956-1006

NEC Technologies, Inc. 1414 Massachusetts Ave. Boxborough, MA 01719 800/632-4636, 508/264-8673 (fax)

Nikon, Inc. 1300 Walt Whitman Rd. Melville, NY 11747 516/547-4355, 516/547-0305 (fax)

Nisca Inc. 1919 Old Denton Rd. #104

Carrollton, TX 75006 214/242-9234, 214/245-0942 (fax)

NISE Inc. 20018 State Rd. Cerritos, CA 90701 213/860-6708, 213/860-6928 (fax)

Océ Graphic USA, Inc. 385 Ravendale Dr. Mountain View, CA 94039-7169 800/545-5445

Okidata 532 Fellowship Rd. Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054 800/654-3282, 609/778-4184 (fax)

Our Business Machines 12901 Ramona Blvd., Ste. J 97070-1000 Irwindale, CA 91706 800/433-1435, 818/337-9614, 818/960-1766 (fax)

Communications & Systems Co. 2 Panasonic Way Secaucus, NJ 07094 800/742-8086, 201/348-7000

Panasonic

Polaroid Corp. 575 Technology Sq. Cambridge, MA 02139 800/225-1618, 617/577-5718 (fax)

Technologies 779 Palomar Ave. Sunnyvale, CA 94086 800/782-2543, 408/749-0746 (fax)

Presentation

QMS, Inc. One Magnum Pass Mobile, AL 36618 800/523-2696, 205/633-4300, 205/633-4866 (fax)

Roland Digital Group 1961 McGaw Ave. Irvine, CA 92714 714/975-0560, 714/975-0569 (fax)

Seiko Instruments USA, Inc.

1130 Ringwood Ct. San Jose, CA 95131 408/922-5800, 408/922-5835 (fax)

Sharp Electronics Sharp Plaza Mahwah, NJ 07430 800/237-4277, 201/529-9454

Inc. 420 Lexington Ave. #2702 New York, NY 10170 800/447-4700, 212/286-9063 (fax)

Star Micronics America,

Tektronix, Inc. 26600 S.W. Pkwy. Wilsonville, OR 800/835-6100, 503/682-3408 (fax)

UMAX Technologies, Inc. 2352 Walsh Ave. Santa Clara, CA 95051 800/562-0311, 408/982-0771, 408/982-0776 (fax)

United Innovations 171 Interstate Dr. West Springfield, MA 01089 413/733-3333, 413/785-1993 (fax)

Systems Versatec Products 2710 Walsh Ave. Santa Clara, CA 95052 408/988-2800, 408/727-2399 (fax)

Xerox Engineering

XRS 4030 Spencer St. #101 Torrance, CA 90503 213/214-1900, 213/214-1474 (fax)

ZETA Graphics Corp. 777 Arnold Dr. Martinez, CA 94553 415/372-7568, 415/372-3382 (fax)

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ing software packages including Polaroid's Presentation Express, Lotus Freelance and Harvard Graphics. For a free information kit, fill out the coupon or call 1-800-225-1618. And start turning your best ideas into reality right away.

This morning, this entire presentation was just a scribble. Nothing Works Like
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Instant Presentation Solutions



Thames, but still! Holes!? A bookworm had eaten clean through the pages. Indeed, to Sir Lawrence's considerable chagrin, he found the ravenous little bugger had chewed, in a straight line, from the front cover of Volume I to the back cover of Volume X.

acquired the

ten-volume set in

his youth from an

odd little book store on the

All of which brings us to our seemingly simple question: If each book is exactly two inches thick, how far did the bookworm travel?

In tussling with this type of cerebral aerobics make a simple but serious error: They *assume* something. Of course, this happens without realizing it. But still, it happens.

As you'll see in a moment, the way to avoid making a false assumption is to work things out methodically. Carefully thinking through each step.

For instance, consider this question. A company makes one of the broadest lines of computer terminals in the world. They have for years. In fact, they've delivered over three million of them.

If you needed terminals you'd probably think of them. But what if you

needed PCs? Would you assume that, nant in terminals, they must

Tsk, tsk. Have you

Well, as you may

company in question is Wyse. we don't have an impressive

PCs it would be a shame.

since this company is so dominot do a real number in PCs? learned nothing? have *correctly* assumed, the

And if you've been assuming array of powerful, priced-right

For both of us.

Consider our | models that offer a rich

The Decision Series PCs: 386sx/16s (shown), 386sx/20, 486/25, 486/33E (shown). Advanced ergonomics, finicky attention to detail, exceptional power for the dollar.

new Decision Series. Four set of features. Generous

power supplies, three styles of ergonomically advanced chassis, multiple configurations, popular Wyse-designed keyboards, aggressive pricing and bundled DOS 4.01.

For starters.

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wrong again. At least partially. So go look on page 269.

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there and don't get into the even more sophisticated products like super fast multiprocessing systems for the UNIX environment. With speed in the 100 MIPS range.

But you wouldn't assume that after all this. Would you?



You're doing it again. Just because this little type is down here and printed upside down you assumed you'd find the answer this easily. No way, San Jose. Refer back up to the ad and your patience will be rewarded.

Face-Off: PageMaker

Put two publishing pros in a locked room with a couple of PCs, give them a select mix of layout and formatting tasks, and you'll learn a lot about the two top desktop publishing packages.

Aldus technical writer Olav Martin Kvern puts Page-Maker to the test.



The day may arrive—or maybe it already has—when creating crucial documents for many pairs of eyes becomes a regular part of your job. For serious desktop publishing

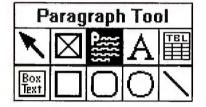
like this, you've got two obvious options: *PageMaker 4.0* and *Ventura Publisher 3.0*. These rivals have long dominated page layout for the PC, and because both now cost the same (\$795) and run under *Windows*, competition is fiercer than ever.

The choice between these desktop publishing titans used to be clear-cut: *Ventura* for long, structured documents such as books and technical manuals, and *PageMaker* for short, design-oriented publications such as brochures and newsletters. But this hard-and-fast distinction is blurring, thanks mainly to *PageMaker 4.0*'s new and improved long-document capabilities.

To help you decide which package is best for you, *PC* World flew in a *PageMaker* expert and a *Ventura* expert to join us at our San Francisco editorial office.

vs. Ventura

Christine Whyte and Richard Jantz



Under our watchful eyes, these publishing pros used their respective programs to produce the same set of



predesigned test documents: a 1-page brochure, a 4-page newsletter, and a 25-page technical manual.

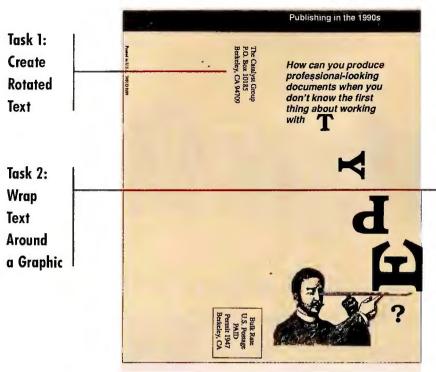
Besides typifying three of the kinds of documents you're most likely to produce, our tests aimed to show some of the programs' striking similarities and differences. Most important, the tests reveal how often each program requires you to follow a manual step-by-step procedure rather than automatically doing the job for you.

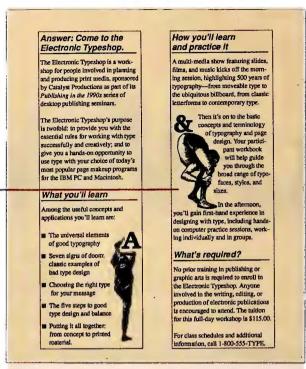
In the following pages, we describe the techniques that Olav Martin Kvern, technical writer for Aldus, and Anne Galdos, product marketing manager for Ventura Software, used to complete six of the publishing

tasks required to create our test documents. Compare these with documents of your own, and you'll gain insight into which desktop publishing program best fits your needs.



Anne Galdos, Ventura's product marketing manager, kerns under pressure. **Feature: Desktop Publishing**

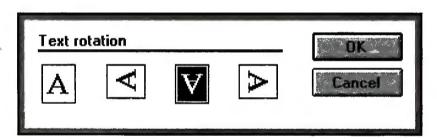




We used this sample brochure to test each program's ability to handle unique designs, including rotated text and text that fits irregularly around a graphicboth attentiongetting effects favored by graphic artists. PageMaker is easier to use than Ventura at such jobs.

Task 1: Create Rotated Text

When preparing copy for mailings (return addresses and so on), you'll often want *rotated text*—type printed sideways or upside down. Rotated text is also useful as a design element and for vertical table headings in forms and schedules.



PageMaker's text rotation feature (shown here) is easier to learn and use than Ventura's, which uses the numbers 90, 180, 270, and 0 instead of simple icons.

Plug in the right commands, and both *Ventura* and *Page-Maker* will automatically rotate text in 90-degree increments. The key difference is that *Ventura* uses a pulldown menu to list the text rotation options for 90, 180, 270, and 0 degrees, while *PageMaker* uses simple icons for the same choices, making the program easier to learn and use.

Anne and Olav used similar techniques to prepare the text before rotating it. In *Ventura*, Anne drew a separate box to hold each block of text to be rotated, then created a *style tag* (paragraph formatting instruction) for each different degree of rotation. In *PageMaker*, Olav created a separate block of text with its own style tag for any rotated type.

As for editing rotated text, each program offers its own advantage. In *PageMaker*, Olav triple-clicked the rotated text to open the program's built-in Story Editor and display the text in its normal (horizontal) position, which is preferable for extensive editing. In *Ventura*, Anne edited the text directly on the page, where it remained rotated, preferable for minor changes.

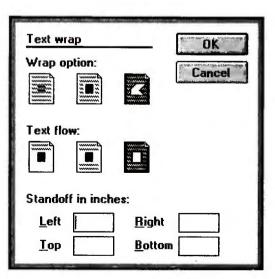
Task 2: Wrap Text Around a Graphic

Wrapping text around graphics is a popular, attention-getting design technique. If you do this manually, you may spend a lot of time tweaking the text so that it conforms to the shape of the graphic and adjusting the *standoff*, the amount of white space between the graphic and the text. In this instance, *PageMaker* is the answer to your prayers—its automated text-wrap feature is efficient and easy to use. *Ventura* requires manual labor, which means you may spend about twice as much time to get the results you want.

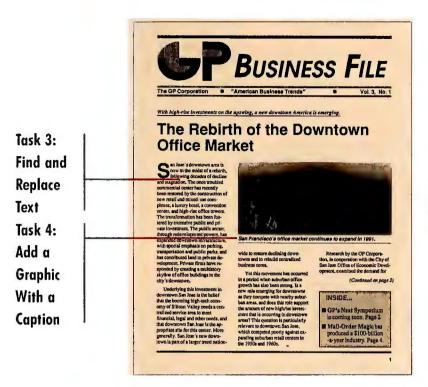
Using *PageMaker*, Olav started by choosing an option that automatically wrapped the text around the contortionist graphic. Then, clicking at different points on the dotted line that marks the on-screen wrap boundary between the text and the graphic, he stretched the boundary into the shape he wanted. He also used the default standoff of 1 pica.

Ventura wraps text automatically only around rectangular objects. To repel the text from the irregularly shaped graph-

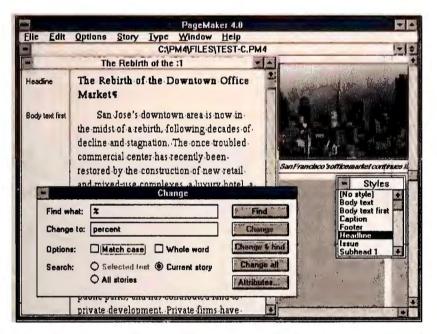
ic. Anne had to add a new frame under the graphic for each line of abutting text. By widening or narrowing each of these extra frames, she determined the amount of white space needed between the graphic and the text, thus creating the same textwrap shape as in the sample brochure.



PageMaker's text-wrap feature (shown here) is better than Ventura's, which can't wrap text automatically around an irregularly shaped object.



With this sample newsletter, Anne and Olav evaluated the talents of PageMaker and Ventura at multicolumn text and graphics. Tasks included resizing a photograph, adding a caption, and making global changes to the text.



With PageMaker's Story Editor, you can find and change selected text in a document without using a separate word processor.

Task 3: Find and Replace Text

To produce newsletters and other deadline-driven documents, you need a program that helps you make last-minute copy changes in a hurry. Unless you can accomplish the editing inside your publishing program, you must go to your word processor, make the changes, and then reopen the publication file—a time-consuming process.

In this task, which involved changing every % sign in a newsletter article to the word percent, we learned that Ventura's text editing capabilities pale in comparison to those of PageMaker's Story Editor, the program's powerful new text editor. Anne chose to exit Ventura, used WordPerfect to make the global text changes, then reopened the edited file in her Ventura document. But Olav used the Story Editor's search-and-replace-text feature and changed the pesky % sign in a fraction of the time. This and other word processing features make PageMaker the better choice for documents that require global text editing—especially at the last minute.

Task 4: Add a Graphic With a Caption

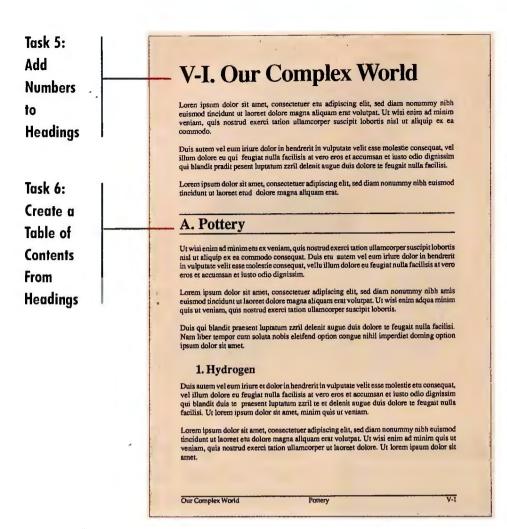
Today, most newsletters present information graphically—in photos, illustrations, tables, or charts. A good desktop publishing program lets you easily size a graphic, *crop* (trim) its edges to show only the portion you want, and link a caption to the graphic so the two stay "glued" together in the layout.

With both *PageMaker* and *Ventura*, it's easy to size and crop a graphic. In *Ventura*, Anne drew a frame approximately the size necessary for the graphic, and when she inserted the photo, it conformed to the frame's dimensions. To crop the photo, she simply moved it around in the frame until the desired portion was showing. In *PageMaker*, Olav placed the graphic first, then sized it by snapping the photo's edges to vertical and horizontal *ruler guides* (nonprinting guidelines) that he had arranged to form the properly sized rectangle. He used the same cropping method as Anne.

Anne went one step further, however. She fine-tuned her layout by entering the graphic's exact height and width into a dialog box. Besides providing that extra precision, *Ventura* automatically links a caption to the graphic. Using a *Ventura* dialog box, Anne placed the automatic caption below the graphic (she could have placed it above the caption or on either side) and entered the caption words on a blank line. In *PageMaker*, Olav created the caption as a separate text box and had to link it to the graphic manually.

| ANCHORS | & CAPTIONS | |
|-----------------|--|--------|
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| Inserts: | ○ Table # ○ Figure # ○ Chapter # ○ Text Attr. | |
| | | |

Unlike PageMaker, Ventura provides an option (shown here) that lets you attach caption text to any graphic in a document. Move the graphic, and the caption moves with it.

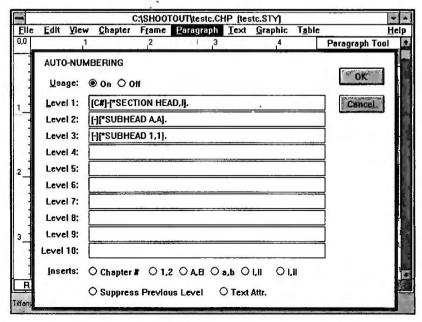


This sample technical manual tests each program's skill at long-document handling, including the ability to add section numbers to headings, update them after changes are made, and generate a table of contents. PageMaker's new long-document features are a vast improvement over earlier versions, but Ventura still handles this type of document better.

Task 5: Add Numbers to Headings

Whether you produce a 20-page or a 200-page manual, you'll usually have to number chapters, section headings, subheads, and figures. A desktop publishing program that automatically numbers these items is an invaluable time-saver, especially if you make changes and end up having to renumber everything.

In this task, *Ventura* shines. When you first create a document, you choose a numbering scheme, such as the standard outline format of Roman numerals, letters, and numbers for different heading levels. From then on, *Ventura* does all the numbering for you automatically. In *PageMaker*, you have



Ventura automatically numbers every heading level in your document according to the format you choose.



to search for each heading and enter the correct number manually.

Anne followed two steps in *Ventura* to number the manual's headings. The first was to assign a numbering scheme to the three heading levels. The second step was to align the section number ("V-I." on our sample page) next to the section heading ("Our Complex World")—necessary because *Ventura* automatically placed the number *above* the heading instead. Anne used several dialog boxes to align these two elements.

Olav used *PageMaker*'s Story Editor to search for each heading level and then entered the correct number in front of each heading. He suggested that alternatively you could export the text file to *Word for Windows* because that program numbers headings in the correct order. It's plain that for this task, *PageMaker* takes longer than *Ventura*, especially with particularly lengthy or complex documents.



Task 6: Create a Table of Contents

One element that long documents and many business reports share is a table of contents (TOC), which both *PageMaker* and *Ventura* can automatically generate and format. To produce one with the proper page numbers, you must assign style tags to titles and subheads; the program then grabs these items and generates a TOC file that you can place on the page and format.

In selecting the tags to include in the TOC, Anne finished faster than Olav because *Ventura* lets you enter all the tag names on one form, while *PageMaker* has you use a dialog box for *each* TOC level. The remaining steps are the same in both programs: You pick a menu option to generate the TOC, and then you format the resulting text file.

Ventura's TOCs won't go any deeper than ten levels, while PageMaker's TOCs can conceivably include text tied to every tag in a document. But unless your TOC requires extraordinary detail, Ventura's single-form approach is faster and more flexible, especially for generating a separate list of all figures and tables. PageMaker can create a three-level index (compared with Ventura's two levels), but only Ventura has automatic footnoting and cross-referencing within text—vital time-savers for lengthy documents.

| 1 | GENERATE T | ABLE OF CONTENTS | Date damenton | 7 |
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| c:\sha | Level 1: | ["SECTION HEAD]"-[P#] | 7 | r |
| | Level 2: | [*SUBHEAD A]~[P#] | | L |
| | Level 3: | ["SUBHEAD 1]-[P#] | | 1 |
| 1 | Level 4: | | | ı |
| | Level 5: | | | 1 |
| Public | Level 6: | | | 1 |
| | Level 7: | | | I |
| Proces | Level 8: | | | 1 |
| | Level 9: | 100 | | |
| | Level 10: | | | 1 |
| Page 2 | <u>i</u> nserts: | ○ Tag Text | Page # | |

With Ventura, you use a single form to list the tag names you want in a table of contents, including chapter numbers, text attributes (such as bold), and other formatting instructions.

THE PROOF'S IN THE PUBLISHING

As Anne and Olav have helped demonstrate, the old cliche about using *PageMaker* for design-intensive documents and *Ventura* for long documents still applies, but not categorically. *PageMaker*'s newfound capabilities—a high 999-page ceiling on document size, plus the ability to generate a table of contents, an index, and page numbers automatically—make it far more practical than it once was for big projects.

But with more automated features than *PageMaker*, *Ventura* still has the edge for manuals, technical papers, quarterly reports, and the like. Only *Ventura* automatically numbers chapters, headings, and figure captions and then renumbers them if you move or delete a section or make other revisions. It also provides such labor-saving features as automatic footnoting, complex cross-referencing, and a built-in equation editor.

Now that you've had a close look at how these programs handle key tasks, we hope you've gained better insight into which one is right for you. For many jobs, either package will do handily, but if you want one program that lets you create the broadest possible range of business documents, choose *Ventura*. *PageMaker* is still the better choice for graphic artists, but *Ventura* is better for everyone else. \Rightarrow

Christine Whyte, formerly an editor for Publish, is now a freelance editor in San Francisco. Richard Jantz is a contributing editor for PC World.

| | PageMaker 4.0 | Ventura Publisher 3.0 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Rotate text | 1 | |
| 2. Wrap text around graphic | 1 | |
| 3. Find and replace | 1 | |
| 4. Add a graphic with caption | | 1 |
| 5. Add numbers to headings | | 1 |
| 6. Create table of contents | | 1 |

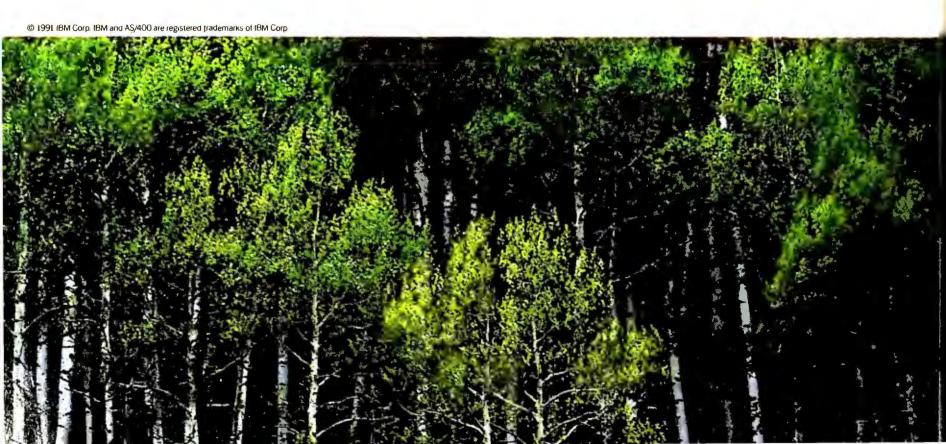
WHERE TO BUY

PageMaker 4.0 \$795; Aldus Information Center, 3441 MacArthur Blvd., Santa Ana, CA 92704; 800/333-2538, 206/628-2320 RE-QUIREMENTS: 2MB RAM, hard disk, Windows 3.0, graphics display, mouse; TECHNICAL SUPPORT: unlimited, toll number, M–F 7–5; OTHER SUPPORT: bimonthly magazine, CompuServe forum. **Reader service no. 703.**

Ventura Publisher 3.0, Windows Edition \$795; Ventura Software, Inc., 15175 Innovation Dr., San Diego, CA 92128; 800/822-8221, 619/673-7586 (fax). REQUIREMENTS: 2MB RAM, hard disk, Windows 3.0, graphics display, mouse; TECHNICAL SUPPORT: unlimited, toll number, M-F 9-5; OTHER SUPPORT: monthly magazine, CompuServe. Reader service no. 704.

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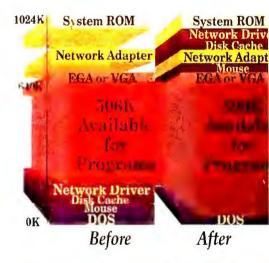


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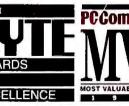












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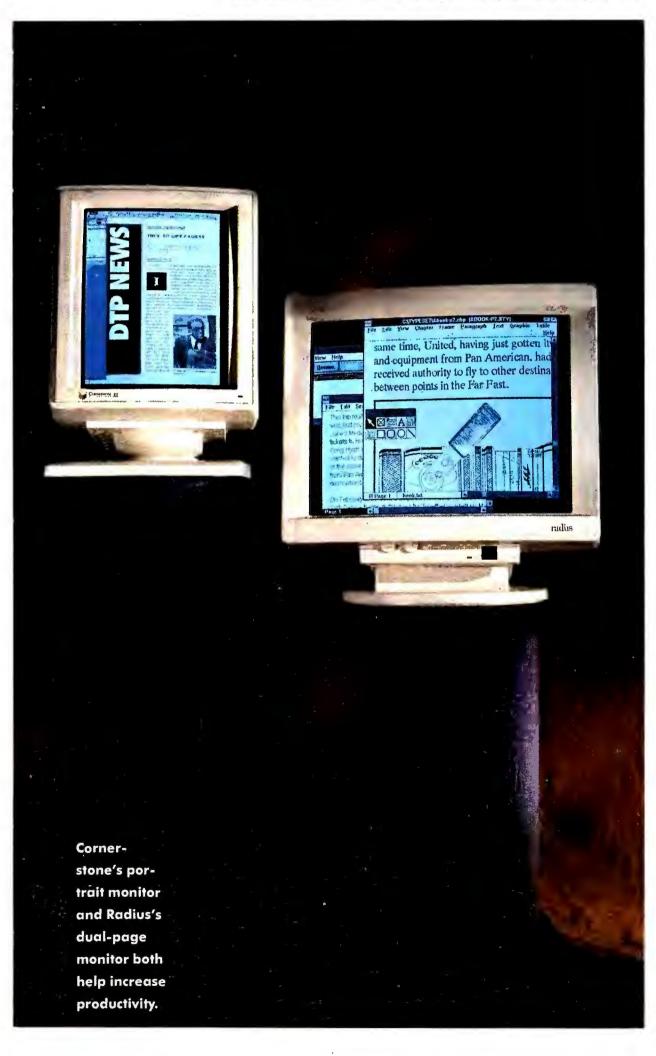


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MONITORS

JAMES FELICI AND SUSAN LUSTY

BC SE SKTOP



NOTHING MAKES A DESKTOP PUBLISHER MORE PRODUCTIVE THAN A JUMBO MONITOR THAT DISPLAYS TRUE-TO-LIFE PAGES. HERE'S HOW TO SELECT THE ONE THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU.

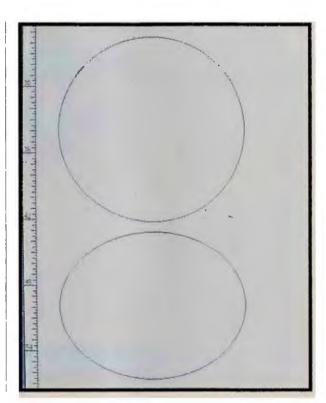
If you spend at least half your time desktop publishing, an oversized high-resolution monitor can boost your productivity more than any single piece of hardware. With a clearer view of more of the page, you can vastly reduce the need to perform repetitive, time-consuming tasks like zooming, scrolling, and proof printing. A quality monitor also lessens eyestrain and eye fatigue.

Because few desktop publishers can afford color publishing, this Buyers' Guide focuses on large monochrome monitors. When a big, sharp view of the page is paramount, why spend more on your display just to make windows look more colorful? Monochrome models may cost half as much as color units with the same resolution and generally deliver better speed.

We've divided the monitors in this guide into two types: 15-inch portrait oriented monitors, designed to let you view a single 8½-by-11-inch page; and 18-to-24-inch dual page units. Portrait monitors best suit desktop publishers who create heavily formatted reports or single-page newsletters, marketing brochures, and the like. These monitors go for relatively little, from less than \$900 to \$1400.

If you design publications for outside rather than inhouse distribution, go ahead and pony up the dollars for a dual-page monitor. Anyone who works with facing pages will benefit from being able to see a two-page spread just as readers will see it. The extra screen area means that tool-

boxes, rulers, and scroll bars won't overlap the image and that there's ample "pasteboard" room for *PageMaker* and *XPress*. You should expect

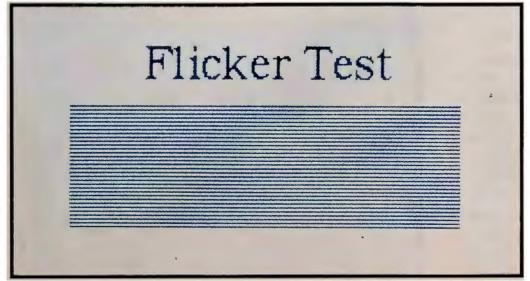


If a monitor doesn't use square pixels, the bit-mapped images can become distorted when rotated, like this circle.

It's clear from the 1990 bus that our international sales unrealistic. This has been not more obvious by the impact national economic slowdown overall sales. While it is not sible to foresee these kinds economic trends, our own for should never be based on a

It's clear from the 1990 bust that our international sales unrealistic. This has been more obvious by the impact national economic slowdown overall sales. While it is not sible to foresee these kinds economic trends, our own for should never be based on a

Type should appear crisp and clear, without any fuzziness or halos around the letters. Look for a monitor that's easy on your eyes (left); staring at fuzzy text (right) will tire your eyes.



To test for screen flicker, set a series of 1-point rules separated by 1-point white spaces, and check for vibrating lines.

| DUAL-PAGE MONITO | • | 3 |
|-------------------------|---|---|
|-------------------------|---|---|

| | | | | | | RESOLUTION | |
|-----|---|---|--|--|-----------------------------|--|--|
| | Manufacturer | Product | .Price ¹ | Actual image (inches) ² | Graphics copracessor | Maximum resolutian ⁵ | Pixels per inch |
| | CORNERSTONE TECHNOLOGY | DualPage 150 DualPage 120 | \$3395 \$2495 | 19 x 13.8 x 10.2 19 x 13.8 x 10.2 | 22 | 2048 x 1664 1600 x 1280 | 150 120 |
| | ELITE BUSINESS APPLICATIONS | Design View/19E | \$1695 | 19×14.5×11.75 | | - 1280 x 1024 | 96 |
| | IBM | IBM PS/2 Display 8507 IBM PS/2 Display 8508 | \$1329 \$1775 | 19 x 14 x 10.5 19 x 14 x 10.5 | Y | 1024 x 768 ³ 1600 x 1200⁴ | /3 114 |
| | IMAGE SYSTEMS CORP. | M24LMAX | \$19959 | 24×17.5×12.75 | Y | 2048 x 1536 | 150 |
| | MIRROR TECHNOLOGIES | * PixelView PC/II PixelView PC/IIH PixelView PC/IIGS | \$997 \$1297 \$1797 | 19.6 x 14:07 x 10.55 19.6 x 14.07 x 10.55 19.6 x 14.07 x 10.55 | Y Y Y | 2048 x 1024 2048 x 1024 2048 x 1024 | 91 91 91 |
| | MONITERM CORP. | Viking 3/91 M Viking 3/91 GS Viking 2400 M Viking 2/91 M Viking 2/115 M | \$1490 \$2490 \$2490 \$1990 \$2290 | 19.6 x 14 x 10.5 19.6 x 14 x 10.5 24 x 17.5 x 13.2 19.6 x 14 x 10.5 49.6 x 14 x 10.5 | Y | 1280 x 960 1280 x 1024 1280 x 960 1280 x 960 1600 x 1200 | 91 91 72 91 115 |
| | NISSEI SANGYO AMERICA | SuperScript | \$2495 | 20 x 19.2 x 18.3 | Υ | 1600 x 1280 | 110 |
| 世上 | PANASONIC COMMUNICATIONS & SYSTEMS | PanaPro M1900AT | \$2099 | 19 x 13.9 x 10.4 | Y | 1280×960 | 92 |
| | PLANAR SYSTEMS, INC. | WS-XT/AT Workstation Monitor | \$3995 | 17.8 x 13.6 x 11.5 | N | 1024 x 768 | 75 |
| | RADIUS, INC. | TPD/19-MCA TPD/19-ISA TPD/21-ISA TPD/21-MCA | \$2190 \$2190 \$2590 \$2590 | 19 x 14.1 x 10.8 19 x 14.1 x 10.8 21 x 15.5 x 11.9 21 x 15.5 x 11.9 | ZZZZ | 1280 x 960 1280 x 960 1280 x 960 1280 x 960 | 90 90 82 82 |
| | SAMPO AMERICA | OfficePro II Graphics System OfficePro IIo Graphics System | \$1475 \$3395 | 20 x 13.7 x 10.6 20 x 13.7 x 10.6 | N | 1280 x 960 1280 x 1024 | 92 92 |
| | SAMSUNG INFORMATION SYSTEMS AMERICA, INC. | PageMaster 2 | \$1498 | 8,15×14.17×11.3 | | 1280 × 1024 | 90 |
| | SIGMA DESIGNS, INC. | L-View GSP L-View for PC L-View for PC (monochrome) L-View for PS/2 SilverView (monochrome) SilverView PS/2 SilverView GS | \$2695 \$2495 \$2195 \$2495 \$2199 \$2199 \$2995 | 19 x 14.1 x 10.2 19 x 14.1 x 10.2 19 x 14.1 x 10.2 19 x 14.1 x 10.2 21 x 16 x 12 21 x 16 x 12 21 x 16 x 12 21 x 16 x 12 | > ZZZZZ> | 1664 x 1200 1664 x 1200 1664 x 1200 1664 x 1200 1152 x 870 1152 x 870 1152 x 870 | . 118 118 118 118 72 72 72 |
| e e | TAXAN AMERICA, INC. | CrystalView 1901 | \$2195 | 19×13.7×10 | The Large No. | 1280 x 960 — | 96 |
| | VENTEK CORP. | AT 2000 PS 2000 | \$2695 \$2495 | 17 x 13.6 x 10.2 17 x 13.6 x 10.2 | N N | 1280 x 960 1280 x 960 | 94 94 |
| | VERMONT MICROSYSTEMS, INC. | PageManoger 12 PageManager/2-12-MCA | \$1795 \$1795 | 20×18×18 20×18×18 | | 1280 x 960 1280 x 960 | 92 92 |
| F. | WYSE TECHNOLOGY | WY-790N | \$184811 | 19 x 13.8 x 11 | Ń | 1280 × 1024 | 83 |
| - | Price includes controller board. 2Depth by width by height. | ³ Highest resolution in noninterlaced mode is 6 4Highest resolution in noninterlaced mode is 1 | 40 x 480. 360 x 1024. | SHorizontal by vertical. | Optional Black-ond-white | only. | |

to pay about \$2000 for a dual-page unit.

Speed and Sharpness

All the monitors in our Buyers' Guide come with a special video board that determines speed, resolution, and other important attributes.

For top performance, look for a board that has a graphics coprocessor. Speed varies widely depending on the type of coprocessor and on several other factors. The best way to "All the lines and rules see on the screen shou perfectly straight, with bends, warps, or wiggle

All the lines and borders should be square, not warped and wobbly like you see here.

| | | | | DISPLA | AY STANDA | ARDS6 | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------|-----------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Maximum gray levels | Square pixels | Windows 3.0 driver | GEM driver | VGA | HGC | EGA | CGA | MDA | Non- interlaced | Refresh rate (Hz) | Nonglare screen | Warranty (years) | Reader service no. |
| 4 16 | Y | Y | N N | - N Y | Y | N | N Y | ZZ | Y Y | 77 75 | Y7 Y7 | 1. | 655 655 |
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| 64 | Y | Y | Y | Y | N N | ZZ | ZZ | 77 | 22 | 43.5 49 | Y | 1 | 657 657 |
| 256 | Υ | Υ | Y | Υ | Υ | Υ΄ ,, | Υ | Y | Υ | 80 | Ϋ́ | 1 | 658 |
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| 16 16 | Å , | ¥ | Y ., | N N | ZZ | 22 | Y | ZZ | Y | 66 66 | Y | | 670 670 |
| 16 | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Υ | Y | Y | 66 | Υ | 1 | 671 |

determine how fast the board will run is also the most obvious: Give it a real-world test with your desktop publishing program of choice.

Resolution, which determines the type size you can read and the amount of the page you'll be able to see, is another key point of comparison. It's usually described in terms of how many pixels (the dots composing the image) will fit on the screen. The greater the number of pixels,

the sharper the image.

If you're comparing monitors of different sizes and shapes, however, resolution measurements such as 1024 by 1280 start to lose their meaning. A more useful way to describe resolution is in pixels per inch (often referred to as dots per inch, or dpi); only this can tell you whether the resolution of one monitor is finer than that of another. We've included this specification in the Buyers' Guide tables.

Ideally, you should find a screen with square pixels, like those popularized by Apple's Macintosh and adopted in IBM's VGA display standard. Without square pixels, if you turn a font, circle, or other element sideways, that element may appear stretched or otherwise distorted.

For more information about all products in this table, circle reader service no. 907.

Another issue to consider is gray-scale resolution. If you frequently drop scanned photographs into your documents, look for a monitor that displays

a variety of shades between black and white. Note, however, that prices for similar products rise quickly with the number of grays (256 is usually the maximum).

Compatibility Checklist

The maximum resolutions of the monitors in this guide do not match any of the common graphics standards. That means you can't be sure whether a monitor will run at maximum resolution with

Some call this mapping why Tucson didn't mee



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- SAMSUNG® 12" AMBER MONITOR
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|---|-----|---------|
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| 486-25MHz ISA STANDARD System | | \$2,595 |
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Phonebook: Plenty of room to store not only phone numbers, but anything else important enough to remember.

AutoDial: Reminders doesn't just remember phone numbers, it'll even dial them for you.

Category: Organize everything from personal tasks to maintenance schedules using separate categories.

Log: Reminders lets you create a permanent record of all your past tasks and events

Print: Anything Reminders displays on your screen can also be printed out for convenience.

Options: The Options feature lets you access on-line help, create data file backups, and fine tune the program.

The problem is that it's just as easy to lose those notes as it is to make them.

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Which also keeps you out of trouble.

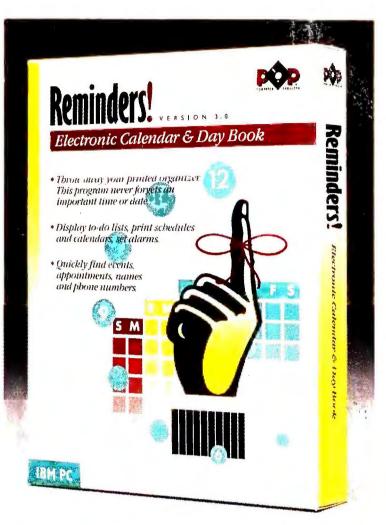
Reminders lets you organize and plan your calendar as far into the future as you want to go. So you need never miss an important meeting, appointment, birthday, anniversary, or any of the countless items on everyone's personal and professional agenda. And to make absolutely certain you'll never forget anything you need to remember, Reminders lets you set alarms at any time, on any date to jog your memory.

Reminders lets you organize all your phone numbers, and gives you all the space you need to make notes, add names, or do anything important right in the program's phonebook. Reminders will even dial a phone number for you.

Reminders also makes your life easier by allowing you to organize your tasks into manageable groups with a feature called "Categories". The "Log" feature lets you keep permanent records of past tasks and events. And Reminder's "Print" feature allows you to make anything in the program portable. So you don't have to stay in your office to stay organized.

Reminders also includes features that insert regular events into your schedule automatically, word search capabilities, a "Memory Jogger" feature that carries any undone tasks over to the next day, and a built-in alarm system that alerts

you when you schedule an event that conflicts with something you already have planned.



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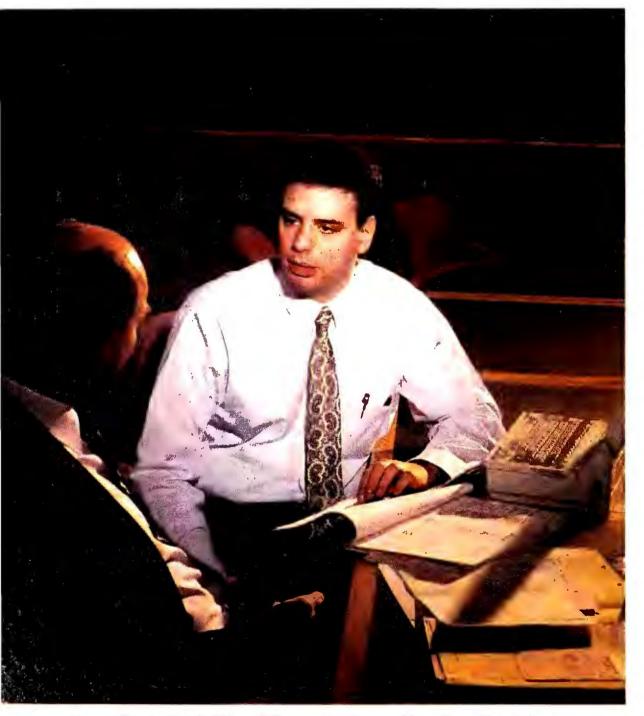
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Reminders is also incredibly easy to order. All you have to do is call us at any time of the day or night, 365 days a year. Reminders costs just \$99.95 (Visa and Master-Card are of course accepted), and it comes with a complete 60 day money-back guarantee.

Reminders. It lets you catch the things that would otherwise slip your mind.

Marketing Meets Desktop When a New England health care consulting

group needed an effective way to market its services, a regionally targeted, desktop published newsletter proved to be just the answer.



Reynold Spadoni (right), Ernst & Young consultant and founding editor of the newsletter, says the publication has heightened client awareness of the firm's many services.

Alice LaPlante

ow do you let potential customers know about new services without alienating them with slick advertising hype? That was the issue facing Reynold Spadoni, manager of Ernst & Young's Health Care Consulting Group in Boston. The firm had dramatically expanded its consulting services to cover a range of health care management issues but found that many hospital executives were unaware of Ernst & Young's offerings and were turning to its competitors instead.

Ernst & Young had traditionally provided a variety of financial consulting services to hospitals and other medical institutions, everything from feasibility studies on upcoming legal and regulatory changes to advice on dealing efficiently with third-party health care providers. But over the past ten years, the firm expanded its focus. Consultants now assist clients in areas such as the design, maintenance, and installation of strategic computer systems, as well as with problems like how to improve the

The Bottom Line

Problem

Ernst & Young's New England Health Care Consulting Group needed a low-key way of publicizing its many services and attracting new clients.

Solution

A regionally targeted newsletter written and designed by Ernst & Young consultants on hot topics in the health care industry.

Benefits

Greater exposure of consultants' expertise; increased client in quiries about Ernst & Young services.



By using a low-end desktop publishing package, Ernst & Young consultants can put out their newsletter without a huge investment in hardware or training.

efficiency of emergency room facilities.

"We wanted to spread the word," says Spadoni.

The vehicle for getting the word out had to meet two criteria: It needed to be geared toward the New England health care market, and it needed to be more informational than sales oriented.

"New Englanders think they are different from everyone else, and we wanted to cater to this way of thinking," says Spadoni, adding that unlike in other regions of the country, the health care industry in New England is very close knit. "Word-of-mouth marketing is therefore key to success in this market—much more than traditional advertising or marketing strategies," he explains.

Low-Key Approach

After brainstorming with colleagues, Spadoni decided on a quarterly newsletter—to be designed, written, and produced by Ernst & Young consultants familiar with hot topics in the health care industry. The strategy was to create a publication that would educate

New England hospital executives on critical health care management issues and at the same time market Ernst & Young's many services.

Newsletters are a favorite marketing tool of all the major health care consulting firms, which produce a variety of national publications for hospital executives. None of the national firms, however, offer regionally targeted newsletters. And most of the publications are simply advertising or promotional literature "disguised" as newsletters, says Spadoni—a ploy that isn't lost on Ernst & Young's highly educated clientele.

Ernst & Young has never set specific quotas for new business resulting from the newsletter—viewing the publication instead as a means of attracting clients indirectly, through greater exposure. Like many consulting firms, Ernst & Young has no sales force per se; each consultant is responsible for generating business and bringing in new clients. Spadoni says that giving consultants the opportunity to write articles in their area of expertise helps promote the firm's most valuable asset: its people.

And consultants who've written for the publication say the low-key approach has paid off.

"When I go out to client sites, the clients have the newsletter sitting on their desks, and they comment on the articles they've read in past issues," says consultant Ron Crandall, who recently took over as editor of the publication.

The Premier Issue

Called New England Chief Executive, the first newsletter was mailed in April 1990. The premier issue was eight pages long and included an interview with a leading hospital administrator, as well as advice on tax and financial planning. One article discussed how hospitals can maximize depreciation on capital assets for the greatest tax benefits; another offered tips on making financial projections in the face of state regulatory changes. Subsequent issues have included major features on "total quality management" theories and practice and on retirement communities or longterm care as a potential source of revenue for New England hospitals and medical centers.

New England Chief Executive is mailed quarterly to 1000 top hospital executives in five New England states: Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Maine. It costs Ernst & Young \$1500 for printing and mailing.

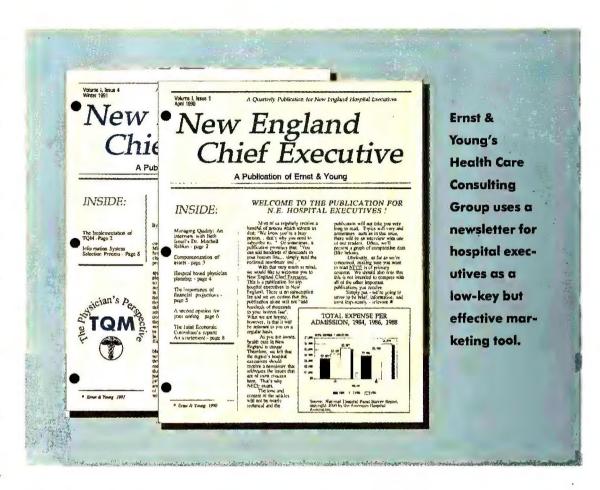
Spadoni, who had no graphics design or desktop publishing experience, was responsible for getting the newsletter project off the ground. After researching the alternatives, he decided almost immediately to go with an inexpensive, easy-to-use package: Power Up's *Express Publisher*.

The low-end approach made sense for two reasons, says Spadoni. While the project was still in the experimental phase, he didn't want to invest a lot of money in a high-end package. And perhaps more important, with no desktop publishing experience, he wanted something he could pick up easily and begin using productively after a minimum amount of training. "Until that point, I'd spent 90 percent of my time using 1-2-3 spreadsheets, and the whole graphics arena was a brand-new frontier for me," says Spadoni.

Turning Readers Into Clients

A note in each issue advises readers to direct requests for additional information to the newsletter editor. The editor then funnels questions about articles through Ernst & Young's preestablished contact-tracking system, which ensures that inquiries get forwarded to the appropriate partner in the appropriate regional office.

And a lot of inquiries have come in, says Spadoni. The cover story in the fall 1990 issue on the subject of continuing-care retirement communities (a service that many hospitals are considering) attracted a lot of attention. Several hospital executives called to request additional copies of the newsletter to distribute to their boards of directors. You can't buy that type of exposure.



Moving On: The Second Year

With a year and a half of experience under their belts, consultants at Ernst & Young are reevaluating their approach to newsletter design and content and looking for new ways to capitalize on this low-key approach to marketing.

Spadoni has handed the editorship over to two consultants. Crandall, who's written several articles, handles the editorial side, while Donna Schiavo is responsible for newsletter production and design. The position will be rotated among Ernst & Young consultants each year to keep the publication fresh and keep consultants from getting too bogged down by the added work load, explains Spadoni.

Several changes are in the works. The two new editors are trying out story ideas—and dropping stories that haven't generated much reader response. One idea that didn't work, for example, was in-depth interviews with regional hospital executives. "That wasn't as popular as it might have been," says Crandall, "so we're phasing it out. [Instead,] we'll be interviewing a range of hospital executives on a given topic—sort of an informal survey. This has a dual objective," he adds. "It gives us an

excuse to knock on doors."

But Ernst & Young isn't stopping at newsletters. "Now we see the newsletter as part of a larger strategy in which we produce a wide range of marketing literature that illustrates the kinds of services we provide," says Spadoni.

Schiavo, for example, is developing a series of newsletter inserts that will spotlight key Ernst & Young health care consultants and include photos and brief synopses of their specialties. The inserts will tell readers how to contact the featured consultants.

"The primary goals are to get the name of Ernst & Young consultants out and to highlight [our] broad spectrum of services," says Schiavo. She adds that the most successful articles—judging from reader calls and letters—are the ones in which Ernst & Young consultants provide concrete advice in their field of expertise.

"The newsletter has definitely made us more visible," says Crandall. "When I go out to a consulting site, clients mention it. I'd say it has more than fulfilled its purpose. Our job now is to take it even further."

Alice LaPlante is a freelance writer in Palo Alto, California.

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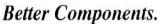
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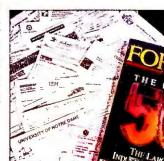
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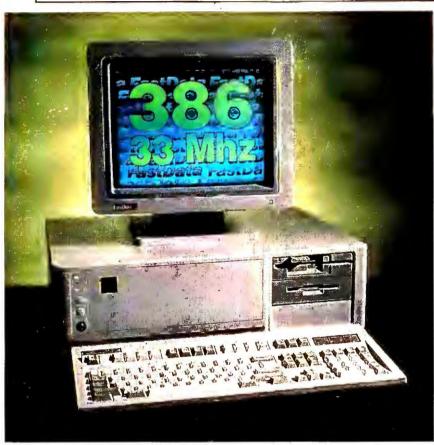
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Call about our hot 486, just \$3,099 with the same standard features as our 386-33 system. Includes a 128K two-stage cache and is expandable to 64mb of memory.



FastData 386/25

The optimum combination of features, expandability, and power make the FastData 386/25 an ideal choice for those whose applications demand high speed 32 bit processing and expandability. The value of the 386/25 goes far beyond its price; it comes configured with a a full four megabytes of fast RAM, a quick 22 millisecond 65 megabyte hard disk, and maximum VGA displaying 1024 by 768 resolution powered by a high-output 16 bit 512K VGA board. Also, the FastMicro team will configure your FastData 386 exactly the way you want, without sending you shopping elsewhere.

Standard Features

- 25mhz Intel 80386-DX.
- 4 megabytes of high speed RAM.
- 80 mb 20ms IDE hard disk, 1:1 interleave.
- 1.2mb 5.25" or 1.44mb 3.5" floppy drive. (For both add \$69)
- Standard chassis (shown on left) with keylock, speed and reset buttons.
- 80387-DX coprocessor socket.
- √ 200 watt power supply
- ✓ 14" Super VGA color monitor, 1024x768 resolution, with 16 bit VGA card with 1mb Video Ram.
- Clock calendar, parallel port, two serial ports, and game port. Keytronics 101 key keyboard. 8 expansion slots & 5 drive
- bays. Full Shadow RAM and LIM 4.0 EMS support.
- Windows & Mouse add \$99.
- ✓ FCC Class B approved.

| 386/25 | 40 IDE | 80 IDE | 100 IDE | 200 IDE |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Mono | \$1,539 | \$1,689 | \$1,769 | \$2,079 |
| VGA White | \$1,639 | \$1,789 | \$1,869 | \$2,179 |
| VGA Color | \$1,789 | \$1,939 | \$2,019 | \$2,329 |
| VGA 1024 | \$1,849 | \$1,999 | \$2,079 | \$2,389 |

All FastData Systems Include:

- 30 day money-back guarantee
- Toll-free technical support for life
 One year warrantee with on-site service
 available to most U.S. locations

FastData SX Systems



\$1599 FastData SX/20

25% taster than a 16mhz SX, the FastData SX/20 adds even greater performance to its 386 multitasking capabilities. Just \$200 more than our SX/16, this machine also includes a second floppy drive in addition to the standard VGA color monitor and 16 bit VGA adaptor, Keytronics keyboard and 40 megabyte hard drive. The system includes two megabytes of memory and is expandable to eight on the main system board. Remember, when you have questions, need to solve a problem, or want recommendations on products for your system, the FastMicro team is standing by tollfree to provide product support for as long as you own your FastData personal computer.

Standard Features

- ✓ 20mhz Intel 80386-SX
- processor. 2 megabytes of high speed RAM
- 40 mb 28ms IDE hard disk, 1.1 interleave.
- 1.2mb 5.25" and 1.44mb 3.5" floppy drives.
- Standard chassis (shown) with keylock, speed and reset buttons.
- √ 200 watt power supply

- √ 14" Super VGA color monitor with 16 bit VGA card with 512K.
- ✓ Clock calendar, parallel port, two. senal ports, and game port.
- Keytronics 101 key keyboard.
- 8 expansion slots, 5 drive bays.
- 80387-SX coprocessor socket. Full Shadow RAM and LIM 4.0 EMS support.
- Windows & Mouse add \$99.
- Guaranteed compatible.
- FCC Class B approved.

| SX/20 | 40 IDE | 80 IDE | 100 IDE | 200 IDE |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Mone | \$1 289 | \$1,439 | \$1.519 | \$1,829 |
| VGA White | \$1,389 | \$1,539 | \$1,619 | \$1,929 |
| VGA Color | \$1,539 | \$1,689 | \$1,769 | \$2,079 |
| VGA 1024 | \$1,599 | \$1,749 | \$1,829 | \$2,139 |



\$1399 FastData 386/SX

Combine the benefits of an advanced Intel 386 processor, the value of a 286 and the advantages of FastData and you've got the FastData 386/SX! This machine is the choice of those who want to run today's powerful 386 and multitasking software, like Windows, run today's powerful 500 and multitasking software, like Windows, and also want to run their favorite DOS applications at surprising speeds. We've made our customers' favorite options standard: it comes with an ample two megabytes of memory, a high performance 40mb hard drive, and 16 bit color VGA. Compare performance, features, and service and you will find no better SX value. Interested further? Try the FastData 386/SX for 30 days; you have to be happy if not ver'll take it back. - if not, we'll take it back.

Standard Features

- 16mhz Intel 80386-SX
- 2 megabytes of high speed RAM.
- 40 mb 28ms IDE hard disk, 1:1 interleave.
- 1.2mb 5.25" or 1.44mb 3.5" floppy drive. Both add \$69.
- Standard chassis with keylock. speed and reset buttons (minidesktop shown - add \$50).
- 200 watt power supply

- 14" VGA color monitor with 16 bit VGA card with 256K.
- ✓ Clock calendar, parallel port, two serial ports, and a game port.

- Keytronics 101 key keyboard. 8 expansion slots, 5 drive bays. 80387-SX coprocessor socket. Full Shadow RAM and LIM 4.0 EMS support.
- Windows & Mouse add \$99. Guaranteed compatible.
- FCC Class B approved.

| 386/SX | 40 IDE | 80 IDE | 100 IDE | 200 IDE |
|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Mone | \$1,149 | \$1,299 | \$1 379 | \$1,689 |
| VGA White | \$1,249 | \$1,399 | \$1,479 | \$1,789 |
| VGA Color | \$1 399 | \$1 549 | \$1 629 | \$1,939 |
| VGA 1024 | \$1,459 | \$1,609 | \$1,689 | \$1,999 |

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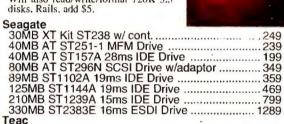


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Toshiba \$489 100mb IDE Kit

UUMD IDE KII
Upgrade your 286 or 386 to IDE technology and Toshiba quality at a FastMicro price. This kit comes with a fast 20ms 105mb drive and built-in 1:1 controller, 16 bit IDE card with dual floppy controller and cables, 5.25" brackets and rails. Call our experts for all your drive needs. Model MK234FC.



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BOARDS



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New and improved, the ATI VGA WONDER+ is faster than VRAM. It does interlaced and non-interlaced 1024x768 modes, is 100% register compatible, and comes with extensive software drivers. A free mouse is included as an added bonus. 512K version \$219.

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| 387-SX16/20 | 319/349 |
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| Practical Modem | |
| Practical Modem \$449 | |
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9600SA

This external modem features V.42 and MNP error correction combined with MNP/5 and V.42 bis data compression to provide total high speed throughput. The PM9600SA is also V.32 TCM, V.32, V.22 compliant and comes with a five year guarantee.

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| 2400B Int Modem | 125 |
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| Promodem 2400B Internal | 98 |
| Promodem 2400G External | 149 |
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| 2400 Sportster Int/Ext | 119/147 |
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| Courier HST 14,400 Dual Standar | d Ext859 |
| Video 7 | |
| VGA 1024i 256K | 179 |
| VGA 1024i 512K | 209 |
| V-RAM VGA 512K | 299 |
| ZOOM | |

FastData 286/12



| System Price | 40mb | 65mb | 80mb | 100mb |
|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Monochinen | \$799 | \$869 | \$999 | \$1,069 |
| Ve Co | \$1,099 | \$1,169 | \$1,299 | \$1,369 |
| waster. | \$1,199 | \$1,269 | \$1,399 | \$1,469 |

Imagine a fast 286 computer at a super price and you've got the FastData 286/12. This system is complete, not stripped. You get one megabyte of zero-wait-state memory and a 28ms IDE hard disk - standard. Also included is an amber monitor and graphics card, your choice of a high density 1.2mb or 1.44mb floppy drive and a Keytronics keyboard. And since its a FastData, you are backed with tell-free technical support, one year warranty with backed with toll-free technical support, one year warranty with the FastShip replacement program & on-site service plan, and our 30 day full money back satisfaction guarantee!

- 12mhz 80286 processor. 1 megabyte RAM. 40 mb 28ms hard disk 1:1
- 1.2mb 5.25" or 1.44mb 3.5" floppy drive (2nd drive add
- Standard chassis Five drive bays.
- 200 watt power supply. 287XL coprocessor soc
- ✓ Monochrome monitor with monochrome graphic
- board.
 Clock calendar, parallel port, and two serial ports.
 Keytronics enhanced 101
- keyboard.
- 8 expansion slots, 6 available.
 Full documentation.
 FCC Class B approve

-800-441-*FAST*

| MONITORS | |
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| 1410 EGA Diamond Scan 1381 | 479 |
| NEC | |
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| Multisync GS 2a | 199 |
| Multisync 3d | 629 |
| Muitisync 4d | Call |
| Panasonic C1381 VGA | 439 |
| Princeton | |
| Seiko CM1440/1450 | 519/659 |
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FastData 16 Bit VGA

The FastData 16bit VGA card features 256K. of video memory, does CGA, EGA, & VGA up to 1024x768 and comes with drivers for popular software including Windows 3.0. It's expandable to 512K and has a 30 day money-back guizantee.





FastData 2400 Baud Internal Modem

\$69 The FastData 2400 baud internal modern is fully Hayes compatible and can be configured to COM port 1-4. It has an internal speaker, is auto answer & auto dial, and comes with BitCom software.

| Control With Directin Software. |
|--------------------------------------|
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| Parallel/Dual Serial/Game Card |
| RLL 16bit 1:1 Hard/Floppy Disk Cont |
| XT 1.44 Dual Floppy Controller |
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Provided Provided States a complete line made for us by leading manufacturers like Samsung & Hyundai. Like all FastData products, you have a full 30 day money back guarantee. Shown is the VGA Color for \$279.



| Color for \$279. | |
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| 14" VGA Color 31 dot pitch | |
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| PRIN | TERS |
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| non BJ10E | |
| J300/BJ330 | 495/Call |
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Citizen GSX140

Loaded with features, this 24 pin printer is a hot seller! It comes with 6 resident fonts, paper parking, and Epson & IBM printing modes. It does up to 192 CPS and has a unique LCD control panel that lets you set everything without DIP switches. Upgrade to color anytime for just \$39.



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| P3300 | 369 |
| P6200 | 469 |
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PC Magazine's editor's choice! The new NEC model 90 comes with 2mb of memory, Postscript by Adobe with 35 fonts, and parallel, serial and Appletalk interfaces. All this and 6 ppm speed. an easy-to-use LCD operator panel and letter, legal, & envelope feed.



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| KXP1123 | Call |
| KXP1624 | 429 |
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| KXP4450/4455 Lasers | |
| Seiko Smart Label Printer | |
| Star | |
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| NX1500 | |
| NX2410 | |
| XB2410 / 2415 | 9 / 569 |
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MICRO

Software

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| GEM Desktop Pub Pagemaker 4.0 | 15 | 9 |
| Pagemaker 4.0 | 48 | 9 |
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Corel Draw Version 2.0 \$359

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Topie

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| Microsoft Serial or Bus Mouse only | |
| Microsoft Serial or Bus w/ paint | |
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Excel 3.0 for Windows

The best graphical spread-sheet now includes Toolbar,

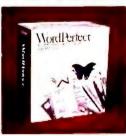
sheet now includes Toolbar, which puts frequently used commands a single mouse click away. New Q + E lets you access remote databases & Best Fit automatically resizes columns to display longer cell widths. 3-D charts, clip art support, and button macros are included too! Command level on-screen help for transitional 1-2-3 users is included too.

| Lucio 3-D | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Quattro Pro 2.0 Competitive Upgrade | |
| Supercalc 5D | 2 |
| oupercale ob | 6 |

WORD PROCESSORS

| The state of the s | |
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WordPerfect 5.1 \$239 WordPerfect is the #1



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Financial Oblique
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Combine your choice of patterns, outlines, shadows, and reverse effects with any size or style of typeface as shown in the sample output below.

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Button-Down Macros With Excel 3.0

Two of Excel 3.0's hottest features—the macro button and auto-open function—deliver on the promise of macros to make complex tasks simple.

Ralph Soucie

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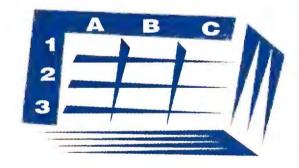
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Spreadsheets

Put to their best use, macros do more than save keystrokes. They allow managers to delegate time-consuming tasks to assistants with less technical expertise. But as you load your worksheets with more macros, you may reach a point of diminishing returns. Eventually your subordinates could get bogged down in a morass of cobbled-together macros, hot keys, and complicated instructions.

Version 3.0 of *Excel* includes two devices that simplify macros for non-technical users—the macro button and

auto-open feature. You can now create macro buttons in *Excel* worksheets—graphical objects that you link macros to. Auto-open loads macro sheets that are ready for execution. If you take advantage of these features, one of your assistants can run a macro simply by opening a worksheet and clicking the mouse pointer on the corresponding button.

We'll show you how to create a working macro button to consolidate data from four sample financial worksheets. The instructions assume some familiarity with *Excel* macros.

► The Scenario

Each month you receive financial reports in *Excel* worksheets from each of your company's four regions (East, West, North, and South). Consolidating the data from these reports is an ideal task to pass on to your assistant. The first step is to make a simple summary worksheet. The key element of the sum-

mary sheet is a macro that automatically opens all the regional worksheet files and calculates company totals for the month.

► Creating the Sample Data

To create the macro, you must first create some sample data for each region. Start by opening a brand-new worksheet. Enter the titles **Department** and **Sales** in cells A1 and B1, respectively. Label cells A3 through A6 with the following department names: **Furniture**, **Appliances**, **Audio**, and **Video**. Fill cells B3 through B6 with the sample sales figure of \$1000.

In cell B8, you need the total value of cells B3 through B7, and Excel~3.0's auto-sum button (designated by the Greek letter sigma [Σ] on the tool bar) is the simplest way to make the formula. Click on cell B8, then click on the auto-sum icon twice. The formula in the edit bar will read '=SUM(B3:B7)', and cell B8 should now display \$4000. Save the worksheet under the name EAST.XLS. Then use *File Save as* to save the file three more times under the file names NORTH.XLS, SOUTH.XLS, and WEST.XLS.

You now have four worksheets with the same format, each one corresponding to a sales region. To create the summary worksheet, you need five new columns. First, clear column B: Highlight it, press < Delete >, and select OK. Label cells B1 to F1 as East, North, South, West, and Totals, respectively. In the Totals column, click on cell F3, click on the autosum icon, use the mouse to highlight cells B3 to E3, and click on the auto-sum icon again. The formula should read '=SUM(B3:E3)'. Copy the SUM formula to F5:F6. To create totals for each column in row 8, select cell F8 and drag the pointer to cell B8 (not vice versa) so that F8 is still the active cell, doubleclick on the auto-sum icon to total column F, then press < Ctrl>-< Enter>.

Save the worksheet under the file name TOTSALES.XLS, then close all other files.

```
Consolidate_Sales
=OPEN("EAST.XLS")
=SELECT("R3C2:R6C2")
=COPY()
=FILE.CLOSE()
=SELECT("R3C2:R6C2")
=PASTE()
=OPEN("NORTH.XLS")
=SELECT("R3C2:R6C2")
=COPY()
=FILE.CLOSE()
=SELECT("R3C3:R6C3")
=PASTE()
=OPEN("SOUTH.XLS")
=SELECT("R3C2:R6C2")
=COPY()
=FILE.CLOSE()
=SELECT("R3C4")
=PASTE()
=OPEN("WEST.XLS")
=SELECT("R3C2:R6C2")
=COPY()
=FILE.CLOSE()
=SELECT("R3C5:R6C5")
=PASTE()
=RETURN()
```

LISTING 1: This simple macro consolidates data from four worksheets. You don't need to type in every line—simply use the macro recorder and follow the steps in the text—but be sure to check each line for errors.

► Creating the Macro

You're now ready to create the consolidation macro shown in **LISTING 1**. You could key in these macro instructions yourself, but using the macro recorder is quicker.

- 1. From the Macro menu choose *Record*. This brings up the Record Macro dialog box.
- 2. Name the macro **Consolidate_sales**. Since you don't need to assign it a shortcut key, delete the one *Excel* offers.
- 3. For each of the files for the individual regions (East, North, South, and West) follow these steps: Open the file. Select the range B3:B6, and invoke the Edit Copy command. Close the file. Paste the data into row 3 of the appropriate column (B, C, D, or E) of TOTSALES.XLS.

4. From the Macro menu choose *Stop Recorder*.

5. Use the Window menu or **<Ctrl>- <f6>** to bring up (activate) the macro sheet, and save it as UPDATE.XLM.

► Creating the Macro Button

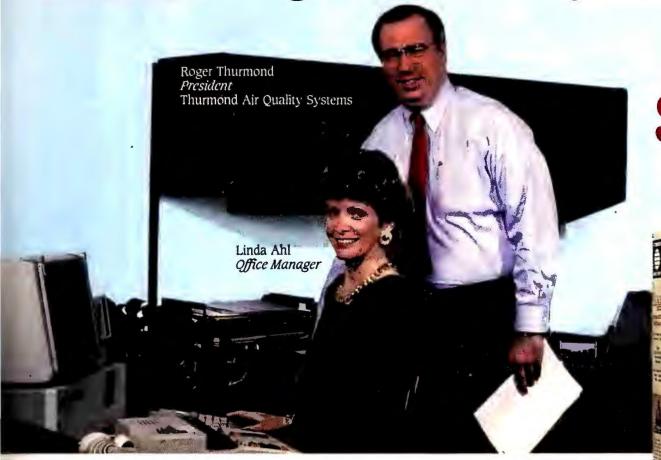
Now it's time to assign the macro to a button that your assistant can easily activate from within the worksheet. First activate TOTSALES.XLS and decide where you would like the button to appear (we'll put it to the right, in the vicinity of column H). To create the button, follow these steps:

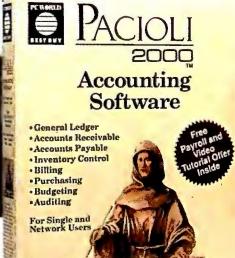
- 1. Click the macro button icon on the tool bar. It's the next-to-last button on the right, just to the left of the camera icon.
- 2. Move the mouse pointer to the upper-left corner of cell H3.
- 3. Click and drag the mouse down and to the right to size the button. A rectangular area approximately the size of two or three cells works best. After you release the mouse button, a button icon labeled 'Button 1' appears on screen in the area you just defined. A dialog box labeled 'Assign to Object' also appears, listing the macro you just defined in the Assign Macro list box.
- 4. Double-click the Consolidate _sales macro entry in the list box.
- 5. Key in a meaningful name, such as **Update**, for the button.
- 6. Click on any part of the worksheet outside the button and save the file. Your screen should now resemble **SCREEN 1**.

Next, move the mouse pointer over the Update button. When the pointer changes to a pointing hand, it's a sign that clicking on the button will run the macro. (If you want to change the shape or location of the button or make any changes to its label, you can select the button by holding down < Ctrl> while clicking the mouse button.)

Close all files except for the macro sheet. Compare your recorded macro with LISTING 1, and make corrections if necessary. Then open TOTSALES.XLS, clear the values in B3:F6, and click on the Update button. *Excel* fills in the regional sales figures.

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| - | Par | | | TOTSALE | S.XLS | | | |
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| 2 | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Furniture | \$3,500 | \$2,456 | \$3,654 | \$2,568 | \$12,178 | | (|
| 4 | Appliances | \$8,549 | \$653 | \$8,658 | \$5,854 | \$8,542 | | Update |
| 5 | Audio | \$587 | \$1,000 | \$8,258 | \$6,857 | \$5,848 | | |
| 6 | Video | \$6,858 | \$5,582 | \$8,855 | \$7,854 | \$8,558 | *************************************** | |
| 7 | | | | | • | | *************************************** | |
| 8 | | \$19,494 | \$9,691 | \$29,425 | \$23,133 | \$81,743 | | |
| 9 | | | | | | | | |
| Read | ly | | | | | | MUM | |

SCREEN 1: Excel 3.0 enables you to create graphical objects like the Update button shown here and to allocate macros to them. This feature makes running macros a snap and delegating complex operations to your nontechnical assistants a realistic option.

As with any item in a worksheet, deleting rows or columns around a macro button will change the button's location. You can also move macro buttons with the Cut and Copy commands in the Edit menu.

► Making Life Simpler for Your Assistants

There's one more step. As things stand, your assistant has to open both TOT-SALES.XLS and the macro sheet UP-DATE.XLM before pressing the macro button marked 'Update'. That's no big strain. But since you'll be delegating more spreadsheet tasks to this person and therefore creating more macros, it's best to keep things as simple as possible.

You can reduce the start-up procedure to a single step with *Excel*'s auto-open feature. Your able assistants already know that the end product will be a revised *Excel* document named TOTSALES.XLS. When you use auto-open, they can simply open the TOT-SALES.XLS file to get started.

This involves making a *second* macro that will open UPDATE.XLM when you open the document. First, open a new macro sheet, and enter the following formulas in cells A1 through A5:

Update_start

- =open("update.xlm")
- =hide()
- =activate("totsales.xls")

=return()

Next, select cell A1, and choose *Define name* from the Formula menu. Choose *Command*, then select *OK*. It isn't necessary to assign a shortcut key, so simply save the macro sheet as OPEN1.XLM. Open the TOTSALES.XLS worksheet, and select *Formula Define name* to add the name **Auto_open**. Select the entire entry in the 'Refers To' text box, then activate OPEN1.XLM and select cell A1, and select *OK*. Delete the sales figures in columns B through E in the TOTSALES.XLS worksheet.

Finally, close all files, saving any changes.

Test the auto-open macro by opening the TOTSALES.XLS file. The macro opens the UPDATE.XLM macro sheet, which you can now run by clicking on the Update macro button.

Now you have something that goes beyond a mere macro. It's really a rudimentary application that runs when you open the data file. And, as you assign more macros to buttons, you can add them to the auto-open macro OPEN1-.XLM. As your application becomes more sophisticated, you might want to add a number of capabilities to this macro—such as a reminder that will tell your assistants to ensure that the supporting worksheets are all up-to-date before proceeding.

Contributing Editor Ralph Soucie is the author of Learn Microsoft Excel Now (Microsoft Press, Redmond, Washington, 1990).

POWER TIP NO. 183

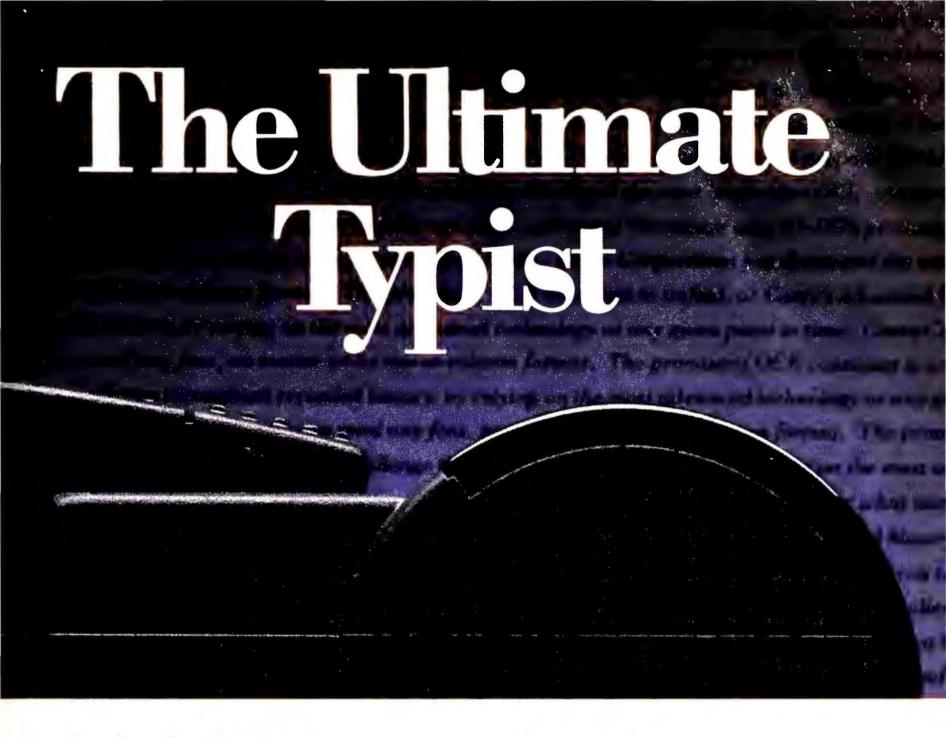
Streamline Excel Macros With Subroutines

Often a macro must repeat the same series of commands over and over. It's easier and more efficient to make those commands a sub-routine—a macro within a macro.

Here's a simple example. Suppose you want a macro to format several selected columns as percentages. First, use File New Macro sheet, and choose an out-of-the-way area—in this example we'll start at cell A100. To name the subroutine, enter FormatPercent() in cell A100, select Formula Define name, click on Command, and press <Enter>. Type =select("c") in cell A101 and =format.number("0.00%") in cell A102. End the subroutine by entering =return() in cell A103.

Now, wherever you want a macro to apply the percentage format to the current column in your worksheet, simply use the formula = FormatPercent() in that macro.

Ralph Soucie Contributing Editor



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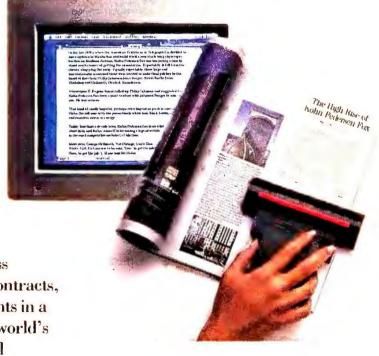
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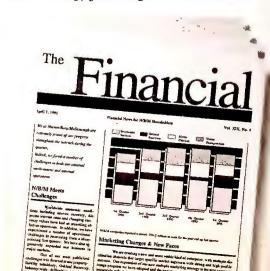
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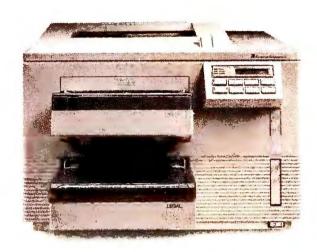
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Words Into Print



Word Processing

Tips for getting the most out of your word processor

This month: Master WordPerfect tabs, convert text from uppercase to lowercase in WordPerfect, and find files with Word 5.0's full-text search tools.

George Campbell

n the early days of PCs, you could line up text in columns just by pressing the <Space> bar a few times. But those days are gone. While your old daisy wheel printer spaced text evenly, to-day's printers use proportional spacing, so text aligned on screen may not line up on paper.

Whether you're creating a price list, as in **SCREEN 1**, or a short tabular list in a memo, your program's tab-setting feature will line the text up perfectly. Many word processors offer other options for aligning columns as well. Use your program's side-by-side-column feature for large blocks of text that take up a page or more. When you need lines and borders around data, use the table editor—if your program has one. But when you

simply want to line up a list or set up a short table, tabs are fast and easy.

Most programs, such as *WordPerfect*, alter tab settings by inserting a tab ruler in the document. Tabs set this way apply to all text below the ruler and stay in effect up to the point where you insert a new ruler. *Word*'s tabs, however, apply only to paragraphs you select before you set the tabs.

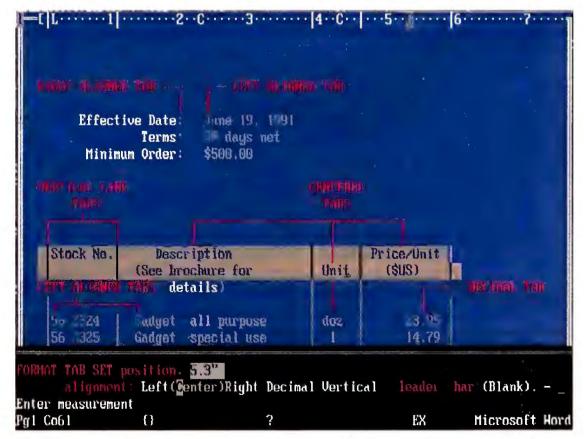
A Tab for All Seasons

Most word processors offer several tab types. Here's a quick rundown:

- Left-aligned tabs are usually the default. Use them for text that starts at the tab position and stretches to the right. Left tabs are commonly used for text tables.
- Right-aligned tabs let you align the right side of text, as in **SCREEN 1.** Right-aligned text works well in one- or two-column text tables, but it usually looks out of place if the table has more columns. In a two-column table, set a

right-aligned tab for the left column and a left-aligned tab for the right column, as shown in **SCREEN 1**. Right-aligned tabs are also ideal in headers or footers, especially on right-hand pages in facingpage layouts.

- Centered tabs work best for titles or headings above lists. The text stretches an equal distance to the left and right of the tab position.
- Decimal tabs are perfect for lining up prices or other decimal numbers. Characters stretch to the left, as with a right-aligned tab, until you press the period key. Characters after the period will stretch to the right of the tab position. You can also choose a different alignment character in most programs. Some word processors, like *WordStar*; that lack right-aligned tabs let you use decimal tabs instead. As long as you don't type a period, the effect is the same as that of a right-aligned tab.
- Most packages let you adorn tabs
 with leader dots that stretch from the



SCREEN 1: Setting a few tabs makes a complex document like this price list a breeze to read. Word's vertical tab feature, which places a line to the left of each tab, makes it easy to create vertical rules. You use decimal tabs to line up numbers.

previous tab's text to the current tab's text. Use this feature to print a line of eye-leading dots when tabs are separated by more than a few inches, as in a table of contents.

In WordPerfect Alignment

Here's how you set tabs in *WordPerfect* 5.x. The steps are similar in other word processors.

First, place the cursor at the start of the text (or where the text *will* start) and press <**Shift>-<F8>It**. You'll see the tab-setting menu at the bottom of the screen. To clear old settings, press <**Home><Home><Cursor Left><Ctrl>-<End>.**

Place the cursor on the ruler where you want a tab. By default, tab settings start at the left margin. Press I for a left-aligned tab, c for a centered tab, r to create a right-aligned tab, or d to set a decimal tab. To create leader dots for a tab, move the cursor to that tab, then press the period key. Leader dots automatically adjust for centered, right, and decimal tabs as you enter text.

The ruler is normally divided into

WORDPERFECT SHORTCUT

Case Shifting

When converting to lowercase, WordPerfect capitalizes the first letter of a sentence if a period appears before it. The pronoun I also stays capitalized, as do any single-letter abbreviations followed by periods.

tenths of an inch. To specify a more precise location, from any point within the tab menu type in a measurement for the tab, then press <*Enter>. WordPerfect will insert a left-aligned tab. To alter the tab's type, highlight the tab and press one of the other letters.

After setting the tabs, press <**F7>** twice to return to your document. The settings will apply up to the point in the document where you change them—if

you move the cursor back, above the new ruler, the old tabs will apply. To return to normal tab settings, press <\$hift>-< F8>|t<Ctrl>-< End>0,.5< Enter>< F7><F7>. To alter the default half-inch placement, simply change the '.5' spacing in the command above.

To alter the settings, place the cursor on the line where you want the tab changes to start. Press <\$\footnote{Shift}>-<\footnote{F8}>\footnote{lt}\$, then move the cursor to the tab you want to change. To delete a tab, press <\textbf{De-lete}>. To alter a tab's type, press a new tab letter. To add or remove leader dots, press the period key. In version 5.1, you can even move tabs—just hold down <\table Ctrl> while you move the marker with the cursor keys.

You can change the alignment character for decimal tabs by pressing <\$hift>-<F8>od. Type in a new alignment character, then press <F7>. If you want to see a tab ruler at the bottom of the screen as you work, press <Ctrl>-<F3>w22<Enter>. (In version 5.0, replace 'w22' with w23.)

Finally, you can create a new default tab setup to use whenever you run WordPerfect. Start the program, and press <\$hift>-<F1>ic. Press <\$hift>-<F8>lt, set your tabs, and press <F7> four times. From then on, WordPerfect will start up with the new settings.

■

George Campbell is a contributing editor for PC World.

WORD SHORTCUT

Find That File

Word 5.0's Library Documentretrieval command will search through an entire directory of documents for text you specify, then let you load the document you want. This macro automates the process. Follow the steps below on a blank Word screen:

- 1. Press <**Shift>-<F3>** to begin recording.
- 2. Press < Esc > Idq, then press < Cursor Down > five times.
- 3. Press <\$hift>-<F3> to end recording.
- 4. Type FindText.mac^, press an unused < Ctrl>-key combina-

tion such as <Ctrl>-F, then press <Enter>e.

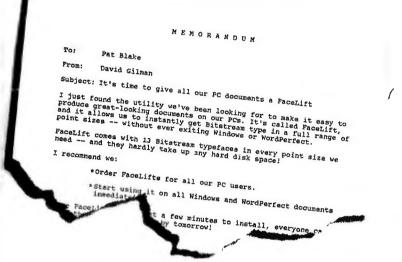
5. Press < Esc > tgs to save the macro.

To use the macro, press <**Ctrl>-F** (or whatever combination you chose). Type the text you want to find, and press <**Enter>**. Word will search all documents in the current directory, then show you a list of files. To load a file, highlight it, then press **I<Enter>**.

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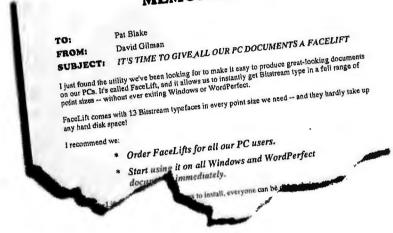
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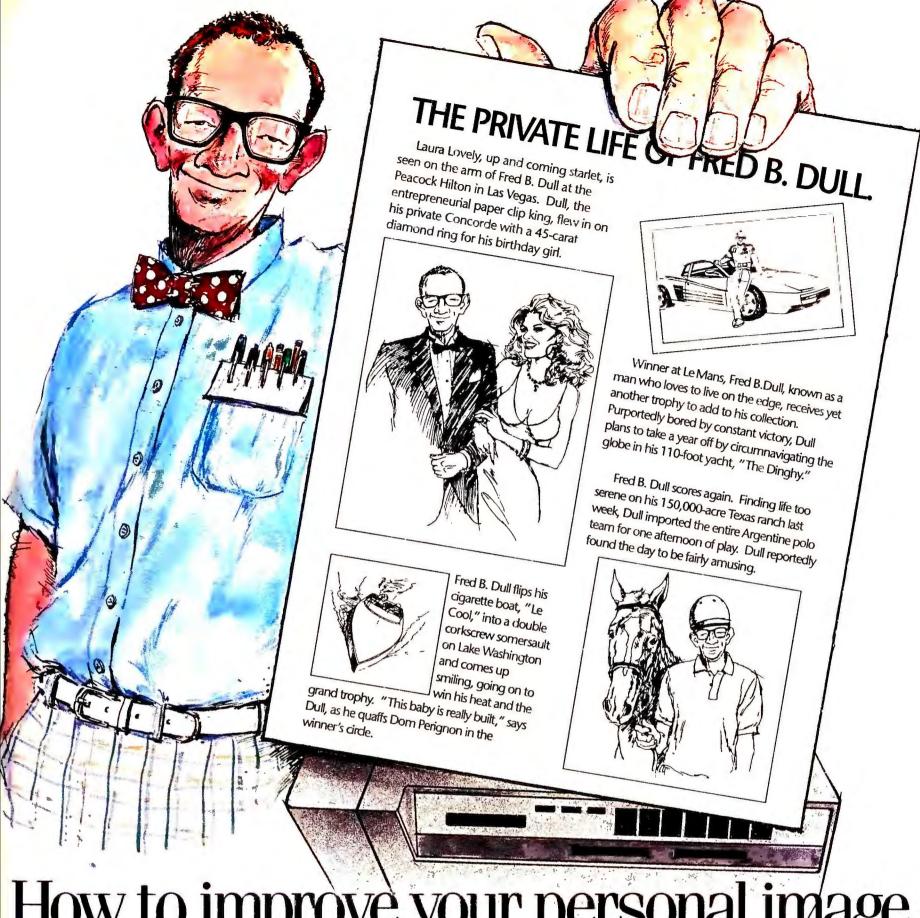
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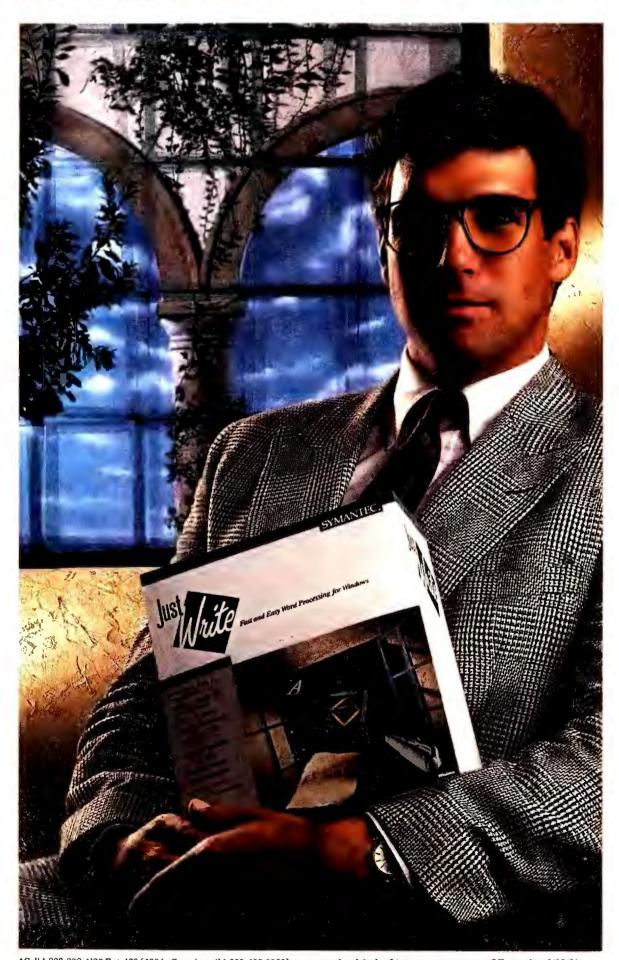
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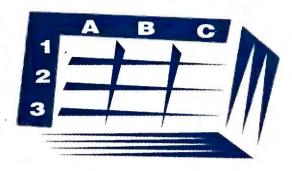
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Spreadsheets (A..Z)



Spreadsheets

Practical tips for building better worksheets

This month: the battle of the bloat—tips for handling large worksheets

Richard Scoville

awkward to view on screen, print, or simply navigate. April's *Spreadsheets* (A..Z) column demonstrated the fine points of printing big worksheets; this month, we provide some hints for organizing and viewing them on the screen. You can apply this month's tips to 1-2-3 version 2.x and 3.x and to all releases of Quattro.

The Diamondback

The first step in avoiding a sprawling spreadsheet is to divide it into discrete work areas and then arrange those zones into a diamondback pattern like the one shown in **FIGURE 1**. The diamondback pattern helps ensure that the areas of the worksheet do not interfere with one another when you insert or delete rows or columns and when you

adjust the widths of the columns.

Let's say you're using a spreadsheet to manage your small-business accounts receivable. Your work areas might include lists of clients and receivable items, and a report area from which to print invoices. In addition, you'll want a separate area for macros. In 1-2-3 release 2.x or any version of *Quattro*, you might use the layout pattern shown in **FIGURE 1**, allocating cells A1 to, say, H9 for macros, I10 to U26 for receivables, and so forth. In 1-2-3 release 3.x, you could insert a new worksheet for each

work area, using /Worksheet Insert Sheet After. The diamondback pattern, however, is the most convenient alternative to complex multifile designs, particularly if your work requires that you exchange files between different program versions.

Using /Range Name Create (in Quattro, /Edit Names Create), identify the upper left corner cell of each work area with a descriptive "landmark" range name. Begin all landmark names with @—as in @CLIENTS, @MACROS, @RECEIVABLES, and so on—and

SPREADSHEET TOOLBOX

SQZing Your Files Down to Size

When it comes time to save those overweight 1-2-3 release 2.x worksheets on your already crowded hard disk, you'll find Symantec's SQZ is just the reducing program you need. Once enabled, this \$99 add-in automatically and unobtrusively compresses your worksheets as you save them, then decompresses them when you retrieve. When I tried SQZ with a few worksheets lying around my hard disk, the results were impressive. For instance, it reduced an 80K worksheet to 37K. Amazingly, saving a worksheet with SQZ doesn't seem to take much longer than a regular save.

Also provided with SQZ are some useful utilities: an add-in that will automatically save your current worksheet at specified time intervals, an add-in that lets you back up and restore files

in the same format as DOS's regular backup program, and a command-line utility that compresses and decompresses worksheets in batch mode.

Yet another add-in maintains a transcript of every key you press during a worksheet session. The result is error-correction capability that far exceeds 1-2-3 release 2.2's Undo: By retrieving the worksheet as it was at the start of the session and replaying keystrokes, you can restore the worksheet to the way it was just before the big mistake.

If you work with big worksheets, and if your hard disk space is limited, SQZ is an invaluable tool.

SQZ \$99; Symantec Corp., 10201 Torre Ave., Cupertino, CA 95014; 800/441-7234

Reader service no. 616

Mapping Out Your Worksheet

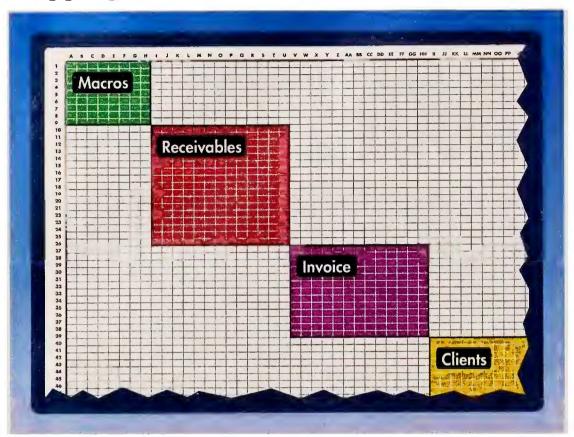


FIGURE 1: By mapping the zones of a big worksheet into a diamondback pattern, you ensure against accidentally removing information as you delete columns and rows in another section.

they will conveniently appear, in alphabetical order, at the top of the range name menu.

With this arrangement, you'll find that navigating even the largest worksheet is a snap: Press < F5>, then < F3>, and 1-2-3 will present you with a list of landmark range names. Select a landmark range name from the list, and press < Enter>.

Working With Windows

Comparing and editing widely separated areas of a worksheet is awkward if you can't view them together on the screen. Fortunately, there's a neat solution: split the screen into two windows. For a horizontal split, position the cell pointer where you want the screen to divide. In 1-2-3 you then select /Worksheet Windows Horizontal, /Worksheet Windows Unsync (in Quattro, select /Window Option Horizontal, then /Window Option Unsync). Press <**F6**> to switch windows, and use <F5> and <F3> to position each window on a different work area within the spreadsheet.

Lock Those Titles

In any spreadsheet larger than the screen, it is easy to get lost looking for a particular data value: As you hunt around, the identifying row and column labels slip out of view. In order to keep the labels visible at all times, you can lock the titles.

First, position the screen so that the required row and column labels are at the left and top of the screen, respectively. Then position the cell pointer on the first cell in the data area. In 1-2-3, select /Worksheet Titles Both; in Quattro, /Window Options Locked titles Both. Now, the label rows and columns won't slip out of sight.

With titles locked, when you press <home>, the pointer returns not to cell A1, but to the top left corner of the visible range of the worksheet's data. You can't move with the cursor directly to cells in the titles zone. To edit a titles cell without turning locked titles off, press <f5>, use the cursor keys to move to the desired cell, and press <fnd> center>. To restore the screen, press <fnd> center

EXCEL SHORTCUT

Smart Consolidations Ralph Soucie

With Excel 3.0 you can quickly consolidate totals from widely separate sections of a large worksheet or from a group of worksheets. First, open the relevant worksheet(s) and select the range where you want to consolidate the totals. Choose Data Consolidate, which brings up the Consolidate dialog box.

Then, select the first range containing an amount to be aggregated, and click on the Add button in the dialog box. Repeat this process for all the relevant sections or files. Then click *OK* or press <**Enter>** to consolidate the totals.

You can streamline the selection process when you're consolidating data from multiple files. Use similar file names for the relevant files (let's say they all begin with SALES) and the same cell reference for data to consolidate, B4:B12 for example. Enter SALES*.XLS!\$B\$4:\$B\$12 in the Reference text box, and Excel will include totals from all worksheets—even unopened ones—whose names begin with SALES.

Richard Scoville and Ralph Soucie are contributing editors for PC World.

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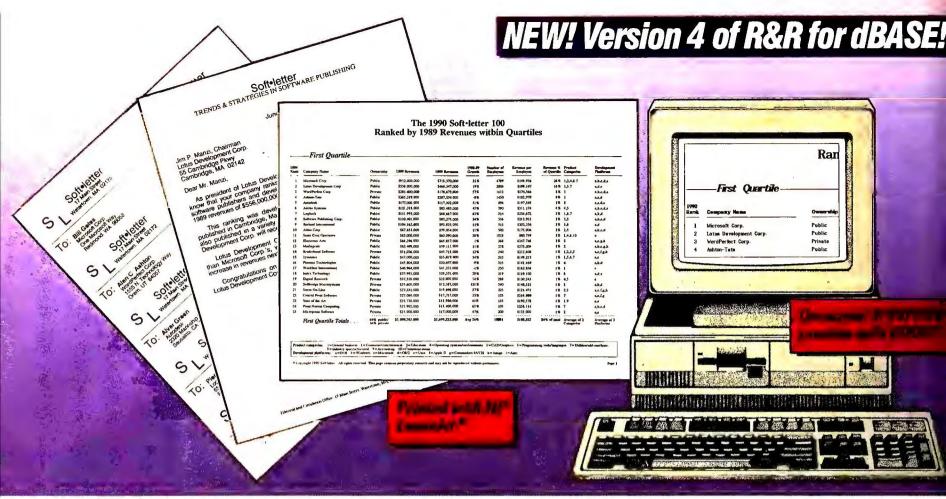
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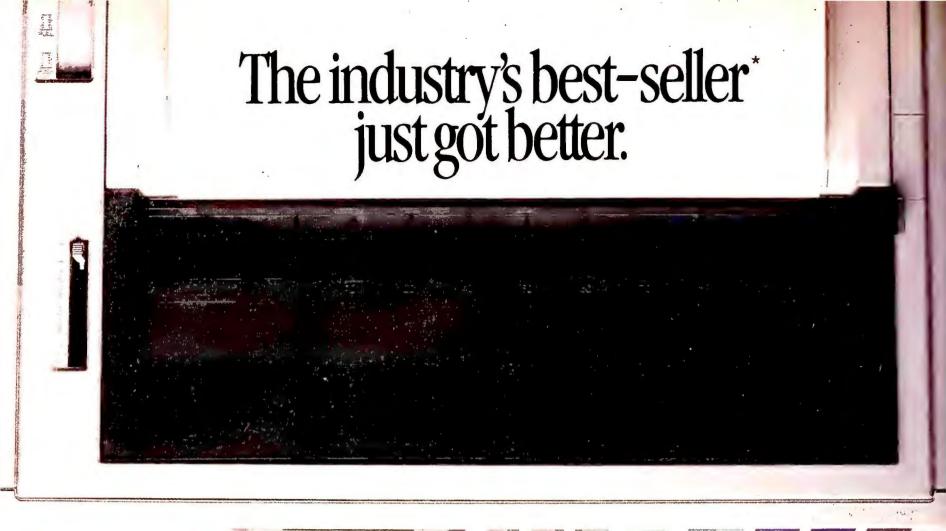
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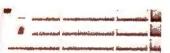
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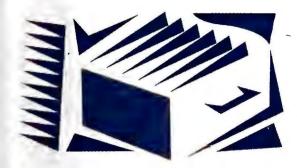
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Data Basics



Data Management

Tips and techniques for managing your data

This month: Creating a to-do list

Steve Cummings

to-do list does just what the name implies: It gives you a place to list and sort—by priority—tasks that you must do. A number of programs offer this feature, from simple pop-up "ticklers," to complex personal information managers that let you add comments and dates and view your tasks in various ways. But none of those programs offer the flexibility you'll get from creating a customized to-do list in your own data management program, especially if you want to integrate your tasks with other types of data.

You probably already have data base files listing your customers, contacts, co-workers, and so on. If you keep your to-do list in the same program, you'll be able to integrate that information into your task list without retyping or manually importing it. If you work in an R&D department, for instance, you could do a relational lookup—which searches through one file for a match to data in

another—on the personnel file to find technicians with the expertise needed for a task. Almost every data manager, even simple ones, can handle lookups.

A few provisos: A homegrown to-do list takes longer to set up and test than off-the-shelf software. And unless you're a programmer with time to kill, your homegrown system will lack such niceties as an auto-dialer and a pop-up calendar—but you can fill those gaps with a TSR, *SideKick*, for instance.

What to Do

Before designing your to-do list's data structure, take some time to think out exactly what kind of information you'll need to include. Here are the basics:

A task description field. Make this

no longer than 60 characters; any more will crowd the screen when displayed in a table view.

- Three date fields: the date you first record the task, the completion deadline, and the actual completion date. Depending on the need for precision, you may want time fields as well.
- A one-character priority field. When pressure rises and time is short, you'll need to sort your list in order of importance. Use a simple 1 through 9 numbering scheme, with top-priority items labeled 1.
- A short classification field. Separating projects into categories, such as personal tasks, meetings, and correspondence, lets you examine similar kinds of tasks together. If your software

dBASE SHORTCUT

From a Table to a Form

Lincoln Spector

A Browse screen table view shows you many records at once, while an Edit screen form gives you a clearer view of one record. dBASE III Plus offers no way to toggle easily between these views, but you can create such a toggle by programming. Here's how to do it with the least amount of code:

x = .F.

DO WHILE .NOT. x

BROWSE

EDIT

@ 21,37 SAY "Exit?" GET x

READ

ENDDO

This example assumes that

RETURN

your data file is already open. The program starts a loop that brings up the Browse screen (dBASE's table view). Here, you can scroll through your data and even edit it. When you exit Browse by pressing < Esc> or < Ctrl>-W, the Edit screen appears, showing the record that was highlighted when you exited Browse.

When you exit the Edit screen with < Esc>, you'll be asked if you want to exit the program. If you answer y or t, the loop finishes. If you answer n or f, it starts over, bringing you back to the Browse screen.



A table view of a to-do list can show vital information for several tasks. By sorting on priority ('P'), 'Deadline,' and classification ('C'), you can see which tasks must get done first.

PARADOX SHORTCUT

Making a Form Your Own

Celeste Robinson

When you view data in *Paradox*, <**F7>** acts as a hot key for going between the table and form views. By default, the form displayed with the hot key is a simple vertical listing of your table's fields. But *Paradox* lets you redesign this form to make it easier to read; for instance, you can place City, State, and ZIP fields on a single line.

To change the form display, select Forms Change from the main menu. Enter the name of your table when prompted, and press < Enter> to select the highlighted 'F' from the list of forms that can be changed. (Other forms are listed by number; if the table has no other forms, only the 'F' will be displayed.)

Enter a description for the form, or press < Enter > to keep the default, Standard Form.

That boring, standard form now appears. Pressing < F10> brings up a menu of options for changing the look and, for that matter, the functionality of the form. For instance, you can use the Area Move command to move a field to another part of the screen, or the Border Place command to draw a box. Explore the menus to see what else is available. Once you're satisfied, press <**F2**> to save your work and exit. The next time you press < F7> from a table view, the current record will pop up in your new, improved form.

supports a multiple-choice field type that you fill in by selecting an option rather than by typing, use it here.

- A comments field. Leave yourself plenty of room for writing notes. If your program supports variable-length memo fields, use one. Otherwise, allow for about 300 characters.
- A relational key field. Relating tasks to another data file requires that the two files have at least one field in common. In the R&D example, both the to-do and personnel files need an Expertise field so your program can match people to jobs.

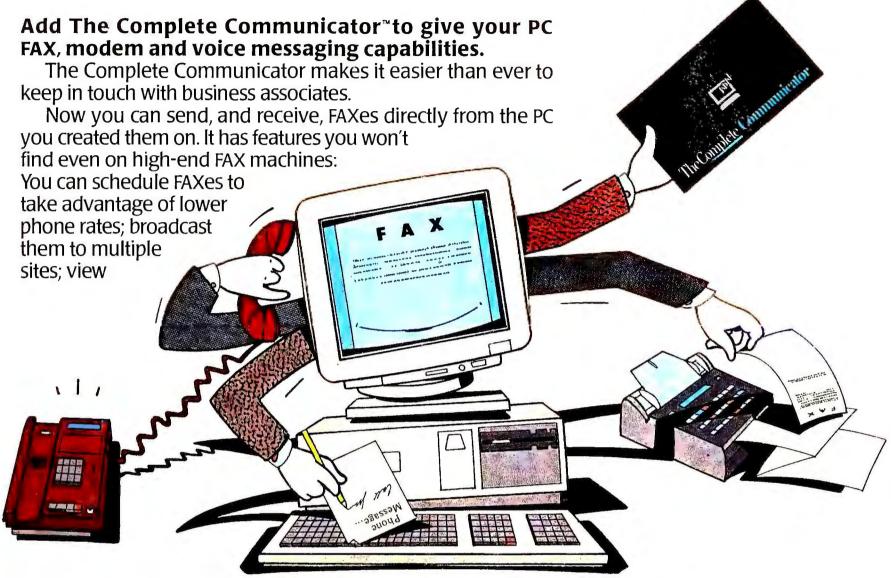
Personalizing Your List

Next, you can build upon this basic structure to customize the to-do list for your job's particular needs. If you organize small meetings, for instance, you may want five or six "people" fields to list co-workers. If your business takes you out of the office, you'll want a place to note hotel and room number, job site addresses, and critical phone numbers.

Because you'll want to display several records at the same time, design a table view that puts each record on its own line (see the screen). Since you can't fit all your fields into 80 columns (the width of your screen), put the most important fields—Deadline, Priority, Classification, and Description—on the left, where they're immediately visible. To view all of a task's fields simultaneously, set up your software so you can toggle to a one-record, full-screen form view.

Steve Cummings is a contributing editor for PC World and the author of Understanding Quicken (Sybex, Alameda, California, 1990). Celeste Robinson is the author of The Best Book of Paradox (Howard W. Sams and Co., Carmel, Indiana, 1990). Lincoln Spector is a PC World assistant editor.

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When you want to share data or access on-line databases and services, the built-in Hayes compatible modem does it quickly and easily using all the leading communications packages.

There's even a port to add The Complete Page Scanner,™ the easy way to add and store images.

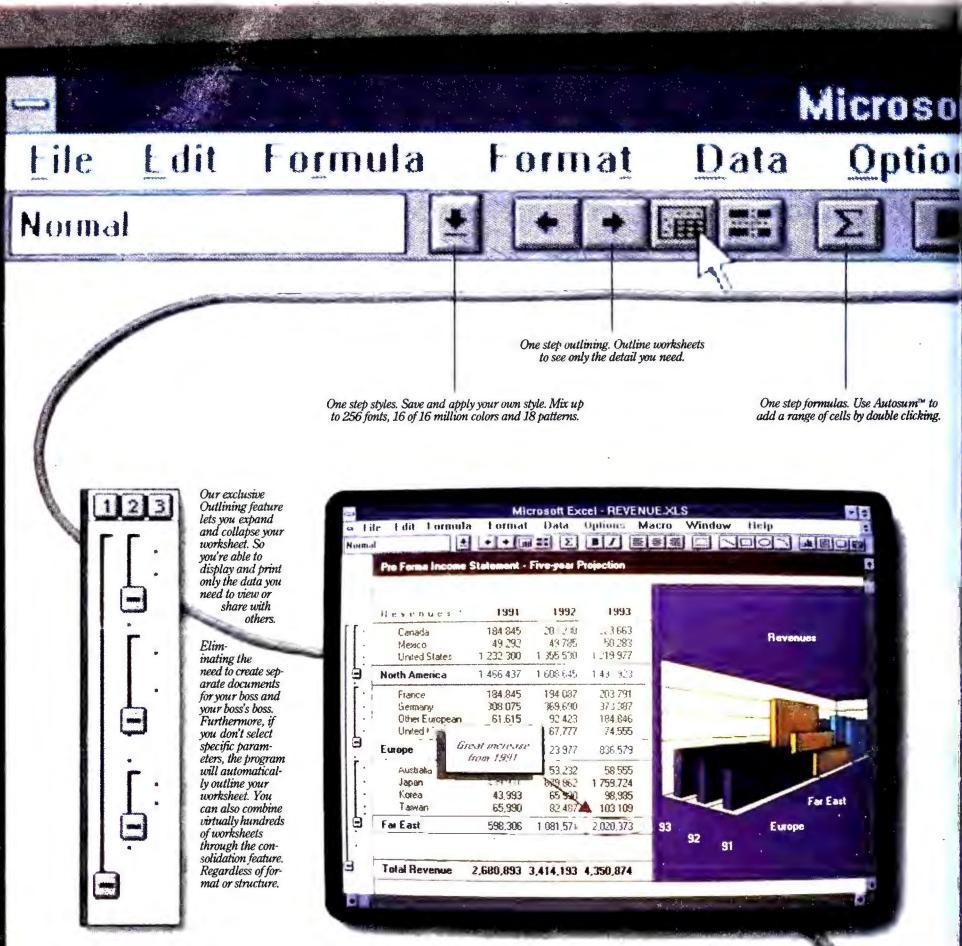
With all these features on one easy-to-install board, it's amazing how many new tricks your PC can learn.

For the name of a dealer near you, **call 1-800-229-1753**, **or FAX 408-434-9682**.



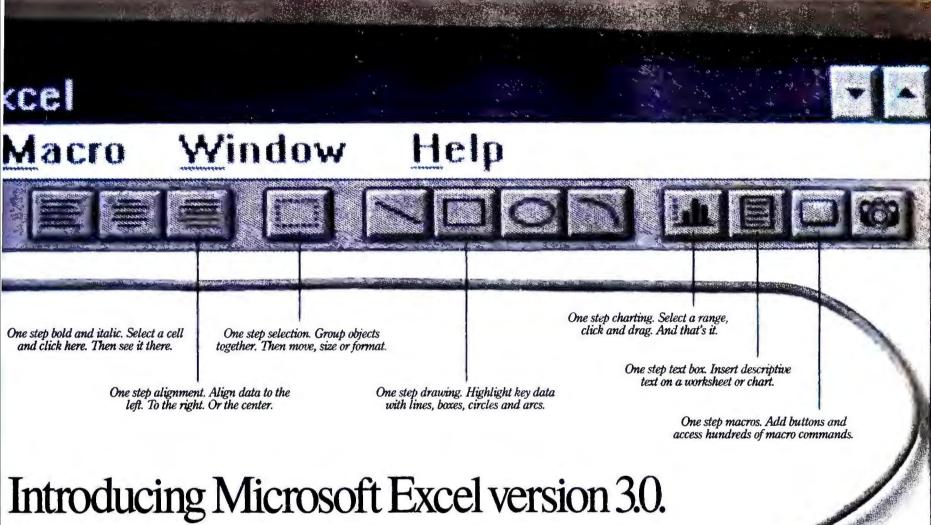


It took us thousands of steps what we wanted. Fortuna



Select a range of cells and transform them into a chart on a worksheet. With one simple click. Or why not create a 3-D chart. Then rotate it 360.º How's that for a view? With new Microsoft Excel, you can choose from 68 different chart types, 24 of which are 3-D. Or even create your own. And because this is a graphical program, it's easy to combine text, data and graphics on a single page. Of course, it's WYSIWYG too. Which means you can actually see what you're working on.

o make this spreadsheet do ely it'll only take you one.



Microsoft Excel for Windows

Microsoft Excel for Windows

Out of all the steps it took us to create the new Microsoft Excel for Windows, there were two in particular that had the most impact. The first

was to listen to our users and to listen carefully. The second was to take that knowledge and implement it intelligently.

The result is outrageous power coupled with ease-of-use. It is this idea that drives all of our efforts. And has since we introduced the first graphical spreadsheet back in 1985.

A recent example of this is the Toolbar. This addition lets you do everything from formatting, to formulas, to

outlining with one click of a button.

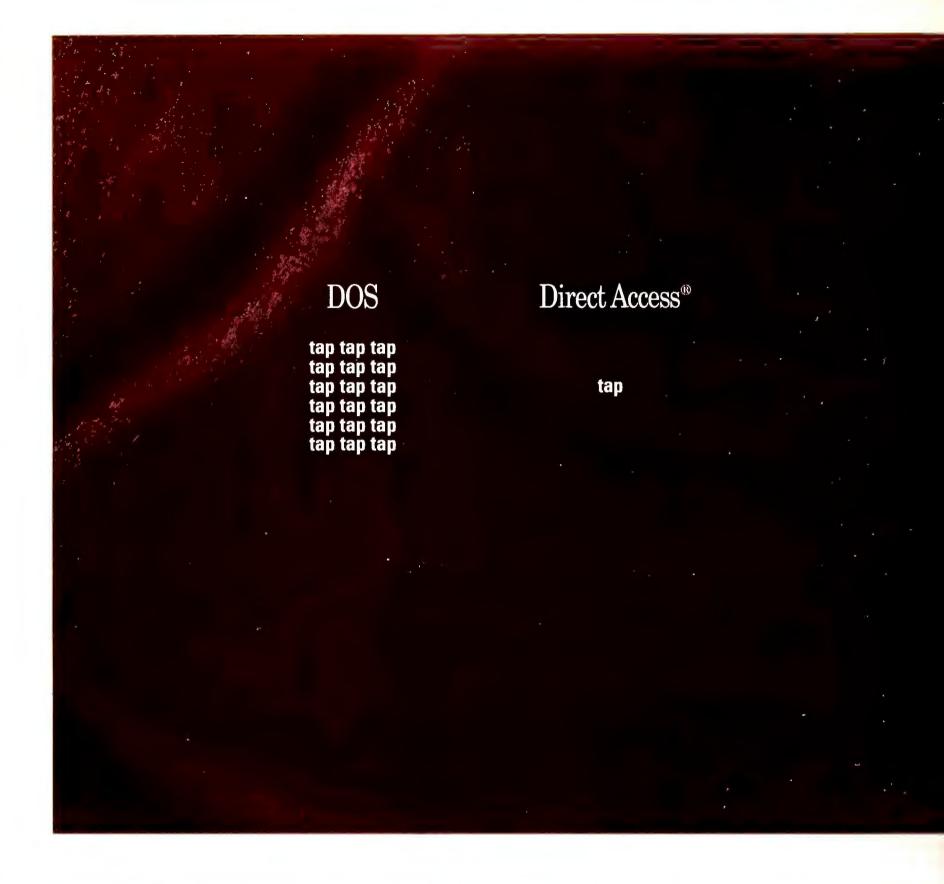
Best of all, it's really easy to make the move. Microsoft Excel comes with online help for 1-2-3° users. So you can learn by simply applying your existing knowledge.

Take the next step, call (800) 541-1261, Dept.
P64, for the name of a dealer near you

Microsoft



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Finally, a menu program that does away with the old song and dance.

Still using a chorus-line of commands to get into the programs on your hard disk? You need Direct Access.

All you do is load it and forget it. Direct Access lines up every program on a menu and lets you create custom sub-menus for related programs and other applications.

It's simple.

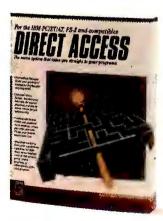
And it's complete. With features like userdefined screen blanking, password protection, three-level virus detection, mouse support and a unique feature that automatically tracks all time spent on your programs. A network version is also available and you can even customize

the menu with your company logo.

The choice is easy. Keep tapping away with DOS commands. Or step right into your programs

with Direct Access.

Call now for complete details, volume discounts and your nearest Direct Access dealer. For a limited time, get Pyro!™ The Entertaining Screen Saver for the PC, free! Just write "Pyro" on the Direct Access registration card before you return it.



PC Magazine's Editor's Choice

The Art of Persuasion



Publishing & Graphics

Expert advice for creating high-impact documents and presentations

This month: Add a splash of color to documents, and create a build series with Harvard data charts.

Richard Jantz

t's no secret that the easiest way to grab an audience's attention is by using color—and that the cost of printing full-color documents can quickly leave you in the red. But there's an easy cure to the color-printing blues. One of the most effective and economical ways to "colorize" a newsletter, brochure, or manual is to use *spot color*.

Full-color printing uses four inks—cyan (blue), magenta (red), yellow, and black—to produce the full range of color's required for continuous-tone images such as color photographs. Spot color requires only two color inks: one to print most of a document, and another to highlight items like page borders, rules, and boxes. Because spot color requires less ink and less work than full-color printing, it's much easier and cheaper.

To print spot-color documents, most businesses employ a professional print shop—not every quickie offset shop can handle the job. To specify which elements get which color, you can use your page layout package to print out separate black-and-white copies that correspond to each color, or you can simply bring your master pages to the printer and point. If you need just a handful of copies, it can be more economical to use an in-house color printer and a color copier.

Regardless of how you print your document, you must first develop a spotcolor strategy—picking colors and deciding how to use them. Here are some guidelines to help you get started.

- Don't use spot color haphazardly. Use it to organize pages and to guide the reader's eye toward important items.
- Use color consistently throughout a document, employing the same color or color tint for similar types of headings, rules, boxes, and so on.
- Choose bright colors for newsletters or fliers—such as the dollar-bill green used for the financial newsletter shown in **FIGURE 1**. Use more subdued colors like dark blue or maroon for business reports or proposals.
 - If you're on a budget, choose stan-

Documents in Living Color

Money Tree Business Advice From Tulpa Productions June 1991

Mail-Order Magic

oday, you can buy practically anything by mail. From African violets to Zeiss binoculars, from Yves St. Laurent accouterments to Elvis Presley wallpaper—you name it and, chances are, there's a mailorder dealer who will send it to you. The mail-order universe is so vast, in fact, that it has become a \$100-billion-a-year industry, expanding at 14 to 18 percent annually.

One of the fastest-growing areas in mail order today is the booming microcomputer marketplace. Many of the magazines and newspapers that cater to computer users are loaded with mail-order advertisements for virtually everything a novice or veteran buyer could want, including computers, monitors, printers, moderns, disk drives, diskettes, disk storage boxes, and an endless proliferation of software packages.

The Mail-Order Phenomenon

The main advantage of buying computer products through the mail is lower prices. Since many mail-order dealers pay less overhead than retailers and buy big quantities of computer merchandise at reduced prices, they can offer customers larger inventories at sizable discounts. Depending on whether a mail-order dealer sells hardware or software, it may sell products at 20 to 50 percent off the manufacturer's list price Considering that today's average buyer spends \$6,000 during his first

two years of involvement with computers, the mail-order option could produce very significant savings.

Mail-order dealers offer the additional advantage of saving you

(Continued on page 2)



Turning Data Into Dollars

INVESTMENT HELP

"Say, is this a game of chance?"

Cowboy
"Not the way I play it."

W. C. Fields
in My Little Chickadee

ike W. C. Fields' memorable card player Cuthbert Twillie, today's individual investment gamblers are learning a sure way to increase the odds in their favor. They're drawing upon the extra playing power of a pair that's tough to beat: microcomputers and investment decision software. Unlike Twillie's tricks, however, computerized investing is perfectly legal and the tools needed are even tax deductible.

Computer Basics

Although it isn't necessary to know all about computers in order to use investment software effectively, it may help you to know a little about a computer's basic components.

The system unit is the basic foundation, or main chassis, of the computer system. The other components include a keyboard, monitorial components in componen

(Continued on page 3)

P.O. BOX 10185, BERKELEY, CA 94709-0185

FIGURE 1: Using spot color in documents can be as effective as using full color-and much cheaper to print. This financial newsletter uses green for its logo, rules, and initial caps. A 50 percent green tint adds a third color, and a fourth color effect is created by using light-gray paper.

DESKTOP PRESENTATIONS TOOLBOX

3-D Charts on the Cheap

Need a fast and easy way to produce boffo charts? Order up Bloc Publishing's 3-D Charts To Go. This \$99.95 Windows 3.0 package helps turn plain spreadsheet data into three-dimensional pie, bar, area, and line graphs.

Creating charts is easy. Simply import a Lotus WKS file or enter data directly into 3-D Charts' spreadsheet window, and select a chart style. You can rotate the chart and display it in a variety of views, print it, export it as a WMF file, or paste it into programs like PageMaker. You can also create a simple on-

screen slide show, but no custom drivers for 35mm slide printers are included.

Bloc's program lacks the range of chart styles, data manipulation features, and drawing tools found in high-priced presentation packages. But for adding pizzazz to a newsletter or desktop presentation, 3-D Charts To Go is an excellent low-budget solution.

3-D Charts To Go \$99.95; Bloc Publishing, 800 S.W. 37th Ave. #765, Coral Gables, FL 33134; 305/445-0903 Reader service no. 617 dard colors rather than paying the printer to mix custom ones. At the print shop examine color samples printed on the paper stock you plan to use.

- Make sure graphic elements such as borders, rules, and boxes are large enough to carry the color. For example, it's hard to tell the difference between a black rule and a blue rule if the rule is less than 1 point thick.
- Use spot color for short, infrequent text items such as a logo, large initial capitals, subheads, and pull quotes. Headlines and body text usually work best in dark colors like black or navy blue, which provide contrast and are easy to read.
- When printing text against a spot-color background, use *reverse*, or uncolored, type. Because reverse type uses the color of the paper instead of a second ink (such as black), you avoid having colors overlap or misalign.
- If the same color elements appear regularly in every document—page borders, a masthead, or a logo, for example—you can save money by having them preprinted. Since the spot color is already on the page, you pay for only one color (such as black) each time you print a new document.
- For a nominal charge, you can add the effect of a third color to your document by using a tint of the spot color. For example, use a 25 percent tint of a dark color (use a higher percentage with lighter colors) to set off a boxed item such as a table of contents.
- Don't overdo it. For maximum impact, don't use spot color for more than 25 percent of the text and graphics on a page.

PC World contributing editor Richard Jantz is the author of Ventura for Windows 3.0 (John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1991).

NUTS & BOLTS

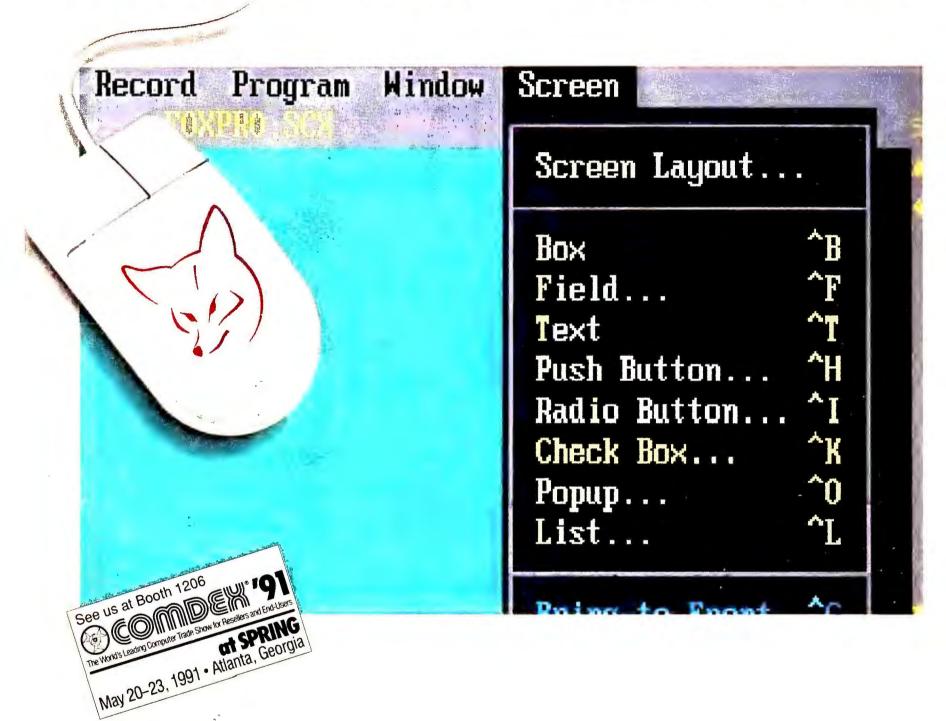
Building Dynamic Data Charts

A common way to present information using 35mm slides or overhead transparencies is via a build series, in which each successive image reveals a new line of text. But you can also use a build series to present data. The easiest way to produce a datachart build is to create the final image first, then delete the bars' or other graphic items one by one to create the preceding images. Here's how to create a data build series using Harvard Graphics. First, create a bar chart showing, say, quarterly profits. Then press < F8>, go to page 3 of the Bar/Line Titles & Options screen, and enter a

maximum value for the Y1 Axis that's slightly higher than your largest data value—for example, if your largest value is 95, enter 100. (This prevents Harvard from automatically resizing the chart when you delete data.) Press < F8 > to return to the Bar Chart Data screen, press <F3>, and save the chart as SHOWBAR4. To create the preceding image, delete the data values for the fourth quarter—but don't delete the X-Axis Name. Save this chart as SHOWBAR3. Repeat this procedure to create the SHOW-BAR2 and SHOWBAR1 charts, and your build series is complete.

We are about to satisfy your aeenest secret desire...

Introducing the DBMS runs like a mainframe



Admit it.

Don't you get just a twinge of envy when you see a Mac user having fun while getting the job done?

You're not alone.

Millions of users who needed the power of the PC but wanted the ease-of-use of a Graphic User Interface (GUI) just splurged on Windows and the expensive hardware needed to get the most out of it.

But you don't have to do that. Because now there's FoxPro*2.0.

Why should the rich have all the fun.

FoxPro 2.0 gives you the ease-of-use of a Graphic User Interface on your character-based DOS PC.

Use pull-down menus to open multiple windows (in DOS) and see all the data you need to see at once. Build easy-to-use screens for entering and viewing data just by picking-and-clicking to place menus, buttons, checkboxes and scrolling lists anywhere you want them. Create sophisticated, elegant reports without the usual pain. Then assemble

that acts like a Mac and In Dos.



everything into your own custom applications.

Without writing a single line of programming code.

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Our new compound indexes are less than a quarter the size of those in competitive products and far, far faster.

Our new Relational Query-By-Example (RQBE) is a simpler, interactive interface to the information you need.

Our new Řushmore™ query optimization† accesses that information two orders of magnitude or more faster‡ than ever before.

You'll like being able to seamlessly use the SQL SELECTs that RQBE creates in any of your applications. (And the new UPDATE, INSERT and CREATE TABLE commands, too.)

And you'll love the fact that to the rich development environment we've always had, we've added a project manager that keeps track of all the needed files and any changes, then automatically builds your application or EXE files. An API that lets you dynamically link to libraries you write in C or assembler with a single FoxPro command. A BROWSE

entire application itself.

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menus, reports and labels a snap.

And we've made our networking even
better than when NSTL said:* "... multiuser
databases fall into two general performance
categories: FoxPro/LAN and all the others ..."

FOR that's the basis for an

There isn't a DBMS in existence with the power of FoxPro.

The bigger your business, the bigger your investment.

So we've maintained downward compatibility with your existing systems, and you can use FoxPro 2.0 to run your current dBASE (and Fox) applications on your present character-based DOS PCs.

While you develop better, faster database management systems using all the advanced power of FoxPro 2.0 to satisfy your future information processing needs.

To get the most out of your investments, call and ask about our

Upgrade-Any-DBMS-for-\$195 offer.



Call now for your FREE demo disk.

FoxPro 2.0 runs on a 512K XT yet in extended mode uses every bit of power in a 386 or 486. To try it yourself, call Fox Software for a free copy of our fully-featured demo or the name of your nearest dealer.

You'll be amazed at what FoxPro 2.0 can do for you. In DOS.

Call 1-800-837-FOX2 today.
(Ask for Offer PCD-601)

FoxPro 2.0
The complete power trip.[™]

† Patent applied for. ‡ A PC and FoxPro beat a mainframe and DB2 with a million-record, 200 megabyte database! * Quote from Software Digest Ratings Report, Vol. 7, Issue 13 (Oct. 1990) refers to FoxPro 1.02. Software Digest is a registered trademark of NSTL, Inc. Upgrade price valid only in U.S.A. and Canada. FoxPro TM Fox Holdings Inc. © Fox Holdings Inc. 1991.

The Drudgery Of Image Processing Just Went Out The Window

Automatic Filters remove spots, sharpen resolution, adjust brightness and contrast, blend, and equalize scanned images.



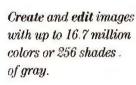


Zoom In and Zoom Out in multiple levels while accessing all tools, retouching features, and special effects.

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With Publisher's Paintbrush®—ZSoft's new, top-of-the-line image processing program, custom built for Windows™ 3.0. The program designed for professionals. Integrating ZSoft's award-winning paint tools, complete scanner control, plus the most powerful, sophisticated image processing capabilities available. All in

one easy-to-use application.

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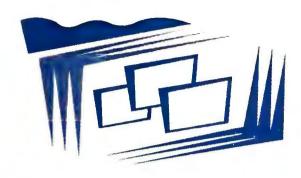
Gray scale calibration ensures realistic output. View multiple versions of images in multiple windows for easy comparison while retouching, cloning, and cutting-and-pasting. Extensive file support (PCX, TIF, GIF, BMP, EPS,* TGA and more) guarantees

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Enhance photos and create powerful visual effects for brochures, newsletters, presentations, and more. With Publisher's Paintbrush, creativity knows no limits. For more information about the image processing program for professionals, call us at (404) 428-0008.



Windows Workshop



Windows

Practical advice on mastering Windows 3.0

This month: Surviving the dreaded UAE

Jesse Berst and Scott Dunn

America's three most feared phrases:

- 1. Greetings from the IRS! Our audit department has selected your return for...
- 2. I've looked over the X rays, and I'm afraid a root canal is in order.
- 3. UNRECOVERABLE APPLICATION ERROR Terminating current application.

This last message, of course, signals that your *Windows* application has just crashed. When you see the dreaded Unrecoverable Application Error (UAE) message, all you can do is click on 'OK', whereupon *Windows* closes the current application without letting you save your work.

But don't despair. Read on, and you'll discover why UAEs occur, what to do when they appear, and some preventive tips.

What Is a UAE?

One of *Windows*' jobs is to assign each application a specific segment of memory. UAEs occur when a program invades a memory location it shouldn't have access to and overwrites or tries to overwrite what's already there—data, another program, DOS, or even *Windows*. When an application oversteps its boundaries, *Windows* shuts it down and pops up a UAE message.

Keep in mind that a UAE probably

isn't caused by the application that crashes. Microsoft technical support estimates that 80 to 90 percent of UAEs can be traced to problems in your system's configuration. Common offenders include disk caches, TSRs (especially if loaded before *Windows*), old mouse drivers, display and printer drivers not certified for *Windows*, type managers, *Windows 2.*xx applications, and expansion boards that try to use the same memory *Windows* needs. In some

WINDOWS TOOLBOX

Zip Manager 3.01

A file compression program is a wonderfully handy tool. It can reduce the size of files (often by more than 50 percent) and let you store many individual files inside a single, compressed archive file. If you store a lot of scanned images or send even moderately large files via modem, a file compression utility is a must.

Unfortunately, the leading DOS compression utility, *PKZIP*, is a pain to use, thanks to a welter of arcane command line switches. But with the shareware *Zip Manager 3.01* from Moon Valley Software, you can put a friendly *Windows* face on the product and gain point-and-click access to advanced functions.

For example, you can add a new file to an existing archive, send extracted files to a special subdirectory, make self-extracting files, extract one or more files from an archive, and view file names in an archive. Zip Manager is so easy to use, you could easily store all your worksheets in an archive file and simply extract the one you want to work on.

Zip Manager 3.01 has its faults. It's just a shell, so you must obtain the shareware PKZIP utilities first. And, as in most shareware programs, the documentation and help files aren't as good as they could be. But the upcoming version 4.0 should fix many of these flaws and add powerful new image compression capabilities as well. Until then, Zip Manager 3.01 is still the fastest, easiest way to perform file compression under Windows.

Zip Manager 3.01 \$21.95 registration fee; Moon Valley Software, 107 E. Paradise Ln., Phoenix, AZ 85022; 602/375-9502

Reader service no. 621

Anatomy of a UAE



'Windows' job is part traffic cop—it assigns each application its own, inviolable chunk of memory. Unfortunately, a program sometimes crosses the double yellow line and tries to grab another program's RAM. The result? A UAE—a head-on crash that brings Windows to a halt.

cases, the problem is more fundamental: Your old 80286 or Bulgarian clone may not be supported by *Windows* at all.

Safe and Sane Response

When a UAE occurs, *Windows* closes the current application but stays active itself. The temptation is to keep on computing.

Don't. The only completely safe way to respond to a UAE is to exit *Windows* immediately, and press < Ctrl>-<Alt>-< Ctrl>-completely or hit the reset button. This completely clears the PC's memory. If you don't clear memory, the results can be disastrous. The errant application may have mangled data, or worse, *Windows*, compromising all operations.

Preventing UAEs

If you get more than one or two UAE messages per week, take your system back to a simpler time. First, make

backup copies of AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS. Then clean out everything in AUTOEXEC.BAT except PATH and PROMPT commands; strip out everything in CONFIG.SYS except FILES, BUFFERS, and DEVICE = HIMEM.SYS statements. You can also keep essentials like network and disk-partitioning drivers.

To isolate the problem, add the suspect elements back one at a time—use the computer for a week or two, and if the UAEs don't return, restore another element. Eventually, you'll discover the culprit.

In tracking the wild UAE, consider these other tips and caveats:

- Use the system vendor's version of DOS. Running another vendor's DOS can introduce subtle incompatibilities.
- If you want your hard disk partitions exceeding 32MB, use the latest version of DOS 4.xx. Third-party disk

partitioners can conflict with Windows.

- Avoid using third-party device drivers for displays, printers, and other peripherals unless these drivers are supported by Microsoft. Until you can isolate the source of the UAEs, use the drivers that ship with *Windows* or are part of Microsoft's Supplemental Driver Library. You can get the library disks by calling 800/426-9400.
- Windows sometimes uses memory addresses between 640K and 1MB, a location normally reserved for adapter boards. If an adapter doesn't properly identify which memory segment it is using, Windows could attempt to write over that segment. The solution? Exclude Windows from using memory addresses between 640K and 1MB.

Open Windows' SYSTEM.INI file and place the line emmexclude=a000-efff in the [386Enh] section. If the adapter's manual notes the exact memory segment the board uses, you can modify this statement to cordon off just that segment and reclaim the rest for Windows.

- If your PC is networked, make sure you're using the latest network shell. Most older shells aren't compatible with *Windows*. The latest NetWare shell at press time is 3.01e and is available from Novell's CompuServe forum. Type **GO NOVA**, and download the DSWIND.ZIP file.
- Some older 286s and cheap clones are not supported by *Windows* and will generate UAEs by the cartload. You may be able to cure the problem by upgrading the system's BIOS *and* keyboard controller ROM chips. Most system vendors sell these chips as a set.
- Microsoft confirms that Word for Windows 1.1's WordPerfect 5.x document converter has a bug that triggers a UAE. Until Microsoft provides an update, avoid this option.

 ■

Jesse Berst is a contributing editor for PC World. He and Scott Dunn are coauthors of 101 Windows Tips (Peachpit Press, Berkeley, California, 1991). A full-blown server-based network costs a bundle when done right. Add to this the cost of training and ongoing support (sometimes 2 to 3 times the original investment). Undaunted, businesses bite the bullet every day—effectively turning over their entire computer operations to a LAN expert forever. But many, in seeking a less costly alternative, fall into the trap of false economy.

We say "neither is necessary." Why? How?

Systemizers

Connectivity and networking solutions abound. And with them come traps of all kinds. Unless you're a teflon-coated decision maker (or a job hopper), the solution you choose today should remain appropriate tomorrow. Let's look at where you can go wrong—and right.

First, consider printer sharing boxes. They're a fine short-term solution when you have two or three computers occasionally needing access to a single printer. But, when applied to more extensive or demanding applications, they become a bottleneck that impedes and frustrates users. Wouldn't you call this a bottleneck: a printer sharing box—driven by a *single* microprocessor—receiving print data from *several* computers, while it is simultaneously supposed to send this data to *several* printers? No wonder the makers of these boxes publish performance tests with only *one* user printing! And when the box locks up (as all computer devices do), everyone loses their printing. When it breaks, *nobody* can print until the box is replaced. To add insult to injury, they are often quickly outgrown because they have a finite assortment of inputs and outputs.

If not printer sharing boxes, then consider networks (LANs). They're a *hot* item nowadays, particularly because LANs are one of the few sources of profit left for computer stores. Good networks are EXPENSIVE, and require expert support forever! Guess who benefits from that? If you buy a LAN, you will always be accountable to it, like a state and federal sales tax on every change or addition you make related to your computers.

Not that there aren't inexpensive networks available to snare the penny wise. Some are downright cheap. But, should you build your business around them? Cheapo networks teach harsh lessons in false economy.

You see, some low-cost LANs boast they occupy very little memory (RAM), yet to realistically accomplish what the LAN is supposed to do, it really uses as much or more RAM as any other LAN. The truth is: *all* LANs occupy a rather substantial amount of RAM, and you will likely find yourself either having to add RAM to your PCs (if you can)—along with memory management software, or dumping some of your other software overboard.

An even harsher lesson in false economy comes later, when you buy a multi-user software package (e.g. a database to be shared) and discover it is only guaranteed to be compatible with a server-based data-sharing LAN, usually Novell's[®]. Oops! Old LAN overboard!

Want to avoid such harsh lessons? Rule number one: if and when your company has some computer users who need a data-sharing network—so they can simultaneously access a shared database—get the best network and server money can buy. Buy a UPS, tape backup... the works. Make the commitment. It's a big step, but you'll regret anything less.

It's highly unlikely, however, that ALL your computer users need—or will ever need—access to a shared database. Most probably just need to share printers and other peripherals like plotters, modems and fax machines. Perhaps everyone would also like to exchange E-Mail and maybe even pass data files between PCs electronically.

Systemizers® are a connectivity solution that will provide these capabilities with none of the traps, drawbacks or excessive costs and commitments previously mentioned. There are five models to choose from, to fit any budget, application and performance requirement—including the powerful Systemizer Plus for CAD and DTP. And they're ALL compatible.

You can apply Systemizers on a global scale, then selectively employ a high-end server-based LAN solution for those users who absolutely need it. All users in the company—whether they're on a LAN, WAN, PBX, mainframe, or are independent—can be Systemized™, and they'll all benefit from it greatly. In fact, if users are Systemized, the investment required for any future data-sharing LAN will be significantly less. Plus, because Systemizers will be handling all print "traffic", the data-sharing LAN will perform better and more reliably.

You owe it to yourself and your company to look further into Systemizing[™]. Find out why almost 100,000 users are now Systemized, most at some of the world's largest companies. With plenty of LANs, WANs, PBXs and mainframes at their disposal, why have so many huge companies made Systemizing their basic connectivity standard? Call or fax us, and we'll show and tell you.



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The Information Edge



Communications

On-line resources for business and professional users

This month: Tap into the best sources for business-related shareware and public-domain software, and get down to earth with geology data bases.

Judy Heim

hen it comes to business software, you have two choices: You can buy a commercial package, or you can download shareware (or free public-domain software) that's often just as good.

The two primary sources for on-line software are services like CompuServe, and bulletin boards (BBS's) like Exec-PC. The services generally have bigger file collections, but you pay hourly connect charges. BBS's are free, or else they charge a one-time yearly fee, which still saves you money over the cost of a service if you spend a lot of time on line.

But library size and price aren't everything. The file collection's currency and character and the ease of searching and downloading are equally important. While some collections are stronger in one area, most libraries offer the same

(latest) versions of a given package. Exec-PC specializes in business applications, while GEnie, from General Electric Information Services, is strong on graphics utilities. Exec-PC and Channel 1, a similar BBS, provide easier search tools than the big services.

Here are profiles of the six most popular on-line PC software collections, listed in order of claimed library size. Rest assured: All the services and BBS's listed screen their software scrupulously for computer viruses.

GEnie is probably the best choice for now-and-then software searchers. This service is low priced, easy to use, and boasts the largest storehouse of PC programs—over 85,000 titles. You start by choosing a forum like Desktop Publishing or Investment, and a library within that forum, such as Printer Utilities. Then, when prompted, you enter a keyword to scan for. Alternatively, you can browse through descriptions of files, but since each description takes a screen, this method can be slow. Even if you don't browse, GEnie can be sluggish, and it sometimes locks up after downloads. The service will have added 9600-bps support by the time you read this. GEnie is \$6 per hour at night, \$18 per hour during the day, plus \$4.95 a month.

CompuServe Information Service (CIS) boasts the second largest PC file collection. Official guesstimates place it between 37,000 and 55,000 titles. Unfortunately, software is scattered among dozens of libraries, and while a menubased search utility lets you hunt through 20 IBM forums by keyword and file name, you can't use wild cards (asking to see all programs that start with 'G' and end with '.COM', for instance). Nor does it search any other forums. You can browse through CIS too, but as with GEnie it's time-consuming. CIS is also the priciest choice here: \$12.50 per hour

for 2400-bps access, \$22.50 for 9600-bps, plus network and account charges.

Exec-PC may be the "regular" downloader's best friend. This BBS includes a well-chosen collection of 35,000 PC titles you can search with matchless ease—and download at speeds up to 14,400 bps. To search for software, you can toggle between full-screen menus and prompts. You first choose the operating system and then employ Exec-PC's advanced browse facility, which lets you scan for dates, categories, and multiple keywords. You can review hundreds of programs in minutes. Downloading is equally easy, and you can use your MNP-5 modem. More good news: All you pay is \$20 for a three-month subscription, or \$60 per year.

Channel 1 is similar to Exec-PC in both the size of its software collection and its ease of use. This BBS's full-color,

ON-LINE TOOLBOX

Let Your Modem Do the Walking

If you dial a lot of phone numbers from your PC screen (clients listed in a data base, say), you should know about a \$10 auto-dialer called *Dialthat*. With this unobtrusive 1K TSR loaded in memory, simply hit <Alt>-D, cursor down to the number, and press <Enter>. When dialing is complete, pick up your telephone handset and press the <Space> bar to silence the modem.

Dialthat, Real Software, P.O. Box 1680, Soquel, CA 95073; 408/476-3550

Reader service no. 608

menu-driven interface is a pleasure. Software is tucked into 96 application categories. You can search one or more of these libraries by typing in keywords, or you can browse through a scrolling list of files. Channel 1 is slightly more expensive than Exec-PC: \$25 for two months, or \$85 a year. However, a free 90-day trial subscription is available. You can download at speeds up to 9600 bps, and MNP-5 is supported.

<u>Delphi</u> is the cheapest service listed here. Connection charges can run as low as \$1.20 per hour, even during the day. However, with only 10,000 programs, Delphi compares to CIS and

GEnie like a bookmobile going up against the New York Public Library. Files are stored in conferences, as on GEnie and CIS, and searching or browsing is easy, with menus at every bend—but you can search only by keyword, not by date. Connect speed is limited to 2400 bps.

Byte Information Exchange's high price, tricky menu, and very thin collection of business software make this service a dubious resource for pinstripe file hunters. Byte estimates its file collection at 3000 to 4000 titles. To locate a file, you must make a series of arcane selections from the main menu.

As on the larger services, file descriptions are displayed one at a time, a tedious process. To download, you choose the protocol you want from a menu, but you're limited to 2400 bps. The cost is \$156 per year, plus from \$2 to \$6 per hour, depending on where you live.

One last tip for serious searchers. Four of these libraries support 9600 downloads. If you're on line several times a week hunting for business software, get a high-speed 9600-bps modem. It will pay for itself in no time.

Judy Heim is a contributing editor for PC World.

For more information about all services in this article, circle reader service no. 901.

THE PROFESSIONAL EDGE

Help for the On-Line Geologist

Whether your company plans to build an office tower over a landfill or needs the latest architectural designs for earthquakeproofing a computer room, you'll need to know the lay of the land. Dialog offers three geological data bases that give you everything from the latest seismic reports to information on dam designs suitable for local rock formations. Together, GeoRef, Geobase, and Geoarchive provide nearly 3 million citations drawn from roughly 15,000 scientific journals. Subjects include geology, climatology, ecology, and fossils. You can search by latitude and longitude as well as date and place of publication.

The American Geological Institute's huge GeoRef data base chronicles North American geological studies back to 1785; Geoarchive is its British equivalent. Geobase is a wide-ranging earth sciences data base that covers topics ranging from

Third World tectonics to transportation planning. All three are updated monthly. You can also find GeoRef on Orbit Search Services for about the same price—but you don't get access to the other two data bases.

You can search all three data bases as a group, using dozens of search criteria, but Dialog's hieroglyphic interface may put you between a rock and a hard place. Help is only a phone call away, but it's not toll free. Eighty percent of the entries are abstracts, the rest are citations, and most are in English.

At \$85 to \$99 per hour, plus a per-record access fee of 15 to 40 cents, a \$45 subscription charge, and \$35 per year for the account, these data bases are pricey, but if your business needs geological data, they're gems.

Dialog Information Services, Inc., 3460 Hillview Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94304; 800/334-2564 Reader service no. 607

WHERE TO BUY

Byte Information Exchange

One Phoenix Mill Ln.
Peterborough, NH 03458
800/227-2983, 800/225-4129 (modem)
Reader service no. 601

Channel 1

P.O. Box 338 Cambridge, MA 02238 617/354-2505, 617/354-8873 (modem) Reader service no. 602

CompuServe

5000 Arlington Centre Blvd. Columbus, OH 43220 800/848-8199, 614/457-0802 Reader service no. 603

Delphi

General Videotex Corp.
3 Blackstone St.
Cambridge, MA 02139
800/544-4005, 617/491-6642 (fax)
Reader service no. 604

Exec-PC

P.O. Box 57 Elm Grove, WI 53122 414/789-4200, 414/789-4210 (modem) Reader service no. 605

GEnie

General Electric Information Services
401 N. Washington St.
Rockville, MD 20850
800/638-9636, 800/638-8369 (modem:
type hhh at the DOS prompt, press
<Enter>, then type signup)
Reader service no. 606

MANAGE the unmanageable

s an executive consultant with Data Systems Inc., lexandria, Virginia, Jack Anderson was used to pressure, it this time he was really in trouble . . .



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he client needed a proposal for updating its outmoded oppy based PC wordprocessing system. These studies ormally take weeks or even months to complete. terviews, document reviews, procedures analysis, mmunications studies and many other factors must all taken into account. To make matters worse, not only d the client need it in a week, but the client was a iend, whose new job depended on Jack delivering the oods by Friday. Understandably, Jack was nervous.

ith no room for error, Jack turned to the world wide aders in full service project management, Micro Planing International. In addition to consulting and training rvices, MPI provides powerful but easy to use software or DOS, Windows and Macintosh computers, Jack chose astaPlan (IP) and was up and running in minutes. He ound its outline approach let him start with his broad bjectives, working down into more detail as needed.

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| - C/SSR Costing Char | ts 🗸 | No |
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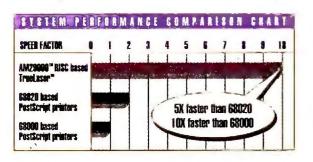
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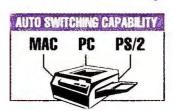
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User Group Tips

Helpful hints from members of the nation's user groups

ASCII for an Easy WordStar File Conversion

I often have to export a document from WordStar Professional version 5.5 or 6.0 so that my wife can work on it with WordPerfect. When there is no special formatting to consider, I find it quicker to save the file as an ASCII nondocument than to run it through a conversion program. Unfortunately, this method usually creates a mess of unwanted hard returns, one at the end of each line of text. To avoid the chore of deleting every hard return except those that end the paragraphs, open the file in Word-Star's document mode, type the dot command .rm at the top left margin, and press < Enter> to establish the widest possible right margin. Next, press <Ctrl>-QU to reformat the text into single-line paragraphs. Press < Ctrl>-KT to invoke the Save As command, and enter a new name for the conversion file. This saves the file and brings up the Opening Menu. Press n<Enter> to open your conversion file as a nondocument (you'll be automatically prompted with the file name). Delete any lines containing a dot command, and press < Ctrl>-QU again, this time to reformat the file as a nondocument. Press < Ctrl>-KD or < F10> to save the ASCII file. Now it's a snap to open and format the file with WordPerfect or any other word processor.

Steve Bass Pasadena Users Group

Speed Up Your Modem's Dialing and Put Call Waiting on Hold

If your Hayes-compatible modem is a slow dialer on touch-tone lines, don't just sit there drumming your fingers—change its poky ways. Get into terminal mode on your communications program, and simply enter <code>disll=50</code>. Register S11 controls the dialing delay; if your modem supports register S11, setting it to 50 with an AT command gets the lead out of your dialing by cutting the usual default dialing delay almost in half.

If you have call waiting, you probably know that incoming calls can cause your modem to drop the line. In most areas, you can disable call waiting by pressing *70 on your touch-tone phone—if you have a pulse-tone phone, dial 1170. Wait for a dial tone, and then dial out with your modem as you ordinarily would. When you hang up, call waiting will be automatically restored. If this sequence doesn't work in your area, contact your local phone company.

Joe Nuvolini Colorado Springs Users Group

Expanding Compressed Files? Be Discrete!

If you ever need to download from an on-line BBS, you're bound to encounter compressed files, as they take up less space and provide for faster transmissions. ZIP and ARC formats are the most popular, and you can probably download the utilities that compress and decompress them from the same BBS where you find the compressed programs. Enter the name of the utility by itself at the DOS prompt in the utility's directory to get a screenful of information about syntax, parameters, and options. You should then be able to figure out how to decompress and compress files. But here's a word to the wise: Make sure you direct expansion files into a discrete, empty directory. A plethora of individual files can emerge from each ZIP or ARC file, and it can be a sticky cleanup job if they get mixed in

with other data or program files.

Dean Ewalt
Sarasota IBM PC User's Group

Don't Get Bugged by Spreadsheet Formulas

Have you ever typed out a long, involved formula, only to have the program beep and refuse to accept the input into a worksheet cell? And in your frustration, did you finally decide to clear the cell and start over from scratch? When you run into this kind of problem, save yourself some sweat by converting the formula to a label or text entry: Make sure you're in edit mode, take your cursor to the beginning of the entry, add a label or text prefix (usually an apostrophe), and press < Enter>. Then look your work over for errors like unmatched parentheses, a 9 where you wanted (, or misspelled range names. When you think the problem is corrected, convert the label back to a formula and see if the program accepts the input. If it doesn't, convert the formula back to a label and continue debugging. If the program does accept the formula, there's still no guarantee that it is logical and will work as desired, which brings up another point: Use sound formula-construction principles—break down your formula, and place various working components in different cells. That way you're less likely to run into problems.

Charles Suitt North Texas PC Users Group

Are you a user group member with a tip to share? Send it to User Group Tips, PC World, 501 Second St. #600, San Francisco, CA 94107; Compu-Serve 74055,412; MCI Mail PC World Editorial; or 415/442-1891 (fax)—include your phone number. We pay \$50 and throw in a PC World T-shirt for each tip we use—and you get to see your name in PC World.

■

worthwhile. For that reason, I created two *WordPerfect* macros, ALTU.WPM [see FIGURE 3] and ALTL.WPM, that give me one-keystroke case changes.

I also wanted these macros to be able to change the case of an entire block of text with the same keystroke. I included the statement '{STATE}&128~', which returns a value of true if block mode is on and a false if it isn't and tells the macros what I want them to do. When I press Alt>-U in normal editing mode, . ALTU.WPM capitalizes the letter at the cursor, but if I mark a block of text and then press Alt>-U, the macro capitalizes every letter in the block.

Stephanie Wong Salem, Oregon

Editor's note: To create the sample macro, enter WordPerfect, press < Home>, then <Shift>-<F10>. At the Define macro prompt, type altu and press < Enter>. At the Description prompt, type Uppercase character or block

(DISPLAY OFF)

(IF) (STATE) & 128~ (;) If · a · block · is · marked

(GO) convert~ (;) skip · the · next · two · lines

(END IF)

(Block) (Right) (;) Block · single · character

(LABEL) convert~ (;) Conversion · subroutine

FIGURE 3: With one keystroke, this WordPerfect macro capitalizes a character or a block of text.

(;)Convert·block·to·uppercase

and press < Enter>. This will bring you to the macro editing screen, with the {DISPLAY OFF} command already in place.

(Switch)U

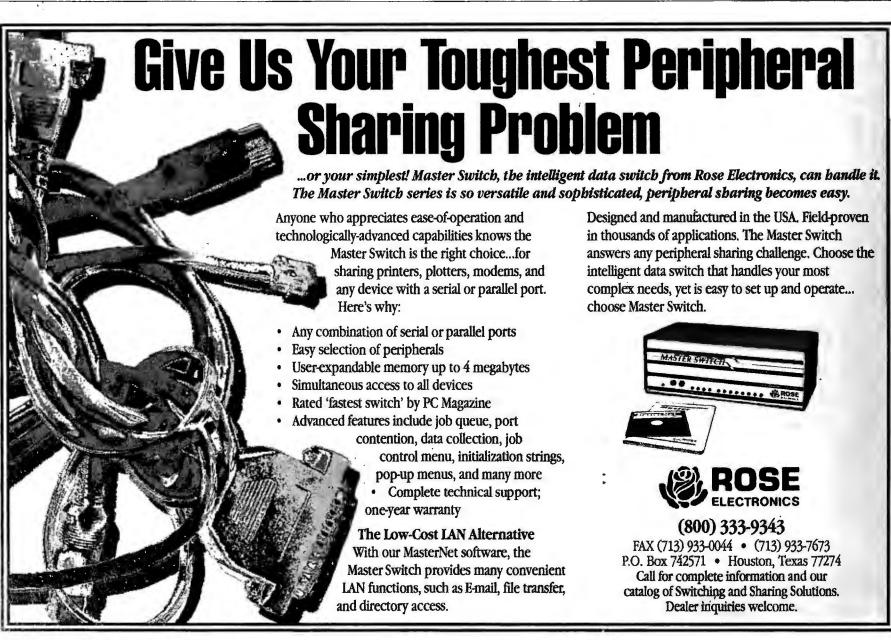
You can't simply type the macro as it is shown in FIGURE 3. You must select the macro commands—{;}, {IF}, {STATE}, {GO}, {END IF}, and {LABEL}—from a menu that pops up when you press < Ctrl>-< Page Up>. You enter standard editing commands, like {Block}, {Right}, and {Switch}, with the same keys you'd use when editing—< Alt>-< F4>, < Cursor Right>, and

<\$\text{Shift}>-<\text{F3}>, respectively. Only the '&128\time', the two 'convert\times's, and the 'U' can and must be typed by hand.

This macro changes lowercase letters to uppercase. To go the other way, create an almost identical macro called ALTL.WPM. The last line of this macro should be {Switch}L instead of '{Switch}U'.

Getting the Year by Default

As a follow-up to "Easy Date-Entry Macro for 1-2-3," in January's *User* (continues)



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Group Tips, I'd like to share a 1-2-3 date-entry macro I've used for years. You don't have to type in a year when you enter a date with this macro—it reads a default year from another cell.

To create the macro, enter the labels in **FIGURE 4** into three columns, typing the four apostrophes where indicated (they won't appear in the cells). With the pointer on the cell containing \D, use the /Range Name Labels Right command to name the macro.

Before using the macro, enter the default year (e.g., 1991) in cell G1. Then, with the pointer on an appropriate cell, press <Alt>-D, enter the desired month, press <Enter>, type in the desired day, and press <Enter> again. For example, assuming your default year is 1991, pressing <Alt>-D6<Enter>16<Enter> would enter a date of June 16, 1991. To enter a year other than the default, press <Alt>-D, backspace three characters, and type the new year and a comma before entering the month number.

| | Α | В | С |
|---|-----|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | '\D | 'aDATE(| Date Macro |
| 2 | | astring(G1-1900,0) | Semiautomatic year entry |
| 3 | | ',{?},{?})~ | User enters month #, day # |
| 4 | | '/RFD1~ | Format date |

FIGURE 4: This 1-2-3 macro simplifies the entering of dates by automatically providing the year.

If you prefer to use the current year as your default, replace the macro's second line with @string(@year(@now),0), and change the comment to Fully automatic year entry. You won't need to put a year in G1, and you can still backspace to enter a different year number.

H. H. Michael Johl Montreal, Quebec, Canada

An Executable's Extension

I've made a few mistakes in my day and thought you might appreciate a bit of insight about a February *Star-Dot-Star* item ["A Is for Action"] that commits a mistake in the interest of caution. Your editor's note warns readers never to re-

name a COM file extension to EXE or vice versa, intimating some foul result.

Actually, from DOS's point of view, it makes no difference whether an executable file's extension is COM or EXE. To see what kind of program it is dealing with, DOS looks not at the extension, but at the first few bytes of the program file. Having a file with the correct EXE or COM extension is merely for human convenience.

D. J. R. Dilworth Carmel, California

Editor's note: It's true, and the mistake is ours. Changing a program file's ex-(continues)

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tension from COM to EXE or vice versa will not confuse DOS. It may, however, confuse any technically minded person working on your system. As we stated in February, however, some programs work properly only with the original file names.

Karl Koessel is the technical editor for PC World.

Have a macro, batch file, short program, or general tip you're proud of? Star-Dot-Star pays \$25 to \$200 per tip used. Send your tips to Star-Dot-Star, PC World, 501 Second St. #600, San Francisco, CA 94107; Compu-Serve 74055,412; MCI Mail PC World Editorial; or 415/442-1891 (fax). We cannot acknowledge submitted materials.

■

POWER TIP NO. 184

Ranking Values With Excel

Excel's powerful array feature lets you create a formula to compute ranks, and the ranks will adjust automatically if your numbers change. If the values to be ranked are in A1:A10, for example, type the following formula in cell B1:

=SUM(IF(A1>SAS1:SAS10,1))+1

Press <Shift>-<Ctrl>-<Enter>
to make this an array formula, indicated by surrounding curly braces. If braces do not appear, press <F2> and try again. Copy the formula to B2:B10, and the ranks will be calculated. With large ranges, however, recalculating these formulas can take a while, so you'll be wise to switch to manual recalc mode.

John Walkenbach San Diego, California

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Instant Reference Card #13

For use with PC World Instant Reference Card Portfolio

BASICS: PAGEMAKER 4.0

What to do: You can begin most PageMaker tasks by clicking the left mouse button. However, all menu names and options have one letter underlined (bold here) that you use to select the option with the keyboard. Clicking OK or pressing **<Enter>** completes many tasks.

USING THE MENU

| Task | Mouse | Keyboard |
|-------------------|----------------------|---|
| Open menu | Click on menu | <al>Alt> or <f10>, type</f10>underlined menu letter</al> |
| Select option | Click on option | Type underlined letter |
| Open another menu | Click on menu | <cursor left=""> ar <cursor right=""></cursor></cursor> |
| Close menu | Click away from menu | <esc> twice</esc> |

GETTING STARTED

Before creating a new publication, select the target printer and unit of measurement as shown below. Then creote a new publication and set the margins, page specifications, default type specifications, and guidelines.

File Target printer, select desired printer Select unit af measurement Edit Preferences, set measuring system and vertical ruler

Create new publication File New, set page specifications and margins

Type Type specs; set font, size, leading, style

Options Column guides; type number, spacing

ADDING TEXT AND GRAPHICS (continued)

Select pointer tool ar <F9>, click on graphic, Size grophic drag one of the corner or side hondles as desired Select tool or **<F8>**, click on graphic, drag one Crap graphic

of the corner or side handles os desired

Tip: As a rule, place graphics, then flow text oraund them.

Note: Use guidelines to align text and graphics. "Snop to guides" provides a magnetlike attroction to guidelines. "Snap to rulers" provides o similor attraction to ruler marks.

Options Snap to guides or <Ctrl>-U Toggle Snap to guides Options Snap to rulers ar <Ctrl>-<Shift>-Y Toggle Snap to rulers

GETTING AROUND

The easiest way to get around is to click the mouse where you want to go. PageMaker olso has keyboard commands for this purpase.

<Home> Go to beginning of line Go to beginning of paragraph <Ctrl>--<Cursor Up> Go to beginning of sentence **<Ctrl>-<Home>** <Ctrl>-<Page Up> Ga to beginning af story Go down a line <Cursor Down> Go down a screen <Page Down> Go to end of line <End>

Go to end of sentence <Ctrl>-<End>

Select type specifications Add column guidelines Add ruler guidelines Adjust guidelines Remove ruler guidelines Save publication Print publication Close publication Leave PageMaker

Drog new guides from rulers Drag guides where desired Drog ruler guides off publication File Save or <Ctrl>-S, type name File Print or <Ctrl>-P, enter options File Close File Exit or <Ctrl>-Q Help Index ar <F1> Open Help index Get context-sensitive help <Shift>-<F1>, click on object if necessary

<Ctrl>-<Page Down> Go to end of story <Ctrl>-G5 Go to poge 5 Go left a charocter <Cursor Left> Go left a word Ga ta next page Ga to next porograph Go to previous page

<Ctrl>-<Cursor Left> <F12> <Ctrl>-<Cursor Down>

<F11> <Cursor Right> Go right a character Go right a word <Ctrl>-<Cursor Right>

<Cursor Up> Go up a line Ga up a screen <Page Up>

ADDING TEXT AND GRAPHICS

To select tools for dealing with text or grophics, click on the appropriate icon in the toalbox or use the keyboard shortcuts below.

Select tool or <Shift>-<F4>, click on starting Enter text location, type text Select tool or <Shift>-<F5>, click on storting Draw rectangle or square locotion, draw rectangle (for a square, hold

down <Shift> while drawing) Select tool or **<Shift>-<F7>**, click on storting Draw oval or circle location, draw aval (for a circle, hold down

<Shift> while drowing) Select tool or <Shift>-<F2>, click on starting Draw diagonal line locotion, draw line (for a 45-degree angle, hold down <Shift> while drawing) Select tool or <Shift>-<F3>, click on starting Draw perpendicular line

location, draw line File Place, select file, OK, click on starting Import text or graphics

Select pointer tool or <F9>, click on text, click Continue flowing text on bottom handle, click on location

Select pointer toal or <F9>, click on graphic, Flaw text around grophic Element Text wrop, click on middle wrap

option and OK, flow text Options Autoflow, flow text either as initial Flow text over columns import or as continuation

CHANGING THE VIEW

You can change the view using the Page menu, the mouse, or keyboard shortcuts. The independent mouse commands use the right mouse button. Page menu commands are shown if no mouse shortcut exists.

View actual size (100%) Click right button or <Ctrl>-1 Click right button ar **<Ctrl>-W**Page 25% size or **<Ctrl>-0** Fit in window View 25% of octual View 50% of octual Page 50% size or <Ctrl>-5 Page 75% size or <Ctrl>-7 View 75% of actual Hold <Shift> ond click right button or View 200% of actual <Ctrl>-2 Page 400% size or <Ctrl>-4 View 400% of octual

Turning Screen Objects On and Off

Toggle Color polette Window Color palette or <Ctrl>-K Taggle rulers Options Rulers or <Ctrl>-R Toggle scroll bars Window Scroll bars Window Style polette or <Ctrl>-Y Toggle Style palette Window Toolbox or <Ctrl>-6 Taggle Toolbox Toggle all guides Options Guides or <Ctrl>-J

Fold Here

Fold Here

JUNE 1991 PC WORLD 263

Instant Reference Card #13

For use with PC World Instant Reference Card Portfolio

ADVANCED: PAGEMAKER 4.0

MANIPULATING TEXT AND GRAPHICS

Before you can manipulate a black of text or a graphic, you must first select it by clicking on it with the pointer tool. To select several objects, hold down <Shift> while clicking on them, or drag o box oround the objects ("rubber bonding"). To select all the objects on a page, choose Edit Select all or

Note: Text and grophics in the some place on o page ore in layers. When you click on an object, you may not get what you want because it is under another loyer. You can move a loyer with one of two PageMaker commands.

Move top loyer to bottom Move bottom loyer to top

Element Send to bock or <Ctrl>-B Element Bring to front or <Ctrl>-F

Rearranging Objects

Copy to clipboord Cut (remove) to clipboord Delete permanently

Paste from clipboord

Undo last action

Edit Copy or <Ctrl>-C or <Ctrl>-<Insert> Edit Cut or <Ctrl>-X or <Shift>-<Delete> Edit Clear or < Delete > Drog object with mouse or use Cut and Poste Edit Poste or <Insert> or <Ctrl>-V or

<Shift>-<Insert> Edit Undo or <Ctrl>-Z or <Alt>-<Backspace>

Changing Objects

Chonge controst

Fold

Element Image control, select settings

Chonge line width Chonge rounded corners Change shading or fill Change colors

Rotate text block Add poge(s) Delete poge(s)

Element Line, select width ond style Element Rounded corners, select style Element Fill, select pottern or degree Element Define colors, select color and edit Element Text rotation, select degree of rotation Poge Insert poges, enter number and locotion Page Remove pages, enter page number(s)

Selecting Text

Select the text tool, and highlight text by drogging over it. To select all the text in a story, choose Edit Select all or press <Ctrl>-A while the text tool is octive. Portions of text con also be selected using the keyboard.

Select choracter left Select chorocter right Select line obove Select line below Select to line beginning Select to line end Select porogroph Select to paragraph

beginning Select to parogroph end Select to sentence beginning

Select to sentence end Select to story beginning Select to story end Select word

Select word left Select word right

Formatting Text

Center text Left-align text Right-align text Justify text Force text to fill line <Shift>-<Cursor Left> <Shift>-<Cursor Right> <Shift>-<Cursor Up> <Shift>-<Cursor Down> <Shift>-<Home> <Shift>-<Enter>

Triple-click on it <Ctrl>-<Shift>-<Cursor Up>

<Ctrl>-<Shift>-<Cursor Down> <Ctrl>-<Shift>-<Home> <Ctrl>-<Shift>-<End>

<Ctrl>-<Shift>-<Page Up> <Ctrl>-<Shift>-<Page Down> Double-click on it

<Ctrl>-<Shift>-<Cursor Left> <Ctrl>-<Shift>-<Cursor Right>

Type Alignment Center or <Ctrl>-<Shift>-C Type Alignment Left or <Ctrl>-<Shift>-L Type Alignment Right or <Ctrl>-<Shift>-R

Type Alignment Justify or <Ctrl>-<Shift>-J Type Alignment Force justify or

<Ctrl>-<Shift>-F

Formatting Text (continued)

Bold text

Itolic text

Normal text

Reverse text Strike-through text Underline text

All copital text Smoll capitol text

Subscript text Superscript text

Select typefoce or font Select type size Next larger standord size Next smoller stondord size Set line spocing or leading Type Type style Bold or <F6> or

<Ctrl>-<Shift>-B

Type Type style Itolic or <F7> or

<Ctrl>-<Shift>-I

Type Type style Normal or <F5> or

<Ctrl>-<Shift>-<Space>

Type Type style Reverse or <Ctrl>-<Shift>-V Type Type style Strikethru or <Ctrl>-<Shift>-S

Type Type style Underline or <F9> or

<Ctrl>-<Shift>-U

Type Type specs Case All cops Type Type specs Cose Small cops or

<Ctrl>-<Shift>-H

Type Type specs Position Subscript or <Ctrl>-\ Type Type specs Position Superscript or

<Ctrl>-<Shift>-\ Type Font, select typefoce

Type Size, select size or select Other and size

<F4> or <Ctrl>-> <F3> or <Ctrl>-<

Type Leading, select size or select Other and point size or <Ctrl>-<Shift>-A for outo

(120%) leoding

Set chorocter width

Set charocter spocing

Monual kern aport Manual kern together

Remove monuol kerning Set hyphenation specs Set parograph specs

Set tabs

Define styles Select styles

Type Set width, select width or select Other ond type width or <Ctrl>-<Shift>-X for

normal (100%) width

Type Trock, select type or <Ctrl>-<Shift>-Q for no trock

<Ctrl>-<Shift>-<Backspace>

<Ctrl>-<Backspace>

<Ctrl>-<Shift>-0

Type Hyphenation or <Ctrl>-H, enter specs Type Poragraph or <Ctrl>-M, enter specs Type Indent/tabs or <Ctrl>-1, select style,

locotion, and leader

Type Define styles, enter new style and set choracter, parogroph, and tab formatting

Type Style, select style

USING THE STORY EDITOR

First, click in the fext to be edited.

Enter story editor Check spelling

Edit Edit story or <Ctrl>-E

Edit Spelling or <Ctrl>-L, select seorch options, and select Stort. For unrecognized words, select or type the correct word and click Replace (or click Ignore)

Search for word or phrose

Edit Find or <Ctrl>-8, type text to find, select options, and click on Find. To bose the search on text format rother thon content, click on Attributes

Edit Chonge or <Ctrl>-9, type text to find ond change, then select options. Click on

Continue search Replace words or phroses

Return to layout view

Leove story editor

Disploy special charocters Import text into story editor

either Find or Chonge all. To change text formot rother than content, click on Attributes Options Disploy ¶ Story Import, select file Edit Edit loyout or <Ctrl>-E

Story Close story or <Ctrl>-<Shift>-E

Edit Find next or <Ctrl>-<Shift>-9

Fold

DEVELOPER'S TOOLBOX

Turbo Pascal for Windows: Out With the Old, In With the New

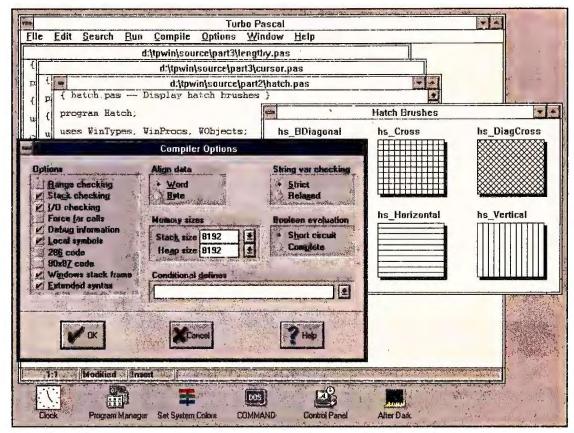
Tom Swan

My search for an easy-to-use Windows development system may be over. From the looks of a prerelease copy of Borland's Turbo Pascal for Windows 1.0, it's time to bury the notion that Windows programming requires months of study, an armload of 800-page books, years of experience with C, and intimate knowledge of the Microsoft Windows Software Development Kit.

A key *TPW* feature, the Object Windows Library, or OWL, slices through that complexity like a taut wire cuts cheese. Similar in design to Turbo Vision—*Turbo Pascal 6.0*'s DOS counterpart—OWL is a high-powered, object-oriented tool set that provides a fresh interface to *Windows*' hundreds of functions.

You can write conventional Windows code with TPW, but once you start using OWL, you'll want to kiss convention good-bye. For instance, instead of writing a classic message loop to handle events such as mouse clicks, I just add a method to an OWL object. When someone clicks the mouse, OWL calls my method—a simple plan that merges Windows and OOP (object-oriented-programming) techniques without sacrificing performance.

Several utilities are bundled with *TPW*. For designing resources, there's the *Whitewater Resource Toolkit*, an all-in-one tool for creating hot-key accelerators, bit maps, cursors, dialogs, icons, menus, and strings. You can also create resources from text scripts compiled by Microsoft's Resource Compiler, licensed by Borland. For debugging, *TPW* offers Turbo Debugger for Windows, a special version of Borland's popular debugger. Unfortunately, the debugger runs full-screen, not in a window, and runs only on systems using standard *Windows* video drivers. Still,



Turbo Pascal for Windows, with its Object Windows Library and bundled Whitewater Resource
Toolkit, eliminates the need for traditional, hard-to-learn, C-based Windows programming tools.

TDW is essential for investigating hardto-find bugs and sifting through *Windows* messages.

TPW provides complete access to Windows' extensive API. TPW fully supports Multiple Document Interface (MDI) applications, Dynamic Link Libraries (DLLs), and Dynamic Data Exchange (DDE) facilities. However, implementing these demanding features required Borland to modify its Pascal language, making TPW incompatible with the DOS Turbo Pascal compiler. For instance, TPW includes a Strings unit for working with null-terminated strings. Objects support dynamic methods that can be linked to Windows messages. And for DOS compatibility, WinCrt and WinDOS are included; they're similar but not identical to the Dos and Crt units in Turbo Pascal 6.0. So don't throw away your DOS compiler; TPW is Turbo Pascal, but it's geared strictly to Windows.

A large-memory command-line com-

piler, reportedly in the works for a future release, would be welcome. The supplied command-line compiler is a DOS program and is therefore subject to DOS's 640K RAM barrier—a limit not imposed by the integrated *TPW* compiler and editor.

Tom Swan is the author of Mastering Turbo Pascal 5.5 (1990) and other books published by Howard W. Sams, Carmel, Indiana.

WHERE TO BUY

Turbo Pascal for Windows 1.0

Borland Int'l P.O. Box 660001 Scotts Valley, CA 95067-0001 800/331-0877

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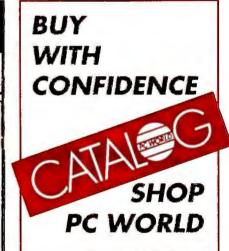


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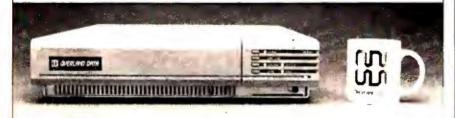
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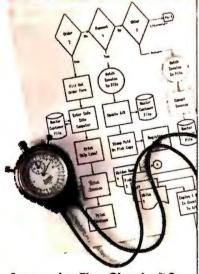


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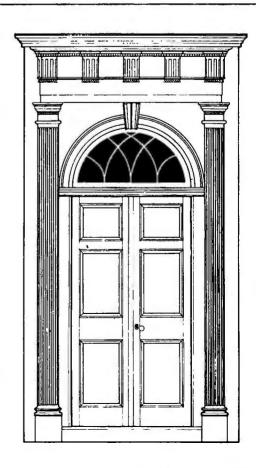
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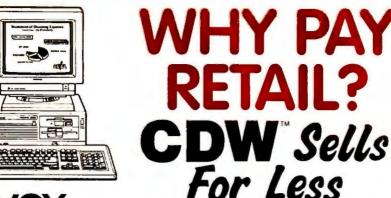
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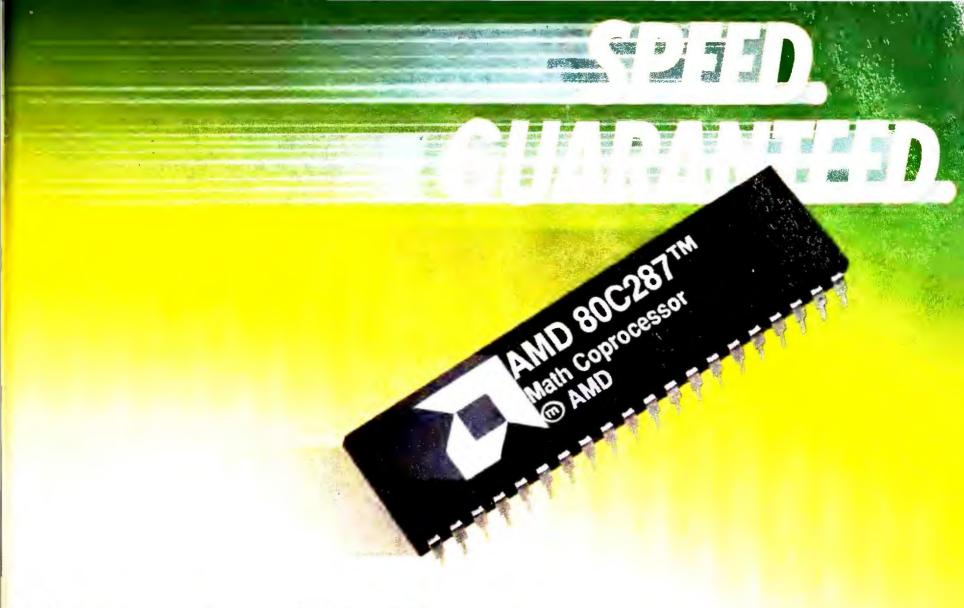
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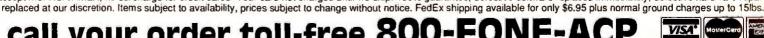
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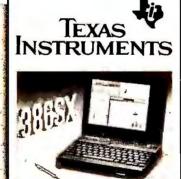
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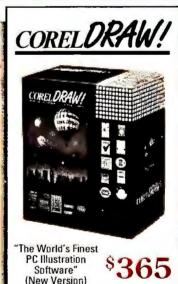
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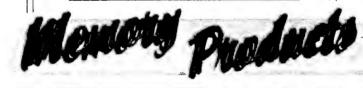
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TAKING IT HOME

The practical guide to home/office computing

Getting in the fast lane with remote computing

Steve Bass

Rush hour lasts all day in Los Angeles. That's why I hate getting on the free-way—especially when it's just to head back to the office to retrieve a forgotten file. The file I need just never seems to be on the right computer.

I know it doesn't sound like rocket science—copy the day's files onto a floppy, take the disk home, and transfer them to the home computer's hard disk. But keeping track of 20 files from numerous projects means spending as much time copying as creating files. And half the time, I simply leave the disk I need sitting in the computer that's where I'm not.

I've changed my tactics. I decided to stop schlepping the files around and instead keep them centralized. I leave all my files on my office hard disk and use a remote communications program to access what I need as I need it.

The idea behind remote-control programs is simple—you use a modem to establish a connection and take control of the computer you've called. It's just like sitting in front of the host computer, but you can be hundreds or thousands of miles away. You see the same screen on the remote computer, and every keystroke you make is immediately relayed

over phone lines to the host. Choose a program to load into the off-site computer's memory and you're in the driver's seat. Until recently, though, a slow modem and inadequacies in remote programs made the process unbearably tedious for me.

I tried all the remote packages and found one shortcoming or another in all but *pcAnywhere*, which is a snap to set up and use. Before I leave the office each night, I call up the *PC-Host* portion of the program, and it waits for my incoming call. Once I get home, I make the connection just by dialing in.

When I'm on the road, I can call in to the office with either my Toshiba or Po-



qet laptop and tap 80 megabytes worth of files. Password protection assures me that I'm the only one who can.

I also use *pcAnywhere* to help user group associates who own the program's host module. Instead of trying to talk them through a problem ("No, type the word *type*, then a space and then..."), I make the remote connection and solve the mystery while they watch. When my group's newsletter editor wants changes in my column, it's quicker to call his computer remotely and make the changes on his machine while

he scrutinizes the results.

But as easy as *pcAnywhere* is to use, don't even consider running it at 1200 bits per second. A 2400-bps modem is tolerable, but some applications are so big that you'll still grow impatient. If you think you'll be a frequent remote user, it's probably worth it to buy a 9600-bps modem. Prices have come way down this year, and you'll save money in line charges and precious time.

I use a USR Courier V.32bis at home and Intel's 9600EX at the office. I don't worry about the integrity of file transfers because both modems support V.42 error correction as well as the V.42bis protocol, a data compression standard that can speed up data transfers to almost 38,400 bps under ideal conditions. I like external modems because they are easy to move among computers.

Now I only have to face the freeway twice a day. If I had a car phone, I could plug one of those laptop/fax/modem/answering machines into my cigarette lighter, and finally put those long waits in traffic to good use.

■

Contributing Editor Steve Bass is a family therapist and president of the Pasadena IBM Users Group.

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| Which products are you most interest of the products are you most interest. | erested in? UNIX® based systems Laptops/Notebooks Other: |
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| 3. If for resale, please identify your p ☐ General Business ☐ Government | orimary customers: ent |
| 4. How many PCs does your compativelve months? | |
| Quantity Timeframe Less than 1 month 1-3 months 3-6 months | Quantity Timeframe 6-12 months More than 12 months |
| 5. What do you plan to use compute | er products for? |
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| Quantity Timeframe Quantity Timeframe Less than 1 month 6-12 months |
| Nore than 12 months |
| 3-6 months |
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| Fax #: () | | |
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| 2. Are you interested in computer products for: ☐ Home ☐ Business ☐ Resale | | |
| 3. If for resale, please identify your primary customers: ☐ General Business ☐ Government ☐ Education ☐ Medical | | |
| 4. How many PCs does your company plan to purchase in the next twelve months? | | |
| Quantity Timeframe Quantity Timeframe Less than 1 month 1.3 months More then 12 months | | |
| Less than I month O-12 months Less than I month O-12 months More than 12 months | | |
| 3-6 months | | |
| 5. What do you plan to use computer products for? | | |
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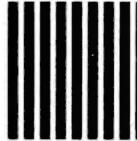
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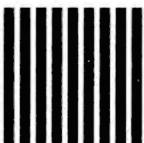
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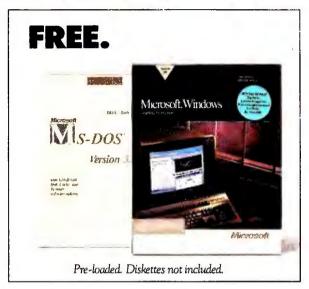
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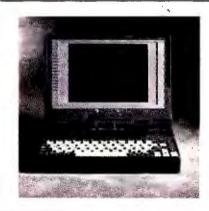
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