

CONSUMER ALERT: IS YOUR KEYBOARD RUINING YOUR HANDS?

# PC WORLD

May 1993 \$3.95

Frees Memory

Doubles Disk Space

Enhances Windows

Kills Viruses

## Why You Have To Have It

25 FASTEST PCs  
FOR \$3000

**WORDSMITHS AND  
NUMBER CRUNCHERS UNITE.**

Suppose you're responsible for the monthly report. Gulp.

You're going to write it, including enough solid data to make the numbers guys jealous. Some very impressive stuff.

If you're fortunate enough to have The Microsoft® Office for Windows™ on your computer, this is not a problem.

Because you can easily turn all those numbers into charts and graphs with Microsoft Excel. Then cut and paste them right into your Word document.

All kinds of text, data and graphics can be shared back and forth between applications. And you won't lose the formatting.

With a few more clicks, you can cut and paste your document into Mail, attach a note, and send it all around the office for input and admiration.

You can go on to make the report presentable at the status meeting or even the client presentation. PowerPoint® presentation graphics turns what's on your computer screen into eye-riveting slides or handouts.

And once you become familiar with one Microsoft application for Windows, you're well on your way to knowing them all.

Even the first time, things like toolbars, menus and icons will look comfortably the same. (What's wrong with a little instant gratification?)

So now you can focus on doing your job, and maybe even discover talents you never knew you had. But what you need first is more information. Call us at (800) 323-3577, Dept. KA2.

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**The Microsoft Office for Windows includes the complete Microsoft Excel, Word, PowerPoint, and a Microsoft Mail workstation license.**

**Microsoft**  
Making it easier

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Dear Mr. Bent

It is with great pleasure  
to include your  
conversation  
order, the

Wickets  
(3,000)

Also,  
and 1  
for

S



Ferguson

SUMMER PRODU

Ferguson and Bardell  
our new line. A co  
Vermont wicker o  
this spring. Atten

EQUIPMENT SA



APPARE

## Bardell, Outfitters Monthly Sales Projections.

Bardell, Outfitters is projecting increased sales volume based on the introduction of a new line of graphite rods, reels, sportsman's pocketed vests, durable waders, gourmet salmon eggs, and hand-tied flies will be available at retail prices. Retail and quality should place F and B fly fishing equipment at the top of every angler's list. Western region projections for the new line are included here. Samples of the new fly fishing line will be available at the upcoming Western sales conference in Coeur d'Alene next month. Another F and B favorite, our classic hexagonal nylon tent, has been redesigned to be more colorful than ever. Plan to review both of these exciting new product lines. The complete Ferguson and Bardell, Outfitters catalogue will be available to you at the conference, as well.

PROJECTIONS

SALMON EGGS

SIZE	QUANTITY	COLORS	PRICE
S,M,L,XL	40,000	Khaki, Olive	27
8-14	65,000	Khaki, Blue	30
S,M,L,XL	45,000	Olive, Yellow	89
S,M,L	60,000	Khaki, Bark	35

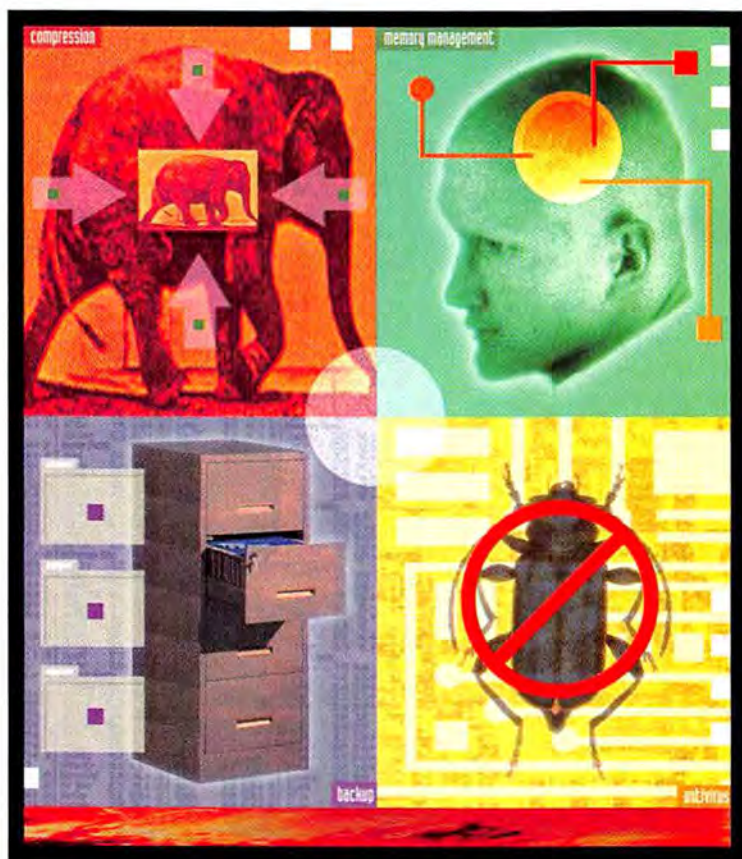
Available for inspection at the upcoming Western region sales conference in Coeur d'Alene next month, along with the new fly fishing line and the newly designed, colorful nylon tent line as well.



## SALES PROJECTIONS



# PC WORLD



## Cover Story

### DOS 6: Do You Need It?

**100** More than just an operating system, the new version of DOS crams in four utilities along with a better memory manager, new file commands and start-up options, and tighter integration with *Windows*. Van Wolverton, author of the best-selling *Running MS-DOS*, explains who needs DOS 6, who doesn't, and why.

#### **102** DOS 6's Greatest Hits

Top Ten: the best of the new, improved features

#### **103** What's Still Missing?

One user's wish list for the next version of DOS

#### **104** The Fate of the Third-Party Utilities

Do you still need them?

#### **106** Software Becomes More Accessible—And Affordable

Long-overdue add-ons arrive

Cover photograph by Robert Cardin,  
typographic design by Jeff Berlin

## Consumer Watch Special Report

### **118** Danger at Your Fingertips

Routine typing on PC keyboards puts millions of computer users at risk for debilitating hand, wrist, and arm injuries. Will you be the next victim? How can you tell, and how can you protect yourself?



## Systems

### **132** Fastest Number-Crunching PCs for \$3000

With power to spare, the latest 486DX2-66s and DX-50s tear through massive spreadsheets, multimegabyte graphics, and other demanding applications. We pick the best of 25 high-powered systems, most priced from \$2000 to \$3000.

## Top of the News

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Bargains from IBM? Forty new 486 PCs with upgradable CPUs, local bus, and more.

#### **54** Norton 7.0 Enhances DOS 6

DOS 6 support and hardware diagnostics make this utilities upgrade worth it.

#### **56** Beta Testers Give DOS 6 an A-

It does the job, though power users will want more.

#### **58** High-Res Printer in a 486 Note

Canon's NoteJet 486: An innovative notebook/printer combo.

#### **60** DOS Word 6.0 Does Drag-and-Drop

*Word* gets more graphical and functional.

#### **64** Weird Keyboards: Rx for Hands?

Ergonomic designs aim to prevent injuries.



## Software

### 168 Work Smarter, Not Harder

Still single-stepping through menus, fumbling with function keys, and scrolling through help screens? Take the easy way out with these 67 time-savers for 16 top DOS and Windows applications, from 1-2-3 to Excel, WinWord to WordPerfect.

### 194 Search and Destroy: Antivirus Software

As PC viral strains multiply and mutate, business losses mount—up to \$1 billion a year. And not all antivirus software offers equal protection. Defend your data with the best of 18 antivirus programs we pitted against a horde of real-world viruses.

## Storage

### 215 CD ROM Drives: The Time Is Right

Reference databases, font collections, sound, and video.... There's too much great CD ROM software to pass up. Put it all at your fingertips with one of these 43 CD ROM drives priced at \$249 and up.



## New Products

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- 68 TI microWriter laser printers
- 70 Lotus 1-2-3 for OS/2 2.0, Freelance Graphics for OS/2 2.0

- 72 Borland dBASE IV 2.0, dBASE Compiler for DOS
- 77 Windows Express 4.0, FirstApps 2.0 utilities
- 79 Microsoft Open EIS Pak
- 81 Folio Views 3.0, Views 3.0 Lite document/image manager
- 81 Crystal Reports 2.0
- 82 XyWrite 4.0
- 82 Pro Forma financial modeling software
- 84 Meeting Maker XP

- 84 Personal Travel Guide
  - 86 Carbon Copy for Windows 2.0, Norton pcAnywhere 1.0 for Windows
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ZEOS<sup>®</sup> PCs are  
your best choice.

But don't take  
our word for it:

"...blew all competitors away—in some cases performing more than ten times as fast as competitors."

—PC Magazine, January 26, 1993

"ZEOS' engineering and quality advantages... clearly distinguish the ZEOS product from similarly priced machines."

—Forbes,  
March 1, 1993

*"An array of features  
to make a user's mouth water."*

—PC  
Magazine,  
January  
26, 1993

"The ZEOS is the fastest 33-MHz 486-DX system we tested, and its performance even topped that of two 50-MHz 486DX2s."

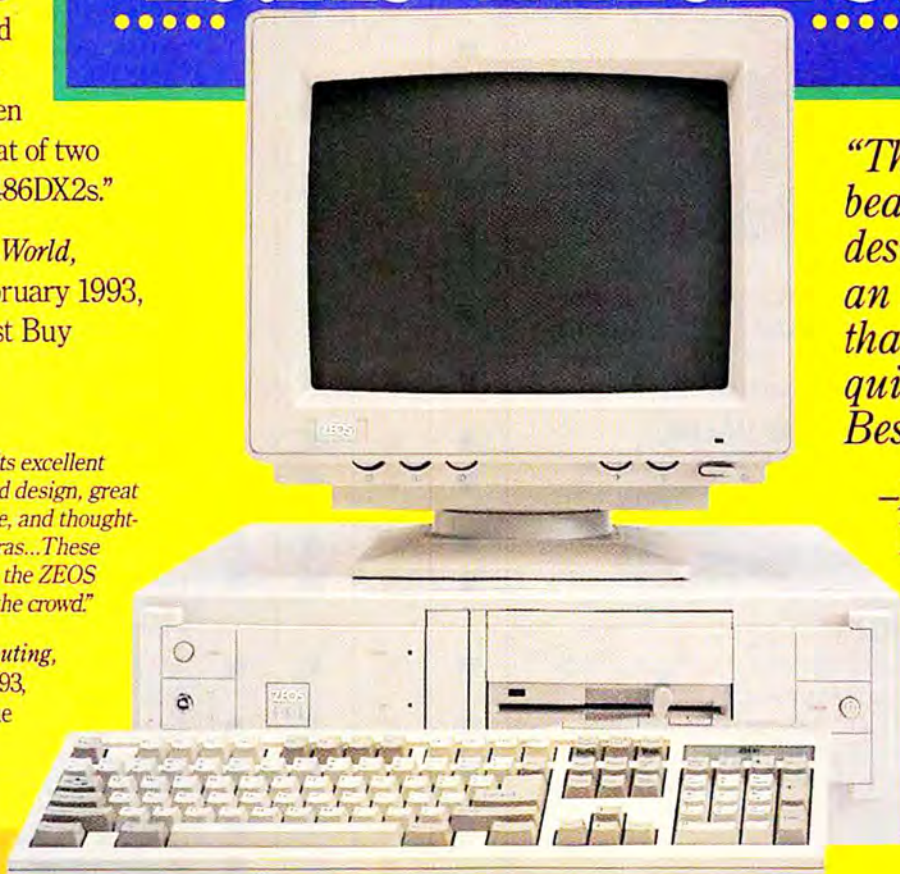
—PC World,  
February 1993,  
Best Buy

"Kudos for its excellent motherboard design, great performance, and thoughtful little extras... These features set the ZEOS apart from the crowd."

—PC Computing,  
March 1993,  
Best Value

*"This is a fast,  
beautifully  
designed PC with  
an upgrade path  
that just won't  
quit. That spells  
Best Buy to us."*

—PC World,  
February 1993,  
Best Buy



*"...look at ZEOS's new 486DX2-66...  
That's value pricing."*

—Jim Seymour, PC Magazine, Feb. 9, 1993

## WOW! HIGH-SPEED VESA LOCAL BUS VIDEO!

Local bus is the hottest performance enhancement going. It speeds your computer's performance by allowing peripherals—like video controllers and IDE disk drives—to connect *directly* to the CPU's bus, transferring data at full clock speed.

Your new ZEOS system features two VESA-standard local bus slots. VESA-standard is important—you

## PC MAGAZINE LABS BENCHMARK TESTS: GRAPHICS WINMARK

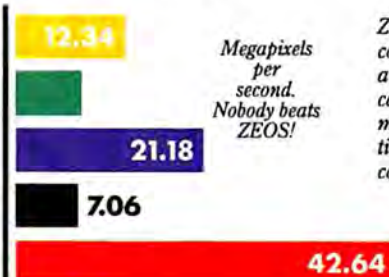
Compaq Deskpro 66M

Dell 466 DE/2

Gateway 2000 4DX2-66 V

IBM PS/2 Model 77 486DX2

ZEOS 486DX2-66 with our optional Viper video card!



Megapixels per second. Nobody beats ZEOS!

ZEOS "blew all competitors away—in some cases performing more than ten times as fast as competitors."

—PC Magazine, 1/26/93

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LARGER,  
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LOCAL BUS  
HARD  
DRIVES!

# ZEOS® Your #1

know you won't get stuck with some proprietary architecture that has no future. Check the competition; few meet the standard.

And ZEOS gives you *incredible* local bus video. PC Magazine tested a ZEOS system with our optional Viper video card. Their findings? The ZEOS "blew all competitors away—in some cases performing more than ten times as fast as competitors." This same #1-rated blazing Windows performance can be yours. Only from ZEOS!

## DATA TRANSFER THAT'S OVER TWICE AS FAST. WITH LOCAL BUS IDE!

We take the same local bus technology and apply it to our built-in IDE drive controller. Your drive will be so fast you'll hardly know it's there! Dell doesn't have it; few others do either. ZEOS has it and so can you.



"IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE A BRIGHTER UPGRADE PICTURE."  
—PC WORLD

Now you can upgrade from any 486 as your needs change. You get more than just an overdrive socket—you get *upgradability all the way to Intel's Pentium™-based OverDrive™ processor*. And your ZIF (Zero Insertion Force) socket makes it so easy!

Yet CPU upgradability is only part of the story. Because you also get *eight expansion slots*, seven of which are open, giving you plenty of room to add to your system later. *And you get Flash BIOS, allowing for easy BIOS upgrades in the future by disk or modem!* Plus on-board SCSI for only \$49. Add SCSI devices (such as CD-ROM) now or later



and you get high performance on-board SCSI that's *very* affordable.

## "AN ARRAY OF FEATURES TO MAKE A USER'S MOUTH WATER." —PC MAGAZINE

If you spend as much time with your PC as we think you do, you know what a difference high-quality components can make. Such as *strong cases*, *floppy drives by Teac*, and *.28mm dot pitch SVGA monitors that are non-interlaced all the way up to 1024x768 resolution*.

## UL LISTING ON THE ENTIRE SYSTEM.

Another rare—and important—symbol of quality is the UL® Listing. We feel it says something about quality as well as safety. And it's *on the entire system*—not just the power supply. Most don't have it. You do.

## NOT ONE, BUT TWO COOLING FANS.

While ZEOS systems run cooler than most with just one fan, we still give you two whisper-quiet ones. Because the cooler your system runs, the longer it will last. Particularly with today's high-performance CPUs.

## WARRANTIES, GUARANTEES AND MORE.

At ZEOS, we support you *toll free, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year*. Your own ZEOS award-winning Technical Support is only a phone call away—*anytime* you need us.



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And if you're not absolutely convinced your new ZEOS PC is everything we say it is and more, *you have a full 30 days to return it to us for a complete, no-questions-asked refund.* Plus, you're covered by our One Year Limited Warranty, Express Parts Replacement Policy and Complete Customer Satisfaction Package.

## FABULOUS FREE SOFTWARE—INCLUDING NEW LOTUS IMPROV!

You get your choice of a popular Windows application from Lotus—1-2-3, Ami Pro, Freelance Graphics, or new Lotus

*NOW: Larger drives, all with high-speed built-in cache. Up to 452MB!*

# Choice.

Improv, which has been called the most "revolutionary and accessible" spreadsheet ever.

That's in addition to DOS, Windows, and the fabulous

new Lotus Organizer—your own personal information manager highly recommended by *PC Magazine*. With all the free software you get with your new ZEOS system, you save hundreds of dollars!



## IT ALL COMES DOWN TO VALUE.

No one gives you as much as ZEOS. At any price. And quite frankly, in the history of our company, we've never built better PCs than these. That means a lot from a company with *nine PC Magazine Editors' Choice* awards.

## SO GIVE US A CALL!

When it comes right down to it, buying a ZEOS is the best purchase decision you can make. So why not give us a call right now and talk with your own friendly and knowledgeable ZEOS Systems Consultant. ZEOS is absolutely your best choice. And we don't just say it. *We guarantee it!*

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## NOBODY GIVES YOU THIS MUCH!

#1	#2	#3	#4	
\$1395	\$1895	\$2295	\$2595	486SX-25
1495	1995	2395	2695	486SX-33
1595	2095	2495	2795	486DX-33
1695	2195	2595	2895	486DX2-50
1795	2295	2695	2995	486DX2-66
■	■	■	■	Intel 486 CPU
■	■	■	■	ZIF upgrade socket
2	4	8	16	MB of RAM expandable to 64MB on motherboard
107	214	340	452	High-speed IDE hard drive (MB)
32K	32K	128K	256K	Built-in hard drive cache
■	■	■	■	Local bus IDE hard drive interface
16	16	13	12	Seek time (ms)
■	■	■	■	1.2MB Teac floppy drive
■	■	■	■	1.44MB Teac floppy drive
■	■	■	■	ZEOS 14" high-resolution mono VGA monitor
■	■	■	■	ZEOS 14" high-resolution 1024x768 non-interlaced SVGA color monitor
.28	.28	.28	.28	Monitor dot pitch (mm)
■	■	■	■	1MB high-speed VESA local bus card with Windows accelerator
■	■	■	■	Eight expansion slots including two VESA local bus
■	■	■	■	Two serial ports, one parallel port
■	■	■	■	Shadow RAM/EMS support
■	■	■	■	Socket for optional on-board SCSI
■	■	■	■	Flash BIOS
■	■	■	■	High-capacity 200W power supply and built-in surge suppression
■	■	■	■	ZEOS SpaceSaver case with six drive bays
■	■	■	■	Two cooling fans
■	■	■	■	ZEOS 101-key tactile/click keyboard
■	■	■	■	Microsoft DOS
■	■	■	■	Microsoft Windows
■	■	■	■	Microsoft Mouse
■	■	■	■	Choice of Lotus Improv, 1-2-3, Ami Pro or Freelance
■	■	■	■	Lotus Organizer
■	■	■	■	24-Hour-A-Day Toll-Free Technical Support
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■	■	■	■	One Year Limited Warranty

# At \$1495, It's Your



#### BUY WITH CONFIDENCE.

ZEOS just won PC Magazine's Readers' Choice for Service & Reliability (February 9, 1993). We're the only PC vendor to earn the "Excellent" rating for both our laptop and desktop systems!

**"...IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A SUBNOTEBOOK AND WANT TO MAKE NEXT TO NO COMPROMISES, THEN THE \$1495 ZEOS CONTENDA IS YOUR BEST BET." —PC WEEK, FEBRUARY 1, 1993**

We've got the winner!

It's the new ZEOS Contenda. More features than the Gateway Handbook. Cheaper than a Dell 320SLi by a long shot! And with the kind of quality, performance and support you've come to expect from one company, and one company only: ZEOS.

#### FEATURES THAT PULL NO PUNCHES.

PC Week calls it "the best yet of the new crop of lightweight, full-featured machines." And the chart says it all. Smart, powerful Intel

386SL CPU. A crisp, vibrant VGA backlit screen. Enough power and memory to *easily* run Windows: Standard 80MB hard drive and memory all the way up to 10MB. A built-in track ball. Up to 4 hours of power. Less than 4 pounds in weight. And that's not all.

#### IT COULD BE THE ONLY PC YOU'LL EVER NEED!

This is what you've been waiting for—the one PC to take with you everywhere you want to go! Because it's impossible to find a notebook on the market today that's this light, this small, this affordable—and still gives you *so much power*. But with the ZEOS Contenda, it's all here.

*Like the SL processor.* According to *PC Magazine*, when it comes to notebooks, you should look for Intel's SL processor.

The ZEOS Contenda's Intel CPU extends your battery life significantly—because it's intelligent enough to power-down the memory, disks, modem and more when they're not in use.

And you'll find the Contenda gives you the power and room for practically everything you'd use in a desktop system! Such as DOS, Windows



**Smaller than a notebook, powerful as a desktop. At only 3.9 lbs., the new ZEOS Contenda keeps you light on your feet.**

# #1 Contenda<sup>TM</sup>

and Windows applications. *And we give you all three!* Including the new Lotus Organizer—the personal information manager that's so easy to use, it could make your DayTimer obsolete. Check out our upgrade packages on the right for complete details.

And for you true road warriors, take a look at Package III. It gives you all the goodies—like a nylon carrying case, extra battery and internal fax modem—everything you need to stay productive on the road. All for under \$2000!

	<b>ZEOS Contenda</b>	<b>Gateway Handbook</b>	<b>Dell 320SLi</b>
<b>Processor</b>	<b>Intel 386SL</b>	Chips & Tech. F8680	Intel 386SL
<b>Processor Speed</b>	<b>25MHz</b>	10MHz	20MHz
<b>RAM</b>	<b>2MB to 10MB</b>	1MB to 3MB	2MB to 10MB
<b>Hard Drive</b>	<b>80MB</b>	40MB	60MB
<b>Screen</b>	<b>VGA Backlit</b>	CGA Backlit	VGA Reflective
<b>Runs Windows</b>	<b>Yes</b>	No	Yes
<b>Built-in Pointing Device</b>	<b>Yes</b>	No	No
<b>Footprint</b>	<b>9.7" x 6.1"</b>	9.8" x 5.9"	11.0" x 7.8"
<b>24 Hour Support</b>	<b>Yes</b>	No	No
<b>PRICE</b>	<b>\$1495</b>	\$1295	\$1898

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Our relationship with you doesn't end once we ship your Contenda. ZEOS pioneered comprehensive customer support, and it's what keeps our customers coming back again and again. We back all of our products with Toll-Free Technical Support, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

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### CONTENDA PACKAGE I:

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- CPU: Intel 386SL
- Processor Speed: 25MHz
- RAM: 2MB expandable to 10MB
- Hard Drive: 80MB
- Display: VGA backlit, 640x480, .23 dot pitch, Sharp 7.4" diagonal
- Battery: NiMH; operating time up to 4 hours; a snap to remove
- Size: 9.7" x 6.1"
- Weight: Only 3.9 lbs.
- Power Management: Fully featured, including De-turbo, Standby and Suspend
- Keyboard: Comfortable 80-key with embedded numeric keypad
- I/O Ports: 1 serial and 1 parallel standard; ports for optional internal modem, external floppy and external color VGA monitor
- Pointing Device: Easy-to-use built-in trackball
- Warranties & Guarantees: ZEOS award-winning 24-Hour Toll-Free Technical Support, 30-Day Absolute Satisfaction Money-Back Guarantee, complete Customer Satisfaction Package

### CONTENDA PACKAGE II:

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We take Pkg. I and upgrade to 4MB RAM, add an external 3.5" floppy drive, DOS, Windows and Lotus Organizer!

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All of pkg. II plus a nylon carrying case, extra battery, and internal 9600/2400 baud fax modem. The whole enchilada for less than \$2000!

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Designer/Infographics Jeff Berlin

Assistant Designer/Infographics Hope Winslow

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(PC World Online, PCW JimM; CompuServe,  
71154,212)

Manager, Online Services Bundy Chanock

(PC World Online, PCW BundyC;

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Kremers, Andrea C. Powers, Carol White

Assistant Editor Catherine Kenny

## LOTUS EDITION MAILING ADDRESS

77 Franklin St. #300

Boston, MA 02110

Phone: 617/482-8470 Fax: 617/426-0235

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Art Director Melissa Holmes

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## HOW TO CONTACT PC WORLD

### MAIL

PC World Editorial, 501 Second St. #600,

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Phone: 415/243-0500 Fax: 415/442-1891

PC World Online: see instructions below

CompuServe: 74055,412

MCI Mail: PC World Editorial or 179-3813

Internet: 1793813@mcimail.com

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# PC WORLD

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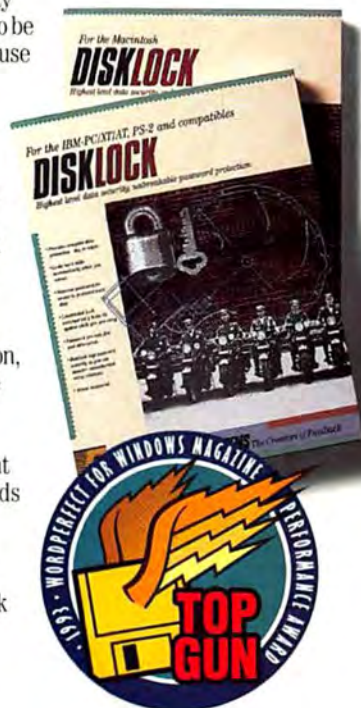
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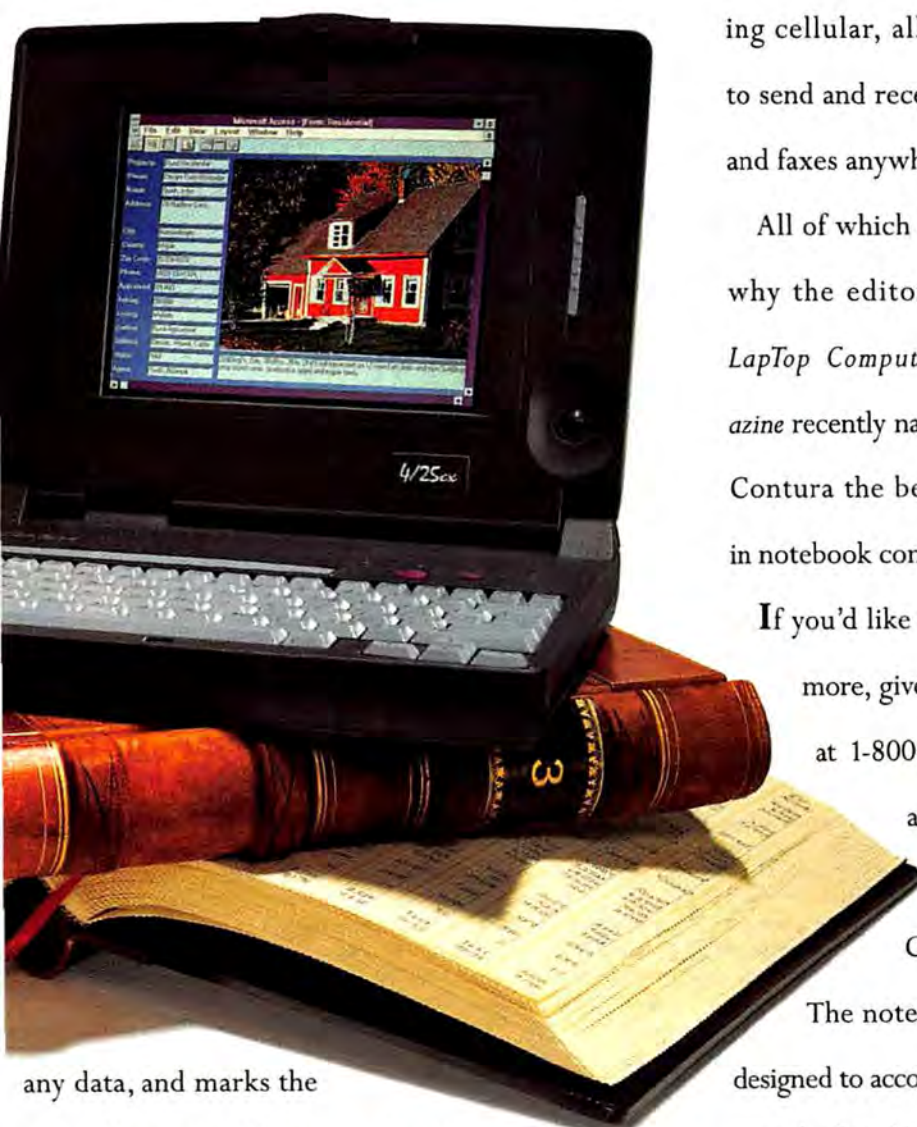
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Circle 9 on reader service card

## Call for Action: Saving the Nation's Hands From RSI

**W**e long for the full realization of Bill Gates's vision of "information at your fingertips," because PCs have already simplified our jobs and made us more productive. We expect more progress with each passing year. The last thing we expect is for PCs to change our lives for the worse. Most PC users have seen no ill effects and received many benefits from years of using keyboards and mice. If we've heard of repetitive strain injury (RSI), we probably think of it as something that makes a wrist or hand sore but does nothing serious and vanishes quickly with a minor alteration in work habits.

Yet, along with all the valuable information at your fingertips, there lurks real danger. RSI can change your life forever. The problem is serious and widespread precisely because injury occurs gradually and imperceptibly. Before you sense there's a problem, you're feeling pain here and numbness there, and suddenly a doctor is telling you not to touch a keyboard or pick up your baby until further notice. This is the advice Associate Editor Roberta Furger got from her physician recently. If the problem is carpal tunnel syndrome, you may face hand surgery—which is by no means trivial, as I can attest, having undergone hand surgery myself last year (for an ailment unrelated to mouse or keyboard use). I found dictation so slow and awkward, I preferred typing with my left hand, switching from the keys to a mouse as needed. I too was deprived of the pleasure of picking up my 2-year-old son, and even found it impossible to turn a storybook's pages when holding him in my lap.

What we forget is that the keyboard we pound is also pounding us. Roberta often used a headset for telephone interviews and transcribed by high-speed typing for hours a stretch. The pounding took its toll. She has undergone intensive physical therapy and altered

her work habits, and her condition is improving somewhat. But her activity is still restricted, and recovery is not assured. Roberta's all too firsthand experiences give her article "Danger at Your Fingertips" a degree of realism that is rare in reporting. The article reveals and analyzes a problem that costs U.S. business billions of dollars a year, disrupts the lives of thousands of people, and promises to worsen as computers proliferate in the United States. If you read nothing else in this issue, read Roberta's article.

We hoped to bring news of a solution along with our report on RSI. We are able to report on a number of interesting attempts to make less stressful keyboards and pointing devices (see *Top of the News*). Common sense suggests many of these relieve stress, but we were extremely disappointed at the dearth of information from serious long-term studies on the effects of different keyboards and pointing devices.

### Research Must Start Now

With so much at stake for so many individuals and businesses, we think that it's time for federal funding of a large-scale study to identify input device designs that present no health hazards. Decades of uncontrolled experimentation in the marketplace will eventually reveal satisfactory designs, but the cost in pain, reduced productivity, and medical expenses can be lessened if systematic studies take place. On behalf of those millions of Americans whose PCs are indispensable tools, we are calling on Hillary Rodham Clinton and her presidential task force to make such a



study part of the nation's health-care agenda (see *Consumer Watch*).

### DOS 6.0 or DOS 6.0?

As you will read in this month's cover story, DOS 6.0 now includes everything, but don't count out utilities companies such as Central Point, Symantec, PC-Kwik, and Stac. Microsoft maintains its commitment to all "open" standards it owns and controls, and utilities vendors remain in charge of keeping your PC in tune, backed up, and virus free. Besides, several utilities companies are bundling versions of their products with IBM's DOS 6.0, due out before the end of June. High-level IBM officials say their DOS 6.0 will be 20 percent faster than Microsoft's and fully compatible and will include more fully featured versions of leading utilities. IBM is striving mightily to sell its DOS 6.0 to many systems manufacturers.

**PC World**  
Editor in Chief  
**Phil Lemmons**

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**Phil Lemmons, Editor in Chief**

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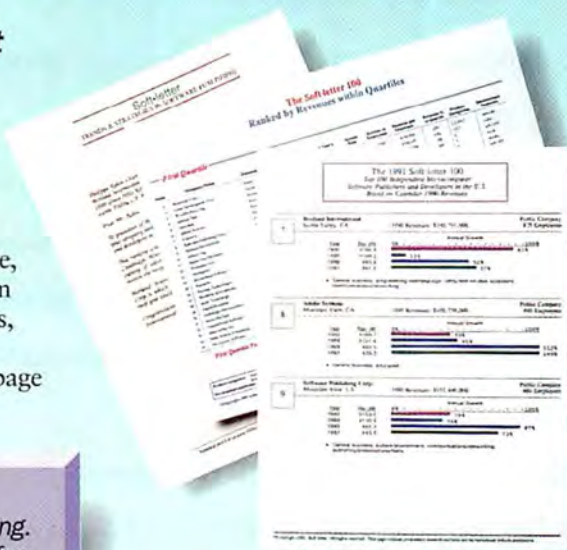


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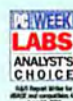
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**Circle 181 on reader service card**

# Ailing Giant, Gecco Goes Under a Rock, the Upgrade Insult

## Ailing Giant Dances On

I was fascinated by the sidebar "IBM: The Next Generation" in February's "25 New 486s: The Quest for the Best PC." IBM's arrogant response to your offer of another chance to submit its best \$2500 *Windows* system provides an example of an ailing giant that doesn't realize the party's over.

When Robert Corrigan, president of the new IBM Personal Computing Company, chose to pass your final communication to IBM's public relations firm, it must have been obvious to all that there is no such animal as the "New IBM." That's why IBM stock is trading at its lowest in two decades. It will take more than a new company name to fool Wall Street analysts.

Gerry House-Peters,  
San Juan Capistrano, California

## Untimely Coverage

Michael Desmond ["Hyundai and Gecco Roll Out Local-Bus PCs," *New Products*, February] should perhaps have suggested alternate means of obtaining a Gecco system, as Gecco itself is no longer doing business. I'm one of the few customers who received neither the system nor a refund—a loss of \$1605. As an avid mail-order customer, I used to think performance and price were the most important considerations. But after this incident, I will carefully evaluate a company's business record and stature in the industry before I order anything. Generous warranties and impressive service commitments become nothing more than good intentions when a company goes bankrupt. I urge everyone to do more than a cursory check of any mail-order vendor they wish to do business with.

Michael D. Murphy,  
Hurricane, West Virginia

**Author's response:** While *PC World* takes pains to provide current information, today's market moves faster than printers' schedules can follow. Gecco

went out of business only days before we went to press. Still, as Murphy and our *Consumer Watch* section advise, buyers can take steps to protect themselves: Call the Better Business Bureau in the vendor's area, check on-line services such as CompuServe and America Online for complaints and recommendations, and read *Consumer Watch* to keep up with the latest developments.

—Michael Desmond

## Are Upgrades Worth the Insult?

I am offended by the sidebar suggesting ten things you can do with a 286 in the February article "Are Upgrades Worth It?" I subscribe to *PC World* for help with my computer needs and to see what is new in the computer market. I happen to own a 286, and I enjoy my computer. I thought this magazine was supposed to help people with computers, not insult them.

Shawn Lane, Olive Branch, Missouri

I was impressed by "Are Upgrades Worth It?" in February and found your sidebar "Top Ten Things to Do With a 286" interesting and somewhat amusing. After upgrading to a new 386DX-40 system recently, I was faced with this very question: What do I do with an old (but serviceable) IBM PC-XT system? Here are a couple more suggestions: 1. Use it for a jack stand. The XT case appears strong enough to support a car while you drain the oil. 2. Use it as an ottoman. Most upholstery shops can make a padded cushion that will fit the top of the case.

Sidney D. Fleischer, Boise, Idaho

## Choose Your Team: IBM or Microsoft

Your "OS/2 Versus Windows NT" in February was excellent. As a user of OS/2 2.0 since its release in March last year, I have had to suffer though many reviews of it written by *Windows* bigots or, worse, by people who had not used the product enough to evaluate it. I was

impressed by Robert Lauriston's balanced review and his accurate identification of OS/2's strengths and weaknesses. As content as I am with OS/2 2.0, I have to concur with his thoughtful advice that neither operating system offers average users reason to move off their current platform.

Jeffrey D. Pugh, Williston, Vermont



February's "OS/2 Versus Windows NT" is an insult to the normally technically competent and objective staff at *PC World*. Lauriston seems to have a rather mediocre understanding of OS/2 and shows a general bias for Windows NT.

Lauriston states, for example, that OS/2's "reliability is seriously compromised by a design flaw: When an app stops responding to the keyboard and mouse, there's no way to kill it except by hitting <Ctrl>-<Alt>-<Delete>—which reboots the whole system." Lauriston is, in a word, wrong. The correct procedure is to hit <Ctrl>-<Esc> and wait about a minute. OS/2 investigates what caused the freeze. The *Windows* list or an error message will pop up, or the application will simply unfreeze.

John P. Steiner, Monterey, California

**Author's response:** I apologize for the misleading sentence. What John Stein-

er describes is indeed the way OS/2 is supposed to work. In my testing, however, when an application hung, the <Ctrl>-<Esc> key combination usually had no effect—no matter how long I waited. IBM told me to use <Ctrl>-<Alt>-<Delete> instead. That didn't always work either, but when it did, it killed not only the hung application but everything else as well—which was the design flaw I was trying to point out. —Robert Lauriston

### The Two Faces of a Rogue

In his account of how several members of the *PC World* staff set up their own *Windows for Workgroups* network on top of a Novell LAN ["Windows for Workgroups: Operation Rogue," February], Steve Fox mentions that "our LAN administrator was not exactly happy with our roguish peer-to-peer sitting atop their pristine LAN." I'd say your network administrator showed a lot of restraint. If someone pulled a stunt

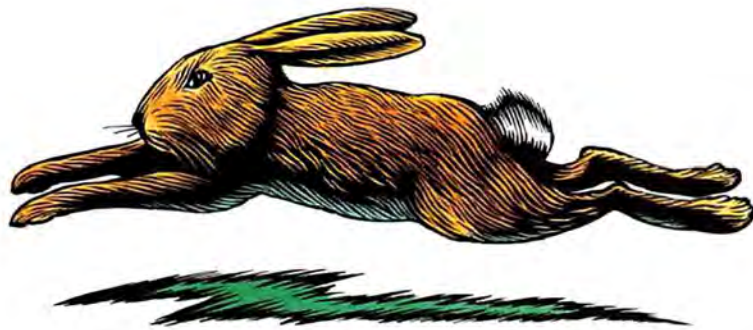
like that behind my back while I was a manager of information services, I'd have him or her fired. A company depends absolutely on the reliability of its network. The last thing you want is some amateur monkeying around with it and potentially causing problems for other users.

Kenneth Sax, Cincinnati

We'd been toying with setting up a network in our office of 11 PCs but hadn't taken the plunge because we had no network experience. "Windows for Workgroups: Operation Rogue" convinced us to give it a try. Four of us have been running *Windows for Workgroups* on a trial basis for the last two weeks or so, and despite some initial configuration problems, we're pleased with the results (and the after-hours Hearts games). If we're still satisfied after another month, we plan to hook up the rest of the office. Thanks for the inspiration.

Douglas Keogh, New York City

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Circle 200 on reader service card

### It's a Fight to Switch

In "The Windows Spreadsheet Challenge" in January, you knock *Excel*'s weakness in converting DOS-based 1-2-3 users. However, you never mention those of us who are switching from the Macintosh.

Even though *Excel* began on the Mac, none of the keyboard commands for the Mac version work on the PC version, yet you *can* make *Excel* more like 1-2-3 (for God's sake why?). Aldus succeeded in making Mac users feel at home by having all the Mac keyboard commands available on all their PC products. Why can't Microsoft do the same?

Thomas B. Coleman, Northridge, California

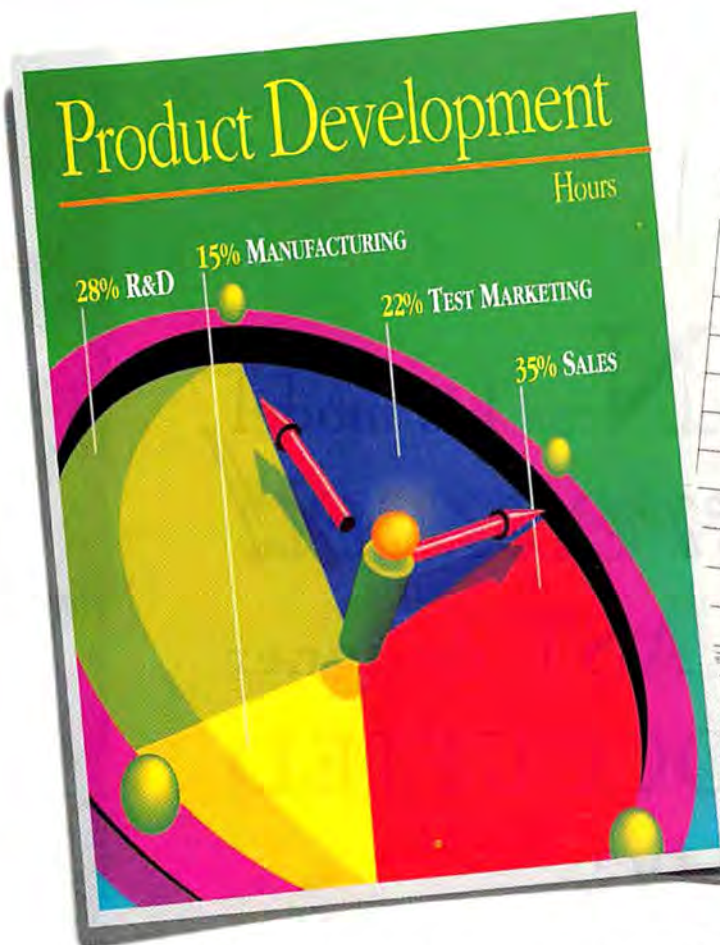


## POWER TIP no. 276

### Making a Laptop Windows Screen Friendly

If your LCD screen pales in the face of *Windows*, double-click **Color** in the control panel and change to one of the three LCD screen settings in the Color Schemes list. After leaving Color, double-click **Mouse**, and check the Mouse Trails check box.

Shane Rau  
Assistant Technical Editor



UNITED HEALTHCARE PURCHASE REQUISITION

REGISTRATION NO. 163438

DATE 12/10

QUANTITY 1

DESCRIPTION Tektronix Phaser 200 color printer

DATE REQUIRED

DATE PROCURED

TOTAL COST \$3,695.00

✓ laser paper

✓ 2pp/min

✓ Adobe PS Level 2

**APPROVED**

RECOMMEND dual-tray option

COST \$3,695.00

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Circle 124 on reader service card

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a i r c r a f t *screamed*  
into the oak, our AST designer  
remained **PREOCCUPIED**  
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Even in their free time, our engineers are obsessed with PCs. A condition that can turn an afternoon with a model plane into an adventure. But it's a small price to pay when you



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### Not So Compatible

I disagree with the evaluation of *1-2-3 for Windows* in "The Windows Spreadsheet Challenge." The article touts *Excel's* Help for Lotus 1-2-3 Users feature that translates 1-2-3 keystrokes. The biggest single weakness of this translator is that it doesn't recognize keystrokes to operate the Wysiwyg menu. Both *Excel* and *Quattro Pro* force you to learn their way of dressing up reports. *1-2-3 for Windows* lets those switching to a *Windows* spreadsheet use their old keystrokes while they gradually learn the new ones.

Another issue not given enough attention is macros. *Excel* and *Quattro Pro for Windows* both run 1-2-3 macros as long as they don't use 1-2-3 release 3.x or Wysiwyg commands. *1-2-3 for Windows* can handle macros that use these commands.

Ricardo Dobson, Louisville, Kentucky

### A Quick-Drying Mess

Your review of the Canon BJ-200 printer ["High Quality From a Small Printer," January] was informative and covered all

the positive features of this ink jet printer. I bought the BJ-200 and have used it daily.

However your statement that "the printer uses quick-drying ink, so the printhead moves closer to the paper" is misleading and misrepresents the primary deficiency of ink jet printers: The ink is not permanent (as are inks for dot matrix, daisy wheel, or laser printers) and smears when moisture touches the page.

None of the ads, reviews, publications, or brochures cover this problem. It means that anyone who requires a permanent ink print cannot use this, or any, ink jet or bubble printer.

Will Canon develop a permanent ink for the BJ-200? I, for one, hope it does.

Robert L. Hewitt, Oroville, California

**Author's response:** In fact, Canon's ink does dry quickly, enabling closer printhead positioning and faster printing. I smear my greasy fingers over my BJ-200 output all the time with no problems. As for splashing water on the pages, a spokesperson tells me that Canon's insistence on using nontoxic ink leaves water-soluble ink as its only

option. Canon is working on a waterproof version, but it isn't sure when that will ship.

—Mike Hogan

Mail your reactions, responses, and ideas to Letters, PC World, 501 Second St. #600, San Francisco, CA 94107; or send them electronically to the Letters forum on PC World Online; CompuServe, 74055,412; MCI Mail, PC World Editorial; or 415/442-1891 (fax). Include your name, city, state, and phone number. We reserve the right to edit letters. ■



## POWER TIP no. 277

### Silence the Modem Shriek

Can't stand the Ethel Merman shriek of your modem? If your communications program has a terminal mode, simply type **ATL0** and dial away, or place the command before your dialing string—it will silence the shrieks.

Robert Luhn  
Contributing Editor

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The WinBook was engineered for Micro Electronics, a division of MEI/Micro Center, Inc. MEI is America's

leading direct source for computer accessories. Micro Center has been selling PCs for more than 14 years—longer than IBM or Compaq—with over 736,000 units sold. And with over 2.2 million satisfied customers nationwide, they have developed a superior support staff, including top engineers and technical specialists. So you always get the highest quality product at the lowest possible price.

Before you choose a notebook computer, look at the only one designed for Windows.

## The WinBook from Micro Electronics

—putting Windows at your fingertips.

### The 5.4 lb. WinBook was designed by award-winning Palo Alto Design.

- Fast-acting Hitachi LCD screen for no cursor loss.
- 512k video RAM for simultaneous display.
- Includes a 9600 baud send/4800 baud receive fax/2400 baud modem.
- Industry standard PCMCIA 2.0 slot for future expandability.



### Eight Power-Saving Features

Including sleep mode for all I/O ports, HDD, and FDD to increase battery life.



### Docking Station

With the available docking station, your WinBook instantly becomes a full-function desktop computer. Its two expansion slots allow you to add peripherals such as monitors, hard drives, CD-ROMs or an extended keyboard. And it's just \$399!

### Specifications

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- 11" x 8 3/4" x 1 3/4"
- 5.4 lbs with battery

#### Pointing Device

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#### Battery

- 4 hours under normal usage
- Sanyo NiMH (no memory effect)
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- Worldwide auto-sensing AC adapter
- Quick 2-hour recharge

#### Power Management

- 8 power-saving features

#### Processor & Memory

- 486 SLC/E-25 CPU
- 4 MB RAM
- 1 MB ROM for Ami BIOS
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#### Drives

- One built-in 1.44 MB 3.5" floppy drive
- Internal 120 MB (15ms) hard drive
- 250 MB (15ms) hard drive optional

#### Software

- Comes loaded with MS-DOS 5.0 and Microsoft Windows 3.1

#### Display

- Super-twisted 64 gray scale, 10" LCD with CCFT-backlit
- 640 x 480 VGA resolution for LCD and 1024 x 768 for external monitor with 512k simultaneous display
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- Visible LED indicator on cover-down

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- Full-function keyboard with 85 keys and 4 inverted-T cursor control keys, 3.0 mm keyboard spacing

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- Fax-9600 baud send/4800 baud receive/2400 baud modem

#### I/O Ports

- PCMCIA 2.0 slot
- Serial: 9-pin connector
- Parallel port
- Video: 15-pin connector for CRT
- 160-pin docking station
- PS/2 mouse interface/keyboard interface

#### Options

- 250 MB (15ms) hard drive
- 8 MB RAM
- Coprocessor
- Docking station

### Dual-button trackball centered under keyboard.



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Typical DesignCAD 3D drawing. Courtesy Old World Graphics, Philadelphia, PA.

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## An Open Letter to Hillary Rodham Clinton

**A**s head of the National Task Force on Healthcare Reform, you are charged with overhauling our nation's health care system. We hope that as part of that task, you will turn your attention to a class of injuries that is disabling thousands of computer users in the United States each year. Called repetitive strain injuries (RSIs), these ailments include everything from tendinitis to carpal tunnel syndrome to tennis elbow. RSIs result when an individual repeats the same task without interruption—in this case, typing at a computer keyboard.

RSI complaints now represent the majority of all work-related injuries reported to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. These ailments can rob workers of full use of their hands, diminishing their quality of life and costing their employers millions of dollars annually in medical, administrative, and legal expenses. For example, a single case of carpal tunnel syndrome (one of the most common RSIs) left untreated can cost an employer as much as \$100,000.

One of the most regrettable aspects of keyboard-related RSIs is, many of them need never occur. Ergonomists and medical experts agree that adjustments to workstation design and regular breaks from typing can go a long way toward reducing the frequency of injury. Critical questions are still being debated, however: What role, if any, has keyboard design played in causing these injuries? And might new keyboard designs alleviate the problem?

The only way to answer those questions is through a well-defined, long-term study of computer keyboard users. No such study is under way or planned, however. Private research institutions don't have the resources, and to date the federal government has not considered it a priority. We encourage the gov-

ernment to reevaluate its position, both out of compassion for those affected and for a very hardheaded economic reason: RSIs are costing the United States billions of dollars a year in medical expenses and lost productivity.

As a first step, your committee should seek the input of medical professionals, companies trying to stem the tide of injuries, and the injured workers themselves. Armed with an understanding of the severity of the problem, you may also have the power to curtail the epidemic. There is no lack of information on RSIs. All that's needed is the commitment—and will—to effect change.

*This letter was sent to Clinton in April.*

### Shop Talk

#### Two Strikes, You're Out

**I**n February of 1991 I purchased a Packard Bell 386SX computer, including a monitor and a printer. In July of that year, my video card malfunctioned and was replaced under warranty. Then in December, my motherboard gave out. After the computer had been at the dealer's for approximately six weeks, the dealer notified me that they would not exchange the system, saying it was a Packard Bell problem. Finally, after much arguing with Packard Bell, I received a new system with a new warranty.

In November of last year, I had to take my *new* system in for repair. It received a new motherboard, a new power source, and a new hard disk, but when I got the system back, it would not work. I spent several hours format-



ting, partitioning, and then reformatting the hard drive to make it bootable, but I continued to receive error messages. I paid more than \$2000

for this system and have lost several days of work because of the problems.

*Carol Burnett, Oakdale, Minnesota*

**Editor's Note:** According to Sheryl Kopp, Packard Bell's national customer service manager, Burnett has received a full refund. "Regrettably, both of the Packard Bell systems Burnett purchased exhibited technical problems that arose after various peripherals were added to them. Packard Bell's technical support log indicates that the computers functioned properly without the various add-on items," says Kopp.

#### The Hidden Cost of a Good Price

**I**purchased a PC Switchboard Modem/Fax/Voice Mail kit from DAK Industries. It worked fine for almost ten months, but then it started answering calls without playing the outgoing message. Even worse, when the caller hung up, the PC Switchboard would not re-

**PC World Consumer  
Watch editor  
Roberta Furger**

**By Roberta Furger**



## BUG WATCH

**Quattro Pro and Quattro Pro for Windows**

Users report and Borland confirms a bug in *Quattro Pro 4.0* and *Quattro Pro for Windows*' @ROUND function that can cause inconsistent rounding of decimals ending with the number 5. The number 31.875 rounded to two decimal places, for example, should always yield 31.88 but is instead sometimes rounded to 31.87.

Although Borland says the problem is more likely to occur on systems lacking a math coprocessor, *PC World* was able to duplicate the problem on coprocessor-equipped systems.

Instead of using the @ROUND function, Borland recommends using the @INT function as shown in the following example.

To round a number in cell A1 to two decimal places, enter @INT((A1+.005)\*100)/100.

No fix is available for the bug; Borland plans to repair it in the next major release of both packages.

Borland Int'l

408/461-9122 (Quattro Pro tech support)

### PKZIP

PKWare has released maintenance version 2.04e of its popular file compression utility, *PKZIP*. The upgrade to the program includes fixes as well as work-arounds for an assortment of bugs that were present in version 2.04c of the utility.

In particular, bugs affecting multidisk backups and volume labeling have been eliminated, as have incompatibilities with *Norton AntiVirus*, *NetWare Lite*, and various memory managers.

The upgrade, which includes a complete list of modifications, is available for download on the PKWare BBS.

PKWare

414/354-8699, 414/354-8670 (BBS)

—Richard Melville

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

*Richard Melville is an editorial intern for PC World.*

lease the phone line, and I was unable to retrieve previously stored messages or play them back.

I tried to contact DAK via its 800 numbers. After two weeks of busy signals on all its lines, I wrote to the company. I tried to locate a telephone number for The Complete PC (maker of the PC Switchboard) in the documentation but could not. I finally got a call from a DAK service representative who told me it was a hardware problem. He said I would have to contact Complete PC and gave me the phone number. Complete PC told me that if I had purchased the product from them directly, the product would have been repaired or replaced at no charge for two years from the date of purchase. But since it was purchased from DAK, I would have to pay \$175 to have the board fixed or replaced.

*Ted Saari, Pine City, Minnesota*

**Editor's note:** James Reardon of DAK computer support tells us that DAK used to sell the PC Switchboard (manu-

factured and sold by Complete PC as The Complete Communicator) with a DAK-backed 90-day warranty. The DAK price was as much as \$200 less than the price of The Complete Communicator, he adds, noting that the main difference between buying the product from DAK and buying from an authorized dealer was the length of the warranty.

After 90 days, DAK referred customers with hardware problems to Complete PC for service. DAK handled all software-related problems itself. DAK Industries has a 30-day risk-free trial period, says Reardon, who suggests that buyers read the warranty at the time of purchase and return merchandise if they are not fully satisfied with either the warranty coverage or the product.

### Free Replacement

I purchase toner cartridges regularly from Willow Products in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Recently, I put a new cartridge (which I had purchased several

months before) into my printer. The cartridge malfunctioned, and I thought I would be stuck with a defective unit since it was reconditioned and had cost far less than a new one.

When I called Willow, I discovered my fears were groundless. A knowledgeable person on the phone instructed me to return the cartridge and assured me Willow would send a replacement that very day.

Four days later I had the replacement cartridge, and my printer was up and working once again. I think a company behaving as admirably as this deserves some recognition.

*Thomas P. Smith, Mount Dora, Florida*

### New or Refurbished?

In 1991 I purchased two 40-MHz 386 motherboards from Orchid Technology. From the start, one didn't function properly. I experienced sporadic Unrecoverable Application Errors while running *Windows 3.0*. After suggesting a number of things that didn't fix the problem, Orchid recommended I send the motherboard in for repairs.

About a week after I shipped the motherboard, I got it back, but the problems persisted. I tried various changes to my *Windows* configuration and even upgraded to *Windows 3.1*, but nothing helped. It wasn't until I attempted to install OS/2 that I discovered the cause of the problems. In running the setup for OS/2, the system would freeze up on the second disk. IBM diagnosed the problem as being related to cache memory. With cache memory disabled, the system was stable (though slow).

I informed Orchid of the cache problem, and the company instructed me to return the motherboard for tests. I did, and it came back a week later with an explanation that nothing was found wrong with it. Knowing that the motherboard was the problem, I requested a new one. The manager of customer service agreed.

Upon receiving a replacement, I became suspicious that it wasn't new. It had a serial number within the range of the two I had purchased almost a year earlier. I installed it, however, and was

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**RATINGS  
REPORT**

The Independent Comparative Ratings Report  
for Selecting IBM PC Business Software  
Vol.9, #6, September 1992

Advanced Word Processors for Windows

	Overall Evaluation
<b>1<sup>ST</sup> Ami Pro 3.0 for Windows</b>	<b>8.7</b>
2 <sup>ND</sup> Word for Windows 2.0	8.1
3 <sup>RD</sup> WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows	6.1

# "Ami Pro 3.0 takes the lead as the Windows word processor"

If you're still under the impression that Microsoft® Word and WordPerfect® are the top dogs in the word processing arena, we've got news for you.

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*Ami Pro has won every major award in its category.*

Software Digest, Ratings Report, Vol. 9, #6, Sept. 1992. Among all word processors tested. Reprints available upon request. \*On weekdays, plus 7AM to 4PM on Saturdays. \*\*Offer expires 9/30/93. Call for a list of eligible word processors. Cambridge, MA 02142. All rights reserved. Lotus and Ami Pro are registered trademarks and SmartIcons is a trademark of Lotus Development Corporation. Windows is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation. WordPerfect is a registered trademark of Corel Corporation.

"Ami Pro is the best word processor on the market... [it] goes the competition one better in every respect."

*PC/Computing 12/92*

"Ami Pro 3.0 provides a host of new and enhanced features...that save time and make your work easier."

*Windows Magazine 2/93*

"Ami Pro Version 3.0...is the most graphical, colorful and in many ways the most powerful word processor on the market... no other package can match its ambition, its range of functions or the sheer pleasure of using it."

*PC Magazine 1/93*

"You can learn to use Ami Pro...in about a day. Put the manual in a drawer as a first step. There are no required control codes, no deeply nested menus, no command words. This friendliness greatly expands and sharply changes the market."

*Forbes 2/93*

# Lead over Microsoft Word word processor to beat."

*InfoWorld 9/28/92*

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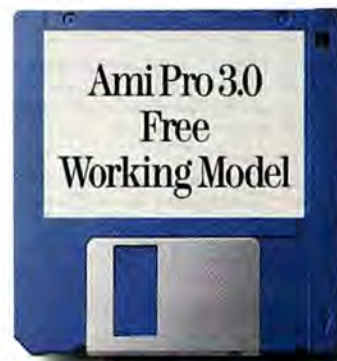
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able to load OS/2. For the first time, I was able to run *Windows 3.1* without problems. But if I left the computer on for more than an hour, the keyboard input would become scrambled, and eventually the keyboard wouldn't work at all. Once again I sent the motherboard in for repairs, and again Orchid sent it back saying nothing was wrong with it. I sent it back once more, and the company sent another replacement. The

new one corrected the keyboard problem but had the same cache problem as the first one. The reason for this—to my astonishment—was that Orchid had sent me my original motherboard.

In discussions with an Orchid customer service representative, I learned that Orchid routinely exchanges motherboards with refurbished ones.

*Patrick Blair, Seattle*

**Editor's note:** Tim Jones, customer service manager for Orchid, explains that if a product malfunctions while under warranty, Orchid will—at its option—repair or replace it, possibly with a refurbished product. This policy is not spelled out in the documentation. Jones explains that a returned board is run through a series of tests. "If we can't find anything wrong with it, we return it to our inventory of replacement parts," says Jones. "We keep a very small number of each board on hand, so it isn't really that surprising that Mr. Blair got the same one back, although it is a situation we should have avoided."

According to Jones, because the boards in the "replacement buffer" undergo a battery of tests (and are often upgraded along the way), they have a higher reliability rate than new boards.

Still, if you are concerned about getting a refurbished unit, check the warranty. If it doesn't specify, ask.

## How Can They Do That?

A letter from Robert Pritchard of Chestnut Ridge, Pennsylvania, sparked our curiosity about the legal ramifications of selling used software. Mr. Pritchard had purchased a secondhand copy of *Peachtree Accounting* from a company called Recycled Software, which buys and sells used software. In his letter, Pritchard asked *Consumer Watch* whether this type of business infringes on

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## POWER TIP no. 278

### WinWord Speller Editing

If you've mistakenly added an undesirable word to your *Word for Windows* custom dictionary, all is not lost. *WinWord's* supplementary dictionary files—which have the extension **DIC**—are straight ASCII files that can be edited with *WinWord* or with *Notepad*. Simply bring up the file, make the changes, and then save it again. If you don't know where your dictionary file is located and what it's called, it's probably **C:\WINDOWS\MSAPPS\PROOF\CUSTOM.DIC**.

**Kathleen Burman**  
Des Moines

Circle 250 on reader service card

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copyright laws. We wondered too, so we decided to do a little investigating. Here's what we discovered:

According to Diane Hathaway of Recycled Software, many license agreements do not prohibit the transfer of a license from one person to another as long as the original disks and all manuals are included in the transfer and any copies of the program are destroyed. Recycled Software assured us that their policy is to sell only software with

license agreements that permit transfer, though they admit they made a mistake by selling *Peachtree Accounting*. According to Hathaway, Peachtree's license agreement contains a clause that prohibits transfer, which Recycled Software missed.

For further clarification, we contacted the Software Publishers Association, the piracy police of the software industry. A spokesperson there emphasized that while it may be legal to transfer the license agreement

from one person to another, the original owner must destroy all of his or her copies of the software. The SPA spokesperson also emphasized that it is not legal to upgrade to a newer version of a program and sell the old version.

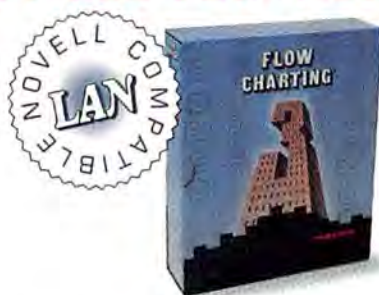
The SPA representative suggested it is Recycled Software's responsibility to ensure that sellers are removing the software from their hard disks and are destroying all extra copies of the software packages. Hathaway, however, says the firm cannot police the activities of software owners, adding that it is the responsibility of the seller to abide by all software license agreements.

If you plan to purchase used software, remember that the original owner will probably have submitted the registration cards, so they won't be in the package. You may be giving up the right to the warranty, technical support, and upgrades.

*Research assistance provided by PC World assistant editors Michael Desmond and Christina Wood.*

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Circle 233 on reader service card

## POWER TIP no. 279

### Abbreviated Searches in cc:Mail

When I have a crowded cc:Mail in-box and want to find a message in a hurry, I don't like to wait while cc:Mail searches the whole in-box by person, date, or another criterion. So if I know the message is among the first 30 messages that match the criterion, I start the search and watch the counter of messages searched. As soon as cc:Mail has searched 30 messages, I press <Esc>, which stops the search, and then press H to look at the message headings. In the abbreviated list, it's easy to find the message I'm looking for.

**Rex Farrance**  
Associate Editor

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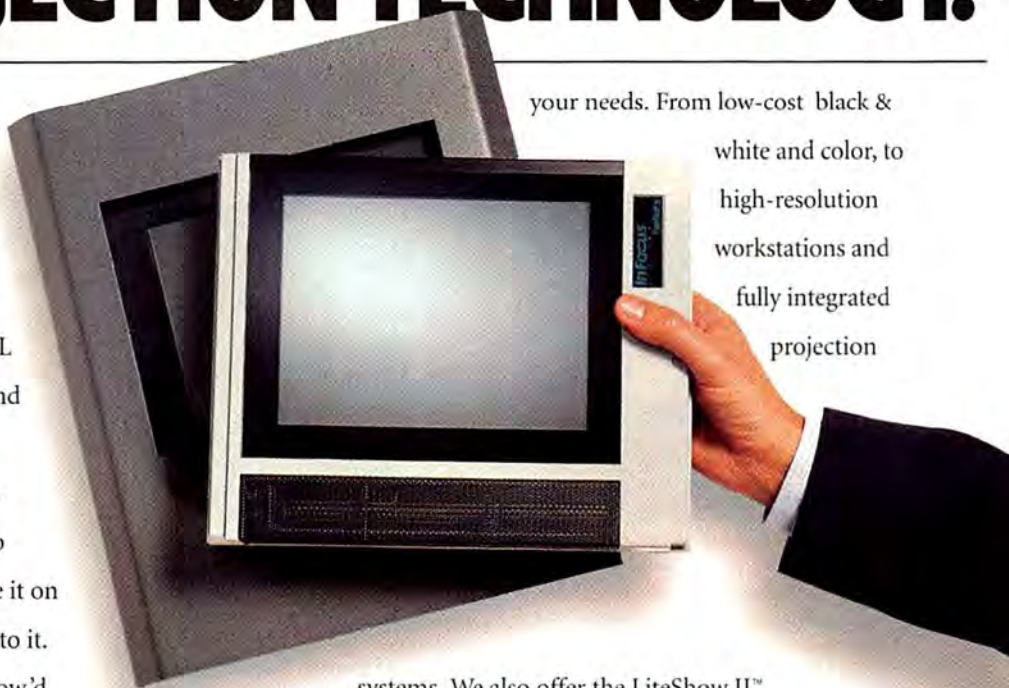
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## Fighting Back Against Viruses

**H**ow would you respond to a computer virus attack? Linda Dienberg, a network administrator for the Deerfield, Illinois-based pharmaceutical company Fujisawa, USA, faced just that question when her company's LAN was invaded by not one but two computer viruses. Dienberg, who characterizes the infestation as "a good learning experience," oversees approximately 150 users of *WordPerfect*, *1-2-3*, and a vast *Paradox* database containing data about clinical drug studies. —Ed.

### It Came From the Deep

A caterpillar crawling across the screen may sound cute, but in our case it signaled an invasion. About a year ago we were struck by two viruses at the same time—the relatively benign caterpillar, and a nastier virus that changed a file's dates to the current day and corrupted program files whenever users copied a file or executed a DIR command. Our two viruses infected 20 systems right away through the network NLOGIN.EXE file.

To keep the disaster from growing, we—our network specialist, a consultant, our MIS manager, and I—had to act quickly. Fortunately, when the viruses struck, we were already in the process of evaluating several antivirus packages. We scanned each PC with an antivirus program, cleaned infected files, reinstalled them from backups (after making sure the backups were not infected), and then protected the remaining files. No one's computer was down for more than an hour or two, but it was quite a job.

With the immediate problem resolved, we set about instituting a comprehensive program to protect ourselves from future invasions. To have an unbreachable system, we knew we'd need to install antivirus software in memory on every single machine. We also knew we couldn't afford that luxury. Many

of our systems are 286s using 1MB of memory or less, and users sometimes run into memory roadblocks when they want to use *1-2-3* or load drivers to connect with our AS/400 mini-computer.

So we opted for a four-step prevention regimen. First, we set up a workstation that's exclusively for scanning disks brought in from outside the office. Usually the disks are clean, but we have intercepted a few viruses.

Second, every night we use *Central Point Anti-Virus* to scan executable files on our five servers automatically, and we scan all the files on our servers every other week. The full scan takes anywhere from 10 minutes to 5 hours, depending on how much data is on the server. We also joined Central Point Software's subscription program, which allows us to get an update on new virus signatures and program features every quarter. We can download them from the company's BBS more regularly if a newsworthy virus is making the rounds. (We eventually settled on *Central Point Anti-Virus*. It proved effective, plus the Central Point tech staff gave us excellent phone support during our crisis. If you're considering antivirus software, you can't be too picky about support.)

Whenever our scan finds an infected file, we clean it, delete it, and replace it from a good backup. Our biweekly scanning program won't catch every virus, but it's a viable strategy against viruses like Michelangelo, which are time bombs.

Third, we've protected our PCs by making all the program files in the root directories read-only using the DOS

ATTRIB command. We have done the same to most of the executable and DOS files on the network. Read-only files are less likely to be affected by a virus. Few, if any viruses change read-only files to read-write status. Of course, sometimes users have to change an AUTOEXEC.BAT or CONFIG.SYS file. The danger is, they will forget to make it read-only again.

To counter that sort of oversight, we began step four, an extensive education campaign. We issued bulletins to our users explaining the most common ways that viruses are transmitted. People often don't understand the first thing about them. I've gotten questions such as, "Where do they come from?" and "Could I accidentally write a virus?" Most people are genuinely surprised that people write viruses purposely to do mischief.

We've issued other bulletins asking users to take the following precautions: Use only shrink-wrapped software; always scan "outside" disks for viruses



Linda Dienberg of Fujisawa helped set up a four-step virus prevention regimen.

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PCW 5/93

before using them; avoid downloading programs from BBS's that don't virus-check their software; make sure shareware comes from a reputable source; and put write-protect tabs on all disks so they don't pick up a virus inadvertently. We also recommend keeping a backup copy of files not stored on the network so if those files get infected, users can copy over a clean version.

Some companies are so serious about virus protection that they have a drastic policy: Bringing in a virus is grounds for termination. We're not as stringent here. We want our employees to be concerned about the integrity of their data, but we don't want to make the working environment repressive. Our system is far from foolproof, but it's very workable, and we're a lot safer now than we were last year.

*If you use PCs to manage people and other resources in a business environment, we want to hear from you. Send your article idea—including a brief outline of your company, job, problem, and solution as well as your name, address, and phone number—to Real Problems, Real Solutions, PC World, 501 Second St. #600, San Francisco, CA 94107; or send it electronically to Real Problems, Real Solutions on PC World Online; or 415/442-1891 (fax); or call us at 415/978-3224. We pay \$300 per published column. Sorry, we cannot acknowledge unpublished materials.*



## POWER TIP no. 280

### A PATH at Your Disposal

When you have to change your PATH setting for some quick operation or another, how do you get the original back? Rekeying the original PATH setting is clumsy and error prone, and rebooting is slow. Instead, save your PATH setting to disk. Before changing the setting, type **PATH > SPATH.BAT** at the DOS prompt. This command produces the file SPATH.BAT, which can restore your original PATH setting. When you want your original PATH list back, return to the directory you ran the first command in and run the command **SPATH**.

L. Fred File  
Washington, DC

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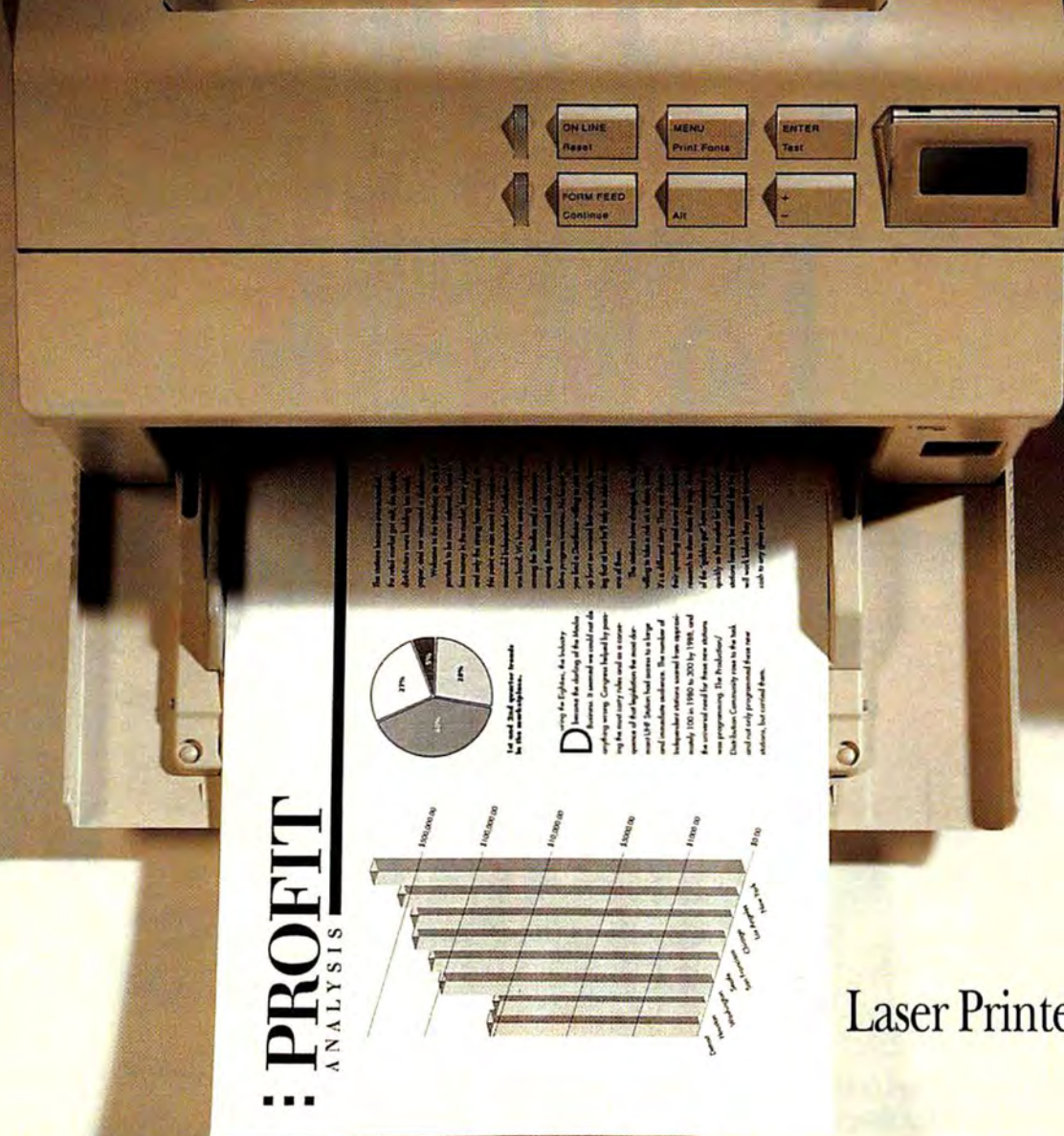
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# If you can't tell the difference maybe you shouldn't pay



Laser Printer

OK, concentrate. Look carefully at the page on the left. It comes from a laser printer. Notice how clear and sharp the text and graphics are.

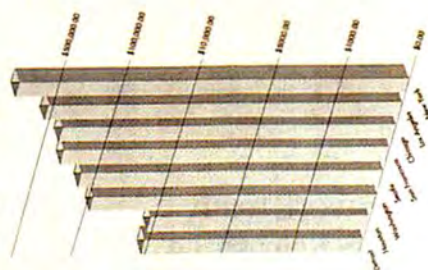
Now, examine the one on the right. Printed by the Epson Stylus™ 800 Ink Jet Printer, which costs about half as much

as the laser printer on this page.

No, there's nothing wrong with your eyes. The new Epson Stylus 800 is the right answer if you'd like the look of laser without paying the price.

It's whisper-quiet, compact, Windows® compatible, and fast: it prints at 150 cps.

**EPSON**  
*Stylus*  
800

[illegible]

1st and 3rd quarter trends  
in the marketplace.

**D**riving the Eighties, the history becomes the destiny of the American business. It turned out cold as anything wrong. Congress helped by passing the most strict rules and in consequence did legislation the most diverse last 1985 Nation had access to a large and immediate audience. The number of independent stations around them approximately 100 in 1980 to 200 by 1988, and the universal need for these new stations was programming. The President's Commission Community rose to the task and not only programming from new stations, but control them.

Plus, scalable fonts are standard. All making it the perfect printer for a small business or home office.

Epson's Stylus 800 is also the most solid, durable, reliable ink jet printer ever made. As you'd expect from Epson. Plus, we support you with our toll-free Epson

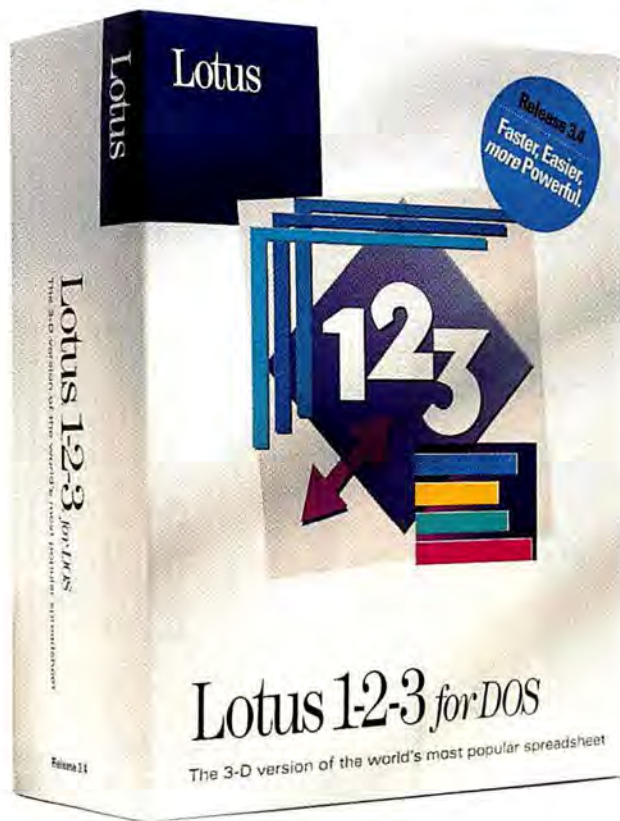
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# Lotus 1-2-3 Release 3.4. Install it once and for all.



## Introducing the network-ready version of 1-2-3 for DOS Release 3.4.

Now the most popular spreadsheet for DOS is also the best one to install and use on networks. Because it gives you more ways to share the power of 1-2-3® with other users.

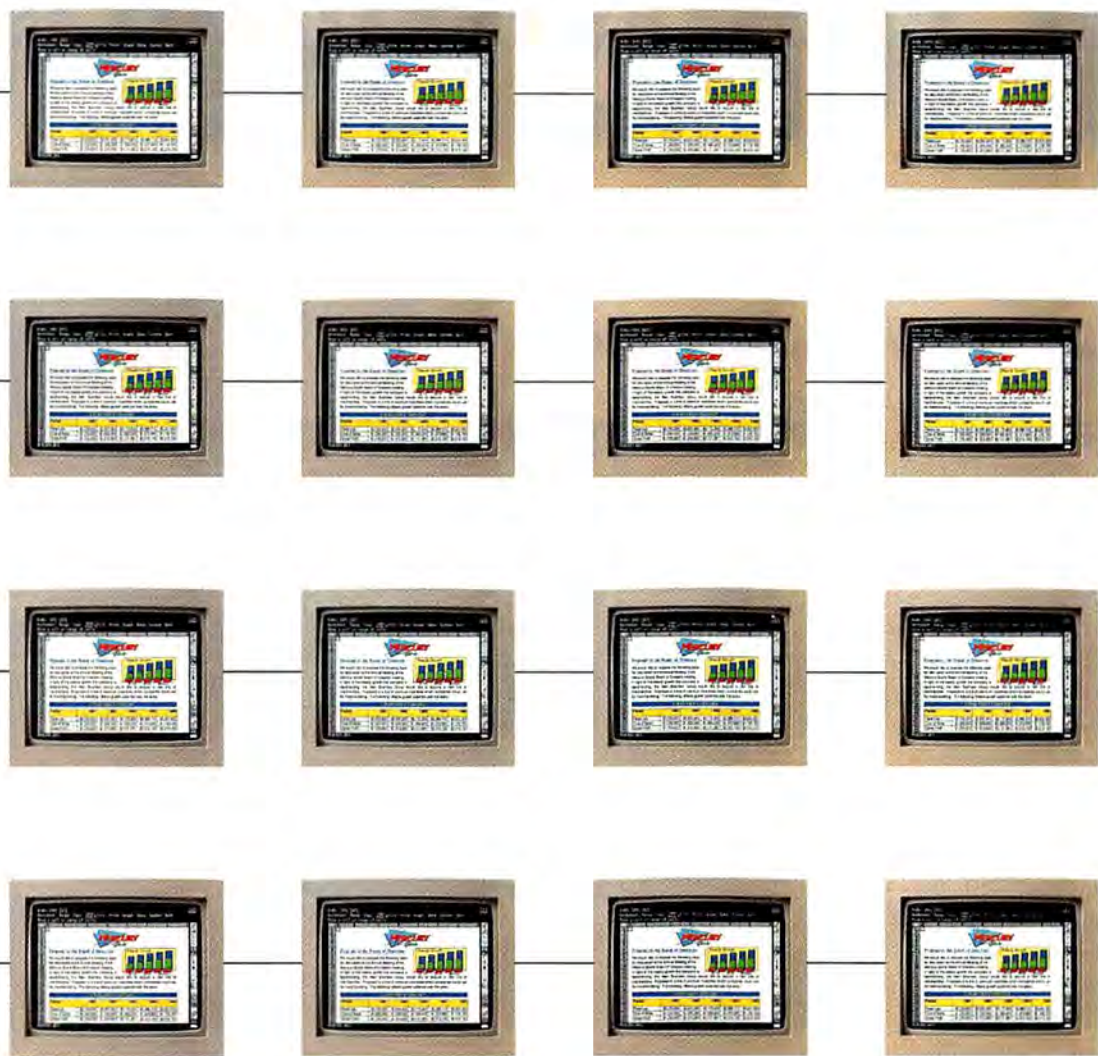
In fact, one package does it all.

You can load 1-2-3 Release 3.4 onto your server and then download it to all the PCs on your network. Or load it onto your server and let users access it as needed. Or use it as a stand-alone application. It's all up to you.

Of course, the network-ready version of 1-2-3 Release 3.4 has all the features important to network users. Like multiple levels of security for protecting sensitive business documents. And a unique File Reservation feature that lets just one user at a time change a file, but still allows others to view it.

## The ultimate spreadsheet for DOS users everywhere.

This network-ready version comes with all of the latest and greatest features of 1-2-3 Release 3.4 for DOS. Such as SmartIcons™ for single-click spreadsheet short-



cuts, exclusive, true 3D capabilities for organizing and consolidating data, DataLens® for tapping into external databases, and file linking for building on data from other files. And let's not forget speed, since 1-2-3 Release 3.4 truly leaves the competition in the dust.

### A license to save.

If you like economy and simplicity, you'll love this. Instead of buying individual software packages for everyone on the network, all you need now is a license pack for each user. So you save money by buying only the licenses you need. And with the

Count Utility, adding new users, administering networks and tracking software usage is a breeze.

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And see why what's good for one user is even better for all.

**Lotus** **1-2-3 Release 3.4**  
Spreadsheet for DOS

# LINE FORMS FOR NEW

Upgradable processors and innovative security features join the list of enhancements to IBM's ValuePoint line. You'll also find a roomy tower and diskless LAN workstations.

## TEST DRIVE

Bargain PCs from IBM?

An oxymoron. PCs with all the current checklist items? Nonexistent. That's all changed.

In its continuing bid to catch the PC tiger and regain a competitive advantage that pays off for buyers, IBM is introducing a new series of PS/ValuePoint systems—40 in all—including new diskless and minitower systems. All these new ValuePoints have local bus graphics, upgradable processors, and impressive security features.

With 40 flavors to pick from, it's no surprise that IBM's second generation ValuePoint line—first introduced last fall—includes a variety of shapes and sizes. The systems are built around three basic configurations. The Model 6384, which replaces the original ValuePoint desktop, has five slots and five drive bays. The new Model 6387 minitower, with eight slots and six bays, is targeted at the low-end server market, particularly businesses that need an inexpensive work-group server. A variety of 486 processors, from 25-MHz SX to 66-MHz DX2, are available for each model.

The Model 6382 diskless workstations, which ship sans floppy or hard drive, are targeted at Big Blue's large corporate clients who need inexpensive network worksta-

**IBM BRINGS LOCAL BUS VIDEO and upgradable processors to its ValuePoints. The new lineup includes enhanced desktops, new towers, and diskless workstations (not shown).**



# VALUEPOINTS

tions. While these compact desktops may conjure up images of the diskless terminals of IBM's glorious mainframe past, each Model 6382 comes with three slots and three drive bays, so users can add floppy, tape, or hard drives later. Each Model 6382 also comes with an ethernet or Token-Ring LAN adapter in an ISA bus slot, leaving two slots free.

## Local Bus Graphics and More

Local bus video is no longer a luxury to most buyers; it's now a checklist item. AST, Compaq, and Dell recently introduced proprietary local bus systems. Now it's IBM's turn.

Rather than develop a proprietary local bus scheme, IBM chose the industry standard VESA (VL bus) technology used by Gateway 2000, Zeos Int'l, and other vendors. Integrating both the VL bus and the S3 805 graphics accelerator chip on the ValuePoint motherboard, the new graphics subsystem operates at system clock speed.

In our *Windows 3.1* benchmark suite, a preproduction IBM ValuePoint 433DX/D ran our *Freelance* and *Paradox* tests 14 percent faster than the average 33-MHz 486DX systems with ISA-based video. It was 12 percent faster on *Word for Windows* and *Excel* tests.

Each PS/ValuePoint includes a VL bus slot for another peripheral, such as a network or SCSI adapter, that could benefit from a 32-bit, high-speed bus.

The ValuePoint line comes standard with 1MB of video DRAM (expandable to 2MB) and can display up to 256 colors in 1280 by 1024 resolution at 60 Hz in noninterlaced mode. While most business applications don't require such high resolution, engineering and scientific apps do—a new market IBM hopes to reach with its revamped line, says José García, IBM PC Company's director of PS/ValuePoint.

Speaking of graphics-intensive applications, IBM is also introducing a new 17-inch color monitor with .28 dot pitch. The Model 6317 noninterlaced monitor displays images in 1280 by 1024 resolution at 60 Hz, and in 1024 by 768 resolution at 72 Hz.

## Upgradable Processor

Another must for today's PC is an upgradable processor, and the ValuePoint meets that criterion too. Featuring a zero insertion force (ZIF) socket that makes replacing the CPU as easy as flicking a lever and swapping chips, the ValuePoint is upgradable to

## The latest generation of ValuePoints further illustrates Big Blue's new commitment to the frugal majority of PC buyers.

an OverDrive—or to Intel's next-generation OverDrive processor based on Pentium technology (scheduled for release in 1994).

IBM plans to offer a 128K secondary cache standard with its DX2-66 ValuePoint, with a 256K cache optional. A secondary cache will be optional for the other members of the ValuePoint family.

## Better Security

Okay, everybody's got local bus and upgradable processors. So how else does Big Blue differentiate its new low-end systems? Try innovative security features that are sure to please IBM's corporate customers looking for an inexpensive way to secure their data.

New security enhancements let you prevent writes to floppy disks. In addition, you can disable the I/O functions of the serial and parallel ports—useful in preventing data transmission through an external modem, for example.

You can establish a password to prevent others from booting the system and gaining access to your PC's configuration program.



## News Monitor

**PLUG AND PLAY ISA BUS:** At the recent Windows Hardware Engineering Conference, officials from Intel and Microsoft proposed a new Plug and Play ISA bus design. The Plug and Play ISA bus will let users plug new expansion cards into their systems without worrying about IRQs, DMA channels, or similar specs. If future cards, operating systems, and system BIOS's comply with the Plug and Play spec, systems will configure themselves on start-up without any user input.

Plug and Play cards, which will be backward-compatible with existing systems and OS's, should be available by year-end with little if any price premium over existing cards. *Windows 4.0*, due in 1994, will comply with the spec, and several companies, including AMD, Compaq, Intel, Micronics, National Semiconductor, and Phoenix Technologies, have declared support.

**RECEIVE FAXES ANYWHERE:** You've got a fax-modem in your notebook, but on the road you still have to wait by the hotel's fax machine to receive faxes. This summer Delrina Technology will ship upgrades of *WinFax Pro* and *WinFax Lite* fax software that let business travelers call a toll-free number and download faxes automatically from a Rochester Telephone "fax mailbox." The software will also update *WinFax* send-and-receive logs. The service is expected to start at about \$10 per month for 10 minutes of fax reception (about 20 pages), says Delrina product manager Margaret Vaillancourt.

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# Top of the News

Continued from page 51

(Warning: If you forget your password, you will have to open the computer and flip a jumper to erase it.) In addition, a keyboard password can lock your keyboard while the system is on, preventing others from accessing your data when you're away from your desk getting coffee or in a meeting. A case lock is also standard, IBM says.

## Solid Support

Quality service is the newest battlefield in the PC price war, and IBM's offerings here are very competitive. If you buy direct from IBM (via the company's toll-free number), you'll get a 4-hour average response time during business hours, according to IBM. However, if you buy an IBM ValuePoint through a dealer, IBM won't guarantee a response time.

Although exact pricing wasn't available at press time, IBM officials say the new ValuePoints will cost roughly \$100 to \$200 more

## IBM PS/ValuePoints

Three new 486 series with VESA local bus video and an open VESA slot, an S3 805 graphics accelerator chip on the motherboard with up to 1280 by 1024 resolution, upgradable processors, a 128K secondary cache on DX2-66 models, and enhanced password protection.

**Pricing:** Approximately \$1000 to \$4000

**Availability:** Immediate

IBM

800/772-2227

than their predecessors. (As a point of reference, the original PS/ValuePoint 433DX with a 33-MHz 486DX processor, 8MB of RAM, a 120MB hard drive, and super-VGA monitor cost \$1999.)

With the introduction of its first generation of ValuePoint systems last year, IBM showed that it was serious about aggressive-

## Model 6382 diskless LAN workstation

**Key Features:** Small footprint design

- three slots, three bays

## Model 6384 desktop model

**Key Features:** 120MB, 245MB, or 340MB hard drive • five slots, five bays

## Model 6387 minitower LAN server

**Key Features:** 340MB or 527MB hard drive

- eight slots, six bays

ly pursuing the small business and home PC buyers it had so long ignored. This latest generation of ValuePoints, with prices and features that compare favorably with systems from IBM's competitors, further illustrates Big Blue's new commitment to the frugal majority of PC buyers.

—Jeff Bertolucci

## Compaq Puts ProLineas on the Local Bus, Cuts Prices, Goes Direct

Once again, Compaq has raised the stakes in the PC price war—or as the vendor likes to call it, the value equation—by both cutting prices and adding features. That's good news for buyers, but it's bad news for

the smaller clone makers already suffering from razor-thin margins.

Like other major vendors such as Dell and AST Research, Compaq is upgrading its entry-level 486 ProLinea line with proprietary local bus graphics that offer 1024 by 768 resolution. The newest members of Compaq's economy-class ProLinea family include a 486DX2-66 model, which costs under \$2400 on the street with 4MB of RAM, a 120MB hard drive, and a color monitor. Also new is Compaq's first multimedia PC, the ProLinea CDS. Equipped with a MediaVision Pro Audio Spectrum 16 sound board, a CD ROM drive, a color monitor, external speakers, a microphone, a fax-modem, and four CD titles, the ProLinea CDS carries a street price of less than \$2000, according to Compaq.

Compaq also added three Conturas to its notebook lineup. The latest Conturas feature Intel's

power-saving, 25-MHz 486SL processor, 4MB of RAM (expandable to 20MB), and a 120MB or 209MB hard drive. The Contura 4/25CX has an active-matrix color display, an integrated trackball, and a street price under \$3300. The Contura 4/25c costs under \$2700; it features an enhanced passive-matrix color display, which falls a tad short of active-matrix quality, and a clip-on pointing device. The Contura 4/25 with a monochrome display is under \$2000.

Prices on existing products have been cut as well—up to 15 percent on desktops and 9 percent on notebooks. For example, the Contura 3/25c, a passive-matrix color note with a 25-MHz 386SL processor, now costs less than \$2000 on the street.

Learning a few tricks from direct marketers Dell and Gateway 2000, Compaq has set up a toll-free telephone business to sell PCs and application software directly. Compaq also plans to distribute product catalogs and mailers to businesses. Compaq Computer Corp.; 800/345-1518, 713/378-8820. Reader service no. 737



COMPAQ ADDS local bus graphics to its entry-level ProLinea family.

# Speedy 600-dpi Printing

## TEST DRIVE

Hewlett-Packard is relentless. No sooner had it launched its LaserJet III Si—which has defined work-group printing during the past two years—than it started work on a pair of network printers that raise the feature/functionality bar while simultaneously lowering prices.

HP's LaserJet 4Si and PostScript-equipped 4Si MX set a new standard in LAN printers, with 600-dpi resolution, more-precise character formation, improved paper handling, and a multitude of network conveniences.

These 17-ppm workhorses appear identical, but the MX has 10MB of memory, PostScript Level 2, and both HP's JetDirect ethernet and Apple LocalTalk interfaces for \$5499, \$1750 above the 4Si's \$3749. The 4Si MX is for larger work groups with mixed environments or for those pumping out more and/or more-complex documents. A 4Si is upgradable to a 4Si MX: It accepts the same industry-standard SIMMs and is equipped with two modular-I/O slots for JetDirect interfaces.

Available in either ethernet or token ring protocols, JetDirect interfaces automatically sense and switch among ten built-in network OS's—including NetWare, LAN Manager, and both Windows for Workgroups and Windows NT. Similarly, the printers themselves switch automatically between enhanced PCL 5 and PostScript and their parallel and LocalTalk ports.

But this family's trademark is high-resolution printing without the usual speed penalty. Both printers sport Intel's powerful 25-MHz 80960CF RISC engine and a new HP printing ASIC that combines data compression with the new Enhanced PCL 5. You

get faster graphics printing and can mix Intellifont and Windows TrueType typefaces at 600 dpi without a performance hit. HP's 150K-per-second bidirectional Bi-Tronics parallel port



HP'S  
LASERJET  
4Si offers  
fast, high-res  
network printing.

helps. Add buffered formatting of a second page while a prior one prints, and you should enjoy PCL 5 or PostScript printing at or near the 4Si's 17-ppm engine speed.

Hewlett-Packard's Resolution Enhancement Technology combines with a new microfine toner to yield smaller dots for sharper edges, finer lines, smoother curves, and blacker blacks in both text and graphics.

—Mike Hogan

## HP 4Si, 4Si MX

Fast, flexible network printers

**Key Features:** 17-ppm speed • 600-dpi printing • PostScript Level 2 on 4Si MX • Network OS protocol support on 4Si MX

**Availability:** Immediate

**Pricing:** LaserJet 4Si \$3749, LaserJet 4Si MX \$5499; JetDirect cards \$449 to \$699  
Hewlett-Packard Co., 800/752-0900

Reader service no. 738



## News Monitor

(continued from page 51)

### WORDPERFECT 6.0 FOR DOS IN BETA:

The next release of WordPerfect is due in late spring, and its beta is rich in new features, including a Windows-like WYSIWYG graphics mode. You'll be able to view nine documents at once in resizable, movable windows; cut and paste between windows; and use four types of scalable fonts, including TrueType and Bitstream Speedo fonts. From WordPerfect version 6.0, you will be able to fax and E-mail documents, access and embed sound files, and create hypertext links.

An extremely quick indexing feature will be available, and you will be able to link text in your document to specific cells in the new built-in spreadsheet. Should you stumble on a feature, one of WordPerfect's numerous built-in "coaches" will walk you step-by-step through the problem area. Upgrade pricing is expected to be \$129.

### PENTIUM ANNOUNCED; ALPHA IS SECOND-SOURCED:

Intel unveiled its next-generation Pentium processor, which should find its way into high-end desktops and servers from IBM, Compaq, AST, NEC, Dell, and others late this spring. However, Intel officials caution buyers not to expect a flood of Pentium-based systems this year, citing limited chip availability.

Meanwhile, Digital Equipment Corporation says its Pentium alternative, the Alpha AXP, will be manufactured and sold by Mitsubishi—giving systems vendors a second source and insuring competitive pricing for Alpha chips.

(continued on page 55)

## Norton 7.0 Enhances DOS 6

### TEST DRIVE

When your PC utility does just about everything except tidy up your desk and brew your coffee, dramatic improvements are hard to come by. Case in point: Symantec Corporation's *Norton Utilities 7.0*, which adds a few major enhancements such as DOS 6.0 compatibility and hardware diagnostics but is still more of an evolutionary upgrade than a revolutionary change.

This doesn't mean *Norton Utilities* isn't worthwhile. A repeat *PC World* Best Buy winner, this feature-packed program offers such a wide range of well-designed, powerful utilities that it's hard not to recommend it to computer novices and veterans alike.

### DOS 6.0 Support

While Microsoft's new DOS 6.0 includes scaled-down versions of several helpful utilities such as Central Point Software's *Anti-Virus*, Symantec's *Norton Backup*, and Speed Disk optimizer (part of *Norton Utilities*), the advanced feature set of *Norton Utilities 7.0* should appeal to users who

want more-sophisticated memory- and disk-management tools. Plus the new version has the usual Norton assortment of system enhancement and data recovery features.

But the big news is *Norton 7.0*'s support for the data compression formats of DOS 6.0, *Stacker*, and *SuperStor*. *Norton's* Speed Disk can optimize fragmented drives in these compressed formats, improving disk performance and simplifying data recovery. Similarly, *Norton 7.0*'s Disk Doctor recovers and repairs compressed data without requiring that you first reconvert the data to standard DOS format. The program now works with larger hard drives—up to 2 gigabytes



NORTON 7.0 PROVIDES DETAILED INFORMATION about your computer.

uncompressed, 1 gigabyte compressed, according to Symantec officials.

### Hardware Diagnostics

Another innovative feature is *Norton Utilities*' new hardware diagnostics, which pinpoint faulty system hardware components

### NEC's Versatile Notebooks:

NEC's UltraLite Versa notebooks give new meaning to the term *user configurable*. These Intel 486SL-based systems let you change displays, drives, and battery configurations to meet a particular need, all without tools or hassle. They're available in pen and nonpen versions and weigh 6 to 7 pounds, depending on configuration.

Color active-matrix screens and monochrome displays are interchangeable, and you can remove the 1.44MB floppy disk and replace it with a second nickel metal-hydride battery. NEC claims that this exchange doubles normal battery life, giving monochrome systems from 8 to 12 hours on a single charge and color models between 5 and 10 hours.

Switching displays is a snap: Just slide the tabs located on each end of the Versa's upper corners, lift out the 9.4-inch sidelit monochrome display, and pop in a 9.45-inch active-matrix

screen. It displays 256 colors at a resolution of 640 by 480 pixels. You can even reverse the display so it faces your audience.

To increase storage or memory, just flip open a sideplate and replace the standard 80MB hard drive with a 120MB or 180MB unit, or upgrade the standard 4MB of RAM to 8MB or 12MB (a 16MB option will be available this fall for a total of 20MB). To add a fax-modem or an ethernet adapter, use the PCMCIA slot, which will accept two PCMCIA Type II devices, or one Type III device as soon as those cards become available.

All of the Versa notebooks have local bus video and the standard repertoire of I/O ports. NEC adds a clip-on trackball and preloads both *Windows* (or *Windows for Pen Computing*) and DOS. The nonpen models start at \$2659 for monochrome and at \$3869 for color. NEC Technologies; 800/388-8888, 508/264-8000.

Reader service no. 739



before they give up the ghost—particularly useful in preventing sudden data loss caused by defective drives.

The diagnostics program runs a battery of tests on the processor, CMOS, video, memory, hard drives, floppy drives, keyboard, mouse, speaker, and even serial and parallel ports. Norton's straightforward, menu-driven DOS interface includes a pop-up dialog box that explains the purpose of each test before it starts, a feature neophytes will find particularly useful. You can skip any test you find unnecessary and run only the tests you need. For instance, if you want to make sure all the function keys on your keyboard are working properly, you need run only the keyboard test.

#### Faster Disk Duplicator

A new *Norton Utilities* feature known as DupDisk makes it a lot easier for you to

copy floppy disks. In version 6.01 you had to swap source and target disks repeatedly just to make one copy, a tedious chore. In version 7.0, however, you simply insert the source disk, and Norton uses extended and expanded memory (and the hard drive if the disk's contents are too big for RAM) to hold the disk's entire contents temporarily.

### Norton Utilities 7.0

Hardware diagnostics, improved disk copying, and compatibility with DOS 6.0 mark this version.

**Key Features:** Repairs and optimizes DOS 6.0, Stacker, and SuperStor compressed drives • Hardware diagnostics

• Easier floppy disk copying

**Pricing:** \$179, upgrades \$49

**Availability:** Immediate

Symantec Corp.; 800/441-7234, 408/252-3570, 800/800-1438 (fax)

Reader service no. 740

You then make as many copies as you need by inserting target floppies and hitting a key. If you're sending out promotional materials on disk, for example, DupDisk will save you from repeated disk swapping. Another plus: If you forget to format a target disk, DupDisk will format it on the fly before writing to it.

Other *Norton Utilities* enhancements include the Advanced Recovery Mode. This feature enables you to recover data from



NEW HARDWARE DIAGNOSTICS test a system for faulty components.

physically damaged disks. The package also provides network support for repairing and recovering data from network drives.

#### Choose Your Utilities

Like many programs that gobble up megabytes of disk storage, *Norton Utilities* lets you perform a custom installation. You can load only those utilities you'll need—useful if you can't spare the full 5MB of disk space that a complete installation of version 7.0 requires. The install program displays a running total of available hard drive space, which changes as you select and deselect additional utilities.

As you would expect, the program contains mouse-ready menus, and you'll find context-sensitive help throughout.

While *Norton Utilities 7.0* may not represent a radical step up from its worthy predecessor, it builds on Symantec's traditions and packs in more than enough helpful tools to justify its \$179 list price.

—Jeff Bertolucci



## News Monitor

(continued from page 53)

**IBM'S DOS 6.0:** IBM's version of DOS 6.0 will be faster than Microsoft's and will have more features, claims Wally Casey, director of marketing for IBM's Personal Software Products division.

Casey says IBM tweaked Microsoft's DOS 6.0 code to make it 20 percent faster than the original. In addition, IBM claims its product will offer better utilities than Microsoft's does. Casey states that IBM is considering including the products bundled with its DOS 5.0, and he says IBM's disk compression product, like Microsoft's, will be tightly integrated with the DOS code.

For its DOS 6.0, IBM also licensed technology from Phoenix Technologies that lets you install and remove PCMCIA devices without rebooting the system as well as boot from a PCMCIA device, says George Adams, Phoenix Technologies' vice president of business development.

**NOTEBOOK À LA POWERBOOK:** Micro Electronics has jumped into the direct market with a product poised to score: the \$1699 WinBook SLC/E, a 5.4-pound notebook powered by a Cyrix 486SLC processor. The WinBook offers 4MB RAM, a 120MB hard drive (a 250MB drive is optional), and six I/O slots, including a PCMCIA 2.0 slot. Measuring 11 by 8 by 1 1/4 inches, the notebook incorporates a built-in trackball below the keyboard, much like Apple's PowerBook.

—Jeff Bertolucci, Russell Giltman,  
Laurianne McLaughlin, Dan Miller,  
Randy Ross

# Beta Testers Give DOS 6 an A—

**T**he verdict is in on Microsoft's DOS 6.0: According to beta testers, the compression, antivirus, and memory management utilities are all valuable, but the backup program misses one important feature—tape backup.

The generally favorable consensus came from interviews with seven beta testers, ranging from marketing consultants to MIS managers. Their conclusion: DOS 6.0's utilities do the job—inexpensively (for more complete information, see "DOS 6: Do You Need It?").

While it is expected that DOS 6.0 will sell on the street for less than \$50, third-party vendors charge from \$70 to \$150 each for these types of utilities. In fact, DOS 6.0 is the only way some companies can provide utilities to all their PC users, reports Al Meadows, MIS manager at the Oklahoma City law firm Andrews, Davis. "Things like DoubleSpace [the DOS 6.0 disk compression product] and the disk defragmenter are really valuable, and most of the time we can't buy them. We couldn't afford [Stac Electronics'] *Stacker* for everyone," he says. His company, which is on a tight budget, recently bought 40 new PCs, most with 120MB hard drives. Disk compression will let Meadows' users increase storage inexpensively.

Saving money is one thing, but the real question is: How do the utilities measure up against third-party competitors? Pretty

well, say the beta testers. "I find DoubleSpace is not quite as good as *Stacker*," notes Bill Bunch, a systems administrator for 200 PC users at Stanley Fastening Systems, a Rhode Island office products company. "What was at 1.8 compression is now [less compressed] at 1.65. But speedwise it's faster, and it's a godsend that it's bundled with the operating system."



TONY RAIRDEN: Thumbs up on the new DOS.

Similarly, Robert McEwin, a product manager at Scientific Atlanta, a Georgia cable television and satellite communications company, says that even if *Stacker* and AddStor's *SuperStor Pro* products compress a little more efficiently, he'll keep DoubleSpace. "*Stacker* users here tell me DOS 6.0 is more transparent," he says, "and it's adequate for my needs. Another few percent [of compression] won't help me that much."

Beta testers also say the disk defragmenter and MemMaker memory manager will satisfy all but the most demanding users.

Steve Evanina, a technical writer at Scientific Atlanta, says a memory manager like Quarterdeck's *QEMM386* will now be a hard sell: "If I get more space and all my stuff runs, what incentive do I have to go out and spend another \$100?"

Beta users also like DOS 6.0's scaled-down version of Central Point's *AntiVirus*. "There would have to be a scare that really got my attention [for me] to go out and buy something else," comments McEwin, who has yet to experience a virus attack. Microsoft plans to provide two antivirus updates, free except for shipping and handling costs, from licensor Central Point, which in turn will supply additional updates for a fee.

The one area where DOS 6.0 falls short, according to beta users, is its backup utility, a scaled-down version of Symantec's *Norton Backup*. The main complaint: It doesn't support tape drives. "I'm using tape, and nearly all my clients use tape," says Tony Rairden, a marketing consultant in Nashville. "Once you get above a 40MB hard drive, playing floppy Frisbee is no fun." Rairden is otherwise enthusiastic about the new version.

DOS 6.0 utilities won't please everyone—some power users will always want more, says Will Fastie, an independent PC industry analyst in Baltimore. Users will be able to judge DOS 6.0 for themselves starting on March 30.

—Laurianne McLaughlin



## Computer Scam Leaders Convicted

Two men allegedly involved in a PC mail-order fraud ring (see "Consumer Watch Special Report: Scam!" May 1992) have been convicted of trying to sell stolen property.

Robert Michael Hoover and Tony Ortiz Arce (a.k.a. Anthony Palomino) pled guilty to possession of stolen property and conspiracy to distribute stolen property. Hoover also pled guilty to possession of a concealed weapon and possession of a loaded weapon in a public place.

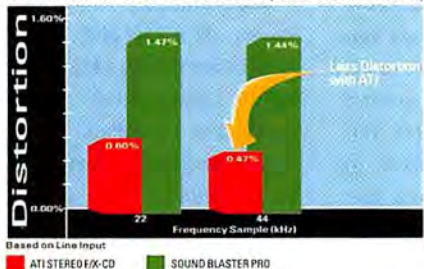
At press time, a preliminary hearing had not been held for the third suspect in the incident, Martin Martinez.

Hoover and Mark Mulvihill, whose company Computer Spectrum was allegedly involved in last year's mail-order scam, have filed business statements for seven new companies in Southern California. Hoover filed papers for L.A. Laptop, Multimedia 2000, United Flex (no relation to USA Flex), Technology Warehouse, and Telecom Systems. Mulvihill filed for Star Com Electronics and PC Depot. There is no indication the men are currently doing business under these names.

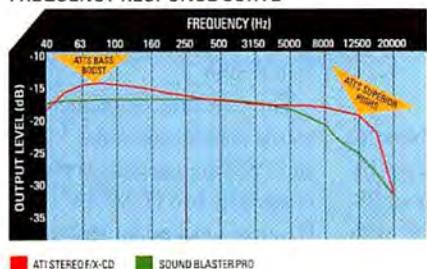


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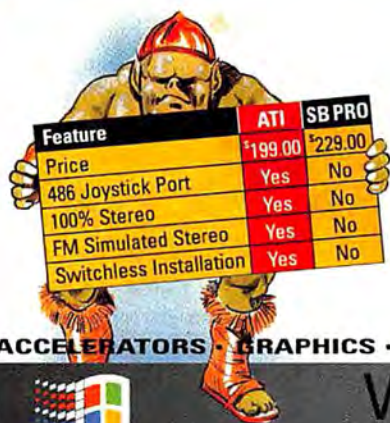
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**Circle 5 on reader service card**

# High-Res Printer in a 486 Note

and graphics in an airplane, an airport, or an automobile.

Everything about the NoteJet is compact. The Bubble Jet print system is 75

percent smaller than the one on Canon's BJ-10ex portable ink jet. Canon has excised dead space and cut power demands by putting the controller mechanisms on the motherboard and employing a new printhead with a smaller, replaceable ink reservoir.

A similarly miniaturized paper-feed mechanism pulls letter-size paper or transparencies along a flat paper path from a ten-sheet feeder located under the computer's removable keyboard. It also takes legal or 7.1-inch-square notepaper one sheet at a time, in addition to envelopes.

The NoteJet prints 360-dpi text at a brisk 116 cps—about 2 pages per minute. Graphics print speed depends on the complexity of the image. But overall, the NoteJet 486 is about 30 percent faster than the BJ-10ex—and with better resolution, thanks to the close integra-

tion of printer and computer. The speed comes from a Canon-designed ASIC that moves print data in a steady stream along the AT bus, about ten times faster than a regular CPU can shove data packets out a parallel port.

The space-saving design also saves on consumables. No longer do you have to replace a printhead/ink tank combination every time the ink runs dry—the NoteJet's printhead is a separate \$43 replaceable device that should last you through 50 ink tanks (each about \$8 and good for around 60 8½-by-11-inch sheets). You can expect printing costs to hover near 14 cents a page, says Canon, more than twice the overhead of a portable Bubble Jet but an awesome improvement over the typical hotel fax charges of \$2 to \$5 a page.

## Computer Power

On the CPU side, the NoteJet 486 is controlled by Texas Instruments' newcomer 25-MHz 486SLC with 1K of on-board

cache and TI's unique power-management system. You get 4MB of RAM, expandable to 12MB via the 4MB snap-in SIMMs. You also get an on-board 1.44MB floppy and can choose an 85MB, 135MB, or

180MB hard drive. The 9.5-inch diagonal VGA backlit monochrome LCD produces 16 grays at 640 by 480.

DOS and Windows 3.1 are both preinstalled, and a Canon-designed pointing device cra-

## Canon NoteJet 486

The first notebook with a built-in ink jet printer.

**Key Features:** 25-MHz 486SLC CPU power • Under-9-pound traveling weight • 2-ppm printing

**Pricing:** 4MB RAM and 85MB drive \$2499, 135MB \$2799, 180MB \$2999

**Availability:** Immediate  
Canon Computer Systems, Inc., 800/848-4123, 714/438-3000

Reader service no. 728

dles in your palm, with an easily maneuverable trackball under your thumb.

The standard complement of serial, parallel, external VGA, and PS/2 mouse ports are augmented by two PCMCIA Type II slots—stacked so that they accept not only standard, thin peripherals but also double-thick miniature hard drives.

With its traveling weight of less than 9 pounds, the NoteJet 486 fits comfortably on your knees or in your briefcase, and a single charge of its nickel-cadmium battery provides you with 2 to 3 hours of power-managed computing plus eight pages of printing. For producing your proposal-quality letters and reports or spreadsheets and graphics on the road, there isn't any better way to go.

—Mike Hogan

## TEST DRIVE

An inch here, a pound there—at first glance, the NoteJet 486's 12.2-by-10-inch waistline would appear to disqualify it from any claim to notebook convenience. But looks are deceiving. Close inspection reveals a unique advance in mobile computing—this notebook contains a built-in 360-dpi ink jet printer.

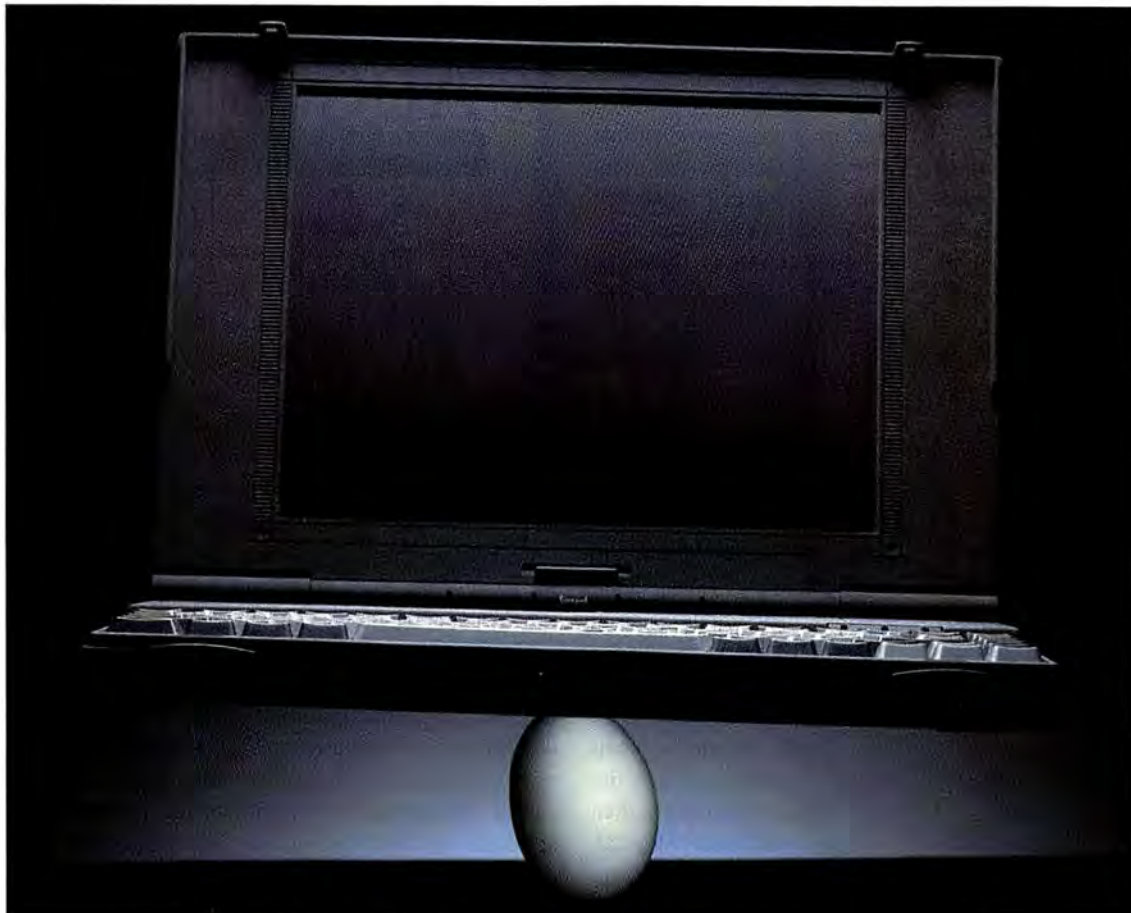
To duplicate this combination of on-the-road functionality and convenience, you'd have to solder a standard notebook to a portable printer. Even then, you couldn't match the NoteJet 486's 7.7-pound weight, small footprint, and battery-powered operation or the speed and quality of its output—to say nothing of its price: The base model lists for \$2499.

The NoteJet makes it practical for the first time for insurance adjusters, traveling salespeople, and desktop presenters to generate laser-quality letters, invoices, reports, spreadsheets,

**CANON'S  
NOTEJET 486  
includes a printer.**



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# DOS Word 6.0 Does Drag-and-Drop

## TEST DRIVE

Be careful—reading what follows may make you feel old: *Microsoft Word* is celebrating its tenth anniversary and is now on its sixth revision.

New features bring *Word* tantalizingly close to, you guessed it, *Word for Windows*, including an easy-to-use table editor, drag-and-drop text editing, a ribbon with new formatting functions, and a built-in grammar checker.

## Microsoft Word 6.0

A major upgrade to this granddaddy of DOS word processors brings it closer than ever to Windows.

### Key Features: Built-in tables

- Drag-and-drop text editing
- Print-merge guide

Lines, borders and special symbols • TrueType fonts • Print preview with zoom

**Pricing:** \$450, upgrade \$99 until September 30, free upgrade to 1.0 users

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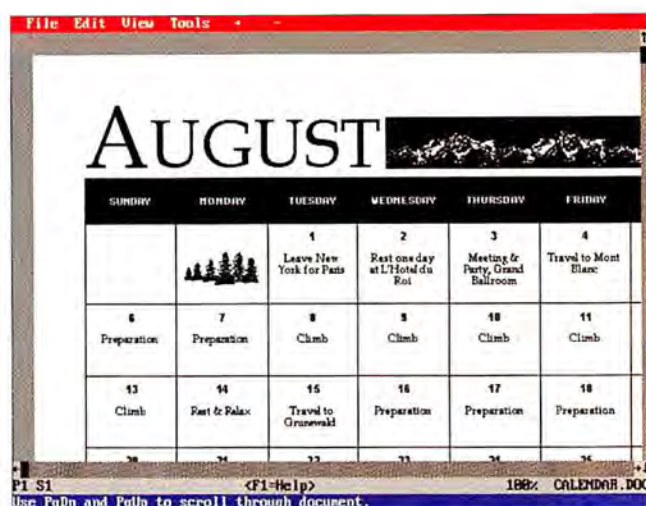
Microsoft Corp.,  
800/426-9400

Reader service no. 729

Fire up *Word 6.0*, and you'll find a screen that looks like the one in 5.5, but with a new tool bar. The familiar 5.5 symbols for boldface, italic, and underline are shortened to their first letter, making space for new indent and outdent symbols that let you move a paragraph in or out one tab stop. Look closely, and you'll see a grill in the midst; clicking on the pound sign (#) inserts a table into your document. Click and drag on the table to expand it; as you add information to a cell, it grows automatically.

To move a sentence or a paragraph, just select it, put the mouse pointer in the highlight, hold down the mouse button, and drag the text into place. No more cutting and pasting.

In the old days putting, say, a square bullet in your document meant thumbing through the manual for code numbers, then pressing <Numlock><Alt>-223. *Word 6.0* automates this task for you. To add bullets to a list, select *Tools•Bullets* and choose the one you want from a list. (One caveat: To keep moving fast, *Word* puts a placeholder on your screen instead of the bul-



SEE YOUR DOCUMENT UP CLOSE in *Word 6.0* by clicking on a plus or minus sign. You can view text in magnifications of 50 to 200 percent.

let; press *File•Print Preview* to see what your bullets look like.)

The clumsy Line Draw function has been replaced with functions that let you put borders, colors, and shading around text. Just select the paragraph, choose *Format•Border*, and select the attributes you want; the border automatically fits the text. *Word 6.0* also comes with built-in TrueType fonts.

One of the most daunting tasks is print merge. With version 6.0, this job is easier; you're prompted at every step and see

a graphical representation of the process. *Word 6.0* also has a built-in collapsible outliner that easily turns your document into an outline and back again.

One of *Word 6.0*'s best points may be its frugality; you get lots of function for about half the number of megabytes a graphical word processor needs. The program eats 5.5MB or less and can run on a 286 under DOS 3.0. For the \$99 introductory upgrade price, DOS users may just want to have this dance.

—Bronwyn Fryer

## A General Magic Hand-Held:

General Magic, an Apple Computer spin-off devoted to the advancement of "personal intelligent communicators" (tiny hand-held PCs with pen interfaces and wireless links), is developing software to link the gadgets with communications and computer nets, E-mail systems, and on-line services. While General Magic does not plan to build or sell its own hand-helds, it is licensing its Telescript programming language and Magic Cap user interface to companies that do plan to. Users of Telescript-based systems will be able to route messages through local and wide area nets and wired and wireless communication services, says General Magic cofounder, president, and CEO Marc Porat. Telescript will run on all major computing platforms, including DOS, Windows, Windows NT, OS/2, Macintosh, and UNIX. Mag-

ic Cap is intended for hand-helds like Apple's yet-to-ship Newton.

If General Magic's goals appear to be overly ambitious, take another look. The company's list of partners reads like a *Who's Who* of computing and consumer electronics: Apple, AT&T, Matsushita, Motorola, Philips, and Sony. Mead, News Corporation, and Intuit have also announced plans to use Telescript and Magic Cap to create information services for the new breed of hand-helds. Stay tuned: General Magic has plans to release additional product information this summer.



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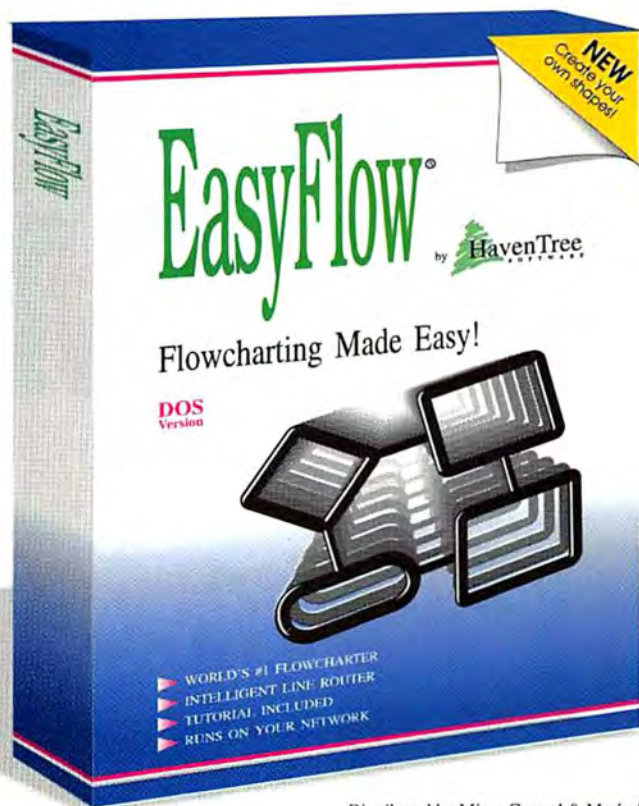
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# Weird Keyboards: Rx for Hands?

**P**C users looking for an alternative to the standard QWERTY keyboard don't have long to wait. A number of companies have announced or introduced products that they claim are ergonomically designed to be easier on the hands than the standard keyboard.

Although most of the

ways that they go about achieving that end vary considerably. Newly announced units are described below.

Apple's Adjustable Keyboard, introduced in January, splits into two pieces that can be angled for greater comfort. Unlike other adjustable keyboards, the \$219 Apple product maintains the flat design. It's available only for Macintoshes. 800/776-2333. **Reader service no. 730**

The \$675 Comfort Keyboard System from Health Care Keyboard splits the keyboard into three sections, each of which rotates and tilts to any position. Distance between the sections is adjustable. The unit includes a two-section arm-support system. It's available now. 414/253-4131.

**Reader service no. 731**

Developed by Industrial Innovations of Scottsdale, Arizona, the DataHand consists of two units that house 5 keys each in a small well in which you rest your fingers. By using a combination of the 10 keys, you can emulate all 101 keys that are found on typical keyboards, as well as mouse functions. The company hopes to begin shipping by the second or third quarter of this year. 602/860-8584. **Reader service no. 732**

The \$489 FlexPro from Key Tronic also splits

the keyboard in two, but both the tilt and the angle of the sections are adjustable.

Built-in wrist supports travel along a track in front. 800/262-6006. **Reader service no. 733**

The Kinesis Ergonomic Keyboard divides the standard keyboard in two, with keys set in two concave "dishes" on either side of the keyboard. Some keys, such as <Delete>, <Backspace>, and <Enter>, have been moved to redistribute the work load from the little finger to the thumbs. The Kinesis is available now for \$690. 206/455-9220. **Reader service no. 734**

The MiniErgo keyboard from Marquardt Switches looks like a standard keyboard, with a few significant modifications. The keys have been divided into two sections at either end of the keyboard. Between the two sets of keys are the <Delete> and <Insert> keys and the cursor keys. The keyboard is angled slightly (the degree of angle is not adjustable) and has built-in wrist support. The MiniErgo should be available by late May for \$179. 315/655-8050. **Reader service no. 735**

**APPLE'S ADJUSTABLE KEYBOARD**  
can be split into two pieces.

The Tony Ergonomic Key-System is a fully adjustable unit that can be angled and tilted for comfort. Its inventor, Anthony Hodges, was at work on adjustable keyboards in 1981, long before PC users even considered the need for a more ergonomic design. Even the keys themselves can be moved for the most comfortable spacing. Hodges is currently negotiating with companies interested in manufacturing the keyboard and hopes to have units available by summer. 415/969-8669.

**Reader service no. 736**

—Roberta Furger

early entrants are new firms hoping to help prevent repetitive strain injuries (see "Danger at Your Fingertips" in this issue), at least two major players—Key Tronic and Apple Computer—have joined them.

Keyboard design changes run the gamut from a more conveniently located <Backspace> key to a completely reworked approach to data entry.

The developers of these keyboards want to make the keys more accessible, reducing typing effort and lessening the risk of repetitive stress injuries. The

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Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of your first issue. The PowerBase \*,\* diskette should not be confused with "power-base," which is a relational database software offered by Compuware Corporation.

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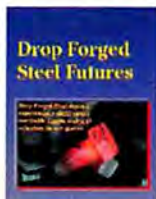
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## Three Major Vendors Get Serious With CD- and Audio-Ready PCs

No pain, no gain: no more. Any- one who has installed components such as CD ROM drives knows the hassle of ramping up to professional-quality sound, full-motion video, and interactive reference software. Now system makers AST Research, Dell Computer, and Insight Computers have taken the pain out of upgrading, with ready-to-work PCs featuring preinstalled internal CD ROM drives, sound cards, and plenty of popular software.

Insight's 486/DX2-66MHz VESA VL Bus Multimedia system is the most powerful—and, at \$3999, the most expensive—machine of the three. It packs a

245MB IDE hard drive, a 256K secondary memory cache, and 8MB of RAM expandable to 32MB. It also delivers fast local bus video performance with a VESA local bus (VL bus) graphics accelerator and a solid 15-inch NEC MultiSync 4FG monitor. As for expansion, the computer's roomy tower configuration includes seven drive bays, five ISA slots, and a 300-watt power supply.

Insight's Talon TA-200 drive is one of the fastest units available, boasting a 256ms average seek time and 300K/sec throughput that can handle the most demanding applications. The Pro Audio Spectrum 16 sound board and Labtec speakers offer high-quality 16-bit sound suitable for presentations.

### Dell's Balance

Dell seeks to balance price and performance with three multimedia PCs based on the 333s/L and the modular 486L family. The \$2349 OfficeStation 433s/L is the most powerful version, with a 33-MHz 486SX processor, 4MB of RAM expandable to 64MB, and a 14-inch super-VGA monitor. An integrated local bus video accelerator promises to boost performance, but the base model has a relatively small 170MB hard disk and lacks a secondary RAM cache. The OfficeStation features two free ISA slots and a 150-watt power

supply for moderate expansion. Power-hungry users can get a roomier 230MB hard drive and a 128K secondary cache for \$100 apiece over the base price. A 33-MHz 486DX processor is available for an extra \$200.

The OfficeStation 433s/L sys-

Intel's OverDrive processor and an external cache can boost performance. The Advantage Pro ships with 4MB of RAM expandable to 64MB, a 14-inch super-VGA monitor, and integrated video to maximize expansion space. Three free ISA



**DELL'S \$2349 OFFICESTATION 433s/L features a Panasonic CD ROM drive, a Sound Blaster16 card, a 33-MHz 486SX processor, and a super-VGA monitor.**

tem includes a Panasonic CD ROM drive that has a 390ms average seek time and 150K/sec throughput. The Sound Blaster16 card and Labtec CS-550 speakers produce high-quality 16-bit sound that's more than adequate for file annotation and most presentations.

### AST's Advantage

The most affordable multimedia system of the three is AST's Advantage Pro 486SX/33 Multimedia, with a street price of under \$2000. Like the Dell, the Advantage Pro's 170MB hard disk and lack of a secondary RAM cache might prove insufficient for data-hungry applications, but upgrades such as

slots, two free drive bays, and a 145-watt power supply ensure expandability.

The preinstalled Sony CDU-31A CD ROM drive plays Kodak's multisession Photo CDs and features a 490ms seek time and 150K/sec throughput. On the audio side, the 8-bit Sound Blaster Pro II card falls short of professional-quality sound but suffices for games, voice annotation, and most business applications. Like the Dell and Insight systems, the AST includes a pair of amplified speakers as well as a software bundle featuring business applications and a choice of popular CD ROM titles.

—Mike Desmond

### 486/DX2-66MHz VESA VL Bus Multimedia, OfficeStation 433s/L, Advantage Pro 486SX/33 Multimedia

Three multimedia-ready PCs with preinstalled components that eliminate the hassle of installing multimedia hardware yourself.

**Insight Computers**  
800/927-7848,  
602/350-1148 (fax)  
List price: \$3999  
Reader service no. 681

**Dell Computer**  
800/289-3355,  
512/343-3653 (fax)  
List price: \$2349  
Reader service no. 682

**AST Research Inc.**  
800/876-4278,  
714/727-9355 (fax)  
Street price: under \$2000  
Reader service no. 683

# Nikon's Slide Scanner Breakthrough: Desktop Service Bureau

What do you do when you have a stack of 35mm slides and you want to reproduce them in your newsletter, report, catalog, or presentation? Organizations faced with this problem have traditionally sent the slides out to a service bureau for scanning and conversion or else bit the bullet and plunked down as much as \$15,000 on a profes-

sional slide scanner to finish the job in-house. Nikon has just sugarcoated that bullet with the extraordinarily low-priced LS-10 Coolscan Film Scanner. The LS-10 comes in two flavors: The internal model, which fits in a half-height drive bay, retails for \$2195; the external version is \$2495. Given the cost of a comparable color scan at a ser-

vice bureau (\$30 or more per slide), the Coolscan will pay for itself after fewer than 100 scans.

The Coolscan accepts color or black-and-white negative strips as well as slide transparencies and scans them in a single pass to produce resolutions up to 2700 dpi. The unit uses LED illumination—red, green, and blue light-emitting diodes—to

produce high-quality 24-bit image files. And it's fast, too: "Pre-scans" take roughly 20 seconds, and Nikon is claiming approximately 100 seconds for a full scan of a 1024-by-1024-pixel image. From there, it's easy to import your images into a desktop published document or image database.

Scheduled to ship in April, the external Coolscan weighs 4.2 pounds and is 5.83 inches wide by 12.61 inches long by 1.85 inches high. Both units hook into a *Windows* or *Windows NT* PC or a Macintosh via a SCSI interface and come with the necessary cables and, for the PC, an interface card. You set image variables (resolution, width, height, brightness, contrast, and so on) in software that comes bundled with the scanner and click on the appropriate button to preview or begin the scan. You can also run the Coolscan from within any application that supports *Adobe Photoshop* plug-ins.

The LS-10's designers named it Coolscan because of its heat dissipation and low power consumption. If you thought it was simply, well, cool, you probably wouldn't get an argument.

—Steve Fox

## Texas Instruments' Low-End, Low-Priced Printers

### Texas Instruments microWriter Printers

Low-priced personal page printers.

Texas Instruments  
800/527-3500

List price: microWriter \$729,  
microWriter PS17 \$999,  
microWriter PS35 \$1299

Reader service no. 684

The big word in printers this year is *personal*. Virtually every major vendor has plans to release a low-cost, no-frills page printer with a small-enough

footprint and just enough functionality to serve a single user. Among the first entries in this new wave of personal printers are Texas Instruments' new microWriters.

What's so personal about them? Price, for starters. The basic model lists for \$729, with street prices in the \$650 range. A PostScript version with 17 scalable fonts is \$999 list; a 35-font model is \$300 more.

All three microWriters use the same 16-MHz Motorola 68000 processor and the same 5-page-per-minute LED print engine, which delivers 300-dot-per-inch

resolution and is rated to print 5000 sheets a month.

All three models use the same small case (the footprint is 13.8 inches by 10.4 inches). Each comes with a 250-page paper tray that handles letter- and legal-size paper, envelopes, labels, and transparencies. You can upgrade them with a second 250-sheet paper tray (\$199 list), as well as a special media feeder (\$99 list) that automatically feeds envelopes, labels, and transparencies through a straight paper path.

The basic model is PCL 4 compatible and comes with the same 14 bit-mapped fonts used in the Hewlett-Packard IIP. It's outfitted with 512K of memory, which should be enough for most text jobs, but it may have problems handling more data-intensive graphics. You can add up to 4.5MB and new font emulations. The interface is limited to a single parallel port.

If you need scalable fonts, you can move up to one of the two PostScript models. Both come with 2MB of memory upgradeable to 4MB and automatically switch between PCL 4 and true Adobe PostScript.

—Dan Miller



THE MICROWRITER LED PAGE PRINTER from Texas Instruments is a compact, 5-ppm laser that starts at \$729.

### Nikon LS-10 Coolscan Film Scanner

High-resolution, compact unit from industry big shot Nikon brings affordable slide scanning to the desktop.

Nikon, Inc.

800/526-4566,  
516/547-0305 (fax)

List price: internal model  
\$2195, external \$2495

Reader service no. 685

# SPLIT DECISION

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M X 1 5 F

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- 1280 x 1024 NON-INTERLACED RESOLUTION.
- INTELLIGENT MODE SWITCHING.
- DIGITAL CONTROLS.
- LED INDICATORS FOR MODE AND STATUS INFORMATION.
- VERTICAL REFRESH RATE UP TO 76 HZ AT 1024 x 768.



THE CASE FOR THE ULTIMATE IN VALUE:  
L X 1 5 6 4

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- 1280 x 1024 RESOLUTION.
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- AUTOMATIC SYNCHRONIZATION AND SIZING.
- VERTICAL REFRESH RATE UP TO 76 HZ AT 1024 x 768.

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Ideally suited for high-level engineering, scientific, graphic and business applications, the MX15F is the computer monitor of choice for serious power users.

It's no wonder the MX15F has won so many awards. These include *PC Magazine* Editors' Choice-1993 and *PC World's* Best Buy in both 1991 and 1992.

Clearly, this is the monitor for those who refuse to compromise. It delivers the very highest performance, quality and technology.



1993



1991



1992

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Circle 169 on reader service card

## 1-2-3 and Freelance Graphics Move Up to OS/2 2.0



**1-2-3 FOR OS/2 2.0 is optimized for OS/2's 32-bit graphical environment. Customizable SmartIcons let you easily perform common tasks like printing, graphing, and formatting numbers.**

Though Lotus's OS/2 2.0 upgrades for *1-2-3* and *Freelance Graphics* are not the killer apps that will compel users to trade up or over to OS/2, they do provide proof that *Windows* is not the only game in computing. Both applications are optimized for OS/2 2.0's 32-bit graphical environment; hence, they offer enhancements and new features not available in earlier OS/2 versions of *1-2-3* and *Freelance*. The new products, priced at \$495 each, cost up to \$200 less than their predecessors.

### Usability

On the ease-of-use front, both products take advantage of OS/2 2.0's features, such as the Workplace Shell, a Mac-like graphical environment. The main benefits here are drag-and-drop capabilities, which save time and mouse work. To open several documents, drag them onto either the *Freelance* or *1-2-3* icon; OS/2 will fire up the program and load the files automatically. To open a single file, double-click on the file's

icon, and OS/2 opens the associated application and loads the file. Both products also include SmartIcons, which execute common commands, such as printing, graphing, formatting numbers, and boldfacing or italicizing text, with a mouse click.

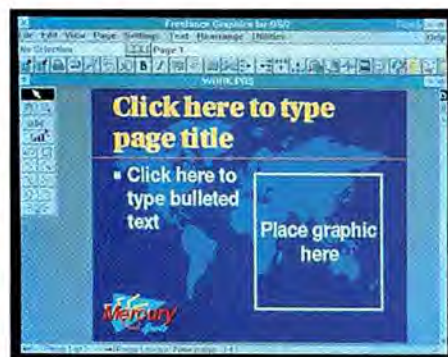
One performance enhancement will likely go unnoticed. Lotus claims you'll encounter fewer crashes, particularly when multitasking these two programs with other programs. You will also avoid multithreading crashes, which occur when you force these two applications to perform several simultaneous tasks, such as printing, recalculating, and opening a file.

Increasing the robustness of the products adds to system overhead and means you'll wait up to 50 percent longer for the programs to load than with the 16-bit versions, according to Lotus. But once they're loaded, you should notice that it takes up to 20 percent less time for common activities such as redrawing screens and retrieving files, the company claims. Fur-

ture versions of OS/2 that promise more 32-bit capabilities, such as OS/2 2.1, which is expected to ship by July, will likely improve the performance of both applications.

### Added Windows Features

Finally, Lotus has enhanced the applications themselves. To *Freelance Graphics* Lotus added features from the *Windows* version that make the product easier to use. For instance, the new OS/2 version prompts you through the creation of new presentations. (The last OS/2 version presented you with a page of bulleted instructions.) The new version also prompts you to add text directly to presentations and displays a cursor. Adding text to the previous version required that you use the text tool located in the margin. Buttons on the bottom of the screen now let you add or scroll through pages of a presentation,



**FREELANCE GRAPHICS FOR OS/2 2.0 prompts you for text input, making it quicker and easier to create presentations than before.**

so you don't have to wade through all the menus.

The main addition to *1-2-3* is a print-to-fit feature that compresses a large range to fit onto a page or expands a small range so it fills more of a page.

There are also two new chart

### 1-2-3 for OS/2 2.0, Freelance Graphics for OS/2 2.0

Tight integration with OS/2 2.0's Workplace Shell and ease-of-use features make these products worth a look.

**Lotus Development Corp.**

**800/343-5414,**

**617/577-8500**

**List price: 1-2-3 for OS/2 2.0 \$495; Freelance Graphics for OS/2 2.0 \$495**

**Reader service no. 686**

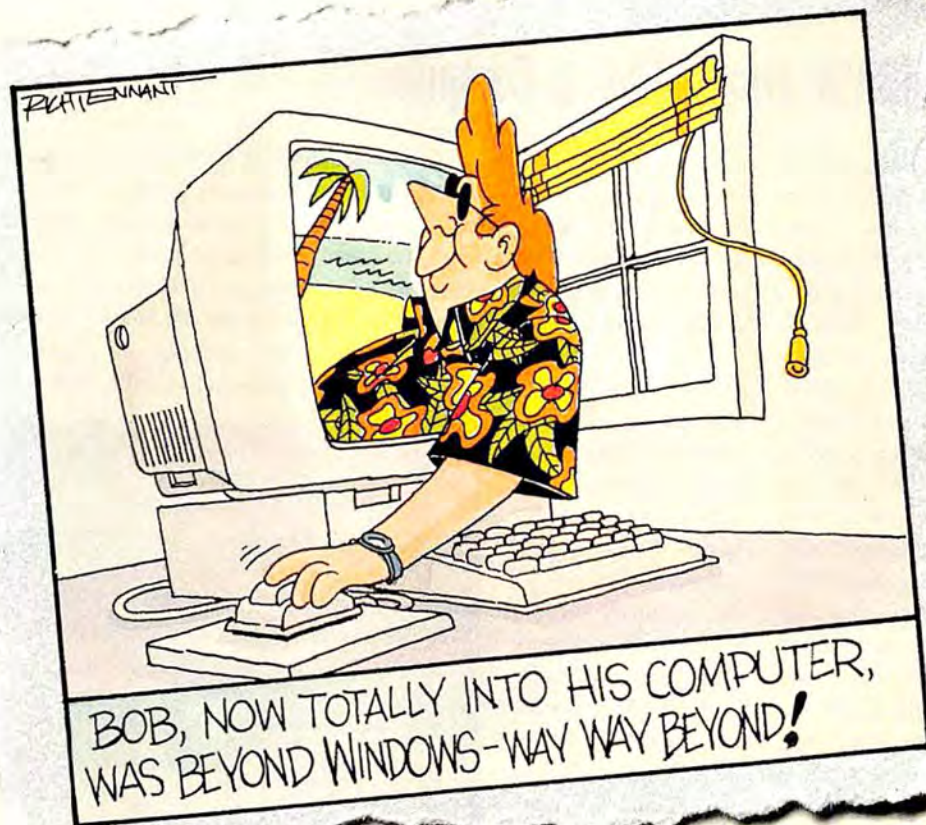
types: radar, which resembles a radar screen and lets you depict the deviation of data from an average, and candlestick, which is useful for plotting stock prices.

Lotus developed both products simultaneously and they share some program code, creating complementary features that make them easier to learn. For example, both use the same

charting engine to create graphs, so you need to learn to use this tool only once. Because you create graphs with the same tool, either program can read and modify files—without any translation. In addition, an automatic linking feature lets changes that are

made to a spreadsheet or graph in *1-2-3* automatically show up in a *Freelance* presentation that relies on the same data. Other identical code includes programs for file opening and closing, printing, and help systems.

**—Randy Ross**



## Introducing XTree® for Windows™ 1.5—way beyond Windows.

Microsoft® Windows™ 3.1 is a great environment. But serious users need a utility that goes beyond the two biggest panes in Windows – the File Manager and the Program Manager. *PC/Computing* called XTree for Windows “the most powerful File Manager replacement.” Now, with version 1.5, it’s the best replacement for the Program Manager, too!

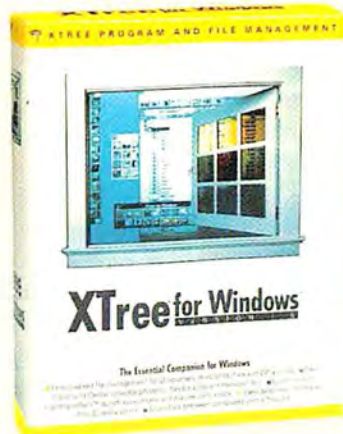
Enhancing Windows is one reason *PC Magazine* called XTree for Windows “one slick utility.” Now, take advantage of our new program management features. You already know how useful ToolBars™ can be. We go beyond these with our unique CommandBars™: fully-configurable sets of icons that let you launch programs and run macros (with our new easy recorder and scheduler) from instant hot-buttons, anywhere in Windows! And for XTreeGold users, we’ve provided hot-key macros so that you can add familiar Gold commands to XTree for Windows.

Want more? How about ZIP archive handling that’s as easy as drag-and-drop? Or file viewers that show you more than 50 different file formats? You can even edit text and print documents and graphic files right from

XTree for Windows, without even opening the application that made the file. You’ll also get full support for Windows for Workgroups.

As if that isn’t enough, you also get XTreeLink, a utility that makes transferring files from computer to computer a cinch. With XTree for Windows, it’s as easy as point and click!

As *Windows Magazine* said, “Usually, multi-function packages have to compromise somewhere. XTree didn’t.”



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## A Faster dBASE Finally Gets a Compiler

When Borland bought Ashton-Tate in 1991, *dBASE* users wondered what the new company would do with the popular database, a competitor of Borland's own *Paradox*. The first *dBASE* upgrade released by Borland, last year's *dBASE IV 1.5*, was no real answer to the question—it had been developed by Ashton-Tate before the buyout, and Borland did little more than test and ship it. Now, with *dBASE IV 2.0* and *dBASE Compiler for DOS*, both of which should be shipping by the time you read this, we have a clearer view of the future. And what do we see? Better core technology, which should result in faster performance, and considerable improvements for developers, all attached to pretty much the same interface.

### Faster Than a Fox

Speed is the new version's principal theme. According to Borland, *dBASE IV 2.0* performs

up to ten times faster than version 1.5, and in some operations it's hundreds of times faster. The company claims that in real-life situations, the new *dBASE* is faster than archival *FoxPro*, usually considered the quickest database. Borland made a similar claim about last year's *Paradox 4.0*, and several objective tests found it to be true.

Borland's name for the improved *dBASE* speed is *WARPSpeed*, with the *WARP* standing for *wildly accelerated relational performance* (look, folks, we don't make these things up—we just report them). Despite the fancy title, there really isn't a revolutionary new technology involved; Borland has made a number of large and small changes that, taken together, should improve overall performance. These include a new math engine, high-performance filters, and user control of how indexes use RAM.

### Runs in Protected Mode

One thing that almost always improves performance in a large application is memory management. In order to directly access vast quantities of RAM, *dBASE IV* is now a protected-mode program, requiring a 286 and 2MB of RAM. That's a bare minimum: Borland is recommending 3MB of RAM and says that 5MB is required for optimal performance. With less, *dBASE* uses a swap file on your hard disk for virtual memory, slowing operations considerably. Version 2.0 can now access as

much as 16MB of RAM.

For the applications developer, *dBASE IV 2.0* offers several new commands, most of them tools for creating user interfaces. There are commands and functions that help you control your pop-up menus and handle

Borland built its reputation on compilers, so the prospects for this one look good.

For instance, you can create large EXE files that include the run-time file and can be split and then rejoined or multiple small EXE files that can share a



**dBASE IV 2.0 HAS MORE THAN 30 new and enhanced functions that let you create Windows-like applications. With overlapping windows, drop-down menus, and pop-up boxes, your dBASE IV apps are easier to use.**

### dBASE IV 2.0

Better performance and some language enhancements characterize Borland's first homegrown *dBASE*.

List price: \$795, upgrades \$99.95

### dBASE Compiler for DOS

Turn your *dBASE* applications into self-running EXE programs with this long-promised compiler.

List price: \$495 (free to registered users of *Developer's Edition*)

Borland, Int'l  
800/331-0877,  
408/438-8400

Reader service no. 687

mouse events. For instance, a simple new *MOUSE* function can tell your program whether it's running on a machine that has a mouse driver installed. The debugger has also been improved.

When Ashton-Tate first released *dBASE IV* in 1988, it promised that a compiler for turning *dBASE* applications into stand-alone EXE programs was on its way. Ashton-Tate even promised that the compiler would be free to anyone who bought the special *Developer's Edition*. Five years and one company buyout later, the compiler is finally here. And yes, Borland is making it available free to all registered *dBASE IV Developer's Edition* users.

separate run-time file. A C-like preprocessor lets you do conditional compiles and simplifies many burdensome programming tasks. Borland promises that *dBASE Compiler for DOS* is fully compatible with *dBASE IV*—a claim that will be put to the test a thousand times over as people begin to use it.

*dBASE IV 2.0* costs \$795; upgrades are \$99.95. *dBASE Compiler for DOS* costs \$495 (it's free to registered users of *dBASE IV Developer's Edition*). With these new products, Borland is clearly making *dBASE* a more hospitable environment for developers. We'll have to wait and see what they do for users next time around.

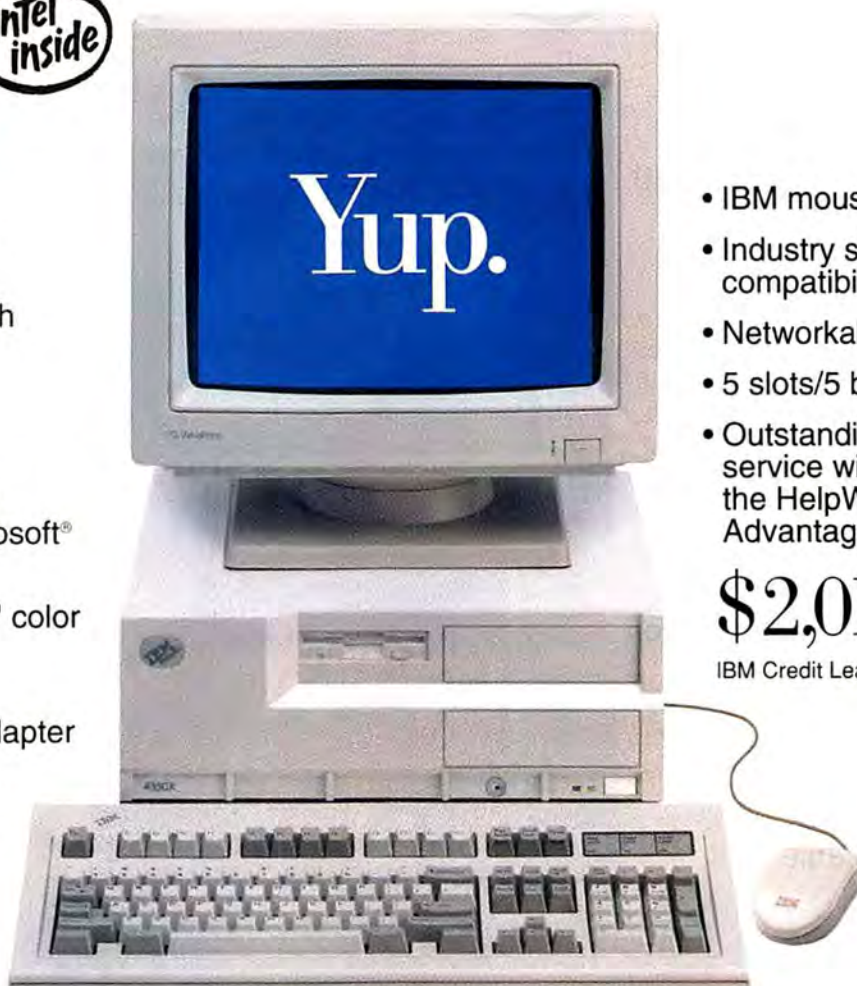
—Lincoln Spector

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\*\*\*Screen at right depicts OS/2, also available pre-installed on this model.

†ThinkPad 300 and 700C systems and options are manufactured in Japan. PS/ValuePoint 6312, 6314, and 6319 Color Displays are manufactured in Korea. PowerGraph X-24 graphics adapter is manufactured in Mexico.

††PRODIGY will not run without a modem. A modem is not included with the ThinkPad 700C. A customer who acquires a ThinkPad 700C and a modem which operates at a speed below 9600bps may contact PRODIGY to obtain a One-Month Free Trial Membership.

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<b>ThinkPad 300 Options</b>	
Data/Fax Modem (2400 bps/9600 bps)	\$330
Port Replicator	\$120

<b>Operating Systems and Application Software</b>	
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Microsoft Excel™ 4.0 for Windows	\$335
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PC LAN Program 1.3	\$185
NetWare® V3.1 (5 User)	\$720
IBM OS/2 LAN Server 3.0 Entry	\$505

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# hDC Upgrades Enhanced Commands and Other Tools



**REDOING YOUR DESKTOP:** Windows Express puts your work into folders and lets you create complex commands. Thanks to Windows Express, the After Dark image in the background actually moves.

hDC Computer Corporation has just released major updates to two very different Windows utilities, *Windows Express* and *FirstApps*. *Windows Express 4.0* is a program-launching environment that lets you organize your applications into folders, while *FirstApps 2.0* is a collection of 20 small programs intended to make Windows more powerful, more convenient, or simply more aesthetically pleasing.

Despite the programs' differences, the upgrades share one major new feature: *enhanced commands*, borrowed from hDC's *Power Launcher*. An enhanced command is a set of detailed program-launching instructions, created via a special dialog box, that can load multiple applications, control where they'll go on screen, pop up dialog boxes, and run a few macro commands such as minimize and print.

## Launching From Folders

*Windows Express* uses a file-drawer metaphor to help you organize your work by project.

You create folders in which you place application items that can perform functions such as launching a program or launching an associated data file. These can be combined with an enhanced command to perform more complicated tasks, such as printing documents. You can also place folders within folders.

In addition, *Windows Express* has added a status bar, as well as a task list option on the main menu, giving you easy access to every other program you're running. One of *Express*'s major flaws, the separate Editor program you must run to change folders is still there, although it's been improved to some degree—you can now move directly from *Express* to the editor with a single command.

You're bound to like some of the *FirstApps 2.0* programs, if not all of them. Among the more practical utilities are a PKZIP 1.x-compatible compression program; instantly accessible tools for copying, moving, and deleting files; a launch-

er built around enhanced commands; and memory, resource, and disk gauges.

## Fun Stuff

There's also an image scrapbook, a greeting card designer, and a space game. One program lets you replace your static wallpaper with something more dynamic, including animated *After Dark* screen-saver modules or—for the more practical—an interactive calendar you can write appointments to.

Like most hDC products (*Express* is an exception), *FirstApps* enhances the control menu in the upper left corner of every program window, placing extra tools in this easy-to-reach spot. Unfortunately, these programs replace the on-screen

## Windows Express 4.0, FirstApps 2.0

**WINDOWS** Two very different hDC utilities add power through the same versatile program-launching technology.

**hDC Computer Corp.**

**206/885-5550,**

**206/881-9770 (fax)**

**List price: Windows Express 4.0 \$99.95, FirstApps 2.0 \$99.95**

**Reader service no. 688**

button with a bright-red, distracting hDC logo. Keeping the benefits of the hDC control menu without the annoying visuals takes some tinkering.

—Lincoln Spector

## What business does sound have in a computer?

Number	Description	Amount
11	Income	1,000,000
12	Expenses	800,000
13	Profit	200,000
14	Net Income	200,000
15	Operating Expenses	150,000
16	Non-Operating Expenses	30,000
17	Total Expenses	180,000
18	Operating Income	850,000
19	Non-Operating Income	150,000
20	Total Income	1,000,000



For starters, you can increase your productivity when you proof spreadsheets with the new Microsoft Windows Sound System. Just highlight a series of numbers or words on the screen and it will read them back to you. It will even read them aloud as you enter them, if you like. To hear more, turn the page.

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# Microsoft's EIS Opener: Database Reporting With Style

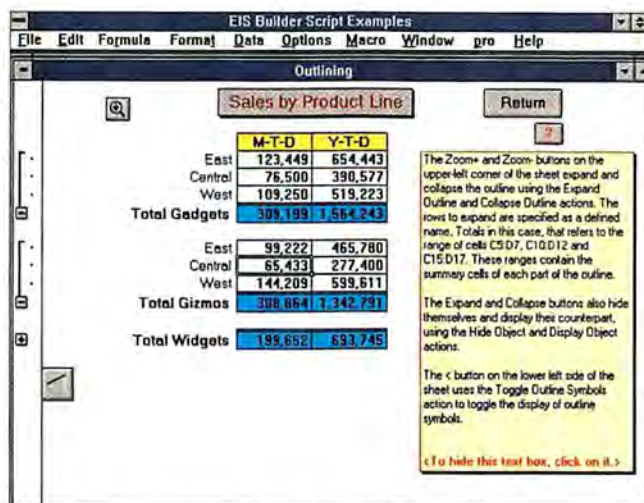
It's happened at one time or another to everyone: Twenty minutes into a two-hour business presentation and you're fighting gravity's grip on your eyelids. After what seems like countless trend-tracking charts and goal-outlining overheads, the only question in your mind is, So what?

Unfortunately, although businesses have always sought to maximize data storage on their computers, not all devote the same resources to making sense of that data. The result can be a statistical soporific. The cure: executive information systems (EIS). These applications let managers locate and report data. Until now these programs have provided only one view of the information—a view that may not meet the needs of everyone in an organization. With *Open EIS Pak*, Microsoft hopes to redefine EIS as an enterprise information system that at last serves every employee's information needs.

*Open EIS* is an *Excel* add-on that lets corporate applications developers generate complex spreadsheets and macros and then link them to data files on a network server to provide custom search capabilities and ad hoc analysis and reporting.

## Attaching Buttons

For power users and corporate developers, *Open EIS* makes life easier by offering a selection of menu options that convert directly into code to create a front end to *Excel*. These options can be as simple as a few additional buttons or as complex as a new interface with an array of custom-made buttons and switches. For users, report generation becomes a point-



**MICROSOFT'S OPEN EIS PAK is an Excel add-on that lets corporate developers create reports tailored to the needs of different end users.**

and-click affair: Need more detail on a pie chart showing sales by region? Just click on the slice you want to explore, and the program will present the next level of detail.

## Tailoring Reports

*Open EIS* seamlessly integrates all of a company's *Windows* applications and tools to deliver live data to end users in a format they can use. Corporate developers can integrate a firm's database with a department's spreadsheet and tap *Windows* tools, including OLE, to embed graphics in the reports that are automatically updated whenever a user requests the latest data from the file server.

## Microsoft Open EIS Pak

**WINDOWS** A flexible information system that lets you customize data reporting and perform ad hoc analysis.

**Microsoft Corp.**  
**800/227-4679**  
**List price: \$99**  
**Reader service no. 691**

For instance, say you're a manufacturer whose sales, accounting, and production departments receive quarterly re-

ports and tables that list sales and profits nationwide as well as by region, state, and product category. There's no easy way to tailor the report to everyone; accounting needs information on receivables, the sales department needs geographic revenue trends, and production needs to know which product nationwide is selling best so it can gear up for manufacturing. With *Microsoft Open EIS Pak*, corporate developers can create option buttons, such as By Region or By Product. Users just click on the button to call up both the data and the corresponding charts they need.

Priced at \$99, *Microsoft Open EIS Pak* could pay for itself within hours of its installation.

—Richard Melville

# What business does sound have in a computer?



Now you can communicate more effectively by adding your voice, or even music, to documents and presentations. Just record it, drag it and drop it in.

Microsoft Windows Sound System can also recognize and execute spoken commands like *open*, *cut* and *paste*. You can easily create custom commands in any application for the Microsoft Windows operating system. Want to hear something else? Turn the page.

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## Folio Views: Quick Access to Frequently Changing Information

*Folio Views 3.0* is a combination document/image manager and database that stores important business information, such as sales reports, policy manuals, and engineering data, in a single-file "info base" on a net-

### Folio Views 3.0, Views 3.0 Lite

**WINDOWS** A LAN-based repository for storing documents. DOS and Windows users can edit, add, and retrieve information stored in a Views info base.

Folio Corp.

800/543-6546,

801/344-3700

List price: Folio Views 3.0 \$495; Views 3.0 Lite \$195

Reader service no. 693

work, making it easier for your employees to add, edit, and retrieve data.

Useful for businesses that manage frequently changing information, *Views 3.0* runs in many network operating environments, including NetWare, VINES, and LAN Manager. Previously available only for DOS, *Views* now includes a Windows version.

You can use *Views* to import documents from the DOS and Windows versions of *WordPerfect* and *Word*, retaining the documents' format. You can also import *Views 2.1* and ASCII files.

*Views* indexes every word it receives and compresses each file to approximately 50 percent of its original size. As many as 125 users can simultaneously

access and edit records in a *Views* info base—a boon to customer service or sales organizations that must handle constantly changing data. You can store graphics, animation, and audio and video files as objects within an info base and link them with documents, which is useful for on-line technical manuals. Also, you can register external documents with *Views* so that the program can search for documents not stored in its info base.

*Views 3.0* includes a variety of editing tools, plus undo func-



**FOLIO VIEWS 3.0** stores documents in a single-file "info base" on a network server.

tions and a user-modifiable spelling checker based on *The American Heritage Dictionary*.

*Views 3.0* costs \$495 per user. A scaled-down version, *Views 3.0 Lite*, costs \$195 per user and lets you view, search, and make document annotations.

—Jeff Bertolucci

## Crystal-Clear Database Reporting

A successful software upgrade can be judged by two personal criteria: "Does it do more for me?" and "Does it do it faster?" Crystal Services, with the release of *Crystal Reports 2.0*, a major upgrade of its Windows data access and reporting tool, answers positively to both.

Designed for power users and corporate developers, *Crystal Reports 2.0* offers a raft of features to create tools that enable any user to become an effective report writer. Improvements include multiple field formatting, which takes care of such issues as dates and currency, as well as font selection for data field presentation. There's also improved line and box drawing with color support, so reports will have that professional, polished look. Two-pass reporting

makes *Crystal Reports 2.0* an ideal engine for those users who generate sorted and grouped reports.

The single-user version of *Crystal Reports 2.0* has a list price of \$195, and a LANPak for up to five simultaneous users is available for \$395.

—Richard Melville

### Crystal Reports 2.0

**WINDOWS** Upgraded database report generator combines power, flexibility, and ease of use.

Crystal Services, Inc.

604/681-3435,

604/681-2934 (fax)

List price: single-user version \$195, five-user LANPak \$395

Reader service no. 690

## Microsoft Windows Sound System. You'll be hearing a lot about it.



It's the complete audio solution for your business, with all the hardware and software included. Call (800) 426-9400, Dept. JK8, for a free demo disk that'll bring the Microsoft Windows Sound System to life on your PC. It's the first audio system specifically designed for the Microsoft Windows operating system.

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\*Requires the Windows operating system 3.1 or later. Demo is on a 3.5 inch high density disk. Offer good while supplies last. Inside the 50 United States, call (800) 426-9400. For information only. In Canada, call (800) 563-9048; outside the United States and Canada, call (206) 936-8661. © 1992 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. Microsoft is a registered trademark and Windows is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation.

## At Last: XyWrite 4.0 Arrives With Power

### XyWrite 4.0

A welcome upgrade for professional writers who haven't adopted a Windows word processor.

**The Technology Group Inc.,  
XyQuest Division  
410/576-2040,  
410/576-1968 (fax)  
List price: \$495, upgrade \$99  
Reader service no. 694**

You can tell a lot about people from their choice of word processing software. For example, if you've been using XyWrite, you're probably a publishing professional, perhaps a writer or editor, who values the speed of this DOS program over the graphical and ease-of-use features offered by Windows products. You're also very loyal and very patient.

XyQuest, the original developer of XyWrite, tested users' loyalty and patience by joining forces with IBM in 1991 to introduce a graphical word processor known as *Signature*. This product lacked the performance and spelling checker features of

XyQuest's previous product, *XyWrite III Plus*. As a result, many XyWrite loyalists never upgraded.

For these users, the wait is over: XyQuest, which was recently purchased by The Technology Group, has introduced XyWrite 4.0. The \$495 product (\$99 for an upgrade and \$129 if you're upgrading from a competitor's word processor) offers improvements in performance and dozens of new commands and ease-of-use features.

On the performance end, the new product supports expanded memory, which means faster scrolling through large documents. Other niceties include a multilevel undelete buffer that makes it easy to retrieve accidentally deleted text. A command stack feature stores command-line activities, so you don't have to retype long commands such as complex search-and-replace strings. The search-and-replace feature itself has also been improved; it now accepts AND, OR, and NOT commands. XyWrite 4.0 includes bookmark features that are similar to those offered by

other word processors. A save-and-resume feature enables you to save up to nine windows or documents, quit, reload, and then return to the same setup as before. Keyboard jockeys will appreciate the little things, such as the word-, letter-, sentence-, or paragraph-transpose feature that you invoke by pressing the tilde and specific number keys together.

A WYSIWYG view option borrowed from *Signature* takes

the guesswork out of formatting text and documents. This feature is particularly important because the product includes enhanced desktop publishing features that let you create borders and insert frames for text or imported graphics. A Windows-like interface features drop-down menus to help novices get up to speed. A keyboard recording feature converts keystrokes into macros.

—Randy Ross

## Mind Your Own Business Better

Let's face it: Few people start a business out of a love for balance sheets or financial statements. However, as anyone who has ever applied for financing can attest, banks and investors respond much more favorably to a well-constructed and well-conceived business plan than to plain enthusiasm and dedication.

Enter Spreadware's *Pro Forma*, an Excel add-in that uses your company's basic business information to construct pro formas (standard business financial statements). The program can also serve as a financial modeling and planning tool.

To get started with *Pro Forma*, you provide the program with basic financial information about your business. *Pro Forma* then uses this data to construct a model of your company's financial future, projecting performance during the next decade and generating detailed monthly, quarterly, or annual financial reports. If the fiscal picture looks less than rosy, you can perform quick what-if analyses. By watching how

### Pro Forma

**WINDOWS** A flexible financial modeling tool for business planning.

**Spreadware  
619/347-2365,  
619/347-6045 (fax)  
List price: \$389  
Reader service no. 692**

changes in individual expenses and revenues would affect your business over time, you can identify potential strengths and weaknesses.

Perhaps most important, *Pro Forma* handles all these tasks without asking much of you. Program installation and start-up are quick and easy. Once installed, a *Pro Forma* option appears on the Excel menu bar, providing point-and-click access to what-if analysis and reporting. You can tailor the level of forecasting or run a default model. At \$389, *Pro Forma* can put big-business-style information at the fingertips of the small-business owner.

—Richard Melville



WITH XYWRITE 4.0, you can save up to nine windows or documents, quit and reload, and return to the same configuration as before.

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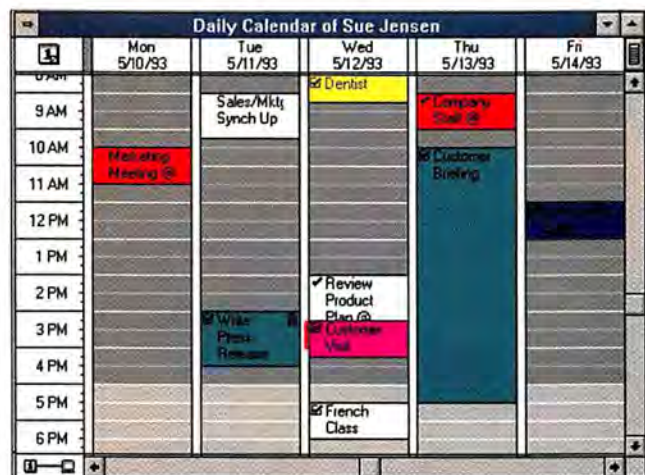
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# Meeting Maker Makes Things Happen



THE DAILY CALENDAR IN MEETING MAKER XP displays all your meetings, work activities, and personal appointments.

You might already have heard of *Meeting Maker*, the best-selling scheduling software on the Macintosh market. Now On Technology has introduced a Windows version of *Meeting Maker*.

*Meeting Maker XP* (the XP stands for *cross-platform*) runs on NetWare-networked Windows PCs and AppleTalk-networked Macintoshes where one workstation, either a PC or a Mac, is the scheduling server. It lets you keep track of your personal schedule and easily book and confirm meeting times, places, and attendees. With daily, weekly, and monthly calendar views and to-do lists, *Meeting Maker's* interface looks like the average Day-Timer.

*Meeting Maker* comes with most of the requisite features you might expect in a good group scheduler. The Propose Meeting feature lets you select a meeting time, invite guests, reserve a room, and prepare an agenda. By double-clicking on the meeting time, you can check to see who's coming, who's not, and who's not sure yet. When you want to locate a

free time slot, you can view all your colleagues' calendars at once or use the Auto Pick feature to automatically find the

## Personal Travel Guide: Don't Leave Home Without It

You started this business trip with champagne dreams and no-traffic wishes, but now they've fizzled. Your crumpled map isn't guiding you very well, and it can't help you find a store that carries the computer accessory you need or a parking garage for an unscheduled stop. *Personal Travel Guide* navigation and travel information software is designed to solve these everyday travel hassles.

To get you on the go quickly, the program uses a Windows-like interface with feature-rich drop-down menus and a helpful tool bar. Each city's database (sold separately) takes up 4MB to 5MB of space, but they can be compressed.

Using a city map is simple: To get from point A to point B, choose the Directions menu; click on your location or type it

first available slot. You can create a to-do list that prioritizes tasks and keeps sensitive appointments discreet by hiding them from view.

One thing that makes *Meeting Maker* a little different is that it can help you manage projects as well. For example, you can set up a to-do list for an entire group, delegating tasks, setting due dates, keeping notes, and tracking the status as you go. And unlike group schedulers that are limited to certain E-mail packages, *Meeting Maker* runs regardless of your E-mail system.

*Meeting Maker XP* doesn't take all of the pain out of setting up meetings, but it does make meeting making easier.

The package comes in 5-, 10-, and 50-user packs. The 5-user version costs between \$500 and \$700; prices for the 10-user and 50-user versions have not been set. Volume purchases and site licenses are available.

—Bronwyn Fryer

### Meeting Maker XP

**WINDOWS** The best-selling group scheduler on the Mac market comes to Windows.

#### On Technology

800/548-8871,

617/876-0391 (fax)

List price: 5-user version between \$500 and \$700

Reader service no. 695

in the product's organizer.

Databases should be available as of April for San Francisco, Sacramento, Chicago, Orlando, and Washington, D.C. Thirty-five more are planned by year's end. With *Personal Travel Guide*, you'll say good-bye to some of the hassles of travel.

—Laurianne McLaughlin

### Personal Travel Guide

Map and travel software with a yellow pages-like feature.

#### Personal Travel Technologies, Inc.

800/345-8501,

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List price: including one city database \$299.95, each additional city database \$149.95

Reader service no. 689

**N**ow that you're zipping right along with Windows, you don't need graphics software that will slow you down. Thank the PC gods for Graphics Works™ for Windows, the easy-to-learn, shockingly inexpensive yet surprisingly complete package that instantly removes drab from any and all documents.



One minute you're breaking open the box. The next, you're cranking out everything from serious business presentations to eye-popping posters.

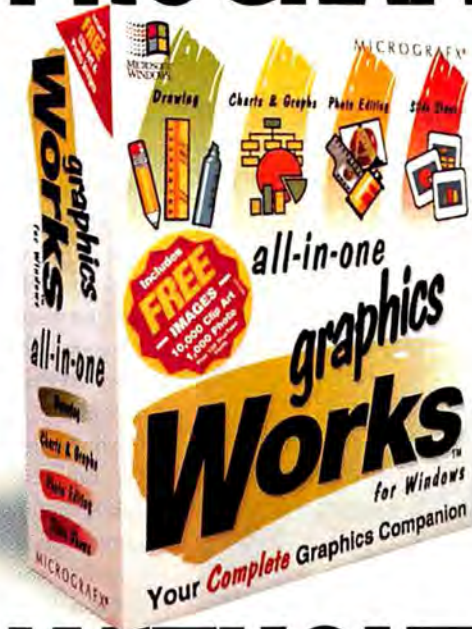
If you want a simple bar graph, no sweat. If you want a 3-D bar graph punched up with a photo or maybe a perky little illustration, no sweat. The point is that this package is so simple, you actually enjoy being creative, whether you're doing presentations, invitations, publications, posters, layouts, or logos.



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Create your own artwork with simple-to-use drawing tools. Or choose from over 11,000 photo and clip art images, many on CD-ROM, that you can easily

# LEARN A GRAPHICS PROGRAM



# WITHOUT USING GRAPHIC LANGUAGE.

customize. You can even retouch photo images right on your screen, or scan in your own. Everything works in the same no-brainer way, with one-click function selection



Over 11,000 photos and clip art images are just waiting to jump out and be used as is, or easily customized for whatever purpose you can think of.

and help screens. So you have all the tools you need to complement your Windows word processor, spreadsheets, or presentation programs. And you can start using it the minute you open the box. It's that easy. After all, Graphics Works for Windows is designed to make your documents colorful, not your language.

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For a limited time, any owner of a qualifying Windows word processor or graphics software package can upgrade to Graphics Works for only \$129, regularly \$295.

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Circle 179 on reader service card

## Remote-Control Software for Every User

Two new *Windows* products could help transform remote-control software from esoteric to invaluable. The packages let you control a PC from another one at a different location with greater ease and performance than older, non-*Windows* programs would give you. Typically, you'd use these new prod-

ucts. Microcom beefed up security by adding an event log that tracks connections, file transfers, and remote-control sessions. This feature lets you know who is logging on to your computer and what information they're accessing.

Microcom also added networking features. Version 2.0

copy and then paste to a remote application; otherwise, you'd have to send the data as a separate file. There's a unique automatic callback feature: Previously, the product requested a password, hung up, and then called a designated telephone number. This feature was great for security and for reversing phone charges, but if you were traveling, your phone number changed from hotel to hotel, and the feature was limited. A new roving option allows you to enter a password and then specify any phone number that you would like the system to call.

For high-end graphics users, the new Virtual Desktop feature makes communicating with systems sporting high-resolution displays easier. Without it, if your notebook has an 800-by-600-pixel display and dials a desktop with a

1024-by-768-pixel display, you won't be able to see the entire screen on the lower-resolution device without scrolling around, a time-consuming exercise. This new feature creates a minimized version of the high-reso-

### Carbon Copy for Windows 2.0, The Norton pcAnywhere 1.0 for Windows

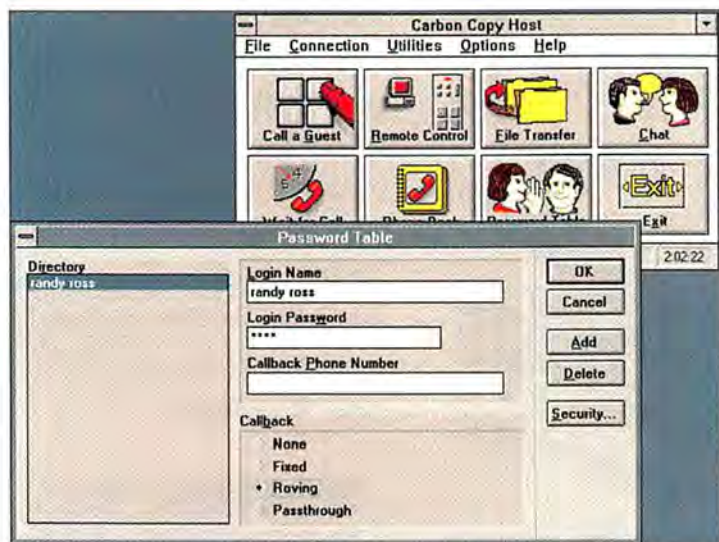
**WINDOWS** Two applications that make remote computing easy and fast.

#### Microcom

800/822-8224,  
617/551-1001 (fax)  
List price: \$199,  
upgrade \$49  
Reader service no. 696

#### Symantec

800/441-7234  
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Reader service no. 697



**CARBON COPY FOR WINDOWS 2.0** offers a callback feature that requests a password, then calls the number you've specified locally or remotely.

ucts with high-speed (9600 bps or higher) modems from a PC in your home or hotel room to access or transfer files stored on your office PC.

Microcom's \$199 *Carbon Copy for Windows 2.0* addresses many of the criticisms of the previous version. To speed up data transfers, Microcom added data compression that it claims can cut the amount of time required to send a file by half. In addition, the program improves the remote performance of DOS products by letting you exit *Windows* to run them. *Carbon Copy for Windows 2.0* is compatible with the DOS version of *Carbon Copy*, so you can dial in to (but not from) a DOS

lets you take remote control of PCs on a Novell network. This means your PC support staff can fix problems and upgrade software without leaving their desks. A separate feature lets you dial in through the network modem pool, so you won't need to have your own high-speed modem attached directly to your office computer.

*Carbon Copy for Windows* has always been easy to use, and now it's even easier. A remote clipboard lets you cut or

lution display and provides a tool that lets you zoom in on the exact area you want to see.

### pcAnywhere

Symantec's *The Norton pcAnywhere 1.0 for Windows* is a full-blown communications program offering a complement of remote-control features as well as popular terminal emulation capabilities that let you dial in to BBS's and on-line services like CompuServe and MCI Mail. It also includes its own scripting language and editor for automating common tasks. (*Carbon Copy* doesn't offer its own language, but it provides DDE linking that lets you automate tasks using other programs, like *Visual Basic*.)

Among the remote-control features *pcAnywhere* offers that *Carbon Copy* does not: data encryption that provides additional file transfer security, and a data/voice-switch feature that lets you interrupt a data session to speak with a person on the other end and vice versa.

—Randy Ross

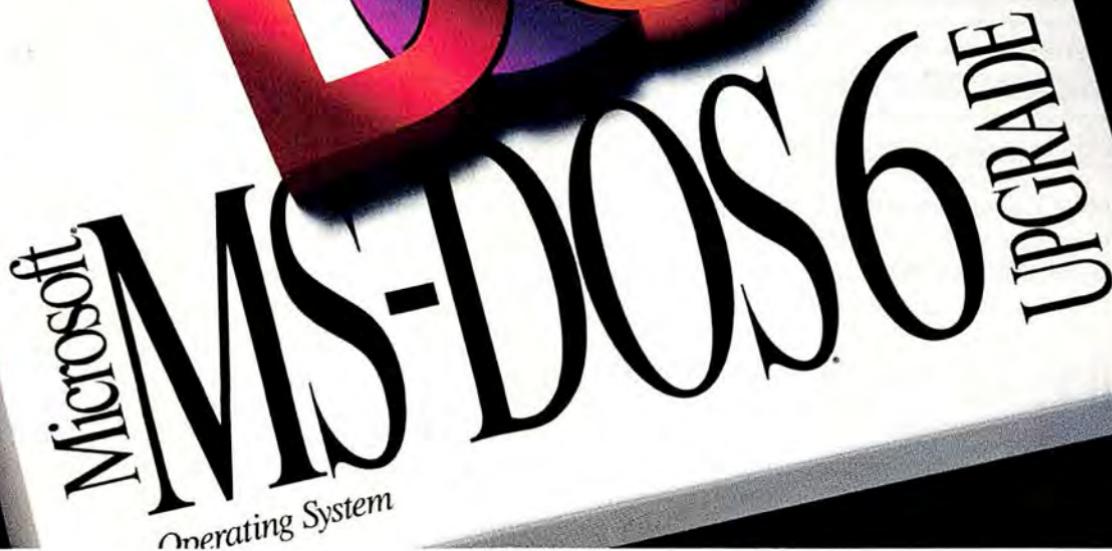


**PCANYWHERE 1.0 FOR WINDOWS'** split-screen interface simplifies file transfers.

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double your  
disk



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Operating System

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double the space.\*

All those files and applications  
you've accumulated won't cramp  
your style anymore. Now our integrated  
disk compression doubles your  
disk space. Easily. Invisibly. Safely.

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\*Compression results may vary depending on system configuration. © 1993 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. For more information: In the 50 United States, call (800) 228-7007, Dept. RX3. Customers in Canada, call (800) 563-9048; outside the 50 United States and Canada, contact your local Microsoft subsidiary or call (206) 936-8661. Microsoft and MS-DOS are registered trademarks and Windows is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation.

## The Complete PC Offers Voice, Data, and Fax Messaging on Your PC

Have you ever wanted voice mail for your small business or home office? According to 'The Complete PC, its \$199 plug-in card can turn your desktop into a messaging system that puts corporate voice-mail systems to shame.

The Complete Communicator EZ lets you create a greeting message that directs a caller to one of up to 999 private elec-

tronic mailboxes. These password-protected mailboxes store messages—voice as well as fax and data—on your hard drive. The greeting message tells callers which keys to press on a touch-tone phone, depending on the type of message they want to send, such as a fax or an E-mail document. You can even set up the system to distinguish between incoming fax and

voice calls and to route them accordingly.

If you're often on the road, the Communicator can keep you linked to home base in several ways. You can retrieve messages remotely in the usual way by entering a password on a touch-tone phone. If your phone system has Three-Way Calling, however, the Communicator can instantly transfer incoming calls to a forwarding number, such as your car phone's. You can also program the Communicator to send an alert to a forwarding number upon receipt of a message. You can even call in from a hotel or other remote location, check for received faxes, and retrieve them by entering a forwarding fax number.

The Communicator's software runs in the background in Windows or in DOS, freeing up the computer for other tasks. If

### Complete Communicator EZ

A complete voice-data-fax messaging system on an ISA half-card.

#### The Complete PC

800/229-1753,  
408/434-0145,  
408/434-1048 (fax)

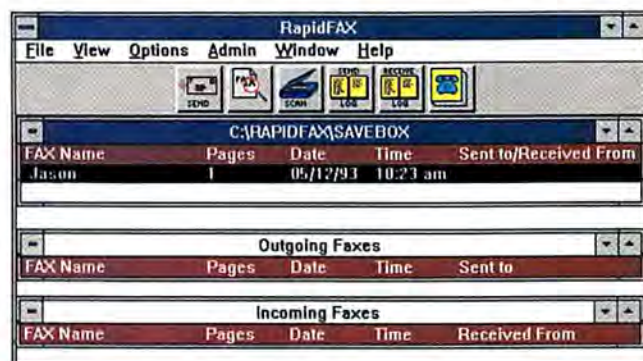
List price: \$199

Reader service no. 698

you have Caller ID, the system will display the caller's number on the PC before answering the phone, so you can tell the system to ignore the call.

A large hard disk is recommended, especially for systems that have many voice-mail boxes, since each minute of a voice message takes up 200K to 250K of disk space. The Communicator's program requires 1.5MB of disk space.

—Bryan Hastings



**COMPLETE COMMUNICATOR EZ**, a \$199 voice-data-fax plug-in card, includes RapidFax software for sending and receiving faxes from within your Windows applications.

## Drop-Fax Documents With DataFax

If you use a Windows-based fax program, you soon discover how convenient it is to whip off a fax of a document from within an application: Simply click on the print command. But printer users discover an associated inconvenience. They have to switch the printer driver each time they change between sending faxes and printing.

Trio Information Systems' \$79 DataFax lets you bypass that cumbersome step with the Captive icon. Ever present in your screen's upper right corner, this icon lets you box off a portion of any document of any Windows application, attach a fax address, and send it off

without selecting the fax device. Want to send a complete file? You can drag it from Windows' File Manager and drop it onto the icon. Another unique element to DataFax is its hypertext engine, which indexes every word contained in outgoing faxes—useful for people who want to keep an easy-to-search file of what they've sent without jamming their hard drives with huge fax files.

Simpler faxing doesn't mean fewer features. DataFax has an extensive cover sheet editor that lets you import graphics and place them wherever you want on the cover sheet. It has an optical character recognition

system that automatically converts incoming faxes into text you can edit in your word processor. Converted faxes can be exported to any of 12 common application formats, including 1-2-3 and WordPerfect 5.1, preserving the original page layout, typefaces, and font sizes.

If you do a lot of international traveling, DataFax begs a closer look. If you enter the name of your current location—for example, Paris, France—the program automatically adds the necessary country, area, and long-distance dialing codes to your existing phone book numbers. It will even generate cover sheets in the language of the

country based on the country code of the phone number.

DataFax supports the Class I, Class II, and CAS fax protocols.

—Bryan Hastings

### DataFax

**WINDOWS** Simplifies faxing by letting you drop document files onto an icon.

#### Trio Information Systems Inc.

919/846-4990,  
512/795-8035

List price: single-user version without OCR \$79, single-user with OCR \$129, network with five users \$595

Reader service no. 699

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Operating System  
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UPGRADE

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OVER A LOT LESS.**

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Now integrated disk compression easily doubles the space on your hard disk.\*\* And our improved memory management gives you

more free memory. In a snap.

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\*Offer good only in the 50 United States. Reseller prices may vary. \*\*Compression results may vary depending on system configuration. © 1993 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. For more information: In the 50 United States, call (800) 228-7007, Dept. RX3. For information only. Customers in Canada, call (800) 563-9048, outside the 50 United States and Canada, contact your local Microsoft subsidiary or call (206) 936-8661. Microsoft and MS-DOS are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation.

# Introducing PC Tools Just think of it

[1]

## Organize and simplify your work.

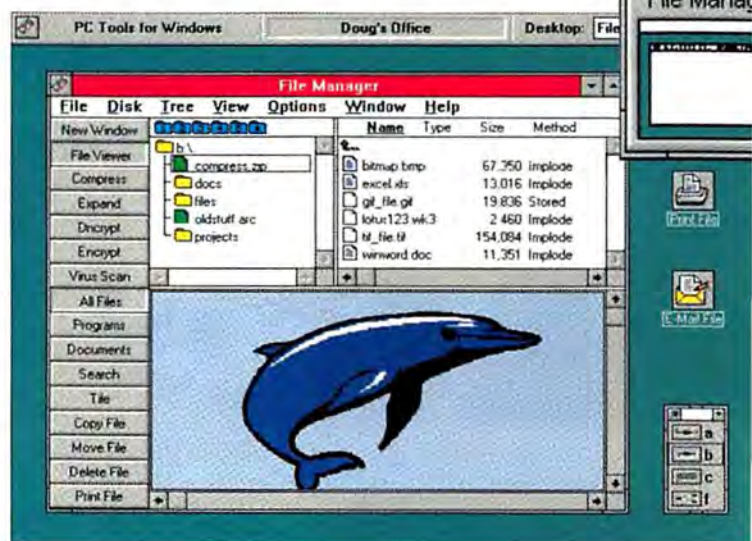
Our unique MultiDesk desktop manager lets you put related applications, folders and files into their own separate desktops. Set up as many desktops as you like, then switch between them instantly. It all adds up to a less cluttered, more productive Windows environment that works like you do.



[2]

## Improve the speed and efficiency of common tasks.

Our integrated File Manager has advanced drag-and-drop capabilities that let you quickly locate, view, copy and print files. With over 75 viewers, you can scan files (including compressed PKZIP data) without having to open their applications first. Hate to turn off your PC because you don't want to set everything up again? Our DeskSaver feature solves that problem too.



Windows® is a great product. And someday, it'll be even better. But why wait?

New PC Tools™ for Windows® is here right now. It saves you time, reduces clutter and gives you easy access to all the functions and files you use most often. In fact, PC Tools for Windows is so innovative that after reviewing it, the editors of

PC/Computing asked, "Who needs Macs?"

For starters, there's our unique MultiDesk™ desktop. MultiDesk is an intuitive desktop manager that lets you organize your work by creating as many desktops as you need for your projects, tasks, or clients. So, if you spend the day switching between many different projects, you won't lose anything in the clutter.

Ever misplaced a file or couldn't remember its

\*Our buyers said we could run this headline if we make the following absolutely clear: Windows is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation. PC Tools for Windows is the sole product of Central Point Software, Inc. Microsoft, Central Point, PC Tools, MultiDesk, WinShield, Speed Keys, System Consultant, and DiskFix are trademarks of Central Point Software.

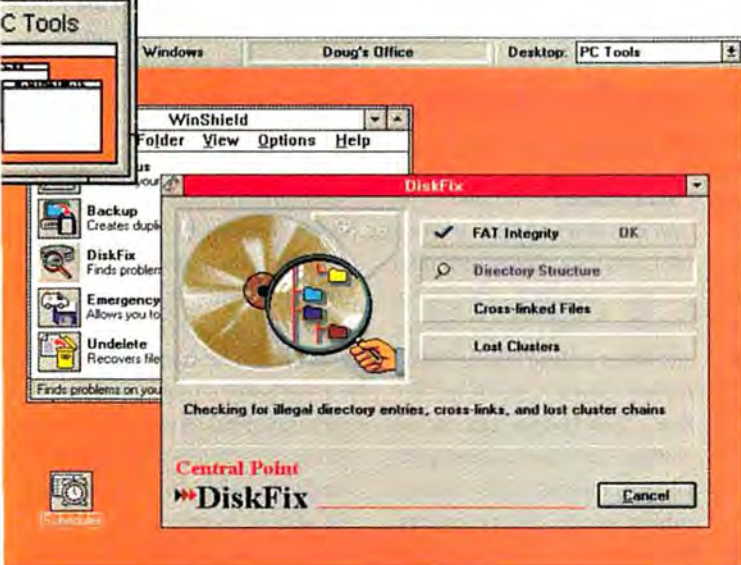
# ols™ for Windows.® as Windows 4.0.\*



[3]

Enhance your system's performance.

System Consultant™ performs over 400 system checks and provides recommendations for improving your PC's performance. Our Disk Optimizer can automatically defragment your hard disk at prescheduled intervals, or on command.



[4]

Automatically protect your data.

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name? Our File Manager lets you quickly view files without having to load the program first. Tired of cryptic, abbreviated file names? Now you can attach long file names to your data to keep things clear and simple.

We also created Speed Keys™ so you can take shortcuts through Windows, and System Consultant that gives you specific tips for improving system performance.

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## Konexx Koupler Model 305

"%\$=&, I forgot the modem!" If you're a road warrior, you're probably all too familiar with that curse. When you're away from home or the office, one of your biggest data communication headaches is remembering to take all the equipment with you. Unlimited Systems' new acoustic coupler gives you one less thing to worry about—it comes with a built-in fax-modem. The Model 305 coupler accommodates most telephones' handsets, and its internal modem exchanges E-mail at 2400 bps and faxes at 9600 bps. The user straps the coupler to the handset and plugs the coupler cable into a laptop's serial port. The coupler's modem runs off a 9-volt battery. The Model 305 has a suggested price of \$299. Unlimited Systems, 800/275-6354, 619/277-3305 (fax).

Reader service no. 721

## Expense It 2.1

This DOS application helps you keep on top of your business expenses and can fill out your expense reports automatically. *Expense It* lets you define how you organize and track expenses and gives special attention to IRS reporting requirements. The program comes with 8 predefined expense codes (such as hotel accommodations, meals, and auto mileage) that comply with IRS regulations. You can change these or define up to 16 more to match the expense codes to your company's expense report terminology or, if you're self-employed, to the deductions on your tax return. The program provides three forms for printing out your expenses in portrait or landscape mode with some



**THE KONEXX KOUPLER Model 305 comes with a built-in fax-modem. You strap the coupler to the phone handset and plug the coupler cable into your laptop's serial port.**

user-definable variations, but you can also use the Custom Definition feature to make it print them onto your company's expense report form. For a fee (usually around \$250), On The Go Software will design the template for you. You can transfer data into ASCII, WK1, and QIF files. In addition, the program links with Sharp's Wizard electronic organizer. *Expense It 2.1* has a list price of \$129.99. On The Go Software, 714/489-4050, 714/489-1797 (fax).

Reader service no. 709

## DigiBoard 2Port

The 2Port is designed for *Windows* communications and remote access to LANs. It increases throughput by using two serial ports built for high-speed communications at up to 115 kilobits per second (kbps). In addition, the card features an Intel 80186 microprocessor to relieve the host CPU of communications tasks such as background file transfers. The 2Port is useful for branch offices that frequently call in to the corpo-

rate LAN. Its serial ports help remote users get the most out of their V.32bis modems, which offer communications speeds up to 57.6 kbps (using V.42bis data compression). This product includes drivers for *Windows 3.1* and *Windows for Workgroups*. Additional drivers are in the works for *Windows NT*, *NetWare*, *OS/2*, and *LAN Manager*.

The 2Port costs \$299. DigiBoard, 800/344-4273, 612/943-9020, 612/943-5398 (fax).

Reader service no. 713

## Aldus Gallery Effects: Classic Art, Volume 2

**WINDOWS** Volume 1 of *Aldus Gallery Effects* excited users with its ability to render ordinary scanned images in charcoal, watercolor, mosaic, and other artistic effects. *Aldus Gallery Effects: Classic Art, Volume 2* has 16 new effects, including bas relief, colored pencil, patchwork, rough pastel, rubber stamp, photocopy, and notepaper. You can apply these effects directly from the program, but it also works as a plug-in module within *PhotoStyler*, *Fractal Design Painter*, and any *Windows* image-editing program that uses *PhotoStyler*-compatible plug-in filters. All the effects in the \$99 *Classic Art, Volume 2* are customizable. You can alter the settings to get exactly the level of Glowing Edges or Diffuse Glow that you want. You can also apply an ef-

fect to an entire image or just a portion, combine effects to create new looks, and preview an effect before applying it to an image. Aldus Corp., 800/888-6293 ext. 2, 619/695-6956.

Reader service no. 710

## Q-DOS Collection

Why should you buy four or five separate utilities, each costing \$70 to \$100, when you could get all of them in one package for \$179? The success of utility collections like *PC Tools* and *Norton Desktop* proves that many users have decided they shouldn't. Now Gazelle Systems has bundled its three separately sold utilities, added some extras, and created *Q-DOS Collection*. As the name implies, Gazelle's DOS shell, *Q-DOS*, is *Collection*'s main draw. One of the oldest and most established DOS shells around, the version of *Q-DOS* included in the collection allows you to view files stored in *WordPerfect*, *1-2-3*, *dBASE*, and a few other popular formats. *Q-DOS Collection* also includes Gazelle's *Back-It* for floppy and tape backups and its *OPTune* disk optimizer. The *Collection* versions of both of these products sport improved mouse support. To these established products Gazelle has added a disk cache, and a virus scanner that can find, but not repair, infected files. A multilevel menu system ties all of these programs together. Gazelle Systems, 800/786-3278, 801/377-1288, 801/373-6933 (fax).

Reader service no. 711

## SyDOS 88 Extra

Users of SyDOS's 44MB removable cartridges can now move up to a higher-capacity drive without losing their in-

vestment in their 44MB media. The SyDOS 88 Extra, an enhanced version of the 88MB SyDOS 88 removable-cartridge subsystem, both reads and writes to 44MB SyQuest cartridges. (The previous SyDOS 88 drive could not write to 44MB cartridges.) The average seek time of the 88 Extra is 20ms; effective access time is as low as 9ms, according to the company. Users of SyDOS 88MB drives can upgrade to the 88 Extra by calling 800/437-8367. Those with SyDOS 44MB drives can get the 88 Extra from resellers, retailers, or for a limited time directly from SyDOS. The 88 Extra is \$999 for the internal model, \$1069 for the external. SyDOS, 800/437-9367, 407/997-0924 (fax).

Reader service no. 714

## FaceLift 2.0 for WordPerfect

This upgrade to Bitstream's font-scaling utility for *WordPerfect* offers 10 more Bitstream typefaces, bringing the number of typefaces to 26. It offers faster printing—up to 50 percent faster than the previous version, according to Bitstream. Users can now add shadows and fill patterns to typefaces and choose from 40 scalable patterns. There's enhanced network support; *FaceLift* runs under NetWare, NetWare Lite, LANtastic, VINES, 3COM, and LAN Manager. The new version supports color printers and will run on up to 14 printers on a network—twice the number previously supported. *FaceLift 2.0* costs \$99; registered users of versions 1.0 and 1.5 pay \$39.99. Included are 20 winter holiday fonts (Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, Valentine's Day, and a set of snow-capped letters) and a package of specialty paper for

laser printers. A set of 20 additional typefaces is available to upgraders for \$20. Bitstream, 800/522-3668.

Reader service no. 717

## Dynodex for Windows

**WINDOWS** Previously available only for the Macintosh, the *Dynodex* contact manager now makes its *Windows* debut. *Dynodex* keeps all its data in RAM, so it takes less time to locate phone numbers, names, and addresses. Two other distinguishing features are *Dynodex*'s shorthand keys and automatic capitalization, which conserve keystrokes and reduce entry time. The shorthand keys fill in commonly used words—say, a state name—after you type the first identifying letters. Also, *Dynodex*'s Select function is multilevel, so you search using two words at once—for example, you could search company fields for both *software* and *California*. *Dynodex* prints pages that fit into popular personal organizers, including Day-Timers and Day Runners. It also prints mailing labels, Rolodex cards, and envelopes. *Dynodex* costs \$89.95. Portfolio Software, 800/729-3966, 408/252-0420.

Reader service no. 718

## ImagePals 1.2

**WINDOWS** This upgrade of *ImagePals* supports more file formats than before and offers new features such as much improved image editing, which lets you paint, retouch, and merge images, and OLE support, which lets you bring images into *Windows* programs such as *Word* and *Excel*. *ImagePals* allows you to organize graphics files and capture images. It sorts graphics files into

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## Quick Takes



PIXAR TYPESTRY 1.1 is a powerful 3-D type and logo design tool. Text tools let you move, size, skew, and rotate entire objects.

albums—helpful for organizing business projects or presentations. To locate a file, browse through thumbnail images or use the program's search/sort feature. *ImagePals 1.2* supports 15 additional file formats, including CGM, DXF, MAC, PCD, PCT, and WPG. You can import images from scanners, video boards, and photo CDs. For presentations, a new slideshow feature lets you link images with a variety of transition effects. *ImagePals 1.2* costs \$249, but registered users can upgrade for \$29. U-Lead Systems, 800/858-5323, 310/523-9393, 310/523-9399 (fax).

Reader service no. 704

### Pixar Typestry 1.1

**WINDOWS** For the last word in 3-D type manipulation and logo design, Pixar offers *Typestry 1.1*. Users enter text, select a 'TrueType' or 'Type 1' typeface, and click to build a rudimentary wireframe version, turning the characters into a three-dimensional object. The product's text tools let you move, size, skew, and rotate either the entire object or individual characters. Once you

have the shape, you pick a look—metal, wood, marble, tortoiseshell, and so on—for the text, floor, and wall, and set a degree of opacity. There is a separate menu that lets you choose front and backlights, shadows, and special effects, including zoom or fish-eye lens, motion blur, and animation. A final click renders the image in TIFF, BMP, PS, TGA, or RIB format. Since rendering is a lengthy procedure, *Typestry* offers a low-res Quick 'n' Dirty option, a somewhat slower and more accurate Reasonable rendering, and, for final output, an Excellent 'n' Slow version, which performs exactly as advertised. *Typestry* files export smoothly into *Photoshop*, *PageMaker*, and *QuarkXPress*, making the program ideal for fliers, newsletters, and presentations. For viewing animations, the \$299 *Typestry* ships with a runtime player of Autodesk's *Animator*. Pixar, 800/888-9856, 510/236-4000, 510/236-0388 (fax).

Reader service no. 722

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

### Over the Counter

What you pay for popular PCs  
(without monitors)

n/a = not applicable

#### 386-based desktop PCs

ALR Flyer SC 3/33s	i386SX-33	2	80	\$799	\$690
AST Bravo 3/33s	AMD386SX-33	4	120	\$1495	\$1369
AST Power Premium 3/33 <sup>1</sup>	i386DX-33	4	210	\$3095	\$2668
Compaq Deskpro 3/33i	i386DX-33	4	120	<sup>2</sup>	\$1448
DEC DECpc 333sx LP	i386SX-33	4	52	\$999	\$999
HP Vectra 386s/25	i386SX-25	2	84	\$1699	\$1400
IBM PS/ValuePoint 325T	IBM386SLC-25	2	80	\$889	\$889

#### 486SX-based desktop PCs

AST Bravo 4/33s	i486SX-33	8	213	\$1995	\$1824
Compaq ProLinea 4/25s	i486SX-25	4	240	<sup>2</sup>	\$1168
Epson America Progression 486SX/25	i486SX-25	4	240	\$2299	\$2000
FastMicro ValueLine 4SX/25	i486SX-25	4	85	\$799	\$799
Gateway 2000 4SX-33	i486SX-33	4	170	\$1325	\$1325
IBM PS/2 Model 85 XP 486 <sup>3</sup>	i486SX-33	8	212	\$4260	\$3827
NEC PowerMate 486SX/25i	i486SX-25	4	120	\$2049	\$1754
Samsung DeskMaster 486C/25	Cx486SLC-25	2	200	\$1382	\$1382
ZDS Z-Station 433Sh	i486SX-33	4	200	\$1820	\$1820

#### 486DX-based desktop PCs

AST Bravo 4/66d	i486DX-66	8	210	\$2895	\$2646
Compaq ProLinea 4/33	i486DX-33	4	240	<sup>2</sup>	\$1542
DEC DECpc 486d2 LP	i486DX-66	8	245	\$2599	\$2599
Dell 466/M	i486DX-66	8	320	\$2950	\$2950
Gateway 2000 4DX2-66V	i486DX-66	8	340	\$2425	\$2425
Hyundai 466D2	i486DX-66	8	360	\$2745	\$2745
IBM PS/2 Model 95 XP <sup>3</sup>	i486DX-50	16	400	\$11,995	\$10,646
IBM PS/ValuePoint 433DX	i486DX-33	8	120	\$1369	\$1369
Insight 486DX2-66	i486DX-66	4	210	\$1780	\$1780
Zeos 486DX-33	i486DX-33	8	245	\$2095	\$2095

#### Portable PCs

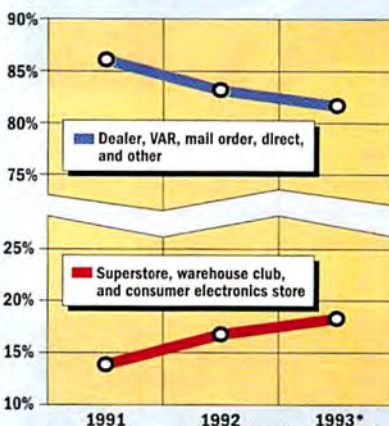
AST PowerExec 3/25SL	i386SL-25	4	60	\$2395	\$2095
Compaq Contura 3/25	i386SL-25	4	120	<sup>2</sup>	\$1591
Dell 320SLi	i386SL-20	2	80	\$1849	\$1849
Dell Dimension NL25	i386SL-25	2	80	\$1599	\$1599
Gateway 2000 Nomad 420SXL	i486SX-20	4	80	\$1995	\$1995
Gateway 2000 Nomad 450DXL	i486DX-50	8	200	\$3295	\$3295
HP 95LX	NEC V20-5	1	n/a	\$799	\$583
Hyundai Courier Spectra	Cx486SLC-25	4	120	\$2999	\$2999
IBM ThinkPad 700	IBM486SLC-25	4	80	\$2750	\$2564
NEC UltraLite SL/20	i386SL-20	2	80	\$1699	\$1453
TI TravelMate 4000WinDX	i486DX-25	4	120	\$3299	\$3026
Toshiba T3300SL	i386SL-25	2	80	\$2299	\$2035
Toshiba T4400C	i486SX-25	4	120	\$3999	\$3550
ZDS Z-Note 325Lc	i386SL-25	4	120	\$3277	\$3277

From a national survey of more than 180 dealers by International Data Corporation. Figures are based on at least four price quotes for each machine. Prices are based on manufacturer's standard configuration without monitor.

<sup>1</sup> Uses EISA bus. <sup>2</sup> No list price available. <sup>3</sup> Uses MCA bus.

### PC Buyers Seek Alternatives

PC unit sales by channel



Increasingly, PC buyers are purchasing from alternative sources such as superstores and warehouse clubs. That trend is expected to continue: The number of systems sold through these channels will jump by 4 to 5 percent in 1993, says David Rines, a distribution channels analyst at International Data Corporation, a Massachusetts-based market research company.

\*Projected

Source: International Data Corporation

### Corporate Buyers Are Fastest-Growing Customer Group

Who's buying at superstores and warehouse clubs



Corporate customers (those from mid- to large-size companies) represent the fastest-growing segment of buyers at superstores and warehouse clubs. Corporate buyers will keep shopping at these outlets in the future because they offer quick access to PCs from favorite vendors at bargain prices, says John Dunkle, president of WorkGroup Technologies, a market research company in New Hampshire.

\*Projected

Source: WorkGroup Technologies



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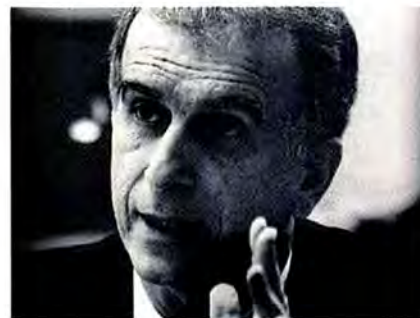
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compression

memory management

# DOS 6

backup

The latest DOS is brimming with goodies, from built-in file compression to an antivirus program. While DOS 6 is not revolutionary, you will probably find that you can't live without it.

Here's my humble suggestion for the DOS 6.0 ad campaign: "Attention, Microsoft shoppers. Step right up to purchase your copy of DOS 6.0, the one-stop answer to all your operating system and utility program needs."

# Do You Need It?

Sure, it's not exactly Microsoft's style, but neither is this version of DOS. After all, the last new DOS, the exquisite 5.0, featured major revisions to the core of the operating system—changes that made the old versions obsolete.

Version 6.0 is more problematic. It has some highly visible new features, and the appropriate amount of time has passed since the last release. But despite the new and improved features, 6.0 may not create the sort of upgrade frenzy that propelled version 5.0 to the top of the charts for the better part of a year.

This isn't to say that DOS 6.0 doesn't have valuable new capabilities. It does. For the first time, DOS is able to compress files (increasing hard disk capacity), defragment files (to speed things up), and protect the system against viruses. And memory

**By Van Wolverton**

GORDON STUDER

antivirus

management, a welcome but tedious do-it-yourself addition in DOS 5.0, now does its thing without requiring any fine-tuning of CONFIG.SYS.

But compression, defragmentation, and the rest are available elsewhere from dozens of third-party utility vendors (see "The Fate of the Third-Party Utilities"), and many serious users have already souped up their systems with these handy tools. Further diminishing demand, users are basically satisfied with version 5.0 (except for the usual grouching about the inadequacies of DOS itself). Besides, most interesting software developments in the last couple of years have been in *Windows* programs. A lot of systems start up in *Windows* these days; the only time the DOS prompt sees the light of day is in that flash between *Windows*' disappearance and the collapse of the screen when the power is switched off.

#### Utilities Lead the What's-New List

The most ballyhooed additions in version 6.0 are four utilities, three of which Microsoft licensed from Symantec and Central Point Software. (This strategy began in DOS 5.0 with Undelete, which was licensed from Central Point.) These programs display their own screens, let you drive using either the keyboard or the mouse, and feature menus, dialog boxes, and other text-based trappings that mimic a graphical user interface. They give DOS capabilities formerly available only from other vendors—the most successful of which, curiously enough, are the very same Symantec and Central Point Software.

Microsoft is particularly proud of DoubleSpace, a utility that integrates file compression into the operating system and more or less



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doubles the capacity of a hard disk. The amount of compression depends on the size of your hard disk and the kind of files you use, among other factors. When asked to compress a 72MB hard disk that contained nearly 30MB of mostly program files, DoubleSpace managed a ratio of 1.5 to 1, compressing the 30MB to roughly 20MB. With a 32MB hard disk that was almost filled, primarily with *Microsoft Word* and *PageMaker* documents, the compression ratio jumped to 1.9 to 1—about 17MB.

Though DoubleSpace doesn't offer all the features available in

## DOS 6's Greatest Hits

Microsoft is touting DoubleSpace—its version of file compression—as DOS 6.0's hottest feature, because everybody wants more disk space. For many users, Microsoft may be right. But if you're already using *Stacker* or some other file compression program and you're happy with it, DoubleSpace might not move you. In fact, if you've grown accustomed to *PC Tools Deluxe*, *The Norton Utilities*, or some other collection of utility programs, you may not be overwhelmed by any of the new add-ons. Depending on what you need or what you've been waiting for, however, you may find other gems lurking in DOS 6.0.

#### Pick Your Favorites

If you add new programs or peripherals to your system fairly regularly, the selective start-up capabilities might rank near the top of your list. If you're responsible for main-

taining the CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files on other machines, you'll be downright delighted with these new features.

If you're one of the millions of people with a disability, the AccessDOS package available on the DOS Supplemental Disk might be the most valuable feature an operating system has ever offered you.

If you spend a lot of time at the C: prompt writing batch files and using DOS commands to manage your filing system, you could build a strong case for the new CHOICE, MOVE, and DELTREE commands.

Dedicated *Windows* users might well prize the *Windows* incarnations of the Backup, Undelete, and Anti-Virus utilities above all. These versions have the same capabilities as their DOS counterparts plus the advantage of a consistent (and simpler) user interface.

So here's one user's top ten list. Remem-

ber, though, it's subjective, just like pop music or movie charts. Your preferences will vary; use these numbers for reference only.

1. New commands: *I'm a keyboard nut*
2. New on-line help: *I hate cracking the manual*
3. Backup for DOS: *Anything to encourage me to back up my files*
4. MemMaker: *It does a better job than I can*
5. AccessDOS: *Should have happened sooner*
6. DoubleSpace: *Would be higher, but I've got plenty of disk space*
7. Undelete for *Windows*: *Works smoothly*
8. Backup for *Windows*: *It works fine, but I generally use the DOS version*
9. Anti-Virus for DOS: *Glad it's here, but aren't viruses overhyped?*
10. Anti-Virus for *Windows*: *See 8 and 9*

file compression utilities such as *Stacker* from Stac Electronics, it does perform as advertised, nearly doubling hard disk capacity without significant loss of performance. Installation is straightforward, although initial compression might take an hour or two for a large (several-hundred-megabyte) hard disk. DoubleSpace installs a 51K TSR program—which can run in upper memory—that intercepts every request to read from or write to a disk. That means once DoubleSpace is installed, most users probably won't have to run it again. Out of sight, out of mind—just the way you want this sort of program to work.

### Backing Up's Not Hard to Do

If running DoubleSpace is a one-time affair, Microsoft Backup—a licensed version of *Norton Backup* from Symantec—is more of a weekly or even a daily proposition. Like DoubleSpace, it isn't as feature rich (or as fast) as its commercially available counterparts, but it's simple enough to run. Backing up the files and directories, for instance, requires just a few keystrokes (or mouse clicks).

Microsoft Anti-Virus, licensed from Central Point, scans files for known viruses. It's fast and easy to use, scans network disks as well as local ones, and includes an extensive database of known viruses. Central Point Software plans to sell periodic updates to the database to maintain protection. The program's memory-resident counterpart, VSafe (requiring 44K of RAM), monitors system memory for suspicious activity.

Closing out the new utilities is another Symantec license, Microsoft Defragmenter, which rearranges files so that they're stored contiguously. This eliminates the fragmentation of disk storage into many small areas and can speed up your system.

Two other additions to DOS 6.0—MemMaker and an on-line help facility—act like separate utilities even though they're not. MemMaker automates the memory management capabilities introduced in version 5.0. One frustration with DOS 5.0 was having to make sure CONFIG.SYS contained just the right commands in just the right sequence to make best use of all available memory. It was tough to get it all right. MemMaker takes that tedious task out of your hands.

On-line help has been greatly expanded into a separate facility with its own idiosyncratic interface. Enter HELP, and you'll see a contents screen that lists every command, plus some other topics. Each entry includes a detailed description, complete with examples and hints for use and hypertext-type links to related commands and information. You can start directly with a command's detailed description—which might be several screens long—by entering HELP followed by the command's name at the DOS prompt (the more limited help offered by DOS 5.0 is still available; just type the command name followed by /?).

### A Lot of Finallys

Quite a few of DOS 6.0's new features come under the *finally* category. For example, finally we've got some control over the start-up process so we can escape those tiresome edit CONFIG.SYS/restart/edit CONFIG.SYS/restart cycles. Two new start-up options are available: Pressing <F5> or holding down <Shift> at the 'Starting DOS' message tells DOS to start without processing any of the commands in CONFIG.SYS or AUTOEXEC.BAT. Pressing <F8> tells DOS to prompt you for the go-ahead before carrying out single commands in CONFIG.SYS, or AUTO-

## What's Still Missing?

It seems churlish to complain about what's missing from DOS even as we celebrate long-overdue additions. But as DOS improves, Microsoft must deal with the rising expectations of users who forget how far we've come since version 1.0.

For example, everyone would like to see a more forgiving command interpreter. In this age of fuzzy logic, blindingly fast processors, and virtually unlimited memory, it should be possible for an operating system to figure out that when you type DOR \*.BAK you really mean DIR \*.BAK.

And how about a file viewer? Even if Windows lacks one, the DOS Shell doesn't, so it can be done. If Microsoft doesn't have time to write one, why doesn't it follow its own precedent and license LIST, a shareware program that probably has millions of users. (It's time that LIST's author, Vern Bueg, made some real money, anyway.)

What about low-speed peer-to-peer networking that uses the standard serial or parallel port? Nothing fancy, just file and printer sharing at the leisurely speeds those ports can handle.

### Wanted: Respectable Batch Language

Power users long for a more respectable batch language that offers minimal BASIC-like features, patterned after the macro languages in Windows products. At a minimum, we'd like true IF... THEN... ELSE and CASE statements; the ability to put command strings in the keyboard buffer for DOS or an application program; the ability to edit text files; and a more flexible way to solicit, interpret, and use keyboard input than CHOICE provides.

And this is really ungrateful: Now that DOS includes a set of utility programs, how about integrating them more gracefully into the operating system, at least so they share the same user interface. The utilities licensed from Symantec (Backup and Defragmenter) look and feel different from those licensed from Central Point (Undelete and Anti-Virus). It would be comforting—and simpler—if they all presented the same face to us.

EXEC.BAT in its entirety. These expedients should put an end to your scrambling to find the emergency start-up disk when a change to CONFIG.SYS or AUTOEXEC.BAT keeps DOS from booting.

And finally, DOS lets you define multiple configurations and pick one at start-up. This multiple-configuration feature is particularly handy if you've got too many device drivers and favorite TSRs, plus a network and who knows what else that just won't fit into memory.

And finally, version 6.0 introduces some commands that DOS should have included long ago:

CHOICE, a batch command, waits for a reply and sets errorlevel to match the key pressed, making interactive batch files possible. (Code for short assembly language programs with similar capabilities has been standard fare in magazines and books for years).

MOVE moves a file to a different directory or disk. It, too, has been simulated with batch files for nearly a decade but is welcome nonetheless. Best of all, MOVE adds the long-needed ability to rename a directory.

DELTREE deletes a directory and all its files and subdirectories and *their* files and subdirectories and so on. This command speeds file housekeeping chores but is dangerous enough to warrant special care when used.

#### Now DOS Does Windows

**D**OS 6.0 acknowledges the existence of *Windows* more directly than any previous release. A DOS 6.0 Setup program option lets you install *Windows*-specific versions of the Undelete, Anti-Virus, and Backup utilities. They offer the same capabilities as their DOS counterparts but are easier to use—the *Windows* interface gives them greater consistency.

There are even a couple of DOS 6.0 features that portable-computer users can call their own. Interlnk is a file transfer utility, something like Traveling Software's *LapLink*, for transferring files from one computer to another, typically from a portable to a desktop. (DOS doesn't include the cable that comes with *LapLink*, so it's not quite as complete a solution.) Power is a device driver that conserves battery power. It's most effective on computers that conform to the Advanced Power Management (APM) specification.

Installation is pretty much unchanged from version 5.0; not quite



**DOS 6.0'S BACKUP UTILITY** may not be as feature laden or speedy as some commercially available utilities, but it's very easy to use.

a no-brainer, it still requires only a relatively painless 10 minutes or so. (Installation also requires a blank disk so that Setup can create an Uninstall disk you can use to restore your previous version of

## The Fate of the Third-Party Utilities

**A** healthy segment of the software industry earns its keep selling utility programs that enhance, expand, and otherwise make up for DOS's shortcomings. Now that Microsoft has expanded DOS to include the more popular utilities, what's to become of utility software companies? Does DOS 6.0 mark the beginning of the end for them, or is it just another challenge to overcome—or even an opportunity to grow? And what can their products offer to users that DOS 6.0 doesn't do as well or better?

Most of the utility companies have reacted similarly to DOS 6.0: They've been on the road since early this year, assuring major distributors and customers that their products still offer a significant advantage over DOS. In many cases they're right, because Microsoft is offering a basic capability, aimed at the lowest common denominator of computer user. Those accustomed to tweaking the last ounce of performance from their system probably won't be satisfied without the most sophisticated utilities.

It's almost as if the utility companies banded together and agreed on a response: "We're not alarmed, we're excited, because Microsoft has legitimized the market for..." Fill in the blank with whatever type of utility that vendor sells. "Microsoft's entry," they

continue, "will increase customer awareness of this kind of utility. In fact, we expect our sales to increase significantly, especially when we release our new version of the program shortly after DOS 6.0 is released."

Some of these assessments may be accurate. Utility libraries, for instance, may prove less vulnerable to competition from DOS 6.0 than individual utilities. Symantec (*The Norton Utilities*) and Central Point Software (*PC*

view the new DOS utilities as a stimulus to utility program sales.

PC-Kwik Corporation made its reputation selling a disk cache program (*PC-Kwik*, later *Super PC-Kwik*) that revved up hard disk performance. Its current flagship product, *Power Pak*, adds a host of other performance-enhancing utilities, including a disk defragmenter, a screen accelerator, and a keyboard accelerator. Of course, DOS now includes a

How will it all turn out? Are Stac, Symantec, Central Point, and the other utility vendors being realistic, or are they simply whistling past a graveyard, a blip in the path of the Microsoft juggernaut?

*Tools Deluxe*) both offer extensive collections that not only have more individual utilities but also outperform the utilities DOS 6.0 offers. (After all, these companies licensed the utilities to Microsoft; who better to know a program's limits and shortcomings?)

Symantec has announced version 7.0 of *The Norton Utilities*, adapted for DOS 6.0. Central Point Software says it plans no specific response to DOS 6.0 but will adapt to any changes the new operating system might require. Neither company expressed great concern about the competition, preferring to

disk cache (SMARTDRIVE), and the DOS 6.0 utilities compete directly with some of *Power Pak*'s other elements, but PC-Kwik insists that its utilities "are far more fully developed than their DOS 6.0 counterparts." Furthermore, PC-Kwik predicts its technical support will be superior, because when DOS 6.0 comes out with all the new utilities, "Microsoft is going to be buried."

Makers of individual utility programs may have a tougher time competing, especially because users will view DOS 6.0's offerings as free versions of the same thing. But these

DOS, should you want to revert.) Most of DOS 6.0's goodies will be installed whether you want them or not, but you get to decide about three utilities—Backup, Undelete, and Anti-Virus. If you want them, you need to decide whether to install DOS-only, *Windows*-only, or both versions. This isn't a trivial decision; those utilities eat up a lot of disk space (the numbers in the chart at right come from a late prerelease version but should be virtually unchanged in the shipping product).

The other DOS files require 4,200,000 bytes. Installing both *Windows* and DOS versions of these three utilities brings the total to 7MB on your hard disk. (Remember the PC/XT, released at the same time as DOS 2.0? It had a 10MB hard disk.)

#### Is This DOS 6.0 or DOS 5.1?

Version 5.0 appealed to us because it was smaller than version 4.0 (in memory, not on disk), faster, and it didn't crash as often. It offered a raft of new features (memory management was the big draw), and it just *felt* right. From the user's standpoint, version 5.0 represented a paradigm shift, a revolutionary change from the dated technology of version 3.3 and the slough of despond called DOS 4.0.

## DOS 6.0 Utilities: Space Needed

	Windows version only	DOS version only	Both versions
Backup	884,736	901,120	1,785,856
Undelete	278,528	32,768	278,528
Anti-Virus	786,432	360,448	1,032,192
<b>Total storage</b>	<b>1,949,696</b>	<b>1,294,336</b>	<b>3,096,576</b>

Disk space in bytes.

To most users, though, version 6.0 will probably look like an incremental improvement over version 5.0. If any new feature stands out, it's probably the add-on utilities as a group, with DoubleSpace leading the pack (see "DOS 6's Greatest Hits").

Which brings us to the question, Do you need it? The answer depends largely on the sort of applications you use routinely, the

companies, too, are counting on longer lists of features and superior performance to maintain their customer base.

#### Stac Fights Back

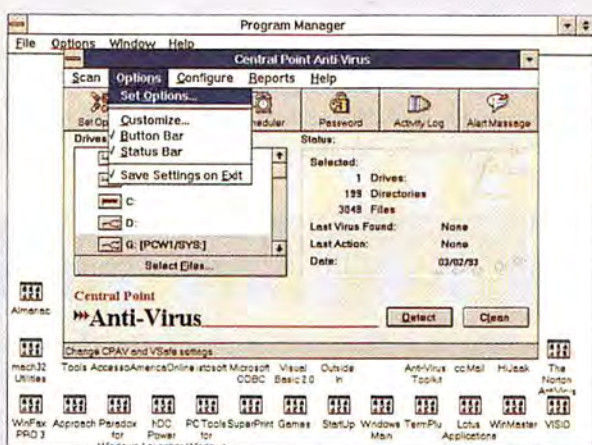
The most widely used file compression program is *Stacker* from Stac Electronics. Because Microsoft is pushing DoubleSpace so hard and because file compression is Stac's only business, Stac has reacted more strongly to DOS 6.0 than the other utility makers. Claiming that Microsoft has violated two patents relating to data compression, Stac is suing for treble damages and has asked the court for an order "permanently enjoining Microsoft" from infringing the Stac patents.

But Stac also has taken pains to emphasize to its customers that *Stacker* is superior to Microsoft's DoubleSpace. *Stacker* can take advantage of the changes made to DOS 6.0 to accommodate DoubleSpace, the company says, and integrate with DOS in a way that makes it even safer and easier to use than before. Stac also claims that *Stacker* compresses data more effectively than DoubleSpace and points out that the hardware version of its product increases performance 100 percent.

Fifth Generation Systems, makers of the best-selling backup program *Fastback Plus*,

notes that DOS 6.0's Backup backs up to floppy disks only, ignoring the needs of all those who back up to tape drives, WORM drives, and other high-capacity devices. Fifth Generation, too, is relying on superior features and performance to keep its product moving.

Memory management has been a hot item for several years, with Quarterdeck (*QEMM386*) slugging it out with Qualitas (*386Max*). DOS 5.0 added some rudimentary memory management, but DOS 6.0 makes the feature much more attractive by automating the process. Both *QEMM386* and *386Max* emphasize their ease of use, trying to make the process as painless as possible. I found DOS 6.0's Mem-Maker to be pretty painless as well, but Qualitas describes Microsoft's memory management as "dated technology" and claims that *386Max* "consistently provides more available conventional memory—40K to over 100K more." Like nearly every vendor I spoke to, Qualitas looks for DOS 6.0 to raise customer



CENTRAL POINT LICENSED A VERSION OF ANTI-VIRUS for use in DOS 6.0 but continues to market the program on its own.

awareness, eventually winning a significant number of converts for its product.

How will it all turn out? Are these companies (and others) being realistic? Or are they simply whistling past a graveyard, a blip in the path of the Microsoft juggernaut? Chances are the universe of DOS users is so large that any utility with superior performance and features will find enough believers to survive and even prosper. For users right now, the news is good, as Microsoft pushes the utilities folks to release truly imaginative, useful products... or perish.

utilities you already have, the proportion of time you use *Windows*, and how much memory and what size hard disk your system has.

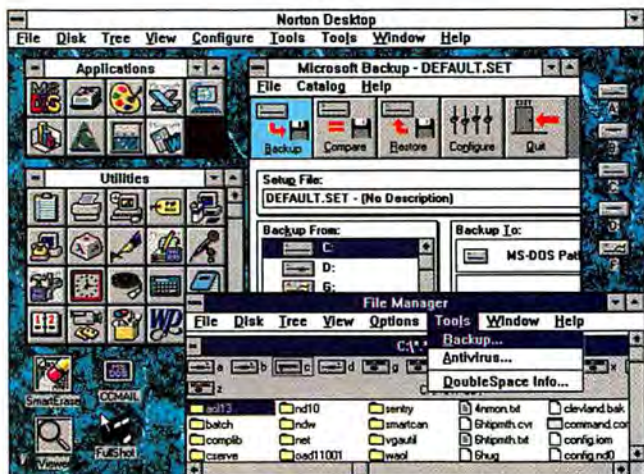
If you're a big-time *Windows* user, you should probably upgrade right away. The *Windows* versions of the utility programs are handy, but even more important, Microsoft continues to improve the coordination between *Windows* and DOS. Recent releases of both *Windows* and DOS have included new versions of the extended-memory manager (HIMEM.SYS), disk cache (SMARTDRV.EXE), and mouse driver (MOUSE.COM). Each of these releases has sped up *Windows*, which needs all the help it can get.

If your system has limited memory and a small hard disk (less than 100MB) and you don't already have a collection of utility programs, you should upgrade just to take advantage of DoubleSpace's file compression and MemMaker's memory management.

If you're a power user, maestro of the command line, composer of masterwork batch files, impresario of an eclectic mix of offbeat devices and obscure programs, you, too, should upgrade right away. The multiconfiguration option alone should be sufficient inducement. Besides, you've got to move to the newest version, if only because so many novices rely on you.

If you're a novice, comfortable with an application program or two but not wise to the ways of DOS and not even sure what a utility program is, you should upgrade. You'll get better memory management than you had with DOS 5.0, the utility programs are easy to use and should prove helpful, and the on-line help just might encourage you to explore the operating system. Plus, your local guru probably has the newest version.

For the rest of you, if you're comfortable with the way things are working now, there's no compelling reason to upgrade. The price is right—the upgrade is \$49.95 until May 31. And this version certainly won't be a step back like the DOS 4.x upgrade was. But you



**DOS 6.0 ADDS A TOOLS MENU TO FILE MANAGER** so you can launch the *Windows* versions of Backup and Anti-Virus.

probably won't miss anything important by sticking with DOS 5.0.

Will I upgrade? You bet. My reward for installing six different beta versions and sending in all that paperwork is one free copy of the released version. If I didn't get a free copy, would I upgrade anyway? Yes. My computer is a tool, and DOS 6.0 adds a few tricks to its repertoire. Sometimes evolutionary change is enough.

*Van Wolkvort is a freelance writer and author of Running MS-DOS, Sixth Edition (Microsoft Press, Redmond, Washington, 1993).*

#### WHERE TO BUY

MS-DOS 6.0  
Microsoft Corp.  
206/882-8080  
Pricing: \$49.95 until May 31,  
\$129.95 thereafter  
Availability: immediate  
Reader service no. 727

## Software Becomes More Accessible—And Affordable

**B**uried in the back of the DOS 6.0 manual is a reference to something called AccessDOS, a collection of utilities that makes DOS more accessible to people with disabilities. Among other things, these programs let you:

- type <Shift>, <Ctrl>, and <Alt>-key combinations in sequence, using one finger instead of two or three
- adjust the character-repeat rate or turn off character repetition entirely
- control the mouse pointer with the keyboard
- simulate keyboard input and mouse movements with an alternate input device

Other utilities ignore accidental keystrokes, display a message that corresponds to sound cues such as warning beeps, and provide alternate keyboard layouts for both hands, left hand only, and right hand only.

You'll find the AccessDOS programs on the MS-DOS Supplemental Disk, which also includes programs and data files from earlier versions of DOS that have been omitted from DOS 6.0. You can order the Supplemental Disk directly from Microsoft using a coupon bound in the back of the MS-DOS 6.0 user guide or by calling Microsoft customer sales and service at 800/426-9400 (voice) or 206/635-4948 (text telephone). The cost is \$5 to cover postage and handling.

If you have a modem, you can download the AccessDOS programs from PC World Online's Featured in May folder, CompuServe, GENie, Microsoft Online, or the Microsoft Download Service (MSDL). To reach MSDL, call 206/936-6735 anytime except between 1 and 2:30 a.m. Pacific time; set your communications parameters to 8-N-1, up to 9600 bps.

Microsoft has also improved accessibility for the visually impaired. You can get the DOS 6.0 manual (as well as documentation for other Microsoft products) on audiotape or floppy disk from Recording for the Blind in Princeton, New Jersey.

If you have the program manual on audiotape, you can use an ordinary cassette player or one that is modified to play back at a faster rate without distorting the sound. If you have the book on floppy disk, there are programs available that use a sophisticated search engine to find topics of interest; these programs can be hooked to other programs that either display the output in very large letters or use a voice synthesizer to read the contents.

Contact: Recording for the Blind, 20 Roszel Rd., Princeton, NJ 08540; 800/221-4792, 609/987-8116 (fax).

# Gateway Just Went Platinum...



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*If Gateway 2000 was a record, what would we sound like? Music to your ears!*

### **Those Old-Time Country Values –** *by The Low Overheads*

Our album would kick off with some great Country tunes because, after all, we're the original country PC company with the low-overhead prices. We're located

# Country

in the heartland of America where our factory is bordered by corn and bean fields. KSUX country radio, the Super Pig, is the number one station in these parts (no fooling). Gateway folks are mostly midwest born and raised, and it shows in our quality workmanship and in the friendly, down-home way we treat our customers. We'll bend over backwards to please you. When you buy from Gateway, you get the best price, quality and service. That's a value nobody can beat.



### **Gimme the Good Stuff –** *by Hammer and the Boys*

This song is dedicated to everybody who's tired of new technology becoming affordable only after it's upstaged by something better. At Gateway, we offer the latest, newfangled technology at homespun prices.

### **Baby, Let Me Baby You –** *by The Support Group*

Every Gateway 2000 system comes with excellent after-the-sale support. You get a **30-day money-back guarantee**. If you don't like your system, send it back within 30 days for a refund. All systems come with a **one-year limited warranty** and telephone **technical support** for the life of the system from our award-winning tech department. We received *PC World's* World Class Award in 1992 for best service and support in the hardware category. And in a February 1993 survey, *PC Magazine* readers once again gave Gateway an excellent rating for service and reliability. You also get an **automated fax service** to supply you with detailed documentation on over 150 technical subjects, and a **lifetime BBS membership** for additional technical support and online forums.

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*To serve you better, we've hired and trained over 600 new people for customer service, technical support, sales and manufacturing in the past six months, bringing our total number of employees to over 2,000.*



# Because We're Playing Your Song!

If Gateway 2000 was a record, we'd be receiving a platinum award – thanks to all of our wonderful customers. Our one-millionth computer system was shipped in April from our factory in North Sioux City, South Dakota. A million is a number that's hard to fathom. At least it is for us.

We send our deepest appreciation to each and every Gateway customer. Thank you for believing in us. We've tried hard to always offer you the best value in the personal computer industry. We've succeeded in meeting this goal, although we're the first to admit that demand for the value we offer has sometimes overwhelmed us. We thank you for the understanding and patience you've shown during our growth spurts.

We also want to thank our remarkable vendors – the companies that supply us with the highest-quality, most technically-advanced components, software and peripherals, and those that provide support services. Gateway 2000 has been a most demanding customer, and they deserve a lot of credit for our success.

Now our goal is to make the next million even better, one computer and one customer at a time!





*Our award-winning  
4DX2-66V system  
now includes a  
CD-ROM drive and  
a 3.5-inch diskette drive  
as standard features.*

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# ROCK

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inside™

## We Got the Goods – by The Systematics

Gateway's album would continue with some heart-pounding rock 'n roll cuts because our systems are definitely pure rock. They're cool-looking, hot-performing, high-energy machines – at some sweet prices. There's a model that's perfect for you.



## Megahertz So Good – by Pup and the Cells

Gateway's mini-desktop systems – 3SX-33, 4SX-33 and 4DX-33 – are petite but plenty powerful, based on an integrated design that incorporates many subsystems on the motherboard for the best price-performance ratio. All mini desktop systems include: 4 to 8MB RAM; a large and fast hard drive, operating on the local bus in 486 models for even faster drive performance; a fast video chipset with 1MB; a brilliant, crisp display from the standard 14-inch CrystalScan non-interlaced color monitor; and more available expansion slots than you find in most small-footprint PCs. The combination of these features makes a cool Windows machine for an unbeatable price.

## So You Wanna Fly? – by The Screamin' Vs

Power users, pick up the phone and order a Gateway 2000 VESA® local bus 486 machine right now. You'll never regret it. With our 4DX2-50V or 4DX2-66V models, you get screaming PC performance. We put ATI's Graphics Ultra Pro video card with 1MB VRAM on our VESA local bus for results that are simply awesome! Plus these systems have a hefty 8MB RAM with cache, and hard-rockin' hard drives running on the local bus. An extra VESA local bus expansion slot as well. You get a 15-inch flat, square CrystalScan color monitor and more choices of cool application software than you'll find anywhere else. Our award-winning 4DX2-66V now includes a CD-ROM drive, too!

*We custom-build each Gateway 2000 computer to your order. We'll gladly provide you with a quote on a special configuration. Call our sales department!*



## Big Bandwidth Boogie – by The Gates

If you're looking for the 32-bit power of an EISA system, we offer three models – 4DX-33E, 4DX2-50E and 4DX2-66E. All models include: 8MB RAM with 256K cache; a very large, very fast SCSI hard drive; 32-bit EISA SCSI controller; and a standard tower case. Please call for details and prices on models not listed on our price page.

## Workin' Up Some New Riffs – by The Harmonics

This one's our theme song. At Gateway, we're always looking for ways to make your PC easier and more fun to use. For example, we now install a Mach 32 video driver icon in your Windows control panel so you can change your video resolution quickly and easily.



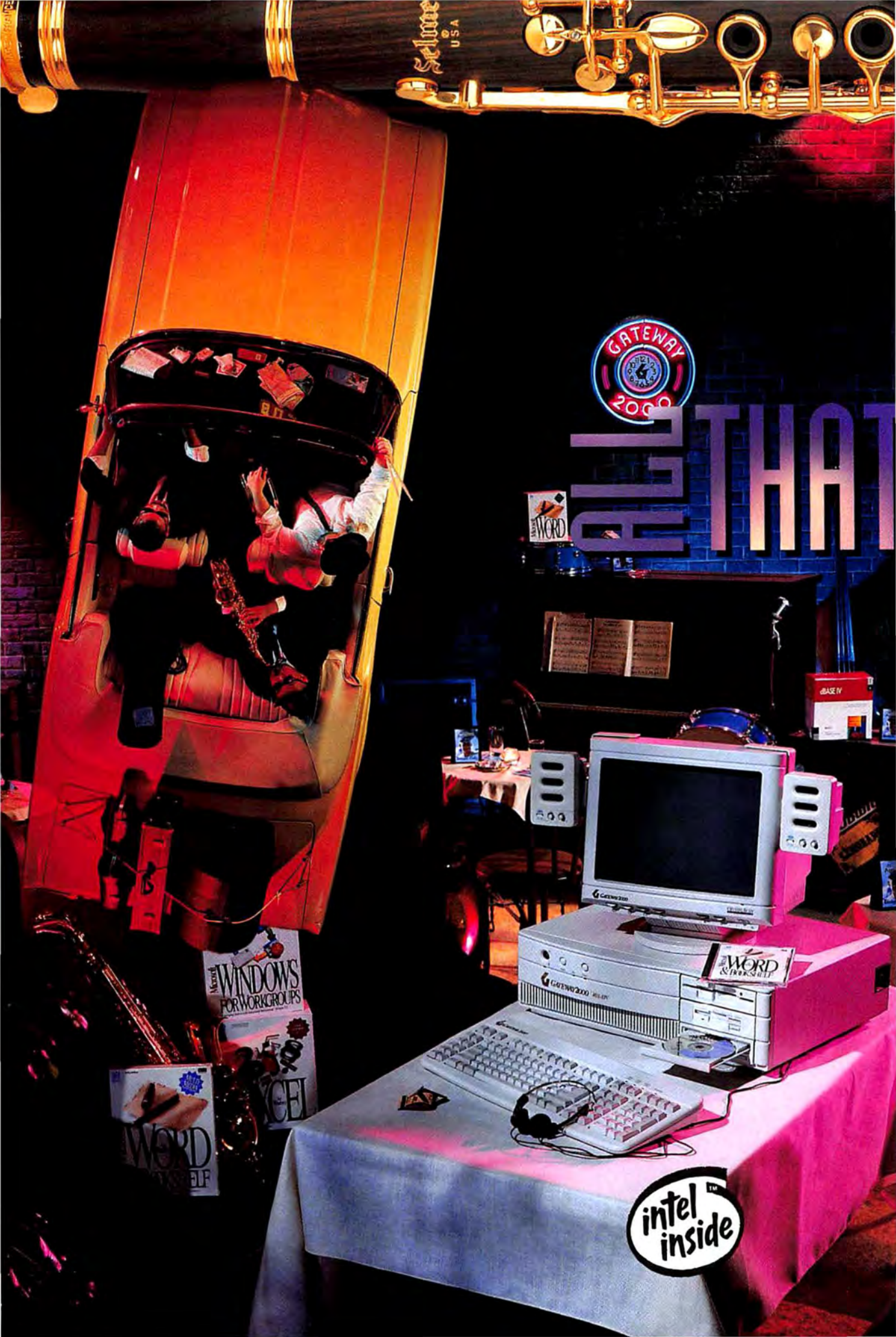
*All Gateway systems go through extensive compatibility testing to ensure flawless performance with all products from major software developers and peripherals manufacturers.*



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According to PC World, "(Gateway 2000's 4DX2-66V is) by far the fastest machine we've ever tested!"



THAT





## Windows to the Other Side – by Tommy Gee

Gateway's album would also include jazz favorites because we offer a complete line of software and peripherals to make your system extra cool.



## Software Improv – by Good Vibes

All Gateway systems come with some very hip software, all pre-installed and ready to run the moment your PC arrives. With mini desktop, desktop and tower systems that include "choice of application software," you get to pick one of the following applications, all latest versions:

- Microsoft® Excel for Windows™
- Microsoft Word for Windows™
- Microsoft Word and Bookshelf 92® CD
- Microsoft PowerPoint for Windows™
- Microsoft Project for Windows™
- The MS Entrepreneur Pack (Works,™ Publisher,™ Money,™ and games)
- Borland Paradox® for Windows™
- The Windows Programmer Pack (MS Quick C,™ Visual Basic and more)
- Upgrade to Microsoft Office™ for \$175 (CD-ROM Edition also available)

Gateway's 4DX-33V is shown here with Windows Sound System components, the CD-ROM kit and optional speakers. Call for details on this system.

## New Sensations – by The Cool Tools

New this month is the introduction of Microsoft MS-DOS® 6 plus Enhanced Tools, standard on all Gateway systems. Microsoft says it's "the best version of MS-DOS yet." MS-DOS 6 includes features that can increase hard drive capacity, protect your data, free up memory – and much more.

## Moovin' Up – by The Upgrade Express

For a limited time, Gateway customers can upgrade to MS-DOS 6 for only \$48, plus \$5 shipping and handling. You get a complete set of disks and a manual for this special price. To order, call our express upgrade number—800-846-2037 – or fax us your order at 800-846-2038. We need your customer ID, credit card information, and your choice of 3.5-inch or 5.25-inch disks to place your order. Special price offer ends May 31, 1993.

*The software and peripherals listed here are sold only with the purchase of a system.*

*For details on our complete line of extras for Gateway customers, call direct to our special add-on components division:  
800-846-2080.*



## Connectivity – by The Local Area Group

**TelePath™ Fax/Modem.** A 14,400bps modem, V.32bis, with 9,600bps fax capability. Includes WinFax Pro, Crosstalk for Windows, Qmodem. \$195

**Network Cards.** Call for a selection of Ethernet cards and Token Ring adapters, installed and configured.

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## WOW – by Talking Pictures in Motion

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**Microsoft Windows Sound System.™** Package includes sound board, microphone, headset and software. \$149

**Multimedia Accessories.** Call for details on other multimedia hardware and software.

*We offer many other system options and upgrades, including 17" and 20" monitors, tape backup units, Texas Instruments laser printers, Panasonic dot-matrix printers, bigger hard drives, other software and more. Call today!*



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- MS-DOS 6, Diags, Windows & Mouse
- MS Works for Windows 2.0

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### 4SX-33V

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- 15" Color CrystalScan 1572FS
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- 8 16-Bit ISA Slots, 2 on VL-Bus
- 124-Key AnyKey Keyboard
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- Choice of Application Software

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### 4DX2-66E

- 66MHz 486DX2 Intel Processor
- 8MB RAM, 256K Cache
- 5.25" & 3.5" Diskette Drives
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- 32-Bit EISA SCSI Controller
- Intel OverDrive Socket
- Windows Accelerated Video w/ 1MB DRAM
- 14" Color CrystalScan 1024NI
- Tower Case
- 8 32-Bit EISA Slots
- 124-Key AnyKey Keyboard
- MS-DOS 6, Diags, Windows & Mouse
- Choice of Application Software

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### Software Options

With systems that include "choice of application software," pick one from this selection:

- Microsoft Excel for Windows
- Microsoft Word for Windows
- Microsoft Word and Bookshelf 92 CD
- Microsoft PowerPoint for Windows
- Microsoft Project for Windows
- The MS Entrepreneur Pack (Works, Publisher, Money and games)
- Borland Paradox for Windows
- The Windows Programmer Pack (MS Quick C, Visual Basic and more)

You can also upgrade from MS Works to a choice of software for \$100, or upgrade from these choices to MS Office for \$175.

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Every Gateway 2000 system is backed by:

- 30-Day Money-Back Guarantee
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*All hard drive sizes are manufacturer's specified capacities. Microsoft MS-DOS 6 can increase hard drive capacity through software compression.*



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the best view is the one from CompuServe Information Manager for Windows.



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# DANGER AT YOUR

The routine act of typing can lead to debilitating pain, hours of physical therapy, even surgery.

Just how great is the risk?

**A**n epidemic is crippling the American worker. It's called repetitive strain injury, and it can attack anyone who spends the day tapping away at a computer keyboard. It's a plague that doesn't discriminate, striking administrative assistants and executives alike. The common denominator is the computer, which by simplifying everyday tasks, has insinuated itself into all aspects of our work lives. We use computers to write to-do lists, prepare reports, communicate with co-workers, and crunch numbers. In short, we can't live without

# FINGERTIPS

**of serious injury to your hands, wrists, and arms? And what can you do about it?**

them. But our heavy reliance on personal computers has exacted a price.

Mike Hughes, a 32-year-old Merrill Lynch vice president and frequent business traveler, now has difficulty with such simple tasks as carrying his briefcase or hoisting his luggage into the overhead compartment in an airplane. Joan Lichterman, an editor of 20 years, can't type for ten minutes without intense pain. And as I compose this article, I am forced to dictate my sentences into a tape recorder. I can't touch a keyboard or pick up my kids. Each of us suffers

from a repetitive strain injury (RSI) as a result of extended computer use.

"Nerve entrapments, tendon problems, and muscle strain all fall under the RSI rubric," says Dr. David Rempel, director of the Ergonomics Laboratory at the University of California at San Francisco. The symptoms range from persistent aches in the forearms and wrists to pain that extends from the shoulder to the fingertips.

And unlike a head injury or a heart attack, RSI is a cumulative trauma. What begins as a sore arm can, if left untreated, escalate into a full-

**By Roberta Furger**

ARNOLD TIENSE



blown disability. Days, weeks, months, and years of typing gradually take their toll, until eventually you can't type anymore. Although the pain usually affects the dominant hand first, it's common to wind up with problems in both hands. "There'll be some trouble in the right wrist, so the left hand gets used more, and you wind up with a mirror image set of problems," says Robert Markison, hand surgeon and associate clinical professor of surgery at UCSF.

### Epidemic Proportions

The numbers are staggering. The Bureau of Labor Statistics identifies ergonomic disorders as the most rapidly growing category of work-related illness. In 1992 they accounted for 56 percent of illnesses reported to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). That compares with only 18 percent in 1981 and 28 percent in 1984. (Although there are no precise figures on the rate of injury among office workers, the dramatic rise in cases coincides with the proliferation of computers in today's offices.) The loss to U.S. business is phenomenal. One severe case of carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS), can cost \$100,000 in medical and administrative

normal duties. "But after only half an hour of typing I was in screaming pain," she recalls. Although the surgery prevented further deterioration, Lichterman had already suffered permanent nerve damage before she began receiving effective treatment for her injury. She continues to work full time using DragonDictate, a PC-based voice recognition system from Dragon Systems, which she uses to edit articles, write reports, handle correspondence, and perform every other task she used to handle with a keyboard.

Ironically, especially conscientious and productive workers are often most severely affected: those who work through lunch, volunteer for overtime, and take on extra projects—in short, the ones who do whatever it takes to get the job done.

Take Mike Hughes. Before developing CTS, Hughes thought nothing of working ten straight hours on a critical report and then lifting weights or going bike riding for two hours. "I was in great shape," says Hughes. "I wasn't expecting a wrist injury. My feeling was, I was not going to get hit with anything like this."

But get hit he did. An ill-placed keyboard and long hours of typing without breaks took their toll. "It had been a heavy week of typing," he recalls. "The next day I went out and did a bunch of gardening, then woke up that night with classic symptoms: shooting pain up the arm and numbness in the fingers." Hughes underwent treatments, none of which solved the problem. Finally, he had surgery on his left wrist in February 1992. "It was a rude awakening," says Hughes.

In many respects, Hughes was lucky—a success story of sorts. With the help of an assistant to whom he dictated reports, he never missed a day of work and is gradually regaining full use of his hand.

### Seeking the Cause

Why the dramatic rise in injuries? Health and safety professionals, doctors, ergonomists and physical therapists point to a variety of factors. Among the generally accepted culprits are

poorly designed workstations with keyboards placed too high, ill-fitting chairs, stressful conditions, and extended hours of typing.

Unlike workers in yesterday's typewriter-equipped offices, today's users work at the keyboard for hours at a time, never varying their activity. "Twenty years ago, people did many tasks; they went to the copy machine, got something out of the filing cabinet, or hit the carriage return," says Rempel. "Now you can do everything from your computer."

But human bodies aren't meant to remain in a sedentary position, nor is the hand designed to be suspended over a keyboard all day, says Markison. He believes that extended use of "inappropriately designed keyboards has accelerated the aging process." The hands' natural, comfortable position, according to Markison, is "handshake position, palms facing each other."

"What would happen if I took you out of this position where you're happy," he asks, "and told you to twist your forearm in a palm-down position and crook your wrist over to the little finger side? In effect, I'm asking you to stretch your muscles and tendons and stay like that, sometimes for hours at a time. Why in the world

**I was in great shape. My feeling was, I was not going to get hit with anything like this...it was a rude awakening.**

*Mike Hughes*

*Vice President, Merrill Lynch*



expenses and lost productivity. Blue Cross of California, a heavily computerized insurance firm, spent an average of \$20,000 on each of 30 RSI claims in 1990, according to Ellen Ignatius, manager of health and safety. Multiply that figure by the potentially thousands afflicted each year throughout the United States and you have a glimpse of the dimensions of the problem.

### The Toll

But statistics tell only part of the story. Lives are thrown into turmoil by these injuries. Many people are forced to curtail or stop regular activities as their days become dominated by doctors' appointments and physical therapy sessions. Ultimately many RSI victims are left with no choice but surgery. Among CTS sufferers, for example, surgery has become commonplace. Although the procedure has a success rate of roughly 80 percent, patients generally undergo a lengthy post-operative rehabilitation, and some never regain full strength and use of their injured hand. Lichterman, for example, underwent surgery in both wrists for CTS in 1989 and 1990. After a year of rehab, she went back to work, expecting to resume her

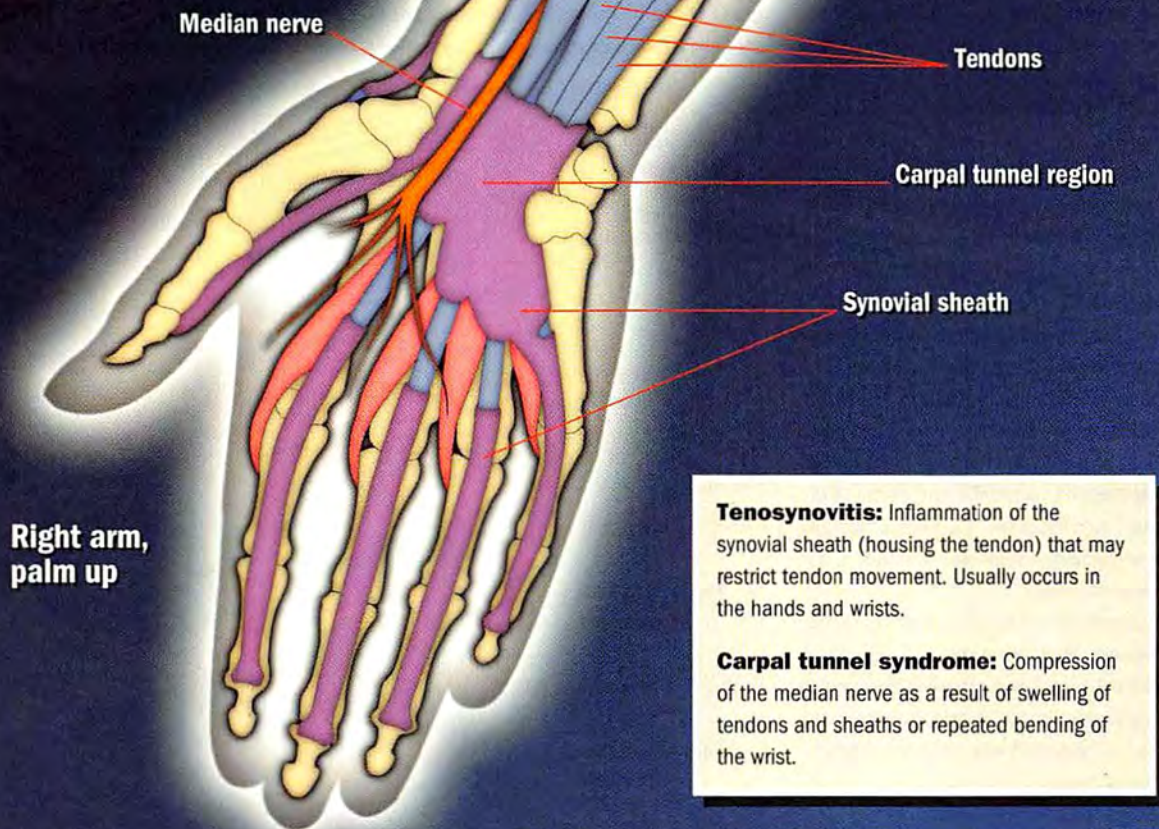
## Trouble Spots

Repetitive strain injuries encompass damage to the muscles, tendons, and nerves. Areas most commonly affected are the hands, wrists, and arms (although the neck and shoulders can also be involved). Among PC users, these injuries generally result from uninterrupted typing with awkwardly situated or inappropriate equipment, such as a keyboard placed too high or an ill-fitting chair. The most common RSIs afflict the areas shown.

**Tendinitis:** Inflammation and swelling of the tendons. Areas affected can include the hands, wrists, or arms.

**Epicondylitis (tennis elbow):** Irritation of the tendons connecting the forearm muscles to the elbow joints.

**de Quervain's disease:** A form of tendinitis, affecting certain tendons connected to the thumb.



**Tenosynovitis:** Inflammation of the synovial sheath (housing the tendon) that may restrict tendon movement. Usually occurs in the hands and wrists.

**Carpal tunnel syndrome:** Compression of the median nerve as a result of swelling of tendons and sheaths or repeated bending of the wrist.

would anyone design an interface like the computer keyboard?"

That's the most controversial question surrounding RSI. Is the keyboard design to blame for this spate of injuries?

#### Legal Remedies

Many sufferers believe it is and have sought to prove their contention in court. Hundreds of lawsuits are pending, alleging that keyboard manufacturers, computer companies, and systems integrators sold inherently defective equipment. Among the defendants are PC giants IBM and Compaq, both of which refuse to comment on the litigation or the claims that keyboards have caused injuries.

While named parties are hesitant to comment, lawyers for the companies will likely share a common defense: The keyboards themselves are not the cause of the injuries. Rather, it's how they are being used that causes undue strain.

Because such groundbreaking lawsuits require a staggering amount of research, Judge Jack Weinstein of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York has consolidated the cases, allowing plaintiffs' attorneys to share critical findings in the initial stages of the case. Defense attorneys are fighting the consolidation, however, and an appeal is pending.

Many observers predict a flood of RSI lawsuits over the coming

months. "The number of plaintiffs will very likely go into the thousands by the end of the year," says Neal Taslitz, president and founder of The BackCare Corp., a Chicago-based company specializing in ergonomic products and consulting services. An attorney by trade who closely follows the debate surrounding computer-related injuries, Taslitz argues that by ignoring the problem, the computer industry is partly to blame for the spate of lawsuits: "There's a real tendency by people in the industry just to say, 'Let's not pay any attention to the problem.'"

Industry representatives are quick to contest these charges, however. "We're actively looking at alternative keyboard designs," says Compaq public relations representative Hedy Baker. "But since the cause of the injuries is unclear, we don't know if any of these new designs will provide a solution."

Compaq and other computer companies, including Apple and IBM, have begun funding research into the causes of RSI.

Many in the legal community compare the current activity surrounding RSI injuries and the claims against manufacturers to the product-liability lawsuits waged against asbestos manufacturers.

"The biggest contrast between this and asbestos is that a lot of asbestos clients were catastrophically damaged," says Frank Fernandez, an attorney with the Oakland, California, law firm Kazan,

## Snake Oil or Savior?

Since the days when they roamed the countryside in wagons hawking snake oil to gullible rubes, peddlers have preyed on the pain and fear of the sick. Today, in response to the RSI epidemic, dozens of companies have entered the booming market for ergonomic computer accessories.

Can these products prevent or alleviate the damage caused by long hours at the keyboard? Or are they Rube Goldberg devices, complex machinery of little usefulness? We asked experts who treat repetitive strain injuries. According to David C. Ciccone, president of Advance Computer Ergonomics, a computer safety consulting firm in San Diego, California, no product should be considered the be-all and end-all. "You have to take a systems approach to preventing repetitive strain injuries," says Ciccone. "That means looking at the whole body, the whole workstation, and the way people work."

Concerned PC users can buy a wide variety of products, from wrist rests to keep their hands positioned correctly while typing to keyboards with hand-friendly layouts, from braces that suspend your arms over the keyboard and mouse to software that prompts you to take a break from typing.

More important than any single product,

say the experts, is having a completely adjustable workstation. That includes a desk-top that can be raised or lowered as necessary and a fully adjustable chair. The worksta-

tion should adapt to the needs and size of the worker, rather than the worker having to adjust to the workstation, says David Rempel, director of the Ergonomics Laboratory at the

### Ergonomic Choices

- Glare filter
- Copy holder
- Telephone headset
- Wrist rest
- Mouse pad with wrist support
- Arm rest
- Fully adjustable chair



Display of products does not represent an endorsement from PC World.

McClain, Edises and Simon, which is currently handling ten RSI cases. "People aren't going to die from RSI, but it will change their lives. They may have to give up careers they trained and went to school for."

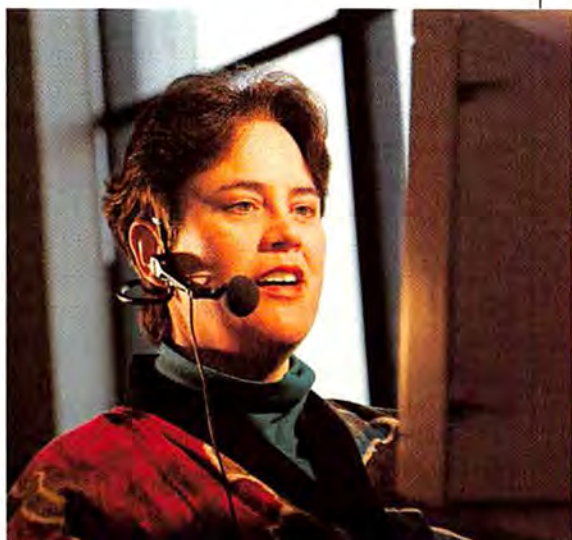
#### Seeking Support

Many RSI patients are also seeking remedies outside the courtroom. A handful of small, yet vocal support groups have sprung up on the West Coast. Besides giving members an opportunity to share common experiences, the groups provide members with information on their rights as injured workers, investigate causes of RSIs, learn about new treatments, and prompt employers and government to address the epidemic.

"I wanted more information about the injury and I needed to talk to other people besides my doctor," says Caroline Rose, a technical editor with a major computer company and founder of Northern California's first RSI support group, located in the San Francisco Bay Area. She edits a newsletter that includes personal stories and product information. The newsletter is available on several on-line services. (For more information, see the Consumer Watch folder of PC World Online.)

After only half  
an hour of  
typing, I was  
in screaming  
pain.

Joan Lichterman  
Editor



#### Employers Respond

Some employers are getting the message about RSI and are taking a forward-looking approach to preventing and treating such injuries among their workers. Blue Cross of California, for example, has

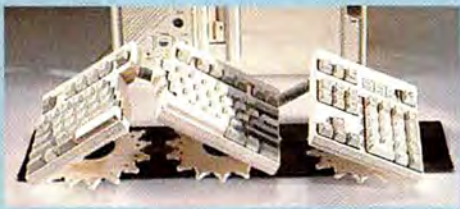
#### University of California, San Francisco.

In many of today's offices, wrist rests—flat or curved strips of foam that lay in front of the keyboard—are standard equipment. They're cheap, come in a variety of shapes and sizes, and some even include programmable alarms to alert users that they've been typing too long and need to take a break. But the effectiveness of these products depends on your work habits and work style, says Lisa Voge, an occupational therapist in Palo Alto, California.

"If you drop your wrist down while keying, a wrist rest can help keep your wrist in a neutral position and provide protection against hard edges," she notes. But a wrist rest is designed to support your wrist when you pause in typing, says Voge. If the keyboard is too high, a wrist rest can do more harm than good—users will often lean their wrists on the rest, rather than allowing them to glide above the keyboard as they should. This strains your entire hand while putting weight on the underside of your wrist—the carpal tunnel area.

Ergonomically correct products aren't limited to accessories, though. Over the next few months users will begin to see a host of

adjustable alternative keyboards that challenge the standard flat QWERTY design. Some of them split the keyboard in half and allow you to tilt the halves so you are no longer typ-



*SPLIT KEYBOARD relieves strain while typing.*

ing on a flat surface. And at least one—the Kinesis—splits the keyboard and recesses the keys in two concave dishes designed to ease stress on the hand. (See Top of the News.) "The standard keyboard puts the hand in an awkward, rotated, and deviated position," says Voge, who believes the adjustable designs of many of the new keyboards is critical. Voge and others, though, note that additional testing needs to be done to determine the alternative keyboards' true value.

Mice, too, are implicated in the RSI epidemic. Advance Computer Ergonomics' Ciccone expects "the mouse is going to be the next RSI villain. Anytime you lift your arm and hold

it above something repeatedly, you put a lot of stress on the upper shoulder." For people who use a mouse and a keyboard, Ciccone thinks that "arm rests that mimic the motion of your arm can be very helpful as long as they are positioned so they allow the hand to dangle. It is a good idea to rest your arm on something while mousing."

Everyone we spoke with agreed that taking charge—not only of your workstation setup, but of the way you work—is essential to preventing and treating injury. Taking breaks, stretching, and even warming up the typing muscles are as important as ergonomic furniture. For those who find themselves forgetting to take regular breaks, there are a number of devices and software programs that will remind you to do so. "If you can't listen to your body telling you when you are in pain and if you don't have automatic interruptions in your work—like phone calls—then devices that signal break time are effective...as long as you listen to them," says Voge.

But as with ergonomic accessories, don't expect break software to solve all your problems, says Ciccone. "Changing people's habits is what's needed. A program won't necessarily do that."

—Christina Wood

developed a comprehensive strategy to combat the problem, starting with an intensive training and education program for all managers and employees.

In an eight-hour training program, managers learned how to recognize symptoms and were instructed to encourage injured employees to come forward immediately. Employees, for their part, received one-hour classes on the dangers of RSI. They, too, were taught how to recognize warning signs and were given thorough instructions on how to set up their workstations. Ignatius and others on the Blue Cross staff also evaluated dozens of "ergonomic chairs" and identified one that was fully adjustable to fit every employee. In the end, 3500 employees underwent the training and received new equipment as part of the company's effort to combat RSI.

Although the program cost Blue Cross hundreds of thousands of dollars, the training and equipment more than paid for themselves. After only one year, the company's insurance carrier gave Blue Cross a \$1 million dividend because of reduced Workers' Compensation expenses. Interestingly, more claims were filed after the program was in place, but the average cost per claim fell from \$20,000 to \$3,000 because problems were identified before they became critical.

Despite this and other success stories, some companies have hesitated to take such an up-front approach, fearing a Pandora's box of claims. But, says Ignatius, "that's a cheater's way of looking at safety. Employees are adults: If you give them the information they need, they will process it in an adult fashion." She adds that by removing many of the barriers to reporting and acting on claims, the company was also able to drastically reduce litigation costs relating to Workers' Compensation injuries. "Most people litigate because they're afraid or because they don't see any other recourse."

#### Government Action

If financial or altruistic factors don't spur companies to act, there's a good chance the government may. Many state and local lawmakers are considering legislation governing computer-worker safety. Two of the first such laws were enacted by the city and county of San Francisco and the county of Suffolk in New York state. Both ordinances included guidelines for workstation design, employee training, and appropriate break periods. However, both were also challenged and ultimately overturned in court, on the grounds that

states rather than local governments had jurisdiction over such issues. Appeals are pending in both cases.

On the federal level, Senate and House of Representatives committees have held hearings on work-related RSIs, but no legislation has yet been proposed. OSHA is researching proposed work place ergonomic standards to prevent repetitive strain injuries. Among issues being studied is a standard governing computer keyboards. OSHA is reviewing comments submitted by interested parties and will likely hold hearings throughout the United States on its findings. An OSHA spokesperson could not comment on when or if any formal standards would be issued, however.

## Awareness Is Key to Preventing RSI Injuries



The healthiest computer users take preventive steps, rather than responding after they suffer an injury. Here's what PC users and their employers alike can do to stay healthy and productive.

### USERS

#### Evaluate your workstation

- Is your chair fully adjustable?
- Do the arm rests hamper your typing?
- Can you adjust the height/position of your keyboard?
- Is the top of your monitor at eye level?
- Do you use a headset while speaking on the phone?

#### Take regular breaks from the keyboard

- Don't type for more than 30 minutes without taking a break.
- Alternate tasks throughout the work day.
- Use a headset so you can get up and walk around while talking on the phone.

#### Protect Yourself Against Injury

- Limber up before a long typing session.
- Wear lightweight, fingerless gloves if your hands are frequently cold.
- See a physician at the first sign of pain.

### MANAGERS

- Organize jobs around a variety of tasks.
- Evaluate employee workstations for adjustability.
- Organize educational courses that promote awareness of keyboard-related injuries and emphasize preventive measures.
- Encourage employees to report problems.

#### What's Next?

Disagreements remain over how manufacturers, employers, workers, and government should respond. Some have adopted a skeptical attitude toward the entire epidemic, choosing to believe that RSI claims are a fad—all they have to do is wait a few years and the problem will go away. Others are pushing for more research into the causes of these injuries. In the meantime, thousands of computer users join the roster of RSI sufferers each year, and only a concerted effort on the part of all affected will stem the tide of injuries.

"If it can happen to me," says Merrill Lynch's Hughes, "it can happen to you."

*Roberta Furger is a PC World Associate Editor. She can be reached as R. FURGER on PC World Online (see page 10 for more information). Senior Editor Steve Fox, Associate Editor Bronwyn Fryer, and Assistant Editor Christina Wood assisted with this article.*

Microsoft FoxPro

File Inventory Sales Orders Accounting Help

Astro Mountain Bike Co.

# WAREHOUSE INVENTORY

Name

Astro Rockin Roller

Item no.

AST 6780-002

Manufacturer

Costoso Ltd.

Color

☐ Black
 ☒ Red
 ☐ Chrome
 ☐ Blue

SRP

\$899.00

Size

20

Qty.

53

☒ In Stock



Gearing 26/36/46, 12/28, Chromoly frameset, off-road 1.95 tires, upgraded components, leather seat,

Exit

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▲ Versa offers powerful, energy-efficient 3.3V i486SL™ processing. Start with your choice of 20, 25 or 33MHz‡ processor; upgrade as your computing needs increase.



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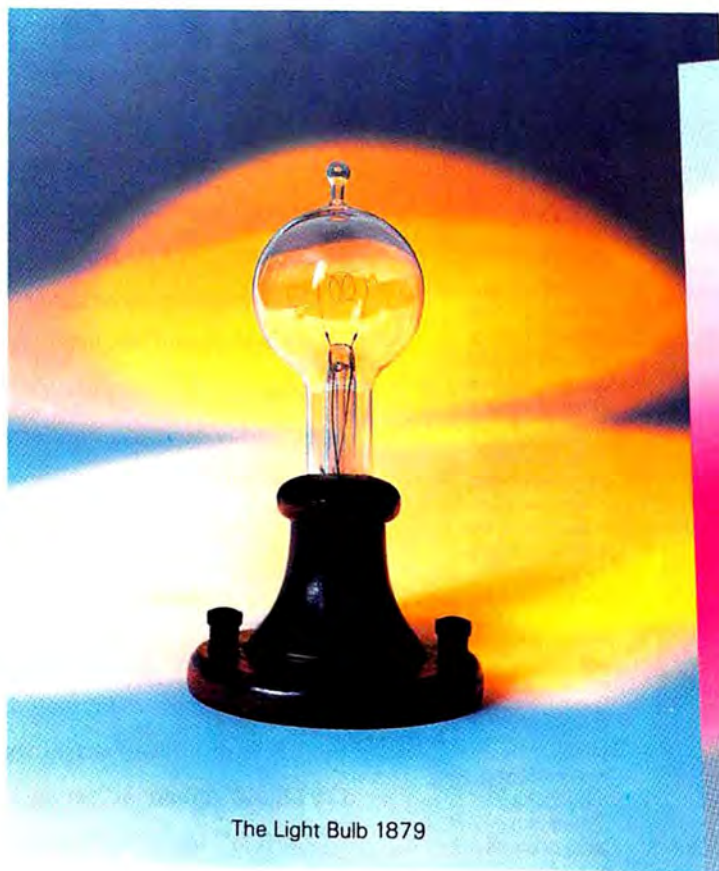
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Circle 205 on reader service card



The Light Bulb 1879



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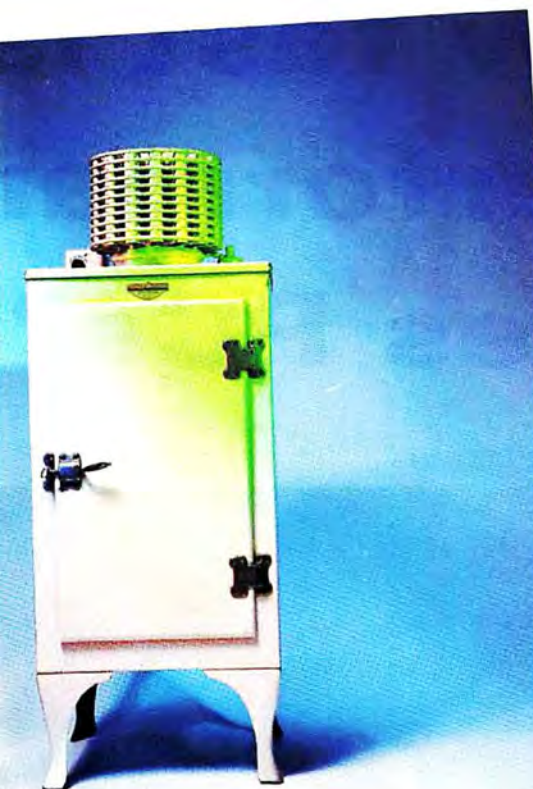
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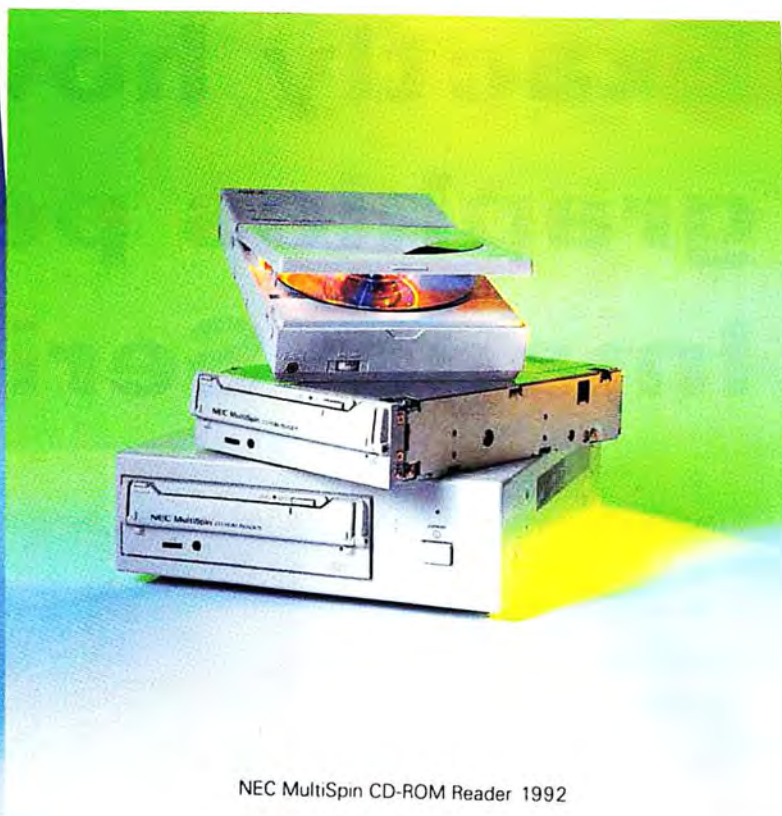
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The Refrigerator 1913



NEC MultiSpin CD-ROM Reader 1992

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What's more, all of them are QuickTime™ compatible and meet the Multimedia PC (MPC) standards for Multimedia computing. Once you check out the high-performance CD-ROM readers from the pioneers of

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Circle 203 on reader service card

# the ce of NEC's



SYSTEMS FAST 486s FOR \$3000

# FASTEST NUMBER-CRUNCHING PCs FOR \$3000

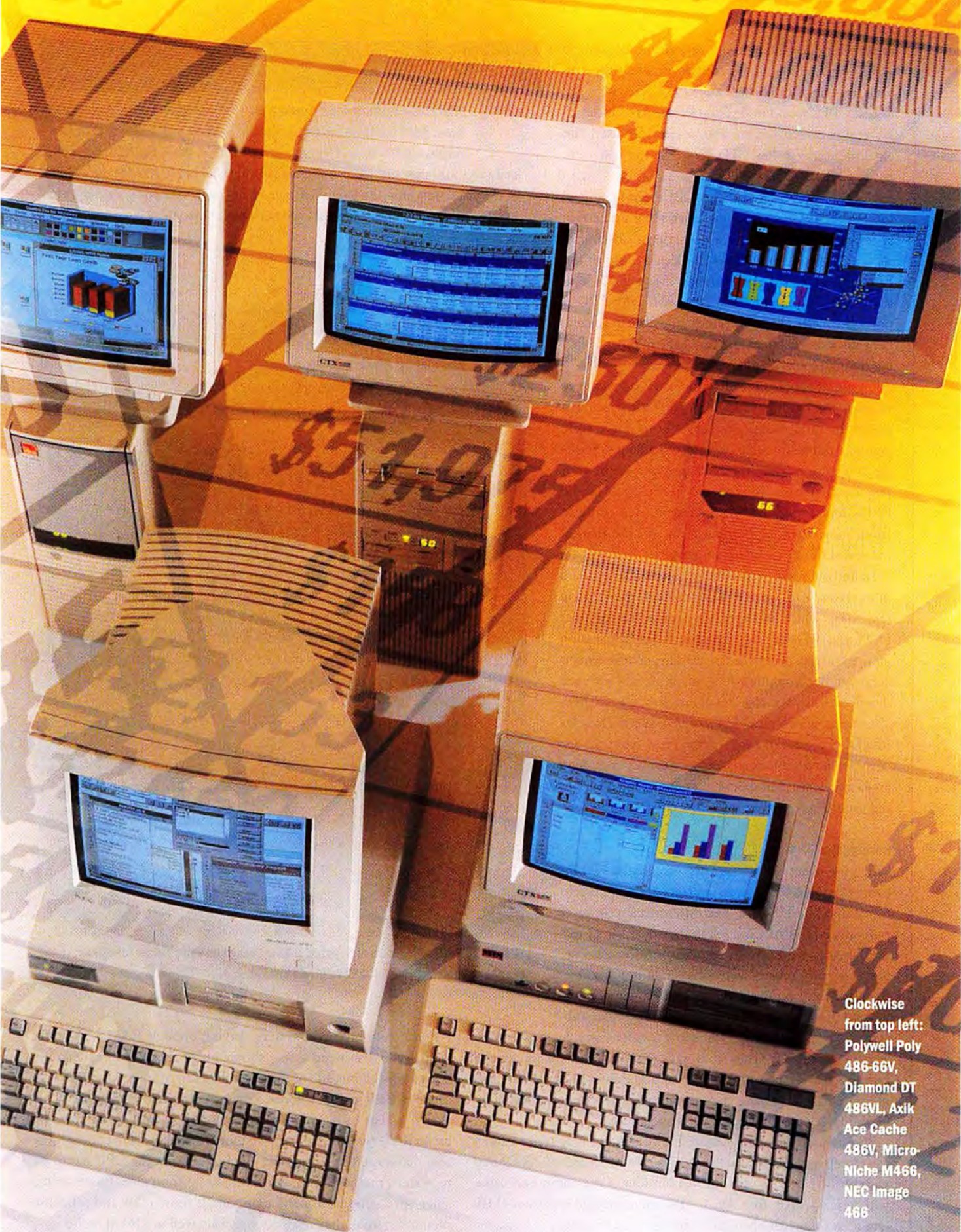
Number-crunching power once  
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best from 25 vendors.

**T**oday's business applications demand more of your computer than ever before. If you regularly use a high-powered spreadsheet, desktop publishing program, accounting and statistics package, business graphics application, or database, your system's raw processing power may be taxed to its limit. The load could be especially heavy if you run several of these apps simultaneously under *Windows* or *OS/2*. You likely find yourself wanting to buy a machine that is fast enough to handle the ever more punishing requirements of new software—without punishing your wallet too severely.

With that premise, we went shopping the way you do: with a fixed budget and a specific use in mind. We asked 25 vendors to send us the fastest machine they had that cost \$3000 or less direct or on the street and would be especially good for spreadsheets and other applications that rely heavily on the processor's performance. We let each vendor decide virtually every detail of its system's configuration—the amount of RAM, the amount of secondary memory cache, the type and capacity of the storage subsystem,

BY BRYAN HASTINGS AND DAN MILLER

ROBERT CARDIN



Clockwise  
from top left:  
Polywell Poly  
486-66V,  
Diamond DT  
486VL, Axik  
Ace Cache  
486V, Micro  
Niche M466,  
NEC Image  
466

the type and resolution of the video controller, and so on. The one thing we insisted on was that the systems use one of Intel's 486DX or DX2 processors, the fastest CPUs found in desktop PCs today. Of the 25 systems we received for this review, 21 used the clock-doubling 33/66-MHz 486DX2; the rest were based on the 50-MHz 486DX.

486DXs are the only desktop CPUs that feature an internal FPU (floating point unit), ideal for certain types of numeric-intensive operations. Of course, most of today's applications don't make use of the FPU. In fact, for most calculations, the 486DX's standard instruction set handles the math; the FPU is never invoked. The FPU shines, however, in calculations involving fractions and very large numbers, blitzing through them up to 20 times faster.

High-end applications do entail such calculations. Recalculating giant spreadsheets filled with formulas, cross-tabs, and lookup tables; editing large-scale graphics and rearranging pages in a desktop publishing program; or running extensive queries in your relational database application—all could rely on the FPU, depending on the application. According to Intel, more than 1200 applications on the market today specifically make use of the FPU.

To find out just how fast the reviewed machines are in everyday use, we ran them through the BAPCo test suite, which incorporates a variety of popular DOS and Windows applications in six application groups (spreadsheet, word processing, database management, desktop publishing, graphics, and software development). We also put them through our Windows tests, which include *Word*, *Freelance*, *Paradox* (the DOS version run in a window), and *Excel*. To discover which machines are best for number-crunching applications, we paid special attention to the results of the various spreadsheet tests, which use the FPU.

### Running the Numbers

When the results for all the tests were in, the systems using the DX2-66 were, on average, about 9 percent faster than the DX-50s. The differences were most pronounced in BAPCo tests: In the spreadsheet section, the 66s were almost 20 percent faster than the 50s. The differences were smaller in our Windows benchmarks, because so many system components beyond the processor (such as the disk and video subsystems) come into play; in the *Excel* test, for example, the 50s were actually fractionally faster on average than the 66s. Still, for general business use—especially on DOS applications—until we start seeing systems and upgrade chips using Intel's new Pentium technology, the DX2-66 is your best bet for speed.

Blazing processor performance isn't much use if system memory can't keep up. That's why the top systems reviewed are configured with healthy dollops of RAM. All but four of the computers came with at least 8MB, four had 16MB, and none had less than 4MB. Our tests show that 8MB gives you the most bang for the buck.

## Best Buys



While we emphasized performance, we didn't ignore other considerations. Price mattered, as did service and support and design quality. As a result, our five Best Buys are a diverse crowd. While the NEC, Polywell, and Axik were in our top five for performance, the other two finished in the middle of the pack. Only one—the MicroNiche—is in the top five for price. The key is to excel at one or two things and do at least fairly well at everything else.

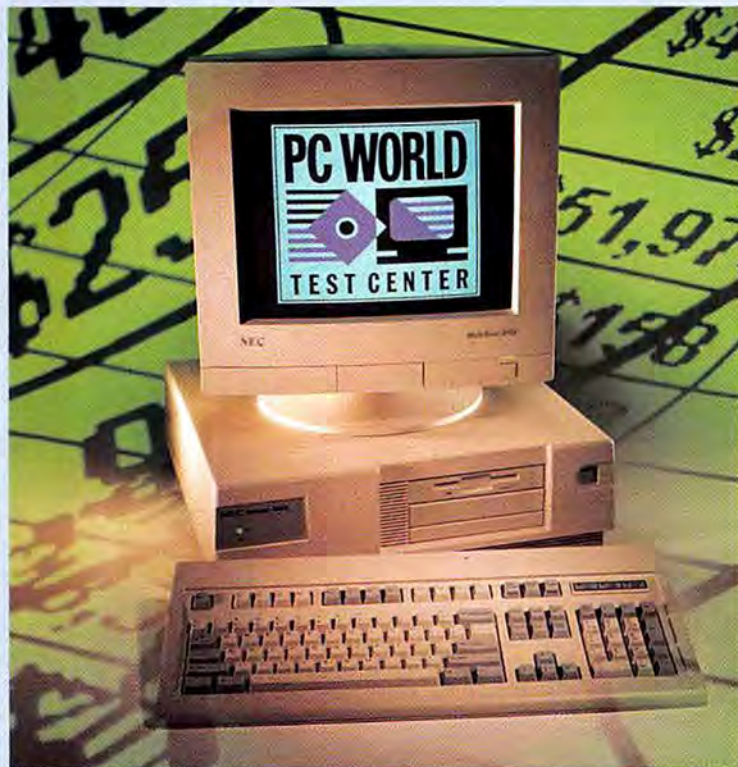
1. NEC Image 466 (page 154)

2. Polywell Poly 486-66V (page 156)

3. Diamond DT 486VL (page 149)

4. Axik Ace Cache 486V (page 140)

5. MicroNiche M466 (page 153)



**THE NEC IMAGE 466: A Best Buy that is fast today and even faster tomorrow, thanks to its OverDrive for DX2 upgrade socket.**

For a truly high-end system, having enough RAM isn't sufficient—you also need a way to maximize the RAM's efficiency. That's why all but one of these vendors added some kind of RAM cache to their system (Silicon Valley was the lone exception). The theory is that by stashing recently used data and instructions in cache RAM (which is four to five times faster than conventional system memory), you reduce the number of times the CPU has to go to system memory, improving overall performance. Once again, since spreadsheets in particular benefit from a fast and efficient memory system, they respond especially well to a RAM cache.

All these systems have some cache, because all 486DXs and 486DX2s have an internal 8K cache. Additional cache outside the microprocessor is known as secondary, or external, cache. Seventeen of the machines we looked at were equipped with a hefty 256K of secondary cache, four came with 128K, and three had 64K.

In previous tests, we found that 64K of RAM cache was enough to boost system performance significantly, and adding more usually yielded diminishing returns. In this review, we could only compare the cached systems with one cacheless machine. Still, overall we found that systems with 64K caches were, on average, 6 percent faster than the one without a secondary cache, while the systems with 256K caches were 8 percent faster. The performance advantage of secondary caches was greater in the BAPCo spreadsheet test than in the *Excel* test. The upshot is that you should get some RAM cache in your spreadsheet machine, but don't feel you need to load in all it can take.

#### What You See Is What You Get

While the CPU and memory subsystem are considered the most crucial to spreadsheet performance, other components have an impact too. One of the most important: the video subsystem.

Virtually all these systems use graphics accelerators to speed video processing—good news for *Windows* applications.

Most vendors attach their graphics controllers to the ISA bus, which trundles information between the CPU and the video adapter at a slow 8 MHz, 16 bits at a time. A couple of systems, however, use their CPU's local bus instead. A local bus expansion slot communicates directly with the processor at motherboard speeds (50 MHz in DX-50 systems, 33 MHz in DX2-66s), making it much faster than the old ISA or even the 32-bit EISA bus. However, only the most graphics-intensive applications currently pump enough data through the bus system to derive much advantage from local bus designs over an accelerated ISA video controller.

Several of these high-speed bus designs follow the Video Electronics Standards Association's local bus standard (VL-bus), while others are proprietary. Overall, the DX2-66 VL-bus systems in this review were faster than their non-VL-bus counterparts. The VL-bus systems were particularly fast in our *Windows* tests—they beat the ISA-only machines by almost 13 percent in *Freelance*. On the other hand, there was little difference between the VL-bus systems and the ISA-only machines in our *Excel* test.

Of course, the speed of the bus isn't the only thing you should consider when looking at video specs. No matter how fast your PC runs, a high-resolution, high-refresh-rate video system can make a big difference when you have to stare at spreadsheets all day. Almost every system we looked at supports 1024-by-768-pixel resolution with an easy-on-the-eyes 70-Hz refresh rate—you should insist on nothing less. While most of the systems come with 14-inch monitors, the Ariel, Gateway, Insight, NEC, and Touche PCs come with 15-inch displays.

#### Speeding Up the Hard Drive

Another component to consider when looking for maximum speed: the hard drive. A slow drive will cost you every time you save a file. Thus, the best way to optimize the performance of your storage system is to use disk caching. A disk cache reads the data requested by the operating system and then the data that follows; chances are the

## Best Performance



If you want to maximize performance, you have to do more than use a fast CPU. All the top five performers have a DX2-66, but then so do most systems in this review. Our top five speedsters support their fast processors with 8MB of RAM and 256K of RAM cache.

1. CAF Gold 6D2 (page 146)
2. NEC Image 466 (page 154)
3. Axik Ace Cache 486V (page 140)
4. Polywell Poly 486-66V (page 156)
5. ALR BusinessVEISA 4/66d Model 170DW (page 138)

## Best Price



Our only guideline for this review was that systems cost less than \$3000 on the street. Fourteen machines made it in under our price ceiling, while four others are less than \$100 over. And lower prices don't necessarily mean slower speed: Almost all these price leaders performed credibly.

1. Netis 486DX2-66 Local Bus System (page 154)
2. Micro Express ME MicroFlex 486DX2-66 (page 153)
3. Silicon Valley 486DXC2/66 Turbo (page 156)
4. MicroNiche M466 (page 153)
5. Acma 486DX2/66 Workstation (page 138)  
and Blackship BLK 486/50E (page 146)

## Best Service and Support



By offering a three-year warranty plus lifetime tech support, Compaq has raised the standard for service and support the way it set new price levels last year. Though other vendors may not match Compaq's service package, you will find longer warranties today and better tech support than ever before.

1. Compaq Deskpro 4/66i Model 120/w (page 146)
2. ALR BusinessVEISA 4/66d Model 170DW (page 138)
3. Micro Express ME MicroFlex 486DX2-66 (page 153)
4. Blackship BLK 486/50E (page 146)
5. Axik Ace Cache 486V (page 140)

# WE HAVE LAURELS AT TOSHIBA, WE JUST DON'T



## PRESENTING THE T4400C

# REST ON THEM.



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forefather, the legendary  
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The new T4400C  
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next request will be for that following data, and the disk cache will be ready to hand it over. The larger the cache, the more it pulls in, and the better the chance that the next bits your PC needs will be waiting for it.

In review after review, we've found that caching disk controllers are the surest way to improve overall performance. Nine of the systems reviewed arrived with caching controllers, and their test scores reflect their performance advantage. After accounting for differences in CPUs, systems with caching controllers were 11 percent faster than those without; the speedup was almost twice that in the BAPCo suite alone.

While we asked vendors to supply us with systems under \$3000 (direct or on the street), the systems actually ranged widely in price, from \$1990 for the system from Netis to \$3543 for the ALR. We gave vendors some credit for being under the \$3000 barrier and penalized them for being over. For vendors that sell direct to end users, we used the prices they quoted us during the research for this

review for the configuration they gave us. For vendors who sell through retail channels, we called stores around the country to get an average street price. The average system cost \$2930; the DX2-66s averaged about \$15 more than the DX-50s.

We took a look at the quality of each vendor's customer service and support. We checked out the length of warranties, the terms for on-site service, and the turnaround time for factory repairs. We

**A high-resolution, high-refresh-rate video system can make a big difference when you have to stare at spreadsheets all day long.**

made a series of anonymous calls to the vendors' tech support to find out how quickly they answered the phone and how accurately, courteously, and thoroughly they solved some typical problems.

Finally, we evaluated each system's design and expandability. We checked motherboards to be sure the switches and jumpers were easily accessible and didn't force you to dismantle drive cages or

## Acma 486DX2/66 Workstation



### VITAL STATISTICS

**Street price:** \$2795  
**PROS:** Fast, good price  
**CONS:** Small glitches in customer service  
**Contact:** Acma Computers,  
 800/786-6888, 510/623-1212  
**Reader service no.** 655

Like a meal at a fast-food restaurant, the Acma is fast and cheap. At just \$2795, the Acma is one of the six least expensive PCs here. Despite the price, it barely missed our top five for performance in a generally speedy crowd. If it hadn't been for a couple of glitches in service, this would have rated a Best Buy.

The system did especially well in the graphics section of the BAPCo tests and the *Paradox* section of our *Windows* suite. Its numbers on our spreadsheet tests were good, if not great: It was 8 percent faster than the average on our *Excel* test, and a bit ahead of the average on the BAPCo test.

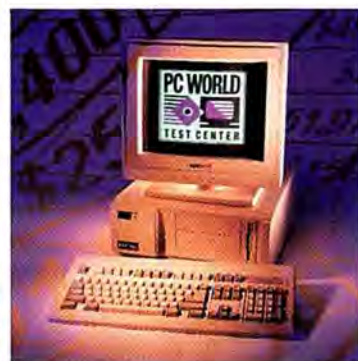
Why is it so fast? Because inside the generic tower case, you'll find some particularly tasty hardware. The menu includes a DX2-66 processor, a generous 16MB of RAM (upgradable to 64MB), and a 256K RAM cache. A Conner hard drive coupled to a Promise caching controller loaded with 2MB of cache handles storage, while an NDI Volante Warp 10 (using S3's 801 graphics accelerator chip) drives the display. If you want to expand, five of seven ISA slots are free (the other two are taken up by video and drive controllers). The Acma has three externally accessible 5¼-inch drive bays, but since it uses a combo floppy drive (5¼- and 3½-inch drives together in one bay) you still have room for two more storage devices.

Acma includes a side order of (mostly) solid customer support. You get a standard one-year warranty and, for \$45, a year of on-site

service. The tech support office is open six days a week, and you can also post questions on a BBS or via fax. When we called, the tech support staff answered their phones quickly, but some of their answers were off the mark. Also, the company takes four days to turn around factory repairs.

Despite these minor service problems, this PC is still a tempting buy for the price. It's worth considering if you want a cheap way to satisfy your hunger for computing speed.

## ALR BusinessVEISA 4/66d Model 170DW



### VITAL STATISTICS

**Street price:** \$3543  
**PROS:** Very fast, good service and support, extremely expandable  
**CONS:** Most expensive system  
**Contact:** Advanced Logic Research (ALR), 800/444-4257, 714/581-6770  
**Reader service no.** 656

Owning the ALR BusinessVEISA is a bit like flying on the Concorde: it's really fast, and the service is impeccable. In our *Excel* test, it was just 7 percent slower than the fastest system; it also did well on the BAPCo spreadsheet tests, 10 percent ahead of the average. Adding in the results from the rest of our tests, this was the fifth fastest PC here.

In addition to the supersonic speed, the BusinessVEISA also features some smart design. The integrated hard drive interface for the Seagate drive uses DMA (direct memory addressing) to write and read data directly between the drive and memory, bypassing the CPU. The motherboard is cleanly laid out: The SIMMs, hard drive, and seven free EISA slots are all easily accessible, and the wiring is

power supplies to get at them. If you want to speed up your system with more memory or RAM cache, a faster video card, or a caching disk controller, properly placed expansion slots, jumpers, and switches can make the job a whole lot smoother. We awarded big points if the system came with a socket to accommodate the Pentium-based OverDrive for DX2, due out next year.

### The Winner's Circle

Taking performance, price, service and support, expandability, and design into account, we came up with five systems that most deserve your consideration for use with spreadsheets and other processor-intensive applications. Our top machine is NEC's Image 466, followed by Polywell's Poly 486-66V, Diamond's DT 486VL, Axi's Ace Cache 486V, and the MicroNiche M466.

Four of the five top systems are based on the 66-MHz processor; the Diamond uses the 50-MHz CPU. All but one come with 8MB of RAM (the MicroNiche has 16MB), and all the Best Buys have 256K of external cache RAM. Two use caching disk controllers. All

but the NEC use VESA local bus video; the NEC uses a proprietary local bus design. All but one cost under \$3000; the top-rated NEC costs \$3109.

Of course, you should give some thought to the future when you buy a system. We should be seeing the first Pentium-based systems by the time you read this review. However, this isn't any reason to put off buying now, especially if you can find a system with one of those extra-large OverDrive sockets. A speedy 486DX-50 or 486DX2-66 with all the right supporting components will give you plenty of power for spreadsheets and other processor-intensive applications, now and for years to come.

*Bryan Hastings is an associate editor and Dan Miller an assistant editor for PC World. They can be reached as B HASTINGS and DAN MILLER on PC World Online (see page 10 for more information).*

**For more information about all products in this article, circle reader service no. 903.**

neatly tied together. ALR could have installed faster EISA video and disk controllers instead of the integrated Western Digital video accelerator and IDE hard drive adapter.

We were impressed when we tested ALR's customer service crew. Their answers were quick, courteous, and accurate. The system comes with the standard one-year warranty and a three-day turnaround on factory repairs; a year's on-site service is just \$9.95.

Like flying on the Concorde, though, the BusinessVEISA is going to cost you. At \$3543, it's the most expensive box here. In its base configuration, it sells for \$2999; that doesn't include the monitor or the 256K cache ALR sent us. However, ALR tells us this system should sell for about \$3200 by the time you read this, making it a much more attractive value. At its current price, however, the ALR can't compete with boxes that are just as fast but cost less.

## Ariel 486DX2-66VLB



### VITAL STATISTICS

**Street price:** \$2995  
**PROS:** Borland software bundle, local bus video  
**PROS:** Subpar Windows performance, short on RAM  
**Contact:** Ariel Design, 800/882-7435, 617/982-8800  
**Reader service no. 657**

Even though it is competing against faster and cheaper systems, this dark horse came on fast from the outside and was close to earning a Best Buy recommendation at the finish.

We would not have bet on such an impressive overall showing after timing the Ariel in our test workouts. Though the system finished a bit ahead of average on the BAPCo spreadsheet tests and logged a good time on the word processing test, it finished a little below average on the BAPCo suite as a whole. It had even less suc-

cess with Windows; it was 19 percent below average on Excel.

The Ariel doesn't win any prizes for looks, either; its appearance is as nondescript as its performance. Its tower case is virtually indistinguishable from several others in the review. Closer inspection, however, reveals some far-from-generic design decisions. The system comes with NDI's Volante Warp 10 local bus video board in one of two VESA local bus slots; the motherboard has six 8/16-bit ISA slots free. The tower case has four externally accessible drive bays; two are free. Although Ariel supplied this PC with only 4MB of RAM, memory can be expanded to 64MB supported by a 256K cache. A nice final touch: The price includes a 15-inch monitor.

As for service and support, Ariel's small (one- or two-person) tech support department did a good job handling our calls. The company provides the standard one-year warranty and charges a modest \$50 for a year of on-site service. Ariel sells this system direct for \$2995, just \$5 under our price ceiling; for the money, the company throws in your choice of one of three Borland software packages (C++, Quattro Pro, or Paradox). Thanks to this software, the Ariel finished strong in our evaluations but just misses a Best Buy.

## AST Bravo 4/66d Model 123B



### VITAL STATISTICS

**Street price:** \$3017  
**PROS:** Good speed, especially for Windows  
**CONS:** Limited expansion options  
**Contact:** AST Research, 800/876-4278, 714/727-4141  
**Reader service no. 658**

In previous reviews, we've applauded the AST Bravo for its low price and good Windows performance. In an encore appearance, however, the veteran AST system gets upstaged.

The Bravo gave bravura performances in the *Freelance* and *Paradox* sections of our *Windows* suite; its *Excel* numbers were good but less impressive. Thanks in part to its integrated Cirrus Logic video chip, it did especially well in the BAPCo graphics test.

The AST's case has just one free drive bay, and it's internal, so you can't add any other devices requiring accessibility (a small 122MB Quantum hard drive occupies the other internal bay). However, because the video and drive controllers are integrated on the motherboard, you get four free ISA slots. The motherboard also has room for 64MB of RAM (the system we tested had 8MB) and came with a 256K cache.

Behind the scenes, AST's service and support is reasonably good. In addition to the standard one-year warranty, you get a year of on-site service free of charge. The technical support staff is on the job 14 hours a day; unfortunately, they were off-base answering one of our questions. Also, AST only guarantees to turn around factory repairs in seven days.

What really hurts the AST in this month's production is that its \$3017 price is more than its audience may want to pay; over half the other systems here cost less. Given the competition on price and speed, we can't give the AST the thumbs-up in this roundup.

## Austin 466DX2 VESA-LB



### VITAL STATISTICS

**Street price:** \$3099  
**PROS:** 238-pin CPU socket  
**CONS:** Slow on BAPCo tests, service glitches, relatively expensive  
**Contact:** Austin Computer Systems, 800/752-1577, 512/339-3500 (fax)  
**Reader service no.** 659

Based on its specs alone, you'd think this Austin system would be one fast PC. The system is built around a DX2-66. The motherboard has two VESA local bus slots, one of which is occupied by a video card based on S3's 805 video accelerator chip. The 128K RAM cache is smaller than on some of the other systems, but according to our tests, it should help performance almost as much as a 256K cache.

Too bad the 466DX2 VESA-LB's performance doesn't live up to its specs. Its scores were below average on all but one of our *Windows* tests, and its BAPCo scores were nearly 14 percent below the overall average.

If you want faster performance in the future, the relatively small 4MB of installed RAM is upgradable to a maximum of 64MB. This is one of two systems reviewed here that comes with a 238-pin CPU socket, which means you'll be able to upgrade to a Pentium-based OverDrive for DX2.

Austin's customer support policies are good: The company offers 24-hour, toll-free tech support seven days a week and a year of free on-site service. Still, the Austin 466DX2 VESA-LB can't keep up with the faster systems we looked at, which means the Austin is not the best value this time around.

## Axik Ace Cache 486V



### VITAL STATISTICS

**Street price:** \$2898  
**PROS:** Fast on DOS apps, excellent customer service  
**CONS:** Some design clutter  
**Contact:** Axik Computer, 408/735-1234, 408/735-1437 (fax)  
**Reader service no.** 660



This wide minitower system may not be pretty, but then this ain't a beauty contest. In everything that really counts—performance and price—it's attractive enough to earn a Best Buy.

For overall performance, the Axik beat all but two other systems hands down. It really smoked on the BAPCo test suite—nearly 17 percent ahead of the average for the spreadsheet section, with strong scores on the database and graphics tests to boot. While it was a bit less impressive in our *Windows* suite, it still turned in good times in our *Word* and *Freelance* tests.

This attractive performance comes from a DX2-66 working with 8MB of RAM (out of a maximum 32MB) and a 256K secondary cache. The Quantum hard drive is connected to a Promise SuperIDE caching controller with 1MB of cache, which helps explain the system's good times on the disk-intensive database and graphics tests. The video chores are handled by a no-name VESA local bus video card based on ATI's Mach 32 chip.

The stocky chassis also has room for plenty of expansion. You get five externally accessible drive bays, three of which are free to hold tape or CD ROM drives; two of the three internal bays are free as well. You also get seven expansion slots: two 32-bit local bus, four 8/16-bit, and one 8-bit. One of the local bus slots is occupied by the video board, but the other is filled by a regular 16-bit I/O card. Why a 16-bit card in a local bus slot? The cables wouldn't reach the I/O ports otherwise. These cables also obscure the SIMM slots—you'd have to detach them to upgrade the memory. However, this is a small shortcoming in an otherwise well-designed machine. Our other complaint will probably not apply to shipping units: The documentation we received consisted of some minimal photocopies; we assume the final, shipping version will be more complete.

Although Axik's tech support department is small (as with Ariel, the staff seems to consist of one or two people), they are knowledgeable and helpful. Their responses to our anonymous calls were quick and accurate. Customer support policies are solid: Axik offers the standard one-year warranty, a year of free on-site service, and two-day turnaround guaranteed on factory repairs. Our only complaint: Tech support is open just 9½ hours a day.

While you might expect to pay top dollar for a system with this much speed and expandability, the Axik actually came in \$102 under our \$3000 price ceiling—right in the middle of the price range for this review. This combination of good speed and reasonable price is just what we are looking for, which is why this Axik earns our Best Buy recommendation.

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# Portables And Co

Who says notebook PCs are only for serious globetrotters? They're also cool for people who only travel from home to office. Or how about corporate cats who travel from conference room to conference room for those perpetual meetings? Or sales people who could dig a computer at their client's location? Really, most people would enjoy the convenience of the right portable. But who can afford both a portable and a desktop PC? *You* can! Gateway 2000 has the portable solution that's in tune with you!

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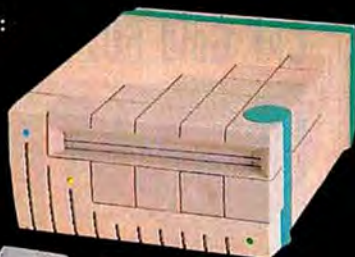
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## Blackship BLK 486/50E



### VITAL STATISTICS

**Street price:** \$2795  
**PROS:** Good service, low price  
**CONS:** Comparatively slow  
**Contact:** Blackship Computer Systems, 800/531-7447, 408/432-7500  
**Reader service no. 661**



Unlike most of the other vendors in our computing speed contest, who sent in systems based on the DX2-66, Blackship entered a DX-50. Unfortunately, that's like pitting a stock car against a bunch of drag racers: While the Blackship might be fast compared to some systems, it can't keep up with this high-octane crowd. Overall, it's the second slowest machine in the review, and the slowest of the four DX-50s. It did well enough in our *Windows* tests, finishing the *Excel* test almost 8 percent ahead of the average. It had trouble, however, in the BAPCo suite; it finished the BAPCo spreadsheet tests dead last.

Except for the CPU, Blackship customized the system well for the task we set it. It comes with a plain 14-inch monitor connected to an Orchid video adapter for a speedy, flicker-free display—just enough video power for everyday business apps. The cleanly laid out motherboard holds 16MB of RAM (out of 64MB maximum) along with a 128K RAM cache. The hard drive is a Maxtor.

As usual, Blackship's service and support is quite good. The tech support pit crew answered our calls promptly and accurately, and the company gives you a year of free on-site service and a two-day turnaround on repairs. Unfortunately, the tech support lines are open just 9 hours a day. At \$2795, the Blackship places in our top five for price, which will make it attractive for budget-conscious buyers. If you're looking for top speeds, however, this Blackship can't keep up with the faster 66s.

## CAF Gold 6D2



### VITAL STATISTICS

**Street price:** \$2884  
**PROS:** Fastest system here, good price, lots of expandability  
**CONS:** Subpar service  
**Contact:** CAF Technology, 818/369-3690  
**Reader service no. 662**



You wanna talk fast? The CAF Gold 6D2 takes over as the speediest system we've ever tested. For spreadsheets, it placed second on our *Excel* test (just fractionally slower than the NEC), and it was the third fastest on the spreadsheet segment of

the BAPCo suite (nearly 15 percent ahead of the average). It also did well in just about every other test we put it through, particularly in the database, desktop publishing, and software development segments of the BAPCo suite.

How do you build such a fast system? Start with a DX2-66. Connect the Maxtor hard drive to a SuperIDE caching controller filled with 8.5MB of cache. Throw in 8MB of RAM supported by a 256K secondary cache. Finally, let a speedy OEM video card based on Western Digital's 90C31 accelerator handle the graphics.

Like a rocket without a parachute, however, a speedy system isn't much good without some backup when things go wrong. Unfortunately, CAF received one of the worst service and support ratings in this review. It wasn't the tech support staff—they answered our questions with 100 percent accuracy. The problem is the company's customer support policies: There's no on-site service, no BBS support, and the technical support lines aren't toll free.

Despite the subpar service, however, the CAF Gold 6D2 is an extremely fast machine for a reasonable price. If that's all you want, consider buying the CAF.

## Compaq Deskpro 4/66i Model 120/w



### VITAL STATISTICS

**Street price:** \$3120  
**PROS:** Three-year warranty, good *Windows* performance  
**CONS:** Relatively expensive, limited expandability  
**Contact:** Compaq Computer, 800/345-1518, 713/378-8820  
**Reader service no. 663**



First Compaq forced the rest of the industry into a price war. Then it raised the standard for service and support. On this and other Deskpro's, Compaq now offers a three-year warranty and free 24-hour tech support for the system's lifetime. And that tech support is good. The Compaq staff answered our calls with alacrity, and their responses were right on the money. As a result, Compaq earned the top spot for service and support in this review.

This Deskpro is fast, too, especially with *Windows*. It finished our *Excel* test in third place, less than 4 percent behind the leader and nearly 22 percent ahead of the average. The good *Windows* scores can be credited, at least in part, to Compaq's speedy QVision graphics. The system was less successful in the BAPCo test suite, particularly on the database and software development segments (suggesting the disk subsystem might need a little fine-tuning). Still, the sprightly *Windows* performance was good enough that the system was close to making our top five for overall performance.

We also like this Deskpro's cool design. Inside the compact case, the system is configured with 8MB of RAM and a 64K secondary cache, both of which should be more than enough for everyday use. You get Compaq's Business-Audio hardware, which may not be high fidelity but should be good enough for adding voice annotations to *Windows* documents. The 122MB Quantum hard drive is one of the smallest of the systems reviewed here, but, as Compaq

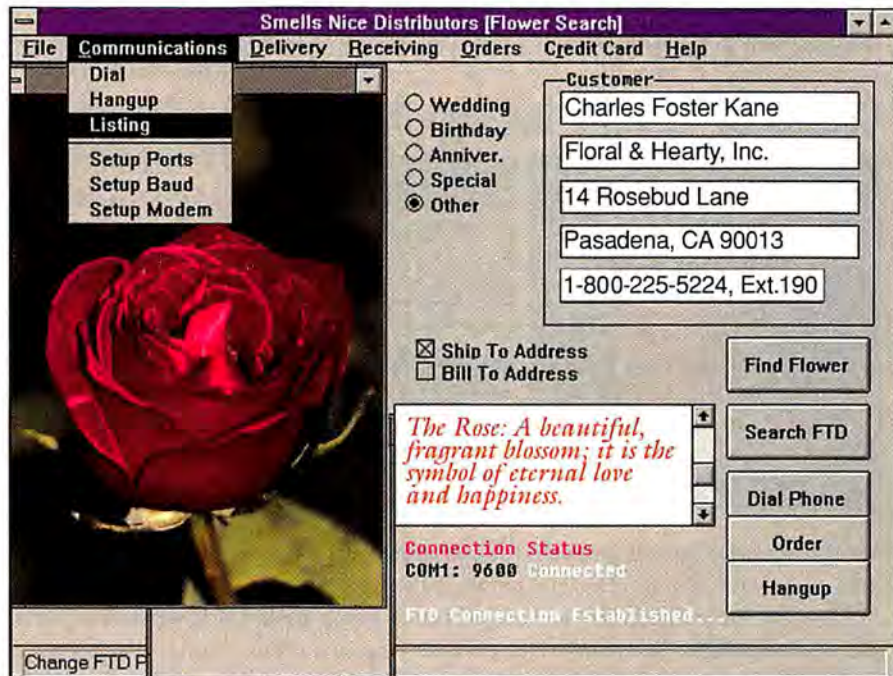
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pointed out when submitting the system, bigger hard drives don't necessarily mean better performance.

As we've noted before, the Deskpro can't compete with bigger systems when it comes to expandability. The system has just three drive bays (two of them externally accessible), and all of them are already occupied. If you have access to a network tape drive or CD ROM, this may not matter; if you're using a Deskpro as a stand-alone machine, however, it could be a problem. A riser card holds just three expansion slots. However, since video and drive control are integrated on the motherboard, you may not need more.

The big problem with the Deskpro is price. Its \$3120 price tag isn't that far over our \$3000 price ceiling, but it's expensive compared to many systems here. Still, if you want good *Windows* speed and one of the best service contracts in the industry, and you don't mind paying a bit extra, the Deskpro is worth serious consideration.

## CompuAdd 466DX2 Desktop Power



### VITAL STATISTICS

**Direct price:** \$3016  
**PROS:** Good customer service policies, lots of room to grow  
**CONS:** Slowest in review  
**Contact:** CompuAdd Computer, 800/456-3116, 512/250-1489  
**Reader service no.** 664

Using all the right ingredients doesn't always guarantee a gourmet meal. Take this CompuAdd system. It uses a DX2-66. It has 8MB of RAM (upgradable to 64MB) and a 256K cache. To top it off, it has a CompuAdd Hi-Rez brand video card in a proprietary "hot-slot," which is a 16-bit slot configured to run at 12.5 MHz (instead of the usual 8.3 MHz).

Despite the appetizing hardware, this DX2-66 is slower than all four of the DX-50s we tested. It took almost twice as long to finish our *Excel* test as the fastest system; in fact, it had problems with our *Windows* tests in general (perhaps because the video card is based on Western Digital's nonaccelerating 90C30 chip). The system did better on the BAPCo tests, particularly the desktop publishing and word processing sections. Remember that by any general measure, this system is fast; it just isn't as fast as the other speedsters in this roundup.

Unfortunately, the competitive picture doesn't brighten when you look at price. CompuAdd sells this system for \$3016, just \$16 over our limit, but still in the bottom half of the price range for this review. Service and support policies are generous—24-hour, 7-day-a-week tech support, a one-year warranty, a year of free on-site service, and three-day turnaround on repairs.

This system gives you plenty of room for expansion. The desktop case holds seven ISA slots (six of which are free) and seven drive bays. Five bays are externally accessible; one of the two internal bays holds a 119MB Western Digital hard drive. Too bad we aren't looking for systems with lots of room. For a speedy number cruncher, we'd advise you to look elsewhere.

## CompuAdd Express 466DX2



### VITAL STATISTICS

**Direct price:** \$2895  
**PROS:** Low price, bundled software, good service  
**CONS:** Average speed, cramped for space  
**Contact:** CompuAdd Express, 800/925-3000, 512/219-1800  
**Reader service no.** 665

At \$2895, this system is well under our \$3000 ceiling. That price includes your choice of *LotusWrite for Windows*, *LotusWorks*, *Lotus Organizer*, and *1-2-3 for Home*. It also buys you some of the best service and support we've found. You get a year of free on-site service and a three-day turnaround on repairs. When we called CompuAdd Express's tech support lines, the staff answered our questions quickly, accurately, and courteously.

Unfortunately, when it comes to performance, this system can't compete with the other speed demons here. While it produced a good time on the *Freelance* section of our *Windows* test, it didn't fare well on our other tests (despite being loaded with 16MB of RAM and 128K cache). Overall, it ranked 20th on our performance charts, nearly 38 percent behind the leader.

This box also lacks some of the expansion options you get from other systems. It has only three drive bays, all of them filled. It has five expansion slots, all free, but two are for 8-bit cards only. To its credit, CompuAdd Express has a more expandable desktop model available, which should cost another \$100. In the system at hand, however, good service and a low price aren't enough to offset relatively slow performance and limited expandability.

## CUI Advantage 486-66DX2



### VITAL STATISTICS

**Street price:** \$3441  
**PROS:** Good speed for DOS, great expandability  
**CONS:** Expensive, slow on *Excel*  
**Contact:** CUI, 800/458-6686, 408/241-9170  
**Reader service no.** 666

If you want an advantage running DOS apps, this box from CUI could be for you. Thanks to strong performances in the database, graphics, and software development sections, it came in a surprising fourth for the BAPCo suite overall. It had a harder time with our *Windows* tests: its *Excel* score was 43 percent lower than the fastest.

The CUI uses an UltraStor 15C caching hard drive controller attached to a Quantum hard drive and a no-name video card based on Tseng's ET4000 chip. The system we tested has 8MB of RAM

installed (out of a maximum of 64MB) and a 256K cache. The big metal case gives you a whopping ten drive bays (seven are free).

CUI offers no turnaround repair policy and no tech support fax line. While it has a one-year warranty, CUI charges \$140 for a year of on-site service. Tech support lines are open just nine hours a day, and when we called, some of our questions were answered incorrectly. You expect more for \$3441.

## DECpc 466d2 LP



### VITAL STATISTICS

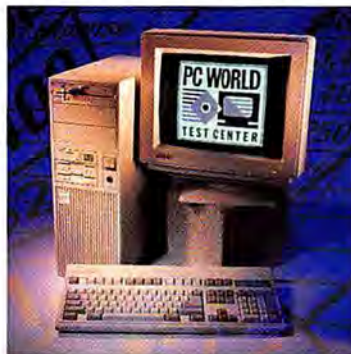
**Direct price:** \$3049  
**PROS:** Great design  
**CONS:** Relatively slow  
**Contact:** DEC, 800/722-9332  
**Reader service no.** 667

We've said it before and we'll say it again: DEC PCs look great. Each comes in a solid, low-profile metal case with a sleek, minimalist front panel. The system we looked at had just one 3½-inch drive installed, but there's a bay available for a 3½- or 5¼-inch device.

The nice design continues inside the case. The CPU is on its own daughterboard, with a 256K secondary cache. There's 8MB of RAM installed on the main board that you can upgrade to 64MB with standard SIMMs. Data is stored on a Quantum hard drive. As with other compact systems, you sacrifice a bit on expandability—there are just three slots on a riser card. However, because the S3-based local bus video system and the drive connector are integrated on the motherboard, all three slots are free.

The DEC was a bit of a disappointment when it came to performance. Overall, it was 12 percent slower than the average system here. While service and support are fine (the only serious problem is no turnaround policy for repairs), and the system's price is just \$49 over our \$3000 price break, its subpar performance is hard to ignore.

## Diamond DT 486VL



### VITAL STATISTICS

**Direct price:** \$2875  
**PROS:** Fastest DX-50, local bus peripherals, good price  
**CONS:** None  
**Contact:** Diamond Technologies, 800/989-7253, 714/252-1008  
**Reader service no.** 668

In a review studded with gems, the Diamond is one of the crown jewels. Even though it uses a DX-50, this system manages to be fast enough, and cheap enough, to earn a Best Buy.

Overall, it is the fastest of the four DX-50s here. In our *Excel* test, it was slower than just three of the DX2-66s and tied with a fourth, only 7 percent behind the overall leader. It fared less well in the BAPCo tests; it placed 23rd in the spreadsheet test, for example, over 11.5 percent below the average.

Part of the reason for the Diamond's good *Windows* performance: It takes fuller advantage of the VESA local bus than any other system we've looked at. It uses a local bus video card based on S3's 805 chip, and storage is handled by a VESA local bus SCSI-2 host adapter connected to a Maxtor hard drive (the adapter also supports 2.88MB floppy drives). Remember that on a DX-50, that local bus is running at a full 50 MHz, not 33 MHz as on a DX2-66. The system we looked at also has 8MB of RAM installed (out of a possible 64MB) and a 256K RAM cache.

All this clever design is mounted in a nondescript plastic case. The motherboard is cleanly laid out and, for the most part, easily accessible. The documentation is extremely thorough, if a little too detailed for beginning users (but this is probably too much system for a beginner, anyway). Diamond's service and support are good: The warranty covers parts for 15 months and labor for 24 months, on-site service costs \$75 for the first year, and Diamond guarantees to turn around repairs in two days. Diamond's tech support staff responded well to our questions.

How much will this system set you back? Surprisingly little. At just \$2875, the Diamond comes in \$125 under our price limit. With its low price, good *Windows* speed, and strong support, this system flouts the conventional idea that a DX-50 can't compete with a DX2-66. If you want a fast, cutting-edge system for a reasonable price, this Diamond is a definite Best Buy.

## Gateway 2000 4DX2-66V
























### VITAL STATISTICS

**Direct price:** \$3120  
**PROS:** Very good spreadsheet performance, two VESA slots  
**CONS:** Long waits on tech-support line  
**Contact:** Gateway 2000, 605/232-2000, 800/523-2000  
**Reader service no.** 669

Gateway, the company that's brought almost as much fame to cows as Ben and Jerry's ice cream did, sent us a bull of a desktop. If you've got the space to accommodate this machine's bulk, Gateway's 4DX2-66V is a solid all-around performer. Its 66-MHz DX2 processor, 8MB of RAM, and 64K of secondary cache let this machine stampede through spreadsheets; its *Excel* score is 15 percent better than the average. It has a great video system to view spreadsheets with, too. Its ATI video controller plugs into a VESA local bus slot, and it's one of only five machines in this review that comes with a large 15-inch monitor.

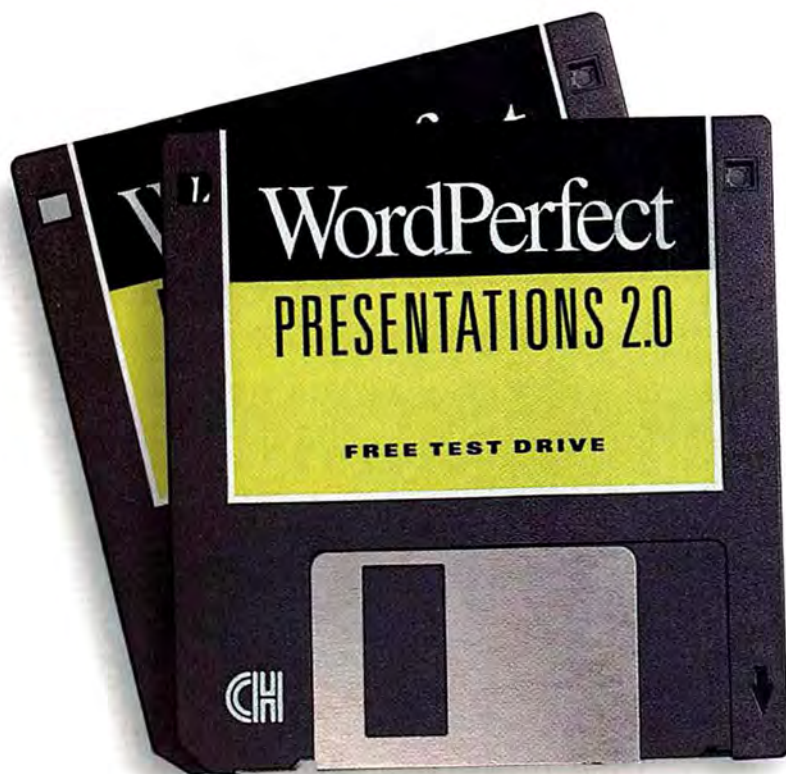
The speedy video controller helps account for this PC's hot performance on *Windows* software—the 4DX2-66V topped the chart in the *Freelance* test. The 4DX2-66V also offers a second, unfilled

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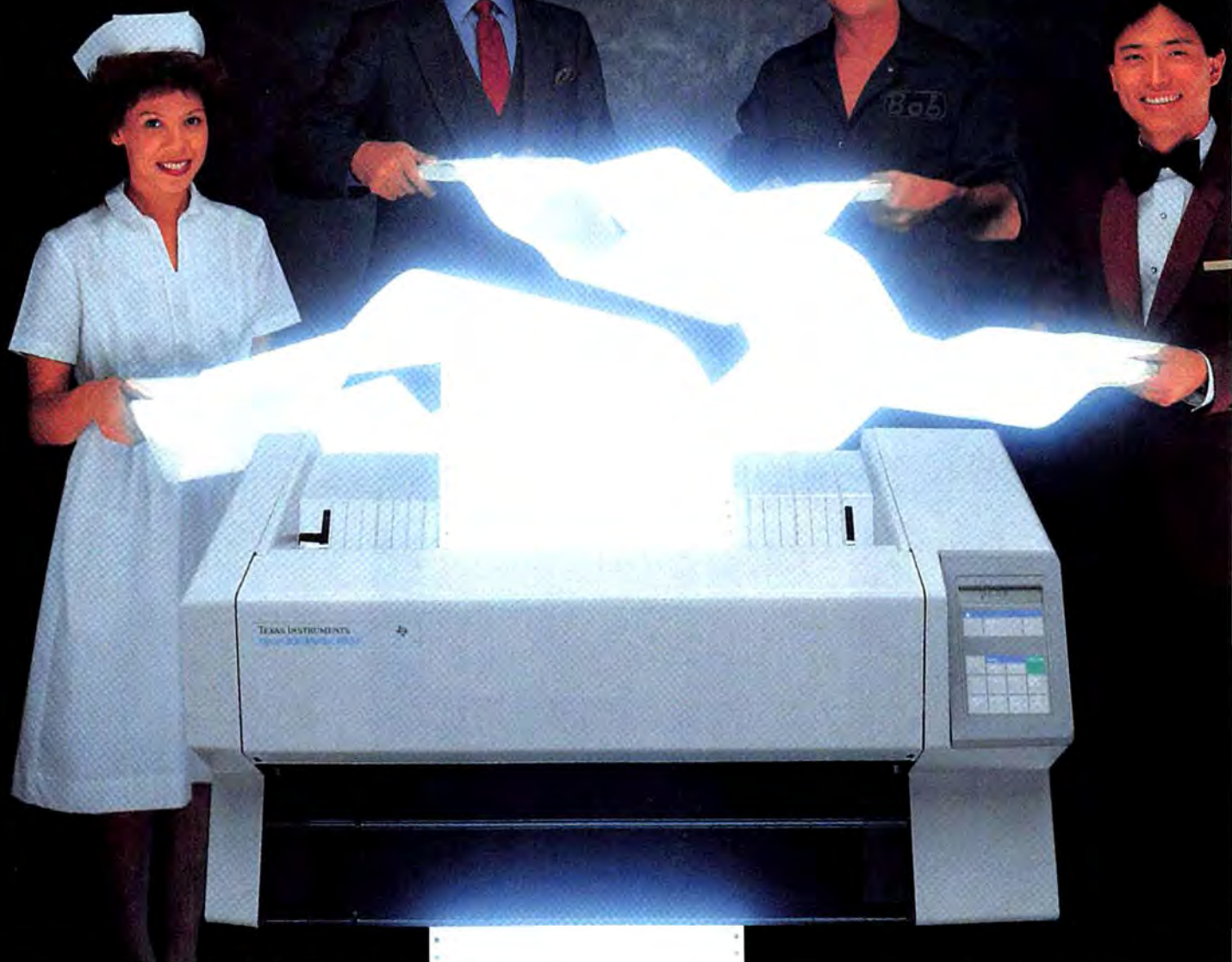
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VESA local bus slot, only one of a handful of machines in this review that does. The integrated disk connector is also local bus, but strangely enough, the 4DX2-66V's least impressive results were on the database tests, which require a lot of disk I/O. Overall, the 4DX2-66V's performance rating places it in the top third of all systems reviewed here. It also comes with one of the largest hard disks found on these systems, Western Digital's 325MB Caviar drive. One hardware quibble: The motherboard's internal switches are a little hard to reach.

The biggest weakness is Gateway's service and support. The company bit the dust on accuracy and responsiveness, and it won't commit to a time frame on factory repairs. Gateway has long hold times—sometimes more than half an hour. Those times may have shortened by the time you read this, because the company was working to beef up its support. Its tech support lines are open 18 hours a day, including Saturday. In short, this is a solid performer with good features from a major vendor—definitely worth a look.

## Insight I486DX-50



### VITAL STATISTICS

**Direct price:** \$2999

**PROS:** Excellent disk and video subsystems, highly expandable

**CONS:** Generally poor service and support

**Contact:** Insight Computers, 602/902-1010, 800/755-9628

**Reader service no.** 670

If server-class machines were the subject of this review, Insight's tower would be a strong contender—it comes with a whopping 488MB hard drive from Fujitsu with 2MB of drive cache on the controller, eight expansion slots (including one for local bus), and six 5¼-inch drive bays.

Alas, even though the I486DX-50 comes well stocked with 8MB of RAM and 128K of secondary cache and did better than average on disk-intensive tests such as *Paradox*, it falls a bit below average for overall performance. This is likely due to the fact that its DX-50 CPU isn't quite the equal of the DX2-66s. The I486DX-50 scored below average for both the *Excel* and the BAPCo spreadsheet tests; in general, it tended to do better on the *Windows* applications tests than the BAPCo tests.

Other features commend the I486DX-50—its 15-inch monitor; comfortable, low-noise keyboard; well-laid-out motherboard with slots and jumpers easily accessible; and ample cooling from two fans. Documentation could be better; while you get a separate manual for everything, the system manual is written for several models and lacks many details specific to this machine. Insight's staff does work weekends and won points for courtesy, but answers to a couple of our questions were a bit off. The faulty answers, coupled with Insight's lack of on-site service, turnaround repair policy, and BBS support, hurt the company's service and support rating. For the price, unless you want all that expansion headroom, you'd be better off opting for one of our Best Buys.

## Micro Express ME MicroFlex 486DX2-66



### VITAL STATISTICS

**Direct price:** \$2150

**PROS:** Great price, excellent service and support

**CONS:** Short on RAM

**Contact:** Micro Express, 800/989-9900, 714/852-1400

**Reader service no.** 671



Micro Express is known for its low prices on high-end systems, and the MicroFlex is a case in point. For \$2150, you get a highly expandable minitower packed with a top-of-the-line 66-MHz CPU, 256K of external cache, a Western Digital 202MB hard drive and a controller equipped with 1MB of disk cache, and an Avive graphics accelerator.

If Micro Express had included more than a modest 4MB of RAM, overall performance might have been much better. Instead this PC falls just below average for overall speed. The MicroFlex did considerably better on the BAPCo tests than our *Windows* tests; on both the BAPCo spreadsheet tests and *Excel* tests it was in the middle of the pack.

The motherboard layout could be better: The secondary cache upgrade sockets are stuck behind a drive cage and the SIMMs are a little hard to reach. System documentation is generic, but the video controller and monitor have more detailed manuals.

Service and support staff answered our questions accurately, and tech support is toll free and open around the clock—weekends too. A two-year warranty caps it all off. This good support, plus MicroFlex's respectable performance and a very low price, earned this PC the sixth spot overall—not quite a Best Buy, but awfully close.

## MicroNiche Information Systems M466



### VITAL STATISTICS

**Direct price:** \$2709

**PROS:** Nice price, solid across-the-board performance

**CONS:** Small hard drive, insufficient documentation

**Contact:** Micro Niche Information Systems, 800/733-9188, 408/730-9188

**Reader service no.** 672



At first glance, the MicroNiche M466 appears to be the epitome of the clone knockoff: unimaginative name, nondescript case, scanty manual. Even a closer look doesn't

immediately shake the initial impression: Its performance is unspectacular. So how did it become a Best Buy? While the M466 doesn't do wonders in any particular category, it does respectably in all the areas that count most and provides some nice extras.

The M466 comes with a full load of silicon—a DX2-66 processor, 256K of secondary cache, and 16MB of cache RAM—which no doubt helped it achieve a solid 11th place for overall performance. Although it has only average ratings for the *Excel* and BAPCo spreadsheet tests, the system performed evenly across our *Windows* apps and BAPCo apps—a lot better than you can say for some of the flashier machines.

The M466 has good expandability for a compact, with five externally accessible drive bays of mixed sizes and eight expansion slots, including a VESA local bus slot. Oddly, MicroNiche stuck with video and hard disk controllers. As for other extras, the M466 is one of a few machines here to include a SCSI port. Its only hardware drawback—the skimpy 122MB hard drive—has little effect on the system's number-crunching capabilities. Also, system documentation is so sparse and generic as to be close to useless.

Service and support was solid, and the company offers strong policies. If you're looking for an all-around solid performer at a good price, the M466 should make your short list.

## NEC Image 466



### VITAL STATISTICS

**Street price:** \$3109  
**PROS:** Top overall rating, upgrade socket for OverDrive for DX2  
**CONS:** So-so service and support  
**Contact:** NEC Technologies, 508/264-8000, 800/388-8888  
**Reader service no.** 673



NEC's Image 466 wins the gold medal in this roundup. Like those of a highly trained athlete, this computer's strengths are fine-tuned for its event. The company sent us a screamer complete with 66-MHz CPU, 8MB of RAM, and 256K of secondary cache. NEC cut costs where it wouldn't show so much in number-crunching applications: a smallish 170MB hard drive, a single 3½-inch floppy drive. The Image 466 scores big points for providing an upgrade socket for the Pentium-based OverDrive for DX2. Another big plus for spreadsheet users: NEC's own 15-inch MultiSync 3FGx monitor.

The abundance of speedy silicon led to great performance results: The NEC is the fastest *Windows* system of the bunch and the second fastest overall. It was the fastest machine in our *Excel* test and was a healthy 14.6 percent above the average for the BAPCo spreadsheet suite. In fact, this speedster scored in the top five for all performance categories but the BAPCo graphics and software development sections.

NEC incorporated many thoughtful design details into the Image. The labels for the ports are molded into the case, instead of marked on stickers which can peel off and get lost. A metal bar

spans the inside top center of the computer from front to back, so the case will support a heavy monitor without buckling. You can remove the case cover simply by turning a tab—no screws to mess with. The company clearly did its homework on this machine.

There are, however, one or two drawbacks to this system. Even with drive connector and video controller integrated into the motherboard, the four 8/16-bit slots and two accessible drive bays offer fewer expansion opportunities than most PCs here. NEC also took a small hit for exceeding our price limit by \$109, and its service and support left us a little flat, with average tech support hours, and no turnaround repair policy.

But these drawbacks aren't enough to keep the Image from grabbing the first-place standing in this review. This compact Best Buy should be one of your first considerations, especially if performance and a processor upgrade are more important than expandability.

## Netis 486DX2-66 Local Bus System



### VITAL STATISTICS

**Direct price:** \$1990  
**PROS:** Lowest price of review  
**CONS:** Sluggish performance, shoddy design and assembly in places  
**Contact:** Netis Technology, 408/263-0368  
**Reader service no.** 674

Let's face it: You can't find too many DX2-66 PCs selling for less than \$2000, but this Netis is one of them. However, our emphasis in this review was on getting the best performance for \$3000 or less.

So how does the Netis stack up? Despite the impressive amount of silicon—8MB of RAM and 256K of secondary cache—the Netis was a mediocre performer overall, 6 percent below the average. It was 4 percent above the average on our *Excel* test but 11 percent below it on the BAPCo spreadsheet tests. In general, Netis's offering fared worse on the BAPCo tests than on the *Windows* applications. Even though the system has local bus video, its speed advantages were not reflected on the lab bench—it was 28 percent behind the average in the BAPCo graphics test.

When we started kicking the tires on this one, we came up with plenty of evidence to suggest that the company cut corners. The keyboard feels cheap and makes a jangling sound. The SIMM sockets are hard to get at because they're stuck under the power supply, the secondary cache sockets are buried under the drive cage, and we discovered some cables tightly pinched between the CPU heat sink and an expansion card. Documentation also suffers—some manuals are not clearly marked and lack thoroughness.

The tech support staff did a great job answering our questions, and turnaround for repairs is two days. Netis would have been near the top in that category if its tech support number were toll-free. Good service and record-shattering price notwithstanding, this PC placed in the middle of the pack for overall value. You may want to spend more for a stronger and better-crafted performer.

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text and graphics, for example) and advanced capabilities (it's mail-enabled, allows easy creation of envelopes and bulleted lists, and supports DDE and OLE).

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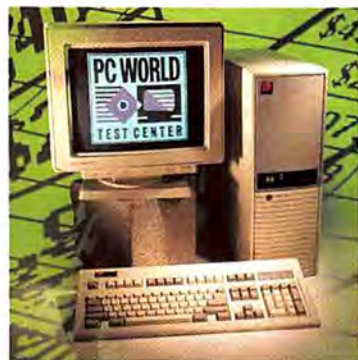
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# WordPerfect®

## Polywell Poly 486-66V



## VITAL STATISTICS

**Direct price:** \$2995  
**PROS:** Excellent performance, great expandability.  
**CONS:** No system board documentation  
**Contact:** Polywell Computers, 415/583-7222, 800/999-1278  
**Reader service no.** 675



This tower of power earns a Best Buy because it has it all when it comes to number crunching: a 66-MHz DX2 processor, 8MB of RAM, 256K of secondary cache, VESA local bus controllers for hard disk and video, and 4MB of disk cache on the disk controller. It's also highly expandable, with three free externally accessible and two free internal drive bays and five free 8/16-bit expansion slots.

The good news doesn't stop there. Although it performed unremarkably on our *Windows* apps, the Poly 486-66V aced the BAPCo tests, scoring first in the spreadsheet test. The Polywell didn't do so well on graphically based tests, but it turned in a solid fourth-place finish (14 percent above average) for overall performance.

Polywell's service and support scored well, with a good showing on accuracy and responsiveness and a year of free on-site service, a toll-free line, Saturday tech support, and a two-day turnaround guarantee. Only the internal design and documentation get mixed reviews. The jumpers and SIMMs are easily accessible, but the CPU is far from a cooling fan, and cables are a bit tangled. In all other respects, however, the Poly 486-66V is a splendid performer, earning the number two overall value in this roundup. Unless you don't have room for a full-size tower PC, we recommend you put Polywell's Best Buy offering near the top of your shopping list.

## Quill Qtech 486DX-50



## VITAL STATISTICS

**Direct price:** \$2999  
**PROS:** Good expandability for a compact  
**CONS:** Comparatively poor performance, especially in BAPCo tests  
**Contact:** Quill Computer Products, 708/634-6650  
**Reader service no.** 676

The Qtech promised to stick out above the rest, with a high-performance EISA bus, 8MB of system memory, and 256K of secondary cache. Its performance was duller than expected, though, likely due to its 50-MHz 486DX processor. Overall performance was disappointing, nearly 16 percent behind the average system. The Qtech might have helped itself considerably by adding local

bus video and disk, which operate faster on a DX-50 than a DX-66.

Other features redeem it to an extent. Despite being a compact, the Qtech has five externally accessible drive bays and eight 32-bit EISA slots. Its 202MB SCSI hard drive is buttressed by 2MB of disk cache. The Quill is backed up with free on-site service and a two-day turnaround guarantee on repairs, and we found hold times to be minimal. Even so, sharp buyers should consider other reviewed machines, which offer better overall value for the money.

## Silicon Valley 486DXC2/66 Turbo



## VITAL STATISTICS

**Street price:** \$2479  
**PROS:** Low price  
**CONS:** No secondary cache RAM, no direct customer support  
**Contact:** Silicon Valley Computer, 415/967-1100, 415/967-0770 (fax)  
**Reader service no.** 678



Silicon Valley managed to send us a DX2-66 with 8MB of RAM for \$500 less than our limit in this review, achieved in part by not including any of its potential 512K secondary cache. That's probably why it gets lost amid the faster performers. This system came in about 5 percent slower than average, due to its average or worse scores in every category, including spreadsheets.

This minitower system has average expandability, but three of its slots are partially obstructed by the drive cage. The 203MB Western Digital hard drive is typical in size. The Paradise Accelerator for *Windows* video board is also average, as is the 14-inch monitor.

Silicon Valley no longer has on-site service, and the week-long turnaround guarantee doesn't help. Furthermore, Silicon Valley doesn't provide direct support, nor does it help dealers very much. The result is a dead last score for service and support. With poor service and support and an average showing in everything except price, we can't recommend this machine. If you want a cheap number cruncher, look at one of the less expensive Best Buys instead.

## Swan 486DX2-66V

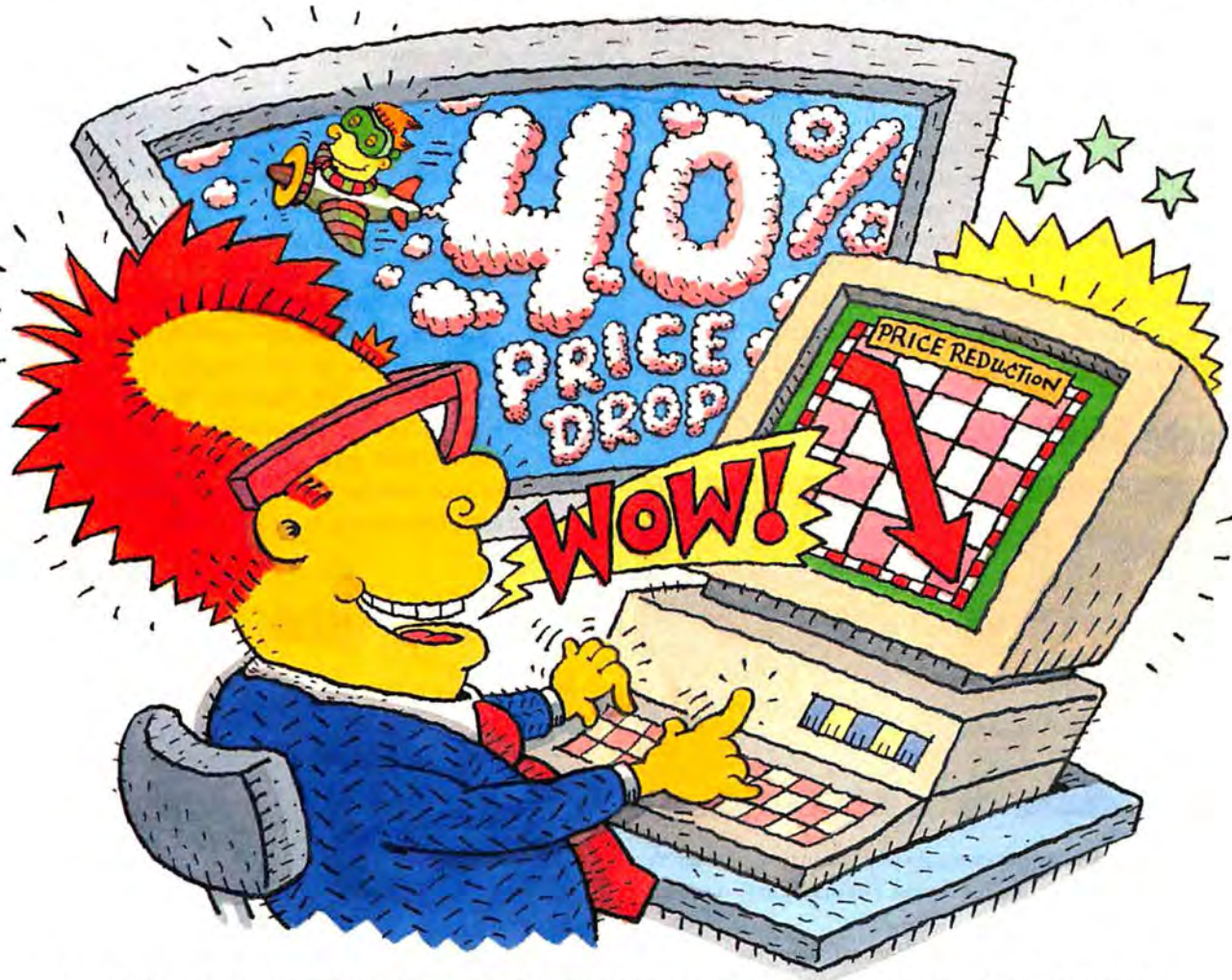


## VITAL STATISTICS

**Direct price:** \$3073  
**PROS:** Above average performance, good service and support  
**CONS:** Limited expandability  
**Contact:** Swan Technologies, 814/234-2236, 800/468-9044  
**Reader service no.** 679

The Swan PC isn't the most aggressive bird on the pond, but by scoring more than 3.5 percent above average in overall performance, it holds its own in this month's pecking order. The 66-MHz DX2

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CPU, 8MB of RAM, and 256K of secondary cache undoubtedly helped this system place over 8.5 percent above average in our *Excel* test.

Swan makes its own nicely designed motherboards and this time included a 234MB Quantum hard drive. The Diamond Speedstar video board might once have been outstanding but is merely ordinary in this company; nevertheless, it helped the Swan achieve decent all-around performance scores. The keyboard is clattery but has good tactile feedback, and the documentation is very good, with plenty of helpful diagrams.

The system's biggest drawback is limited expandability, with only two 5¼-inch drive bays left free, despite the use of a combo floppy drive. There are also only four free slots.

Swan provides decent service and support, highlighted by a two-year warranty with tech support open 12 hours a day, full weekend support, and free on-site service. Although answers to our questions weren't perfect, they were on a par with most other vendors'. Overall, though this Swan doesn't manage to rise above the crowd, it's a solid performer. If you don't see a need to upgrade, this system might be worth a look.

## Touche 5550T/486-66 ISA



### VITAL STATISTICS

**Direct price:** \$3198

**PROS:** Top-notch expandability

**CONS:** Subpar performance, poor documentation, low on RAM

**Contact:** Touche Micro Technologies, 708/810-1010, 708/810-9490 (fax)

**Reader service no. 680**

If tons of expandability is your top priority, you may want to tap this monster from Touche, but it's not the first machine to turn to for truly tough number-crunching tasks.

The 5550T/486-66 ISA comes with six externally accessible 5¼-inch drive bays and five internal 3½-inch bays, as well as seven 8/16-bit slots and one 8-bit slot, and that includes an integrated disk connector. Great—for a server.

But number-juggling is the name of the game here, and this is where the 5550T lets the ball drop. Even though it sports a fast 66-MHz processor, the PC's skimpy 4MB of RAM and 64K of secondary cache contribute to its low performance scores—it ranks in the bottom five in this review (over 14.5 percent slower than the average). It finished a dismal 24th out of 25 on the *Excel* tests (37 percent slower than the average), though it fared better (just shy of average) on the BAPCo spreadsheet tests. Rankings for the *Windows* applications were consistently low, but BAPCo results were better, though still under par.

In most other respects, the 5550T is unremarkable. The SIMMs on the motherboard are readily accessible, and the CPU has a miniature cooling fan attached to it, but some of the DIP switches for configuring the system are hard to get at and the CPU is buried under a drive cage. The keyboard is comfortable but a little noisy.

Documentation is particularly bad, consisting of a skimpy quick install reference guide with barely legible diagrams and a bundle of printouts of the PC's BIOS information. The Touche does have a 15-inch monitor though.

Service and support ended up in the middle of the pack—the company's tech support staff responded to our queries quickly but with poor accuracy. In addition, Touche exceeded our price limit by \$198. If expandability's your main requirement, start with the Touche 5550T. Otherwise you can find smaller, better-performing machines at more competitive prices.

## Late List Prices

As if to underscore our point that computing power has never been more affordable, prices for many of the systems in this review dropped dramatically in the two months between our initial pricing research and another quick round of calls we made before shipping this review to the printer. The list price for the Quill dropped by \$500, the Silicon Valley by \$434, and the CUI by \$350. The already low-priced Netis went even lower, from \$1990 to \$1855—it remains the cheapest system here. With these price changes, the system from Diamond becomes an even more attractive buy, as does the Ariel.

## Prices Drop, Systems Move Up

	List price as of March 1993	Price drop from January 1993
Acma 486DX2/66 Workstation	\$2795	none
ALR BusinessVEISA 4/66d Model 170DW	\$3543	none
Ariel 486DX2-66VLB	\$2795	\$200
AST Bravo 4/66d Model 123B	\$3205	none
Austin 466DX2 VESA-LB	\$2995	\$104
Axik Ace Cache 486V	\$2798	\$100
Blackship BLK 486/50E	\$2795	none
CAF Gold 6D2	\$2795	\$89
Compaq Deskpro 4/66i Model 120/w	\$3677	none
CompuAdd 466DX2 Desktop Power	\$2968	\$48
CompuAdd Express 466DX2	\$2695	\$200
CUI Advantage 486-66DX2	\$2999	\$350
DECpc 466d2 LP	\$3009	\$40
Diamond DT 486VL	\$2575	\$300
Gateway 2000 4DX2-66V	\$2995	\$125
Insight I486DX-50	\$2999	none
Micro Express ME MicroFlex 486DX2-66	\$1999	\$151
MicroNiche Information Systems M466	\$2575	\$134
NEC Image 466	\$3109	none
Netis 486DX2-66 Local Bus System	\$1855	\$135
Polywell Poly 486-66V	\$2750	\$245
Quill Qtech 486DX-50	\$2499	\$500
Silicon Valley 486DXC2/66 Turbo	\$2175	\$434
Swan 486DX2-66V	\$3073	none
Touche 5550T/486-66 ISA	\$3198	none

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You don't have to be Stravinsky. You don't even have to be Einstein. Everything you need to add the drama, the power, the emotion of music to any multimedia project is right here.

### **Just plug and play.**

Better yet, you don't have to add a card or give up an expansion slot. You simply plug Hello!Music! right into a serial port. Then you play.

### **From strings to woodwinds to grunge guitar.**

Inside the Hello!Music! CBX-T3 Tone Generator (that slim little unit to the right of the CPU)

are 192 sampled instrumental sounds which conform to the General MIDI standard. All yours with a few clicks of the keyboard, or a few clicks of the mouse.

What's more here's an audio input terminal to let you bring in sound from any source, be it CD, cassette player, radio or television. Plus all the software you need to mix everything together, for output at the same level of quality as CD audio.

### **MIDI to the max.**

Since Hello!Music! is a true MIDI interface, it can connect you and your computer to hundreds of MIDI devices. As well as let you use any pre-programmed MIDI music file on the market.

### **From music charts to pie charts.**

If you're a musician, Hello!Music! can be your voice.

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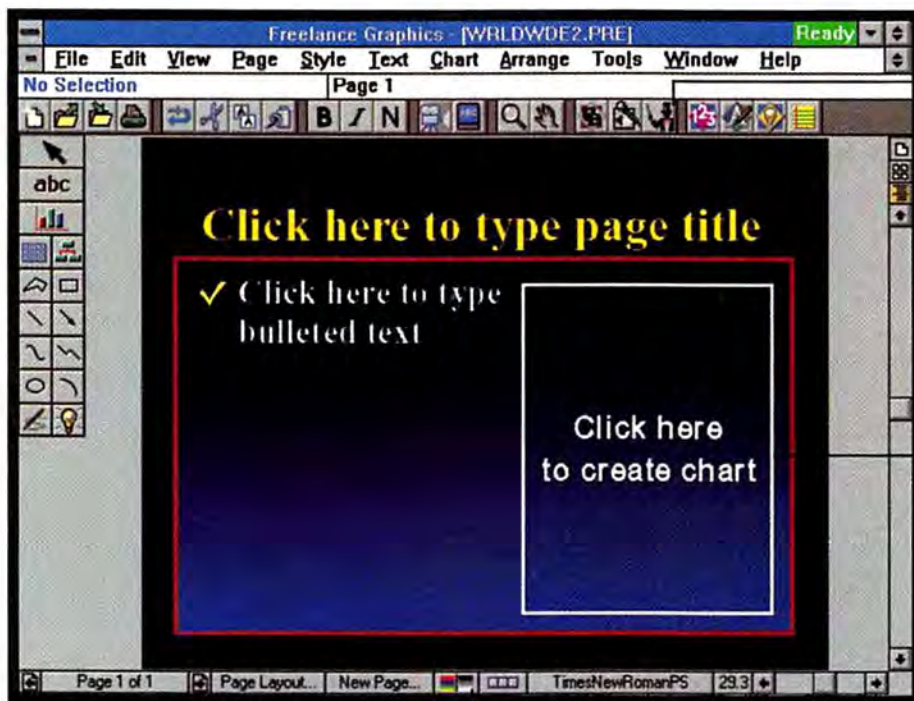


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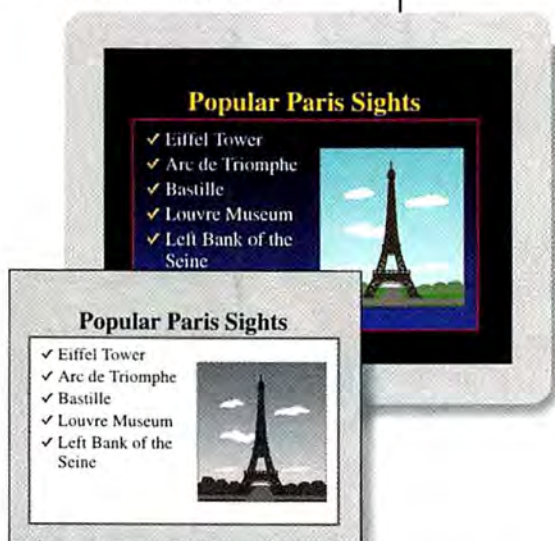
## (Especially the decision t



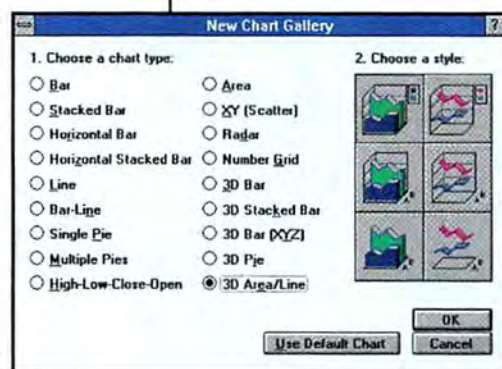
*Single-click access to powerful presentation tools makes Freelance Graphics easy to use.*



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Only Freelance Graphics includes SmartMasters,™ which automatically guide you through every step of the design process.

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Other new enhancements include: full functionality for tables and organization charts; Speaker Notes; special text effects such as automatic build slides; Screen Show features like branching; multi-media capabilities;

and easy import of your files from Harvard Graphics for DOS (Versions 2.3 and 3.0).

## If You're Using Harvard Graphics, Make The Switch Now.

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*Release 2.0 has already won PC Computing's coveted MVP Award.*

**Lotus**

**Freelance 2.0**

Presentation Graphics for Windows



#### Luring new business.

**C**harles McGuire, food production consultant in Boise, uses ScanMan 256 with OCR to put text and images into a professional-looking newsletter on fish farming. Now he's reeling in clients.



#### Had the drive, but not the green.

**C**hris Maxwell of Idaho didn't have the cash to launch his magazine, "Inland Empire Golfer", until ScanMan Color gave him high-quality color images without the hazards of costly service bureaus.



#### Make a big impression.

**P**eakdesign of Oakland uses Logitech's ScanMan to create customized icons for user-friendly interfaces on proprietary systems. The end product looks tailor made, and the clients look impressed.



#### Stuck for time.

**I**f you don't want to spend countless hours trying to copy an image freehand, follow the lead of Computat, a Massachusetts company that uses ScanMan Color to scan images into a computer-aided tattoo design system. (No kidding.)



#### The easy way.

**I**f you find yourself in need of some quick cash, the U.S. Treasury Department would like you to know this is quite illegal.



#### Don't lose your punch.

**R**esearcher Debbie McKay retyped so many documents, she wore out three keyboards. So she bought ScanMan with OCR. Now she's not only saving keyboard wear, but her fingers and time as well.



#### Earth-shaking effects.

**W**hen he wants to add large maps and charts to the textbook he's writing, California geophysicist Rick Blakely uses Logitech's ScanMan with AutoStitch to lace together individual scans. It makes his data more moving.



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## PC WORLD TEST CENTER REPORT

## The Fastest Desktop Systems...for Now

	Excel 4.0	Freelance for Windows 1.0	Word for Windows 2.0	Paradox 3.5 in DOS window	BAPCo SYSmark92
CAF Gold 6D2	82	142	102	109	180
NEC Image 466*	81	112	99	128	163
Axlk Ace Cache 486V*	96	123	111	139	171
Polywell Poly 486-66V*	100	135	136	144	185
ALR BusinessVEISA 4/66d (170DW)	87	145	104	135	156
Gateway 2000 4DX2-66V	91	110	106	141	146
Acma 486DX2/66 Workstation	99	177	111	125	163
AST Bravo 4/66d Model 123B	103	133	138	125	149
Compaq Deskpro 4/66i Model 120/w	84	143	109	129	125
Swan 486DX2-66V	98	162	116	143	141
MicroNiche Information Systems M466*	102	155	142	134	139
Diamond DT 486DVL* <sup>1</sup>	87	151	113	153	127
CUI Advantage 486-66DX2	116	176	149	158	165
Micro Express ME MicroFlex 486DX2-66	105	195	112	164	148
Insight I486-50 <sup>1</sup>	114	151	126	135	126
Silicon Valley 486DXC2/66 Turbo	107	159	123	169	130
Netis 486DX2-66 Local Bus System	103	162	132	155	121
Ariel 486DX2-66VLB	128	167	130	185	141
Austin 466DX2 VESA-LB	120	160	121	171	125
CompuAdd Express 466DX2	119	141	158	179	126
DECpc 466d2 LP	130	162	170	145	127
Touche 5550T/486-66 ISA	147	173	160	172	137
Quill Qtech 486DX-50 <sup>1</sup>	125	153	155	179	119
Blackship BLK 486/50E <sup>1</sup>	99	191	120	164	105
CompuAdd 466DX2 Desktop Power	160	154	205	187	134

## \*Best Buy

<sup>1</sup>System uses an Intel DX-50 CPU; other systems use an Intel DX2-66.

All test results are measured in seconds (lower is better) except the BAPCo SYSmark92 results, which are measured in scripts executed per hour (higher is better). Systems are listed in order of overall performance.

## Methodology

All tests were run using systems configured as specified in the Features Comparison table. If we had to install Windows, we performed the default installation. We configured Windows with a Hewlett-Packard LaserJet III as the default printer, disabled Print Manager, and attached a null printer to LPT1. Using vendor-supplied video drivers when possible, we set the resolution to 800 by 600 pixels with 16 colors.

## Excel 4.0

We perform several data extracts; build and format a

financial statement and print it; and open a mortgage analysis, scroll, move blocks, change the interest rate, print-preview the statement, and save it.

## Freelance for Windows 1.0

We load a single-page starter file containing a United States map with each state a separate object. Then we build a six-page presentation using charts and preview it five times with different effects. Finally, we save the presentation to disk.

## Word for Windows 2.0

We use the spelling checker and scroll through a 27-page document; create, format, print, and save a single-page business letter; and open a business proposal, add a paragraph, and preview and print the proposal.

## Paradox 3.5 in DOS window

Running the program in a DOS window, we perform a variety of data entry, record searching, and updating tasks. Then we generate reports using a simple customer list.

## BAPCo SYSmark 92

We run a scripting program that loads common database, desktop publishing, presentation graphics, software development, spreadsheet, and word processing applications and executes a variety of typical tasks with each. The following software packages are used: Aldus PageMaker 4.0, dBASE IV 1.1, Harvard Graphics 3.0, 1-2-3 3.1, Microsoft C 6.0, Microsoft Excel 3.0, Microsoft Word for Windows 2.0, Paradox 3.5, Quattro Pro 3.0, and WordPerfect 5.1.

All data based on tests designed and conducted by the PC World Test Center with the exception of BAPCo SYSmark92, an industry standard test designed by the Business Application Performance Corporation. Testing performed by PC World performance analysts Ulrike Diehlman and Susan Silvius. All rights reserved.

**FEATURES COMPARISON**

# Fastest Number Crunchers: Tricked Out for Top Speed

- Yes  
○ No

n/a = not applicable/available

**Standard features**

	Acma 486DX2/66 Workstation	ALR Business- VEISA 4/66d Model 1700W	Artek 486DX2-66ULB	AST Model 123B Bravo 4/66d	Austin 486DX2 VEISA-LB	<b>BEST BUY</b> Axik Ace Cache 486T	Blackship BLK 486/50E	CAF Gold 602	Compaq Model 120 w Desktop Power	CompuAdd 486DX2 Desktop Power
Direct/street price 1/4/93 <sup>1</sup>	\$2795	\$3543	\$2995 <sup>2</sup>	\$3017	\$3099	\$2898	\$2795	\$2884	\$3120	\$3016
Installed CPU	i486DX2-66	i486DX2-66	i486DX2-66	i486DX2-66	i486DX2-66	i486DX2-66	i486DX-50	i486DX2-66	i486DX2-66	i486DX2-66
Bus	ISA	EISA	ISA	ISA	ISA	ISA	EISA	ISA	ISA	ISA
Motherboard	Acma	ALR	Micronics	AST	Austin	Axik	AMI	CAF	Compaq	CompuAdd
Installed RAM (MB)	16	8	4	8	4	8	16	8	8	8
Hard disk	Conner CP30204	Seagate ST3283A	Maxtor 7213AT	Quantum ProDrive LPS	Western Digital Caviar 2340	Quantum ProDrive LPS	Maxtor 7213AT	Maxtor 7213AT	Quantum ProDrive LPS	Western Digital Caviar 2120
Size (MB)	202	234	202	122	325	234	202	202	122	119
Drive adapter	Promise SuperIDE DC99M	integrated IDE	integrated local bus IDE	integrated IDE	IDE card	Promise SuperIDE	IDE card	SuperIDE	integrated IDE	integrated IDE
Cache size, if caching controller (MB)	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	n/a	8.5	n/a	n/a
Floppy drives: 1.2MB/1.44MB/combo	0/0/1	0/1/0	1/1/0	1/1/0	1/1/0	1/1/0	1/1/0	1/1/0	1/1/0	0/1/0
Graphics controller	NDI Volante Warp 10	integrated WD 90C31	NDI Volante Warp 10 LB	integrated Cirrus Logic GD 5422	Eagle Mountain Systems	OEM w/ATI Mach 32	Orchid Fahrenheit 1280	Western Digital OEM	integrated Compaq Qvision	CompuAdd Hi-Res
Monitor	Seiko Instruments CM1450C	ALR TE1420	NEC JC1533	AST CM41	Austin	ViewSonic 6E	KFC	Royal CN-147C	Compaq 1024	CompuAdd 51070
Diagonal size of viewable area (inches)	14	14	15	14	14	14	14	14	14	14

**Expandability**

External memory cache: installed/maximum (K)	256/256	256/256	256/256	256/256	128/256	256/256	128/128	256/256	64/64	256/256
Maximum RAM (MB)	64	52	64	64	64	32	64	32	32	64
Free 32-/16-/8-bit slots	0/5/0	7/0/0	1/6/0	0/4/0	0/4/2	0/3/0	5/0/1	0/5/0	0/3/0	0/6/0
Externally accessible 3½-inch/5¼-inch drive bays	0/3	1/2	0/4	0/2	0/3	2/3	0/4	2/2	1/1	2/3
Internal 3½-inch/5¼-inch drive bays	1/1	3/0	0/2	2/0	2/0	3/0	2/2	2/0	1/0	2/0
238-pin CPU upgrade socket	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	○

**Design and construction**

Case style	minitower	compact	minitower	compact	desktop	minitower	tower	compact	compact	compact
Ports: parallel/serial/mouse	1/2/0	1/2/1	1/2/0	1/2/1	1/2/0	1/2/1	1/2/0	1/2/0	1/2/1	1/2/0
SCSI/game/other	0/1/0	0/0/0	0/0/0	0/0/1 <sup>6</sup>	0/0/0	0/1/1	0/1/0	0/1/0	0/0/1 <sup>7</sup>	0/0/0

**Service and support**

Warranty (months)	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	36	12
On-site service price for first year	\$45	\$9.95	\$50	free	free	free	free	n/a	free	free
Turnaround policy (days)	4	3	2	7	3	2	2	3	2	3
Toll-free central support	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●
Daily support (hours)	11	11	11	14	24	9.5	9	8.5	24	24
Weekend support	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	●
BBS	● <sup>11</sup>	● <sup>11</sup>	● <sup>11</sup>	● <sup>11</sup>	●	● <sup>11</sup>	●	○	●	●
Fax	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

**Vendor-to-dealer support**

Dedicated support staff required for dealers	n/a	n/a	n/a	○	●	n/a	n/a	○	○	○
Dealer support staff training required	n/a	n/a	n/a	○	●	n/a	n/a	○	○	○
Parts inventory required	n/a	n/a	n/a	●	○	n/a	n/a	○	○	○

<sup>1</sup> All systems include super VGA and color monitor, keyboard, mouse, DOS 5.0, and Windows 3.1. Price is either direct or a street price based on calls to multiple dealers.

<sup>2</sup> Includes your choice of Borland C++, Quattro Pro, or Paradox (DOS or Windows version).

<sup>3</sup> Includes your choice of LotusWrite for Windows, LotusWorks, Lotus Organizer, or 1-2-3 for Home.

			BEST BUY					BEST BUY		BEST BUY									
486DX2	Express CompuAdd	486-66DX2	CUI Advantage	DECpc 466d2-LP	Diamond DT 486VL	Gateway 2000 4DX2-66V	Insight I486DX-50	MicroFlex 486DX2-66	MicroNiche Information Systems M466	NEC Image 466	Local Bus System 486DX2-66	Nets 486DX2-66	Polywell 486-66V	Quell 486DX-50	Quill Turbo 486DX2-66	Silicon Valley 486DX2-66	Swan 486DX2-66V	5550T/ 486-66 ISA	Touche
	\$2895 <sup>3</sup>	\$3441	\$3049	\$2875	\$3120 <sup>4</sup>	\$2999 <sup>5</sup>	\$2150	\$2709	\$3109	\$1990	\$2995	\$2999	\$2479	\$3073	\$3198				
	i486DX2-66	i486DX2-66	i486DX2-66	i486DX-50	i486DX2-66	i486DX-50	i486DX2-66	i486DX2-66	i486DX2-66	i486DX2-66	i486DX2-66	i486DX-50	i486DX2-66	i486DX2-66	i486DX2-66	i486DX2-66	i486DX2-66	i486DX2-66	i486DX2-66
	ISA	ISA	ISA	ISA	ISA	ISA	ISA	ISA	ISA	ISA	ISA	ISA	EISA	ISA	ISA	ISA	ISA	ISA	ISA
	CompuAdd	CUI	DEC	AIR	Micronics	Aten	Forex	Micronics	NEC	OEM	Orchid	TMC	SVC	Swan	AMI				
	16	8	8	8	8	8	4	16	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	4
	Conner 30204F	Quantum ProDrive LPS	Quantum OEM	Maxtor 7213SR	Western Digital Caviar 2340	Fujitsu FJ2624AB	Western Digital Caviar 2200	Quantum ProDrive ELS	Western Digital WDAC 1170	Maxtor 7213AT	Maxtor 7213AT	Maxtor 7213SR	Western Digital Caviar 2200	Quantum ProDrive LPS	Quantum ProDrive LPS				
	202	234	234	202	325	488	202	122	170	202	202	202	202	234	234				
	integrated IDE	UltraStor 15C IDE	integrated IDE	SCSI2V VESA Bus Master SCSI2	integrated IDE	UltraStor 15C IDE	Super IDE	IDE card	integrated IDE	Super IDE DLU 270	DataCare VL-BUS IDE	Intellistor EISC960 SCSI	SVC ADP702 IDE	IDE card	integrated IDE				
	n/a	4	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	4	2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	0/0/1	1/1/0	0/1/0	1/1/0	1/1/0	1/1/0	1/1/0	1/1/0	0/1/0	1/1/0	1/1/0	1/1/0	0/0/1	0/0/1	1/1/0				
	integrated Tseng ET4000/AX	Hicolor Turbo F/X	integrated S3 924	AVIEW2V SVGA	ATI Ultra Pro LB	ATI UltraCAD Mach 32	Aview 2/2E/2L SVGA	Orchid ProDesigner II	integrated Tseng ET4000/W32	OEM "Enhanced VGA"	Orchid Fahrenheit VA/VLB	SuperVGA by Boca	Paradise Accelerator for Windows	Diamond Speedstar 24X	NDI Volante Warp 10				
	CompuAdd	Goldstar	Digital PC7XV-DA	CTX CVP-5468NI	Gateway 2000 CrystalScan 1572FS	MAG MX15F	Micro Express FM 360	CTX CVP-5468NI	NEC MultiSync 3FGx	View Magic	Micro Scan SM5515	Tatung CMS-14SBE	Eye-Q CM6P	Swan SW592	NEC 4FG				
	14	14	14	14	15	15	14	14	15	14	14	14	14	14	15				
	128/128	256/256	256/256	256/256	64/256	128/256	256/256	256/256	256/256	256/256	256/256	256/256	0/512	256/256	64/256				
	32	64	64	64	64	128	32	64	64	32	32	128	64	32	32				
	0/3/2	0/4/1	0/3/0	1/4/0	1/6/0	0/3/1	0/5/0	0/6/0	0/4/0	0/5/0	0/5/0	5/0/0	0/4/2	0/4/0	0/6/1				
	1/1	0/6	1/1	2/3	0/3	0/6	2/3	2/3	0/2	1/3	2/3	2/3	2/2	0/3	0/6				
	1/0	0/4	2/0	2/0	0/2	0/0	0/1	0/0	2/0	1/0	3/0	0/0	1/0	0/1	5/0				
	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○				
	compact	tower	compact	med. tower	desktop	tower	minitower	compact	compact	compact	med. tower	compact	minitower	compact	tower				
	1/2/0	1/2/0	1/2/1	1/2/0	1/2/0	1/2/1	1/2/0	1/2/0	1/1/1	1/2/0	1/2/0	1/2/0	1/2/0	1/2/0	1/2/0				
	0/0/0	0/1/0	0/0/0	1/0/0	0/0/0	0/0/0	0/1/0	1/1/0	0/0/1 <sup>8</sup>	0/1/0	0/1/0	1/0/0	0/1/0	0/0/0	0/0/0				
	12	12	12	15 <sup>9</sup>	12	12	24	12	12	12	12 <sup>10</sup>	12	12	24	24				
	free	\$140	free	\$75	free	n/a	\$50	\$45	free	\$100	\$75	free	n/a	free	\$29				
	3	none	none	2	none	none	2	1	none	2	2	2	7	none	1				
	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	○	○	●	●				
	10	9	11.5	9	18	12	24	10	12	10	9	9	n/a	12	8				
	○	○	○	○	●	●	●	○	○	●	●	○	n/a	●	○				
	●	●	○	○	● <sup>11</sup>	○	○	○	●	● <sup>11</sup>	○ <sup>11</sup>	○	n/a	●	○				
	●	○	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	n/a	●	●				
	n/a	○	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	○	○	○	n/a	n/a	○	n/a	n/a				
	n/a	○	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	○	○	○	n/a	n/a	○	n/a	n/a				
	n/a	○	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	○	●	○	n/a	n/a	○	n/a	n/a				

<sup>4</sup> Includes Central Point Anti-Virus, Central Point Backup, and your choice of one Microsoft application.

<sup>5</sup> Includes Stac Electronics Stacker.

<sup>6</sup> Ethernet 10Base-T port available on some models.

<sup>7</sup> Audio.

<sup>8</sup> Front-mounted audio ports optional.

<sup>9</sup> 15 months parts, 24 months labor.

<sup>10</sup> 12 months parts, 60 months labor.

<sup>11</sup> Saturday only.

Our blacks are blacker,  
thanks to exclusive Epson  
MicroArt Printing.

# r piled so much nter for so little.

With a personal laser printer under \$1,000, you normally have to give up one thing for another. Like speed. Or print quality. Or flexible paper handling.

Well, the new Epson® ActionLaser™ 1000 is way under \$1,000. And as you can see from the large stack on the left, we've piled more into it than any other printer in its price range.

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## EPSON

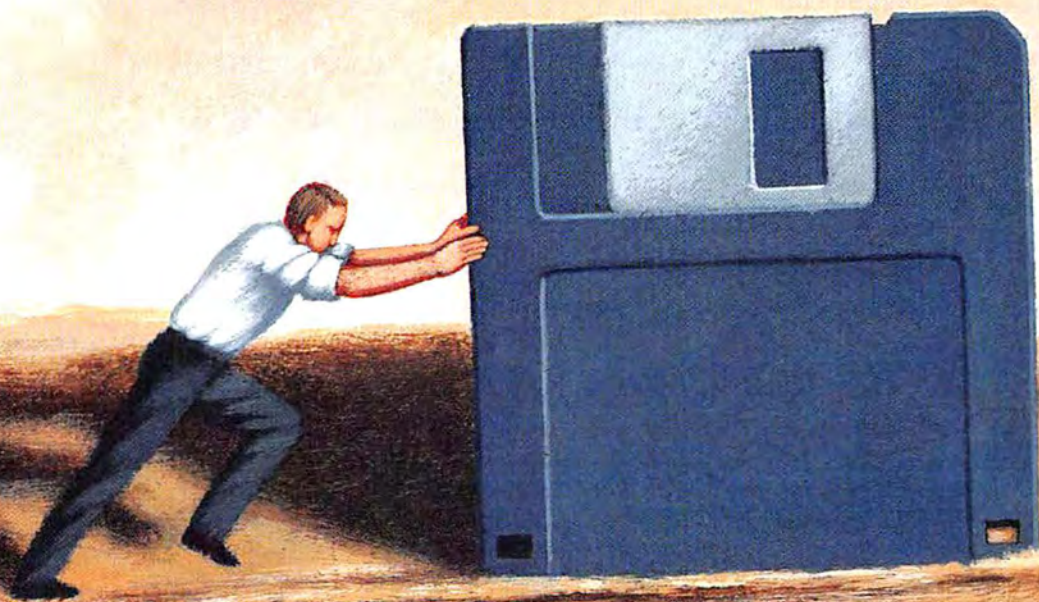
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# Work Smarter,

Take it from the experts: *There is an easier way.* Streamline your work with these 6

**S**oftware is *supposed* to make our lives easier. But today's mainstream applications give you so many ways to accomplish the same thing, you may end up taking the long road home when the shortcut is just a keystroke or mouse click away.

To identify the shortcuts, we asked 16 software gurus, book authors, support technicians, consultants, and *PC World* contributing editors to let us in on their secrets for the quickest, most efficient ways to operate inside their favorite applications. You'll find hot tips for using best-selling word processors (*Ami Pro 3.0*, *WordPerfect 5.1*,



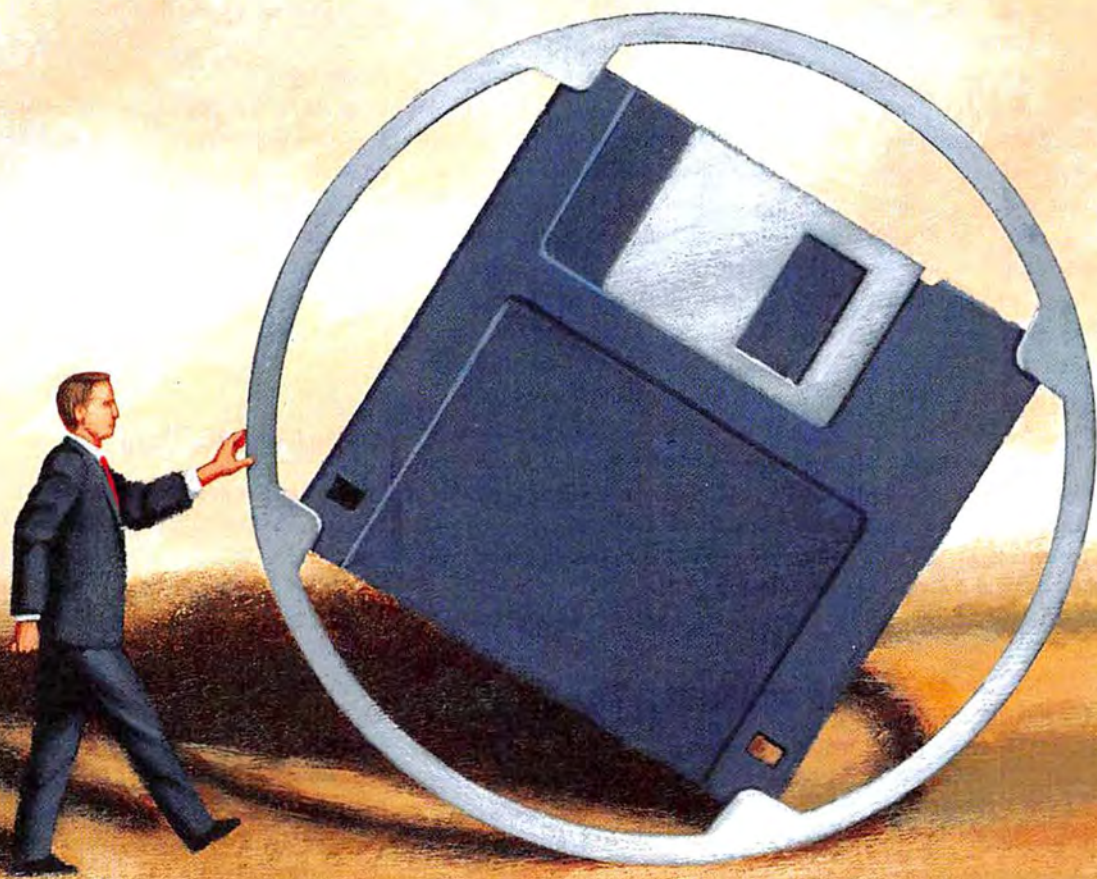
# Not Harder

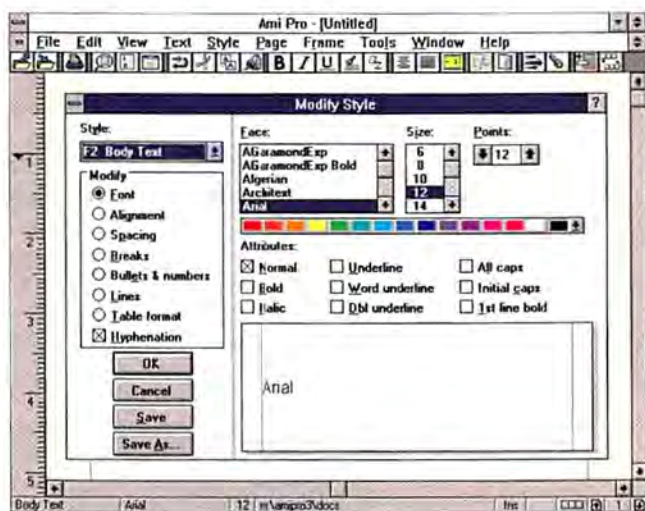
timesavers for 16 best-selling DOS and Windows applications.

*WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows, Microsoft Word 5.0 and 5.5, and Word for Windows 2.0*; spreadsheet programs (*1-2-3 for DOS and Windows, Quattro Pro for DOS, and Excel 4.0*); databases (*dBASE IV and Paradox*); draw, presentation, and desktop publishing packages (*CorelDraw 3.0, Harvard Graphics 3.0, and PageMaker 4.0*); and even the enormously popular accounting program *Quicken 6.0*. Whether you use just one or several of these packages, you'll find tips that will make you so much more productive, you may be able to leave work an hour early.

## 16 BEST-SELLERS

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**SAVE TIME IN AMI PRO** by setting up customized style sheets for common documents such as letters and memos.

## WORD PROCESSORS

### Working Smart in Ami Pro 3.0

#### Working in Style

In the old days of DOS word processors, I did a lot of manual formatting. Now I create specialized templates for common documents, so when I need a bulleted list or an indented paragraph, I just press a function key or pick a style from a list. Here's how you can set up customized style sheets.

Start *Ami Pro*, which loads the *\_DEFAULT.STY* sheet and selects *Style • Modify Style*. From the Style list, choose *Body Text* for the bulk of your text. Specify the font, size, alignment, and other options in the dialog box, then select *Save*. Modify the other existing styles in the same way. To create a new style name, such as *Indented Text*, choose *Body Text*, select *Save As*, type the new name, then select *OK*. Select the *Alignment* option and set your indents, then make any other changes you need and select *Save* again. Create or alter any other styles you need, then select *OK*. To alter page layout options for the default template, select *Page • Modify Page Layout* and set up margins, columns, tabs, and so on.

To make your changes permanent, select *Style • Save as a Style Sheet*. In the dialog box, type *\_DEFAULT.STY* in the File Name text box if it's not already there. Enter a description in the Description text box, then select *OK* and confirm overwriting the file. For other types of documents, follow the same steps, but enter a different file name when you save the style sheet.

#### Stylish Templates

Style sheets aren't limited to formatting; they can also contain boilerplate text, frames, and graphical images. I've created a letterhead, with my company logo, as part of a *LETTER.STY* style sheet. Type in a signature block and add an automatically updated date by selecting *Edit • Insert • Date • Time*. Just add the standard elements be-

fore saving your document as a style sheet. Then, in the *Save as a Style Sheet* dialog box, check the *With Contents* box before selecting *OK*.

#### Paragraph Pranks

To attach a template to a new document, select *File • New*, choose that template from the list, and select *OK*. You'll save time if you type your text in the default *Body Text* style. To reformat, position the cursor in the paragraph, then click the *Style* button on the left side of the status bar at the bottom of the screen to display a list. It's even faster to press the function key shown to the left of each style in the list. To change the function keys, select *Style • Style Management* and make your changes in the dialog box.

For even faster paragraph formatting, assign a style to one block of text, then select that block and press *Ctrl+T* or select *Text • Fast Format*. Choose *Only Paragraph Style* and select *OK*. Your mouse pointer will change to a paintbrush. To apply the same style to other paragraphs, click and drag on any part of a paragraph. When you're finished with that particular style, press *Ctrl+T* or select *Text • Fast Format* again to turn fast formatting off.

—George Campbell

### Working Smart in Word 5.0

#### Quick Keystrokes

I'm neither a menu person nor a mouser. Fortunately, *Word 5.0* supports my style with some handy keystrokes, such as *Ctrl+Page Up* to get to the first line of a document, and

*Ctrl+Page Down* to reach the end.

To select a paragraph, place the cursor anywhere in the paragraph and press *F10*. To format continuous text, press *F6* at the start of the text, then press *F10* for as many paragraphs as you want to format, or use the *Down* and *Right* cursor keys to move quickly through the document. To apply a format to an entire document, press *Shift+F10* to select all the text, then *Alt+XB* for bold, *Alt+XU* for underline, or *Alt+XI* for italics.

To undo character formatting, highlight the text, then press *Alt+XSpace*. If the paragraph formatting is wrong but you can't figure out why, select the offending paragraphs, then press *Alt+XP* to strip out the character or paragraph formatting.

#### Default Zone

If you hate having your margins set at *Word's* default 1.25 inches every time you start a document, don't agonize—customize! Create a style sheet by pressing *Esc+G*. Then *Tab* to *Usage* and press *D+Tab+F1+Enter*. Now press *FM*. Reset the margins to your preferred default and press *Enter*. Press *TS* and save the style sheet as the default *NORMAL.STY*, then press *Enter*, and *E* to return to your document.

#### Zig-Zag Zap

Don't waste time printing documents to see how lines will break. Instead, press *Esc+0*, then tab over to *Show Line Breaks* and set it to *Yes*. This setting will show you where a line of monospace characters will break. If you see that your text is running off the side of the screen, but you're not trying to align text, set *Show Line Breaks* to *No*.

—Lynn Launer

### Working Smart in Word 5.0

#### Cure for Function Key Homesickness

Because *Word 5.0's* drop-down menu interface is so handy, I don't have to remember so many different commands. I do have to remember, though, that the old *Alt+key* formatting commands from *Word 5.0* use the *Ctrl* key instead. So instead of pressing *Alt+B* for boldface, I have to press *Ctrl+B*.

Sometimes I get homesick for *Word 5.0's* function key shortcuts. When this happens, I select *Utilities • Customize*, check the *Use Word 5.0 Function Keys* box, and select *OK*.

## See It All

To see as much text as possible on the screen, select **View**•**Preferences**, then choose **Text, 50 Lines, 80 Columns, 16 Colors** in the Display Mode list box. The Text mode speeds up the program; to see italics and boldfacing press **<Alt>+<F9>**.

## The Glossary Gift

Whenever I need to store text for use in other documents, I automate the process with Word's Glossary feature. Here's how: Type the text, then highlight it and select **Edit**•**Glossary**. In the dialog box, type an easy-to-remember abbreviation (like ADD for an address) in the Glossary Name field, then select **Define**. When you exit the program, click **Yes** to save glossary changes. When you need the text in another document, type the abbreviation, then press **<F3>** to insert it at the cursor position.

If you forget the abbreviations, select **Edit**•**Glossary**, find the abbreviation in the list, and select **Insert** to pop it in.

—Bronwyn Fryer

## Working Smart in Word for Windows 2.0

### Cunning Keyboard Tricks

Sometimes there's such a thing as too much freedom of choice. Take selecting text in *WinWord*: You can use the mouse, the keyboard, or the mouse *and* the keyboard. So what's the fastest, smartest way? Treat the mouse like the disease-bearing vermin it is and memorize the following shortcuts.

To select a single word and the space after it, place your cursor on it and press **<F8>** twice.

To select a sentence and the space after it, press it three times. Pressing **<F8>** and a character highlights to the next occurrence of that character. Four presses gives you the paragraph, and five selects the whole document. (If you want to get technical, though, **<Ctrl>+<Numpad 5>** is an even faster way to select everything.)

Selected more than you wanted? **<Shift>+<F8>** backs you down one level. If you change your mind entirely, press **<Esc>** to turn off *WinWord*'s selection mode.

### Take Control of Your Formats

When you need to format text, take Control. **<Ctrl>+B** makes selected text boldface; **<Ctrl>+I**, italic; **<Ctrl>+U**, underlined. You can use these toggles to format selected text or to set the format for the next character as you type. Press the same key combo to toggle them off.

**<Ctrl>+A** toggles text entered in lowercase between uppercase or lowercase, but remember, it's only an appearance; **Edit**•**Find** and **Edit**•**Replace** won't see those characters as uppercase, and if you save the file as text only, you'll lose the appearance formatting. To actually change the case of selected text, use **<Shift>+<F3>**, which cycles selected text through lowercase, uppercase, and initial capitals.

To format paragraphs, press **<Ctrl>+1** or **<Ctrl>+2** for single and double spacing, respectively, and **<Ctrl>+E**, **<Ctrl>+L**, and **<Ctrl>+R** for centered, left-, and right-aligned text. To clear all formatting, press **<Ctrl>+<Space>**.

### Quick Text Inserts

Only a dolt types the same text more than once. When you need to insert the same text over and over in your document, save it as a glossary entry. Select the text, press **<Alt>+<E>** to call up the Glossary dialog box, type a name for the entry (use something memorable), and press **<Enter>**. Then, whenever you need to insert the text, type the glossary name and press **<F3>**.

## The Mouse House

If you must mouse, here are a few pointers. Double-click on a word to select it. To select a line, place the cursor in the left margin so it changes from an I-beam to an arrow and click once; to highlight a paragraph, double-click in the left margin. **<Ctrl>**-click in text to select that sentence. To select a longer block of text, click once in the left margin at the top of the block, hold down **<Shift>**, and click once at the bottom. To highlight the whole megillah, **<Ctrl>**-click in the left margin. And to select columns, click and drag with the right mouse button.

### Customizing the Tool Bar

Customize your tool bar correctly, and you may never have to pull down a menu again. Select **<Alt>+<O>** to get to the **Toolbar Options** dialog box. Here you can assign an icon to any command or macro in *WinWord*'s arsenal and place it on the tool bar. Simply click **Commands** or **Macros** in the Show box, scroll down the list of commands or macros, click on the one you want to add, scroll through the Button list box, and pick an appropriate icon. In the **Tool to Change** list box, choose an icon you want to replace or choose a [space], put the new icon on an empty space on the bar. Click **Change**•**Close** and the new button will appear.

So which icons should you add to your tool bar? Here are five I can't live without: **ViewZoom**, which lets me shrink and expand my document view; **DocumentStatistics**, for an instant word and character count, as well as info on editing time and revisions; **ControlRun**, which takes me to the *Windows* Clipboard or Control Panel; **ViewPage**, for instant print previews; and **InsertPageNumbers**, for...well, you can probably figure it out.

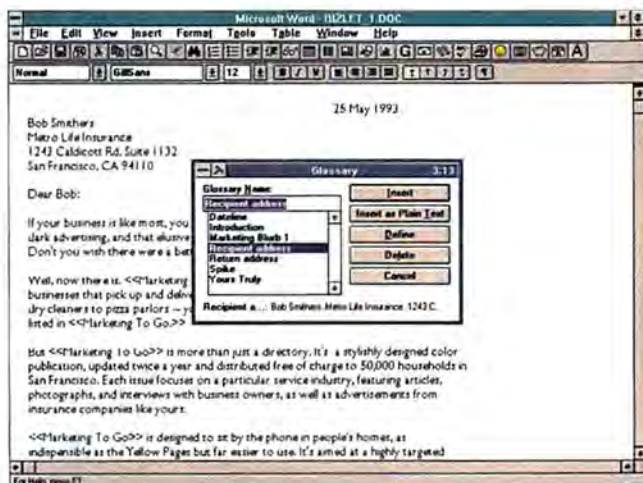
—Dan Tynan

## Working Smart in WordPerfect 5.1

### Key Consciousness

*WordPerfect* runs fastest with function keys, which are easier to learn if you lay the program's template on your keyboard and stick the color-coded decals on the **<Ctrl>**, **<Alt>**, and **<Shift>** keys. I also find it easier to memorize *WordPerfect*'s commands by using the menus' mnemonic letter choices.

*WordPerfect* was designed around the **<Home>**, **<End>**, and cursor keys on the



**WORD FOR WINDOWS' GLOSSARY FEATURE** saves you from having to type the same information twice.

numeric keypad. If you turn off Num Lock and use the numeric keypad rather than the inverted-T cursor keys, you'll save your fingers a lot of labor. Also, train yourself to use <Ctrl>-<Right> and <Ctrl>-<Left>, which move you forward and backward one word at a time, and <Gray Plus> and <Gray Minus> keys on the numeric keypad, which move you forward and backward one screen at a time.

### Cursor Control

Another set of navigation shortcuts uses the <Home> key to bolster the effect of the cursor keys. The more often you hit <Home>, the more extreme the effect: <Home><Up> moves the cursor to the top of the screen; <Ctrl>-<Home><Up> to the top of the current page; <Home><Home><Up> to the top of the document; and <Home><Home><Up> to the top of the document before any hidden codes. Similarly, <Home><Left> moves to the left of the screen; <Home><Home><Left> to the beginning of the line (if you're using a small font or wide paper, a line may be several screens wide); and <Home><Home><Home><Left> to the beginning of the line before any codes. (<Down> and <Right> use the same key combos, but it's faster to use <End> than <Home><Home><Right>.)

You can move the cursor to a specific page in a document by pressing **Go To** (<Ctrl>-<Home>) and entering a page number. Pressing <Ctrl>-<Home> twice returns you to where you last entered a major navigation command. To move around when editing, use <Search> (<F2>) to jump to exactly the right spot: Press <Search>, type the text that appears *before* the letter you want the cursor to land on, and press <Search> again.

### Around the Block

When you cut a block, *WordPerfect* tells you to 'Move cursor; press Enter to retrieve'. If it makes more sense to clean up around the cut before moving elsewhere to paste, press <F1> (Cancel). The prompt goes away and you can edit freely. So long as you don't use the Copy or Move commands, the cut text is still in memory; to retrieve it, position the cursor and press <Ctrl>-<F4>RB.

For block moves, the time-honored trick in the *WordPerfect* bag is using Undo (<F1>). Delete the text you want to move, position the cursor where you want to paste it, and press <F1>R (Undo • Restore).

### Delete Delight

To delete a single word, position the cursor anywhere on it and press <Ctrl>-<Backspace>; press it repeatedly to delete additional words. To delete to the end of a line, press <Ctrl>-<End>; continue to hold down these keys to quickly delete to the end of the current paragraph.

### Quick-Change Formats

If you apply a format like Italics from the Font • Appearance menu, *WordPerfect* inserts hidden start and end codes: [ITALC] and [italc]. You don't have to go back to the menu to turn off the format when typing; the characters you type subsequently are inserted between the codes. Press <Right> to move past the end code.

—Robert Lauriston

## Working Smart in WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows

### Keyboard Cut-Ups

I believe in equal rights, so I use a mouse for some things and a keyboard for others. The mouse is great for clicking on the Button Bar or selecting text (to select a word, place the cursor on it and double-click; click three times to select a sentence, four times to select a paragraph). But memorize the following few keystrokes, and you'll be racing through your documents faster than the favorite at Churchill Downs.

To go to the beginning of a document, press <Ctrl>-<Home>; to get to the end, press <Ctrl>-<End>. Pressing <Ctrl>-<Delete> deletes text to the end of a line; <Ctrl>-<Backspace>

deletes a word. Press <Ctrl>-G<Tab> <Tab> <Enter> if you want to return the cursor to the last position you moved it to using a feature such as GoTo, Replace or Home.

Most of us know the time-honored shortcuts, like <Ctrl>-Z for undo, <Ctrl>-X for cut, <Ctrl>-C for copy, and <Ctrl>-V for paste. Not everyone knows, though, that pressing <Ctrl>-P will print the document

that's on screen without asking you to fill out a dialog box. Want to extend highlighting to a certain character? Just press <F8> and type the character. Want to turn boldface text (or some other different format) back to normal? Just select it and press <Ctrl>-N to return to normal text. And press <Ctrl>-W to access special symbols such as foreign characters and accent marks.

### No More Dialog Dallying

Using a mouse to make selections in a dialog box is like shooting peas with a cannon. Instead, wend your way through dialog boxes by pressing <Tab> or by holding down <Alt> and pressing the underlined letter of the area or button you want. To open a pop-up list, move to the list button and press <Alt>-<Down> or <Alt>-<Up>. Type the underlined letter in an item's name to move directly to it. And although you can move to a check box and press <Space> to check or uncheck it, and you can move to a radio button list and use <Up> or <Down> to make your selection, in both cases, using <Alt>-underlined letter is faster.

### Quick Lists

To avoid wasting time searching through file names, I always set up a Quick List of files and directories. Select File • Open, check the Quick List box if necessary, select Edit • Quick List and then add the documents and directories you use most often. (To switch between a Quick List and the regular directory list in the File Open Dialog Box, press <Alt>-Q to check and uncheck the Quick List box.)



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### A Better View

WordPerfect for Windows' Viewer window shows you what's in a file without actually opening it. Choose *File • Open*, select the file name, and then click the *View* button or press **<Alt>V** for a sneak preview. To see what's in another file in the directory, click it or cursor to it.

### Macro Magic

WordPerfect for Windows lets you use your favorite macros with the click of a button. Once you've recorded a series of commands as a macro and named it, place it on the Button Bar where you can get to it quickly: Select *View • ButtonBarSetup • Edit*, select *Assign Macro to Button*, choose the macro from the list, click *Assign* and voilà! The macro shows up on the button bar. When you're finished adding macros, click *OK*.

—Kay Yarbrough Nelson

## SPREADSHEETS

### Working Smart in 1-2-3 release 2.x and 3.x

#### Make an End of It

If I could see all 8192 rows by 256 columns in my 1-2-3 spreadsheets, I'd be looking at a screen more than 7 yards wide and 61 yards long. With so much spreadsheet real estate at hand, it's worthwhile knowing how to get around.

I use the **<End>** key to jump almost anywhere in my spreadsheet with lightning speed. For example, press **<End>•<Home>**, and the cell pointer jumps to the bottom right corner of the active worksheet. (If that cell happens to be cell K50, you can be sure there are no entries or formatting in any of the cells in columns L through IV and in rows 51 through 8192.) Press **<End>•<Right>** starting on a blank cell, and the cell pointer stops at the next nonblank cell to the right of that cell. If there are no nonblank cells, it shoots all the way to column IV. (If you start on a nonblank cell, the cell pointer stops at the last nonblank cell in that series.)

The **<End>** key works the same way with the other cursor keys, and that makes finding the beginning and end of data series remarkably fast and easy. (Note: Using **<End>** plus the cursor keys is a good way to check whether a row or column is empty before you delete it.)

You can also review your spreadsheet one screen at a time, if you like, vertically or horizontally. Vertical is easy: Use **<Page Up>** and **<Page Down>**. Press **<Ctrl>•<Left>** or **<Ctrl>•<Right>** to move the cursor a screenful to the left or right for a horizontal view.

#### Forming Formulas

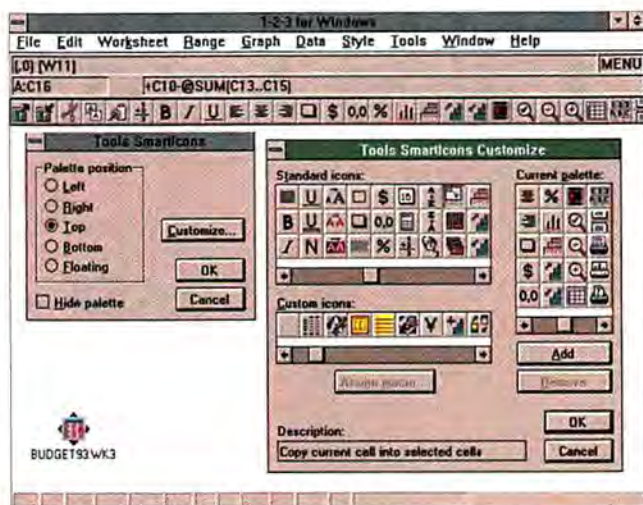
Once you master navigation in spreadsheet land, you can use those skills to build mathematical formulas. When entering a formula that calls for a range argument, you can select the range in the spreadsheet to enter it automatically. For example, if you type **SUM(**, you can then press the cursor keys to move the cell pointer to the top of a column of values. Press the period key to anchor the range. Then press **<End>•<Down>** to select the whole column of values for summation. To finish, type the closing parenthesis and press **<Enter>**.

#### Slash and Print

To print a fast draft of your spreadsheet, use the **/Print** command. You won't get any formatting or graphics, but **/Print** prints much faster than the **:Print** command in 1-2-3's Wysiwyg add-in.

When using Wysiwyg, know thy printer driver. If you're printing draft copies of graphics or ranges with lots of formatting, choose a driver that prints at medium or low resolution—between 75 and 150 dots per inch (dpi). For better quality, try a 300-dpi driver like the **HPLASR4** or the **XHPLJ2C** driver. (The **XHPLJ2C** driver is generally faster because it downloads fonts, while the **HPLASR4** does not.) To switch between available drivers while using release 2.4, choose the **:Print•Config•Printer** command. In release 3.1+, select **:Print•Configuration•Resolution•Draft**.

If you need to print many reports but don't want to wait around, try printing to encoded files and then printing the files later. Create an encoded file by selecting **/Print•Encoded**. To print to an encoded file,



**THE SMARTICONS IN 1-2-3 FOR WINDOWS** let you build a custom palette of handy tools that speed up common tasks.

select **:Print•File** and enter a file name with **ENC** as the extension (say, **92END1.ENC**). After you've created an **ENC** file, you can print it by typing **COPY /B filename.ENC PRN** at the DOS prompt. The resulting report looks exactly like one printed from within 1-2-3, complete with fancy formatting and graphics. You can even use wild cards to print multiple **ENC** files: For example, type **COPY /B \*.ENC PRN** at the DOS prompt to print all the **ENC** files in the current directory.

—Nicholas Delonas

### Working Smart in 1-2-3 for Windows

#### Get Smart

Talk about choice: If you're used to DOS versions of 1-2-3, you can always press the slash key to go to the 1-2-3 Classic menu. Pressing the colon key even displays the Wysiwyg formatting menu. But hey, you're in Windows. Why not do yourself a favor by using SmartIcons and other features unique to the Windows version?

The SmartIcon palette is a veritable warehouse of shortcuts you can customize to fit your way of working. To customize your SmartIcons, choose **Tools•SmartIcons** and click the *Customize* button. You'll see the current SmartIcon palette in a list box next to a Standard icons list box. Scroll through the latter list, click on an icon, and you get a description of the function in the Description box below it. If you find an icon you like, double-click it to add it to your current palette. (A few of my favorite SmartIcons

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are Cycle through colors for backgrounds, Copy current cell into selected cells, Insert rows, and Insert columns.) To make room for your new icons, jump over to the Current palette box and double-click the icons you don't want. When you're satisfied with your new palette, click *OK* to save it.

## Cell Block

Chances are, you issue a command like *Style•Font* and then select the range of cells to which it applies. But if you select a range *before* you issue a command, the selection remains active after the command is executed, making it easier to perform another operation on the same range.

## Help Where You're At

Here's an easy way to get help with @functions. When you need to enter an @function, press @ and then <F3> for a list of all functions. Press <F1> for the @Function Index. (You can follow a similar procedure when entering macro commands. Enter a left brace { and press <F3> for a list of all macro commands. <F1> displays the Macro Command Index.)

## Peace Be Undo You

If you've blown it, you can back out with the Undo command. (First select *Tools•User Setup* and make sure *Enable Edit Undo* is checked.) Issue the Undo command by selecting *Edit•Undo* (or pressing <Alt><Backspace>). If you select Undo after executing a macro, your worksheet will be restored to its previous condition.

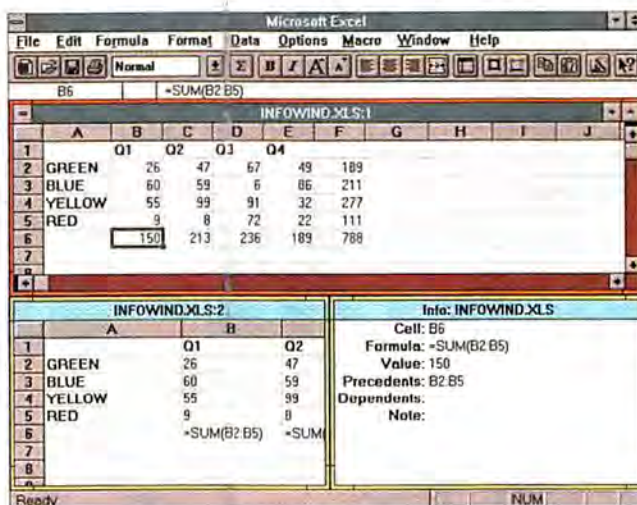
—John Walkenbach

## Working Smart in Excel 4.0

### Be a Copycat

What's the best way to save time building spreadsheets? Build something once and copy it. With *Excel*, I enter multiple copies of a formula or a value in a single step: First, I select the range(s) where I want the copies to go (holding down <Ctrl> and using the mouse to select multiple blocks of cells); then I build my first formula and press <Ctrl><Enter>. Every cell in the selection gets a copy.

To copy a formula or row of formulas to lower cells, select that formula or row and the target range, then press <Ctrl><D>. To copy a formula or column of formulas to cells to the right, select that formula or column and



**ANALYZE YOUR FORMULAS IN EXCEL 4.0** by pressing <Ctrl> to toggle between views of formula values and formulas themselves.

the target range, then press <Ctrl><R>.

And how about AutoFill? Sure, you can use it to create a series of entries, such as days of the week. But I also copy formulas with it: I enter the first formula, then use the mouse to drag the AutoFill handle to cover the range that needs copies. If AutoFill makes a series when I just want to make copies, I hold down <Ctrl> as I drag the AutoFill handle, and I always get straight copies. Hold down <Shift> as you drag the AutoFill handle and you'll insert blank cells, shifting adjacent cells down or to the right.

The drag-and-drop feature lets you select and move a cell, range, row, column, or graphics object, but hold down <Ctrl> while you drag, and you'll drag a copy of the cell or object.

When you need to duplicate just the formatting from one range to another, select the range, then click the Copy tool on the standard tool bar. Now select the range to be formatted and click on the Paste Formats tool. If you're copying a set of formulas but need to convert them to values, use the Copy tool to make your copy, but instead of selecting *Edit•Paste Special•Values*, just hold down <Shift> and click the Paste Formats tool.

### You're Selected

When it comes to selecting ranges in a spreadsheet, the mouse is a pretty blunt instrument. Instead, hold down <Shift> and use the cursor keys to extend the range selection. The selection extends away from the active cell. Press <Ctrl><Period>, to switch the

active cell to each corner of the selection, changing the extensible corner of the range. I use this trick to adjust the corners of a selected range without canceling the selection and starting over.

When the range is large, start on one corner, hold down <Shift><End>, and then press a cursor key: The selection extends to the last filled cell in that direction.

Try putting the cell pointer in a block of entries and pressing <Ctrl><Asterisk>. *Excel* selects the current block based on a pattern of adjacent filled cells. If it guessed wrong, hold down <Shift> and use the cursor keys and <Ctrl><Period> to adjust the selection.

### Formula Wrestling

When formulas get complex, it can be hard to figure out how they work. Checking the value of parts of a formula can help. Select the cell that contains the formula, and press <F2> to edit it. Use the mouse (or <Shift> plus the cursor keys) to select an expression, then press <F9>. *Excel* calculates just that portion of the formula and converts it to a value. Then select a more inclusive expression and repeat the process to understand how the formula was built. (Be sure not to enter the converted formula.)

To analyze formulas on a broader scale, try pressing <Ctrl>' (the reverse apostrophe key is to the left of 1 key) to toggle between viewing the values of your formulas (the normal way of looking at a spreadsheet) and viewing the formulas themselves. If you select *Window•New Window* and then press <Ctrl>', you can compare formulas and their values side by side. Now, select *Options•Workspace*, check the Info Window check box in the Workspace Options dialog box, and click *OK* to see a window showing characteristics of the active cell. Press <Alt>I to access the Info menu, and choose the information you want, such as *Precedents* (the cells a formula refers to) and *Dependents* (cells that contain formulas that refer to the current cell). Now arrange your spreadsheet and Info

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you  
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windows so you can see them together on screen, and you're ready to take a very close look at your spreadsheet formulas.

—Richard Scoville

## Working Smart in Quattro Pro 4.0

### Keyboard Clues

In some ways, DOS heavyweight *Quattro Pro* feels like a *Windows* program. It provides 12 ways to do the same thing, such as letting me mouse around or use the keyboard to select commands. For my taste, though, the keyboard is faster than the mouse for selecting a block of cells.

For example, I like to select an entire current column of data (when the cell selector is not on the top cell) by pressing **<End><Up><Shift><F7><End><Down>**. To select the entire current row of data when the cell selector is not at the left edge of that data, I press **<End><Left><Shift><F7><End><Right>**. When the cell selector isn't in the top row or left column of the block, I select the area by pressing **<End><Up><End><Left>**, then **<Shift><F7><End><Down><End><Right>**. To select the entire active spreadsheet area, from cell A1 to the last cell that contains data, I press **<Home><Shift><F7><End><Home>**.

### Formula and Function

It's a pain to enter all those dollar signs when I'm typing absolute cell or range addresses into formulas. Using **<ABS>**, the **<F4>** key, makes it much easier. Type the cell or range address into the formula, then stop. Press **<ABS>** one or more times to cycle the address between relative, full absolute, row absolute, and column absolute (you can view the changes on the input line). Then finish entering the rest of the formula as you would normally. **<ABS>** also works when you are editing a formula. Position the cursor anywhere on a cell or range address and press **<ABS>** to cycle through absolutes.

The @functions are one of *Quattro Pro*'s standbys, but who can remember all their names?

When you're entering a formula that includes an @function, try pressing **<Alt><F3>** to display an alphabetic list of all available functions. Scroll through the list and select a function you want, and it is entered in your formula automatically—including the opening parenthesis after the function name.

### No More Window Pains

When you're using multiple spreadsheet windows, you can move quickly to any of the first nine windows by holding down **<Alt>** and pressing the number of the window. Can't remember the window number? Press **<Shift><F5>** for a list of window names you can select from. If you want to view all windows at once, press **<Ctrl><T>**. You can click the desired window with the mouse to make it active. Then, to zoom the active window to full screen, press **<Alt><F6>**.

If you like seeing your windows on the screen in a particularly convenient configuration, you can save time by saving the configuration as a Workspace and recalling it later. Select **/File•Workspace•Save**, then enter a name for the Workspace file. To restore a saved Workspace, start *Quattro Pro* with the Workspace file name as a command-line argument (Q MYCONFIG, for example) or select **/File•Workspace•Restore** once the application is loaded. Remember that saving the Workspace does not save the data in the windows; you must use **/File•Save** in each window to save the spreadsheet data.

### Beat the Oops! Blues

To keep your file intact, nothing beats a regular save (**<Ctrl><S>** or **/File•Save**), of

course. But what can you do to reverse individual errors in your worksheet? Undo 'em. To enable the Undo feature, select **/Options•Other•Undo•Enable**. If you make a mistake, press **<Alt><F5>** or select **/Edit•Undo** to reverse it. Be aware that Undo takes some memory and slows down some operations, so you may want to enable it only when you're working on unfamiliar or complex tasks.

—Peter Aitken

## GRAPHICS

## Working Smart in CorelDraw 3.0

### Elect Select

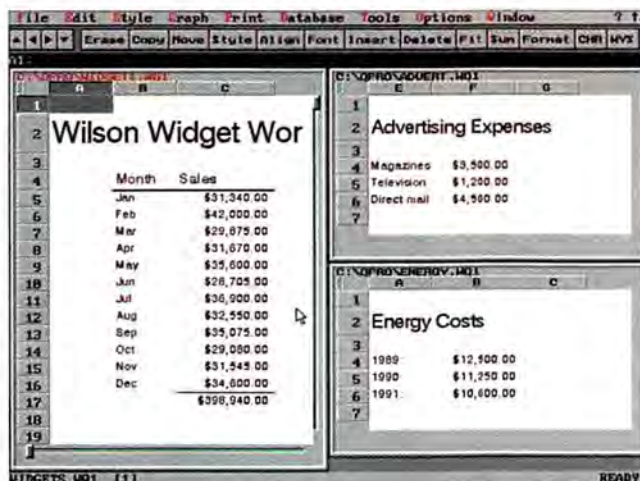
Everybody knows *CorelDraw* is full of great tools for drawing and type manipulation. But *CorelDraw* is also full of humbler but equally useful shortcuts for selecting text.

For example, let's say you're using the Text tool to edit a page. To select a word, double-click it; to select a sentence hold down **<Ctrl>** and click it, to select a string of text click one end, hold down **<Shift>**, and click the other end.

To move the insertion point within a text block, use the cursor keys; press **<Home>** to move the insertion point to the beginning of the current line and press **<End>** to move it to the end. **<Ctrl><Home>** takes it to the beginning of a block; **<Ctrl><End>** moves it to the end of the block. (Since it's sometimes hard to select text at the beginning of a block by clicking and dragging over it, try clicking anywhere in the block, pressing **<Ctrl><Home>**, then holding down the **<Shift>** key and clicking at the place you want the selection to end.)

### Face-Lifts

If *Corel*'s default text font (24-point Avalon) isn't to your liking, you can change it permanently by using the *Windows* Notepad to edit the COREL.DRW.INI file, located in your *CorelDraw* program directory. Find the line that reads 'DefaultFont=Avalon, 1,24' in the [C:\DrawConfig] section, and change 'Avalon' to the name of any PostScript font (provided you have *Adobe Type Manager* or a PostScript printer) or TrueType font installed on your system. The next setting, after the comma, lets you specify the weight of the default font: 1 for normal, 2 for bold, 4 for italic, or 8 for bold italic. The final setting is the point size.



MOVE TO ANY WINDOW IN QUATTRO PRO by pressing **<Alt>** and the window's number.

You can save time in a *Corel* session by setting the font for the current insertion point. Just click on a blank part of the page with the Text tool. Then choose the desired typeface and size in the Text roll-up (or Character Attributes dialog box) and click *Apply*. When you type, the text appearing at the insertion point will be the one you specified. But the next time you click on a blank area of the page to make a new insertion point, it will revert to the default.

To set a default face for an entire session, choose the Pick tool, making sure no text block is selected, and define the desired attributes in the dialog box; click *OK* to confirm and all new insertion points will be in the face you chose. (The next time you run *CorelDraw*, it will revert to the default face in the INI file.)

### Path-Ology

Text attached to a path is linked to that path *dynamically*—you can modify the text or the path separately without having to detach them from each other. The trick: Hold down the **<Ctrl>** key and click on the text to select it. You're now free to format or edit it as you would any text block.

It's also easy to create and manipulate type. Let's say you're tightening the spacing between the letters of some large display type to make it easier to read. Try selecting the character and nudging it by pressing the appropriate cursor key until it's in place. (In this case, I make sure the Nudge value in the Preferences dialog box is set to only 1 or 2 points.) You can also move multiple characters by holding down the **<Shift>** key while selecting them, or by dragging a selection marquee around them.

### Conversions and Reversions

There's a faster way to convert existing text from paragraph to artistic mode, and vice versa. Instead of changing mode and retyping, choose the Text tool, select the paragraph, and choose *Edit•Copy*. Then switch to the Pick tool and choose *Edit•Paste* to create a new artistic text block. You can go the other way by selecting a block of artistic text and choosing *Edit•Copy*, then clicking and dragging with the Text tool to create a new frame, and then choosing *Edit•Paste*. Remember: For this tip to work, you have to use the Text tool to select the text.

—Chris Dickman

## Working Smart in Harvard Graphics 3.x

### Default Is Mine

I never bother hunting around for charts and presentations. Instead, I set up a default directory that tells the program exactly where my files are. At the main menu, I select *Setup•Program defaults* and press **<Enter>** three times to get to Directories Defaults (in the Program defaults screen). Then I change any of the default directories—for Data, Import, and Work files, for example—to the directories where I keep those types of files.

### Do the Keyboard Shuffle

Whenever you finish a task using the keyboard, such as typing text in a form, press **<F10>** to get to the next menu, or press **<Esc>** to return to the previous screen. If you're using a mouse and you've finished a task, just press the right button to continue.

And if you forget *Harvard's* litany of keyboard shortcuts while working on a chart—such as **<Ctrl>-N** to edit notes, **<Ctrl>-B** to insert fractions and other special characters, and **<Ctrl>-P** to print a chart—there's an easier way to remember them. Just press **<Ctrl>-<F1>** to produce a pop-up list of keyboard shortcuts.

### Stop Mousing Around

When I'm using the Draw feature, it's often faster to use keyboard shortcuts than to mouse around. To select an editing tool, type the first letter of the tool's name—say, C for Copy, P for Paste, G for Group, or U for Ungroup—and then press **<Enter>**. For tools that start with the same letter—such as Delete, Duplicate, and Disconnect—I press the letter repeatedly until the tool I want is highlighted, and then press **<Enter>**.

You can also use the **<Ctrl>** key in combination with letter keys to bypass pulldown menus or select another drawing tool. For example, **<Ctrl>-G** gets you a chart, **<Ctrl>-S**

saves a chart, and **<Ctrl>-U** gives you Undo. Press **<Ctrl>-T** to toggle between the Text tool and the Select tool.

### It's a Draw

I hate having to wait for *Harvard* to redraw an entire chart every time I make a change. For top-speed redraw, press **<F8>1** to access the Redraw options list, set the redrawing quality to draft, and select *No* for all of the other display options (they control gradients, bit maps, subcharts, and button names). You can cancel a Redraw in progress by hitting **<Esc>** and restart the redraw by pressing **<Ctrl>-D**.

### Zippy Printing

To improve printing speed for draft copies, try the following tips.

1. From the main menu, select *Setup•Printer 1* (assuming Printer 1 is your draft printer) to open the *Printer 1 Setup* menu. Select *Yes* for Use Spooler (which gets you back to work in *Harvard* faster) and *Draft* for Quality.

2. When working on a chart, press **<Ctrl>-P** (to print) and **<F8>** to open the Printer Options menu. Select *No* for Draw background color. If your printer comes with built-in fonts, select *Yes* for the Use Hardware Fonts Only option.

—Richard Jantz

## Working Smart in PageMaker

### A Zoom With a View

I find that *PageMaker* does my bidding most successfully if I treat keyboard and mouse as equal partners. At first, it was a lit-



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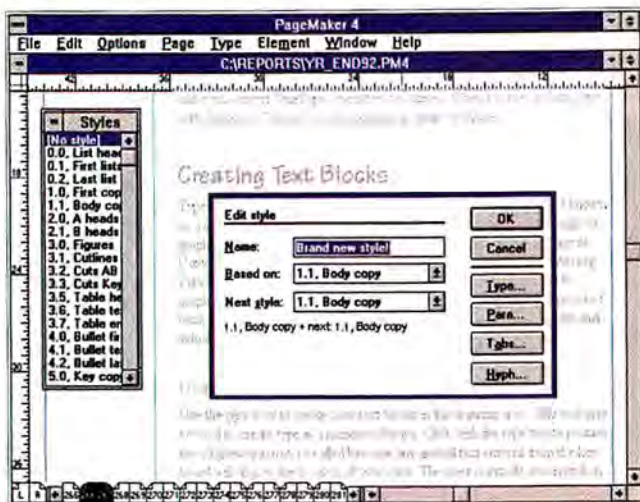
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**CREATE A QUICK STYLE IN PAGEMAKER** by pressing **<Ctrl>** while right-clicking on the *No style* option in the Style palette.

tle like learning to drive with a stick shift, but with a little effort, **<Shift>**-clicking, **<Ctrl>**-dragging, and other combined operations became second nature.

For example, to toggle between actual view (100 percent) and fit-in-window sizes, I just click on the right mouse button. To zoom into 200 percent magnification, I hold down **<Shift>** while right-clicking the mouse. To zoom out to see two facing pages and the entire pasteboard, I hold down **<Shift>** while choosing *Page • Fit in window* or just press **<Shift><Ctrl>W**.

### Page Pranks

Tired of the scroll bars? Don't use them. Instead, hold down **<Alt>** and drag to access the grabber-hand pointer, which lets you move the page in any direction. And don't bother messing with the page icons when you want to turn a page. Instead, press **<F12>** to move forward a page and **<F11>** to move back one. To go to a specific page, press **<Ctrl>G**, enter the page number, and press **<Enter>**.

### Story Time

Mice are great for selecting text, but you can also use the text tool and double-click on a word to select it, or triple-click to select a paragraph. Press **<Ctrl>A** to select all the text in the current story.

If you prefer to keep your hands on the keyboard, hold down **<Shift><Ctrl>** and press **<Right>** or **<Left>** to select the next or previous word. Pressing **<Shift><Ctrl>** with **<Up>** or **<Down>** selects entire paragraphs.

To check spelling or to search and replace

characters, triple-click a text block with the Arrow tool or press **<Ctrl>E** to enter the Story Editor, then choose *Edit • Spelling* or press **<Ctrl>L**. If your insertion point is blinking inside the story already, press **<Ctrl>E**. Press **<Ctrl>E** again to return to the layout view.

### Editing With Style

Style sheets are real work-savers. Any time you format a paragraph of text, save it to a style sheet so you can reapply the formatting to other paragraphs easily. Assuming the Style palette is available (**<Ctrl>V**), just hold down **<Ctrl>** while clicking on the *No style* option to define a new style. If you ever want to edit the style sheet—and consequently reformat all text associated with that style—**<Ctrl>**-click on its name in the Style palette.

### Grappling With Graphics

There's no substitute for the mouse when selecting graphics. But when one graphic overlaps another, or when text and graphics overlap, the mouse isn't enough. Instead, press **<Ctrl>**-click to select the top object (text block or graphic) in a stack, **<Ctrl>**-right click again to select the next one down, and so on until you select the object you want. When you drag that object, it automatically moves to the front of the stack.

If you use photographic scans and other bit-mapped images (PCX or TIFF files), remember this trick: To ensure that the resolution of your imported image matches the resolution of your final output device—so you don't get any unsightly patterns showing up in your pictures—select the printer model using the *File • Target printer* command, then hold down **<Shift><Ctrl>** and drag a corner handle of the image to scale it.

### Tooling Around

Here's a tip that will elevate you from *PageMaker* novice to all-around pro. Close the Toolbox—it consumes too much valuable space on screen—and assign the following keyboard equivalents to the inner recesses

of your personal memory banks.

To select the Text tool, press **<Shift><F4>**. To toggle back to the Arrow tool, press **<F9>**. You can access the other tools from the keyboard as well—**<Shift><F2>** selects the Line tool, **<Shift><F8>** gets the Crop tool—but how often do you use them? For most situations, **<Shift><F4>** and **<F9>** are all you need.

—Deke McClelland

## DATABASES

### Working Smart in dBASE IV

#### Strings Attached

With *dBASE*, I get an eclectic menu of working environments—the Control Center, the infamous dot prompt, a group of interactive form designers, and a built-in programming language. One key to working smarter with *dBASE* is to take advantage of what each mode has to offer.

Because *dBASE* has a built-in programming language, it offers a wide array of functions that let me carry out specialized calculations and data transformations. (Even if you're allergic to programming, you can use these functions to manipulate dates and character strings.)

For example, I sometimes use the `UPPER()` function to convert a string to all uppercase. To print a name field in uppercase on a report, I add the expression `UPPER(Name)` to the report, and to index on the state, regardless of how the state abbreviation was entered, I use the expression `UPPER(State)` in the index key expression.

The `TRIM()` function removes trailing blank spaces from a string. You can use this function to combine strings on reports and labels and avoid unsightly gaps that would result from partly empty fields, as in the expression `TRIM(City) + ", " + State + " " + ZIP`. For example, you can use an array of date manipulation functions to format dates on reports, including `CDOW(duedate)`, which evaluates to the day of the week, spelled out (for example, "Tuesday") and `CMONTH(duedate)`, which yields the name of the month.

#### Index Fingers

*dBASE* can index on a field of any data type, but when you combine fields of different data types, you can use functions to convert all of them to character strings. For example, to index a transaction file on a

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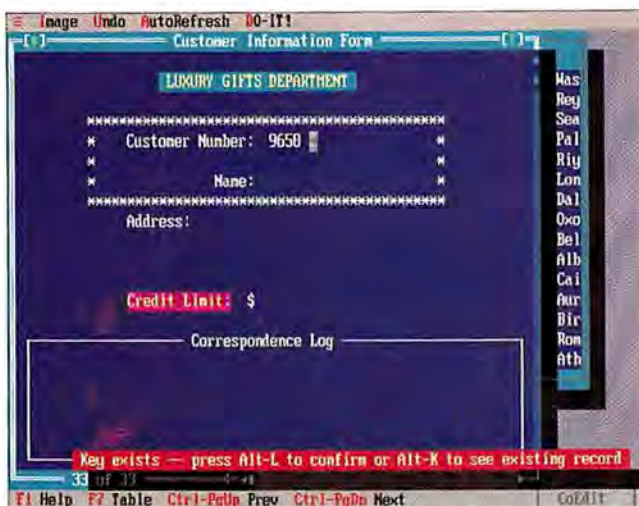
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**CHANGE DEFAULT FORMS IN PARADOX** by selecting **Image • Pickform** to show the form you want to use, then selecting **Image • KeepSet**.

character field called IDCOD, and within each IDCOD group, by a date field called TRANDATE, you can use the DTOS function (which converts a date to a character string in year/month/day order to achieve correct chronological order) in an expression like Idcode + DTOS(Trandate). To index in reverse chronological order, you need a more complicated expression that subtracts the date from an arbitrary future date later than any you anticipate in your database (say, December 31, 1999). The subtraction yields the number of days between the two dates, and this number will be smaller for later dates; those which will fall earlier in indexed order. To combine this numeric result with a character field, you can use the STR function to convert it to a four-digit number, as follows: Idcode + STR(12/31/99 - Trandate, 4).

### Go Dotty

If you are new to dBASE and have been working exclusively in the menu system, you can work a lot faster with the dot prompt commands than you can using the menu-driven Query by Example (QBE). For example, to compute more than one summary statistic based on the same field, you must add two copies of the database to the query. Using the CALCULATE command at the dot prompt, you can carry out multiple calculations easily. The formula CALCULATE MIN(Trandate), MAX(Trandate), SUM(Amount), AVG(Amount), MAX(Amount) calculates the earliest and latest transaction dates and the sum, average, and maximum transaction amounts.

and address database to a transaction file that's indexed, like the expression described above, on a character field and a date. To accomplish this from the dot prompt, open both databases, each in its own numbered work area and with the transaction field ordered on the combined character and date index (in this example, called IdDate):

```
SELECT 1
USE Names ORDER Stated
SELECT 2
USE Trans ORDER IdDate
```

To establish the link, use a SET RELATION command executed from the work area you want to be active, followed by a SET SKIP command if the relationship is one-to-many:

```
SELECT 1
SET RELATION TO Idcode INTO Trans
SET SKIP TO Trans
```

After some experience working at the dot prompt, you'll be surprised at the power, speed, and flexibility you'll gain.

—Miriam Liskin

## Working Smart in Paradox 4.0 for DOS

### Field Flux

I love Paradox's report designer but there's no easy way to copy and move fields. Here are a few quick tricks to increase efficiency.

To copy a calculated field, use the Instant Scripts feature. First I position the cursor where I want the field and press <Alt>-<F3> to start recording. Next, I use **Field • Place • Calculated** to create the calculated field.

Instead of using QBE exclusively to carry out inquiries based on multiple databases, you can open and link the files at the dot prompt using the USE, SET RELATION TO, and SET SKIP TO commands. These let you link databases based on any expression, not just a field or index present in both files. For example, you could link a name

When the field is in place, I press <Alt>-<F3> again to stop recording the script. Then I move the cursor to the next place I want to use the same field (or a similar one) and press <Alt>-<F4> to run the script and create a new field. If I need to change the expression, I use **Field • Reformat**.

If you need to move a field at the left margin to the end of the previous line in a free-form report, press <Insert> to go into Insert mode, place the cursor at the beginning of the line and press <Backspace>. And in tabular reports, save time by pressing <Ctrl>-<R> to rotate a column just like when you are viewing a table and pressing <Tab> or <Shift>-<Tab> to move the cursor from column to column.

### A New Image

Sometimes you'd like to see a different form than the default F form that Paradox uses when you press <F7>, or use the Form Speedbar button. To change the default, use **Image • PickForm** to show the form you want to use, and then **Image • KeepSet**.

There's no rule that says you have to keep the standard R report in its original form. If you want to print a different report when you press <Alt>-<F7>, you can copy the report of your choice to the R slot using **Tools • Copy • Report • SameTable**.

### Edit, CoEdit

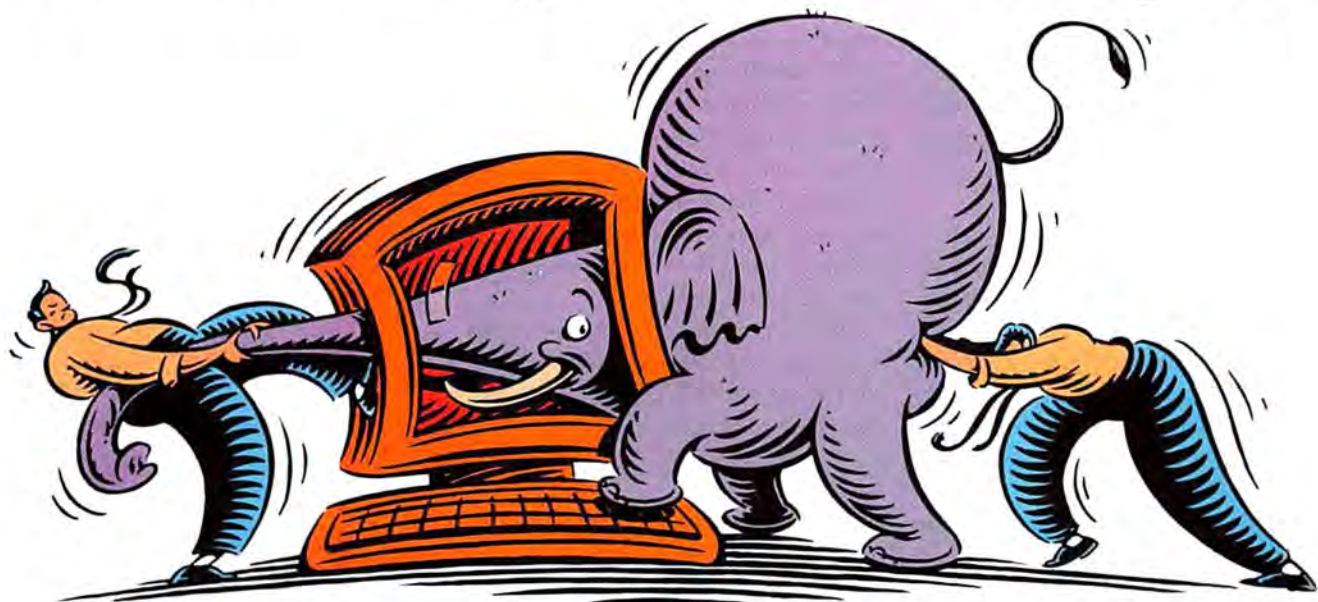
Paradox's hot-keys in Edit and CoEdit mode make it easy to edit tables fast. <Ctrl>-<Backspace> erases an entire field; <Ctrl>-<D> copies a field value from the previous record into an empty field, and <Ctrl>-<F>, <Alt>-<F5>, or a double-click of the mouse button, brings you into Field View, where you can readily change a field value without having to erase it first.

If you make a mistake, you can use Undo (<Ctrl>-<U>) to reinsert a deleted record, delete an inserted record, or return an edited record to its original state. <F9> brings you into Edit mode when a table is in your work space; similarly, <Alt>-<F9> or the CoEdit button on the Speedbar puts you into CoEdit. You can move freely between table windows while editing or coediting by pressing <F3>, <F4>, or <Ctrl>-<F4>.

### ValCheck It Out

When it comes to data entry, the ValCheck feature is an ideal time-saver. You can use it to do things like fill in and format values

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and check against lookup tables. To add ValChecks to a table while you're editing, choose **ValCheck • Define** while in Edit mode.

### Spacebar, the Final Frontier

Why waste time typing in dates in the Date field? Instead, when you're in the default mm/dd/yy format, just press **<Space>** to fill in the current month, tap again for the current day, and tap a third time to fill in the year.

### Sort It Out

If you've been relying on the Sort command to order records for a report, you have to use it every time you run your report. It's much easier to use the Group command in Report mode. Groupings always override the sorted order of the underlying report table, and you have to add them to your report design only once.

—Celeste Robinson

## ACCOUNTING

### Working Smart in Quicken 6.0

#### Quick Starts

I like *Quicken* because among other things, it lets me work fast. I can load files automatically, change between accounts, and use some easy keyboard shortcuts to get my accounting over and done with.

For example, let's say I know the account I'm going to use—call it 'Cash92'—I just type **Q Cash92** at the DOS prompt, and *Quicken* loads it automatically. If I have more than one file, I type the account name followed by a space and the file name. For example, **Q Wells Business** gets me into my Business file and Wells account.

#### Jump Shots

*Quicken's* shortcut keys let you jump from one place to another with amazing agility. For example, you can assign a Quick Key number to each of nine accounts and change accounts fast by holding down **<Ctrl>** and pressing the corresponding number. It's easy to copy a transaction within the same account or to another account in the same file: Press **<Ctrl>•<Insert>** on the transaction you want to copy and paste it into an empty transaction with **<Ctrl>•<Insert>**.

Fiddling with the register's date field when entering data that's very old gets, well, kind of old. Try T for today, and M for the beginning of the month. It's even better

to use *Quicken's* Quick Calendar: Press **<Ctrl>•K** to pop it up, scroll to the date you want, and press **<F9>** to paste it in.

Why plow through a half-dozen key-strokes to create the same report each session? Once the report's on screen, memorize it with **<Ctrl>•M**. Forgot to memorize it? Use **<Ctrl>•Z** to call up the last report you used.

Say you're in a cash flow report and want to figure out how \$10,000 got into the Miscellaneous category, before your boss does. With your cursor on a particular figure, press **<Ctrl>•Z** to display the list of the transactions that produce the total amount.

Want to recategorize an item? Press **<F9>** to get back to the Register, **<Ctrl>•T** to get to the list, and **<Ctrl>•E** to change the category. **<Ctrl>•Z** zaps you back to the report.

#### Bill Time

Do you pay the same bills at the same time every month? There's no need to remember the date or the categories these bills fall into. *Quicken* will batch your memorized transactions, remind you when they're due, and enter the entire group into your register. All you have to do is enter the amount of each bill and print them. From the Register, press **<Ctrl>•J** and just fill in the blanks.

#### Filling It Up

You probably take advantage of QuickFill—*Quicken's* database of every check you write—to fill in transaction fields automatically. But creating memorized transactions for regular events can be done even more quickly. Because I do most of my banking through convenient automated teller machines, I've created some memorized transactions for the typical amounts I withdraw. For example, when I press **1** from the Payee field, QuickFill brings up '100-ATM' and **6** gets '60ATM,' each with the correct amount of the transaction already filled in.

#### Transfer Tricks

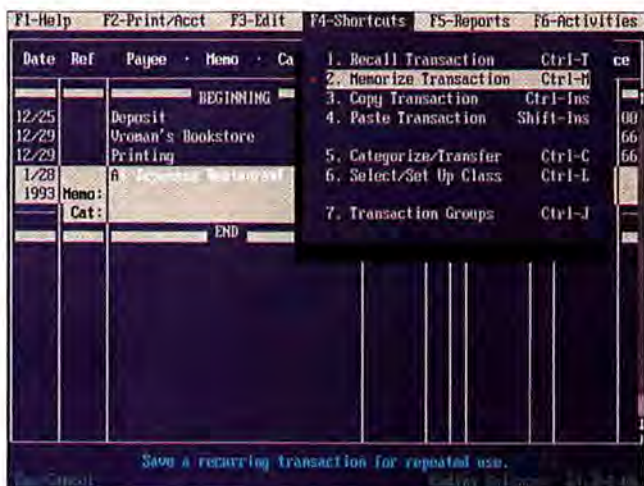
It's easy to transfer between accounts in *Quicken*. Say you are thinking of sell-

ing your house, so you keep careful track of all home improvement expenditures and add them to the base cost of your house.

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—Steve Bass

*Peter Aitken is the author of Up and Running with Quattro Pro (Sybex Computer Books, Alameda, California, 1993). Nicholas Delonas is coeditor of The Spreadsheet Consultant newsletter (Allston, Massachusetts). Chris Dickman is the author of Mastering CorelDraw (Peachpit Press, Berkeley, California, 1993). Lynn Lauener is a former Word product support technician for Microsoft Corporation. Robert Lauriston is a frequent contributor to PC World. Miriam Liskin is the author of Liskin's dBASE IV 1.1 Handbook (Osborne/McGraw-Hill, Berkeley, California, 1991). Deke McClelland is the author of The First Book of PC Paintbrush (Howard W. Sams, Carmel, Indiana, 1992). Kay Yarbrough Nelson is the author of Voodoo WordPerfect for Windows (Ventana Press, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 1992). Steve Bass, George Campbell, Richard Jantz, Celeste Robinson, Richard Scoville, Dan Tynan, and John Walkenbach are contributing editors and Bronwyn Fryer is an associate editor for PC World.*



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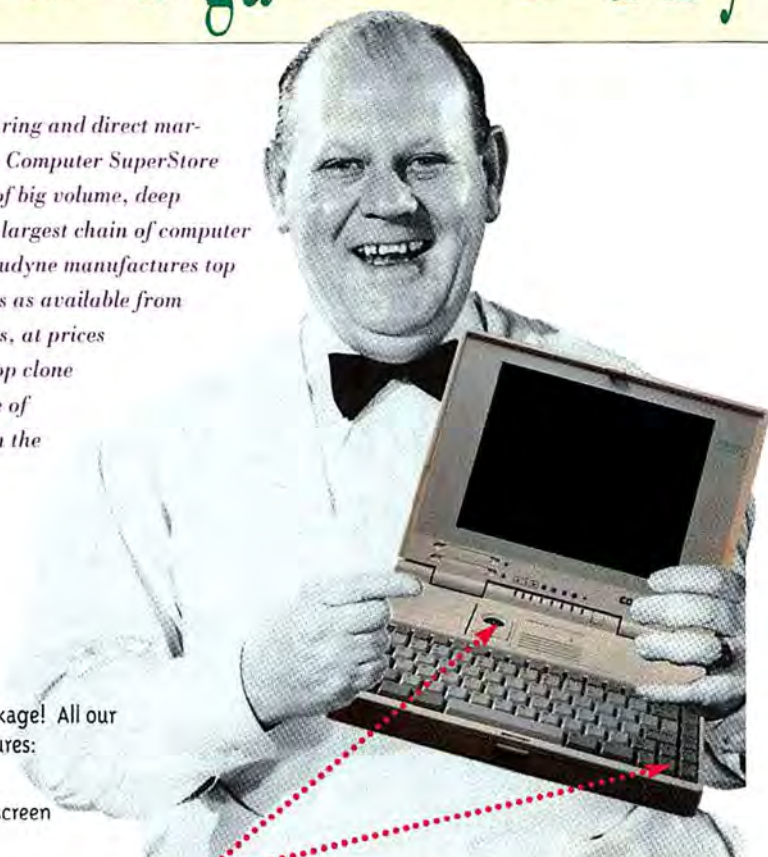
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386SXL/25  
386SL/25  
Best Buy,  
April 1993



486DX/33  
Best Buy,  
Laptop Issue,  
Sept. 1992

### NOTEBOOK CPU

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		HD (MB)	PRICE
<b>386SXL/25</b>	386SXL-25 MHZ, OPTIONAL 80387SX	80	<b>\$1,399</b> \$52/mo*
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<b>486SX/33</b>	INTEL 80486SX-33 MHZ, 8K CPU CACHE	80	<b>\$1,999</b> \$74/mo*
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"With a Graphics Winmark score of 2.3 million, the Compudyne 486DX/33 gives you desktop performance and storage in 7.6 pounds of travel weight." (8/92)

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486DX/33 CACHE	INTEL 80486DX-33 MHz, 128K CPU CACHE	4 MB/ 245 MB HD	16-BIT TRUE COLOR SVGA WINDOWS ACCELERATOR CARD WITH 1 MB RAM/ 14" 1024x768 SVGA .28 DOT PITCH NON-INTERLACED COLOR MONITOR	\$1,599 \$59/mo*
486DX2/50 CACHE	INTEL 80486DX2-50 MHz, 128K CPU CACHE	4 MB/ 245 MB HD		\$1,799 \$67/mo*
486DX2/66 CACHE	INTEL 80486DX2-66 MHz, 128K CPU CACHE	4 MB/ 245 MB HD		\$1,999 \$74/mo*
486DX/50 CACHE	INTEL 80486DX-50 MHz, 128K CPU CACHE	8 MB/ 340 MB HD		\$2,299 \$93/mo*



486SX/25  
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486DX2/66  
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# Search and Destroy:

# Antivirus Software

**The enemy: a deadly suite of real-world viruses.**

**The defense: antivirus programs that scan for, monitor, and wipe out invaders.**

**Find out which of the 18 programs we tested protect data best against the onslaught.**

**W**hen the Michelangelo menace became a worldwide media event last year, the resulting coverage dramatically increased the computing public's awareness of the virus threat. To almost everyone's relief, the virus failed to inflict the widespread destruction that experts had predicted. Unfortunately, Michelangelo's fizzle may also have instilled a false sense of confidence at firms with a high risk of viral infection. If you got stung this year on the artist's March 6 birthday, you're aware of the penalty for ignorance.

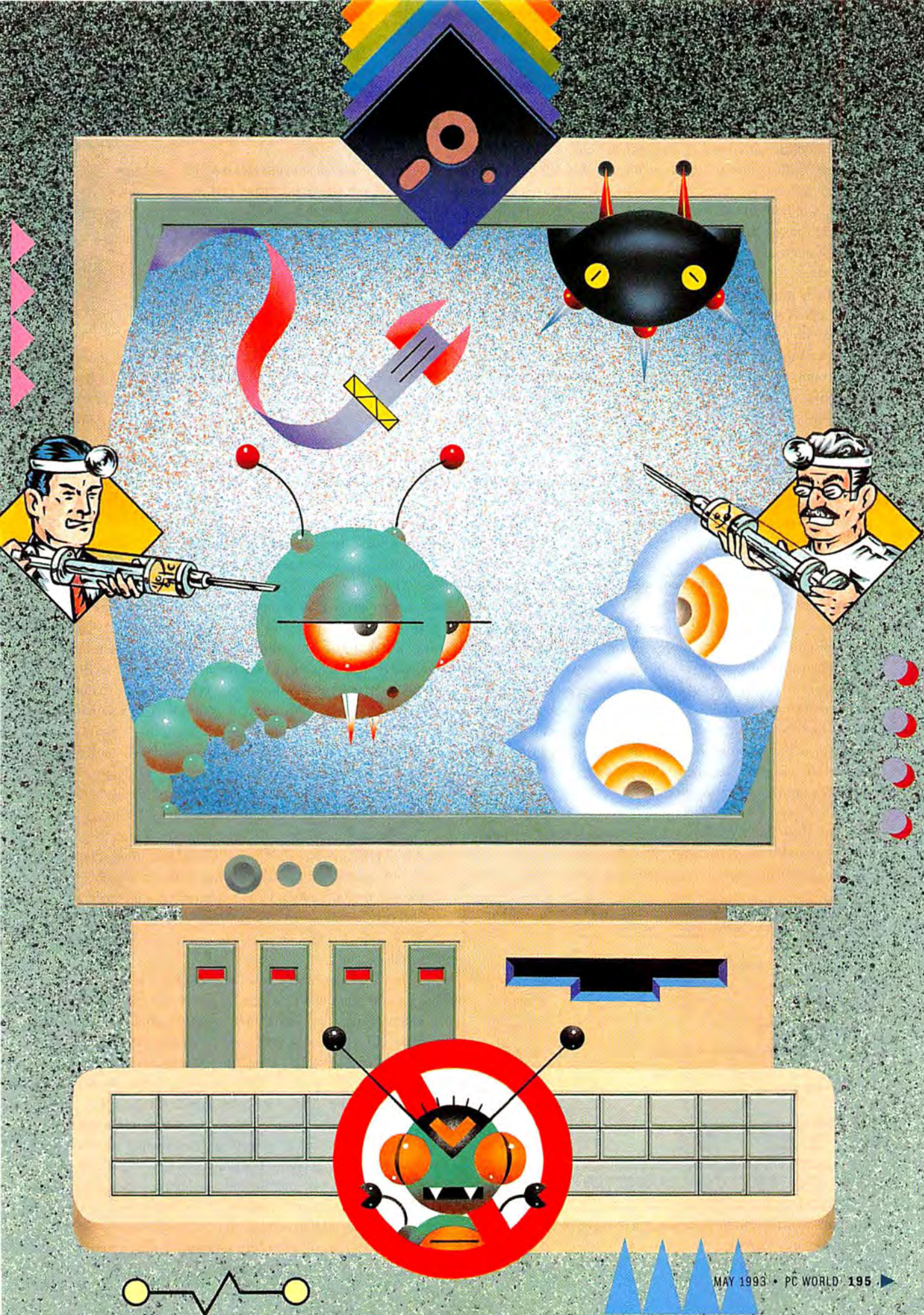
In recent studies, more than 5 percent of the companies interviewed had experienced "disastrous" losses due to viral infection, with total U.S. business losses as high as \$1 billion a year. These programs can destroy

individual files or erase the contents of an entire network's hard disks, and there is no absolute guarantee of immunity from infection.

To make matters worse, new strains are proliferating, including "stealth" viruses that hide themselves from most basic detection techniques, and mutating viruses that create unique versions of themselves that are likewise tough to track down. Prevention is your best protection, and that means adopting safe computing practices, including the use of a high-quality antivirus program.

To help you make a plan to keep your PC healthy, we'll give you an overview of the workings of computer viruses, outline steps you can take to reduce the chance of infection (see "Safe Computing"),

**By Scott Spanbauer**



and compare 18 antivirus utilities. We looked at every program we could find—both commercial and shareware—that combines virus scanning, virus removal, and memory-resident antivirus monitoring.

We tested the antivirus programs using a suite of 13 real viruses provided by the National Computer Security Association. The test viruses represent a range of virus types you're likely to encounter and include both well-known and uncommon strains. However, there are thousands of viruses and variants in existence, and the results of our testing can't guarantee a program's performance when it encounters a virus we didn't test.

No single program can protect against every virus. As a result, if you're serious about avoiding a viral disaster, you should use at least two different programs that both excel at scanning for and removing disk-based viruses and scrutinizing a system for signs of viral activity. Most important, the programs you choose should be easy to install, configure, and use. If you have to be a technical guru to get the most from a program, you're unlikely to use it to full effect, if at all.

### Under the Microscope

If you've managed to avoid infection thus far, you're probably in the low-risk category: You rarely download programs from private bulletin board services, rarely copy files from other systems using floppies, and aren't hooked up to a LAN. All these activities put your computer at risk, because viruses attach themselves to executable program files and floppy disk boot sectors. Booting from an infected floppy or launching a virus-bearing program triggers the virus's replication mechanism, allowing it to spread throughout your hard disk. Just avoiding high-risk computing won't provide absolute protection, however. Shrink-wrapped software and new computers have both been known to come out of the box already infected.

Different virus types infect a system in different ways. Boot-sector viruses like Stoned and the infamous Michelangelo infiltrate low-level code in the partition table or the boot sector. This type of virus is the most pernicious because it activates each time you start your computer, until you cold boot from a virus-free floppy.

Another type of virus infects programs—COM, EXE, overlay files, and DRV and SYS device drivers, including DOS's hidden IO.SYS and MSDOS.SYS system files. File-infecting viruses like the Jerusalem family spread in one of two ways: When the infected

## Best Buy



**Norton AntiVirus gets the nod for Best Buy. It has a clean, easy-to-use interface, a rich feature set, and very good virus detection and prevention performance. Runners-up are Virex, Dr. Solomon's Anti-Virus Toolkit, and Virus Prevention Plus.**



program is executed, the virus either searches one or more of your disks for executable files to infect or installs itself as a terminate-and-stay-resident (TSR) program that infects every program you subsequently execute. The first type of infection can damage just one file, several randomly selected ones, or every single executable file on your disks. Some viruses even combine file and boot-sector infection mechanisms.

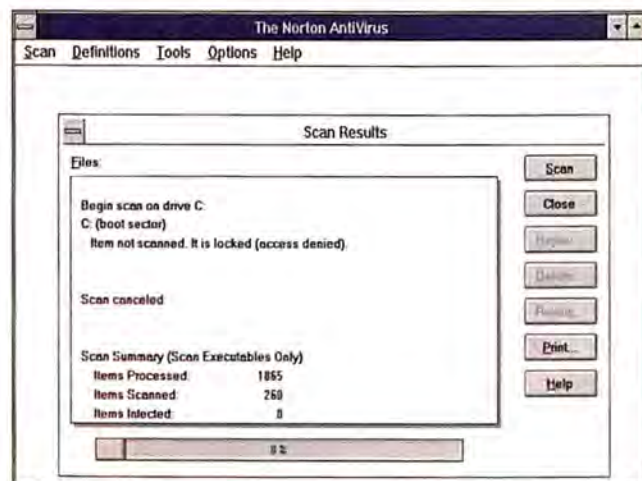
### Virus Biology

Many viruses, Twin-351 among them, do little damage other than replicating themselves and displaying a cute message. The worst, however, incorporate a *logic bomb*—destructive code that waits until a particular date arrives or another condition is met to permanently destroy files or boot sectors or to reformat your hard disk. Some viruses wait quietly for the logic bomb trigger date, others announce themselves through obvious symptoms. You may see an unexpected message (such as Stoned's "your computer is now stoned") or upper-ASCII garbage characters on your screen, or you may simply notice that program execution has slowed down—a sign that some rogue program is doing a little unsolicited hard disk housekeeping. One of our test viruses, the Grand York File, doesn't even wait. It immediately trashes your hard disk's partition table, then crashes the system. When you reboot, drive C: no longer exists.

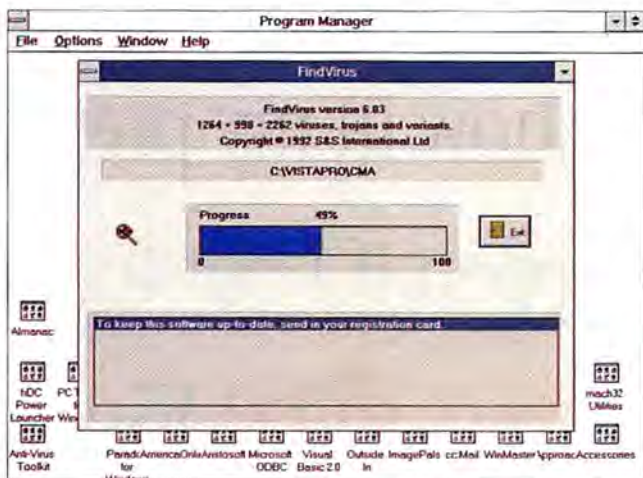
The simplest and most effective virus detection scheme is to search all programs on a disk for embedded text strings that are part of all viruses and can be used to identify them. It's the only way you can know for sure which virus has infected your system. Some stealth viruses, however, can circumvent string-searching detection by fixing infected files on the fly or by encrypting themselves to hide telltale code.

An antivirus program's second line of defense is usually to calculate a mathematical fingerprint of hard disk files (called a checksum or file signature, depending on the exact technique used), then reinspect files at boot-up and compare against the original fingerprint for changes. Stealth viruses can sometimes foil this technique, depending on how well the antivirus program maintains and monitors the fingerprint. A few viruses are even known to infect antivirus programs themselves and to alter their file signature databases.

Mutating viruses avoid detection by recreating themselves as unique, randomly generated versions that may be of any length, may not contain any identifying code, and may employ stealth technology. Often these new viruses actively employ some or all of the parent virus's replication and logic bomb algorithms, or even include a complete toolbox of algorithms for creating new mutant viruses.



**BEST BUY NORTON ANTIVIRUS** comes in a Windows version with an easy-to-use virus scanner.



**THE WINDOWS VERSION OF DR. SOLOMON'S ANTI-VIRUS TOOLKIT has a scanner that is particularly fast and provides good feedback.**

Since techniques for detecting known viruses are unlikely to work on mutant strains, many antivirus programs now employ rule-based algorithms that detect the presence of a virus by looking for virus-like behavior on the system.

#### Give Me a Remedy I Can Use

Even the smartest antivirus software is useless if it goes unused. You'll be tempted to pull the plug on any program that gets in your way or slows you down. An easy-to-understand installation program that installs or creates all key elements, including memory-resident monitors, file signatures, and emergency disks, is best. All the reviewed programs, with the exception of the *Virus-Scan/Clean-Up/VShield* suite, offer an installation program. (These three programs can work separately but should be used as a group.) *Data Physician Plus* and *Dr. Solomon's Anti-Virus Toolkit* don't automatically install all their TSRs—you have to read the manual carefully to find out about their additional memory-resident features. *Virus Alert* doesn't install its TSR, but the program's excellent, hypertextlike on-line documentation provides a thorough explanation of its use and installation. *Pro-Scan* doesn't install its TSR at all, and it doesn't even come with printed documentation—there's just a text file that briefly mentions the existence of the memory-

resident program. *Novi's* install program doesn't automatically create file signatures, and *Vi-Spy* creates a boot-sector backup file, but you have to know to copy it to a floppy disk.

In addition, since you'll want to use more than one antivirus program but only one program's memory-resident and boot-up options, an uninstall option will make switching between programs quicker and easier. Only *AntiVirusPlus*, *Central Point Anti-Virus*, *Data Physician Plus*, *PC Rx*, *VirusCide Plus*, and *Virus Prevention Plus* offer an uninstall option.

#### The Right Mix of Protection

A program's scanning, disinfection, and memory-resident portions should be fairly swift and easy to understand and should generate helpful, accurate messages during operations, especially when encountering a virus. With only a few exceptions, all the programs here performed admirably. When we attempted to remove viruses using the repair menu command in *Dr. Solomon's Anti-Virus Toolkit*, the program scanned for and detected—but didn't remove—them. Strangely, the same command, when issued from the DOS prompt, worked as expected. The company's tech support staff had no explanation for the anomaly. *PC Rx* had the opposite problem; although it did a great job of finding viruses and keeping them out of memory, it often reported infection by viruses it had in fact blocked. *Virus Prevention Plus* is an excellent virus sleuth, but it burdens you with an obtrusive, mandatory, password-protected log-in mechanism geared to security-obsessed network installations.

The best programs use a suite of schemes to track down viruses. Each type of scanning—string searching, file signature checking,

## Safe Computing

Even if you buy and use several top-flight antivirus applications, your best defense is to avoid infection in the first place. There's no absolute guarantee against infection, but you can minimize the risk to your own and others' computers by following these straightforward guidelines:

- 1 Back up regularly—a full backup once a week, with incremental backups daily if necessary. Uninfected backups let you simply overwrite infected files, but even infected backups let you recover from logic bombs—just remember to disinfect restored files right away.
- 2 Write-protect and back up installation disks before installing new software. If you don't and your computer is already infected with a virus, the original program disks could become permanently infected during installation.
- 3 Scan any network drives you regularly use. And don't forget that files attached to E-mail messages may be infected.

- 4 Write-protect floppies when booting from them or copying their files to your hard disk. You'll avoid transferring a virus from your hard disk to the floppy, which could later infect someone else's system or reinfect yours.
- 5 Don't boot your computer with a floppy disk that you haven't scanned and disinfected first.
- 6 Scan any programs downloaded from a BBS or copied from a floppy or a network drive before launching them. Most BBS's scan uploads before making them available for downloading, but you're trusting your SYSOP, and your SYSOP's choice of virus detection software, when you download.
- 7 Use the memory-resident virus-spotting portion of your antivirus application at all times. If you suspect an infection, turn off your computer immediately, reboot from a clean floppy (one without an AUTOEXEC.BAT or a CONFIG.SYS file), and then disinfect the system using a disk-based copy of your antivirus program.

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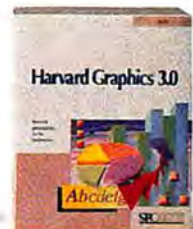
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and viral activity detection—has its strengths and weaknesses, so programs that employ all three are the likeliest to catch every bit of criminal code that sneaks onto your system. With the exception of *Virus Alert*, all these applications use some form of all three techniques, with varying amounts of success.

## Infection and Cure

Although no program detected and removed every virus while also preventing the infection of other files, *Virus Prevention Plus* provided the best defense against the test suite, followed closely by *Dr. Solomon's Anti-Virus Toolkit*, *Virex*, and *Norton AntiVirus*. Although they didn't score as well overall, *Vi-Spy* and *Central Point Anti-Virus*

deserve special mention for preventing every one of the test viruses from infecting other files. *VirusScan/Clean-Up/VShield* and *VirusNet* detected every infected file. The remaining programs mostly did well at rooting out common viruses.

Whatever antiviral methods a program employs, it should let you scan boot sectors and partition tables, give you the choice of scanning all files or just executable program files, and scan from the floppy drive (both for convenience and to prevent infection of the antivirus program). Data file infectors, though not unknown, are extremely rare, and scanning only program files shortens the process considerably. All the programs here offer these scanning features, but they differ in their additional capabilities.

## 18 Antivirus Programs Cover Almost Every Angle

Product	Company	Price	DETECTION AND REMOVAL							
			Scans executable files only	Scans all files	Scans boot sector	Scans conventional memory	Scans upper memory	Scans HMA memory	Scans boot sector, partition table	Backs up boot sector, partition table to disk
AntiVirusPlus	Techmar Computer Products 800/922-0015, 718/997-6666	\$99.95	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	●
Central Point Anti-Virus <sup>W</sup>	Central Point Software 800/445-4208, 503/690-8090	\$129	●	●	●	○	○	○	●	●
Data Physician Plus	Digital Dispatch 800/221-8091, 612/436-1000	\$49	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	●
Detect Plus	Commcraft 800/334-8338, 301/470-2500	\$129	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	●
Dr. Solomon's Anti-Virus Toolkit <sup>W</sup>	Ontrack Computer Systems 800/752-1333, 612/937-1107	DOS \$149.95, DOS and Windows \$195	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Norton AntiVirus <sup>W</sup>	Symantec 800/441-7234, 408/252-3570	\$129	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Novi	Symantec 800/441-7234, 408/252-3570	\$129	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○
PC Rx <sup>W</sup>	Trend Micro Devices 800/228-5651, 310/328-5892 (fax)	\$69	●	●	●	○	○	○	●	●
Pro-Scan	McAfee Associates 408/988-3832, 408/988-4004 (BBS)	\$89.95	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○
Untouchable	Fifth Generation Systems 800/873-4384, 504/291-7221	\$99	●	●	●	○	○	○	●	○
Virex	Datawatch 508/988-9700, 508/988-0672 (fax)	\$49.95	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	●
VirusCide Plus	Parsons Technology 800/223-6925, 319/395-9626	\$69	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	●
Virus Alert	Look Software 613/837-2151, 613/837-5572 (fax)	\$39.95	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○
Virus Buster <sup>W</sup>	Leprechaun Software 800/521-8849, 404/971-8900	\$129	●	●	●	○	○	○	●	● <sup>7</sup>
VirusScan, Clean-Up, VShield	McAfee Associates 408/988-3832, 408/988-4004 (BBS)	\$25, \$35, \$25 <sup>8</sup>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
VirusNet	Safetynet Software 800/851-0188, 201/467-1024	\$49	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○
Virus Prevention Plus <sup>W</sup>	PC Guardian 800/288-8126, 415/459-0190	\$125	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Vi-Spy <sup>W</sup>	RG Software Systems 602/423-8000, 602/423-8389 (fax)	\$149.95	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	● <sup>7</sup>

<sup>W</sup> Windows version available.

<sup>1</sup> By checking changes to file signatures/checksums.

<sup>2</sup> Executable files only.

<sup>3</sup> Entire hard disk.

<sup>4</sup> First year free.

<sup>5</sup> Requires expanded memory.

<sup>6</sup> Available in upcoming version.

<sup>7</sup> Requires difficult procedure.

Because of the sensitive nature of your hard disk's partition table and boot sector, just checking them for viruses is not enough. Antivirus applications should be able to prevent programs from writing to the boot sector and partition table, foiling even the stealthiest boot-sector virus. Some programs go even further by creating file signatures of partition table and boot sector data, storing them on the hard disk, and helping you recover easily from viruses that haven't yet made their presence known. This recovery technique is powerless, however, against a virus like the Grand York File, which immediately makes the hard disk unreadable. The best programs prompt you to create a recovery disk containing a backup of the hard disk boot data and later help you restore that data. Two

programs, *Vi-Spy* and *Virus Buster*, create the backup files, but only the documentation tells you to copy them to a floppy disk.

As new viruses appear, you must update your program's database of viruses and known strings. With estimates that three new viruses appear each day, you should look for a program from a company that offers frequent updates—the best companies offer them monthly. Updates usually cost money, so when choosing a program that offers them, add that cost to the purchase price. Don't forget to consider how updates are delivered. You're better off with a company that lets you choose between receiving a disk by mail and downloading files from a BBS. Downloading may be quicker if you suspect you've been struck by a new virus and need an update right away.

PREVENTION										Frequency/ annual price of updates	Update method	Reader service number
Scans from floppy drive	Creates log file	Maximum/min- imum TSR RAM required (K)	TSR runs in upper memory	TSR runs in memory	Tries to block viruses from unknown	Checks for table writes	Prevents boot sector, partition table writes	Write-protects files	Network compatible			
●	●	31/7	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	quarterly/\$29	disk	638
●	●	22/8	●	●	● <sup>1</sup>	●	●	● <sup>2</sup>	●	monthly/free via BBS quarterly/\$79 on disk	BBS, CompuServe, disk	639
●	●	47/12	●	●	● <sup>1</sup>	●	●	● <sup>2</sup>	●	quarterly/\$15 via BBS, \$30 on disk	BBS, disk	640
●	●	26.3/26.3	●	●	● <sup>1</sup>	○	○	○	●	quarterly/\$29	BBS, disk	641
●	●	6.4/6.3	●	●	● <sup>1</sup>	●	●	● <sup>3</sup>	●	monthly/\$195 quarterly/\$65	disk	642
●	●	40/2	●	●	● <sup>1</sup>	●	●	●	●	quarterly/\$69	BBS, CompuServe, disk, fax	643
●	●	30/30	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	n/a	n/a	643
●	●	12/9	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	monthly/free via BBS, \$5 per disk <sup>4</sup>	BBS, CompuServe, disk	644
●	●	6.3/6.3	●	○	● <sup>1</sup>	○	○	○	●	quarterly/\$55	disk	645
●	●	5/1	● <sup>5</sup>	●	● <sup>1</sup>	○	○	○	●	monthly/free via BBS quarterly/\$60 on disk	BBS, CompuServe, disk	646
●	●	40/1	●	●	● <sup>1</sup>	○	●	●	●	quarterly/\$50 <sup>4</sup>	BBS, disk	647
●	●	31/23	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	quarterly/\$12 per disk	disk	648
●	●	15/2	●	●	●	○ <sup>6</sup>	○	○	●	bimonthly/\$80	disk	649
●	●	11.3/4.4	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	monthly/\$50	BBS, disk	650
●	●	40/6	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	monthly/free	BBS, CompuServe	645
●	●	13.4/13.4	●	●	●	○	○	○	●	monthly/\$25	BBS	652
●	●	21/7.4	●	●	●	●	●	● <sup>2</sup>	●	quarterly/free via BBS, \$37.50 on disk <sup>4</sup>	BBS, CompuServe, disk	651
●	●	79/5	●	●	● <sup>1</sup>	●	●	○	●	quarterly/\$99.95 <sup>4</sup>	BBS, disk	653

<sup>8</sup> Home use registration fee.

For more information about all products in this table, circle reader service no. 900.

You may forget to check for updates at other times, though, and are likely to promptly install an update disk that you get by mail.

Only one program, *Novi*, whose manufacturer was recently acquired by Symantec, doesn't offer upgrades. Instead it relies on other virus detection techniques, though it does use signature scanning. A Symantec spokesperson said the company will likely merge *Novi* with *Norton AntiVirus* in upcoming versions.

### Get Well Soon

The majority of these programs performed decently, but *Norton AntiVirus* is our choice for Best Buy, thanks to a smooth, no-surprises interface, excellent virus detection and prevention performance, and a complete set of features. Runners-up *Virex* and *Dr. Solomon's Anti-Virus Toolkit* each did well overall, particularly when it came to finding and destroying our test viruses, but they didn't do quite as well in other areas. *Virex* was fairly inept at disinfecting files—only *PC Rx* did worse. *Dr. Solomon's* repair menu command simply

didn't work, and the program's monthly upgrades are expensive compared with its competitors'. *Virus Prevention Plus* was the top test-virus exterminator, but you have to put up with its authoritarian log-in security system, which may be overkill even for small LANs.

Even though they collectively got low marks for their almost total lack of a user interface, McAfee Associates' shareware programs *VirusScan*, *Clean-Up*, and *VShield* would make an excellent backup for another antivirus program.

You don't have to buy an antivirus product to reduce your risk of being bitten by a virus, but one of the top programs will save you a lot of time and trouble in the long run. Combined with regular backups and awareness about how to avoid viruses in the first place, your chances of losing productivity—and sleep—will be minimal.

*Scott Spanbauer is a contributing editor for PC World. He can be reached as SCOOTSPAN on PC World Online (see page 10 for more information).*

## TEST REPORT

# Antivirus Programs Battle 13 Viruses

	Detection		Removal		Prevention	
	Out of 8 common	Out of 5 uncommon	Out of 8 common	Out of 5 uncommon	Out of 8 common	Out of 5 uncommon
AntiVirusPlus	8	5	8	0	8	1
Central Point Anti-Virus	8	1	7	1	8	5
Data Physician Plus	7	3	7	3	8	4
Detect Plus	7	3	7	3	8	4
Dr. Solomon's Anti-Virus Toolkit	8	5	8	2	8	4
Norton AntiVirus*	8	4	7	1	8	5
Novi	8	2	7	0	8	3
PC Rx	8	4	2	0	8	4
Pro-Scan	8	5	8	4	0	0
Untouchable	8	4	7	0	8	3
Virex	8	5	6	0	8	5
VirusCide Plus	8	4	8	0	8	3
Virus Alert	8	5	8	1	8	2
Virus Buster	8	4	8	2	8	1
VirusScan, Clean-Up, VShield	8	5	8	0	8	3
VirusNet	8	5	8	1	8	2
Virus Prevention Plus	8	5	8	1	8	5
Vi-Spy	8	2	7	3	8	5

### \*Best Buy

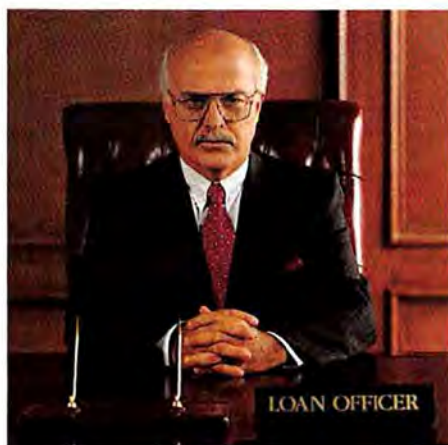
#### Methodology

We tested antivirus programs using 13 viruses provided by the National Computer Security Association. Eight are common file infectors: Cascade 1701, Cascade 1704, Jerusalem (standard), Green Caterpillar (a.k.a. 1575 and 1591), Yankee Doodle, Frodo (a.k.a. 4096—both COM

and EXE versions), and Dark Avenger. The other 5 are uncommon and more difficult to detect: Dedicate, Groove, Hilton (a.k.a. Grand York File), Mummy, and Twin-351. Most of the test viruses employ stealth or mutation techniques to avoid detection. The Detection test measures how many of the 13 test viruses an antivirus

program finds. The Removal test measures from how many infected files the antivirus program successfully removes each of the test viruses. The Prevention test measures how many test viruses each antivirus program prevents from infecting other files—but doesn't determine whether system memory was infected.

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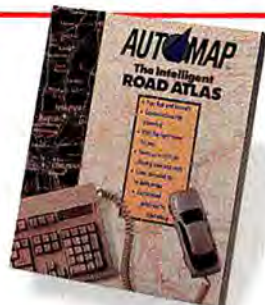
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11416	Contura 4/25cx Active Matrix Color with 120 MB, Windows .....	3159.
11415	Contura 4/25cx Active Matrix Color with 209 MB, Windows .....	3399.
11421	Contura 4/25 with 120 MB, Windows .....	1949.
11420	Contura 4/25 with 209 MB, Windows .....	2199.
11453	Deskpro 4/25is with 120 MB, Windows .....	1499.
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3830	Approach for Windows Comp. Upgrade .....	95.
<b>Clarisc Corp.</b>		
5228	FileMaker Pro 2.0 Competitive Upgrade .....	89.
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5693	Excel 4.0 Competitive Upgrade (5695 3 1/2")	125.
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7940	Adobe Type Set Value Pack (7941 3 1/2") .....	39.
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<b>AGFA</b>		
10396	Discovery TrueType Pack .....	49.
<b>Aldus</b>		
1332	PageMaker 5.0 for Win. (April '93) (4247 3 1/2")	579.
<b>Altsys Corporation</b>		
8675	Fontographer for Windows 3.5 (3 1/2" only) .....	259.
<b>Application Techniques</b>		
8337	WinDings 1.0 for Windows .....	49.
1214	Pizzazz Plus 3.0 .....	79.
<b>Approach Software</b>		
6598	Approach 2.0 for Windows .....	259.
<b>Ares Software</b>		
6030	FontMonger 1.06 for Windows .....	89.
<b>Artisoft</b>		
2455	LanTastic AE-2 EtherNet Starter Kit 4.1 .....	469.
2452	AE-2 EtherNet Adapter Card .....	199.
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2729	Automap USA for DOS... 55. 8569 Windows... 55.	
<b>Avery Dennison</b>		
6006	Label Pro 1.6 (Laser) .....	49.
<b>Baler Software Corporation</b>		
11312	Baler 6.0 .....	279.
<b>Banner Blue Software</b>		
2088	Org Plus 1.0 for Windows .....	125.
<b>Berkeley Systems</b>		
9885	After Dark 2.0 for Windows .....	29.
6649	Star Trek: The Screen Saver (3 1/2" only) .....	34.
<b>Bitstream</b>		
8040	FaceLift 2.0 for WordPerfect 5.0/5.1 .....	69.
2089	MakeUp 1.1 for Windows 3.0/3.1 .....	79.
<b>Borland International</b>		
10616	Quattro Pro Win. (3 1/2" only) .. while supplies last	95.
10710	Paradox Windows (3 1/2" only) .. while supplies last	129.
11445	Paradox/Quattro Pro for Windows Bundle .....	189.
<b>Broderbund</b>		
5900	PC USA 2.0..... 29. 5902 PC Globe 5.0 .....	39.
8855	Print Shop Deluxe 1.0 (8856 3 1/2") .....	45.
<b>Caere</b>		
4130	Faxmaster 1.0 95. 8933 OmniPage Pro 2.1 .....	629.
<b>Central Point Software</b>		
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<b>CompuServe</b>		
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10957	Windows Membership Kit 1.0 .....	27.
<b>Concentric Data Systems</b>		
6575	R & R Report Writer DOS 159. 9236 Windows 159.	
<b>Contact Software</b>		
7435	ACT! for Windows .....	239.
<b>Corel Systems</b>		
5506	CorelDRAW! 3.0 (5508 3 1/2") .....	395.
<b>Data Storm</b>		
4798	PROCMM PLUS 2.01 69. 6918 for Windows 99.	

<b>DCA/Crosstalk</b>		
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<b>Delrina Technology</b>		
5974	DOSFax PRO... 49. 2446 WinFaxPro 3.0...	79.
10454	Windows Communications PAK .....	145.
<b>DeltaPoint</b>		
10787	Animated Desktop 1.0 for Windows .....	42.
5172	FreezeFrame 1.0 for Windows .....	62.
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7298	Hijaak 2.1... 115. 3820 1.0 for Windows .....	115.
<b>Intuit</b>		
2426	Quicken 5.0... 45. 5596 for Windows .....	45.
<b>LaserTools</b>		
6882	PrintCache 3.1 .....	49.
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11406	Reunion for Windows .....	135.
<b>Lotus</b>		
5417	1-2-3 3.4 (5416 3 1/2") .....	399.
5653	1-2-3 2.4 (5652 3 1/2") .....	335.
2755	1-2-3 1.1 for Windows (2756 3 1/2") .....	309.
3424	1-2-3 1.1 for Windows Upgrade (3428 3 1/2") ..	99.
5799	Ami Pro 3.0... 239. 1847 Competitive Upgrd...	99.
3523	Freelance Graphics 2.0 for Windows (5005 3 1/2")	349.
10753	Improv for Windows (3 1/2" only) .....	intro. price 99.
1493	Organizer for Windows .....	99.
5981	SmartSuite (5982 3 1/2") .....	469.
<b>Maxis</b>		
11370	Rome... 29. 11423 El-Fish (3 1/2" only) ....	35.
<b>MECA</b>		
2798	Managing Your Money 9.0 .....	32.
<b>Microcom</b>		
6234	CarbonCopy Plus 6.1... 129. 4410 Windows ...	129.
<b>Micrografix</b>		
3627	Windows Draw! 3.0 (3628 3 1/2") .....	99.
<b>MicroLogic Software</b>		
5350	TrueType 1.0 for DOS 49. 8579 MoreFonts 3.0 75.	
<b>Microsoft</b>		
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6141	Windows for Workgroups Add-on (6172 3 1/2") ..	59.
7010	Windows 3.1 (7009 3 1/2") .....	89.
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3337	Publisher 1.0 for Windows .....	129.
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11444	Visual C++ Standard Edition (3 1/2" only) .....	129.
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**PC-Kwik**  
8565 *WinMaster 1.5 (8566 3 1/4")*..... 65.  
4925 *PC-Kwik Power Pak 3.0 w/Power Disk (8004 3 1/4")* 79.  
**Peachtree**  
5757 *Accounting 5.0 for Windows*..... 79.  
**Personics**  
9288 *Laptop UltraVision 2.1 (3 1/2" only)*..... 59.  
**Polaris Software**  
4395 *PackRat 5.0*..... 249.  
**Portfolio Software**  
10459 *DynoDex for Windows*..... 49.  
**Power Up**  
10582 *myHouse*..... 59.  
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7539 *386MAX 6.02*..... 59.  
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3221 *Expanded Memory Manager 386 6.0 (3217 3 1/2")* 59.  
11413 *QEMM-386 Game Bundle (3 1/2" only)*..... 75.  
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**Reality Technologies**  
6572 *WealthBuilder 3.0 (includes Smart Investor)*..... 94.  
**Shapeware**  
5426 *Visio 1.0 for Windows (3 1/2" only)*..... 199.  
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5883 *FaxWorks 2.5 (Windows & DOS) (3 1/2" only)*..... 45.  
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1409 *Stacker 3.0*..... 95.  
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6397 *The Norton Backup 2.2 for DOS (2356 3 1/2")*..... 99.  
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8378 *Norton PC Anywhere 4.5 (8535 3 1/2")*..... 119.  
11304 *PC Anywhere 1.0 for Windows (11303 3 1/2")*..... 129.  
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**Touchstone Software**  
7420 *Check It Plus 3.0*..... 85.  
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4407 *LapLink V*..... 99.  
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6151 *XTree Gold 2.5*..... 95.

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8578 *Sound Blaster*..... 99. 2336 *Sound Blaster Pro* 189.  
5770 *Sound Blaster 16*..... 229.  
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7358 *Command Center SPF-4*..... 79.  
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7391 *ULTRA 96 Modem*..... 599. 5024 *ULTRA 144*..... 669.  
1345 *OPTIMA 24 Modem*..... 115. 3522 *OPTIMA 96*..... 349.  
8187 *OPTIMA 24-FAX96*..... 119.  
7395 *OPTIMA 144-FAX144*..... 389.  
**Hewlett-Packard ... 1 year**  
7621 *DeskJet Portable*..... 439.  
7620 *DeskJet 550C (color) (with ink cartridge)*..... 789.  
6442 *LaserJet 4 (with toner)*..... 1499.  
**Intel ... 3 years**  
3864 *14.4EX Modem*..... 469.  
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8479 *Above Board ISA OK*..... 179.  
10436 *SatisFAXtion Modem/300*..... 299.  
5994 *Modem/400*..... 399. 5995 *Modem/400e*..... 399.  
6003 *FAXability Plus OCR (software)*..... 159.  
2994 *EtherExpress 16 or 3021 16 TP*..... ea. 129.  
4750 *80387SX*..... 79. 5409 *80387DX*..... 85.



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<b>Peripheral Land, Inc. ... 1 year</b>		
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5680	MS Excel for Windows.....	299.
8423	MS PowerPoint.....	299.
2735	MS Works for Windows.....	129.
8138	MS Office for Windows.....	449.
5238	MS Word 5.5.....	209.
4348	MS Works.....	95.
10059	MS FoxPro for DOS.....	299.

#### WordPerfect

3497	WordPerfect for Windows.....	279.
3795	WordPerfect for DOS.....	265.
7582	WordPerf. Presentations.....	279.

#### Borland

1205	Paradox.....	529.
10710	Paradox for Windows.....	129.
10805	Quattro Pro.....	\$95.
10616	Quattro Pro for Windows.....	95.

#### Lotus

2756	1-2-3/ Windows.....	309.
5416	1-2-3/ DOS Release 3.4.....	399.
5652	1-2-3/ DOS Release 2.4.....	335.
5799	AmiPro for Windows.....	239.
5005	Freelance for Windows.....	349.
5982	SmartSuite.....	469.

#### Delrina

10936	WinFax PRO 3.0.....	79.
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#### Crosstalk

5611	Crosstalk for Windows.....	119.
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#### Symantec

2360	Norton Desktop/Windows.....	115.
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#### Application Techniques

10950	WinDings - free with any other pre-installed software listed above.	
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4354	Colorado Jumbo 250 Tape Backup.....	215
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10942	Practical Peripherals 14,400 data, 9600 S/R internal fax/modem.....	199
6502	Iomega Bernoulli Insider 90 MB PRO.....	579
6951	Teac 1.2 MB Floppy Drive.....	59
10744	Kingston 4 MB memory upgrade.....	179
10745	Kingston 8 MB memory upgrade.....	395

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10844	Samsung SyncMaster 15" Color Monitor.....	499
10698	Compaq SVGA 14" Color Monitor.....	349
8943	Intel Overdrive.....	639

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10698	Compaq SVGA 14" Color Monitor.....	349

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10959 Kingston 1 MB memory upgrade .....	\$69
10960 Kingston 2 MB memory upgrade .....	109
10961 Kingston 4 MB memory upgrade .....	169
10962 Kingston 8 MB memory upgrade .....	379
5409 Intel Math CoProcessor 80387DX .....	85
4194 Colorado Jumbo 120 Tape Backup .....	149
4354 Colorado Jumbo 250 Tape Backup .....	215
10942 Practical Peripherals 14,400 data, 9600 S/R internal fax/modem .....	199
6502 Iomega Bernoulli Insider 90 MB PRO .....	579
6951 Teac 1.2 MB Floppy Drive .....	59

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11452 Model 240/w 240 MB Hard Drive .....	\$1679
10063 Mag Innovision MX15 15" Color Monitor .....	599
4249 NEC 4FG 15" Color Monitor .....	799
10844 Samsung SyncMaster 15" Color Monitor .....	499
10694 Compaq QVision Color Monitor .....	1146
8948 Intel Overdrive .....	479

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*No additional charge for installation  
(where required)*

6569 Intel Math CoProcessor 80387SL.....	\$79
1073 Colorado Trakker 250 Tape Backup (parallel).....	429
10749 Kingston 2 MB memory upgrade.....	119
10756 Kingston 8 MB memory upgrade.....	349
10517 Megahertz 2400 data, 9600 S/R fax (int.).....	215
10518 Megahertz 9600 data, 9600 S/R fax (int.).....	479
10515 Megahertz 14,400 data, 14,400 S/R fax (int.).....	499
10648 Compaq NiMH battery.....	121
10647 Compaq NiCd battery.....	84
10642 Compaq Auto adapter.....	112
10646 Compaq External FastCharger.....	93
10650 Compaq Slipcase.....	14
7060 Kensington MicroSaver (security device).....	39

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**25-MHz 386SL; 4MB expandable to 12 MB**

9552 Model 120/w+ 120 MB Hard Drive, PFS:  
WindowWorks, Trackball .....

**\$1599**



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9550 Model 84/w 84 MB Hard Drive, Trackball ..... **\$2129**

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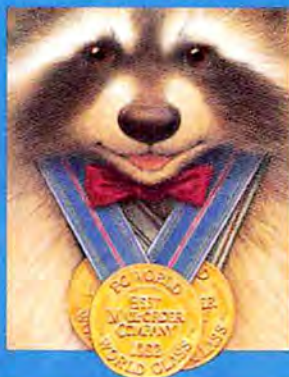
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3. Dell Computer
4. Telemart
5. Gateway 2000

## 1991

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# CD ROM Drives

Clip art, reference databases, font collections, sound, and video.

Put it all at your fingertips with this guide to 43 CD ROM drives.



ROBERT PERRY

Just as CD players have taken over the living room, CD ROM drives are invading the desktop. CD ROM's high capacity—up to 680MB per CD ROM disk, stabilizing prices, an expanding universe of applications, and significant performance improvements are kicking the industry into high gear.

The number of applications now available on CD ROM has reached critical mass. You'll find enormous databases of news and magazine articles, voluminous technical documentation, and detailed financial data, all once contained in backbreaking books or unwieldy microfilms.

What's more, you can add clip art, fonts, sound, and video to your documents from CD ROM or watch mul-

BY MELISSA RIOFRIO

## The Time Is Right

timedia enliven encyclopedias, electronic maps, and training applications. The space needed to store font descriptions or audio data will quickly overwhelm the capacity of floppies and hard disks but not CD ROMs.

The only downside to CD ROM drives is that they are slower than hard drives. This buyers' guide includes CD ROM drives with average access times of 550ms or less to make practical use of video, graphics, and sound—anything longer is too slow. Unless you plan to use your CD ROM drive only for text-based reference applications, don't even consider a slower drive.

Larry Shiller, president of the Bureau of Electronic Publishing, predicts that within the next two years some software will be shipped exclusively on CD ROM. Increasingly, software vendors are distributing weightier applications and their accompany-

ing technical manuals on CD ROM, exchanging a suitcase full of floppies and documentation for one modest piece of plastic. The complex graphics and fonts in *Corel-Draw*, for instance, are available on CD ROM. Microsoft publishes a version of *Word for Windows* on CD ROM with the company's *Bookshelf* reference work. Search and copy features make it a snap to drop references straight into your documents.

## The CD ROM Frontier

Two new developments promise you'll see even more of CD ROM in the years to come. The Photo CD technology from Kodak brings high-resolution photographic images to your desktop on a medium that is less cumbersome and more environmentally sound than paper photos. CD ROM recorders (CD-R) have finally descended to

price levels below \$10,000, meaning that the average corporation can afford to record small runs of disks.

The ability to concentrate technical manuals, design specifications, or a roomful of legal archives onto one disk promises to streamline the dissemination of information for many companies burdened by too much paper. For all these reasons, CD ROMs' penetration into the business world is likely to grow rapidly.

The price of CD ROM drives ranges widely, from \$200 to \$900 or more on the street. In most cases the price is proportional to the drive's quality and capability. If you have an externally accessible 5¼-inch drive bay free, you can save about \$100 as well as desktop space by choosing an internal model. Your primary concern, however, should be a drive's speed.

## CD ROM Drives

Manufacturer	Product	PRICING				INTERFACE	
		Internal model	External model	Parallel-connected model	List price adapter kit <sup>1</sup>	Adapter type <sup>2</sup>	Adapter make and model
<b>CD Technology</b> 408/752-8500	CD Porta-Drive T-3401	\$700	\$850	\$1100	\$200 \$250	SCSI SCSI	Future Domain TMC-850M Future Domain TMC-1650
<b>CD ROM</b> 800/821-5245, 303/231-9373	CRI-1000e (ext), CRI-1000i (int)	\$299	\$399	\$549 <sup>4</sup>	included	SCSI proprietary	Future Domain TMC-950 n/a
	CRI-1000 AT	\$299	\$349	n/a	included		
<b>Chinon America</b> 800/441-0222, 310/533-0274	435 Series	\$495	\$645	n/a	included	SCSI	Chinon CDS-311
	535 Series	\$695	\$795	n/a	\$100	SCSI	NCS-250-SC
<b>Consan Storage Solutions</b> 800/229-3475, 612/949-0053	3401XT	\$645	\$795	n/a	\$160	SCSI	Adaptec AHA-1510
<b>Hitachi Home Electronics</b> 800/369-0422, 310/537-8383	CDR-1700SMAX	n/a	\$815	n/a	\$70	proprietary	Hitachi CDIF8S
	CDR-1750S	n/a	\$915	\$1185	\$180, \$260 (MCA)	SCSI	Future Domain TMC-850
	CDR-3700	\$745	n/a	n/a	\$70	proprietary	Hitachi CDIF8S
	CDR-3750	\$865	n/a	n/a	\$180	SCSI	Future Domain TMC-850
<b>Insight Distribution Network</b> 800/927-7848, 602/902-1010	Talon TA-100	\$269	n/a	n/a	included	proprietary	Mitsumi CRMC-LU
	Talon TA-150	\$299	n/a	n/a	included	proprietary	LMSI CM-205
	Talon TA-200	\$449	n/a	n/a	included	SCSI	NEC 84J
<b>Liberty Systems</b> 408/983-1127	115 Series	n/a	\$699	\$799	\$89 (SCSI)	SCSI parallel-SCSI	Trantor T130 (SCSI) Trantor T348PL
<b>MacProducts USA</b> 800/622-3475, 512/472-8881	Magic CD ROM 3401	n/a	\$599	n/a	\$119	SCSI	Trantor T130
<b>Micro Design Int'l</b> 407/677-8333	LaserBank 600CDX	\$795	\$895	n/a	included <sup>5</sup>	10	10
<b>Micro Solutions Computer Products</b> 815/756-3411	CD-ROM Backpack	n/a	n/a	\$499	n/a	parallel-SCSI	n/a
<b>Mitsumi Electronics</b> Available via retail, distributors, and mail order.	CRMC-LU005S	\$249 <sup>11</sup>	n/a	n/a	included	SCSI	proprietary
	CRMC-FX001	\$299 <sup>11</sup>	n/a	n/a	included	SCSI	proprietary

<sup>1</sup> Kit includes all necessary software and cables.

<sup>2</sup> "SCSI" encompasses SCSI-1 and SCSI-2 PC interfaces.

<sup>3</sup> Future Domain MCS-600 adapter, \$300, works with external model.

<sup>4</sup> Trantor T338 adapter works with external model.

<sup>5</sup> \$199 extra.

<sup>6</sup> Drive runs at 150 K/sec for audio and 300 K/sec for data.

<sup>7</sup> CDR-1700SMC Micro Channel CD ROM drive \$1095.

<sup>8</sup> MCS-600 adapter, \$260, works with external model.

<sup>9</sup> Various models available.

Two factors affect the rate at which a CD ROM drive delivers information from a CD ROM disk: its data transfer rate (the speed at which the information is shuttled from the CD ROM to your system's memory), and average access time (the time it takes to retrieve a random piece of information from the disk).

### To the Swiftest Go the Spoils

Of the two factors, the data transfer rate is most important. This is particularly true for multimedia applications, which lay down data in contiguous files that need to be pumped through to the screen as quickly as possible. The standard data transfer rate for CD ROM drives is 150 K/sec (kilobytes per second). Drives incorporating the new double-speed technology spin the disk twice as fast and, according to vendors, achieve

transfer rates of 300 K/sec and faster.

Access time matters most to applications such as databases, which have to retrieve information from several noncontiguous sections of the disk. But faster is always better. You'll see access times as low as 200ms on some double-speed drives.

The speed at which you retrieve information from the drive will also depend on the size of its buffer. Ranging from 32K to 256K from drive to drive, buffers can make up for the slowness of a drive by storing more information than the application asked for, making that information more readily available when it's needed.

You'll notice most CD ROM drives either bear the Multimedia PC Marketing Council's MPC logo or claim to meet the MPC specifications for multimedia hardware. Don't expect the logo to guarantee you the

ability to run full-motion video applications, however, as the MPC council's requirements are ridiculously easy to meet. In fact, it's hard to find a drive on the market today that doesn't have at least a 1000ms average access time and a stated 150 K/sec sustained data transfer rate.

Our past testing experience indicates that if you want optimum performance with multimedia applications, you should buy the fastest drive you can afford. So we eliminated any drives with a stated average access time over 550ms for this guide. If you're serious about running motion-video applications, seek a drive with an average access rating from 200ms to 350ms. And buy one of the new double-speed drives to take advantage of the tremendously enhanced sequential transfer rates that these units provide.

Micro Channel bus interface	SPEED			ACCESSORIES										Warranty (months)	Reader service number
	Sequential transfer rate (K/sec)	Average access time (ms)	Built-in buffer (K)	Photo CD	Supports drives	Daisy-chain	cleaning mechanism	Automatic lens door	Dust protection	Eject button	Software eject	Emergency eject	Uses disk caddy		
● <sup>3</sup>	330	200	256	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	24	610
● <sup>5</sup>	153.6	350	64	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	12	611
○	153.6	350	64	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	12	611
○	150 <sup>6</sup>	350	64	●	●	○	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	12	612
○	150	350	64	●	●	○	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	12	612
●	330	200	256	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	12	613
● <sup>7</sup>	150	300	128	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	12	614
● <sup>8</sup>	150	300	64	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	12	614
○	150	300	64	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	24	614
○	150	300	64	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	24	614
○	150	380	32	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	12	615
○	150	375	32	●	○	○	○	○	○	●	●	○	○	12	615
○	300	280	64	●	○	○	○	○	○	●	○	●	●	12	615
●	330	200	256	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	12	616
●	360	200	256	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	12	617
●	327	200	256	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	12	618
●	150	350	128	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	12	619
○	150	350	32	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○ <sup>12</sup>	○	12	
○	150	280	32	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	12	

<sup>10</sup> Adapter prices vary from \$195 for DOS-only to \$795 for 32-bit MCA.

<sup>11</sup> Estimated street price.

<sup>12</sup> Manual eject tray.

Table continues on following pages.



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128K  
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486DX2/66  
4MB, Exp. to 256MB  
128K  
240MB  
31/2"  
Local Bus (1280 x1024)  
EISA  
15" NI EVGA .28 Flat Square Overscan  
DOS, Windows  
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Circle 54 on reader service card

## Hooking It Up

CD ROM drive interfaces come in a variety of forms. The most common is the standard 8- or 16-bit SCSI host adapter, which fits in an expansion slot on your computer. While 16-bit adapters can provide up to 10 percent greater throughput, standard 8-bit adapters are adequate for virtually all the currently available multimedia applications. Some companies provide a similar, but proprietary, adapter card.

Standard adapters are fine if you plan to make a single, stationary installation. However, if you want to hook up to a notebook PC or move your drive from computer to computer, you'll want a parallel-to-SCSI adapter. This card plugs into your parallel

port with a pass-through for your printer.

You'll notice slower transfer rates when data is fed through a standard parallel port. New parallel-

others to provide transfer rates comparable to those of a standard 8-bit SCSI host adapter. If you use a Micro Channel machine, you'll need to find a drive that



Some weightier software will be shipped only on CD ROM, transforming a suitcase full of floppies and manuals into one modest piece of plastic.

to-SCSI converters, such as Trantor Systems' MiniSCSI EPP, also work with the enhanced parallel ports found on notebooks from vendors such as Compaq, Dell, and

provides a Micro Channel adapter. Not all vendors offer that option, however.

Spending money for a newer, faster drive brings additional advantages if you're interested in Kodak's new Photo CDs. These CDs store high-quality digital versions of your photos. (You must send the negatives to Kodak for recording.) Also, Photo CD promises integrated motion and sound.

The disk's images are stored in a new for-

## CD ROM Drives (continued)

Manufacturer	Product	PRICING				INTERFACE		
		Internal model	External model	Parallel-connected model	List price adapter kit <sup>1</sup>	Adapter type <sup>2</sup>	Adapter make and model	
NEC Technologies 800/388-8888, 708/860-9500	MultiSpin 74 (ext)	\$550	\$615	n/a	\$80 (SCSI), \$95 (parallel)	SCSI	Trantor T130	
	MultiSpin 84 (int)							
	MultiSpin 38	n/a	\$465	\$465	\$80 (SCSI), \$95 (parallel)	SCSI	Trantor T130	
Parallel Peripherals 800/864-3016, 714/394-7244	5.25" External CD ROM	n/a	n/a	\$749	included	parallel-SCSI	n/a	
Peripheral Land 800/288-8754, 510/657-2211	PLI CD-ROM MS200	\$843	\$969	n/a	\$223	SCSI	PC QuickSCSI	
Philips Consumer Electronics 800/835-3506	CM405ABK (int), CM425ABK (ext)	\$699	\$749	n/a	included	SCSI	n/a	
	CM205XBK	\$499	n/a	n/a	included	proprietary	Philips cm 250	
Procom Technology 800/800-8600, 714/852-1000	MCD-DS (ext), SiCD-DS (int)	\$645	\$645	\$645	<sup>3</sup>	SCSI	proprietary	
	PxCDS (ext), PiCDS (int)	\$345	\$345	\$345	included	proprietary	proprietary	
Relax Technology 510/471-6112	Vista I Texel DM 3024	\$499	\$499	\$499	included	SCSI	Trantor T130	
	Vista II Toshiba XM3401	\$549	\$549	\$549	included	SCSI	Trantor T130	
Sony Corporation of America 800/352-7669, 408/432-0190	Sony Desktop Library	\$850 <sup>4</sup>	\$1070	n/a	included	SCSI	proprietary	
	CDU-561	n/a <sup>5</sup>	n/a	n/a	included	SCSI	Future Domain TMC 850	
Storage Devices 800/872-7341, 714/562-5500	SCD-683X	n/a	n/a	\$849	included	parallel-SCSI	proprietary	
Sun Moon Star 408/452-7811	SCSI CD-ROM Kit/541	\$579	\$579	\$579	included	SCSI	Data Technology DTC-3150	
	Laser CD-ROM Set/31A	\$499	\$499	\$499	included	proprietary	Sun Moon Star CDB-31A	
Tandy 817/390-3011	CDR-1100	\$400	\$400	\$400	included	proprietary	proprietary	
Texel 800/886-3935, 408/980-1838	DM-3024	\$499	\$499	\$499	\$100	SCSI	Trantor T130	
	DM-5024	\$599	\$599	n/a	\$100	SCSI	Trantor T130	
Toshiba America Information Systems 714/583-3111	XM-3401 Series	\$695	\$695	\$695	PCF Kit: \$150	SCSI	Future Domain TMC-850	

<sup>1</sup> Kit includes all software and cables necessary to install and use the adapter.

<sup>2</sup> "SCSI" encompasses SCSI-1 and SCSI-2 PC interfaces.

<sup>3</sup> Adapters vary, and prices range from \$95 to \$355.

<sup>4</sup> Starter kit bundle \$500.

<sup>5</sup> Not available at press time.

<sup>6</sup> External only.

mat, so you'll need new or updated software to view them. Also, while most of the drives here can read Photo CD disks, not all can read beyond the first recording. Regular CD ROM disks are the product of one recording session, but additional recording sessions can add photos to Photo CDs. Buying a "multisession" CD ROM drive solves the problem. If you would like to keep up with Photo CD developments, find out how completely your drive fits the bill.

### Reliability and Convenience

Look for certain service and convenience features on your CD ROM drive. A warranty longer than 12 months carries more weight than the vendor's MTBF (mean time between failures) claim. The more disk removal options you have—an eject button, software eject, emergency eject—the better. Maintenance features such as an

automatic lens cleaning mechanism or a dust protection door help protect the drive from the elements. In the absence of maintenance features, a drive that uses a disk caddy also helps keep dirt away from the CD ROM's delicate innards.

The ability to daisy-chain drives means that you can hook up several CD ROM drives from the same adapter, an important feature if you need access to more than one disk at a time. For CD ROM applications that incorporate sound, you'll want standard audio output jacks, volume control, and audio software, found in most models.

### The Time Is Right for CD ROM

CD ROM drives have been around for a long time, but only recently have they emerged as an undeniable asset to your business. Consider the cornucopia of software from databases to reference works to

desktop publishing. And while software has caught up to hardware in its availability and variety, the speed of the hardware has increased. Toshiba America's XM-3401 Series CD ROM drives, for instance, give you state-of-the-art double-speed, multisession capabilities, making them ready for use with any application that's available on the market today.

Looking toward tomorrow, the advent of affordable hardware for creating CD ROM in house means that the storage and retrieval advantages of the medium can be harnessed by the business world. With the promise of more and more information available on CD ROM, the future looks as shiny as the disks themselves.

*Melissa Riofrio is an assistant editor for PC World. She can be reached on PC World Online (see page 10 for more information).*

	SPEED				ACCESSORIES								Warranty (months)	Reader service number
	Micro Channel bus Interface	Sequential transfer rate (K/sec)	Average random access time (ms)	Built-in buffer (K)	Supports Photo CD	Daisy-chain drives	Automatic lens cleaning mechanism	Dust protection door	Eject button	Software eject	Emergency eject	Uses disk caddy		
	●	300	280	256	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	24	620
	●	300	400	64	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	24	620
	●	150	350	64	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	12	621
	●	330	200	256	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	12	622
	●	300	265	64	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	12	623
	○	153.6	375	32	○	○	●	○	○	●	○	○	12	623
	●	330	200	254	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	24	624
	●	150	490	64	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	○	12	624
	●	150	325	64	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	12	625
	●	330	200	256	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	12	625
	○	150	550	64	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	○	12	626
	○	300	280	256	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	12	626
	○	300	280	256	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	12	627
	○	150	380	64	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	12	628
	○	150	490	64	●	● <sup>6</sup>	○	●	●	○	●	○	12	628
	○	153.6	375	32	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	12	629
	●	300	265	64	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	12	630
	●	300	265	64	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	●	12	630
	● <sup>7</sup>	330	200	256	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	12	631

<sup>7</sup> PS/2 kit with Future Domain MCS-600 adapter lists for \$300.

For more information about all products in this table, circle reader service no. 901.

# Operate

Run DOS applications.

Run Windows™

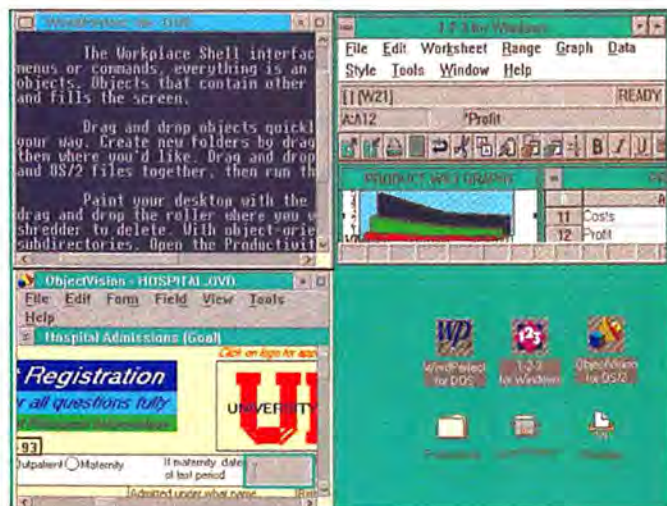
applications. Run OS/2® applications. Run



them at the same time, in separate windows on the same screen.

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Drag a file object from one folder and drop it in another to move it. Drag a folder

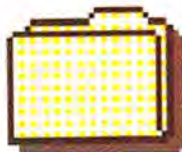


DOS and Windows support is built in to OS/2, and you can explore over 1,000 OS/2 applications as well.

# at a

object and drop it on the shredder to delete it. Drag a file object and drop it on the printer to print it. In the OS/2 Workplace Shell,™ common procedures become intuitive clicks of a mouse.

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## HELP LINE Q & A



## Tip of the Month

**BACK UP A COMPRESSED DRIVE QUICKLY:** If you have a backup utility and use a compression utility that compresses your drive into a single file, you can perform a full backup of your hard disk quickly. For example, DOS 6.0's DoubleSpace maintains a compressed drive as a hidden system file, known as the Compressed Volume File (CVF) and named DBLSPACE.000 or something similar. That file is kept in the root of the uncompressed drive, typically D:, that DoubleSpace creates for files that shouldn't be compressed (use `DIR \ /A` to find the hidden files). Backing up the CVF backs up the entire compressed drive.

In either Backup for DOS or Backup for Windows, select **Incremental Backup** from the Backup Type list and then select the CVF. You may also want to back up the rest of D:'s files, since they're not included in the CVF. Finally, turn off the Compress Backup Data option in the Options menu and start your backup.

This tip makes for a fast backup since the program doesn't have to deal with as many files, nor must it compress on the fly. If you ever need to restore your drive, restore these files to the root directory of your uncompressed drive. (You won't, however, be able to restore single files or groups of files that the CVF contains.)

Bryan Thompson, Microsoft Product Support

### Motherboard Swap

**Q** Two years ago I bought a 16-MHz 386SX, and now I'd like to upgrade it to something faster. I've seen 25-MHz 386SX motherboards for less than \$125—could I replace my existing motherboard with one of those?

Rod Fuller, Rochester, New York

**A** You almost certainly could. There are two basic styles of motherboards: standard AT, used in full-size desktops and towers, and the narrower "baby" AT, used in small-footprint desktops and minitowers. Unless your system has a very unconventional design (for example, a 3-inch-high case), one or the other of these motherboard types should fit.

This is one upgrade you might not want to do yourself: A motherboard transplant isn't an easy operation, and there can be nasty complications. First you have to dismantle the system to remove the old motherboard. This done, you may find the new motherboard's screw holes don't match the case's internal mounts, in which case you'll have to drill holes in your case or replace the board with one that matches

it. And after you've installed the new motherboard, you may find the system doesn't work quite right. For example, the faster clock speed could interfere with an older video board or communications program. If you're sure you can solve this kind of problem and enjoy the challenge, go for it, but otherwise I recommend you pay your dealer to handle this difficult chore.

With prices on 40-MHz 386DX and 25-MHz 486SX boards starting around \$200, I don't recommend buying anything slower. When selecting a new motherboard, look for a replaceable CPU or upgrade socket, at least 64K of external RAM cache, and the CMOS setup utility in ROM. Maximum RAM capacity should be at least 32MB, using standard SIMMs installed directly on the motherboard—in other words, you shouldn't have to purchase a memory expansion board to go beyond 16MB. Even if 32MB seems like an absurd quantity of RAM, that capability indicates a fairly up-to-date motherboard design. If the motherboard has built-in serial ports, make sure it uses a 16550 UART chip, which will ensure top per-

formance with high-speed modems. Finally, insist on a money-back guarantee just in case the board doesn't work properly with your system.

### Cache Questions

**Q** I have four questions about caches. Should I disable the 128K cache on my hard drive before running a disk optimizer? Should I disable it when I use a software cache utility such as SmartDrive? What's the optimum size for SmartDrive? And if I do use SmartDrive, what is the best setting for BUFFERS?

Adrian Dieleman, Waupun, Wisconsin

**A** You should never need to disable the track buffer or cache on the controller built into most current hard drives. In fact, on most drives there's no way to shut it off. Expansion-board caching disk controllers (which take control away from the drive's built-in controller) may conflict with software disk caches, but if you have one, you don't need to install a software cache.

You should disable any cache, hardware or software, before running a de-

fragger *unless* the defrager is specifically designed to work with the cache. For example, if you use the cache that came with *The Norton Utilities* or *PC Tools*, you don't need to unload it before running its companion defrager.

My rule of thumb: Dedicate 1/4 of a system's total extended memory to disk caching—but the optimum size depends on how much memory you have and the applications you run. Experiment with different settings to see what works best for you.

When using a disk cache, you can safely set `BUFFERS=1` in your `CONFIG.SYS`. However, if you notice that floppy operations take longer, try setting `BUFFERS` to 2 or more.

#### Change Text-Mode Font

Is there any utility or other method to change the font DOS uses to display text? I would like to set my display to 43 lines of text, but the font I get in that mode is too hard to read.

*Quochung Do, via PC World Online*

How text looks on screen depends not on DOS but on your video board, and there's quite a bit of variation in screen fonts from one board to another. Check the disks that came with your video board, as they may include some alternate screen fonts and a utility to install them.

For a wider range of choices, check out the shareware program *Text Font*. This nifty utility gives you a choice of more than 50 different screen fonts, some specially designed for resolutions greater than the standard 80 columns by 25 lines. You can find it as `TEXT-F123.ZIP` in Featured in May on PC World Online, or you can order it by mail directly from the author.

• **Text Font** \$22 (includes shipping); Pro-Formance; 415/863-0530

Reader service no. 601

#### Laptop Shopping

I'm shopping for a new laptop and am getting conflicting advice. Some people say the quality of computers

varies greatly from one dealer to another, while others say everyone sells the same stuff and I should just look for the best price. Which is true?

*Mark Sidenberg, Los Angeles*

There's a big difference between laptops and desktops. Many dealers build their own desktops from parts or have them assembled according to their precise specifications. The best dealers use only top-quality parts, the worst use whatever's cheapest this week. Laptops, however, are assembled at the factory and shipped as complete units. The store might install more RAM, a larger hard drive, or a modem, but that's about it.

Consequently, the quality of desktop clones varies wildly, and choosing a good dealer is very important. Laptops, on the other hand, are like printers: Some are better than others, but once you decide which model you want, you can shop for the dealer with the best price. Just make sure before you buy that lower cost doesn't mean delayed delivery, a diminished warranty, or inadequate service policies.

#### DISKCOPY Dangerous?

I have a 386 with 2MB RAM using DOS 5.0. Frequently, I wish to copy the entire contents of one disk to another. However, I have only one 5¼-inch high-density disk drive. I have been told that using the `DISKCOPY` command is dangerous because it copies to the new disk regardless of bad sectors. Can you explain?

*Michael Young, Newville, Alabama*

If the source disk (the one you're copying) has some bad sectors, `DISKCOPY` will warn you with the message 'Unrecoverable read error on drive A:'. The corresponding sectors on the target disk (the copy) will be marked as bad by the copy process. Except for wasted disk space, this isn't a problem.

The real danger in using `DISKCOPY` is that bad sectors on the *target* disk will

#### USER GROUP OF THE MONTH

### Sacramento PC Users Group

The May User Group Tips come from the Sacramento PC Users Group. Members receive a 64-page monthly newsletter that includes a roster of volunteers who are willing to help other users. The group also operates an electronic bulletin board with more than 30 conferences and a 300MB-plus shareware library. The members hold meetings, which are free and open to the public, on the third Wednesday of every month. Sacramento PC Users Group maintains about 30 special interest groups, including groups for Windows, Visual Basic, dBASE, Fox-Pro, Quattro Pro, OS/2, Novell networks, and multimedia. Additional chapter meetings are held at eight locations in outlying areas.

For more information, contact Tony Barcellos at P.O. Box 162227, Sacramento, CA 95816-2227, or call 916/386-9865 for recorded information. Membership costs \$25 a year.

Reader service no. 708

**BARE-BONES DIR LISTING:** When you need an editable list of a directory's files for a batch file you're creating, you might be tempted to get the list by redirecting a `DIR` listing using a command such as `DIR C:\WINDOWS > C:\WINDIR.TXT`. But if you do, all those dates, times, and file sizes that `DIR` produces will get in the way. However, if you run `DIR` with the `/B` option, you will get only the file names (if you also use the `/S` subdirectory parameter, you will get the path along with the file names). For instance, to put a list of the current directory's `PCX` files into a batch file, use the command `DIR /B *.PCX > NEW.BAT`.

Tony Barcellos  
Sacramento PC Users Group



not be flagged as bad, as they would if you formatted it. The DISKCOPY command in early versions of DOS (unlike DOS 5.0) didn't reveal its failure to write correctly to such sectors, so not only did you get a bad copy, but if you deleted the disk's files and saved or copied other files to that disk, files that used the bad sectors would be damaged. And its name notwithstanding, CHKDSK doesn't detect or fix the problem. To avoid this problem, format the target disk before using DISKCOPY. If FORMAT reveals bad sectors, don't use that disk for the target.

You can also avoid this problem by using XCOPY. Since you have only one disk drive, using B: in a command makes DOS prompt you to insert a second disk. `XCOPY A:\ B:\ /E/V` will copy everything except hidden and system files and the disk's label. Note that any files marked read-only on the original will be writable on the copy. You can use the DOS commands LABEL A:label to duplicate the original disk's label and ATTRIB +R A:filename to set the read-only attribute.

#### Print DOS's TREE

**Q** How can I print the results of DOS 5.0's TREE command?  
*Nick Maffei, San Francisco*

**A** The simplest way is to use the command `TREE > LPT1`. The > character redirects the screen output of the TREE command to printer port LPT1. (If your printer's not hooked to LPT1, replace that device name with the appropriate one.) For a nicer printout, use `TREE > PRINTME.TXT` to redirect TREE's output to a file. Then open PRINTME.TXT with your word processor and adjust the font and page breaks for maximum readability.

#### Upgrading a PS/2 Model 50Z

**Q** A friend owns an IBM PS/2 Model 50Z and wants to upgrade its 30MB hard drive to something larger. As my friend's PC guru, I went shopping and found that drives for the 50Z cost nearly twice as much as similar IDE drives. Why? Is there a cheaper alternative?  
*Richard Athens, via PC World Online*

**A** Upgrading a 50Z's hard drive is easy: You just open the case, unplug the old hard drive from its special socket, and plug in the new drive. Unfortunately, this convenient plug-and-play hookup significantly increases the manufacturing costs.

Moreover, since these drives work only with the 50Z and a few other discontinued PS/2s, the market for them is small. As a result, they cost a lot more than IDE drives of the same capacity. Here's a list of companies that make drives for the 50Z. They can put you in touch with local and mail-order dealers that sell their drives.

You could also buy a SCSI adapter and an external SCSI drive, but that route would probably be more expensive than upgrading the original drive. Before investing the money in a drive that will work only with the 286-based 50Z, your friend should seriously consider putting it toward a new 386 or 486 that can handle standard components.

- **CMS Enhancements, Inc.**  
714/222-6000, 714/549-4004 (fax)  
Reader service no. 602
- **Core Int'l** 800/688-9910,  
407/997-6055, 407/997-6009 (fax)  
Reader service no. 603
- **Kingston Technology Corp.**  
714/435-2600, 714/435-2699 (fax)  
Reader service no. 604
- **Procom Technology, Inc.**  
800/800-8600, 714/852-1000,  
714/852-1221 (fax)  
Reader service no. 605

For more information about all products in this item, circle reader service no. 902.

#### Run DOS Apps on a Mac?

**Q** Is there any way that I could run some of my DOS software on a Macintosh? It would be very convenient occasionally.

*Andrew Jason Braverman,  
via PC World Online*

**A** Insignia's SoftPC will let you run most DOS apps on a Mac. However, it has some fairly serious limitations. The utility works by emulating a 286 PC in software on the Mac, then loading real MS-DOS (which is included)

on top of it. There are three versions: *Universal SoftPC*, with EGA graphics; *SoftPC Professional*, which adds emulated VGA graphics, an emulated math coprocessor, emulated expanded memory, and protected-mode emulation; and *SoftPC With Windows*, which emulates VGA graphics, comes with a run-time version of *Windows 3.1*, and can run *Windows 3.1* programs (though only in standard mode).

The main problem with *SoftPC* is that a 286 emulated in software is slower than the real thing, even on the fastest Macs, and particularly when running graphical applications. It also takes a lot of memory: Users say the program wants about 5MB, 8MB, or 16MB to perform well, depending on the version. You'll be happier running your DOS apps on the real thing if that's possible.

- **Universal SoftPC 3.0** \$165, SoftPC Professional 3.0 \$325, SoftPC With Windows \$499; Insignia Solutions Inc.; 800/848-7677, 415/694-7600, 415/964-5434 (fax)  
Reader service no. 700

#### TSR Programming Correction

In last December's column, I mistakenly switched the descriptions of two off-the-shelf kits used for writing memory-resident utilities. *Magic TSR Toolkit* works with C and assembly language, and *TSRs Made Easy* works with Turbo Pascal.

- **Magic TSR Toolkit** \$199.95; Quantasm Corp.; 800/765-8086, 408/244-6826  
Reader service no. 606
- **TSRs Made Easy** \$49; TurboPower Software; 800/333-4160, 719/260-9136, 719/260-7151 (fax)  
Reader service no. 607

By Robert Lauriston

*Robert Lauriston is a regular contributor to PC World.*

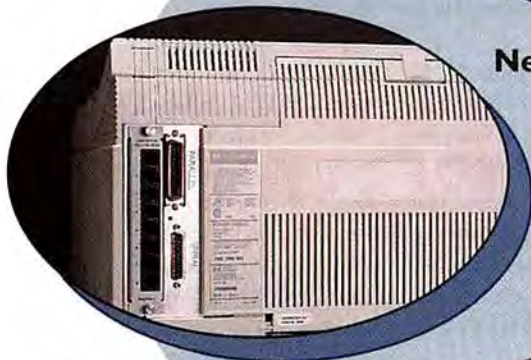
Mail your questions to Help Line, PC World, 501 Second St. #600, San Francisco, CA 94107; or send them electronically to the Help Line forum on PC World Online; CompuServe, 74055,412; MCI Mail, PC World Editorial; or 415/442-1891 (fax). PC World pays \$50 for published questions. Sorry, we cannot acknowledge unpublished materials.

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## SPREADSHEETS Q & A

### The Last Word on the Last Day

**Q** This is not a question, but I've got a better alternative than the one you published in December for calculating the last day of the previous month. Put your date in A1, for instance, @NOW(). Next, in any cell, enter the formula +A1-@DAY(A1). Format both cells with /Range•Format•Date, widen the columns if necessary with /Worksheet•Column Set-width, and voilà!

Kevin Larsen,  
Highlands Ranch, Colorado

**A** Okay, Kevin, of all the suggestions I've received for this problem, yours is best. You've earned your fifty bucks!

### Current-Week Formula in Works

**Q** I use *Microsoft Works* to manage my investments. Each week I enter the current value of various items, and I want to use formulas to calculate the change from the previous week. How can I do this without totally rebuilding the formulas?

Harry L. Carden, Memphis

**A** The solution, in *Works* and other spreadsheet programs, involves the INDEX() function, which returns a value from a table based on its row and column number. **FIGURE 1**, modeled after the spreadsheet you've submitted, shows weekly Dow Jones values; the formula in cell B10, =INDEX(B2:B8,0,COUNT(B2:B8)-1)-INDEX(B2:B8,0,COUNT(B2:B8)-2), calculates the difference between the last two weeks.



**FIGURE 1: IF YOU TRACK STOCKS, you can use this formula to calculate the difference between weekly Dow Jones values.**

In the formula, COUNT(B2:B8) calculates the number of weeks you've filled in. INDEX(B2:B8,0,COUNT(B2:B8)-1) looks in the range B2:B8, in column 0 (*Works*, like *1-2-3* and *Quattro* but unlike *Excel*, counts the first column or row in a range as zero), and returns the value from the row indicated by COUNT(B2:B8)-1, that is, the current week's Dow. The second INDEX() function returns the Dow from the previous week. Then the formula subtracts one from the other to arrive at the result shown in B10.

### 1-2-3 Print-to-File Macro

**Q** I've written a *1-2-3* release 2.4 macro to print a range of cells to a file. My problem is that I need to use a different sequence of keystrokes depending on whether the target file already exists: If it does, the macro must respond to a menu prompting me to replace the existing file. Is there some way for the macro to tell if the file exists and replace it only if it does?

Boon Chong Lee, Ypsilanti, Michigan

**A** The {open} command lets you determine whether a file exists, and allows your macros to respond accordingly. Here's one solution.

First, enter the labels as shown in **FIGURE 2**, then put the cell pointer on A1, execute /Range•Name•Labels•Right, paint the range A1..A4, and press <Enter>. Use /Range•Name•Create to assign the range name PRINT\_ME to A1..B4. To execute the macro, press <Alt>•P.

Here's how it works:  
/pf{esc 2}D:\THE\_FILE-  
{open "D:\THE\_FILE.PRN",r}{branch \P\_1}  
r  
crrPRINT\_ME-agq

**FIGURE 2: BEFORE PRINTING TO A FILE, this 1-2-3 release 2.4 macro checks to see if the file exists.**

with {esc 2}, and then enters the file name D:\THE\_FILE.

{open "D:\THE\_FILE.PRN",r}{branch \P\_1}. This statement checks for the file indicated in B1 by attempting to open it. (The ,r is an argument for read-only.) If the file does not exist, the macro executes the {branch} statement, which sends the macro to cell B4.

r. This keystroke is issued only if the file already exists, and it responds to the menu prompt to replace the file.

crrPRINT\_ME-agq. The final statement clears the existing print range, resets it to PRINT\_ME, and prints it.

### Automatic Timed Backups

**Q** Is there an add-in utility that will create timed backups of *1-2-3* spreadsheets at intervals set by the user, as does *WordPerfect's* backup feature?

Douglas Kelner, Oak Park, Illinois

**A** Intex Solutions (617/449-6222) offers a \$95 add-in called *ExtraCopy* that provides automatic timed backups for release 2.x, but to my knowledge, there is not a similar add-in for release 3.x.

*Excel 4.0* users can activate the Auto Save add-in provided with the program: Select Options•Add-ins•Add, select AUTOSAVE.XLA from the EXCEL\LIBRARY subdirectory (assuming you installed it), click OK, and Close the Add-In dialog box. Then select Options•Auto Save and choose the save interval and other options.

If you didn't install the add-in, run SETUP.EXE on *Excel* disk 1. Indicate which directory your copy of *Excel* is located in, and select Custom Installation. In the Options dialog box, deselect

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everything except Macro Library. Click the *Library* button, deselect everything except Automatic Document Saving, and click *OK*, then *Setup*.

### Flagging Macro in 1-2-3

**Q** I need a 1-2-3 macro that will flag all the missing values in a sorted column of numbers, as in a checking account statement. For example, if the values are 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, the macro should put an asterisk in the cell beside the 5 because the sequence is missing a 4. Any ideas?

Scott Filipek, Doraville, Georgia

**A** My solution is shown in **FIGURE 3**. The macro walks through a sorted list of integers, comparing each with the previous one. When it finds a missing value, it steps the cell pointer one cell

A	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	\F	{let \F_FIRST,@cellpointer("contents")}						
2		{down}						
3		{if @cellpointer("type")="b">{quit}}						
4		{if @cellpointer("contents")<>\F_FIRST+1}{r}*~{l}}						
5		{branch \F}						
6	\F_FIRST	B						
7								
8								
9	1							
10	2							
11	3							
12	5 *							
13	6							
14	7							
15	8							
16								

**FIGURE 3: FLAG MISSING VALUES** in a sorted list of numbers with this 1-2-3 macro.

to the right and enters an asterisk. When it encounters an empty cell, it stops. To set it up, enter the labels shown, then go to A1, use */Range • Name • Labels • Right* to name cells B1 and B6 with the label range A1..A6. To execute it, put the cell pointer at the top of the list (cell A9) and press **<Alt>F**. The macro details are given below.

{let \F\_FIRST,@cellpointer("contents")). Copies the current cell's value into cell B6, \F\_FIRST.

{down}. Moves the cell pointer to the next cell.

{if @cellpointer("type")="b">{quit}. If this new cell is empty, halts the macro.

{if @cellpointer("contents")<>\F\_FIRST+1}{r}\*~{l}. If the new cell does not contain the next number in the series, moves the cell pointer to the next column, enters an asterisk, and moves the pointer back to the column of numbers.

{branch \F}. Sends the macro back to cell B1 to start over.

### Quick Number Conversions

**Q** I use *Quattro Pro* and data from *The Daily Racing Form* to handicap horse races. The source data is in minutes, seconds, and fifths of a second, which I need to convert to seconds and tenths of a second. Any suggestions?

James Woodfield,  
Burlingame, California

**A** After tinkering with various strategies, I came up with this one, which seems to work pretty well for quick data entry. Let's say you're going to enter the data into column A beginning in cell A2. First, use the command */Database • Data Entry • Labels Only* and enter a range to set the cells in column A to accept only labels. Enter the data in the format minutes;seconds.fifths. (Using a semicolon instead of a colon may look funny, but it's easier to type.) For example, 4;30.2 would mean 4 minutes, 30 and 2/5 seconds.

Then, in cell B2, carefully enter the following long and grotesquely complicated formula:

```
@VALUE(@LEFT(A2,@FIND(";",A2,0)))*60+
@VALUE(@MID(A2,@FIND(";",A2,0)+1,
@FIND(".",A2,0)-@FIND(";",A2,0)-1))+
@VALUE(@RIGHT(A2,@LENGTH(A2)-
@FIND(".",A2,0)-1))/5
```

Copy it as needed into column B.

The formula uses the semicolon and period as delimiters to parse the minutes, seconds, and fifths, then converts them to decimal seconds: @VALUE(@LEFT(A2,@FIND(";",A2,0)))\*60 takes the characters to the left of the semicolon, converts them to a numeric value, and multiplies by 60 to convert minutes to seconds. @VALUE(@MID(A2,@FIND(";",A2,0)+1,@FIND(".",A2,0)-@FIND(";",A2,0)-1)) uses @MID to isolate the characters between the semi-

### USER GROUP TIP

## Quattro Pro/W Paths

*Quattro Pro* for Windows shares one annoying habit with just about every Windows program: Loading or inserting a file resets your default working directory. Fortunately, you can create a speed button that will return you to your preferred directory.

To make the button work, go to the Application dialog box by selecting **Property • Application** or pressing **<Alt>.<F12>**. Select **Macro** from the list, change the Slash Key option to **Quattro Pro - DOS**, and select **OK**. Back in the worksheet, click the **SpeedButton** tool icon on the **SpeedBar** (shown here), then click in the worksheet where you want to place the upper left-hand corner of the button and drag to size it. Right-click the new button, select **Macro**, and enter the macro command **/ File;Directory** and the path to your default working directory. For instance, if your desired working directory were C:\DATA, you would enter **/ File;Directory)C:\DATA**. Click **OK**. To label your button, right-click on the button again, select **Label Text**, enter a name, and click **OK**.

If you'd like, you can even add your macro to *Quattro Pro's* **SpeedBar** or menus.

Gene Weisskopf  
Sacramento PC Users Group



"I'm no idiot. I can see that 3,000 visitors a day at \$10 a head adds up. I can only imagine how much they make from food sales and other stuff like those life-size posters of yours truly. All I ask is that they take good care of all the money that I'm working so hard for."

*Name: Magilla*

*Title: The Boss / "The Ultimate Primate"*

*Company: The New City Zoo*

*Salary: All he can eat plus free health and dental*

*Annual Sales: \$11,000,000*

*5-Year Average Annual Growth: 75%*

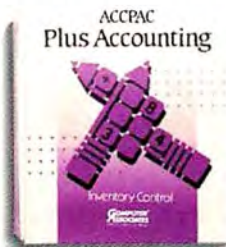
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## MASTER CLASS: EXCEL 4.0 GRAPHS WITH ERROR BARS

This month's Master Class addresses a question from Joan Portwood of Durham, North Carolina. Scientists in her company want to create line and column graphs with error bars.

Error bars evaluate the significance of the differences between points on a graph by showing the variability of the data contributing to each point. Here, the points are group averages, and the error bars show one standard deviation above and below average.

For example, if you chart the average height of several groups of people, adding error bars can determine whether the variability of heights in each group is small, which may make the data more compelling than if the variability is large. We'll start with a line graph with error bars, then apply the techniques to a column chart.

Enter the labels in row 1, the observation numbers in A2:A5, and the sample means shown in B2:F5 of FIGURE 1. In cell G2, enter  $=\text{AVERAGE}(B2:F2)$  and copy it to G3:G5. In H2, enter  $=\text{G2}-\text{STDEV}(B2:F2)$  and copy it to H3:H5; in I2, enter  $=\text{G2}+\text{STDEV}(B2:F2)$  and copy it to I3:I5. Select G2:I5 and hide decimals by selecting **Format • Number • All**, choosing the 0 format, and clicking **OK**.

To create the line chart, select A2:A5, hold down the <Ctrl> key, and select G2:I5. Now click the Chart Wizard tool, then move the pointer into the worksheet, and drag to size the rectangle that will contain the chart. Click **Next** in the first Wizard dialog box. In the

Step 2 dialog box, double-click **Line**; in the Step 3 box, double-click 7. In the Step 4 dialog box, make sure **Data Series** is set to **Columns**, and set the first column to be **Category (X) Axis Labels**. Click **Next**. In the Step 5 box, click **OK**. The resulting chart shows standard deviations connected by a vertical bar, with the mean value in the middle in blue.

Now customize the chart: Double-click it to open a chart window. Right-click the y-axis and select **Scale**. Deselect **Minimum** and **Maximum**, type 40 as the minimum value, and click **OK**. Right-click a red marker, and select **Patterns**. Under **Line**, click **Custom**, set **Color** to blue and **Weight** to a heavier line; under **Marker**, select **None**, and click **OK**. Right-click a green marker, and select **Patterns**. Under **Marker**, set **Background** to black and **Foreground** to white (to minimize marker size). Repeat for the blue series.

Right-click on a number on the y-axis, choose **Gridlines**, and under **Value (Y) Axis**, choose **Major** and **Minor**, and click **OK**. Right-click a gridline that's *not* next to a number, and choose **Patterns**. Then in the **Style list** box, pick a broken line and select **OK**. Select **File • Close**.

Now for the column chart. Copy the line chart you built: Hold down the <Ctrl> key, then click and drag the chart to create a copy. Double-click the copy to edit it. Select **Gallery • Combination** and

double-click option 1. You'll see a column chart with a line chart overlay, but you'll need to rearrange the data series and add vertical lines: Select **Format • Overlay**. In the **First Overlay Series** box at the bottom of the **Format Chart** dialog box, enter 2; under **Format**, select **Hi-Lo Lines** and click **OK**.

To eliminate the connecting lines, right-click any red marker, and select **Patterns**. Under **Line**, select **None**, under **Marker**, select **None**, then click **OK**. Repeat for the green series. Right-click a bar, select **Patterns**, and set to a heavier line weight. Right-click a column, choose **Patterns**, and select a dotted pattern. Click **OK**, and select **File • Close**.

At first glance, the column chart seems to show that the third group is taller, on average, than the first. But the error bars tell a different story. The overlap of the error bars indicates that many individuals in the first group are actually taller than the average of the third group. Thus, the differences are not as important as they may first appear.

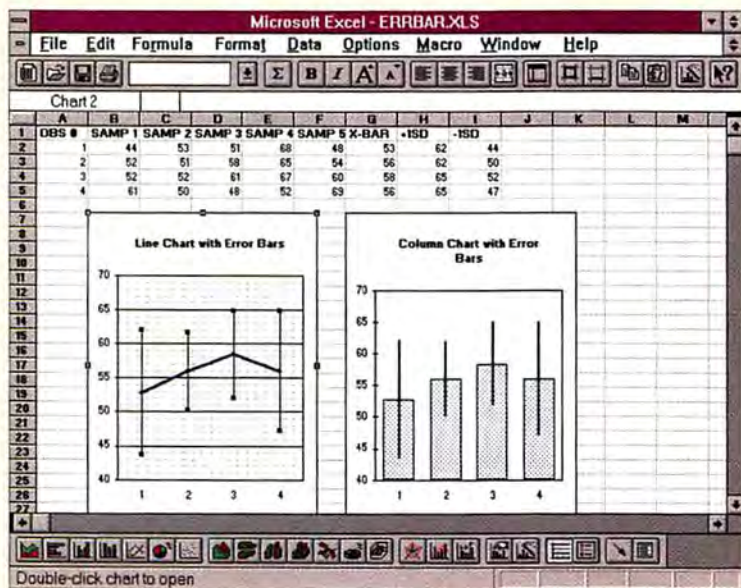


FIGURE 1: ERROR BARS help you compare variations among groups of numbers.

colon and period:  $\text{@FIND}(";", \text{A2}, 0) + 1$  is the position of the first character after the semicolon, and  $\text{@FIND}(";", \text{A2}, 0) - \text{@FIND}(";", \text{A2}, 0) - 1$  is the number of characters between them.  $\text{@VALUE}(\text{@RIGHT}(\text{A2}, \text{@LENGTH}(\text{A2}) - \text{@FIND}(";", \text{A2}, 0) - 1)) / 5$  converts the characters after the period to values, then divides

by five to convert fifths to decimals. Elegant it ain't. But it works.

By Richard Scoville

PC World contributing editor Richard Scoville is a software training consultant based in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Mail your spreadsheet questions to

Spreadsheets, PC World, 501 Second St. #600, San Francisco, CA 94107; or send them electronically to the Spreadsheets forum on PC World Online; CompuServe, 72341,2727; MCI Mail, 357-4517; or 415/442-1891 (fax). PC World pays \$50 for published questions. Sorry, we cannot acknowledge unpublished materials.

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FOR INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER

## WORD PROCESSING Q & A

### Fixing Mistakes in WordPerfect for DOS

**Q** I keep making a couple of annoying mistakes in *WordPerfect 5.1* that I can't seem to rectify. First, when I accidentally press <Shift>-<Tab>, I can't get the editing screen to return to normal; one line shifts to the left, leaving the rest of the document over on the right, even after I delete the 'Mar Rel' code in the <Alt>-<F3> Reveal Codes window. Second, if I press <F9>, an '[END FIELD]' code appears on the screen and 'Field: 2' appears on the status line. Although I can easily delete the '[END FIELD]' code, I can't manage to get rid of the status line message. Can you help me out of these key-stroke quagmires?

Gwen McCoy, Toronto

**A** As you've discovered, it's far too easy to press the wrong key in *WordPerfect 5.1* and accidentally change your document. But there are solutions for both your problems.

In the first case, if you accidentally insert a margin release by pressing <Shift>-<Tab>, press <Alt>-<F3> to open the Reveal Codes window, press <Backspace> to delete the [Mar Rel] code with the key, then press <Alt>-<F3> again to close the Reveal Codes window. Finally, press <Ctrl>-<F3>R to restore your doc-

ument to its normal screen alignment. If <Ctrl>-<F3>R doesn't correct your screen, you've got a very early revision of 5.1, in which case, use <Shift>-<F3> twice instead.

Your second problem is more annoying. The <F9> key inserts that pesky [END FIELD] code, which marks the end of a field in a mail-merge data file. Since the <F9> key is right next to the frequently used <F10> key, it's easy to make this mistake.

But there's a way out: First, press <Backspace> to delete the [END FIELD] code, then type !@, or some other character combination you aren't using in the document, to mark your current location in the document. Now, press <Home>-<Home>-<Up> to remove the 'Field: 2' status line message. Finally, press <F2>-!@<F2>-<Backspace>-<Backspace> to return to your place in the document and delete the !@ marker.

### Advancing in Word for Windows

**Q** My entire department is making the transition from using *WordPerfect 5.0* to using *Word for Windows 2.0*. Everything's going very well so far, but there's one *WordPerfect* feature I miss having. Is there a *WinWord* equivalent for *WordPerfect*'s Advance feature that lets you position text at a specific loca-

tion on the page?

Renee L. Wright,  
Portland, Oregon

**A** While there isn't an exact *WinWord* equivalent for *WordPerfect*'s Advance, there's something that's even better. By using frames in *Word for Windows*, not only can you position text precisely, you can also control border styles, wrap other text around your carefully positioned frame, and move the text anytime you want by dragging it

into position. Here are the basics of using frames:

To create a new frame for text, select *Insert*•*Frame*. If you aren't already using *WinWord*'s Layout view, you get a message asking whether you want to select the Layout View here; select *Yes*. Position the cross-hair pointer where you want the upper left corner of the frame to be, then click and drag the frame outline into position. Type your text inside the borders or cut and paste text from elsewhere in the document. The frame's height will expand, if necessary, to hold the text you type. You can also frame existing paragraphs by selecting them, then giving the *Insert*•*Frame* command.

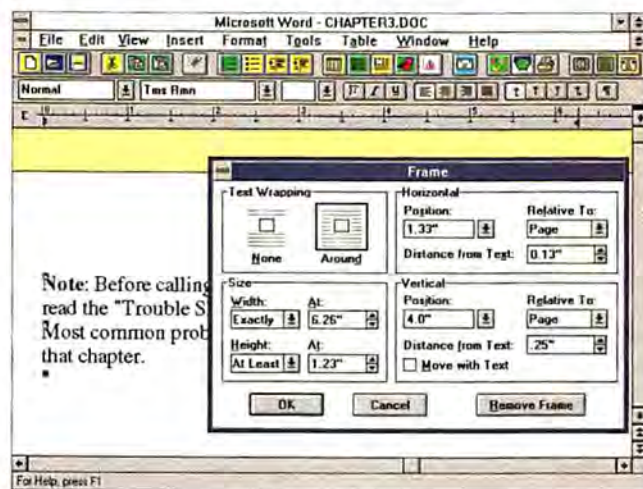
To move a frame, click in text outside its borders, then move the mouse pointer over the frame and click and drag it to a new location. To modify the size of the frame, first click outside it, then click once on the frame to select it. You'll see sizing handles appear around the frame; you can resize the frame by dragging on one of these handles. For more precise sizing and positioning, select the frame, then select *Format*•*Frame* and use the Frame dialog box to alter the frame's characteristics, such as its width or position.

To format a frame's border lines, select the frame, then select *Format*•*Border* and select border styles in the dialog box. If you choose no border, but still want to see the frame's outline on your screen, select *Tools*•*Options*•*View*, check the 'Text Boundaries' option, then select *OK*.

### Printing the Picture in WordPerfect for Windows

**Q** I've run into a printing problem in *WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows*. If I include a graphic in my document, it prints just fine when I use the *WordPerfect* printer drivers, but doesn't print if I use TrueType fonts and a *Windows* printer driver. What gives?

Lloyd L. Roberts,  
Huntington Beach, California



**WORD FOR WINDOWS' FRAME FEATURE** lets you position text precisely, control border styles, wrap other text around your frame, and move the text anytime you want.

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## LET'S BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING.

Commence was developed by Jensen-Jones, the folks who created IBM Current™ so naturally it comes with all of the standard features you'd expect in a PIM. Including everything you need to organize and prioritize your tasks, meetings, business contacts, schedules and more.

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Now that we have whetted your appetite with the really intriguing stuff, let's go back to the basics for a minute.

## USE COMMENCE RIGHT OUT OF THE BOX, OR CUSTOMIZE IT.

Commence can go to work for you right out of the box, with two ready-to-use databases and a variety of standard views. But, unlike most PIMs that let you make

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If you need to view your customers by size, region or other criteria, no problem. Want to keep track of your truck fleet's mileage? The status of your inventory? Distribution of your equipment? With Commence, it's simple.

Here's just a partial list of some Commence views you can use right out of the box or modify to suit your needs:

- Address book
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- Billing report
- Conference rooms
- Expense report
- Free form notes
- Gantt view of tasks
- Letter log
- To-Dos
- Projects
- Plus, you can add any other view you want

## LET AGENTS DO YOUR WORK FOR YOU.

And now, a few words about an advanced new technology called *agents*. Much more powerful than traditional macros, agents let you totally automate many of the tasks you used to do yourself. Here's how they work.

First, you select a *trigger* that will activate an agent. Then specify the *actions* you want to take place. For example, you can specify time triggers, such as at 5 PM every day, or at ten in the morning the first day of every month.

Or you can specify data triggers, such as when a sales order exceeds \$5,000, or when inventory is below 25 units.

You can then specify actions that will alert you, display data that you need, execute another command,

launch an application, etc.

The next time all the conditions specified in the trigger are met, the actions you asked for will occur automatically.

Now, if you've read this far and haven't nodded off yet, do keep going, because we're about to get to the really good stuff.

## POWERFUL FEATURES YOU CAN'T FIND IN ANY OTHER PIM.

By now you're probably thinking, "Okay, I sort of understood that last section, but what can these agents and triggers do for me?" Well, here are some examples of how you can use agents to help you:

- *Automatically* print a report of all your daily appointments and their details every morning at 9:00.
- Print out your To-Dos and calendar for the next week the evening before you're scheduled to travel.
- Mark all of today's incomplete To-Dos as overdue and assign them to tomorrow's project list.
- *Automatically* fax a flower delivery authorization to your florist for any customer who places an order over \$10,000.
- Display a view each morning at 9:30 of every customer who hasn't placed an order in two weeks.
- Send yourself a reminder one week in advance of any scheduled presentations so that you'll have adequate time to prepare.
- *Automatically* switch any task that contains the words "urgent" or "immediately" to your high-priority message or To-Do list.
- Run a disk diagnostic program Thursday at midnight and save the results.

As you can see, the possibilities for saving time and simplifying your life are (like this ad) almost endless.

## PUT COMMENCE TO WORK ON YOUR MOST DEMANDING INFORMATION APPLICATIONS, THEN RELAX.

All that customizability that Commence brings to standard PIM functions also lets you handle much bigger applications with equal ease. Here are just a few of them:

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- Meeting and appointment scheduling
- Assigning and tracking daily tasks
- Company time and resource allocation
- Project management
- Expense tracking, reporting and auditing
- Customer database management
- Telemarketing sales management
- Inventory tracking and control

## A LOT MORE FEATURES, A LITTLE MORE HYPE.

Before sending you off into the jungle that the PIM marketplace has become, we'd like to elaborate just a little bit more on some of our standard features.

*Flexible calendar and scheduling* lets you view meetings, To-Dos and travel in monthly, weekly or daily views. You can automatically schedule events on recurring dates. It even prints in familiar day planner format.

*True database power* lets you record up to 8,000 items per category with up to 100 categories per database, and keep multiple databases. Each item can have up to 50 fields and connections. You can even include graphics images in category items.

*Powerful connections facility* lets you connect people to projects, notes to tasks, appointments to people, and more. Type informa-

tion once, and it automatically appears in all relevant views. Commence has built-in connections right out of the box. And it's easy to set up your own.

*DDE links to other Windows applications* give you dynamic access to information in Commence from word processors and spreadsheets.

*Powerful import/export facility* lets you easily exchange data with your other applications, as well as with other Commence databases.

*Auto phone dialer* automatically dials all appropriate numbers including area and international codes.

*Built-in letter writer* lets you take advantage of Commence's integration with other Windows word processors, like Microsoft Word for Windows™ and Lotus® Ami Pro™.

*Extended sorting and filtering capability* lets you set up to four criteria, so you always see exactly the information you want.

## PIM REVIEWERS GO ON AND ON, TOO.

Here's just a sampling: "Commence's most impressive new feature is its set of Agents, which are super-charged macros that allow you to automate virtually any task..." *InfoWorld*, January 11, 1993.

"It competes head on with products like Polaris PackRat...But it goes a step beyond them..." *PC Sources*, December 1992.

"[Commence] comes with a set of tools that can organize ideas and manage time right out of the box, while ambitious users can customize the package to shape it to unique information management needs." *PC Magazine*, October 13, 1992.

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**A** You're not alone. In fact, many users are confused by the differences between the *WordPerfect* printer drivers and *Windows* printer driver. Your missing picture is a typical example of this problem. If you're accustomed to the old *WordPerfect* printing techniques, you may be missing just one step. Try this:

Select *File•Select Printer*, then in the resulting dialog box, in the Printer Drivers section, click the *Windows* button. Next, select *Setup* and make sure the printer's resolution is set to its maximum (typically 300 dpi), select *OK*, then choose *Select*. There may be a short delay while *WordPerfect* updates its printer information. Now, select *File•Preferences•Print*.

In the Print dialog box, in the *Windows* Print Drivers section, uncheck the Fast Graphics Printing box, because this speedier printing technique for graphics doesn't work on some printers. Select *OK* to return to the *WordPerfect* editing screen.

Finally, whenever you select *File•Print* for a document, check the Print dialog box to make sure that the Graphics Quality

list box reads 'Set In Driver'. Once you've made these changes, they become the new defaults, so you won't have to bother setting things up again.

#### Marking the Odd Block in WinWord

**Q** I often create short columns in *Word for Windows* documents using my <Tab> key, and sometimes I want to underline or boldface just the left-hand column. But when I try to select the left column, the highlight covers part of the right-hand column, too. Is there any way to select only the left column?

Harry Powers, Arlington, Massachusetts

**A** There's a terrific way to highlight and format any text you have in a block that's set off by tabs, as long as you have *Word for Windows* version 2.0b or later. Just place your cursor where you want to start highlighting, then hold down the right mouse button as you drag over your column. Now you can format all the text contained in the highlighted block.

You can even highlight part of a character.

Note, however, that if more than half of a character is covered by the highlight, the character will take on the formatting you apply; if you press <Delete>, you'll delete only the characters that are inside the highlighted block.

Also, if you try to select a block using this method in order to use the spelling checker, the highlighting will expand to include the entire line. Otherwise, the highlighting will go anywhere you want it to, and it really isn't at all dependent on the page format you're using.

By George Campbell

*George Campbell is a contributing editor for PC World.*

*Mail your word processing questions to Word Processing, PC World, 501 Second St. #600, San Francisco, CA 94107; or send them electronically to the Word Processing forum on PC World Online; CompuServe, 71571,222; MCI Mail, GCAMPBELL; or 415/442-1891 (fax). PC World pays \$50 for published questions. Sorry, we cannot acknowledge unpublished materials. ■*

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### Looking for EMM386

**Q** After I upgraded from *Windows 3.0* to *3.1*, I noticed that the old EMM386.SYS file (dated May 1, 1991) was still on my hard disk—along with a file named EMM386.EXE (dated March 10, 1992). Should I still use the old SYS file, or delete it and only use the EXE file? What about the EMM386.EXE file that's in my DOS 5.0 subdirectory?

*Ed Piercy, El Dorado Hills, California*

**A** *Windows 3.1* doesn't use EMM386.SYS, but rather the new and improved EMM386.EXE. Like its predecessor, EMM386.EXE is referenced in CONFIG.SYS and is used to emu-

late expanded memory on 386 and 486 PCs for non-*Windows* applications. It's also used to manage the upper memory area (address 640K through 1MB), allowing you to load device drivers and memory-resident programs high. You can safely delete the old EMM386.SYS file. As for identical DOS 5.0 versus *Windows 3.1* files, when you're in doubt, always use the one that was created most recently.

### ATM Be Gone!

**Q** Since I now have *Windows 3.1* with TrueType built in, I decided to dump *Adobe Type Manager*. I deleted all the ATM files (ATM\*.\*) in both my \WINDOWS and \WINDOWS\SYS-

TEM directory. But then I found *Windows* wouldn't load. So I used an undelete utility to restore the files in the \WINDOWS\SYS-TEM directory, but the ATM icon appears (with an 'X' through it) when I start *Windows*. How can I rid my system of this program?

*Kristen Meesman, Calgary, Alberta, Canada*

**A** Not to worry. In File Manager or Program Manager, choose *File • Run*, type **SYSTEM.INI**, and press <Enter>. When the SYSTEM.INI file opens in Notepad, search for the line 'system.driv=atmsys.driv' and delete it. Then find 'atm.system.driv=system.driv' and change it to **system.driv=system.driv**.

Save SYSTEM.INI and restart *Windows*. You can now delete ATM's files. In the \SYSTEM subdirecto-

ry, erase ATM.DLL (present only if you've used *ATM 1.xx*), ATM16.DLL, ATM32.DLL and ATMSYS.DRV. In \WINDOWS, delete ATM.INI and ATMCNTRL.EXE. You should also remove any PFM and PFB font files installed by *ATM* in its \PSFONT'S subdirectory. Finally, delete the *ATM* icon from Program Manager.

### Admiring the Wallpaper

**Q** Whenever I start *Windows*, the Program Manager covers up my wallpaper. Is there any way to load Program Manager so the wallpaper will automatically be visible?

*Richard Rogers, Charlottesville, Virginia*

**A** All you have to do is add a Program Manager icon to *Windows*' StartUp group. Open the StartUp group window, choose *File • New*, select *Program Item*, and click *OK*. In the Program Item Properties dialog box, type **Program Manager** in the Description text box, **PROGMAN.EXE** in the Command Line text box, click the Run Minimized box, and click *OK*. Later, if you add another application to the StartUp group, make sure its Run Minimized box is also checked.

By the way, there's another benefit to creating a Program Manager icon: You can assign it a hot key. In the StartUp Group window, select the new icon, press <Alt><Enter>, click in the Shortcut Key text box, and choose a key. Now you'll be able to toggle to Program Manager anytime you want.

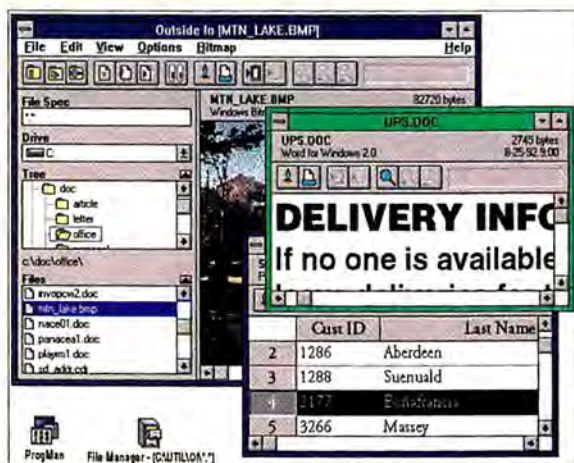
### Quick and Cheap Presentations

**Q** I need to give occasional on-screen presentations using my PC, but I don't do it often enough to justify the expense of a presentation program. Doesn't Paintbrush have a slide show mode I can use?

*Joseph Sargologos, Ashland, Oregon*

**A** Not really, but with a simple Recorder macro, Paintbrush can do the job fairly easily. Here's how.

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**TO TURN PAINTBRUSH INTO A PRESENTATION PROGRAM, order your pictures alphabetically and whip up a quick Recorder macro.**

First, all your presentation pictures should be in the same format (all BMP, for example), stored in the same directory, and they should be the only files present in that format (with one exception, noted below). If the images must be displayed in a specific sequence, rename them in alphabetical order, such as A-INTRO.BMP, B-CHART.BMP, C-PLAN.BMP, and so on.

Finally, the directory should contain at least eight "dummy" files with the same extension as your picture files, named so that they appear at the top of Paintbrush's file list. (This is necessary in order to overcome a quirk in Paintbrush's file list function.) To create a dummy file, launch Notepad, press <Space>, and save the file with a name something like 001DUMMY.BMP. Choose *File* • *Save As* and save it again, but this time as 002DUMMY.BMP. Repeat this procedure until you have a total of eight dummy files.

Now it's time to create the macro. Launch Paintbrush and open the first picture in your presentation. Then launch Recorder and select *Macro* • *Record*. In the Record Macro Name text box, type a name. In the Playback section, select *Same Application* in the To list box, choose *Fast* in the Speed list box, and check the *Enable Shortcut Keys* check box.

In the Record Mouse list box, select *Ignore Mouse*. In the Shortcut Key section, pick an <Alt>-key combination that

will advance your slides. Don't use <Ctrl> or <Shift> in your shortcut key or Paintbrush will flash annoyingly during slide changes.

Click *Start* to begin recording, hold down the <Alt> key, and press <Tab> until you toggle back to Paintbrush. In Paintbrush, press <Alt>+F0. Press <Tab> once, the <Down> cursor key twice, and then <Enter>. Press <Ctrl>+P to display the picture full screen, and press <Ctrl>+Break to stop recording. When the Recorder dialog appears, select *Save macro* and then click *OK*. Switch back to Recorder and save the macro file.

That's all there is to it. The next time that you need to run a quick presentation, launch Recorder and then open the appropriate REC file. Next, run Paintbrush, open the first picture, and press <Ctrl>+P to display it full screen. Press your Recorder shortcut key to advance each slide. Note: Once the macro is running, you can't use the <Esc> key to cancel Paintbrush's View Picture mode. To return to the standard Paintbrush window, click the picture several times.

#### Keeping File Manager Up-to-Date

**Q** I often use PKZIP while in Windows to decompress files I download from various BBS's. But when I switch to File Manager to see the newly decompressed files, they aren't there. I have to press <F5> to refresh the directory window. Can't File Manager update the directory automatically? Will Marquardt, Media, Pennsylvania

**A** As long as you're running Windows in 386-enhanced mode, you can have File Manager perform this service by making a simple change to the SYSTEM.INI file. First, make a copy of this file in case something goes wrong (it's in the same directory as Windows).

In either Program Manager or File Manager, choose *File* • *Run*, type **SYSTEM.INI**, and click *OK*. When the file opens in your text editor, search for the line that begins *FileSysChange=* and make it read *FileSysChange=on*. If you can't find this line, add it underneath the [386Enh] heading. Then save the file and restart Windows.

You'll now have the behavior you hoped for. But because File Manager must now monitor all file creation, deletion, and renaming in your non-Windows applications, you may notice a slowdown in performance. If your performance is seriously affected, you can turn the function off by making this line read *FileSysChange=off*.

By Scott Dunn

*Scott Dunn is a contributing editor for PC World and coauthor of 101 Windows Tips (Peachpit Press, Berkeley, California, 1992).*

*Mail your questions to Windows, PC World, 501 Second St. #600, San Francisco, CA 94107; or send them electronically to the Windows forum on PC World Online; CompuServe, 74055,412; MCI Mail, PC World Editorial; or 415/442-1891 (fax). PC World pays \$50 for published questions. Sorry, we cannot acknowledge unpublished materials.*



## POWER TIP no.281

### Tracking Time in WordPerfect 5.1

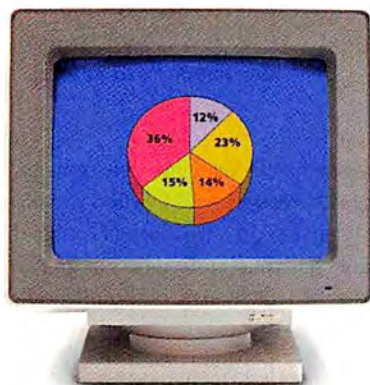
You can easily log the time it takes to complete a project in WordPerfect by using a macro to insert a time/date stamp in your document. Run the macro when you begin and when you finish. To create the macro, press <Ctrl>+F10, type **Time**, and press <Enter>. Then type **Time Stamp** and press <Enter>. Next, press <Shift>+F5, type **1, 4** and <Enter>. Press **1** and then <Ctrl>+F10 to stop recording the macro.

To use the macro, press <Alt>+F10, type **Time Stamp**, and press <Enter>.

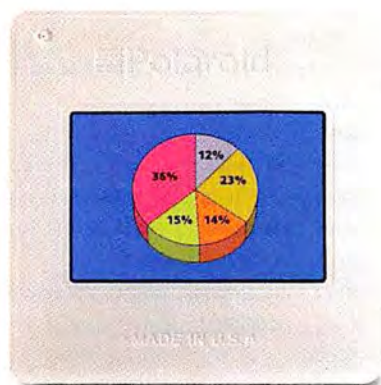
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## DATA MANAGEMENT Q & A

### Moving the Paradox Cursor

**Q** I use *Paradox 4.0* to manage our expense records. During data entry, is there a way to have the cursor automatically move to the next field after the current field is complete?

*Morgan Bay, Phoenix*

**A** Yes. While you're editing the table, choose **ValCheck • Define**, select a field, then select **Auto**. From the next menu, select either **Filled**, **Picture**, or **Lookup**, depending on whether you want the cursor to move when the field contents are at their maximum length, when they match a picture clause that you set up earlier with the **ValCheck • Define • Picture** command, or when you've completed a lookup. From then on, completing that field will automatically move you to the next.

### Cleaning Up Data In Paradox

**Q** I do sales data analysis for a company that uses *Paradox*, and I depend on queries for my statistics. Unfortunately, the data has been entered inconsistently—for instance, there are state entries for both 'CA' and 'Ca'—and this confuses *Paradox* when the program tries to match and group information.

Right now I spend hours doctoring the data before running my queries and reports, and there's always new data to

be fixed. Is there an easier way to make sure my data matches properly?

*Howard Lee, Irvine, California*

**A** As you've discovered, *Paradox* groups together only those values that match exactly. There are ways to ensure uniform data entry, but first let's look at the mess you need to clean up.

In the example you gave ('CA' and 'Ca'), you need to convert all the current entries to uppercase. You can do this with a short and simple PAL script such as **CLEANUP.SC**, which you'll find in **FIGURE 1**. On the assumption that State isn't the only field with inconsistent cases, **CLEANUP** also converts the Code field to lowercase and the Name field to *proper* case, where only the first letter in each word is uppercase. You'll want to revise the script to meet your needs.

**CLEANUP.SC** is an ASCII text file, and you can create it in any text editor. To use the one that comes with *Paradox*, select **Scripts • Editor • New** if you are using version 4 and **Scripts • Editor • Write** if you happen to be using something older. Or you can download **CLEANUP.SC** from the Featured in May folder on PC World Online.

As you type in the commands, substitute the name of your data table for the word "Table" in the fourth line, but keep the quotations around the word; for instance, if you need to fix your **CUSTOMER** table, the line should read **COEDIT "Customer"**. Insert, copy, or delete lines between the **SCAN** and **ENDSCAN** commands, and change the bracketed field names, to match your data and needs. Once you've written and saved the file, make a backup of your table, then use **Scripts • Play • Cleanup** to do your housekeeping.

When fixing the case isn't sufficient, a *changeto* query may do the trick. Say you have catalog numbers 'PJ 1234,' 'pj1234,' and 'Pj 1234,' all of which you need to look like 'PJ1234'. To fix these, do an *Ask* on your table. Don't check any fields for display, but move the cur-

### USER GROUP TIP

## Pizzazz in Paradox Reports

Want to make the title of a *Paradox* report boldface? Or change the font? By placing printer codes in calculated fields within reports, you can add variety to your hard copy's appearance.

To make a headline boldface, move the cursor to the line above the headline, press **<F10>**, and select **Field • Place • Calculated**. Between quotation marks, enter your printer's boldface code, using **\027** for the untypeable Escape code—if you have an HP LaserJet, enter **"\027(s5b"**. Repeat the process on the line below the headline, this time using the code to turn boldface off (**"\027(s0B"** on a LaserJet).

A few caveats: The Calculated field takes up space in your report layout; if you don't put it on a line of its own, it may affect how other fields line up. And don't shorten a printer code field; if you do, the printer may not receive all the instructions it needs. Finally, make sure you get the upper and lower cases exactly right; the printer won't stand for mistakes.

David Hodgson  
Sacramento PC Users Group

```
CLEAR
@ 22,40
?? "Cleaning up table...please wait"
COEDIT "Table"
SCAN
;next line converts Name to initial caps
[Name] = FORMAT("CC",LOWER([Name]))
;next line converts State to all caps
[State] = UPPER([State])
;next line changes Code to lower case
[Code] = LOWER([Code])
ENDSCAN
DO_IT!
```

**FIGURE 1: CLEAN UP BADLY ENTERED DATA with your own version of this Paradox script.**

sor to the catalog number field and type **pj..1234, changeto PJ1234**. When you press **<F2>** to Do\_It!, *Paradox* will correct the field in your table and put the unchanged data in a new table called **CHANGED**.

The **..** wild card does two jobs: First, it represents any string of characters, including a zero-length string. That way, *Paradox* will find any record where the field's first two characters are 'pj'

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and last four characters are '1234', regardless of what—if anything—is in between. Second, it eliminates case sensitivity, so 'pj', 'PJ', and 'Pj' will all be found. You can do multiple changes in one query, and you can even do more than one for the same field: Just move the cursor down a line and type in the other expression.

Even though these tips might help speed up your housekeeping, I'm sure you'd like to keep things clean from here on. The best way to ensure that data gets entered uniformly in the first place is to use *Paradox's* validity checks. This feature lets you place limits on what data can get entered in a particular field, lets you control formatting (including capitalization), and lets users pop up a list of possible correct entries.

Talk to the person responsible for the database and request that they add validity checks, or get permission to add them yourself. You can add a validity check to a field while editing or entering data. Simply choose *ValCheck • Define*, and *Paradox* will prompt you through the process. Note that validity checks control data that's being

added or edited, but they don't do anything to straighten an existing mess.

#### Avoiding Blank dBASE Report Pages

**Q** I have a *dBASE III Plus* program that prints out summary invoices for consignment sales to an HP LaserJet. When the printer runs out of paper, the program apparently keeps sending it the 'eject' code that follows each invoice; when I reload the printer and bring it on line, it spits out stacks of blank pages. How do I fix this?

*Roscoe Howard, Acton, Massachusetts*

**A** It sounds like your program may be in some kind of loop that sends form feeds to the printer while testing to see if it's ready. Short of changing the program code, try emptying the print buffer by turning the printer off before you add paper.

#### Repeating dBASE Data

**Q** I'm using *dBASE III Plus* to keep a record of my business expenses. I often enter several records for the same day, and I wonder if there is any easy way to tell

*dBASE* to use the same date for all records entered after the first.

*Shane Stevens, Chicago*

**A** While there's no quick trick for copying one field value, you can easily tell *dBASE* to copy all the fields from the last record into each new record that is appended. Before adding new records to your database, at the dot prompt, enter the command **SET CARRY ON**. Then each new record will start as a copy of the last one, and you can just type over the fields you want to change.

**By Celeste Robinson**

*PC World contributing editor Celeste Robinson is the author of Paradox 4.0 Handbook (Bantam Computer Books, New York, 1992).*

*Mail your questions to Data Management, PC World, 501 Second St. #600, San Francisco, CA 94107; or send them electronically to the Data Management forum on PC World Online; CompuServe, 74055,412; MCI Mail, 179-3813; or 415/442-1891 (fax). PC World pays \$50 for published questions. Sorry, we cannot acknowledge unpublished materials.*

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Favorite Eclipse FAX features include a built-in graphics editor to mark-up faxes, create cover sheets, send documents on letterhead, add your signature, and import logos and drawings. An expanded WYSIWYG thumb-nail mode lets you view and rearrange fax pages.

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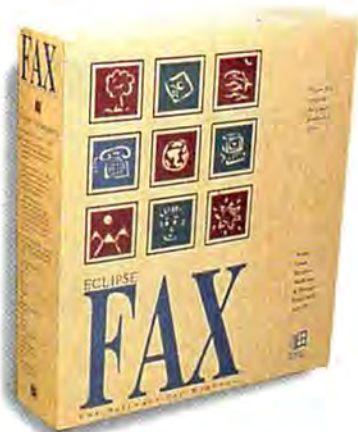
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Eclipse FAX's new built-in OCR tools convert faxed documents into editable text for use in your word processor, spreadsheet, database and more, at up to 200 characters per second! Eclipse FAX OCR also provides dot matrix output support, full clipboard support, a built-in text editor and more. Eclipse's omnifont technology — Fontelligence™ — automatically recognizes virtually all typefaces used in everyday business correspondence.



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*"Wonderfully simple."* PC Magazine, Dec. '92  
*"The obvious choice for simplicity and usefulness."* PC World, Feb. '93

Extensive toolbars make using Eclipse FAX as easy as installing it. Our thoughtfully crafted Send Fax Dialog Box lets you start faxing in minutes from almost any Windows application. Plus, a flexible indexing system makes storing, grouping, and locating faxes a breeze.

*"Visibly faster than WinFax Pro."* Windows User, Oct. '92  
*"... Significantly faster than any of it's competitors."* Lotus Magazine, Feb. '92

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December 8, 1992

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hardware/locksmith  
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janitorial supply  
lawn and garden  
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✓ **Quicker Checkout**-barcode scanning (50% faster than a cash register), instantaneous no wait receipt printing system, automatic credit card verification, split tender, product lookup by any word, new items added at POS

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✓ **Better Business Decisions**-detailed reports and financial statements showing the status of your business, charge account credit limit checking, parts explosion for kits tracks every inventory item, built-in general ledger, accounts receivable and accounts payable

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## Create Your Own Databases Without Programming!

### Create My Own Database Applications... Can I Do It?

That's what I asked myself when I thought about building my first application. Can I really do it myself?

At first I backed off and priced out some programmers. Wow! Never mind. I'll try and do it myself. After surveying the numer-

ous products out there I finally found the absolute best tool for creating custom applications — without the complications and time needed for writing code. Alpha FOUR — the database for Non-Programmers like me.



**Awarded for Version 1.1** — Rated #1, PC Week May 14, 1990, Excellent Value, InfoWorld May 22, 1989; Editor's Choice, PC Magazine, December 17, 1991; Reader's Choice, DBMS, December 1991; Best Buy, PC World, March 1990

**Awarded for Version 2.0** — Top 200 and Best Value, PC Computing, June and August 1992; 3-1/2 Stars, Home Office Computing, September 1992; Top 100 PC Sources, October 1992; Reader's Choice, DBMS, December 1992; Readers' Choice (Honorable Mention), Data Based Advisor, December 1992; Editor's Pick, Home Office Computing, January 1993; Best of 1992, PC Magazine, January 1993

**Awarded for Version 2.1** — Editor's Choice, PC Magazine, January 1993

It has lots of colors and looks good. Each menu selection starts a stored sequence of keystrokes (called a macro). For example, the "Find Customer" menu selection plays back the keys for 1) go to edit mode, and 2) go to find mode. When you select my menu item, a little box appears asking you for the customer's name. You enter it and the record is instantly found and displayed. It was very simple to create. And my application runs directly from the DOS command line.

Alpha FOUR has relational capabilities too; that means it can link up to 10 databases all at one time and make it look like they are one big database. That's important because you don't want to enter data more than once. But with Alpha FOUR, I don't have to worry.

**Speed, Speed, Speed, — And More Speed!** That's the big news in Version 2.1. Faster performance thanks to a new concept known as Bullet™ technology that increases the speed of some indexes in Alpha FOUR by up to 70% over the previous version!

**Data Entry Simplified — And Virtually Error Free!** Streamline data entry with colorful, easy-to-follow screens that eliminate the chance of error with Alpha FOUR 2.1 field rules. For example, Alpha FOUR 2.1 will automatically change letters from lower to upper case as you enter.

**Totally dBASE Compatible.** I was delighted to hear Alpha FOUR is totally compatible with dBASE.dbf files. In fact, Alpha FOUR can import and export Lotus 1-2-3, Symphony, VisiCalc, PFS, MultiMate and WordPerfect.

**Great Looking Reports Are An Alpha FOUR Specialty!** I love Alpha FOUR 2.1's "What You See Is What You Get" report writer — with just a few menu selections, you can create custom screen and printed reports to fit any need: long text fields in multi-line columns with word wrapping. Or format numeric fields to print out as words for the "Pay this amount" line on your blank checks.

Alpha FOUR 2.1 also contains built-in layout editors to create professional quality (and fully customized) letters, invoices, announcements — virtually any document.

**A Powerhouse Of Easy-To-Use Features...** dBASE Compatible • Fully Relational • Menu-Driven Scripting • Over 80 Functions for Manipulating Data • Ability to Call and Pass Data to Other Programs • Instant DOS Access and more.

### FREE WITH THE ALPHA FOUR SUPER BUNDLE

**FormFiller 4.0** — FormFiller 4.0 is the premier forms fill-in software. A master template of the form guides fill-in, reduces chance for error — even checks for accuracy.



**A TOTAL VALUE OF \$693 FOR JUST \$99.90!**

**AND... Zip Code Database** — A complete database containing over 41,000 United States zip codes, cities and states. Not just a lightweight add-on, this is a fully functional application — and it's yours free with Alpha FOUR.

### HERE'S WHAT YOU GET:

Alpha FOUR (Single User) ..... worth \$495.00  
Zip Code Database ..... worth \$49.95  
FormFiller 4.0 ..... worth \$149.00

**Total Value ..... \$693.95**

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BER3450 Alpha FOUR Version 2.1 Non-Networkable with FormFiller 4.0 and Zip Code Database ..... \$99.90  
BER3451 Alpha FOUR Network Pack Includes Network Server and 2 Network LAN Packs ..... \$348.00  
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## THE WORLD'S FASTEST FAX MODEMS!

**SatisFAXtion's Co-Processed Fax/Data Modems Turn Your PC Into The Ultimate Fax Machine.** This year, for the first time, PC fax modems will outsell traditional fax machines. PC fax modems have become the mainstay of home and business faxing, and for plenty of excellent reasons. You get stunning, high quality faxes — thanks to eliminating the scan step of a fax machine. You save time because faxing is as easy and as fast as printing, with interruption-free background operation. You save money because faxes send in less time, and they're easily scheduled for late-night sends when rates are at their lowest. Add the latest fax breakthrough — built-in OCR that turns faxed text and numbers into useful word processing documents and spreadsheets — and you have just some of the reasons why the PC fax modem is the smart choice for all your faxing needs.

Intel, the people that brought you the very heart of your computer, have created a line of superior fax modems that combine the latest in fax know-how with the ultimate in data modem technology. Lightning fast data modem throughput of up to 57,600 bps zip file transfers with deadly accuracy. SatisFAXtion's unique onboard co-processor takes the load off your computer for distraction-free faxing in the background, while their proprietary

Smart Buffering techniques make sure any computer can run at maximum speed (unlike some others.)

There are five different SatisFAXtion fax/data modems from which to choose, combining state-of-the-art performance with cost-effective value. All SatisFAXtion fax/data modems come with DOS and Windows FAXability Plus fax software and award-winning CrossTalk Communicator data software, so you can quickly set up and connect with 20 million other fax machines and countless data modems worldwide.

### FREE WITH EVERY FAX MODEM...

**FAXability Plus Software.** You get superior fax handling that turns upside down faxes right side up. The Zoom feature automatically fits faxes to the page width, and the Size control views at 25%, 50%, 100% or 200%. The custom Fax Logs keep

track of all your send and receive activity, while the multiple Phone books make broadcast sending a snap. We loved the Cut & Paste feature, where we could copy the important part of a fax to Windows Clipboard, then paste it into another application. Sending multiple documents from different applications was very impressive. A few clicks and multiple files were gathered, then sent with a single command.



**THE BEST OF PC 92**

### WHICH MODEM TO BUY

FEATURES	400	400e	300	200	100
Style	Internal	External	Internal	Internal	Internal
Max. Data Throughput	57,600	57,600	57,600	9,600	2,400
Fax Send/Receive Speed	14,400/14,400	9600/9600	9600/9600	9600/9600	9600/4800
Modem Line Speed	14,400	14,400	14,400	2,400	2,400
Smart Line Sharing	●			●	
Coprocessed Faxing	●			●	
Smart UART	●			●	
LJ III Fax Emulation	●	●	●		Optional
Scanner Port	●			●	
Auto Speed Handling	●	●	●	●	



### INTEL FAX MODEMS

BER6025A SatisFAXtion 100 Internal ..... \$99.95  
BER6025B SatisFAXtion 200 Internal ..... \$295.90  
BER6025C SatisFAXtion 300 Internal ..... \$325.90  
BER6025D SatisFAXtion 400 Internal ..... \$395.90  
BER6025E SatisFAXtion 400e External ..... \$455.90

## PUBLISHING & PRESENTATIONS MAKEOVER

### Organization Within the Organization

Internal reports can be a vital source of information, yet all too often they get ignored because they're dense and unattractive. An appealing design and layout can't reduce the volume of information, but they can help organize the material so it gets attention.

The original document shown is part of a 25-page summary produced in *WordPerfect 5.1* by David Fickbohm, a lead analyst with a San Francisco-based transportation firm. The report, distributed to company executives, summarizes a week's worth of professional seminars that Fickbohm attended.

Mr. Fickbohm treated his descriptions consistently, with line spacing and type formats defining various elements. But the document is a study in the "infoglut" that corporate executives wade through every day. A strategic design can ease access to the material by breaking it into manageable pieces.

### It's News to Them

Our redesign was done in *QuarkXPress for Windows*, but we could easily have accomplished it in a sophisticated *Windows* word processor. To help readers find information quickly, we adopted a newsletter format. The result is a more palatable document that suggests immediacy and importance. The four-column grid with left-aligned type enhances readability and cohesiveness. The left column holds summary and display elements—including one-sentence overviews, title bars, and graphics.

Summary titles are laid out in white type on a black background to draw the eye to the most important information. Shaded text boxes and passages from the document act as signposts to readers skimming the report. Distinctive icons also identify relevant material, and we've added a four-star rating system to summarize Fickbohm's impressions.

### A Word About Type

A classic sans serif typeface—Helvetica—gives the report a clean, crisp feel.

If you're using TrueType, you can get the same look with Arial, a Helvetica clone. The body text is 10-point type with 11.5-point line spacing. We used 14-point Helvetica Bold for the title bar and 10-point Helvetica Bold for the tint box to ensure the type would stand out when printed to a standard laser printer. We chose a 10-point bold italic for the summary opinions in the left-hand column, and moved up in size to 14 points for the text quotes.

The disk icon in the title bar and the stars come from *CorelDraw*'s clip art library. We designed the multiarrow icon in *CorelDraw* by creating a single line and placing arrowheads on either end. We then copied the item three times, rotating it 45 degrees each time, and placed a white circle in the center. The borders above and below the quotes in the text are 6-point lines across the length of the column. The tinted box was created with the frame tool in *QuarkXPress* and filled with a 10 percent gray tint.

Despite the airier look of the new layout, it accommodates more text per page than Fickbohm's original. Columns are just under 10 picas wide for readable line lengths, and set 0.167 inches apart. We left an ample 0.75-inch page margin to frame the material.

**By David Brickley and Michael Desmond**

*Michael Desmond is an assistant editor for PC World. The redesign was performed by David Brickley, a designer based in Moss Beach, California.*

*Send business document and presentation make-over candidates, preferably clean and unfolded, to Publishing & Presentations, PC World, 501 Second St. #600, San Francisco, CA 94107. Mail your publishing or presentations questions to us at the above address, or send them electronically to the Publishing & Presentations forum on PC World Online; MCI Mail, RJANTZ; or 415/442-1891 (fax). PC World pays \$50 for published questions and make-overs. Sorry, we cannot acknowledge unpublished materials.*

**1** To create a point of immediate focus, we used reversed type on a black box for the seminar titles. The title is right-justified within the box, while the left side is reserved for icons that define the subject matter. We used images from *CorelDraw*'s clip art library and exported them as EPS files to *QuarkXPress*.

**2** Logical placement keeps secondary information pertinent, while more important elements on the page receive emphasis. Here, we shrank the seminar speaker's name and affiliation to 7-point type.

**3** The opinion blurb is a strong feature of each summary, which we stress by dedicating space in the left column. The 10-point bold italic type implies valuable information.

**4** We use Helvetica for a clean and more graphic look.

**5** We create a professional-looking document, taking advantage of the capsule summary format by using a four-column layout and split-page design. Columns are just under 10 picas wide for optimal readability, while asymmetrical text layout adds energy to the page.

**6** Significant quotes from the text pull readers into the material and lighten the page. We use a 14-point Helvetica Bold italic that maintains continuity with the body text. Six-point rules separate the quote from text.

**7** The sidebar provides an attractive way to present lists, tables, and other information. We created the box using the frame tool in *QuarkXPress* and set it to a 10 percent gray tint. To ensure quality laser output, we used 10-point Helvetica bold that holds up well against the gray background.

## AFTER

1



### The Bachman Analyst

Jackie Laver  
Bachman Information Systems

*This was a very good explanation of data modeling, along with an explanation of why to model, what should be modeled and an overview of how to model.*

2

3

Models are approximations of the real information. They help you navigate through information. They highlight the most essential features. They represent data in a simplified but structured format.

From a business perspective they depict behavior, not implementation. They provide a common language and insulate the business from changes in technology.

You can model an enterprise, a process, or logic. Data modeling describes a business system and the data required to operate that system independent of hardware and software.

A data model represents data and your knowledge of data (business rules). A model is graphically represented

**"Process modeling is a conceptual representation of the functions and business logic of an enterprise."**

by entity-relationship diagrams. A data model complements a process submodel. Data is modeled by diagramming entities, attributes, relationships, partnership sets, and keys. Process modeling is a conceptual representation of the functions and business logic of an enterprise. It complements data modeling. It shows the content, structure, and relationships of information used by a system. A process model cannot exist without an associated data model. One or more process models can be associated with the same data model. Logic modeling captures the business rules. Logic modeling is typically associated with a procedural element. They describe the process logic for each primitive process. They create an easy-to-read graphical representation of business logic.

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4

5



### Application Development The Five-Year Outlook

Adam Rin, The Gartner Group

*Mr. Rin's main point was that a cultural change will be needed in application development due to the increasing demands for faster quality information, increased productivity, etc.*

The Gartner Group sees the next five years as a time of software evolution—a time of change in the industry, a time of action and hope. However, promises exceed reality. CASE tools will NOT pay for themselves in one or two years.

The Gartner Group sees the application development environment evolving toward multiple repositories at multiple levels. They see distributed development environments co-existing with client/server production environments. Aspects of integration will include User Interface Management with Management Technologies. A problem that

The Gartner Group sees is that Knowledgeware's Computer Aided Software Engineering (CASE) tool parts exceed IBM's ability to integrate them. A selling point that the CASE tool vendors push is portability, the idea being that if you create an application using a certain CASE tool, that application can run on multiple platforms. The Gartner Group points out that a portable system is not necessarily open. The application is still dependent on the vendor being able to run on a certain platform. There should be no proprietary system services or software in a CASE tool.

There is currently lots of shelfware due to a lack of methodologies and training, an unwillingness to change, and a lack of commitment from upper management. The

Gartner Group feels that prototyping, iterative development and requirements animation will be

#### Five categories of CASE can be defined today:

1. Single-component CASE, upper and lower, some are still here
2. Interfaced, mix-and-match CASE, where most are today
3. Repository based, mix-and-match CASE, AD/CYCLES
4. Integrated CASE—will not happen overnight

6

7

mandatory as supplementary methods to a formal requirements analysis model by 1996, not a replacement for it. These are NOT panaceas.

## BEFORE

AE-0002 Application Development Adam Rin, The Gartner Group  
The Five-Year Outlook

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5. Open CASE

There is currently lots of shelfware due to a lack of methodologies and training, an unwillingness to change, and a lack of commitment from upper management.

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AE-1080 The Bachman Analyst Jackie Laver, Bachman Information Systems

A very good explanation of data modeling, along with an explanation of why to model, what should be modeled and an overview of how to model.

Models are approximations of the real information. They help you navigate through information. They highlight the most essential features. They represent data in a simplified but structured format. From a business perspective they depict behavior not implementation. They provide a common language and insulate the business from changes in technology.

You can model an enterprise, a process, or logic. Data modeling describes a business system and the data required to operate that system independent of hardware and software. A data model represents data and your knowledge of data (business rules). A model is graphically represented by entity-relationship diagrams. A data model complements a process submodel. Data is modeled by diagramming entities, attributes, relationships, partnership sets, and keys. Process modeling is a conceptual representation of the functions and business logic of an enterprise. It complements data modeling. It shows the content, structure, and relationships of information used by a system. A process model cannot exist without an associated data model. One or more process models can be associated with

## COMMUNICATIONS Q & A

### Stifling Screechy Modems

**Q** The screeching sound from my modem's speaker is driving me insane. How do I turn it off? I'm told I need to do it through my communications software.

*Antonia Clayburn, Sussex, England*

**A** All modems once boasted volume control knobs. But as modems advanced, programmable commands gradually took on the duties of the volume control knob. Now most modems have eight programmable commands in place of the single outdated volume knob. How's that for progress?

If you want to silence the modem completely, look for your modem's initialization string in your communications software. It should be in one of the setup screens. It's a long string that

protocols like XMODEM or YMODEM send the files without the conversion?

*Hal Tritz, Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin*

**A** First, the quick answer to your question: You don't have to do anything to the files prior to sending them with an error-checking protocol like XMODEM, assuming that the PC user on the other end has the same word processor as you.

There are only a few instances when you need to strip a word processing document of its formatting: if you want to upload the document into an E-mail message, if you're sending the file to a PC user who uses a word processor that can't read your word processor's files, or if you're going to post the document as a text file on an on-line service or BBS.

Your word processor either provides a utility for removing formatting characters (converting it to ASCII) or includes an option that allows you to save the file in a "text only" or "text only with line breaks" format. If you're uploading text to an E-mail message, you'll want to use the latter.

Once you strip the document of its formatting characters, you can upload it into an E-mail message with your communications software's ASCII transfer feature. Generally, you don't want to use ASCII transfer for anything other than uploading text into an E-mail message since it offers no error checking. For other purposes, you'll want to use a protocol like XMODEM, YMODEM, or one of the others that provide error detection.

Take note: If you're using a Windows word processor such as *Word for Windows*, make sure the lines in the document are short enough to fit comfortably in the E-mail message to which you're uploading the document. Documents created in a small font often translate to lines of absurd length when converted to ASCII.

### V-Series Befuddlement

**Q** My Hayes V-series 9600-bps modem needs to be repaired. Hayes told me I can turn it in for a V.32/V.42 9600-bps upgrade for \$50, which is much better and faster. Why would it be? Will the \$50 upgrade be worth it?

*Denise Kidd, Nashville*

**A** Hayes introduced its V-series modems before the modem world settled on a standard for transmission at speeds of 9600 bps and higher. Old V-series modems will talk only to other Hayes V-series modems at high speeds. The V.32 standard is the high-speed transmission scheme that everyone eventually agreed on, and V.42 is the error-trapping and compression scheme that emerged around the same time.

Upgrade to these standards, and your modem will not only be faster, it will finally be able to talk to most other high-speed modems (exceptions include U.S. Robotics single-standards). Hayes upgrade policies for old V-series modems vary according to the make and model. The upgrade cost may be as low as \$50 if the modem needs only new firmware, or up to \$329 if new hardware is required. Paying \$329 for an upgrade is not advised, since you can buy a 9600-bps fax-modem for about \$310. But if \$50 is all it will cost you, then do it.

**By Judy Heim**

*Judy Heim is a contributing editor for PC World and the editor of Online Investor, a newsletter about using on-line services to track and manage investments.*

*Mail your communications questions to Communications Q&A, PC World, 501 Second St. #600, San Francisco, CA 94107; or send them electronically to the Communications forum on PC World Online; CompuServe, 75300,713; MCI Mail, 312-7737; GENie, JUDY.HEIM; Internet, 3127737@mcimail.com; or 415/442-1891 (fax). PC World pays \$50 for published questions. Sorry, we cannot acknowledge unpublished materials.*

## Most modems have eight programmable commands in place of the single outdated volume knob. How's that for progress?

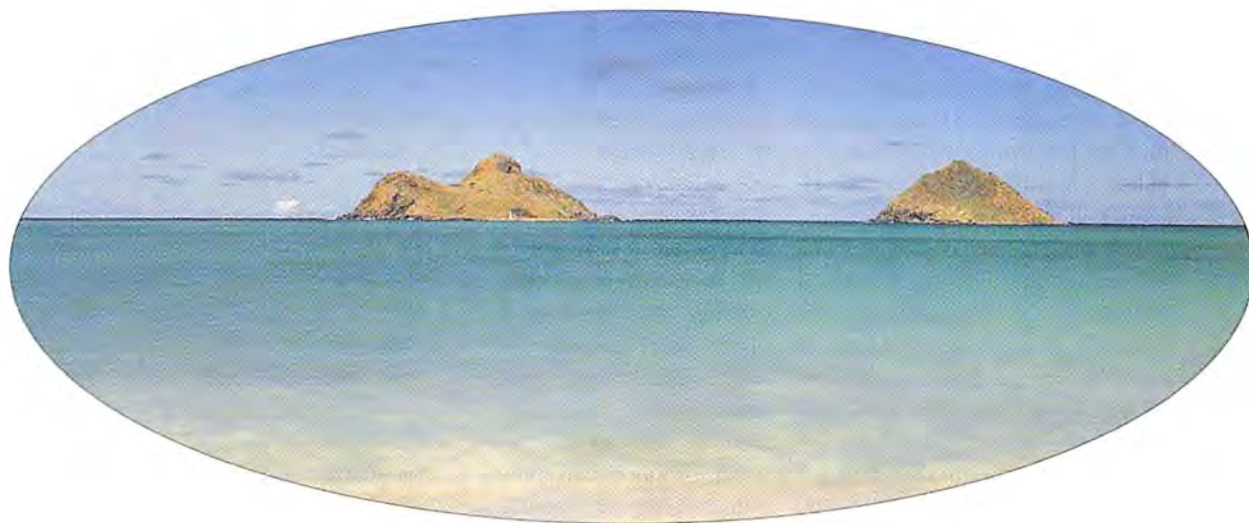
begins 'AT' and ends '^M'. Somewhere in it you will find the command 'M1', 'M2', or 'M3'. Change it to M0. If you don't find any such command, just type M0 into the string, but be careful not to splice it into the middle of a command.

If you want merely to lower the volume, look for the command 'L2' or 'L3'. Type in L0 or L1 instead. If either of those commands is already in the string, you've got the volume as low as it gets. You'll probably just want to shut up the modem completely by erasing any L commands and entering M0 instead. You will need to reinitialize the modem with your communications software's reinitialization command or simply reload the software.

### Shuttling WordPerfect Files by Modem

**Q** I want to modem WordPerfect files to another computer. Can I send the files as they are, or must I convert them to text files first? Will any of the pro-

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## STAR-DOT-STAR TIPS

### Undoing Your Taxes in 1-2-3

When I go through my records every year at tax time, I need to know how much I've paid in state sales tax. Unfortunately, many of my records, including my bank and credit card statements, show the total amount paid but don't divide each purchase into price and sales tax.

I therefore created a simple way to calculate the sales tax automatically after the fact. I record each sale in a table that lists the item, the total for the transaction, and whether the sale is taxable [FIGURE 1]. The tax rate goes in a cell outside the table, which I named **SalesTax** with the help of the **/Range • Name • Create** command. Columns E and F use formulas to reverse the sales tax calculation that was performed at the cash register, separating price from sales tax. The formula for E6 is **@IF(@UPPER(D6)<>"Y",C6,C6/(1+\$SALESTAX))**, and for F6 it's **+C6-E6**. It's then a simple matter to copy these formulas down their columns.

*Sue Franklin, New Orleans*

**Editor's note:** If you're allowed to deduct state sales taxes on your state return, this is a great way to "back into" separate amounts for the net cost and the sales tax. It's worth noting that Ms. Franklin uses a named range to identify the cell containing her tax rate, making her formulas easier to read and saving her from having to remember the cell's address. By putting the dollar sign in

front of the range name in her formula, she allows the table to be copied to any part of the spreadsheet, adjusting for the positions of the fields in the table, while maintaining **SalesTax** as a fixed location. A sample worksheet, **SALESTAX.WK1**, is available in the **Featured in May** folder on **PC World Online**.

### Counting Pages in WordPerfect... Continued

In your November 1992 column, you provided a useful **WordPerfect** macro to create a footer saying "Page x of y pages." The footer normally does just that, but when I happened to apply it to a 19-page document, I discovered that it printed "Page 19 of 18 pages" on the last page.

The problem is that the macro determines the number of pages before a footer exists. In my document, which was just under 18 full pages before I ran the

macro, the new footers were enough to add one more page to the document. To correct this problem, I rewrote the macro to number every page first. This makes the document the same length it will be after the footers are created. Then, I make the macro create a footer with the words "Page x of y pages," as in your article. Finally, the macro deletes the regular page numbers. The result is a total page count that is always correct.

*William A. Barnett,  
Napa, California*

**Editor's note:** The more pages you have in

```
{DISPLAY OFF}
{Home}{Home}{Home}{Up}
{Format}PNP6{Exit}
{Home}{Home}{Home}{Down}
{ASSIGN}LastPage={SYSTEM}Page--
{Goto}{Goto}
{ON NOT FOUND}{GO}Top--

{Search Left}{Format}PFA{Search}
{IF}{STATE}&512-
  {Backspace}
{ELSE}
  {Backspace}Y
{END IF}
{GO}MakeFoot-

{LABEL}Top-
{Home}{Home}{Home}{Up}

{LABEL}MakeFoot-
{Format}PFAP
Page {B} of {VARIABLE}LastPage-
{Exit}{Exit}
{Home}{Home}{Home}{Up}
{Reveal Codes}{Right}{Del}{Reveal Codes}
{Goto}{Goto}
```

**FIGURE 2: THIS WORDPERFECT MACRO COUNTS DOCUMENT PAGES more precisely than the one that appeared in our November 1992 issue.**

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Sales tax rate					
2	5.50%					
3						
4	Item	Total		Taxable?	Price	Tax Paid
5	-----					
6	Ski Wax	15.00	Y		14.22	0.78
7	Bungee Cords	23.99	Y		22.74	1.25
8	Rollerblades	88.99	Y		84.35	4.64
9	Bandages	109.15	Y		103.46	5.69
10	Doctor Bills	1283.57	N		1283.57	0.00

**FIGURE 1: CALCULATE YOUR SALES TAX for income tax purposes from several total payments with this 1-2-3 worksheet.**

your document, the more likely that the original macro we published will prove incorrect. Mr. Barnett's macro (see **FIGURE 2**) solves this problem. You can build on this macro to create more complex ones that need to know the number of pages in a document.

Since this **WordPerfect** macro uses special commands, you can't create it by simply recording keystrokes; you have to use the macro editor. To get to the editor, press **<Home>**, then **<Ctrl>-<F10>**. At the Define Macro prompt, type **ALTP** (assuming that you want to run this macro by pressing **<Alt>-P**), and press **<Enter>**. At the Description prompt, type **Total Page Number in Footer** and press **<Enter>** again. You're now ready to create the macro.

In the **WordPerfect** macro editor, you

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KUR-0012

must insert different types of commands in different ways. To insert a command shown here in **boldface**, press **<Ctrl><Page Up>**, select the command from the pop-up list in the upper right corner of the screen, and press **<Enter>**. If a command is shown underlined, press the appropriate key (for example, **<F2>** for **[Search]**). For commands that are **boldfaced and underlined**, press **<Ctrl><V>**, then the appropriate key (for example, **<Ctrl><V>** and **<Enter>** for **[Enter]**). Type any other text as it appears. When you're finished entering the macro, press **<F7>** to save it. You'll find ALTPWPM in the Featured in May folder on PC World Online.

## Is It Ready Yet?

If you've ever written a batch file that involved floppy access, you know what happens if the drive is accidentally left empty: Your user gets a most unfriendly 'Not ready error reading drive A:' message. The 'Abort, Retry, Fail?' options aren't necessarily the most helpful ones you can give a novice user.

In order to give your users a different kind of message, you need to trap the DOS "critical error," which, unfortunately, is one of the few errors that the ERRORLEVEL command won't help you with. So I wrote a program, DSKRDY.EXE, to trap this error for your batch files. DSKRDY (Disk Ready) can check both the A: and B: drives for a ready condition, and then return the drives' status via ERRORLEVEL.

When you call DSKRDY from a batch file, you can pass a drive letter (without a colon) to it as a parameter, or offer no parameter to have it check both A: and B:. After using DSKRDY, your batch file should check for ERRORLEVEL 4, which the program returns if a critical error other than "drive not ready" occurs when accessing the drive, or if the program can't return to the current directory. You then check for the ERRORLEVEL, which will confirm that the drive is ready. DSKRDY returns the fol-

```
program DiskReady;
{$I-}

var
  oldDir, firstParm : String;
  letter : Char;
  errorLevel : Byte;

begin
  {At start, assume no disks in drives}
  errorLevel := 0;
  {Save old directory}
  GetDir(0,oldDir);
  {Check parameter, if any, for drive letter}
  firstParm := ParamStr(1);
  if Length(firstParm) <> 1 then
    letter := ' '
  else
    letter := UpCase(firstParm[1]);
  {Test drive A, if required}
  if (letter <> 'B') then
    begin
      {Try to make it current}
```

```
ChDir('A:\');
case IOResult of
  0: errorLevel := 1; {Disk in drive}
  152 : {Do nothing}; {Not ready}
  else
    errorLevel := 4 {Unknown error}
  end;
end;
{Test drive B, if required}
if (letter <> 'A') and
  (errorLevel <> 4) then
  begin
    ChDir('B:\');
    case IOResult of
      0: errorLevel := errorLevel + 2;
      152 : {Do nothing};
    else
      errorLevel := 4
    end;
  end;
ChDir(oldDir);
if IOResult <> 0 then
  errorLevel := 4;
Halt(errorLevel)
end.
```

FIGURE 3: BUILD FRIENDLY MESSAGES about open floppy drives into batch files with a Turbo Pascal program.

lowing codes to ERRORLEVEL:

- 0 = Neither A: nor B: is ready
- 1 = A: is ready
- 2 = B: is ready
- 3 = Both A: and B: are ready
- 4 = Unexpected critical error

Charles J. Abbey, New Paltz, New York

**Editor's note:** Mr. Abbey's original utility was written for an unusual C compiler, so I rewrote it in *Turbo Pascal* (that program's built-in facilities for handling critical errors make such a utility a snap to create).

To create the program, copy **FIGURE 3** to an ASCII text file called DSKRDY.PAS in the current directory. Then, compile the program by typing **TPC DSKRDY** at the DOS prompt. DSKRDY.EXE will appear in the current directory.

To use DSKRDY in your batch file, simply invoke it and use IF ERRORLEVEL statements to test the results. **FIGURE 4** shows a sample batch file, called IFAREADY.BAT, which executes a command, passed to it as a parameter, if and only if the A: drive has a disk in it.

The source code (DSKRDY.PAS), the compiled program (DSKRDY.EXE), and

the sample batch file (IFAREADY.BAT) are all available in the Featured in May folder on PC World Online.

## Dot Your Lines In CorelDraw

CorelDraw allows you to outline objects with several kinds of dotted and dashed lines, but sometimes none of the built-in

```
@ECHO OFF
DSKRDY A
IF ERRORLEVEL 4 GOTO OOPS
IF NOT ERRORLEVEL 1 GOTO NOTRDY
%1 %2 %3 %4 %5 %6 %7 %8 %9
GOTO DONE
:NOTRDY
ECHO Drive A: not ready!
GOTO DONE
:OOPS
ECHO Unexpected critical error
ECHO accessing Drive A:
ECHO Operation aborted!
:DONE
```

FIGURE 4: THIS BATCH FILE, IFAREADY, executes a command only if the A: drive is ready.

# QEMM Safety in Numbers

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Software Compatibility	GOOD	SATISFACTORY	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
Hardware Compatibility	GOOD	SATISFACTORY	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
Reliability	GOOD	SATISFACTORY	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
Ease of Use	GOOD	SATISFACTORY	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
Memory Management Flexibility	GOOD	SATISFACTORY	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD
Quality of Documentation	GOOD	SATISFACTORY	NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	GOOD	GOOD	GOOD

PC Week carefully compared them all and rated QEMM-386 v6 the best memory manager.



This is what QEMM-386 does for a typical PC. It reorganizes memory to produce greater speed and safety.

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# PC WORLD

patterns are appropriate for your application—for instance, a clip-out coupon or a rubber stamp. If you find that the dashes are too short (or the spaces too wide) for your liking, there's an easy way to add new, custom patterns.

Setting up your own dotted-line pattern involves altering an ASCII text file called `CORELDRW.DOT`, which you'll find in your `CORELDRW` directory. Before you do anything else, make a copy of that file for safety's sake, then load `CORELDRW.DOT` into Notepad or any other text editor. Start a new line (preferably at the beginning or the end of the file, so you can easily spot your new dashed line in the program), and type the numbers **2 3 1**, including the spaces. Save the file.

The next time you start *CorelDraw*, you'll see a line option that gives you dashes that are three units wide, with one-unit spaces in between (the size of the unit is based on the current stroke weight).

*Ed Yap, New Manila,  
Quezon City, Philippines*

**Editor's note:** According to Corel, the format of each line in `CORELDRW.DOT` is as follows: The first number, which can range from 2 to 10, tells the program how many values (after itself) are on that line. The next number gives the length of a line segment, and the one after that the length of the space after the segment. Any numbers after that define subsequent lines and spaces. Thus, the line '4 1 5 2 6' would define a line style consisting of a segment one unit long, a space five units long, another segment two units long, and another space six units long. To help you remember



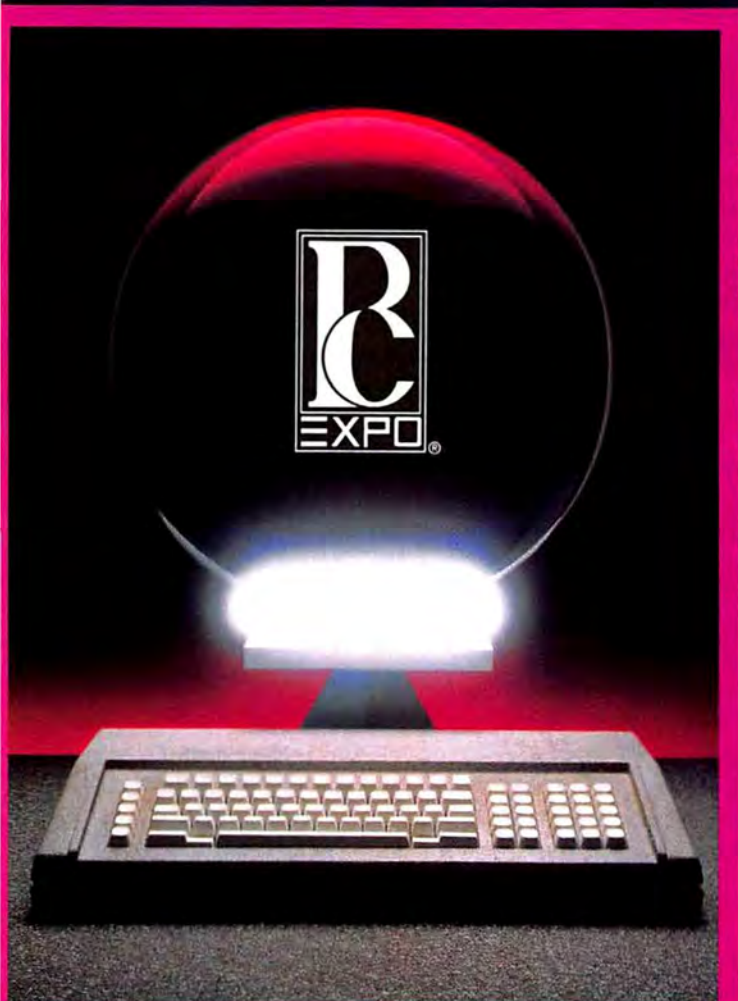
## POWERTIP no.282

### WinWord Macro Library

If your *Word for Windows* macros have functions and subroutines that you'd like to use in other *Word for Windows* macros, you can. For instance, to run *OtherMacro's* `GoodSub` routine in the macro you're currently editing, type the command `OtherMacro.GoodSub`. To run *OtherMacro* in its entirety in the current macro, type `OtherMacro.Main`.

Lincoln Spector  
Associate Editor

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```
@break off
@echo off
if exist C:\BOOT.TXT goto log
echo ---- Boot Log ---- > C:\BOOT.TXT
:log
echo. | time | find "Cur" >> C:\BOOT.TXT
SECRET.COM
break on
```

**FIGURE 5: FOR EXTRA SECURITY, add this batch fragment to your AUTOEXEC.BAT file.**

what those cryptic numbers are, you can put comment lines in CORELDRW.DOT by starting them with semicolons (;).

## Logging Log-ins

For security reasons, I created a batch file routine to tell me if my computer was booted when I wasn't there, and to keep track of how many times I boot up [FIGURE 5]. I run the routine in my AUTOEXEC.BAT file, where it first logs the time of each boot into a file called BOOT.TXT, then invokes SECRET.COM, a simple security program I read about in an early *Star-Dot-Star* column, to prevent unauthorized users from accessing the machine.

*Marc Dent, Norcross, Georgia*

**Editor's note:** Aside from being a useful tool on its own, this batch routine demonstrates how to use DOS's TIME command to track when events occur. The trick is to use DOS's ECHO command, followed immediately by a period, to simulate a carriage return; the result is "piped" into the TIME command and then into FIND, which extracts the line containing the current time. The resulting text can be appended to a log file for later inspection.

This batch fragment wouldn't provide much security at all had the author not included SECRET.COM, because an intruder could easily modify or delete the log it creates once he or she gained access to the system. While the fragment shown in Figure 5 won't give you 100 percent security, it will foil

many intruders and let you know that they tried to boot and use your system when you weren't around.

To create SECRET.COM, copy FIGURE 6 to an ASCII text file called SECRET.SCR, then double-check the code to be sure there aren't any errors; I recommend checking by reading down the columns rather than across them.

There is one change you should make in the listing: Replace the word 'Password' with your own, eight-character, case-sensitive password within single quotation marks. Once the file is saved and checked, type **DEBUG<SECRET.SCR** at the DOS prompt to create SECRET.COM. The batch routine (named AUTOEXEC.FRG), SECRET.SCR, and SECRET.COM are all available in the Featured in May folder on PC World Online.

**By Brett Glass**

*Brett Glass is a contributing editor for PC World.*

*Have a macro, batch file, short program, or general tip you're proud of? Mail your tips to Star-Dot-Star, PC World, 501 Second St. #600, San Francisco, CA 94107; or send them electronically to the Star-Dot-Star forum on PC World Online; CompuServe, 74055,412; MCI Mail, PC World Editorial; Internet, rogue@well.sf.ca.us; or 415/442-1891 (fax). PC World pays \$25 to \$200 for each tip used. Sorry, we cannot acknowledge unpublished materials.*

```
N secret.com
E100 BE 48 01 E8 30 00 C6 06 47 01 00 BF 7C 01 B9 08
E110 00 32 E4 CD 16 3A 05 74 04 FE 06 47 01 BE 7A 01
E120 E8 13 00 47 E2 EB BE 6A 01 80 3E 47 01 00 75 01
E130 C3 E8 02 00 EB CA B4 0F CD 10 FC AC 3C 24 74 06
E140 B4 0E CD 10 EB F4 C3 00 0D 0A 45 6E 74 65 72 20
E150 38 2D 63 68 61 72 61 63 74 65 72 20 41 63 63 65
E160 73 73 20 43 6F 64 65 3A 20 24 0D 0A 41 63 63 65
E170 73 73 20 64 65 6E 69 65 64 2A 24
A17C
DB 'Password'

RCX
84
W
Q
```

**FIGURE 6: SECRET.COM PASSWORD-PROTECTS your AUTOEXEC.BAT file. The Figure 5 batch fragment uses this program.**

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# MICROSOFT DOS 6.0: THE COMMAND LINE

You issue a DOS command by typing it at the DOS prompt (which usually looks like A:\>, C:\>, or C:\DOS>) and pressing <Enter>. The prompt's first letter indicates the *default drive*; the character(s) between the : and the > indicate that drive's *default directory*. (Every drive has a default directory.) Directories contain files and other directories (often called subdirectories or child directories). The \ represents the root, or top-level, directory. Except for the root, each file and directory name is one to eight characters long, optionally followed by a period and an extension of up to three characters. The sequence of directory names from the root to a given subdirectory—for example, \ARTICLES\PCWORLD\MAY—is called the *path* (note that a \ separates *parent* and *child* directories). To define a command further, you usually type *parameters* or *switches* before pressing <Enter>. In file (and in some cases, directory) name parameters, you can use a question mark to mean any single character and an asterisk for any subsequent number of characters. For example, \*.\* (the default when you omit a file name parameter) matches every file, AB\*.? matches every name that begins with AB and has an extension of one character or less, and C?E.\* matches every name, with or without an extension, that's three characters long, begins with C, and ends with E. When you omit a parameter (or a part of a parameter), DOS uses the parameter's (or the part's) current default, if any.

**Note:** Keys to press are shown here in **boldface**. Keys to press simultaneously are joined by a hyphen. *Italic* indicates an entry you must provide (such as *d:* for your chosen drive), except when shown within square brackets, indicating the entry is optional (do not type the brackets). This instant reference card is the first of two on DOS 6.0; IRC #37 will detail the utilities included with DOS 6.0.

## CHANGING/CHECKING DEFAULTS AND SETTINGS

Change default drive	<i>d:</i> (e.g., A: or C:)
Set default directory	<b>CD</b> <i>d:\path</i> ( <b>CD\</b> for default drive's root)
Check or set system date/time	<b>DATE</b> [ <i>mm/dd/yy</i> ]/ <b>TIME</b> [ <i>hh:mm:ss</i> ]
Set list of directories for DOS to search for commands not found in default directory of default drive	<b>PATH</b> <i>d:\path1</i> ; <i>d:\path2</i> ; <i>d:\path3</i> [...] (semicolons, not spaces, separate directories)
Show default drive and directory, greater-than (>) symbol in prompt	<b>PROMPT</b> <i>Sp\$g</i>
Check memory usage	<b>MEM</b> ( <b>MEM /C</b> for detail)

## MANAGING FILES AND DIRECTORIES

List files and directories, each with size and date and time last changed	<b>DIR</b> [ <i>d:\path\filename.ext</i> ] [ <i>/P</i> ] ( <i>/P</i> pauses list at each screenful)
Copy file	<b>COPY</b> <i>d:\path\filename.ext d:\path\filename.ext</i>
Compare file to its copy	<b>COMP</b> <i>d:\path\filename.ext d:\path\filename.ext</i>
Move file	<b>MOVE</b> <i>d:\path\filename.ext d:\path\filename.ext</i>
Copy files and subdirectories of default directory, if not specified	<b>XCOPY</b> <i>d:\path\filename.ext d:\path\filename.ext /S</i>

## ENTERING COMMANDS

Abandon entry	<Esc>
Pause running command	<Ctrl>-S or <Pause>
Resume paused command	<Ctrl>-S or character
Abort running command	<Ctrl>-C or <Ctrl>-<Break>
Get brief help for command	<i>command</i> /?
Get more help for command	<b>HELP</b> <i>command</i>
Specify command's directory	[ <i>d:\path\</i> ] <i>command</i>

## USING DOSKEY

DOSKEY lets you edit the command line, display previous commands, and create DOS macros (your own commands that perform one or more DOS commands). Enter the command **C:\DOS\DOSKEY** to install DOSKEY.

Move cursor one character left/right	<Left>/<Right>
Move cursor one word left/right	<Ctrl>-<Left>/<Ctrl>-<Right>
Move to beginning/end of command	<Home>/<End>
Toggle insert/overtyping	<Insert>
Delete characters to beginning/end	<Ctrl>-<Home>/<Ctrl>-<End>
Display previous/next command in command history buffer	<Up>/<Down>
Display first/last command in buffer	<Page Up>/<Page Down>
Display most recent command starting with <i>character(s)</i>	<i>character(s)</i> <F8> (repeat <F8> to display previous matching commands)
Display all commands in buffer	<F7>
Display <i>n</i> th command	<F9>/ <i>n</i>
Clear command history buffer	<Alt>-<F7>
Create DOS macro	<b>DOSKEY</b> <i>macroname=text</i> (e.g., <b>DOSKEY D=DIR \$1 /P</b> )
Delete DOS macro	<b>DOSKEY</b> <i>macroname=</i>
Clear all macro definitions	<Alt>-<F10>

Delete file	<b>DEL</b> <i>d:\path\filename.ext</i>
Rename a file without copying it	<b>REN</b> <i>d:\path\filename.ext newname.ext</i>
View contents of text file	<b>TYPE</b> <i>d:\path\filename.ext</i>
Edit contents of text file	<b>EDIT</b> <i>d:\path\filename.ext</i>
Set read-only, hidden attributes (use - instead of + to clear attribute)	<b>ATTRIB</b> +R +H <i>d:\path\filename.ext</i>
Make new directory	<b>MD</b> <i>d:\path\newdir</i> (child if \path\ omitted)
Delete empty, nondefault directory	<b>RD</b> <i>d:\path</i>
View directory tree structure	<b>TREE</b> ( <b>TREE /F</b> includes file names)
Delete child directory and contents	<b>DELTREE</b> <i>d:\path *Y</i>
Check integrity of default drive's files	<b>CHKDSK</b>
Fix file errors during check	<b>CHKDSK</b> [ <i>d:</i> ] /F

## MANAGING DISKS

Format bootable floppy disk	<b>FORMAT</b> <i>A:</i> /S or <b>FORMAT</b> <i>B:</i> /S
Format 360K/720K floppy	<b>FORMAT</b> <i>A:</i> /F:360/ <b>FORMAT</b> <i>B:</i> /F:720
Label disk	<b>LABEL</b> [ <i>d:newlabel</i> ]
Duplicate disk exactly	<b>DISKCOPY</b> <i>d:</i>

## USING FILTERS AND REDIRECTION

Use text file for command's input	<i>command</i> < <i>d:\path\filename.ext</i>
Put command's screen output in file	<i>command</i> > <i>d:\path\filename.ext</i>
Add command's screen output to file	<i>command</i> >> <i>d:\path\filename.ext</i>
Search file for text	<b>FIND</b> "text" <i>d:\path\filename.ext</i>
Pause command's output by screenful	<i>command</i>   <b>MORE</b>
Display text file in screenfuls	<b>MORE</b> < <i>d:\path\filename.ext</i>
Sort lines of text file	<b>SORT</b> <i>d:\path\filename.ext</i>

## MICROSOFT DOS 6.0: THE SHELL

DOS Shell is a graphical alternative to the command line. You issue commands primarily via <Alt>- and <Ctrl>-key combinations and drop-down menus. Launch DOS Shell with the command **DOSSHELL**. The program displays a menu bar at the top and a status bar at the bottom. In between, by default, are the Drive Icon, Directory Tree, File List, and Program List areas. The File List shows the names of the files in the Directory List's selected directory. The Program List shows the names of the current group's programs and subgroups.

**Note:** Keys to press are shown here in **boldface**. Keys to press simultaneously are joined by a hyphen. A bullet (•) links menu and option names in a series. Commands begin within DOS Shell unless otherwise noted.

### MANAGING THE DOS SHELL

Get context-sensitive help	Select item, <b>&lt;F1&gt;</b>
Open menu	<b>&lt;Alt&gt;</b> or <b>&lt;F10&gt;</b> , type first letter of menu name; or click with mouse
Select command	Open menu, type highlighted letter; or click with mouse
Activate next/previous area	<b>&lt;Tab&gt;/&lt;Shift&gt;-&lt;Tab&gt;</b> ; or click with mouse
Select drive	<b>&lt;Ctrl&gt;-d</b> ; or click icon; or activate Drive Icons area, cursor to icon, <b>&lt;Enter&gt;</b>
Update Directory and File Lists	<b>&lt;F5&gt;</b> ; or <b>View • Refresh</b> ; or double-click drive icon

### MANAGING PROGRAMS AND GROUPS (continued)

Return from active program*	<b>&lt;Ctrl&gt;-&lt;Esc&gt;</b>
Launch program, stay in Shell*	Hold down <b>&lt;Shift&gt;</b> , launch program
Cycle forward/backward from active program*	Hold down <b>&lt;Alt&gt;</b> , <b>&lt;Tab&gt;/&lt;Shift&gt;-&lt;Tab&gt;</b> through programs

\*Enable Task Swapper first with **Options • Enable Task Swapper**.

### MANAGING FILES

Select single file	Cursor to or click files
Select adjacent files	Select first files, hold down <b>&lt;Shift&gt;</b> , select last file
Select/deselect nonadjacent files	Hold down <b>&lt;Ctrl&gt;</b> while clicking files; or select first file, <b>&lt;Shift&gt;-&lt;F8&gt;</b> , use cursor keys and <b>&lt;Space&gt;</b> to select/deselect files, <b>&lt;Shift&gt;-&lt;F8&gt;</b> when finished
Enable/disable file selection across directories	<b>Options • Select Across Directories</b>
Select files across directories	Enable selection across directories, select directory in Directory Tree, select files in its File List, select another directory in same tree or second Directory Tree, select files in its File List, and so on

Show one Directory Tree and File List set	<b>View • Single File List</b>
Show two Directory Tree and File List sets	<b>View • Dual File Lists</b>
Show all selected drive's files	<b>View • All Files</b>
Show Directory, File, and Program Lists	<b>View • Program/File List</b>
Show Program List only	<b>View • Program List</b>
Move to top/bottom of active list	<b>&lt;Home&gt;/&lt;End&gt;</b>
Move to next item in active list beginning with character	<b>Character</b>
Set/unset which operations request confirmation	<b>Options • Confirmation</b> , check/uncheck operations, OK
Set number of screen lines, mode	<b>Options • Display</b> , select mode, OK
Exit <Shift>-<F9> DOS prompt	<b>EXIT&lt;Enter&gt;</b>
Quit DOS Shell	<b>&lt;F3&gt;</b> ; <b>&lt;Alt&gt;-&lt;F4&gt;</b> ; or <b>File • Exit</b>

Select/deselect all files in active File list	<b>&lt;Ctrl&gt;-&lt;Slash&gt;/&lt;Ctrl&gt;-&lt;Backslash&gt;</b> ; or <b>File • Select All/Deselect All</b>
Print selected file(s)**	<b>File • Print</b>
Associate file with program	<b>File • Associate</b> , type extension, OK
Copy/move selected file(s)	<b>&lt;F8&gt;/&lt;F7&gt;</b> , type path, OK
Delete selected file(s)	<b>&lt;Delete&gt;</b> or <b>File • Delete</b> , Yes
View selected file	<b>&lt;F9&gt;</b> ; or <b>File • View File Contents</b>
Find file(s)	<b>File • Search</b> , type file name (? and * allowed, see introduction on other side of card), OK
Rename selected file	<b>File • Rename</b> , type name, OK
Edit selected text file	Launch Editor from Main group, OK
Load selected file in associated program	<b>File • Run</b> , type command line, OK
Set File List's sort order	<b>Options • File Display Options</b> , select order
Show all drive's files	<b>View • All Files</b>
Show selected file's information	<b>Options • Show Information</b>
Set selected file's attributes	<b>File • Change Attributes</b>

\*\*To print from Shell, enter the PRINT command before launching Shell.

### MANAGING DIRECTORIES

Select directory	Click icon or name, or cursor to name
Create directory	<b>&lt;Tab&gt;</b> to Directory List, select parent, <b>File • Create Directory</b> , type name, OK
Delete empty directory	Select directory, <b>&lt;Delete&gt;</b> or <b>File • Delete</b>
Rename selected directory	<b>File • Rename</b> , type name, OK
Expand branch one level	Double-click parent; or select parent, <b>* or Tree • Expand One Level</b>
Expand branch fully	Select parent, <b>* or Tree • Expand Branch</b>
Expand all branches	<b>&lt;Ctrl&gt;-*</b> or <b>Tree • Expand All</b>
Collapse branch	<b>Tree • Collapse Branch</b>

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First name

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Last name

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Daytime phone number

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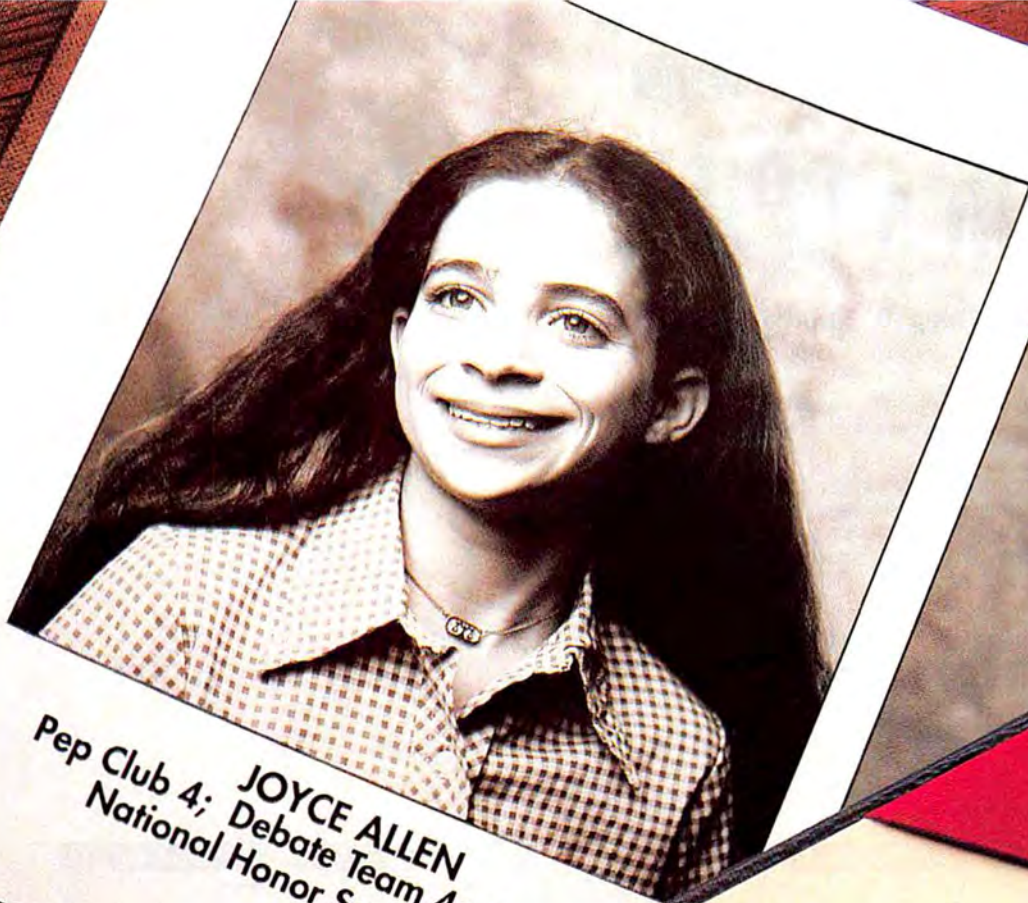
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Line Forms for New ValuePoints (page 50)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Norton 7.0 Enhances DOS 6 (page 54)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Beta Testers Give DOS 6 an A- (page 56)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
High-Res Printer in a 486 Note (page 58)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
DOS Word 6.0 Does Drag and Drop (page 60)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
New Products (page 67)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Marketplace (page 95)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
DOS 6: Do You Need It? (page 100)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Danger at Your Fingertips (page 118)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Work Smarter, Not Harder (page 168)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Help Line (page 224)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Spreadsheets (page 228)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Word Processing (page 236)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Windows (page 242)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Data Management (page 246)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Publishing & Presentations (page 252)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Star-Dot-Star (page 256)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Instant Reference Card: DOS 6.0 (page 263)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Business Fixtures (page 295)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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Home Office (page 302)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
HOW WOULD YOU RATE THIS ISSUE OVERALL?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

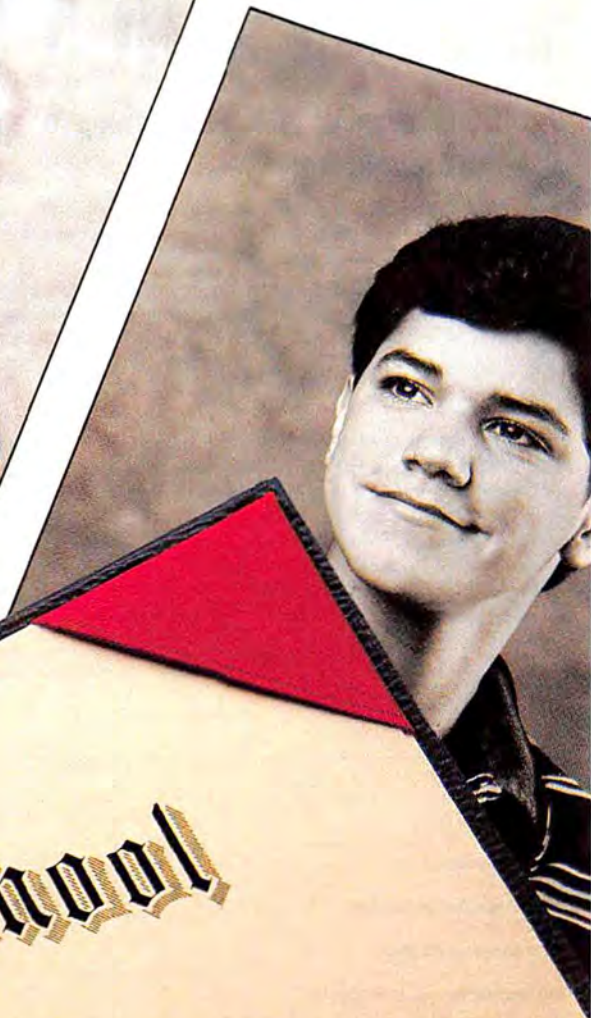
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 <p><b>\$4025</b></p> <p><b>Color 486 DX2-50 MHz</b> 16 MB RAM, 85 MB Hard Drive</p>	 <p><b>\$4125</b></p> <p><b>Color 486 DX2-50 MHz</b> 16 MB RAM, 120 MB Hard Drive</p>	 <p><b>\$4325</b></p> <p><b>Color 486 DX2-50 MHz</b> 16 MB RAM, 200 MB Hard Drive</p>	 <p><b>\$4425</b></p> <p><b>Color 486 DX2-50 MHz</b> 16 MB RAM, 240 MB Hard Drive</p>

Our competitors are introducing 486-powered notebooks with all kinds of fanfare and hoopla. As if 486 power in a notebook was new news. Before you buy that line, check out ours. We offer 36 different 486 DX notebook configurations. And all systems include Black Leather Carrying Case, External Numeric Keypad. Easy Access menu, MS DOS 5.0, MS Windows 3.1, Fastback Plus backup program, Untouchable Virus Protection program, ALL INSTALLED. **72 HR. FAST DELIVERY.** For sales and tech support departments call:



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Circle 28 on reader service card



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- One-year warranty
- Key Tronic Quality



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# PC WORLD

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For complete information on Catalog advertising, please call toll-free 800-262-9885 or 203/838-1425 Fax. PC World Catalog, c/o RAM, 50 Washington Street, South Norwalk, CT 06854.

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SALLY NAYLOR  
*Catalog Coordinator*  
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DEAN LUCENTE  
*Western Account Manager*  
203-857-5102

CHRIS KIMBALL  
*Eastern Account Manager*  
203-857-5101

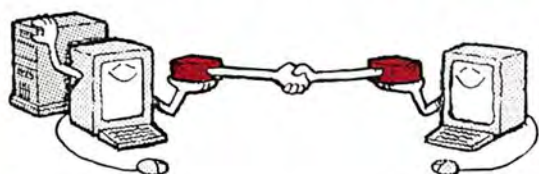
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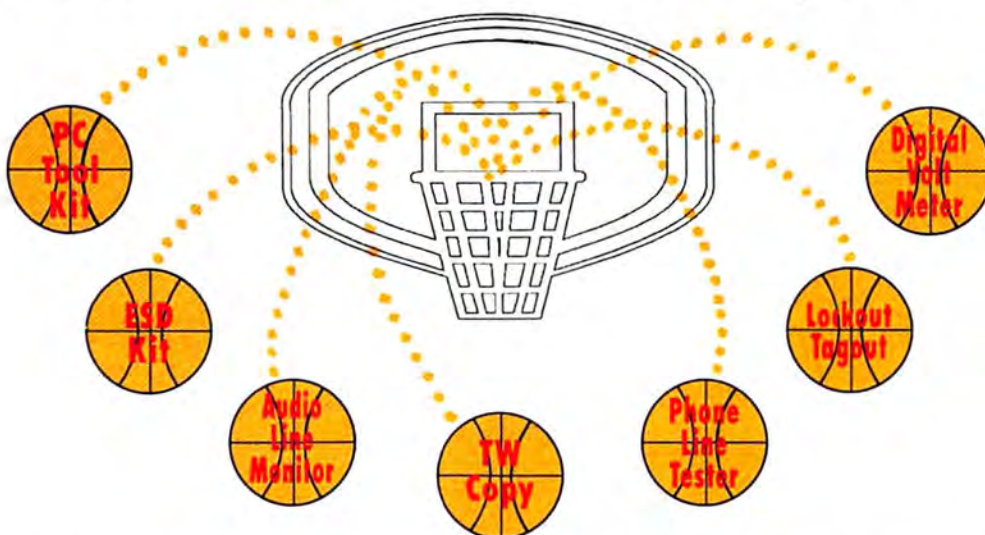
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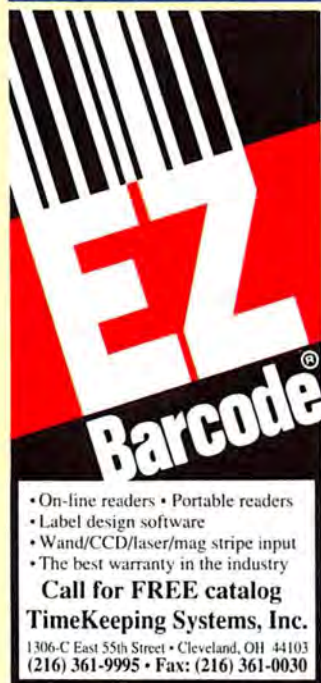
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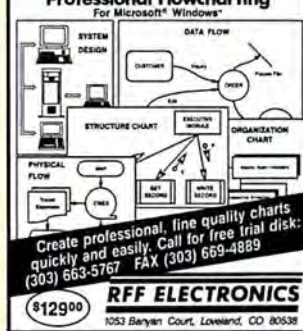
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- ✓ Newsstand up 28%

### Reader Response

- ✓ Over 1,000,000 Reader responses to ads in PC WORLD last year.

### Editorial Pages

- ✓ More editorial pages covering more products for managers.
- ✓ Focused on manager's needs: how to plan, buy and use.

### Advertising Pages

- ✓ Up 12% year-to-date.
- ✓ More advertisers are investing more ad pages in PC WORLD than ever before.

### More Managers Than Ever

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- ✓ 646,000 unduplicated management readers.

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8087-10	89.00
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8087-12	89.00
8087-13	89.00
8087-14	89.00
8087-15	89.00
8087-16	89.00
8087-17	89.00
8087-18	89.00
8087-19	89.00
8087-20	89.00
8087-21	89.00
8087-22	89.00
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8087-72	89.00
8087-73	89.00
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8087-82	89.00
8087-83	89.00
8087-84	89.00
8087-85	89.00
8087-86	89.00
8087-87	89.00
8087-88	89.00
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8087-91	89.00
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## Color Comes Out of the Darkroom

Color printing on the desktop is rapidly moving from charts and graphs to full photographic images, bringing darkroom power to PC users. Realtors can show prospective buyers scanned snapshots of homes. Attorneys and police use scanned images of crime and accident scenes in their work. Even my dentist thinks before-and-after color images of his work, printed on the bill, would soften its impact.

What will business users need to turn their PCs into photo darkrooms? Cutting-edge computing power, certainly. But they'll also need to rethink the way they approach their work. For example, I quickly learned a new way to fill 7.5MB of hard disk space fast: Use a 24-bit color scanner on a 2-inch-square snapshot at 800 dots per inch (dpi).

To gather hands-on experience with these new technologies, I began working with the outstanding Tektronix Phaser 200e color printer, using Mustek's ColorArtist Pro CG-8000 handheld 24-bit color scanner to gather the images. I edited them with U-Lead's *ImagePals* and Micrografx's *PhotoMagic* from the *Graphics Works for Windows* bundle. For descriptive text on my printouts, I tried out Agfa's *Discovery TrueType Pack*.

### Mustek ColorArtist Pro CG-8000

I've been using Mustek's CG-6000 18-bit color scanner for about a year. It produces good images, is easy to use, and comes with TWAIN-compliant software, meaning I can scan images from within any software that supports the popular TWAIN interface standard.

Mustek's new \$599 CG-8000 scanner delivers sharper, more detailed images than the CG-6000, but it sports one of the most poorly designed Windows software interfaces I've seen. Strange words and incomprehensible phrases, such as

'Warning' [sic] and 'The scanner starts to Warmup' seem to be trying to tell you what's happening. These puzzling messages are ironic, because the older scanner interface is smooth and intuitive. Nor does the updated software provide any way to interrupt a scan and preserve the portions of the image that are already read (the old software did). This means you must select the image size before initiating the scan and keep moving the scanner until you reach that size. Awkward, and hard on the wrist, too.

About that big 7.5MB file: Scanning an image at 800 dpi has little practical value for most users, because few output devices can handle such minute detail. Photographically, such high resolution is greater than the grain size of common enlarging papers. If you have images of comparable detail and really need such high resolution, then be prepared to work slowly. Color data mapping a 2-inch-square snapshot to produce a TIFF file took me 14 minutes! Later, I used *ImagePals*' JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) compression to reduce the file to 331K. (The CG-8000 ships with a "light edition" of Micrografx's *Picture Publisher*, called *Picture Publisher LE*, but that program is too stripped down for serious editing.)

Yes, I did try to use the older software with the new scanner, and no, it didn't work. Fortunately, the new software *does* work, and I was pleased with the images. In actual use, the CG-8000 warms up faster and appears to accept data faster than its predecessor. But please, Mustek, redo the software—and while you're at it, add JPEG file com-



pression support. As of this writing, though, I've reinstalled the CG-6000.

### U-Lead ImagePals and Micrografx PhotoMagic

It may seem strange to describe these two competing products in tandem, but I wouldn't be without either of them.

I was tipped to *ImagePals* by *PC World* senior features editor Steve Fox, who also finds it invaluable. Yet it's hard to find in stores, and little seems to be written about it. Maybe the name is too cute; it certainly doesn't suggest what a useful business tool *ImagePals* is.

*ImagePals* has an image editor (Enhancer), a screen capture module, and a slide-show feature, but its forte is the way it handles images, by means of an integrated tool named Album. Working across my LANtastic network, Album gathered thumbnail images of several hundred graphics files and presented me with an excellent display—21 images per screen—of all my TIFF, GIF, BMP, and JPG files. I printed the thumbnails and weeded out the images I'd scattered across nine hard drives and four machines over the past few years.

**"Foulks's Favorite"**  
Tektronix Phaser  
200e: Look, Ma,  
no acetic acid!

**By Thom Foulks**

With the Album module, I was able to create additional albums and move files to them selectively with drag-and-drop ease. Drag-and-drop is available throughout *ImagePals*; from within the Album display, it is easy to drag an image to—get this—*PhotoMagic* for an editing session. *ImagePals*' Tools menu allows easy addition of other applications, each displayed with its native icon.

After I completed the scanning and editing of a group of snapshots, it took only a couple of mouse clicks in Album to send them all to the printer in one batch. That's power and ease of use I hadn't realized I was missing.

*ImagePals* has its weaknesses: Oddly, in a program that handles color images well, the icons are all in gray scale. And the tool icons in its Enhancer module lack text descriptions, which leaves you searching through the 250-page manual trying to fathom which does what. Digging into the manual, though, is a good idea: It contains some of the best documentation I've seen, telling you not only what but often why and why not.

If your budget can tolerate only one graphics package, *ImagePals 1.2* is the choice. U-Lead has an introductory offer of only \$99 through the end of May; list price afterward will be \$249.

On the other hand, if you'd like to avoid using a manual and still get powerful color-graphics image editing, the choice is *PhotoMagic*. Within minutes of installing *PhotoMagic*, I had brightened the highlights in the eyes of someone in a snapshot and removed the reflection of the camera's flash (a dreary task that has cost me hours and innumerable unsuccessful prints in the darkroom).

*PhotoMagic* is the premier component of Micrografx's *Graphics Works* bundle. Also included are modules for drawing, charts and graphs, and slide-show presentations as well as thousands of clip art images (on the CD ROM version). Look for a street price of \$190 or so for the bundle (*PhotoMagic* alone costs about \$99 on the street). Compared to Micrografx's highly rated, high-end *Picture Publisher*, *PhotoMagic* delivers surprisingly strong functionality with a superbly intuitive interface (and a manual that's just over 1/4 inch thick).

## Agfa Discovery TrueType Pack

When Hewlett-Packard went looking for a print-scaling technology to build into its laser printers, it picked Intellifont from Agfa, so you would expect a TrueType font pack from Agfa to be at least a tad ahead of the competition. It is. The *Discovery* pack's 46 fonts include 15 clip art fonts, so called because each keystroke (or combination of keystrokes) can produce a separate, scalable, graphics image.

Agfa says the package has more than 1000 symbol graphics; luckily, the company provides a *Windows* file that displays the images along with the keystrokes that produce them. Among the text fonts, I particularly like the Revue Shadow font for captioning photos; and the typefaces in the Garth Graphic family can help you produce distinctive and coordinated correspondence.

But the real added value of this \$79 (list price) package lies in its help files. Printed documentation is only a small pamphlet. The help files, however, are well-illustrated examples of the fonts and how they should be used—recommended reading for anyone who's using scalable fonts.

## Tektronix Phaser 200e

I've saved the best for last. This \$3695 PostScript Level 2 or HP-GL printer is a winner. Its 17.5-by-13.4-inch footprint is smaller than that of the Panasonic KX-P4420 that usually sits on my printer stand, and its technology is at the cutting edge of low-cost color printing.

Avid photographers know the thrill of turning a mundane snapshot into a personal classic. That thrill is sweeter when the picture emerges from a printer on your desk, minus the aggravation of formaldehyde and acetic acid.

No, the output is not glossy-photo quality, but the 300-dpi prints rival magazine images, and my office has become a veritable photo gallery. (I usually give visitors a few moments to tour the display while I answer the inevitable questions: "You did these? Right here?")

Many of the prints are on laser-quality

bond paper. In an innovative twist on thermal-wax-printing technology, the Phaser 200e coats the paper's image area with wax prior to printing the color image. This process makes an odd sound. You'll wish Tektronix had put a transparent panel on the printer housing so you could observe the action. Due to the wax coating, the final image retains a glossiness, brightly saturated with color. The best prints, however,

**Photographers know the thrill of turning a photo into a classic. The thrill is sweeter when the picture emerges from your desktop printer.**

are on true thermal-wax paper or on dazzling overhead slide transparencies.

Tektronix estimates cost per printed image at about 56 cents on coated paper, 59 cents on laser bond—the price doesn't vary with image size as it does with ink jet color printers. The engine speed, rated at up to 2 pages per minute, of course varies with image size, density, and all the software factors that affect graphics printing. That meant printing some of my 8-by-10-inch snapshots took 20 minutes or longer, but I've spent hours in a darkroom to walk out with only *one* print to show for all that time.

Indeed, a Foulks Favorite. Any business in need of color graphics printing should look at the Phaser 200e.

### • ColorArtist Pro CG-8000 Scanner

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### • Discovery TrueType Pack Agfa

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### • ImagePals U-Lead Systems, Inc.;

800/858-5323

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*Thom Foulks is a contributing editor for PC World.*



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## The Children of Tetris

**L**ate in 1990, Microsoft, which is usually all business, put out its first *Entertainment Pack*. It was a collection of brilliant Windows-based coffee-break diversions that included several solitaire variations and a dangerously addictive amusement called Tetris, which had you rotate odd-shaped blocks as they fell from the top of the screen toward an irregular landscape below.

Now, roughly two years later, there are four *Entertainment Packs*, still \$39.95 a pop. Each has its own special charms and its own superstars, such as Tetris.

### Ooze It or Lose It

*EP 2* includes a couple of solitaire games, the best of which is a beautifully conceived logic puzzle called FreeCell—the only game Microsoft plans to include with Windows NT. Unlike most other solitaire games, virtually every game can be won—if you deduce the right strategy. In addition, you get a PC version of mah-jongg, plus Rattler-Race, one of those hair-trigger-reflex exercises in which you use the cursor keys to help a snake eat a bunch of apples. Rodent's Revenge is a clever cat-and-mouse game in which the mouse gets to zap those nasty cats by pushing around rows of blocks to form cat traps.

The most dangerous game in *EP 2* is Pipe Dream, licensed from LucasArts. A faucet appears in the middle of the screen and begins to ooze goo. Meanwhile, a series of odd-shaped pipes appear at the side of the screen. Some are vertical, some are horizontal, some are curved. You use your mouse to place each new section of pipe—the idea being to route the oozing goo to a special exit. Sounds easy, right? I started fooling around with this game, and when I looked up from the PC, 2 hours had disappeared! If I had a skull-and-crossbones icon, I'd use it here.

**By Michael Goodwin**

### Beware the Hungry Yeti

*EP 3* includes a Vegas-style solitaire game called TriPeaks. Sure, it's just another solitaire game, but this one is a charmer. The rest of the games are more unusual, and a couple are very sophisticated.

SkiFree is essentially mindless: You control a skier shooshing down a slope, using your cursor keys to avoid trees, dogs, and other skiers. The only amusement

came when I climbed high above the starting line and got eaten by a yeti.

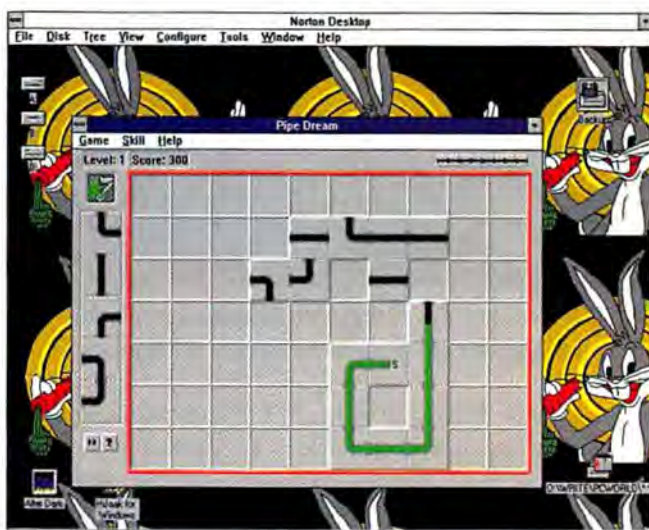
Things improve with Klotski, a mind-bender that may hold your interest for hours while you try to free a red block by moving blue ones out of the way.

The big winners of *EP 3* are WordZap and Fuji Golf. WordZap is gripping as well as being a great vocabulary builder. You get between 8 and 15 random letters, from which you must create seven different words. But you're in a race with the computer, and if either of you comes up with a word that the other has already used, that word drops out of play. You can also play against another human being if you connect your PCs with a null modem cable.

Fuji Golf is a great simulation set on an 18-hole Japanese golf course. You can select clubs, estimate distance, direction, and wind, and choose how hard to hit the ball. There's only a theoretical connection to real golf, but I did discover one strong similarity: Fuji Golf is amazingly relaxing.

### Hello Central, Give Me Dr. Black Jack

*EP 4* is the latest in the series and uses the sound capabilities of Windows 3.1. Not all of the games here are soul-shakers, of course, but you do get three that are marvelous. Dr. Black Jack is a



casino blackjack simulation, with one sensational variation: If you like, the Doc will tutor you in winning game strategy—including card-counting—while you play. Chip's Challenge is an adventure game in which you make your way through a huge set of rooms on countless levels, collecting chips, overcoming obstacles, and eluding tanks, fireballs, bear traps, and a menagerie of monsters. Clever sound effects and simple animation make the adventure even more charming. This one alone is worth the price of admission.

But *Entertainment Pack 4*'s pièce de résistance is...Chess. That's right, a full-featured computer chess program—only slightly less sophisticated than games costing upwards of \$100. You get hints, an on-screen clock, a display of threatened pieces, even speech synthesis. Five levels of play make it easy for anyone to win; even I was able to beat the computer (once).

### Take Me Out to the Joystick

It's that time of year when even folks whose baseball gloves are *way* back in

Pipe Dream deserves a skull-and-crossbones icon. Don't start this habit-forming game if you have deadlines pending.



**HARDBALL III'S BUILT-IN TV DIRECTOR** automatically cuts into multiple-image close-ups to guarantee a view of all the action.

the closer grow sentimental at the crack of the bat. This season you can indulge your sentiment with *Al Michaels Announces HardBall III*.

This highly realistic simulation lets you pitch, bat, and field in eight major league ballparks—and manage a team through an entire 162-game season, complete with an

batter's or pitcher's point of view or lets the computer switch back and forth to follow the play best. The on-screen action looks great as long as you're focused on the batter or the pitcher; base running and fielding animation is crude. The teams look more like *Ms. Pac-Man* than big leaguers.

Al Michaels' play-by-play commentary is

all-star game, play-offs, and a World Series. If you pony up an extra \$25 for the *MLBPA Players Disk*, you'll be able to populate those games with members of last season's 26 major league teams—650 players, complete with faces and statistics. The game works great using the keyboard, but a joystick will make the process more fun.

*HardBall III* shows the action from the

one of the game's selling points, but while the veteran sportscaster's voice is recognizable, the software that assembles his bits and bytes needs a *lot* of work. The result sounds like HAL with a lobotomy.

If you ever dig out that glove, *HardBall III* may even improve your game. It does a great job of letting you analyze the breaking pitch in that fraction of a second before you swing—or don't swing. Despite the mechanical commentary and uneven animation, it succeeds in combining the joys of watching a ballgame and playing in one.

• **Microsoft Entertainment Packs 1.0**  
volumes 1 through 4 \$39.95 each;  
Microsoft Corp.; 800/426-9400  
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• **Al Michaels Announces HardBall III**  
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*Michael Goodwin is a contributing editor for PC World. He can be reached as MGOODWIN on PC World Online (see page 10 for more information).* ■

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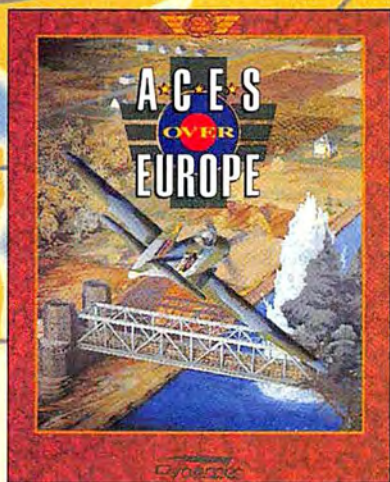
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## Quick Edits for Small Documents

**M**ore and more, I find myself having to write short unformatted documents—such items as reminder notes, E-mail messages, and batch files. Loading a word processor for these simple chores is a waste of time (*WordPerfect* is annoying enough, but bringing *Ami Pro* up on my underpowered computer seems to take years), and having to save its output as a straight ASCII file is a nuisance. What's more, I don't want a big program hanging around, taking up precious resources, for an occasional two-paragraph memo.

### Straight and Simple Text

For the last year I've been playing with text editors for these quick jobs because they're light and nimble, letting me get in, do the work, and move on to other projects. I also save seeds of time because I'm less likely to futz around with dozens of fonts, trying to create fancy memos that take an hour to design and 5 minutes to read. And the text editors I use—in *Windows* and in *DOS*—are either already on your hard disk or just a quick download away.

If you're using *DOS 5.0*, you can get into a text editor simply by typing **EDIT** at the *DOS* prompt (make sure your *DOS* directory is in your *PATH*). *DOS*'s **EDIT** has mouse support, a context-sensitive help system, and some limited *Word* and *WordStar* keystrokes. While it's better than *EDLIN* (isn't everything?), don't expect anything fancy: There are no word wrap or page break functions, no macro features, and very few shortcut keys. You'll also get a silly 'Press Enter to see the Survival Guide' message whenever you load **EDIT** without a file name parameter. And make sure that *DOS*'s *QBASIC.EXE* is also in a directory in your *PATH*, because **EDIT** won't run without it.

But listen, there's something better. I

use SemWare's *QEdit*, a shareware text-editing prize, because it's stuffed with handy features. To start with, not only can I edit multiple files, but I can load them all with one command from the *DOS* prompt. For instance, I can bring up both *AUTOEXEC.BAT* and *CONFIG.SYS* with **Q C:\AUTOEXEC.BAT CONFIG.SYS**, or load all my batch files with **Q C:\BATCH\\*.BAT**.

*QEdit* also has exceptionally flexible keyboard configuration and a powerful macro language, letting me assign editor commands and macros to almost any key. I've assigned keys—using a simple ASCII file—to duplicate the best keystrokes of *WordStar* and *WordPerfect*, saving my fingers from having to learn anything new.

*QEdit* is a small program—the EXE file takes up only 45K—perfect for a notebook or palmtop. There's also a TSR version that needs a measly 9K of conventional memory, provided you have expanded or extended memory.

- *QEdit Advanced* \$54.95, SemWare; 404/641-9002, 404/640-6213 (fax), 404/641-8968 (BBS). Find *QEDIT-215.ZIP* on *PC World Online* and other on-line services. Reader service no. 723

### Graphical Text

When I use *Windows*, *Notepad* and *Write* are surprisingly good for most jobs and, coming free in the box, they're priced just right. But if I'm juggling four or more text files, I turn to Computer Witchcraft's *Mega Edit*, because it's not only capable of loading 25 files at once, but it also lets me split the screen and edit two files together. *Mega Edit* has virtually no limit on file size, so I can work easily with a 2MB, comma-delimited mailing list file. And if you ever need to edit, import, or export a Unix or Macintosh text file, *Mega Edit* will gladly oblige.

- *Mega Edit* \$35.50, Computer Witchcraft; 415/752-2477, 415/752-8971 (fax). Available as *MEGAED.ZIP* on *PC*



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However you create your text files, you may want to proof them occasionally. To make sure these documents are error free, take a look at *ShareSpell*, a \$20 shareware spelling checker. Don't let the low price fool you—*ShareSpell*'s 112,000-word dictionary is surprisingly fast and accurate for document checking. And for keeping your grammar in line, consider *PC-Proof*, which prevents my participles from dangling and keeps my infinitives unsplit. Both *ShareSpell* and *PC-Proof* are *DOS* programs, by the way; I've yet to find *Windows* proofing tools at such bargain-basement prices.

- *ShareSpell* \$20, Acropolis Software. Available as *SS24B.ZIP* on *PC World Online* and other on-line services.
- *PC-Proof* \$40, Intellect Systems; 206/226-0429. Find *PCPROF15.ZIP* on *PC World Online* and other on-line services. Reader service no. 725

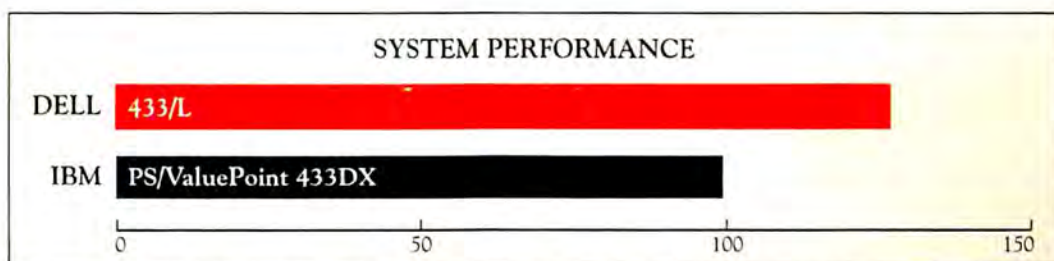
Sure, I know you love your word processor—I wouldn't abandon mine either. But for knocking out those quick jobs, nothing beats a text editor.

Contributing Editor Steve Bass is the president of the Pasadena IBM Users Group. He can be reached as PCW STEVE on *PC World Online* (see page 10 for more information).

DAVID CSIKO

By Steve Bass

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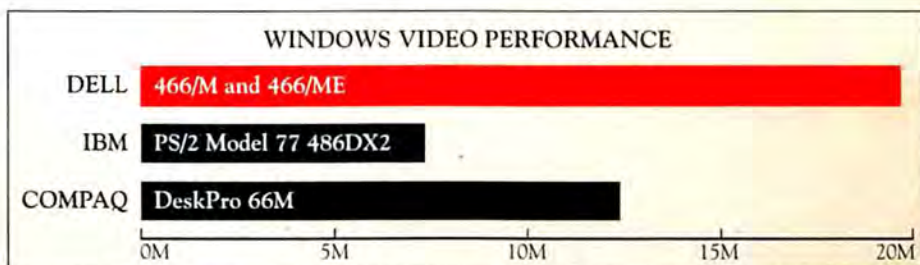
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# COMPAQ'S AND IBM'S VIDEO IS BEHIND THE TIMES.



Performance measured by running WINBENCH version 3.1 at 640 x 480, 256 colors. Results measured in millions of WINMARKS. Results for IBM and Compaq as published by PC Magazine in issue dated January 26, 1993. Results for Dell 466/M and 466/ME provided by Dell Performance Measurement Lab, January 1993. DeskPro 66M configured with 8MB RAM, 210MB IDE HD, QVision 1024/E controller with 1MB VRAM. PS/2 model 77 486DX2 configured with 8MB RAM, 400MB SCSI HD, XGA-2 with 1MB VRAM and 256KB cache. 466/M and 466/ME both configured with 8MB RAM, 170MB IDE HD, local bus video with 1MB VRAM, and 128KB cache.

Our Dell 466/M and 466/ME with over 19 million WinMarks, out ran the Compaq DeskPro 66M with QVision and IBM PS/2 Model 77 486 DX2 with XGA-2. That means we're up to 57% faster than QVision and up to 174%



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