VIS\ Bridge/SORT, utility for sorting VisiCalc

By John V. Leonard

Any time you mess with a classic, you have to be careful. VisiCalc, by conscious design, is one of the microcomputers industry's classic software success stories.

The program implements an electronic spreadsheet on a variety of microcomputers from Apples to IBM's VisiCalc is simple to use, relatively powerful and instantly intelligible, hence its great success in convincing consumers that microcomputers are useful tools.

The original and its revisions have some missing features that users seem to need, however. The program does not let you define columns of different widths on the same spreadsheet or allow you to sort columns or rows once they are entered into the worksheet.

VIS\ Bridge/SORT, a utility program for VisiCalc, attempts to solve the sorting problem.

FEATURES: VIS\ Bridge/SORT allows you to sort the rows or columns of a VisiCalc worksheet in ascending or descending order, alphabetically or numerically, using one to five sort columns or rows. You can sort any portion of the worksheet simply by defining the rectangle you are interested in.

That's it. What could be more straightforward?

PERFORMANCE: VIS\ Bridge/SORT does exactly what it promises. It sorts the spreadsheet by rows or columns, in ascending or descending order, with one to five sort columns, alphabetically or numerically. There are some peculiarities that need to be emphasized, however.

First, the program sorts any column or row that has a nonnumeric entry as if it were numeric: Thus, if you set up a spreadsheet with any number of rows, such as a list of dashes,
Firm responds to VIS/Bridge/SORT review

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the review of our VIS/Bridge/SORT product. Although your reviewer chose to use the IBM version of this product, it is also available for the Apple II Plus and IIc, the Apple III and the TRS-80 Models I, III, 4 and 4B. It works with both Advanced VisiCalc and the earlier version of VisiCalc.

I'm glad that your reviewer found VIS/Bridge/SORT for those who use VisiCalc and need the ability to sort rows and columns. VISI

simple does not sort at all without an enhancement like ours. Moving the rows or columns of a spreadsheet by hand is an extremely laborious process.

For many busy professionals, the price of not having VISI/Bridge/SORT is higher than the price of having it.

Tom Deluca, President
Solutions, Inc.

Response

about the price of the product. He does not point out that this price includes 30 days of free telephone support from the developers whether the product is bought through a store or directly. We design our products for people to whom professional quality and strong support are more important than rock-bottom prices.

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