

good rating for ease of use.

**ERROR HANDLING:** Prime Time provides on-screen error messages whenever you select an incorrect command. You can select three different levels of error and warning messages, allowing you to reduce the messages you encounter as you become more familiar with the program. No matter how we tried to cross up the program, we could not enter an inappropriate command.

On the other hand, it is possible to delete information accidentally. Pressing F8 will delete the currently highlighted entry without requiring confirmation. Someone not paying attention could wipe out an important entry.

Should a power failure damage a Prime Time database, a utility is provided that will reconstruct your database.

In most situations, Prime Time's error handling is quite good, and we are particularly impressed by the multiple

levels of error messages. We are concerned, though, that you can accidentally delete an entry. But the fact that you can delete only single entries and not the entire file, thus limiting the damage, allows us to rate error handling as satisfactory.

**SUPPORT:** Wiseware offers a 30-day money-back guarantee with Prime Time. With the release of Version 1.12, all copy protection has been removed, a welcome decision.

When we first received Prime Time, we thought we had a problem with the screen highlighting feature, which indicates the active entry. A toll call to Wiseware technical support quickly revealed that our problem resulted from incorrect contrast

and brightness adjustments on our monochrome monitor rather than a program bug. During this and subsequent calls, we discussed the program at length and received good explanations of the program's operation.

The phone support staff is available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Pacific time. Users are entitled to unlimited phone support.

Because of the money-back guarantee, the good phone support, and the lack of copy protection, we rate support as very good.

**VALUE:** At \$99.95, Prime Time is a fully featured time management tool. Unlike other programs that promised to get us organized, Prime Time actually did.

We found that Prime Time provided us with the motivation and the means to organize the major functions on our desk.

Prime Time works, and it's worth every nickel. While using Prime Time, we not only were able to more effectively utilize our time, but we were able to gain greater control over assignments we had given to coworkers, as well.

In all respects, we consider Prime Time to be a very good value.

*Frank M. Tansey is a university administrator. He has been working with computers since 1966 and teaches computer application classes.*

**DVORAK SAYS:** "I advise you to run (don't walk) to the phone or Post Office and order a copy of the Mace Utilities for the IBM PC"

InfoWorld, 3-24-86

**MACE UTILITIES™**

**Eliminate Hard Disk Risks!**

**UNFORMAT** recovers from an accidental FORMAT of your hard disk. (It's not magic, it just seems like it.)

**UNDELETE** gets back deleted files with four keystrokes.

**REMEDY** automatically finds and cures bad spots on the disk. Moves endangered files to a safe place.

**Optimize Hard Disk Performance!**

**CONDENSE** unfragments any disk, from 160K to 32 megabytes at a rate of 1-2 minutes per megabyte.

**CF** Just as fast on a full disk.  
**CD** Doubles the speed at which programs load, find and store data by placing files in one physical piece on the disk, reorganizing directories, data and free space into separate blocks.

**SQUEEZE/SORT** sorts directories on any field.  
**CS** Speeds up the path by squeezing deleted references from your directories.

Paul Mace Software  
206 Alicia Ave.  
Ashland, OR 97520  
(503) 488-0224

\$69.95 Visa, MC, Check  
Order Toll Free  
1-800-523-0258

**InfoWorld**

REPORT CARD

PERFORMANCE SOFTWARE  
**PRIME TIME**

<b>7.0</b>							
		Unacceptable	Poor	Satisfactory	Very Good	Excellent	
Performance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Documentation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ease of Learning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ease of Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Error Handling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Value	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Copyright © 1986 by Wiseware, Inc. All rights reserved. This software is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. No other part of this software may be reproduced without written permission from Wiseware, Inc. 3176 Pullman St., Suite 106, Costa Mesa, CA 92626. (714) 554-6523.

## Micropro's Easy Extra: Ease of Use Best Feature

By John Lombardi  
Review Board

Yes, the name is cute, but the program really is easy. Micropro, the company that brought us Wordstar (the original powerful word processor) and Wordstar 2000 (an office behemoth), has upgraded its ease-of-use word processor to add desirable features without detracting from its essential simplicity.

Intended for casual word processing, Easy Extra is easy with a vengeance. It cares for you, shelters you, coddles you, and helps you in every way imaginable. You can put it down for months and then pick it up and write a short letter or a lengthy report without having to relearn everything. Newly added features include an elaborate but easy-to-use mail-merge module, better cursor handling, Document Content Architecture (DCA) compatibility, and the capability to read Lotus' 1-2-3 data files into your letters.

**FEATURES:** Easy Extra is composed of Easy, the word processor/spelling checker also available separately for \$99, and Easymail, a new mail-merge facility, to form a complete \$149 package. Easy Extra runs on IBM PC-compatible computers with two floppy disk drives, though disk access is frequent enough that a hard disk drive is desirable. The word processing program needs less than 200K of memory, but the spelling checker and mailing list manager each use another 350K, for a total

of just under 900K of your hard disk. The on-disk tutorial is another 320K, but that's usually temporary. On a floppy disk system, you'll be swapping disks when you use the dictionary or mailing program. Release 1.50 requires a minimum of 256K of memory. We reviewed it on a hard disk PC with 640K to test the program.

Easy Extra falls into a special category of basic word processors. The issue is not cost. There are more powerful and more feature-filled programs that are less expensive, like PC-Write 2.6, or only slightly more expensive, like Volkswriter 3. But, like its chief rival, PFS Write, Easy Extra is selling ease of learning and use.

Comparing features with a high-end product like Wordperfect 4.1 highlights this difference. Easy Extra lacks, for example, math, thesaurus, multiline headers and footers, footnotes, multi-level Undelete, widow and orphan protection, index and table of contents generation, keyboard macros, hyphenation or soft hyphens, newspaper-style multiple columns, sorting of lines and paragraphs, and split screen or windows. Furthermore, a number of Easy Extra features are less sophisticated than those in full-feature programs. Search and Replace, for example, lacks wild cards.

While Easy Extra lacks numerous options and refinements, it has more than merely the minimum features required for word processing. It will handle correspondence, normal reports and documents, reasonably sophisticated mailing lists, and other document preparation tasks. Its limitations have more to do with the complexity and depth of features than with the size of the project possible.

Easy Extra can handle documents of almost any size, limited by available disk space. If those documents are relatively simple in format and structure, Easy Extra can handle them gracefully. But complex formatting and editing chores exceed the capabilities of the system.

Easy Extra has excellent file handling capabilities, a very elegant user interface, and outstanding help screens. It is menu driven, although you can bypass the menus by using a combination of function and letter keys. Editing commands include all the basics for moving, deleting, copying, and inserting. However, the (infamous) Wordstar control key editing commands did not survive the transition to Easy Extra, an absence that might be lamented by old-timers. A one-level Undelete is offered, as well as one-line headers and footers.

Easy Extra is much easier to use than Wordperfect or Wordstar 2000, and that is the major feature of this program.

**PERFORMANCE:** Easy Extra performs with reasonable speed and style. Its approach to editing is clean, with a simple ruler line at the top of the screen and clear indication of page, line, and column, plus a constant reminder of the three keys used to invoke the important menus: F1 for help, F2 for all menus, and Esc to get back to where you started. (You can turn off the reminding prompt.)

## The Best WordPerfect Training

Now you can learn WordPerfect *faster, better, and at lower cost* than ever before. You learn by doing. Much better than the manual and far superior to the WP tutorial, The All Hands On WordPerfect Learning Disk takes you from novice to proficiency in 3 easy lessons. See why leading companies throughout the country are switching to Retrieval Technology Products. The All Hands On WordPerfect Learning Disk only costs \$49.95. To order send check/MC/Visa or call: Retrieval Technology Corp. 3 Courthouse Lane, Chelmsford, MA 01824 (617)458-1130x107

The sci and typing cursor mo' release he Reform on formed p separate n paragraph centricity individual Easy deleting c Cursor to Delete W Easy F and formu facing, an (numeric quickly. / program avoid sign ness occ menus, v fully dew use the c require a machine, with a fl the delc other re prompt u

Micropro  
journal

The screen scrolls reasonably quickly, and typing is quick and efficient. The slow cursor movement that plagued the original release has been corrected. With Auto Reform on, editing changes result in a reformed paragraph on the screen. No separate reformatting is required to get the paragraph correctly re-formed. Some eccentricities we noted while reformatting individual lines were fixed as well.

Easy Extra lacks some editing and deleting commands, including Delete From Cursor to End of Line and, more important, Delete Word.

Easy Extra handles the standard editing and formatting tasks — underlining, boldfacing, and creating margins and columns (numeric and text) — predictably and quickly. Although not a speed demon, the program nonetheless works fast enough to avoid significant delays. The only sluggishness occurs when you move within the menus, when you access the complex and fully developed help system, or when you use the dictionary because these activities require a lot of disk access. On a hard-disk machine, these delays are not significant; with a floppy disk-based system, though, the delays are much more noticeable. In other respects, the program can provide patient users with acceptable performance

on a floppy system.

The Easy Extra spelling checker works quite well. It is based on Correctstar, a fine Micropro spelling checker. The user interface has been improved, and the 87,000-word dictionary is the equivalent of most current word processing spellers. However, the dictionary does not handle plurals well, and it failed to recognize the words *Micropro*, *Wordstar*, *undelete*, *mailmerge*, and *Easymail*.

Easymail, the list-processing system that forms part of Easy Extra, is a fixed-format mailing list manager. It has a standard form with a considerable number of fields — such as name, address, salutation, keywords, and notes — that offer the possibility of designing relatively complex mailing label systems. To avoid complexity, however, the form cannot be altered. Likewise, the printing options, while including a variety of formats for reports, lists, labels, and envelopes, give you no direct way to modify the output.

As a mailing list manager, Easymail performs well. It does a good job of integrating mailing list information into form letters. However, the sort routine can sort only by one field, and it is case sensitive. (Mary Jones will not sort next to MARY JONES.) Easymail is scaled about

right as a matching program for Easy, and should take care of the mailing list needs of the user for which this kind of package is intended.

Reformatting is limited. If you wish to change the margins for an entire document, you must issue the Document Reformat command paragraph by paragraph to match the new margins throughout the entire file. Unlike Wordstar, Easy offers no way of automatically repeating the reformat command to speed up the task.

Justification of text is done using whole spaces, rather than the fractional spaces offered by microspaced justification. Consequently, right-justified text is not attractive.

With Easy, you can read in a 1-2-3 or a Symphony data (WKS) file; it is converted automatically to text. This makes it very easy to insert charts up to 240 columns wide in your documents.

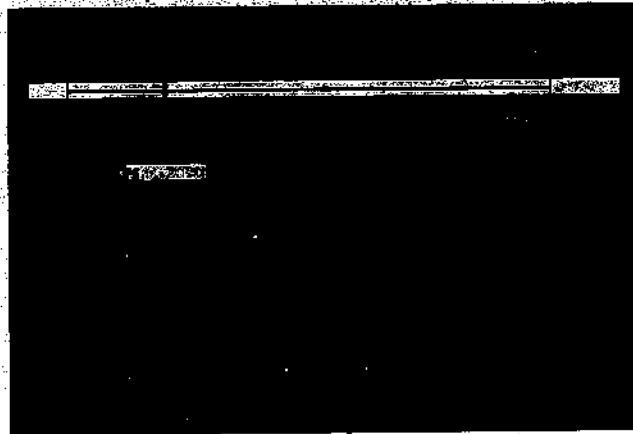
Easy Extra's commands are highly

consistent; it accomplishes tasks in a straightforward manner and is graceful in operation. The program offers more than it needs to offer for a basic word processor, without losing sight of its primary goal of keeping things simple and easy.

On the downside, the size of the overall program is a disappointment. The casual user with a hard drive will resent losing 5 percent or 10 percent of a typical hard drive's capacity before the first document has been created.

Rated as basic software (software designed to be simple and easy to use), Easy Extra does a very good job in a graceful and consistent way and includes mailing list management and DCA compatibility. We rate it very good in performance.

**DOCUMENTATION:** Easy Extra's documentation consists of a clearly written and amply illustrated word processing manual of less than 100 pages, a printer pamphlet with descriptions of what each



Micropro's Easy Extra combines an easy-to-use word processor with Easymail, a fixed-format mail-merge facility with single-field sorting and mailing label capabilities.

## Sudden AT Death. What Would You Do?



**Y**ou're on your AT™ computer and suddenly it starts to happen. Your computer starts providing information because your AT battery is dying. The simplest data, like the time and date, becomes a struggle. All vital signs start fading from the screen. Without action, the victim will soon lapse into unconsciousness.

- Clock/calendar function fades and disappears
- Configuration files vanish
- Steps to Take in Case of Sudden AT Death
- Do not panic
- Do not move injured computer
- No need to call repairman
- No need to call manufacturer

### What would you do?

Until recently you would have been powerless to save your AT computer. Replacement batteries were not readily available. All you could do was stand by helplessly as your computer's life source drained away. But now, with the help of IBC, you can resurrect your AT, by using IBC's simple method of CPR — Computer Resuscitation. Just plug in one of IBC's new Tadiran high-energy lithium batteries, and your AT will have a new lease on life.

Just call IBC, and you will get immediate shipment of your new Tadiran AT replacement battery. The life you save will be your computer's.



Corporate quantity discount available.

**Don't delay. Order today.**

Shipping \$3.00 per battery.

**FREE**

Shipping through August 31, 1986.

Please send me an IBC AT Battery for \$27.50

(CA residents add 6.5% for sales tax)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

State of Computer: \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed  Make money order or check payable to International Battery Corporation

Bill me on this order

Card expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need a catalog?  Yes  No

Please send me a copy of your International Battery Corporation

6860 Carby Ave. #113, Reseda, CA 91335 (TLX 8976427 • )

To order call: (800) 225-8359 CA

(908) 854-3798 US

Other inquiries call: (918) 889-8518

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The Tadiran Replacement Battery from IBC saves you from an inevitable crisis. Every one of the million ATs, compatibles and clones in use today will face this emergency in the coming months. It could happen a few weeks from now, or maybe in a year. The lifespan of currently installed batteries varies from one month to 3 years.

Don't let time run out on your computer. Protect against down time!

Buy an IBC battery now, so you always have a back-up.

- IBC Battery Features:**
- Meets or exceeds all manufacturer's specifications
  - Warranted for in-use life of 3 years
  - 10-year shelf-life
  - For IBM/AT, Compaq 286 series, and all other AT compatibles and clones
  - Easy to install

If your computer should exhibit the following warning signs, you must take action immediately!

IBC is an approved trademark of International Battery Corporation. Compaq and AT are registered trademarks of Compaq Computer Corp.

**ORDER TODAY**  
CALL TOLL FREE  
**800-258-0028**

**BASF FlexyDisks**  
LIFETIME WARRANTY  
CERTIFIED 100% ERROR FREE

**HOT SUMMER SAVERS**  
5 1/4" DOUBLE SIDED DOUBLE DENSITY DISKETTES  
SPECIALLY PRICED AT

38¢ Each QTY 100	36¢ Each QTY 500	33¢ Each QTY 1000
------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------

5 1/4" DISKETTES WITH HIR TABS — STURDY IN MR. SACKET  
75 PER FACTORY SEALED POLYPAKCS

**IF YOU NEED THE "EXTRAS"**

<b>DATA CASE</b> For 5 1/4" Disks Model 10	<b>TYPE ENVELOPES</b> 5" Floppy Disks Case
--	--

<p>Color-Card Laser Labels</p> <p>1-4 Pkg. \$2.85</p> <p>5-Pkg. \$2.45</p>	<p>1-4 Pkg. \$2.95</p> <p>5-Pkg. \$2.45</p>	<p>5" Floppy Disks</p> <p>Projects data from hard and soft disk drives. Case opens quickly and has built-in the long-life MASC from IBM 100% reliability.</p> <p>Delivered Pkg. \$12.95</p>
--	---	---

Minimum order \$25.00. Cash order or money order only. Shipping and handling \$4.00 per 100 items. International 1.5% + \$10.00 per 100 orders. There is an ordering charge for our products. Storage orders, please call for shipping charges. C.O.D. and 10-day Cash on delivery not available. Please allow 4-6 weeks for shipping of our products. A 30-DAY RETURN POLICY applies.

**90 DAY SATISFACTION GUARANTEE!**

**Precision Data Products**  
P.O. Box 8187, Grand Rapids, MI 49510  
1-800-453-3457 • Michigan 1-268-417-3464  
Outside Michigan 1-202-338-0028

COD

supported printer can do, and a manual for the mailing list system that is also less than 100 pages. Because of the outstanding help system and the carefully designed user interface, the lack of comprehensive documentation is not a major problem. It is quite possible to use this program out of the box with only a brief look at the documentation.

The on-line help is good. The help screens are informative and well-designed. No references to the manual are needed in most cases. Because the program is less complex than a heavyweight word processing program, the on-line help can be a virtually complete reference to the program. The careful design of the help system surely represents a major strength of this program. Easymail also has very good on-line help.

Unfortunately, Easy Extra's relentless campaign to reduce instructions to the bare minimum has led to the exclusion of some useful, and in at least one case essential, technical information. The documentation includes no information on the relationship between disk space, backup files, and maximum document size per floppy disk; this is important because Easy consumes a lot of disk space with backup files and scratch files. The installation process modifies or creates a configuration file, but this information does not appear in the manual's installation section. (Instead, it is elsewhere.)

Although there is considerable information about printers and their capabilities, the manuals fail to indicate that some serial printers (in our case the Diablo 630) require the Operating System Mode command to be issued prior to running Easy Extra in order to set up the serial port correctly. If this is not done, Easy Extra does not set the port correctly, and the

printer will not work properly. Despite these few minor omissions, the superb on-line help and the clarity of the manuals earn the documentation a very good rating.

**EASE OF LEARNING:** It comes as no surprise to find that Easy Extra is easy to learn. One requires practically no training to begin using this program. The disk-based tutorial is outstanding, carefully paced, clearly presented, and complete. Once you have completed the tutorial, the manual becomes virtually superfluous, and the menus and context-sensitive help screens provide the assistance you need to finish learning the program.

Because of the superb disk-based tutorial and superlative on-line help, Easy Extra earns an excellent rating for ease of learning.

**EASE OF USE:** Although Easy Extra permits graceful movement within a document, handles most formatting chores

quickly and easily, and supports practically every printer known to exist, the incapability to reformat an entire document represents a significant flaw in ease of use. What reduces the importance of this shortcoming is our presumption that users of basic word processing programs are likely to write short documents at one margin setting.

Another drawback is the limited Delete options, especially the lack of a Delete Word command.

There is also a minor quirk in the insert mode. You can't insert a carriage return; instead, you must use a special command, Control-Return. Otherwise, pressing the return key while the cursor is in the middle of text just moves the cursor down to the beginning of the next line. Micropro says research shows that novices find this approach less confusing. However, it is sufficiently unconventional that it confused us.

Despite these shortcomings, the good

design, carefully thought-out menu system, and the fine help screens earn Easy Extra a very good rating for ease of use.

**ERROR HANDLING:** We threw practically every error we could at Easy Extra. We left drive doors open, turned the machine off in midedit, and tried to enter as many erroneous codes as possible. Easy Extra handled them all with aplomb.

Catastrophic events such as power loss or restarting will cause you to lose only the edits currently in memory that you have not saved. Because Easy Extra, like Wordstar, edits a copy of the file rather than the original, the original file is not affected. Easy Extra automatically makes backup copies every time you save. Although this requires extra disk space, it does provide considerable security for documents. This backup process cannot be defeated.

Disk drive errors produce an error message that permits recovery. The most

Easy Extra experienced

# Smarts.



**InfoWorld**

REPORT CARD

VALUE SOFTWARE  
**EASY EXTRA**

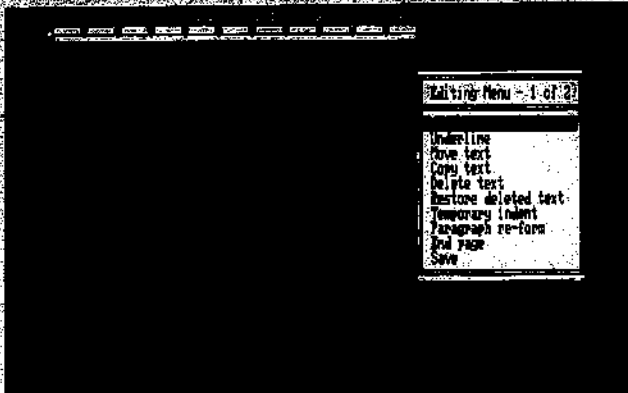
**7.2**

	Unacceptable	Poor	Satisfactory	Very Good	Excellent
Performance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Documentation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ease of Learning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ease of Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Error Handling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Value	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Easy Extra is a medium-feature word processing program with mailing list capability. Aimed at the ease-of-use market, it has an outstanding user interface, superior help system, excellent document handling and printer support, and is a snap to learn. Recommended for simple documents, form letters, or mailing list management. Not copy-protected.

**Model: EASY103**  
 List price, \$149. Version tested (1.50) available for the IBM PC, PC XT, PC AT, and compatibles running PC- or MS-DOS 2.1 or later. Requires 256K of RAM, two floppy disk drives. Includes Easymail 1.0 mailing list/letter manager, dictionary. Easy word processor alone available for \$99. Micropro International Corp., 33 San Pablo Ave., San Rafael, CA 94903; (415) 499-1200.

Lil  
his  
Pr  
pr  
-e  
lig  
con  
An  
Ea  
Ass  
cle  
Ge  
Ify  
bet  
you  
mir  
En  
wat  
and  
son  
mg  
Sep



Easy Extra is a menu-driven program with an on-screen prompt for ease of use, but experienced users can bypass menus through a combination of function and letter keys.

recent block deletion may be restored. Erroneous keystrokes in response to prompts or menu choices cause no difficulties. We tried to crash this program and failed. We did have some difficulty recovering from a printer error caused by the incapability of Easy Extra to set the serial port, but we did eventually recover without losing any text.

We could not crash the program, and we liked its solid backup system. We rate error handling as very good.

**SUPPORT:** MicroPro provides a product replacement form to get new copies if the original disks arrive damaged or if documentation is missing. The warranty is good for 90 days, an industry standard.

MicroPro has two kinds of telephone support: free and subscription. The Easy Extra documentation does not indicate how to access the free support, although if you call the number for product upgrades, a recording will tell you how to call for

technical support (not toll free). Although technical support staff members are on duty from 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pacific time, we could not get past a busy signal in six tries over the course of two days.

Clearly, those needing telephone support must purchase an extended service plan. A six-month subscription costs \$60 and a year's subscription costs \$95. Under these plans, you get a toll-free number to call, priority treatment, a bimonthly newsletter, and slightly longer support hours (7:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pacific time). Upgrades are not included.

Although a program as uncomplicated as Easy Extra presumably wouldn't need subscription support that costs around half the purchase price of the product, we can imagine several questions that might occur to the beginner: Is there an undocumented way for an entire document to be reformed to match new margins? Can Wordstar Mailmerge files be converted to work with EasyMail even though that is not mentioned in the documentation? How can we get a copy of the MicroPro Convert program, which converts various document formats into a form that can be read by Easy Extra, as mentioned in the manual? Is there any way to avoid using the DOS Mode command to set the serial printer port before using Easy Extra with serial printers?

We do not object to subscription support, but we think usable telephone support for 30 days after purchase would be a reasonable way to deal with the kind of questions that occurred to us as we began using this program. Not being able to get through in six separate attempts proved frustrating indeed.

As with all MicroPro products, Easy Extra provides a very extensive list of supported printers, over 230 in our version. Practically every model of every printer is explicitly supported, and MicroPro provides a useful booklet describing characteristic peculiarities of each printer. However, this booklet does not discuss the problem of serial ports mentioned above, nor does it explain the unavailability of microspaced justification.

The company promises to send information on updates to all registered users. The program is not copy-protected, and the license agreement authorizes five backup copies, more than enough for most purposes.

In sum, the support provided for this relatively inexpensive program is minimal, and free telephone support is available only in theory. We rate support as poor.

**VALUE:** With the solid functionality, outstanding user interface, exceptional help system, and mailing list and form letter capability, we think this program offers a good value.

We would like to warn potential buyers that although Easy Extra is easy to learn and use, such a program is necessarily also limited in features and flexibility. Some may find the simple approach and the relatively low price attractive. But if you plan to spend a significant portion of the day using a word processor, you'll miss those absent features in six months. There are plenty of inexpensive products that, while markedly less easy to use, offer much more power.

Easy Extra and PFS Write offer ease of use to those who plan to use their word processors occasionally or who plan to produce only simple documents. They both do that task well and are roughly comparable in speed and ease of use. We rate Easy Extra very good in value because, for a price similar to that of PFS Write, it offers a nifty mail-merger, DGA compatibility, and the capability of inserting 1-2-3 files.

## And a stunning figure to boot.

# \$99

### Life's a long list of tradeoffs.

The luxury sedan that gets five miles to the gallon. The shortstop with the great glove who can't hit his own weight.

On and on they go. Every so often, though, there's an exception.

### Presenting Easy™ 1.5, the word processing system that gets you started—and a lot more.

Easy not only gives you several unique features. It gives them to you for about \$50 less than its major competitors. PFS® Write and IBM's Writing Assistant. So you can have the best in price and performance.

### An outstanding package at a bargain price.

Even when you buy Easy Extra—made up of Easy and EasyMail™ a mailing list program—you still pay only \$149.

Which is roughly what PFS Write and Writing Assistant cost *without* mailing capabilities.

When you run down the list of Easy's features, it's clear why Easy is the best buy for the money.

### Get up and running in 30 minutes.

Easy's pop-up menus point the way to every command. If you falter at all, its exclusive on-screen prompts and help index are there to support you.

With help like this—and a built-in spelling corrector—you'll be creating letter-perfect documents in under 30 minutes. Even if you've never touched a computer before.

### Enjoy Lotus® 1-2-3™ compatibility.

If you're a spreadsheet user, you won't have to waste any more time converting files. Easy reads 1-2-3 and Symphony™ spreadsheets *directly* into documents—something only MicroPro word processors can do.

### Produce the best-looking documents.

By supporting over 240 printers—including laser jet models—Easy lets you benefit from the highest quality output available anywhere.

### Move up to other MicroPro products.

Easy is compatible with MicroPro's more powerful systems, so you'll have connectivity in your office. Nothing could be more natural than Easy users sharing files with WordStar™ and Wordstar™ 2000 users. With PFS Write, you simply have nowhere to go.

### Mail more, pay less.

With the Easy Extra package, you can create, update, and sort mailing lists. Print labels and envelopes. Launch targeted mailings by company, zip code, or other criteria.

To do all this with the competition, it could cost at least \$240.

So there you are.

### Test Easy for yourself.

If you like what you've read, why not check out Easy's features for yourself?

See your MicroPro dealer today for a demonstration. For the dealer nearest you, call 800-227-6703 (800-632-7878 in California).

Easy 1.5 from the makers of WordStar. It's the word processing system the smart money's on.

**MicroPro.**

The first word in word processing™

PFS is a registered trademark of Software Publishing Corporation. IBM is a registered trademark of International Business Machines Corporation. Lotus, 1-2-3 and Symphony are registered trademarks of Lotus Development Corporation. Price comparisons based on suggested retail prices.  
Easy 1.0 success may upgrade to Easy 1.5 or upgrade to Easy Extra by calling MicroPro Customer Update at (800) 227-6703. Easy 1.0 users who have registered their software prior to September 30, 1988 may upgrade to Easy 1.5 for PFS and upgrade to Easy Extra for \$25. After September 30, update and upgrade prices will increase to \$10 for Easy 1.5 and \$29 for Easy Extra.

John Lombardi is a professor of history and the author of five books. He has been working with computers since 1967.