The Courier HST supports only asynchronous operation.

Word Processing Features Chart
Errors Corrected

A technical error in electronic transmission translated
into World Wide Words on our word processing features chart in "Office Writing Equipment," which appeared in the July 13 issue of [Magazine Name], as a result of a typographical error in the source systems were credited with features they do not have and others were denied features they do have.

In this issue we publish the corrected chart, with our apologies for the confusion caused by the transposition.

Several readers identified features we indicated as optional, saying they believed these features were available in several of the products. The difficulty here lies in the definitions we used for features and in the differing approaches of the word processing programs we included in our summary. Some products provide specific key combinations that perform certain functions, while other products offer a general-purpose method of achieving the same result.

The best way at this stage may be the delete function. Some systems (Word Perfect for example) offer specific Deliberate Word Right and Delete Word Left keyboard combinations (other systems, for example, can perform only a generic delete function in which you signal a delete, then select the text and press delete). Other systems, similar to the ones in this test, have a delete key, a word, or a large page), and then execute the deletion.

In both cases, the results are the same, we do not consider the second method to be equivalent to the first. Programs that have specific key combinations for single word deletions typically have generic block-delate functions as well in the operations procedures. Hence, when the chart indicates that Systems IV, for example, does not have a Delete Word function, it does not mean that an important function is impossible under this word processing system, only that there is no single keyboard or command combination available to specifically perform that function.

Whether the availability of a special keystroke is an important function is determined by personal preference, but we think readers need to know which systems have them.

Features such as line editing, like benchmarks for computer performance, always need to be interpreted with caution. As we indicated in the summary, these systems are only a starting point for defining the characteristics and capabilities of the industry as a whole. Our purpose is to provide more important information about specific comparative features when it comes to choose between products.

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REREADERS RESPONSE

We currently use System IV on a Novell network as the stock in trade of our consulting business. How an office automation program is implemented on a network is an absolutely critical question in modern PC word processing environments. This aspect of word processing was completely ignored in your review.

Cameron Patterson
Lorenzo L. Gross
Recon Regional Environmental Consultants
San Diego, CA

You are of course correct about the growing significance of software performance on networks. However, much of application software performance on microcomputers is determined by the network hardware capabilities and network software, meaningful comparisons based on the world processing systems and our plans are far from complete.

While some of the word processing packages included here claim network capabilities, we have tested them for performance under those conditions.

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Executive Summary

This evaluation focused on file transfers between two widely separated personal computers. The critical factors were cost, the error-free transfer rate, and the ease of placing and/or receiving calls once the modems were set to operate.

The modem that meets all our criteria is the $100.00 Hayes 2400, which outperformed all others even through our worst-case connection conditions. The 2400 would lead our list even if price weren't a consideration.

The US Robotics modem, with its asynchronous modulation technique and its $955 price tag, would be satisfactory if it had longer-distance performance. This low-cost modem is our choice for local operations.

Huyas have spent $900 functionally into the same "classic" chassis the company uses for all of its modems since the 300-bps model. As a major player in the modem field, Hayes may be opening a market for itself. Hayes can certainly affect buyers' perceptions of what a "standard" modem does; however, it may be seen as a poor choice for distant connection, although the modem provides average performance as a reasonable price.

Although priced way outside the PC-modem class, the Comtec and Codecs modems do an outstanding job of long-distance transmission, especially over clean lines. They'd be our choice for communications over interlaced lines between geographically distant stations in a local area network.

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Telebit Trailblazer

The only radically different modem in this evaluation is the Telebit Trailblazer. In 1983, the company decided to abandon widely recognized signaling methods in favor of developing a completely new technique. Its Facilitated Envelope Protocol (FEP) sends data on a large number, up to 512 of narrow-band carriers instead of one wideband one. If one or more bands cannot transfer data accurately, then information is carried in the remaining useful bands, yielding a throughput as high as 14,400 bps.

To simulate full-duplex operation, Telebit implements twoway handshaking over the resulting half-duplex link. The only problem is that the PEP's slow turnaround time—about one second—makes interactive operation almost impossible. You hit a key, and the echo doesn't appear on the screen until well after two seconds later. (Telebit president Jim Jordan says that the latest modem firmware reduces turnaround time to approximately 150 ms. Upgrades are available for $99.)

You can also use this modem to communicate with existing 300-, 1200-, and 2400-bps modems without problems; however, the Trailblazer provides no support for synchronous operation.

In our test run, the Trailblazer showed its stuff. As indicated in the table, the modem maintained respectable throughput rates up through our worst-case test.

There is not a manual way to switch back and forth between voice and data modes, although you can do it through the software interface.

The command set is compatible with the basic AT industry standard command set. However, extensions to the phone line with Hayes 2400, the Trailblazer has a command set that allows communication software to be set up specifically with the Trailblazer in mind. More options are set using the modem's 5-registers rather than with commands, per Telebit, shipped a menu-driven setup package with the Trailblazer.

The modem carries a one-year warranty with a unit exchange policy, extendable for two years for $195. Service is available in Cupertino, California.

Telebit Trailblazer, $1345; Telebit Corp., 10400 Bobb Road, P.O. Box 4404, Cupertino, CA 95014; (408) 996-8000

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TELECOM"
## Selected Features of Office Word Processing Programs

|                        | WordPerfect 4.2 | WordPerfect 4.1 | WordPerfect 4.0 | WordPerfect 3.9 | WordPerfect 3.8 | WordPerfect 3.6 | WordPerfect 3.5 | WordPerfect 3.4 | WordPerfect 3.3 | WordPerfect 3.2 | WordPerfect 3.0 | WordPerfect 2.0 | WordPerfect 1.0 | WordPerfect 0.9 | WordPerfect 0.8 | WordPerfect 0.7 | WordPerfect 0.6 | WordPerfect 0.5 | WordPerfect 0.4 | WordPerfect 0.3 | WordPerfect 0.2 | WordPerfect 0.1 |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| **Feature**            |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| **Function**            |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| **WordPerfect 4.2**     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| **WordPerfect 4.1**     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| **WordPerfect 4.0**     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| **WordPerfect 3.9**     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| **WordPerfect 3.8**     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| **WordPerfect 3.7**     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| **WordPerfect 3.6**     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| **WordPerfect 3.5**     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| **WordPerfect 3.4**     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| **WordPerfect 3.3**     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| **WordPerfect 3.2**     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| **WordPerfect 3.1**     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| **WordPerfect 3.0**     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| **WordPerfect 2.0**     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| **WordPerfect 1.0**     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| **WordPerfect 0.9**     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| **WordPerfect 0.8**     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| **WordPerfect 0.7**     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| **WordPerfect 0.6**     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| **WordPerfect 0.5**     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| **WordPerfect 0.4**     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| **WordPerfect 0.3**     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| **WordPerfect 0.2**     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| **WordPerfect 0.1**     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |

### Cursor Movement
- More powerful than others
- Feature exists
- More powerful than others
- Feature does not exist

### Delete
- More powerful than others
- Feature exists
- More powerful than others
- Feature does not exist

### Move Text (Cut or Copy)
- More powerful than others
- Feature exists
- More powerful than others
- Feature does not exist

### Print Time Formatting
- More powerful than others
- Feature exists
- More powerful than others
- Feature does not exist

### Miscellaneous Features
- More powerful than others
- Feature exists
- More powerful than others
- Feature does not exist

### Beyond Simple Word Processing
- More powerful than others
- Feature exists
- More powerful than others
- Feature does not exist

### Additional Features
- More powerful than others
- Feature exists
- More powerful than others
- Feature does not exist

### Other Features
- More powerful than others
- Feature exists
- More powerful than others
- Feature does not exist