Doc Easy Word II

Word Processor Update Improves Most Features

By John Lombardi

Doc Software, a company famous for its low-price software, has released Doc Easy Word II, an updated version of its word processor.

Where the previous edition came with many problems in performance and ease of use, its replacement, which we reviewed here, is substantially improved in almost every area. And there's no arguing with the $49 price and the money-back guarantee.

FEATURES:

Doc Easy Word II offers a wide range of features, including:

- Spell checking
- Grammar checking
- Automatic correction of common errors
- Table of contents generation
- Hyperlinking
- And much more

It has spell checks, hanging indents, hard page returns (new in this version), justification (improved), superscripts and subscripts, and automatic reformatting in new margins.

One of the program's standout features is that you can create four windows open at once. (But note that you cannot open two windows into the same copy of the same document.) You can see all four windows on-screen, or you can collapse one window to full-screen size.

The program doesn't do footnotes, prepare indexes or tables of contents, or do math or columns. But the program supports the insertion of any IBM keyboard code and will provide an ASCII chart showing what symbols correspond to which codes.

Doc II justifies text using whole spaces rather than micropaces justification, so it leaves less of blank rivers through the text. But the program does permit proportional spacing as long as it's done by the printer and not the word processor.

A new command will temporarily exit to DOS to run any

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Dac Easy Word II is one of the least expensive word processors available. Its features are many, its performance strong, and its capabilities extensive.

**DOCUMENTATION:**
The manual is written and organized well, though it could have a better index and include more technical information. There is a printed tutorial, but it is still difficult to find out about the characteristics of each menu and whether it can be customized. The documentation is not as complete as it could be.

Unfortunately, when you format a file, you fill out an empty, undated, and undated text box. This is a major problem with the program. It needs to be completely documented. Modifying document formats is a separate concern. Blocks are uninformative in that once you've marked one, you cannot edit or delete without unmarking the block. Macros must be saved in the main document in a separate document, or edited, or edited, or edited. We can change the current subdirectory to the one in which the macro resides.

The on-line help is useful, but it is menu-sensitive, not context-sensitive. There is no easy way to search for each menu. Covering all the functions in the manual. Further, there is no index from which you can branch to any other help system without going through a menu. A quick reference card would be a useful summary of the Dac Easy Word II commands and features.

We rate documentation as satisfactory.

**EASE OF LEARNING:**
With its clear drop-down menus, good on-line help, and printed tutorial, Word Processor II is easy to learn.

Although most of the problems in the previous version's menu system have been fixed, the features of the program are still not easy to find. Some menus are hard to locate, and the tutorials are not very helpful. For example, the Dac Easy Word II Help menu does not show a menu for performing this function. Instead, it gives a list of all the functions in the menu.

The program does not show you its suggested correction and prompt you for approval. Balancing the pros and cons, we rate ease of use as good.

**ERROR HANDLING:**
The program's Undelete function uses the cut-and-paste buffer, letting you restore the most recently deleted block before all other block deletions, cuts, or copies go to the paste buffer. There is no Undelete function for word or line deletions that do not use the block command.

Many simple errors are routinely handled with good error messages. When testing the system, you are queried on whether you want to save the document. The previous version's tendency to let you overwrite programs or other unmodified files is not present.

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Information on prices and other details is not available.

Because we never were able to reach a support representative, we rated the support as poor.

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