Software Reviews

Review Scoring

InfoWorld reviews only finished, production versions of products, never beta versions.

Products receive ratings ranging from unacceptable (-2) to excellent (5) in various categories. We multiply the rating in each category: Excellent = 5; Very Good = 4; Good = 3; Satisfactory = 2; Poor = 1. Ratings with decimal values are rounded to the nearest integer.

For Word Perfect, we have carefully examined the product's performance and features, and have assigned the following ratings:

**10** Excellent - 9.0

**9** Very Good

**8.9** Good

**8.5** Satisfactory

**7** Poor

Word Perfect 5.0

New Word Perfect Is Once Again King of the Hill

Word Processor Has More Features, Improved Performance

By John Lombardi - Review Board

With myriad users pausing the ground in expectation of Word Perfect 5.0, Word Perfect Corp., has risen to the occasion and retained the product’s dominance of the high-powered word processing market. The release of Version 5.0 represents a major improvement over Version 4.2 and includes a host of new features, significant improvements in performance, and reduced documentation. Flexible, strong, and quick, Word Perfect 5.0 is once again the program of choice for offices and professional word processing.

Features:

Word Perfect 5.0’s feature list matches and often exceeds other word processors with only a few exceptions. This edition features a powerful series of enhancements for laser printers, fonts, and desktop publishing projects. Complementing these improvements, Word Perfect now creates multiple, multi-column paper and columnar columns with ease. It also includes a multi-view preview program that can display the printed document at two magnification levels.

With handling has become quite competitive in word processing, and Word Perfect enters with a suite of capabilities, including a memory resident screen grabbing program, a command to import a wide range of graphic formats from other packages, including Lotus 1-2-3, PCl, Authorware, Dr. Halo, GEM, MacPaint, and Windows Paint. Images can be rotated, reversed, zoomed in, and out, and cropped, or labeled with captions.

A 30-image clip art library comes with the program. Word Perfect inserts graphics anywhere on the page, directly on text, places images across columns, and can even frame them with line art.

Keyboard macros also have added Word Perfect’s competitive edge. What used to be simple keystroke shortcuts has evolved into a microprogramming language, and a variety of activities can now be automated using macros and the macro editor. Word Perfect’s macro language competes with and exceeds most competitors with variables, array comparisons, subroutines, loops statements, chaining, if-then-else statements, error handling, a step function, and a wait command.

The cursor’s speed and shape can be changed. Most word processing features can now be used when embedded codes are being displayed. Automatic references to pages, figures, or other coded numbers work across documents consolidated into a master document for batch printing, and a comparison feature displays changes in different versions of all documents. Style sheets combine with a style library permit easier management of complex document setups.

For details on the methods and scoring criteria used in this review, see the Office/Professional Word Processing product comparison, March 28.

Performance:

Basic correspondence and memo tasks are easily accomplished with improved line numbering (by the inch), a wide range of redline changes, and columns or rectangulate and paste functions. Though search and replace generally retains capitalization, a word spelled with all capital letters is replaced with only the first letter capitalized. The vendor says this has been fixed in all shipping copies.

This version features an excellent sorting module, but the main feature is still cumbersome to use. Block operations have not changed, except that the block definition is now cancelled after every block action. The program will only perform formula-type hyphenation automatically, and dictionary hyphenation must be purchased for $15. Overall, correpondence rates are very good.

The thesaurus and spell checker are great writing aids, and the spell checker counts words in a document without spell-checking. The spell checker and thesaurus range, if they are found, are very useful, and can be used in a document. Outlining is good.

Indexing can be done through tosaurus and font features. The table of contents feature is quite robust, and handling is very easy. The table of contents is a veritable hit of the word processor.

Word Perfect 5.0 offers powerful control over fonts, menus, and the user interface, giving the user complete control over typography and layout. The program is very clean and easy to use. The Windows version is very fast, and the program is very stable. The program is very easy to use, and the user interface is very intuitive. The program is very clean and easy to use. The Windows version is very fast, and the program is very stable. The program is very easy to use, and the user interface is very intuitive. The program is very clean and easy to use. The Windows version is very fast, and the program is very stable. The program is very easy to use, and the user interface is very intuitive. The program is very clean and easy to use. The Windows version is very fast, and the program is very stable. The program is very easy to use, and the user interface is very intuitive. The program is very clean and easy to use. The Windows version is very fast, and the program is very stable. The program is very easy to use, and the user interface is very intuitive.
Co-Compute, not just Remote Control.

Remote Training, Support, Collaboration Software for the PC. "Remote control" programs make many promises but don't deliver. CO-COMPUTE sets two PCs under help desk control or work together over an ordinary phone connection. Now you can:
- Connect two remote PCs for a training session of joint project, running test or graphics DOS applications at full speed (no screen transfer delays).
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Software Reviews

EASE OF LEARNING:
Word Perfect has always been relatively easy to learn and teach. Given its lack of a rigid structure, users can quickly become comfortable with it. The latest manual is forgiving of errors, provides easy exit from fast starts, offers full on-line help, and contains an instructional and tutorial program that covers simple and complex operations. However, some users are intimidated by the sheer size of this feature-rich program. We rate ease of learning very good.

EASE OF USE:
Another traditional strength of Word Perfect, it has been its capability to adapt to the wide range of needs. Occasional and professional word processors alike find this program is easily portable to a new tool. In addition to its flexibility and unstructured approach to word processing, Word Perfect includes a variety of:

Menus, commands, shortcuts, and other tools for editing text are clearly laid out. The manual is well organized and easy to follow. The help system is comprehensive and easy to use.

GIVE FILE TRANSFERS A KICK WITH 3X-LINK!

Unattended file transfer, from UUCP, FDDI, or 3 1/2" microcomputers with a printout on remote printer.

W ith 3X-LINK software and cable, your PC or Laptop and PS/2™ computers can now communicate, whatever their disk format, at speeds of over 115,000 bits per second (about 100 KB per second). This makes remote computing possible for these systems.

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Since it is memory resident and runs in background, 3X-LINK is ready to pop up automatically whenever its services are needed. At anytime, whatever program is running on whatever computer, you can see this window on your screen:

DUAL WINDOW COMMAND INTERFACE

You already know how to use MS-DOS in one window on one computer, now you can use the DUAL Window Command Interface to send DOS-like commands and two windows - one for each connected PC.
Grandview
Rich Outliner Adds Extensive Word Processing

By John Walkenbach Contributing Editor

Grandview, an information manager from the makers of ThinkTank and Ready, might be described as a glorified outliner, since everything you do in it is based around an outline. But that would hardly do this product justice. Grandview organizes and stores both structured and free-form data by offering, in addition to one of the most robust outliners around, extensive word processing capabilities and a method of categorizing and retrieving information contained in your outlines. Grandview is an impressive product that becomes more useful the more you use it.

FEATURES:
Grandview is based around an outline and has all the features normally found in tech products, including expandable and collapsible headlines and a full assortment of commands to make reorganization of the entries fast and efficient. You have complete control over labeling styles for your outline (including roman numeral labels).

If you've been waiting around for a top performance, virtually zero wait state graphics card, here's some news you can't afford to take lightly. Our new display adapters, FastWrite VGA and V-RAM VGA, are simply the fastest VGA cards available, on earth or off. They eliminate the usual graphics card "bottleneck" and that means increased speed and performance from a standard PC that's even better than a brand-new PS/2. Not to mention resolution above and beyond standard VGA— all the way up to 1024 x 768.

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