Software Reviews

Sanna Word IV 2.0

Strong-High End Word Processing Package Improves

By John Lombardi, Review Board

Sanna Word IV is a high-end word processor derived from a dedicated word processing model, comparing with Multi-Write, Office Writer, and WordStar, high priced and menu driven. Sanna's robust features match high-end leaders like Word Perfect, Microsoft Word, and WordStar, highly structured and menu driven. Sanna offers good support for such common office tasks as correspondence and forms processing, and the Plus version adds a component integrated spell checker.

Version 2.0 adds a thousand-page document preview, proportional spacing for fonts, improved graphics management, and the ability to print multiple pages on a single sheet.

FEATURES:

Sanna offers all the basic facilities we have come to expect in a word processing program. It offers the normal complement of cursor control commands, including cut, copy, and paste. It also has a spell checker, dictionary, and text manipulation capabilities.

Sanna can change fonts, or print text in multiple fonts. It supports various fonts, including Times New Roman, Arial, and Courier, and allows the user to define their own font styles. It also supports the creation of custom templates, allowing the user to create documents with a consistent layout.

Sanna's comprehensive dictionary support includes definitions, synonyms, and antonyms for each word. It also offers a spell checker, which checks the spelling of words as they are typed, and provides suggestions for corrected spelling.

Sanna's full-page page layout and can display text in multiple columns, allowing the user to create documents with a professional appearance. It also supports the creation of tables and charts, allowing the user to present their data in an organized manner.
With 3M’s new formatted diskettes you never have to stop

Overall, while Samna Word IV has significant ease-of-use features (especially for forms processing, math capabilities, and formula processing), its slow speed and some clumsy solutions reduce a user’s efficiency. However, if you require print preparation, the streamlined integration of these applications in the Plus edition improves ease of use. In addition, we rate Samna satisfactory in ease of use.

**VALUE:**
In the frenetically competitive word processing market, the pace of improvement is so fast that while Samna has improved, its competitors have improved even more, causing Samna’s relative position to slip a little. At $995, Samna’s generally good performance and average to above average ratings in other categories make it a reasonable value, although a little pricier. (For those who need a spreadsheet integrated into a word processor, the Plus edition adds the spreadsheet for an additional $100.) Overall, we rate Samna IV, Version 2.0 as good value.

**SUPPORT:**
Samna provides registered users with 30 days of free, but not toll-free, phone support. Hereafter users may purchase support contracts, as well as training programs, at varying prices. Companies buying large quantities of Samna receive unlimited free support. Support on the Source BBS will be available soon. The short policy period is not sufficiently offset by the availability of extended corporate support. We rate support poetically poor.

We called Samna’s technical support line with a variety of questions related to data management and graphics processing. The answers from two technicians at different times were correct and helpful. In one case the problem was quite complex, and after considerable discussion, the technical support person provided good advice on how to work around the difficulty. Samna’s team made an admirable support effort, and we rate technical support very good.

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All times in minutes.  
*Good for a graphical task, but not for plain text.  
*Good for slightly more efficient data entry. 
*Good for a full suite of tools, not just word processing.
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as clear or WYSIWYG as some competitive preview features. The full-page preview on the File menu in the SAMWA IV window is not the exact page, but it works well with the word processor. The program does not automatically down- load fonts, nor does it automatically adjust proportionally spaced lines. Instead, for example, a special function key can be used for assigning proportional spacing to the text. Moreover, the system does not provide a font of type-driver settings. The program accomodates adjustments for fonts or printers. Many competition, such as WordPerfect and Word Processor, provide this capability.

While the program recognizes many fonts, the algorithm for handling proportional spacing and right justification is less sophisticated than that in other programs. SAMWA IV just uses a word spacing scheme to justify lines, leaving wide white spaces in the text.

Font handling is nice but somewhat lacking in its implementation. There is no style sheet feature. We rate font handling satisfactory.

SAMWA includes TIFF, PIC, PCX, COM, PDL, and Samma Outline, Graphics files types. While automatically producing sufficient space on the page, it will not flow text around the graphic, although image scaling and density can be controlled. SAMWA can display graphics in a preview window. Within the realm of high-powered programs, these features represent satisfactory performance.

SAMWA offers many features by converting the text across the screen while formatting. Consequently, its speed is significantly slower than other competitors. Among high-end word processing programs, SAMWA IV 2.0 earns a poor rating for speed.

Supporting the spreadsheet, data interchange formats (ASCII, DIF, and DTA), and SAMWA Image, Graphics file types, SAMWA IV 2.0 can import some standard data files (if they match a certain specification). It is a mail merge engine as well.

Q: Are there any differences in software performance enhancers in SAMWA, Document, and SAMMA Outline? A: Yes, the following software programs are a few examples:

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