Almi Professional 1.1 Begins New Era in Word Processing

This Windows-based word processor offers a cornucopia of features, easy-to-use interface.

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Microworld

Almi Professional is now a major mainstream word processor. It is dependent on Microsoft Windows, whose graphical orientation is fundamental rather than additional. Almi's wealth of features and graphic conventions, however, is not easily discernible to new users. While Almi is not perfect, it is a powerful complement to the well-tempered integrated office suite. In this review, we'll examine some of the more important features and capabilities of this product.

FEATURES:
Several notable features distinguish Almi Professional from other Microsoft Office products. Almi's user interface is clean and uncluttered, offering a welcome change to the crowded and complex user interface found in many other products. Almi also supports DDE (dynamic data exchange) and OLE (object linking and embedding), allowing for easy integration with other applications.

The Almi user interface is simple and intuitive. The main window is divided into several panes, each containing different types of information. The main pane is the document editor, where you can type and edit your text. Other panes include a spell checker, a thesaurus, and a dictionary. These features make Almi a powerful tool for writing and editing documents.

Almi also supports OLE, allowing you to embed objects such as images, graphics, and tables directly into your document. This feature is useful for creating professional-looking documents, and it makes it easy to reuse content from other applications.

Almi's document processing engine is fast and efficient, and it can handle large documents without bogging down your computer. The program also supports multiple document windows, allowing you to work on several documents simultaneously.

Another important feature of Almi is its rich set of tools for formatting your text. You can apply a variety of font styles, sizes, and colors, and you can also apply paragraph formatting such as indentation, spacing, and alignment.

Almi also includes a built-in spell checker, which helps you to avoid spelling errors in your documents. The spell checker is based on a comprehensive dictionary, and it can also check for other types of errors, such as grammar and punctuation.

In addition to its core features, Almi also offers a variety of other tools and options that can help you to get the most from your documents. For example, you can use the thesaurus to find synonyms and antonyms for your words, and you can also use the dictionary to look up definitions and meanings.

Almi is a versatile tool that can be used for a wide range of tasks, from simple text editing to more complex document creation. Whether you're a professional writer or a casual user, Almi is sure to be a valuable addition to your software library.

In conclusion, Almi Professional is a powerful and feature-rich word processor. Its clean interface and comprehensive set of tools make it a valuable tool for anyone who needs to create professional-looking documents. Whether you're a professional writer or a casual user, Almi is sure to be a valuable addition to your software library.

FROM A VARIETY OF DATA SETS, INCLUDING:
Almi Professional's approach will seem completely normal to users. Its graphical orientation and advanced features are designed to make it easy to use and efficient. Overall, Almi Professional is a powerful word processing tool that can help you to create professional-looking documents in a variety of situations.

Almi Professional is not a perfect tool, but it is a powerful and feature-rich word processor that is sure to be a valuable addition to any user's software library. Whether you're a professional writer or a casual user, Almi is sure to be a valuable tool for creating professional-looking documents.

INFORMATION

Almi Professional is available for Microsoft Windows, and it is compatible with other Windows applications. Almi Professional is priced at $49.95 for the standard version, and $99.95 for the professional version.

Almi Professional is a powerful and feature-rich word processor that offers a rich set of tools and options. Whether you're a professional writer or a casual user, Almi is sure to be a valuable addition to your software library.
level indentation and a variety of bullet and numbering schemes. It does not offer
collapsed/expanded outline views like a
electronic outline. Because of its
automatic bulleted and since it can
predicted an outline style sheet is included, we
rate outlining excellent.
Table of contents and indexing have
the index created for a single index and
one table of contents per document. Ami
Professional handles multiple levels in
both indexes and table of contents. Once
a table of contents is generated, you
can use the mouse to click on a page
number and Ami will jump to that page. You
can only have one index or table of contents per
document. One problem is that although the manual style-sheet for a
word is an index entry in draft or layout
tabs, you can only mark it in layout
tabs — which we do not know. Overall, we
rate table of contents and index generation
capabilities good.
Additions can be numbered automatically,
and they can be located at the end of
a document or at the bottom of a page.
You can automatically enter page
numbers. However, no automatic cross-referencing is allowed (such as “see page 127”)
with the page number being automatically
updated. As with indexing, you can only
have one footnote or endnote per doc-
ument. We rate footnotes very good.
Ami Professional supports a compre-
ensive and powerful macro language as
well as a simple keystroke-recorded
macro facility. These are supported in the
file names and recored with short-cut
keystrokes. The macro language has
to be defined and conditioned as well as the
capability to access all the features and
functions of the main program (including
across to DDE and OLE for special
Windows linking tasks). However, full
use of the macro facility requires a
speech macro-programming language
manual, which only comes on special
request after you send in your regis-
tration. We have not arrived at the time
of the review, but even the basic macro
functions are extensive enough according
to our testing criteria for word processes
enough to meet project deadlines before adding the programming capa-
ture.
Ami Professional has fabulous graph-
ics capabilities for a word processor. The
program will import graphics into forests
from almost all graphics formats including
PIC, PCX, EPS, TIF, and
Windows Metafile and bit-mapped
graphics passed from the Windows Clip-
board. Graphics created in Ami and the
included Ami clip art are stored in Ami’s
own graphics format, SDW. These files
are treated differently than standard
imported images (imported images have
not been imported). You must print them — a
procedure not immediately evident in the documen-
tation). The program retains bit-maps, allows
ters, editing of images, will handle
scanned images, and has some facilities
for enhancing grayscale TIF images.
Also, Ami Professional has drawing
capabilities, bar, line, fill, and circle tools, and
the capability to include text and
graphs into the same frame. We had no
problems importing any of the files.
We rate Ami Professional’s graphics support
excellent.
Printer support is very good, another
feature handled primarily by Windows,
including the HP Laserjet and Deskjet
series, PostScript printers, and some color
support.
We therefore rate printer support
excellent.
Compatibility is outstanding.
Ami Professional

VERSIO.N 2.1

Criteria

Performance

Basic editing (90) Excellent
Layout capabilities (85) Excellent
Font support (80) Excellent
Size screens (90) Excellent
Spelling checker/thesaurus (60) Excellent
Mail merge (25) Very Good
Cutting (20) Good
Types of documents and indexing (20) Good
Footnotes (20) Very Good
Macros (25) Excellent
Graphs/Integration (40) Excellent
Printer support (20) Excellent
Compatibility (40) Excellent
Speed (50) Good
Documentation

Evaluation (100) Very Good
Ease of learning (100) Good
Ease of use (20) Very Good
Error handling (15) Very Good
Support

Support policies (20) Very Good
Technical support (20) Very Good
Value (40) Very Good
Final score: 7.5

PRODUCT SUMMARY

Company: Samba Corp., 2200 Gentry Lane, Atlanta, GA 30342; (404) 957-9679
List Price: $495
Hardware: IBM PC AT or compatible, 10-Mbyte hard disk, graphic support: MS/PC-DOS 3.0, 540K of RAM; mouse optional but recommended, Microsoft Windows full-version included.
Fees: Powerful graphics-based program with superset Windows/GDI coding, excellent tables and charting, outstanding compatibility; strong form support; capable editing stron mail merge and mail merge.

Summary: Ami Professional is a fine, complete Windows graphics editor with a windows-like word processor, a perfect model to stand off word processors in the 1990s.

since Ami supports DDE, you can link other Windows programs that support the format and therefore rate Ami Professional's compatibility excellent.

Documentation: Ami must be considered on two levels. While the WYSIWYG layout mode is slower than its draft mode, the program contains enough documentation that you can still type a reasonable pace. For entering text, however, the draft mode is still the best choice. Ami Professional makes much of the hard disk for files, menus, screens, and other information. While a sufficient amount of memory and the installation of the disk cache driver that comes with the package speeds up the program significantly, Ami Professional is still no speed demon. When run in draft mode, its response to typed keys is sluggish on an 8-MHz AT, a faster machine and capabilities. The program is also dependent on some extent on the speed of various hardware devices, such as the disk drive. This is a program that pushes standard AT hardware to its limit.

When we consider the options, such as a reasonably quick draft mode, with the slightly slower speed of operation of Ami Professional as compared with the complex word processor, we rate speed good.

DOCUMENTATION: Ami Professional comes with two main manuals and some additional instructions, sheets, books, and on-line files. The user's guide serves as an overview of forms and capabilities. The program is built through the basic operations of Ami Professional, explaining the concepts that drive the systems, such as frames, fonts, styles, layouts, graphics, and charts. The reference manual supplements but does not replace the user's guide by providing more detailed, formal descriptions of features you can manipulate.

The manuals are clear and quite complete, but often you need to consult both manuals to get an answer. The manuals sometimes explain the programs do not contain enough information or examples to clarify unfamiliar concepts or functions. Also, there are occasional mistakes, although minor. These are not updated in the on-line documentation. Since memory issues are often a problem when using Windows, especially on a lower-end IBM system, you may want to read the on-line Ami Professional manual file for a discussion of memory problems.

On-line help offers extensive contextual help, indexed help, and error messages provide adequate information for most conditions.

Weighing our few reservations with the plentiful information both on paper and on-line, we rate documentation, very good.

EASE OF LEARNING: For Windows users Ami Professional is very easy to learn and operates very intuitively, but it is not so easy for Ami Personal if you are not conversant with Windows applications for the first time. Further, if you are new to desktop publishing concepts.

Ami Professional offers extensive tutorials on how to use Ami Professional's features, but you can't see these elements from the disk, leaving that as a manual. A multi-level help is available when you can set up to four levels. The Undo reverses most activities except for cuts. If you are running under a slower system, such as an 8-MHz AT, your copy may still be faster. Some of the basic concepts are covered by Ami Professional and is much better than setting up the program.

Overall, we rate error handling very good.

Support: Samba provides a 90-day, unconditional no-questions-asked guarantee with Ami Professional. Support also includes BBS support on CompuServe and fax support. Free technical support is available on a regular phone line. We rate support policies very good.

We called technical support for help with several problems, ranging from font selection to complex problems involving memory management. The technicians worked with us extensively, researching the memory problem and promptly getting back to us. The support line was easily reached in the middle of the business day and was staffed with high-quality, knowledgeable support personnel. We rate technical support very good.

VALUE: At $495, Ami Professional is priced competitively. Its graphics capabilities make it more valuable for use with special needs and complex document layout tasks, and it is a workhorse for Windows users. For these people, Ami Professional is a very good value.

For users with complex orientation to complex problems involving memory management, Ami Professional can match features and most areas of performance with Word and WordPerfect, the market leaders in office/professional word processing. Ami Professional is almost unique in its weakness in many cases. Ami Professional outperforms the competition, and has tied the path for word processing in the 1990s.