WordPerfect, Word battle; users win

Microsoft Word for Windows 2.0 defines the state of the art in Windows word processing; WordPerfect successfully ports its market-leading DOS product, but adds few new features

By John Lombardi, Contributing Editor

WordPerfect and Microsoft have for years been leaders in the word processing world with their flagship products WordPerfect and Word. Both products have followed a similar path of development. Microsoft has focused on adding features that enhance productivity, while WordPerfect has focused on adding features that enhance the user experience.

In this review, we will compare the two products to determine which one is the better choice for users. We will look at the features offered by both products, as well as their ease of use and overall performance.

We will also compare the price of both products, as well as their compatibility with other programs.

Overall, we believe that Microsoft Word is the better choice for users, as it offers more features and a more intuitive interface. However, WordPerfect is still a strong contender, and offers a more customizable experience for power users.

Microsoft Word for Windows 2.0

Price:

Performance:

Ease of use:

Features:

Compatibility:

Overall:

WordPerfect for Windows 5.1

Price:

Performance:

Ease of use:

Features:

Compatibility:

Overall:

In conclusion, Microsoft Word is the better choice for users looking for a word processing program that is easy to use and offers a wide range of features. WordPerfect is still a strong contender, and offers a more customizable experience for power users.
Microsoft emphasizes ease of use with Word for Windows update

With Word for Windows 2.0, Microsoft has focused on adding ease-of-use enhancements to those in Version 1.0. This means that more users will recognize and enjoy this is the “drag-and-drop” feature for moving text. This feature is a real timesaver, as you no longer need to take the individual steps of cut or copy, and paste when repositioning text. In addition, Microsoft has enhanced the print merge feature with graphical diagrams and step-by-step instructions.

Users upgrading from the previous version of Word will be pleasantly surprised at the list of little things Microsoft has done to make the product easier to use. Those converting from WordPerfect 5.1 for DOS will have a breeze making the transition because Word for Windows 2.0 will not only accept WordPerfect’s keystrokes, but Word for Windows 2.0 will also accept your own keystrokes to let you type up speeds quickly. And users new to Windows or Windows word processors should be able to jump right in and start producing documents.

**Performance:**

**Basic editing:** Word for Windows does all you need in your text. You can cut and paste, and Microsoft has increased the ease of use for columns or rectangular area cut and paste. The drag-and-drop feature lets you define a section of your document (text or graphics), point to it with the mouse and, holding the button down, drag or copy the selection to another place in your document. This is a feature that word processors should have.

**Product Summary**

**Microsoft Word for Windows**

**Version 2.0**

**Company:** Microsoft Corp., 1 Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA 98052-6399, (800) 426-9400, (206) 436-9000.

**List Price:** $495, upgrades $120.

**Recommended:** IBM AT or higher computer running DOS and Windows 3.0 or later.

**System Requirements:** 16 megabytes of RAM minimum with 18 megabytes of RAM for full system EGA or better video display, mouse highly recommended.

**Pros:**
- Advanced, full-featured word processing program.
- Especially strong in graphics, charting, and tables with superior operating system.
- Supports WordBasic for powerful macro programming.
- Supports multi-merge capabilities and strong form processing.

**Cons:**
- Complete product, lacks linefeed capabilities.
- Story, story, story, story... blank lines do not automatically check headers and footers.

**Summary:** Word for Windows 2.0 sets a new standard for word processing power that places its emphasis on graphics, charting, and tables, as well as its capability to manage complex tasks with multiple users and a very customizable user interface, indicating the growing maturity of word processing tool kits. Word for Windows 2.0 gives the most organizations and users to establish the word processing environment and does most appropriate to their work.

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WordPerfect, Microsoft Word take different paths to the same destination

Ever since the release of the first versions of Microsoft Word and the DOS-based WYSIWYG word processors, these two programs have been going in completely different directions. Microsoft Word, which has dominated the market for many years, is now enjoying new levels of power and flexibility. WordPerfect, on the other hand, continues to offer a unique and efficient way to create documents. In this article, we'll explore how these two programs differ and how they can complement each other.

**WordPerfect vs. Microsoft Word**

**Formatting:**
- **WordPerfect:** In WordPerfect, each paragraph and section is an object that is formatted independently. Paragraphs can be formatted with specific attributes, such as font, size, and style. This allows for a high degree of control over the appearance of the document.
- **Microsoft Word:** In Microsoft Word, formatting is applied to the entire document as a whole. Text formatting options are applied to the entire document, making it easier to maintain consistency throughout the document.

**File Compatibility:**
- **WordPerfect:** WordPerfect documents are saved in a proprietary format, which can be opened and edited in WordPerfect. However, WordPerfect files may not be compatible with other word processing programs.
- **Microsoft Word:** Microsoft Word files are saved in a standard format, which can be opened and edited in most other word processing programs.

**Integration with Other Programs:**
- **WordPerfect:** WordPerfect offers a range of integration options, allowing you to import and export data from other programs, such as spreadsheets and databases.
- **Microsoft Word:** Microsoft Word offers similar integration options, allowing you to import and export data from other programs, such as spreadsheets and databases.

**Printing and Output:**
- **WordPerfect:** WordPerfect offers a range of printing options, allowing you to customize the output of your document. You can also create macros to automate common tasks.
- **Microsoft Word:** Microsoft Word offers similar printing options, allowing you to customize the output of your document. You can also create macros to automate common tasks.

**Cost:**
- **WordPerfect:** WordPerfect is a relatively inexpensive option compared to Microsoft Word.
- **Microsoft Word:** Microsoft Word is a more expensive option, but it offers more features and better integration options.

In conclusion, while both WordPerfect and Microsoft Word offer powerful and flexible word processing options, they differ in their approach to formatting and integrating with other programs. Depending on your specific needs, either program can be a great choice for creating professional-looking documents.
After a relatively short period of experimentation, Word for Windows becomes very easy to use. In truth, few users will need to understand all levels of complexity in this product.

Word for Windows supports many list styles as well as lists of figures or tables, for example. A macro generator allows users to create custom commands based on the document's styles, or you can create your own macros. Another macro generator refers to make tables of authorities.

Error Handling: Word for Windows handles errors with reasonable effectiveness. If it finds an error in a document, it informs you of that error and suggests a possible solution. This feature is helpful in preventing errors before they become significant.
WordPerfect for Windows offers a painless upgrade for DOS users

A year-long wait and much press discussion, WordPerfect Corp. has brought its flagship word processor into the Windows environment. The good news is that WordPerfect 5.1 makes the transition a strong product. All the good stuff from the DOS version remains, and the Windows interface requires minimal adjustment for experienced WordPerfect users.

Because WordPerfect 5.1 has had an extensive complement of features for some time, the Windows incarnation is an impressive product. While WordPerfect did not add many enhancements, the Windows interface contributes to increased ease of use for its already advanced features.

Given the brutal battle of features and capabilities that defines the word processing marketplace, this missed opportunity means that WordPerfect no longer leads the feature and power list that position having been taken over for the time being by Microsoft with Word for Windows 2.0. Nonetheless, WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows will provide the huge WordPerfect DOS 5.1 user base a natural and virtually effortless upgrade path into the Windows environment. In addition, WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows retains its "Reveal Codes" feature, which no other Windows word processor has.

Performance:

Basic editing: WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows retains its superior basic editing capabilities, enhanced of course by the Windows environment. Users new to Windows can maintain the traditional WordPerfect DOS keyboard for editing functions, although after some experience with the standard Windows conventions in other programs, we think most will migrate to the Windows standard keyboard. WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows includes the cut-and-paste, operation, clipboard, and other standard Windows editing features. You can mark, cut, paste, or copy rectangular areas of text.

You can edit multiple columns side by side on-screen or edit them in sequence, just as in WordPerfect DOS. Columns may be of different widths, and you can select any kind of justification for paragraphs (left, right, or center). Search and replace can maintain capitalization, find and replace formatting within styles, and lines in boxes or graphics and notes, use wild card characters, and find hard page or column breaks. The program supports time and date stamping, and revision marking with redline and strikethrough. You can define tabbed columns, although the

Thank you

A few months ago, we asked to hear from our long-time readers.

And oh, did we ever hear from you. Lots of you.

We heard from people who go back with InfoWorld longer than it's even been InfoWorld—readers who reminded us that our roots include the Silicon Valley Gazette and the Intelligent Machines Journal.

We heard from pack rats who still have some of the first issues of InfoWorld.

And we heard from lots of people who told us how much they like InfoWorld—people who cared enough to tell us what we're doing right, and some who also told us what they'd like to see us work on.

In appreciation, we chose 15 names at random from among those who've read InfoWorld since the beginning, and offered them a title of their choice from a selection of popular business software.

But to all of our long-time readers who wrote in, thanks. It's great to know that so many of you have been reading InfoWorld for so long. And that you care enough to let us know.

If the spirit moves you, let us hear from you again.

We'll be here, ready to listen.

WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows

Version 5.1

Company: WordPerfect Corp., 1655 N. Technology Way, Orem, UT 84057; (801) 451-5151; (801) 225-0000.

List Price: $495; upgrades are $50.

Requirements: Requires computer running DOS and Windows: 80386 or later; 286 or higher processor; 664 or higher display; mouse highly recommended; 32 megabytes of RAM (4 megabytes recommended), and 6 megabytes of disk space.

Print: Exact translation of WordPerfect 5.1 for DOS; superior printer features with WordPerfect's printer classes; strong formatting, printing, and test making; tables of automatic, superior mail merge system with programming constructs for complex documents and the processing tables support sorting capability and file navigation.

Goes: Looks column balancing; text can only wrap around three sides of a frame; graphics editing limited; no charting; no grammar checker; no collapse cutting; does not show headers and footers on-screen.

Summary: WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows provides solid translation of WordPerfect's highly popular DOS-based product for the Windows environment. The program is effective, powerful, and easy to learn and use. Its features set misses a few of the powerful capabilities of Word for Windows in the areas of graphics and charting, for example. For WordPerfect users who want an effortless upgrade to the Windows environment, this is a fine choice.
WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows is easy to learn. The transition to Windows will be especially easy for experienced WordPerfect users.

The change of name. You can have individual user dictionaries, which is a good thing. Some users may not like the change of name, but it is necessary to accommodate the needs of Windows users.

Speed. WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows has a faster response time than previous versions. This is due to the use of Native Windows 3.1 interface.

EASE OF USE: Experienced users will find WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows very easy to use. It has many options for customizing the screen display and the keyboard layout. You can use the mouse to key together, use a standard WordPerfect keyboard, and a built-in spell checker. The user interface is designed to be intuitive and easy to use.

VALUE: WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows is a good value for the money. It is priced competitively with other word processing programs and offers more features than many of its competitors. The user interface is easy to learn and use, and the program is reliable and stable.

In conclusion, WordPerfect 5.1 for Windows is a strong contender in the word processing market. It offers many features that are beneficial to both experienced and novice users, making it a good choice for anyone looking for a reliable and user-friendly word processing program.