**REVIEWS**

**WordPerfect Windows 5.2 adds features**

Improved tools include drag-and-drop editor, grammar checker, and file finder/indexer

By John Lombardi

Over the years, WordPerfect Corp.'s practice of adding minor enhancements, fixes, and improvements to its highly popular word processing program without changing the version number has drawn the ire of many. Now, with WordPerfect 5.2, the Utah company has accepted the criticism and issued an improved product with minor but important enhancements. Ironically, some critics complain that there isn't enough change for a new version.

Here we take a look at WordPerfect 5.2 for Windows, highlighting the new features and improved scores over Version 5.1. If there were no changes in a category, we didn't include a writeup of it. For a complete review, see our last comparison of Windows word processors.

**PERFORMANCE**

**Basic editing:** WordPerfect has implemented drag-and-drop text, bringing it up to par with Microsoft Corp.'s Word for Windows and Lotus Development Corp.'s Ami Pro. Aside from just having a nice way to cut and paste, you can also hold the control key and drag to copy text. Its other basic editing features remain the same. We found our basic editing ease-of-use task was easier to accomplish, contributing to a higher score. We rate basic editing excellent.

**Proofing tools:** Meeting the competition, the name of the game in word processing wars, required the addition of a grammar checker to match Word for Windows and Ami Pro. WordPerfect has added Grammatik 5.5, a stand-alone Windows grammar checker that comes with WordPerfect 5.2 (reviewed October 28, 1992, page 94) does an acceptable job of checking, but its integration with WordPerfect is a bit clumsy and complicated. The grammar checker is not fully integrated as it is in Word for Windows and Ami Pro. You can access Grammatik from a pull-down menu, but when you're checking grammar, you do so through the clipboard and therefore can lose your document formatting. The grammar checker would be more useful if it were better integrated.

WordPerfect also added the spelling checker. You can now backtrack, edit the text, and resume checking from a previous point in the text. Because of the awkward implementation of Grammatik 5, proofing tools remain very good, the same as in our last review.

**Font and print support:** WordPerfect now ships with AT&T's FontMatch, which allows you to pick from a selection of fonts from WordPerfect's Presentation package. However, you cannot use the AT&T fonts with WordPerfect's printer drivers unless you purchase a third-party package to enable them. Fonts are installed as fonts rather than as fonts that can be used with the printer driver. WordPerfect still ships with its impressive list of printer drivers, but you cannot take advantage of them with PostScript fonts. This holds font and printer support in our score.

**Import and export:** WordPerfect has added Object Linking and Embedding support to the previously existing Dynamic Data Exchange, completing the data exchange and file linking capabilities of the program. WordPerfect does a superb job of handling graphics images and converting graphics files. In addition, WordPerfect has added support for Word 2.0 and Ami Pro 2.0. Other import and export features are unchanged. We rate import and export excellent.

**Networking:** WordPerfect has enhanced the network installation and added some helpful network administration capabilities. File sharing options remain the same, and the program still lacks the capability for user ID assignments. A welcome change to the network working support is E-mail integration. WordPerfect 5.2 for Windows supports any mail package that is VIM or KAM compatible as well as Telemark for DEC, and they are working on a protocol to offer PostScript support, which they plan to have available soon. We rate networking very good.

**Speed:** Overall, WordPerfect 5.2 for Windows was a hit slower than its predecessor. Its PostScript printing time for the complex file was quicker and more than 3 minutes faster than Word's. However, the PCL print time for the simple document was a minute slower. On balance, the speed score remains a good.

**Memory:** WordPerfect has improved its macro support, most notably in the macro help file. The on-line help file now includes the complete documentation. If you wish to have a written manual, you can receive one for $9.50. In addition, WordPerfect has enhanced and expanded the macro commands, bringing them up to par with Ami Pro and Word. The macro format is identical to that in Version 5.1 for Windows. We rate macros excellent.

**EASE OF USE:**

The most significant enhancements to WordPerfect for Windows 5.2 are in its outstanding standalone application. You can create an index to any or all files on your disk and then find all the files that have, for example, someone's name in them. The indexer will take some time for the first pass on a large disk; we did 37 megabytes of files in 24 minutes, but subsequent passes that update the index run much faster. The search process is extremely quick — almost instantaneous. The indexer and the file manager both run outside Windows as stand-alone applications, and you can use them even if you don't use WordPerfect for Windows.
Windows. Indeed, you can also run the spelling checker and thesaurus outside of WordPerfect if you want to check the spelling of a word that is not in any dictionary word.

WordPerfect has also enhanced its button bars to include more ready-made functions, considerable customizing capabilities, and a set of different pre-configured button bar variations for editing, formatting, tables, graphics, and the like.

In releases between 5.1 and 5.2, WordPerfect added macros to increase the speed of use. There is an envelope macro, which works with WordPerfect or Windows printer drivers, that stores up to three return addresses and offers barcode support. There is a converter to make typo-

---

**REPORT CARD**

**INFO WORLD**

**WordPerfect for Windows**

**VERSION 5.2**

**Criteria**

- Performance: Good
- Printing tools: Very Good
- Layout: Good
- Mail merge: Very Good
- Style sheets: Good
- Font and printer support: Very Good
- Reference tools: Good
- Import and export: Excellent
- Networking: Very Good
- Speed: Good
- Macros: Excellent
- Documentation: Very Good
- Ease of learning: Very Good
- Ease of use: Excellent
- Support: Excellent
- Technical support: Excellent
- Value: Excellent
- Final score: 8.0

**PRODUCT SUMMARY**

Company: WordPerfect, Inc., Orem, Utah, can be reached at 800-425-4551.

Last printed: $1299, upgradable to 5.2 for Windows users for $399.95, which includes disks and a peripheral program with new features. $99 upgrade for WordPerfect, $100 for a competitive upgrade. Proportional spacing feature for extensive text manipulation; improved button bar support. O/S support: Windows 3.1, Apple Macintosh.

Core: English only; still lacks collaborative editing, adds a self-function option inside templates.

Summary: WordPerfect has enhanced Version 5.2 for Windows by adding several features that make it easier to use. The program is a good choice for people who already own a WordPerfect machine, but if you're looking for a new machine, a Windows word processor, Word and Ami are two other better choices.

---

**WHEN IT COMES TO MAKING DECISIONS, GET TO THE POINT.**

Now let's consider our main topic: productivity, a topic that's always at the top of the list. The Fujitsu 325Point laptop computer, a product of the Fujitsu Division Series, fits the bill. The 325Point was built for portability, with its<!-- -->

---

John Lombardi is president of a major university and the author of five books. He has been working with computers since 1967.

---

 remain the program of choice for expert WordPerfect users who want to convert to Windows because WordPerfect retains all of the characteristics and features of the DOS original, including all the powerful macros, table of contents, and layout capabilities. For these users, WordPerfect is still an excellent value.