

WORD PROCESSORS

WordPerfect enhances both the old and the new

Versions 5.1, 6.0 get minor upgrades

BY JOHN LOMBARDI REVIEW BOARD

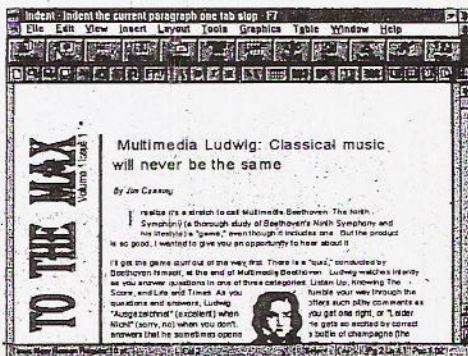
If you use WordPerfect 5.1 or 6.0, you'll be interested in two relatively minor but useful upgrades just out from WordPerfect Corp.

WordPerfect 5.1+ should put some zip into word processing chores for users who have stuck by Version 5.1 and may still be running it on XT-class computers. The highlight of this specially designed upgrade, priced at \$49.95, is a set of new conversion utilities that let 5.1 users share documents with WordPerfect 6.0 (or 6.0a) users on either DOS or Windows platforms.

To test this enhancement, I created a moderately complex document in WordPerfect for Windows 6.0a that included columns with a footnote, a graphic element, and page numbers. I then opened and saved the document in WordPerfect 5.1+, and opened the document (now in Version 5.1+) back in Version 6.0a for Windows. Although it wasn't seamless, the conversion appeared to work quite well.

The WordPerfect 6.0a fonts that Version 5.1 doesn't support didn't come across (5.1+ translates unrecognized fonts into Courier), and layout features unavailable in 5.1+ didn't appear. (For example, text wrapping around all sides of a graphic element.) But no data disappeared, and the font not recognized in 5.1+ survived the round trip and reappeared when transferred back into 6.0a for Windows.

WordPerfect 5.1+ adds a few other frills as well. It works with fax/modems and electronic mail through hooks to



Version 6.0a of WordPerfect corrects a bug that caused our machine to hang when we tried to edit this document.

WordPerfect Office. Its file manager has also been enhanced with better file sorting by date, time, and size, as well as file name.

I also liked the two new TSRs that come with WordPerfect 5.1+: ScreenExtender and Bitstream FaceLift. ScreenExtender is a wonderfully convenient feature that solves the old 5.1 problem of not being able to see all of your lines on-screen when you display proportional fonts on a monospaced screen.

ScreenExtender installs a TSR that drives a variety of common graphics cards, including EGA and Hercules standards as well as VGA and Super VGA, so that WordPerfect can have more characters on a line.

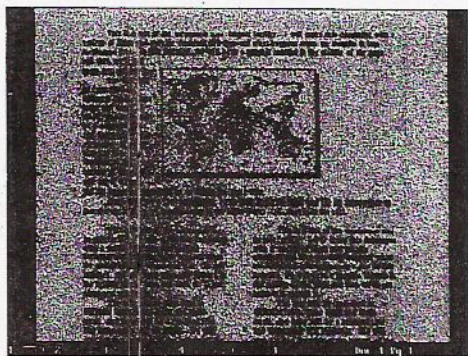
ScreenExtender lets you choose smaller characters so that the display will fit a full line on-screen. ScreenExtender worked fine on my VGA screen, making the editing of multiple columns in WordPerfect much easier.

The extended screen also provides true underlining, boldfacing, and italics, but it doesn't give you proportional fonts on-screen.

Bitstream FaceLift provides a number of new scalable fonts for WordPerfect 5.1+ documents that make them more compatible with the DOS and Windows versions of WordPerfect 6.0 and 6.0a. Although a useful enhancement, FaceLift doesn't quite match the wide variety of fonts available to WordPerfect for Windows through Adobe Type Manager or Microsoft's TrueType fonts.

WordPerfect 6.0a, a free upgrade to registered users, addresses some fatal bugs that users found in WordPerfect 6.0, adds some minor improvements, and enhances speed, all in about 5MB of hard disk space less than before (full installation now requires only 27MB).

To test WordPerfect 6.0a, I loaded the same graphically complex document that caused Version 6.0 to hang *InfoWorld's*



New conversion utilities let WordPerfect 5.1+ accept WordPerfect 6.0a documents like this one.

machine during testing of word processors. (See product comparison, February 7, page 66.) Apparently, WordPerfect 6.0a has fixed this bug; I had no problem with the document this time.

Graphical operations and scrolling in complex documents are also faster in this new version. I found scrolling by cursor in WordPerfect 6.0a to be about twice as fast as in Word, and about the same when I used a scrollbar.

WordPerfect now has an automatic correction feature that catches and corrects common spelling errors on the fly. It has also added some coaches, or automated help systems, for new users, and it now comes with an uninstall tool.

For OS/2, WordPerfect provides a separate tools disk for \$4 that promises to help integrate WordPerfect 6.0a for Windows into the Workplace Shell.

WordPerfect, which is headquartered in Orem, Utah, can be reached at (800) 451-5151.

MACINTOSH VIDEOCONFERENCING SOFTWARE

Being There offers simple, inexpensive Mac videoconferencing

BY CAREY TEWS REVIEW BOARD

Being There, from Intelligence at Large Inc., is a new Macintosh-only videoconferencing package that offers interactive desktop communications at a fraction of the cost of "executive" videoconferencing systems. If you have a charge-coupled device (CCD) video camera, an Apple microphone, and a sufficiently powerful Mac, you can share audio, video, files, windows (but not full screens), and clipboards with other users on your Ethernet or Token Ring network or over a remote dial-in connection.

Being There comes in two versions: standard (\$299), which can connect only two users at a time and requires 3.5MB of RAM, and professional (Being There Pro, \$599), which connects multiple users and needs

5MB of RAM. We looked at the professional version.

Both versions require System 7.0.1 or later and a Mac with full-duplex audio and video input capabilities. (Most high-end Macs include full-duplex audio, which allows simultaneous sound input and output, and AV Macs or third-party video capture boards allow video input.) Being There does not run in Power Macintosh native mode, but it uses many native-mode system resources, so you can expect a performance boost.

We set up Being There on a 660AV and an 840AV on the same Novell LAN and plugged our cameras into the AV's Video In ports.

Being There requires you to set the video input signal type—NTSC, SECAM, or PAL—but doesn't explain to the novice user what these are. The configuration dialogs are com-

plex, but not impossible to use. The users' manual offers many configuration tips based on the kind of machine you are using.

Once the software is running, it operates adequately. I tested Being There by meeting with a colleague across the LAN. We found the sound lag of one second a bit annoying, but no more

so than an international phone call or a half-duplex speaker phone. The video quality was grainy, but this was not unexpected, considering that we were using QuickTime compression and a CCD camera.

Being There

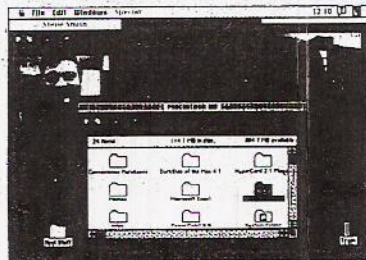
gives users several useful ways to do more than just see and hear each other. You can send files and clipboards to connected users without using E-mail or getting up from your chair. Users can also share on-screen windows. (Unlike software such as Farallon's Timbuktu, which shows an entire screen and lets

users control each other's Macs, Being There displays only individual windows, such as documents or Finder windows which is quite adequate.)

Being There comes with a list of incompatibilities, enough to recommend that you check with the vendor before committing to a large installation. It does not support the GeoPort Telecom Adapter, a popular modem solution for AVs and Power Macs. (IAL plans to add GeoPort support at the end of June.) Nor does it work with non-Apple microphones, such as the Voice Navigator from Articulate Systems and Macromedia's MacRecorder.

Overall, though, Being There is a promising and affordable first step into the emerging field of desktop videoconferencing.

Intelligence at Large is in Philadelphia, at (215) 387-6002, fax: (215) 387-9215.



Being There lets Mac users videoconference, transfer files, and view each other's windows.