PRODUCT REVIEWS

**Windows word processor**

**Word Pro excels at ‘team’ work**

By John Lombardi

Lotus Development Corp. (now owned by IBM) has taken a gamble with its office suite strategy. If Lotus has guessed correctly, we will soon all be computing in teams. In this world, we no longer will have documents produced by individuals but instead will have them produced by groups of people, each of whom is an editor and contributor working at a computer. Lotus further assumes that we will need different methods.

One of these new methods is the ability to focus our attention on documents rather than on applications—because we will use several applications as tools to construct documents. And because we are focused on documents, we will want all our tools to be compatible. Thus we will, the theory goes, want to buy integrated suites.

Lotus Word Pro 96 Edition for Windows 95 is the word processing element in Lotus SmartSuite, and Word Pro offers a host of features for implementing this model of team computing. Word Pro 96 is an excellent word processing package for preparing documents. Its main features include multiple editor, close integration with other applications, and capability of document preparation requirements.

The key to team computing is that any document needs to include all the versions of one document, rather than having different versions as separate elements. Word Pro lets you create a group of editors, each with different editing permissions (some can read only, some to comment, but not edit, and some to read, comment, and edit), and each with a different security level—so that the users of each level can check the document circulated among the members of the group.

When the document is done, it comes back to the originator, who reviews the editorial changes, additions, and comments and chooses what to leave, what to reject, and how to consolidate all of this into the final product. This works best in a networked environment, where the document exists on a central server, but it could also work as members of the team pass the document from one to another via "snailmail" or for transfer over the Internet...

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**NetSuite network diagramming tool**

**NetSuite strong in design**

By David P. Falconer

NetSuite Development's NetSuite Professional Design brings some improved, if not new, features to the network diagramming tools category. The most useful of these features is network validation.

Network validation provides some assurance that the design will actually work, and it can be automated. Essentially, the product validates Layers 1 and 2 of the Open System Interconnection model, but also 3. Version 1.0 is an improvement over previous versions, as well as Electronic Industries Association/Telecommunications Industry Association standards. What spelling checking is to word processing, network validation is to network diagramming. NetSuite provides information on: how a particular piece of equipment can and cannot be configured along with a realistic representation of the item. Updated and new equipment information is available by subscription for $295 per year.

NetSuite operates by generating a network diagram, or what is known as a cable map, and will deliver all mission critical equipment, with a high level of accuracy, and will ensure that the network is properly configured. NetSuite also supports a variety of network and application services, including: network design, installation, and maintenance, as well as remote access and security services.

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**Lotus Word Pro 96 Edition for Windows 95**

Lotus Word Pro 96 Edition for Windows 95 is a comprehensive word processing solution that allows you to efficiently create, modify, and manage documents. It includes a host of advanced features to enhance your productivity, including:

- **Advanced formatting tools**: Easy-to-use formatting options to help you create professional-looking documents.
- **Table of contents and indexes**: Quickly and automatically generate tables of contents and indexes for your documents.
- **Cross-referencing**: Easily create cross-references for items such as tables, figures, and equations.
- **Spell checking and grammar checking**: Ensure the accuracy of your documents with built-in spell checking and grammar checking.
- **Compatibility with previous versions**: Easily work with documents created in previous versions of Lotus Word Pro.
- **Export options**: Export your documents in a variety of formats, including PDF, HTML, and WordPerfect, making it easy to share your work with others.
- **Integration with Lotus SmartSuite**: Seamless integration with other applications in the Lotus SmartSuite suite for a more integrated workflow experience.

Lotus Word Pro 96 Edition for Windows 95 offers a comprehensive set of tools for creating and managing professional documents, making it a valuable addition to any word processing suite.