

saves your work at regular intervals when Lucid 3-D is active.

The product also has fairly extensive auditing capabilities, allowing you to list or highlight cells of a particular type. You can also print the results of your audits. Overall, Lucid earns a very good score for error handling.

#### SUPPORT:

Technical support is available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Central time. Dac provides 10 minutes of free (but not toll-free) phone support during the first 60 days. After this, a fee-based support program is available. Considering the bargain-basement price, this is not too unreasonable. However, most other products in this price range provide unlimited support; 10 minutes of free support is not much time for a relatively complex product. Therefore, we must rate support policies poor.

Our calls to Dac were answered by an automatic-routing system, and we spent about five minutes on hold with each call. Once connected, however, we found the quality of support satisfactory.

#### VALUE:

Priced just under \$100, Lucid 3-D is a bargain by any measure. In the past, we could not claim that this product was suitable for all of your spreadsheet needs. With its increased capacity, it will certainly meet the needs of the vast majority of normal spreadsheet users. If you depend heavily on spreadsheet graphics and/or database features, you might want to look elsewhere. Regardless of these limitations, it is still an excellent value. □

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## Beyond Word Writer 1.1 Is a Competitive Executive WP

*A sleeper perched at the top of executive word processing, it is effective and easy to use.*

By JOHN LOMBARDI  
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

In the highly charged word processing marketplace, filled with more bells, whistles, and gadgets than a firemen's convention, a relatively straightforward product such as Beyond Word Writer can easily get lost. But to miss this product would be a serious oversight.

Built on an effective editing engine that contains a host of cursor movement commands and can be set to mimic almost any other system's commands, Beyond Word Writer offers a well-chosen set of word processing features. While not up to the office/professional level, this program is a powerful competitor with such executive word processing hotshots as Professional Write and Q&A Write, and it can easily handle all but the most demanding word processing tasks.

#### FEATURES:

In addition to the full complement of editing commands, Beyond Word Writer has a very complete, context-sensitive help system, handles footnotes or endnotes, will show up to three windows at once for the same or different documents, and has a simple outliner. The program produces indexes and tables of contents, has a reasonable spelling checker and thesaurus, column addition or subtraction, and a simple calculator. In addition, there is a good set of file-conversion utilities drawn from the Word-for-Word conversion system from Mastersoft.

Beyond Word Writer is remarkably flexible and includes macros, abbreviation keys that expand a two-letter code to 48 characters, and user-selectable or user-designable interfaces. Password protection, hyphenation, up to 10 newspaper or side-by-side columns, automatic timed backup, a simple alpha-line sort, and a mouse interface complete its main list of features.

Missing from this impressive list is a powerful mail-merge function, although the simple merging system in Beyond Word Writer will do most list processing that does not require any custom selection criteria. Fonts and proportionally spaced printing are supported only mini-

mally. In its memory your system holds documents or combinations of documents that can fit within 640K, but it does not recognize additional memory above 640K. There are multiple buffers for cutting and pasting, deletes, macros, and windows that can be adjusted in size to accommodate different memory configurations.

Beyond Word Writer easily meets most features requirements for solid executive word processing, and for the vast majority of word processing tasks it will do a fine job. A further advantage is that it will easily run on a laptop, and its monochrome default orientation works well in an LCD environment.

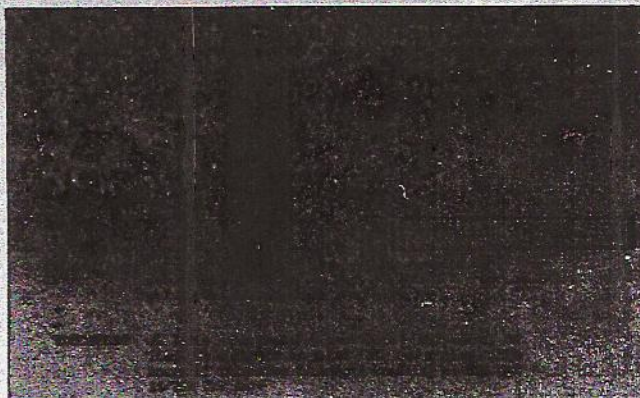
#### PERFORMANCE:

As a correspondence tool, Beyond Word Writer performs well with quick cursor movement and an easy and versatile cut-and-paste facility. Also, cut and paste works easily within newspaper columns and the system for setting margins uses standard one-tenth-inch units, no matter which font is selected. Using the very complete opening default menu, Beyond Word Writer can be set to insert or overwrite, word wrap can be turned off, indentation can be changed, and other settings can be adjusted. Tabs include left, right, and decimal; you can insert the system date automatically; and the program produces clean ASCII files.

On the down side, all line spacing is done at six lines per inch. There is no rectangular or column move or copy, the program does not automatically reformat to new margins, and the process of reformatting a long file appears slower than it should for a program with data held entirely in memory.

The strong basic features set and nice implementation contribute to a very good score in correspondence.

The spelling checker works well, although you may not like the system of scanning the entire document for misspelled words before beginning an in-context review of the words. This is a very slow process, especially for documents with many proper names not included in the spelling checker. The 100,000-word dictionary is good and the spelling



Beyond Word Writer is a powerful executive word processor that includes such niceties as menu-driven proofreading and fog-index generation.

checker can search for matches using the regular dictionary or phonetically. Unfortunately, the output from the phonetic system comes unalphabetized, a minor irritation. Like most phonetic searches, the selections often include the bizarre as well as the relevant. You can also choose to have the system check spelling while you type, a very quick system that won't slow down even the quickest typist.

Beyond Word Writers' thesaurus works well, and a proofreading feature looks for too many spaces, doubled words, and capitals in the middle of words. It also checks for properly matched quotes, parentheses, brackets, and braces. Using the Fog index, you can get a word count and an indication of reading difficulty. It will also flag all "difficult words" — those you have defined as being over a certain length. Beyond Word Writer's spelling checker is impressively complete and we rate it very good.

The mail-merge facility does a basic job of merging text and lists into form letters, mailing labels, or forms. Mail merge also supports spreadsheet-type formatting with columns and rows. Common errors are not trapped and customization options are limited, but what's here works rather well at a simple level.

We rate mail merge satisfactory.

Fonts and styles work well, with bold-facing, italics, sub- and superscripting, double-width characters, condensed type, and doublestriking automatically provided for supported printers. There is a binding width option, fonts and attributes can be changed in the middle of the document, and parts of the document can be printed or just an index or table of contents. Beyond Word Writer will also print pages in reverse order to facilitate collation.

Unfortunately, and common to many executive-class word processors, printer support for the HP Laserjet is minimal at best. No soft fonts are supported, no "true" justified proportionally spaced text can be produced (it can approximate it with the microspacing option), and the range of fonts available is rather limited. While there may be a way to change printer definition files to accomplish some of these things, there is virtually no useful printer information provided with the program. While it does not have a true print-preview capability, there is a feature in Beyond Word Writer that lets you print your file to the screen, which shows your document as it will print. We rate fonts and styles good.

Beyond Word Writer supports only

#### BENCHMARKS

#### INFO WORLD

#### Executive Word Processors

	Beyond Word Writer Version 1.0	Ami Version 1.0	Professional Write Version 2.00
<b>File</b>			
Load	1	6	<1
Save & continue	1	4	<1
Import ASCII	1	13	7
Export ASCII	2	7	2
Import DCA	22	n/a <sup>1</sup>	14 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Cursor movement</b>			
Top to bottom	<1	9	1
Manual scroll	27	1:37 <sup>3</sup>	28
<b>Reformat</b>	1	3	10
<b>Search</b>			
Last-word search	2	3	1
Replace	4	5	3
<b>Append document</b>	2	12	1

All times in seconds, unless otherwise noted (1:00 is one minute).

<sup>1</sup>Ami: Does not support DCA.

<sup>2</sup>Professional Write: Could not globally alter ruler. Each section had to be altered individually.

<sup>3</sup>Ami: Scroll time using arrow keys; using the mouse, time was 1:54.



line drawing (with a basic selection of simple styles), and no other graphics formats or graphics inclusion exists. We rate graphics capabilities poor.

While Beyond Word Writer did quite well in our benchmark speed tests, some other functions seemed somewhat slow. Reformatting a long document to significantly different margins, for example, seemed to take longer than it should have. Nonetheless, most editing and formatting functions zip along at speeds comparable to Professional Write. Speed is good.

Compatibility is clearly superior with a full collection of conversion utilities, including DCA/RFT. The mimic mode — not unlike Borland International's

Sprint — makes keystroke commands match a number of popular word processing programs, enhancing compatibility. The file-exchange program works easily, but we were able to hang it when we tried to convert a complex two-column proportionally spaced Word Perfect 5.0 document into Beyond Word Writer format. A simpler but longer Word Perfect 5.0 document converted easily. With all the extras taken in stride with the minor problem we encountered, compatibility adds up to a very good score.

#### DOCUMENTATION:

Documentation is clear and easy to read with a good index and examples. There is

an excellent on-screen, in-context help system that reproduces most of the reference manual; prompts, pull-down menus, and error messages are informative. The absence of reasonable printer information describing printer drivers included with the program and the lack of a discussion of memory limitations detract from otherwise excellent documentation, which earns a very good score.

#### EASE OF LEARNING:

It will take you about 30 minutes to have Beyond Word Writer installed and running, and in another half hour you can be producing documents with ease. The full on-screen help and the combination of control keys and pull-down menus make navigation and command selection very easy. We rate ease of learning excellent.

#### EASE OF USE:

Another hour or so will bring most users up to a reasonable level of competence. Mail merging and outlining may take a bit longer, but its clean user interface and modest complexity make control of the program relatively easy. Mouse support is handy, but if you have a variable-resolution mouse, you'll want to run it in a slow mode because Beyond Word Writer's pull-down menus seem especially sensitive to mouse movement. As you gain expertise, the outliner, spelling checker, thesaurus, and proofreading tools, as well as the customizable keyboard with macros and abbreviation expansion, all make it increasingly easy to use. Ease of use is very good.

#### ERROR HANDLING:

Beyond Word Writer handles errors nicely. Although it's an in-memory system and likely to lose all unsaved edits if a power failure occurs, the timed backup guarantees whatever level of security you prefer. All destructive acts require a second prompt with a warning, whether saving over an old file or erasing a file. The Undo buffer captures all but single-letter deletes, and its size is user-selectable, trading off space used for windows or cut-and-paste buffers. The program may conflict with some memory-resident utilities such as Sidekick, which can freeze the screen and cause data loss. The manual does not warn about this. Error handling is very good.

#### SUPPORT:

While the official warranty for Beyond Word Writer guarantees nothing except the media, the vendor offers an unusual, but complicated, return policy: If you don't like the product you can return it with the receipt for the purchase price and the company will apply what you paid for it toward the cost of the word processing

program you prefer (which the company buys for you at the lowest possible price). You pay the difference. There is also a system for trading in the program for any other Timeworks program and a policy for upgrading. There is a free newsletter and unlimited technical support. We rate support policies good.

We had no problems contacting technical support. We asked a variety of questions about fonts, laser printer support, and maximum line lengths. Each time the answers were correct, and we rate technical support satisfactory.

#### VALUE:

Given its full set of word processing features, good collection of word tools, and quick and effective operation, at \$199.95 Beyond Word Writer is a very good value. At its price, it competes effectively with some fine executive products such as Professional Write and Q&A Write and the more complex and powerful PC Write. We rate value very good. □

### REPORT CARD INFO WORLD

#### EXECUTIVE WORD PROCESSOR

### Beyond Word Writer

VERSION 1.0

Criterion	(Weighting)	Score
<b>Performance</b>		
Correspondence	(150)	Very Good
Spelling checker/thesaurus	(75)	Very Good
Mail merge	(25)	Satisfactory
Fonts and styles	(25)	Good
Graphics	(25)	Poor
Speed	(50)	Good
Compatibility	(50)	Very Good
<b>Documentation</b>	(100)	Very Good
<b>Ease of learning</b>	(125)	Excellent
<b>Ease of use</b>	(125)	Very Good
<b>Error handling</b>	(75)	Very Good
<b>Support</b>		
Support policies	(50)	Good
Technical support	(50)	Satisfactory
<b>Value</b>	(75)	Very Good
<b>Final score</b>		<b>7.3</b>

#### PRODUCT SUMMARY

**Company:** Timeworks Inc., 444 Lake Cook Road, Deerfield, IL 60015-4919; (312) 948-9200.

**List Price:** \$199.95.

**Requires:** IBM PC or compatible; MS-DOS 2.0 or later; 512K of RAM; one floppy drive; supports monochrome and color monitors.

**Pros:** Good selection of features and strong performance; highly adaptable to user keystroke preferences; fine word tools; nice help system; easy to learn and use.

**Cons:** Mail merge could be stronger; conflicts with some memory-resident programs; minimal HP Laserjet support.

**Summary:** A great executive word processor with strong compatibility features, Beyond Word Writer is easy to learn and use. Especially strong in editing and printing normal office correspondence and simple mail merges, it's great for all but the most sophisticated office/professional tasks.

#### RELATED REVIEWS

##### EXECUTIVE WORD PROCESSORS

Yolkswriter 4, April 3

Beyond Word Writer (Impression),

February 27

Samma Ami, February 13

**Product Comparisons: Executive Word Processors**, September 26, 1988:

Dac Easy Word II, 1.0

Displaywrite Assistant, 1.00

MS Windows Write, 2.1

PC Type Plus

PC Write, 2.71

Professional Write, 2.00

Q&A Write, 1.01

Texta, 5.2

Yolkswriter Deluxe Plus, 1.0

Webster's New World Writer II, 1.0

Word Perfect Executive, 1.0

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