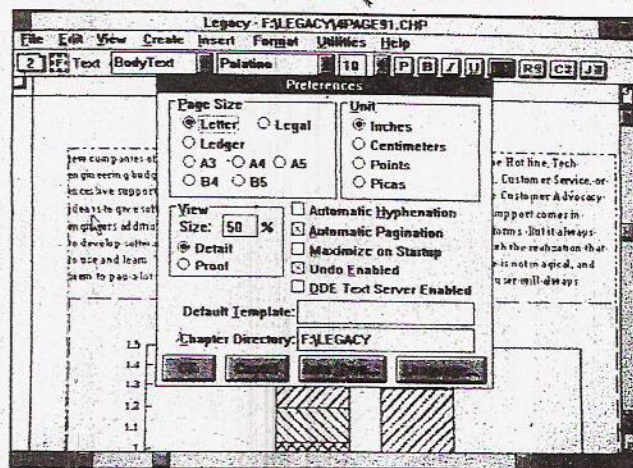


REVIEWS



NBI's Legacy for Windows, the replacement product for Legend, allows you to set default preferences via a pull-down menu.

In its last entry into the word processing derby, NBI presented Legend 2.0, a reasonably effective word processing program for Microsoft Windows. Legacy 1.0, a replacement upgrade for Legend, improves on the direction NBI established with Legend. Legacy offers some desktop publishing capabilities that make it especially well suited to document preparation and layout. It also includes strong editing and word processing features. This product is a solid contender in the office/professional category of word processors, and it competes with other Windows 3.0 programs such as Ami Professional and Microsoft Word for Windows.

For testing criteria and our review of Legend, refer to our last comparison of office/professional word processors (January 29, Page 89).

FEATURES:

Legacy's model for word processing uses the notion of frames: Rectangular blocks contain all of the document elements. Beginning with the basic page frame, a Legacy document may have any number of additional frames to contain graphics, tables, other text streams, footnotes, headers, and similar elements of the finished document. The frames may be placed on top of each other, they may flow around each other, or they may continue over many pages. This frame orientation, more sophisticated than most other word processors, gives the document designer great flexibility in layout and offers many facilities for managing document appearance.

Needless to say, these new capabilities add complexity to the product. With the focus on page layout and document design, Legacy is somewhat less powerful in a number of traditional word processing areas, such as mail merge.

PERFORMANCE:

As a basic editing tool, Legacy has most of the usual features characteristic of Windows products. It will do columnar cut and paste, perform search and replace effectively, and maintain capitalization in the process. Tabs are completely redefinable, and the program will put paragraphs centered or justified left, right, or both left and right. Hyphenation in Legacy is done either automatically or manually, using a formula for the hyphenation zone derived from the text algorithm and using the built-in dictionary. You can have a hyphenation-exception list, and the program supports

From Legend to Legacy, NBI Challenges Ami Pro, Word

This improved Windows word processor helps you to produce elegant, complex documents.

By JOHN LOMBARDI REVIEW BOARD

no-break hyphens.

Legacy does not support line numbering as is required for legal documents. The program does not have time stamping, and its windowing is very clumsy. There is essentially no windowing capability that would permit you to edit two or more documents or two versions of the same document. However, under Windows 3.0 and with enough memory, you can open multiple sessions of Legacy by rerunning the program, and then you can cut and paste between documents between each version of Legacy. This solution works, but not as well as the real multiple document editing available in Word for Windows, for example. We rate basic editing very good.

Spelling and thesaurus support includes a large dictionary and an exceptionally complete thesaurus with synonyms, near-synonyms, antonyms, near-antonyms, definitions, parts of speech, and references to alternative words. The speller catches double words, capitalization errors, and simple punctuation errors, such as double periods. The program does not have user dictionaries. However, it will support small exception lists — NBI suggests the lists be 50 words or fewer — for proper names and other special terms. Exception lists are limited in comparison to a user dictionary because they are not automatically trans-

ferable. The lists are attached to each specific document, and they are not available to other documents unless they are transferred to that document. Also, if the exception lists are imported to another document, they cannot be edited. The spelling checker and thesaurus are good.

The standard issue mail merge will take mailing lists from any standard ASCII delimited file and process it against a master document. While it will skip bad records and let fields be used in a different order than in the original data file, there are no facilities for user-prompted merging, conditionals, special templates, or direct merge from database or spreadsheet files. We rate mail merge satisfactory.

Legacy is designed for layout power. Its effective frame system handles multiple columns, complete control over margins, and column balancing. Legacy's frame capabilities, comparable to those of a desktop publisher, are more sophisticated and powerful than other office/professional word processors. Frames can be created with one step, and they can be moved freely throughout the document. The program also offers WYSIWYG preview and editing, landscape laser printing, widow and orphan control, vertical justification, tables, and a host of other layout features. We score Legacy's layout capa-

bilities excellent.

Graphics frames offer a flexible and powerful way to include compatible graphics in Legacy documents. The program supports a wide range of graphics formats, including EPS, but it does not support the Lotus 1-2-3 PIC format (although NBI plans to add this to its next version). Graphics appear on-screen while editing and can be previewed in all modes. Graphics editing is reasonably effective, and it includes scaling and cropping. The program also supports a variety of graphics tools for drawing lines, shapes, curves, and inserting shading. Legacy's graphics are more sophisticated and powerful than Legend's ever were. Overall, Legacy earns a very good score for graphics.

Legacy has minimal outlining features, although it includes a host of numbering options, and no capability to collapse or rearrange outline entries. Text can be entered under the outline headings. In general, outlining is satisfactory.

Indexing and table of contents features permit three levels in the indexes, a standard table of contents, and multiple lists for other purposes, such as a "see also" list. However, Legacy does not index across multiple documents or support exclusion lists. We rate indexing capabilities good.

Legacy style sheets have all the expected capabilities and store a host of information about rulers and fonts. The named styles can be constructed by example and can include numerous substyles — which apply to smaller text elements such as words or paragraphs — underneath a master style. This is the same method by which other Windows products operate. We rate style sheets excellent.

Font support can change fonts anywhere in the document, whether in Hewlett-Packard or Postscript scalable fonts. You can select typefaces, size, density, and any other attributes available in the font set. Underlining (single or double) and super and subscripts are available. Editing in WYSIWYG helps with the selection of font characteristics, and kerning and tracking facilities enhance the quality of the output. However, one problem we found with Legacy is an incompatibility with Adobe Type Manager and Zsoft Soft Type. Because of this, we hold font support to satisfactory.

Legacy has a superior footnote capability that can manage all aspects of the style and placement of the footnote as well as change the numbering. However,

ALSO IN THIS SECTION

Claris CAD 2.0.....	115
Generic CADD 1.0.....	120

you can't make endnotes except by using a work-around that involves a specially numbered list and hidden text. The absence of real endnotes, concurrent with footnotes or without, holds Legacy to a good rating in this category.

Legacy includes no macros of its own that apply to the word processing program, although keystroke macros available through the macro recorder of Microsoft Windows are available within

Legacy. This seriously reduces the number of possible macros and limits the power of the word processing-specific macros that might be designed for Legacy itself. It is not possible to use macros to do elaborate formatting because Windows macros cannot capture certain kinds of keystrokes, for example, as in Word for Windows. We rate macros N/A.

Printer support, managed through Windows 3.0, is as strong as any competitive Windows product, such as Ami Professional. We rate printer support very good.

Legacy can import a wide range of word processing files, including the DOS versions of Microsoft Word, Word Perfect, Wordstar, Wordstar 2000, and many others. However, the program does not import Word for Windows documents. Legacy earns an excellent score for compatibility.

Legacy's speed is competitive with other products in the office/professional category. Legacy is especially quick in file import DCA/RFT and cursor movement. We rate speed very good.

DOCUMENTATION:

Legacy comes with a getting-started booklet, a comprehensive reference manual, a special manual on designing documents, and a quick-reference booklet. However, we would have preferred a reference manual arranged alphabetically, but the topical Legacy manual has a good index and works rather well. On-line documentation is quite good, following traditional Windows formats. An on-line tutorial is included as well. We rate documentation very good.

EASE OF LEARNING:

Recognizing the complexity of this product, Legacy is reasonably easy to learn. Its on-line tutorial is superior, although rather sensitive to exact keystrokes by the user to complete assignments. The combination of fine documentation, tutorials, and on-line help earn this product a very good score for ease of learning.

EASE OF USE:

Legacy is relatively easy to use. However, the absence of a sophisticated macro system, some limitations in the creation and use of endnotes, and the clumsy windowing system for editing multiple documents all detract from the generally elegant and effective operation of the program. In addition, Legacy's incompatibility with Type Manager and Soft Type may contribute to some ease-of-use problems. Speed keys — combinations to do what pull-down menus do — help, of course, and the capability to edit WYSIWYG text and modify text tokens enhance ease of use. We rate ease of use satisfactory.

ERROR HANDLING:

Generally, Legacy's error handling is fine.

from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mountain time. The company also offers fax support and BBS support via Compuserve. Support policies are very good.

When we called the technical support lines, we got response with a minimal wait or callbacks within the hour if the line was busy. The technician's answers to our questions indicated capable knowledge of the product and its operating environment. We rate technical support satisfactory.

VALUE:

At \$495, Legacy's price is the same as its competitors. For offices with complex mail-merge needs and forms processing requirements, this product is not recommended. However, if your office produces elegant and complex documents such as brochures, newsletters, product

If your office produces material where layout and presentation are both complex and significant, this product would be an outstanding value.

It traps normal keyboard and system errors, and it offers backup options including timed backup. The program prompts before exiting unsaved text, and it supports a one-level Undo command. In addition, there is a Redo command that operates as a toggle between Undo and Redo. While the Undo is only one level, it does trap deletions done with backspace and delete keys, as well as frame and graphics changes. We rate error handling good.

SUPPORT:

NBI offers unlimited toll-free support

announcements, manuals, and other material where layout and presentation are both complex and significant, this product would be an outstanding value. Nonetheless, in the overall battle for top honors in office/professional word processor programs for Windows, we would place Legacy behind the two reigning leaders, Word for Windows and Ami Professional. Legacy is a good value. □

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

REPORT CARD INFO WORLD

OFFICE/PROFESSIONAL WORD PROCESSOR

Legacy

VERSION 1.0

Criterion	(Weighting)	Score
Performance		
Basic editing	(60)	Very Good
Spelling checker/thesaurus	(60)	Good
Mail merge	(20)	Satisfactory
Layout	(60)	Excellent
Graphics	(50)	Very Good
Outlining	(20)	Satisfactory
TOC and indexing	(20)	Good
Style sheets	(20)	Excellent
Font support	(60)	Excellent
Footnoting	(25)	Good
Macros	(25)	N/A
Printer support	(60)	Very Good
Compatibility	(60)	Excellent
Speed	(50)	Very Good
Documentation	(75)	Very Good
Ease of learning	(75)	Very Good
Ease of use	(130)	Satisfactory
Error handling	(40)	Good
Support		
Support policies	(20)	Very Good
Technical support	(20)	Satisfactory
Value	(50)	Good
Final score		7.0

PRODUCT SUMMARY

Company: NBI Inc., P.O. Box 9001, 3375 Mitchell Lane, Boulder, CO 80301; (800) NBI-1111.

List price: \$495.

Requires: IBM AT or PS/2 or compatible 286 or 386; 640K of RAM (2 megabytes minimum recommended for DDE and additional 1 megabyte for each application, and 1 megabyte more for network); 20-megabyte fixed disk; Windows 3.0; DOS 3.2 or later.

Pros: Excellent layout and formatting capabilities with powerful frame feature; superior graphics integration; strong thesaurus; good editing tools; strong font and printer support.

Cons: Weak mail merge; minimal macros; modest endnote system; no document tracking or automatic line numbering; clumsy windowing system for multiple document editing.

Summary: Legacy is a fine program for making newsletters, standard documents, brochures, and other materials requiring elaborate and complex layouts. Less effective for offices with heavy mail merge needs, legal work, or complicated document assembly using macros.

BENCHMARKS

Office/Professional Word Processors

	Legacy Version 1.0	Ami Professional ¹ Version 1.2	Microsoft Word ² Version 5.0	Word for Windows ³ Version 1.0	Word Perfect ² Version 5.1	Wordstar ³ Version 6.0
File⁴						
Load	00:06	00:03	00:01	00:02	00:02	00:02
Save	00:03	00:03	00:02	00:01	00:01	00:07
Import ASCII ⁵	00:06	00:03	00:02	00:01	00:15	00:32 ⁶
Export ASCII	00:05	00:03	00:02	00:04	00:08	00:23
Import DCA/RFT	00:09	00:07	01:01	00:25	00:14	00:41
Cursor movement						
Top to bottom	00:02	00:03/00:04 ⁶	00:01	00:02/00:02 ⁶	00:07 ⁷	
Manual scroll	00:25	00:26/00:36 ⁶	00:31	00:16/00:55 ⁶	00:49	01:06
Search						
Last word	00:06	00:02	00:02	00:01	00:07	00:05
Global replace	00:07	00:06	00:10	00:10	00:12	00:20
Append file	00:32	00:03	00:02	00:02	00:01	00:04

Times are in minutes:seconds, unless otherwise noted.

¹Ami Professional and Microsoft Word for Windows were last reviewed August 13, Page 55.

²Microsoft Word and Word Perfect were last reviewed January 29, Page 59.

³Wordstar was last reviewed April 23, Page 83.

⁴File size is approximately 50K, 17 pages.

⁵Wordstar combines two timings: opening a file and reformatting text.

⁶The first time is using the keyboard, the second time is using the mouse.

⁷Second timing was significantly faster in Word Perfect (three seconds).