

Hollywood offers a multitude of options. You can hatch-print all charts in your presentation, select a few specific slides, print in forward or reverse order, and print single or multiple copies, which can be collated or uncollated. On our VGA display and LaserJet II printer, images were sharp, high-quality representations of the slides. We rate output excellent.

Import/export: Hollywood can import and export an impressively long list of standard and non-standard file types, including TIFF, CGM, Microsoft Paint, PIC (Charisma and IBM's own Storyboard Plus), Windows BMP, and CompuServe GIF. Additionally, you can import HPGL, Windows metafiles, MacPaint, and AutoCAD DXF files. You can also use the Data Manager to import data from Excel and Lotus WK1 worksheet files and text in DisplayWrite RFT, WordPerfect, and ASCII formats. If you import Excel or Lotus data, you can link your graph to the original data files. Hollywood lets you "freshen" its imported data with a single command, but it's not a true "hot link." Files can be exported in EPS.

Hollywood impressed us. It is chock-full of features integrated into a solid Windows package that rivals PowerPoint. IBM has created a true presentation powerhouse.

Hollywood's import/export facility is much more versatile than PowerPoint's, and it is commensurate with Charisma's in graphics but less capable in text and data file handling. We rate Hollywood's import/export facility very good.

DOCUMENTATION:

To get you off the ground into the realm of Hollywood magic, you can dive into the 180-page installation and tutorial booklet. After that, you will want to refer to the 400-page reference manual. Both are clearly written, superbly organized, and well illustrated. A very nice touch is the added color that appears when Hollywood's color features are mentioned — these appear as full-color illustrations. Features, commands, and keyboard shortcuts are summarized on a quick reference card that is very useful, but could benefit from a few added drawings and perhaps an organizational chart.

Overall, the documentation is some of the best we have seen. It is clearly organized with a Table of Contents, a detailed index, a quick reference card, useful illustrations, and just about everything we need to get up and running. We rate documentation very good.

EASE OF LEARNING:

Like most Windows 3.0 packages, Hollywood assumes you are familiar with Windows' basics. All the dialog boxes, prompts, and other features are standard Windows fare. The tutorial booklet is top-notch and uses good pedagogy to get you up to speed. Each section explains what you will learn, teaches you the concepts, and then summarizes what you've mastered. This is how all tutorials should be written. However, despite the predictability of the Windows interface and superior tutorials, we found Hollywood more difficult to learn than we expected — due to the program's wealth

of options. We suspect that you'll want to spend 8 to 10 hours just playing with the program and learning its organization. We rate ease of learning good.

EASE OF USE:

Hollywood installs easily from Windows in 5 minutes and requires from 8 to 12 megabytes of space on your hard disk. However, Hollywood isn't a program for occasional users, and we can't say that using it ever became very easy. Parts of the program seem needlessly complex — menus are complicated and sometimes unintuitive. However, the presentation module is great, and it can be a knockout package if you have the time and dedication to master it. We rate ease of use good.

ERROR HANDLING:

Hollywood supports only a single level of undo and does not provide timed backups of your work (like DrawPerfect, for example). Program or user errors are handled in fine Windows fashion, by presenting dialog boxes with brief diagnostic messages. The reference manual is

exemplary in presenting a 25-page listing of error messages and explanations. The program worked well, and we encountered no unexpected error conditions. We rate error handling very good.

SUPPORT:

Support policies: With Hollywood, users receive unlimited toll-free support over an 800 number for Desktop software, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern time. After-hours support (24 hr) is also available toll-free on an emergency basis. IBM has also recently opened a support forum on CompuServe (GO IBMDESK). We rate Support Policies Excellent.

Technical support: We made three calls to technical support. All but one of the technicians were extremely knowledgeable and able to answer our questions thoroughly and completely. The other technician was not as knowledgeable, but was able to research our questions and call us back in a timely manner. We rate technical support good.

VALUE:

Hollywood (\$495) compares with PowerPoint (\$495) in its presentation emphasis and color handling, with Charisma in its technical prowess, and with Harvard Graphics 3.0 (\$595) in text charting. It may be the best of all worlds, but only if you plan to dedicate yourself to mastering it. Some reorganization and menu consolidation would go a long way in making Hollywood's sizable talents more accessible.

Overall, Hollywood impressed us. It is chock-full of features but missing PowerPoint's streamlined, intuitive design. We'd like to see more thought given to consolidating menus — several could be made hierarchical, eliminating the need for constant menu selections. As is, Hollywood is a presentation powerhouse, but a needlessly difficult one. We rate value very good.

JustWrite Takes on Professional Write Plus

Symantec's latest entrant in executive word processor arena is graceful, easy to use

BY JOHN LOMBARDI, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

In response to the opportunities of the Windows 3.0 environment, executive word processing programs have acquired new features, new capabilities, and a new look. First there was Ami, the younger sibling of Ami Professional, then came Professional Write Plus, and now we profile Symantec's JustWrite. This category of products gives up little to heavy hitters Microsoft Word for Windows or Lotus' Ami Professional in the areas of text appearance and ease of use, although the executive programs lack the sophistication and extended features of the professional programs.

Most executive programs lack such features as full macro capabilities, fine adjustments to letter or line spacing, multiple forms of cross referencing, math, and sorting. Nonetheless, for general office correspondence, simple mass mailing projects, and general purpose newsletters or other documents, executive word processors often provide a viable solution at a reasonable price.

This review is based on criteria we used in our last executive word processor review. (See Professional Write Plus, May 13, page 87.)

PERFORMANCE:

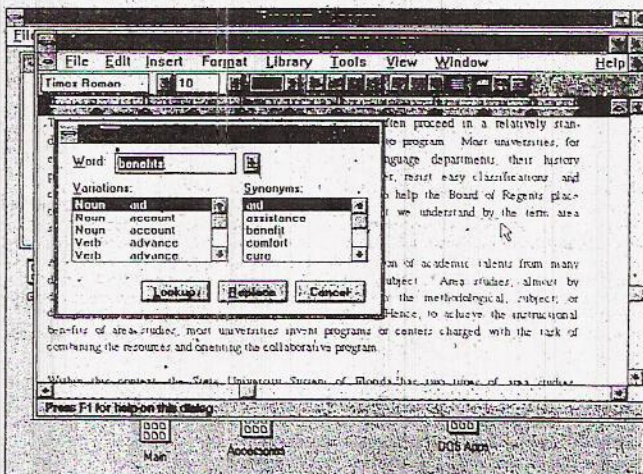
Basic editing: JustWrite handles all the basic editing tasks easily and effectively. The program has traditional cursor movement commands and includes a jump to page command in addition to an extensive bookmark system. Although you can cut and paste with ease, the program does not support rectangular blocks or column blocks for cutting and pasting, which is a disadvantage. JustWrite will automatically hyphenate your text in accordance with a hyphenation list, or you can have the program unhyphenate your text. You can set the hyphen hot zone and insert soft hyphens

manually, but when hyphenating automatically there is no option to confirm a hyphenation point. JustWrite has the usual justification options of full, left, right, and center as well as options for inserting a blank space before or after paragraphs. The program will space between lines in increments of half lines. Tabs include left, center, right, and decimal with optional dot or underline leaders.

In the sophisticated search and replace mode, the program will find and replace formatting. Moreover, the program will find capitalization and replace with different or the same capitalization. The search and replace uses wild cards and can also find hard page breaks and tabs. The program supports no macros of its own, which is a serious disadvantage. However, JustWrite has about a dozen date, time, and file name document stamping options, and it can edit up to eight documents simultaneously in windows.

JustWrite has an extensive outlining system that includes collapsing levels. There are also complete style libraries and document templates, in addition to an index and table of contents facility. JustWrite also has endnotes or footnotes and headers and footers. Unlike Professional Write Plus, JustWrite does not have its own file system for deleting, moving, or managing files. The program does have a very simple table facility using rows and columns in spreadsheet style — a feature not available in Professional Write Plus. We rate basic editing excellent.

Proofing tools: JustWrite's speller works very well, is fairly quick, and offers reasonable suggestions. It permits all the usual options for adding to user dictionaries, skipping unrecognized words, entering corrections, and selecting corrections from a list. An advantage to JustWrite over Professional Write Plus is



JustWrite's thesaurus, though not as extensive as Professional Write Plus', offers synonyms and parts of speech.

that its spelling checker will check a user-entered correction before accepting it and offers additional suggestions if it is not found in the dictionary. The JustWrite thesaurus is less effective than Professional Write Plus¹ because there are no definitions, only synonyms and parts of speech. Unlike Professional Write Plus, JustWrite does not have an integrated grammar checker. We rate proofing tools very good.

Mail merge: The mail-merge function for handling form letters works easily. However, it can be thrown off by a bad record with an incorrect number of fields. JustWrite will pick field names from a list and automatically handle files produced by dBase III/IV and Q&A 3.0. (Q&A 4.0 and Paradox will be added to this list.) With dBase and Q&A files you can automatically do a select and sort. However, when you use regular ASCII files or native JustWrite-prepared files,

there are no conditionals, selections, sorts, or other options. The mail-merge will recognize an empty field and delete any white space. JustWrite's mail merge is not quite as strong as Professional Write Plus¹. We rate mail merge satisfactory.

Fonts: JustWrite's font capabilities include everything normally available in Windows products, including multiple fonts, bold, underline, italics, super and subscripts, and full display of fonts on screen. Printer information comes from the Windows operating environment. We rate the fonts excellent.

Graphics: JustWrite uses frames for graphics. Frames can be any size, but their contents will be cropped to fit inside page boundaries; thus frame contents cannot extend over more than one page

al. Professional Write Plus, Word for Windows, WordPerfect, WordStar, Xy-Write, DCA-RFT, and Microsoft's Rich Text Format. In addition, the file manager can identify many of these automatically and import them without user intervention.

JustWrite will save an imported file back into its native format, it will save it into a JustWrite format, or it will do both. The converter works about as well as any we have seen. However, a glitch in the import filter hung the program when importing a large (130K) WordPerfect 5.1 file. This may be the result of something in the WordPerfect file, but it should not have produced an Unrecoverable Application Error. Other WordPerfect imports and exports of files of similar size caused us no problems. Because the problem

with reasonable examples and illustrations. Some material that appears in the tutorial introduction, especially merge activities information, does not appear in the reference manual. The documentation does not address some issues. For example, it does not explain how to enter foreign language characters into a document. Sometimes the index is not entirely clear. On-line documentation follows standard Windows conventions and many dialog boxes have an in-context link to the help system. We rate documentation very good.

EASE OF LEARNING:

Most Windows products are easy to learn, and JustWrite is no exception. Users switching from other word processors will find some variations in usage, such as the location of functions for tabs and the operation of the ruler line confusing, but new users should adapt easily. The solid help system is an advantage. We found ease of learning to be comparable to Professional Write Plus. We rate it excellent.

EASE OF USE:

The absence of macros and the incapability to change any characteristic of the keyboard inhibits customizing this product. Professional Write Plus, on the other hand, does offer some customization features. Multiple views and various ways of entering information into frames enhance ease of use. On balance, we rate ease of use very good.

ERROR HANDLING:

JustWrite includes timed backup, automatic backup, and warn for save features. You can retrieve a file as read-only to protect its contents. The program locks a file in use by another user or currently opened by the same user, but will then permit you to retrieve the file as a read-only file. The undo saves the last deletions at one level. Each subsequent cut or select-and-delete erases the previous deletion. We rate error handling satisfactory.

SUPPORT:

Support policies: Symantec offers a 60-day money-back guarantee for any reason. In addition, Symantec offers unlimited free technical support to registered users of JustWrite². Support hours are Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pacific time. Symantec also offers fax and BBS support. Support policies are very good.

Technical support: Our calls to the technical support staff produced a quick response with no waiting. In general, the technical support is capable, with the technicians able to answer all but the most difficult questions. We rate technical support satisfactory.

VALUE:

JustWrite, at \$199, is a strong product largely because of its outlining system and table editor. The spelling checker is also quite sophisticated. Professional Write Plus, \$249, does offer a grammar checker, in addition to a better thesaurus. JustWrite's features and capabilities help make it a powerful executive word processor. We rate JustWrite a very good value. □

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

Jeanne Stauffer of the Test Center contributed to this review.

INFOWORLD

REPORT CARD INFO WORLD

EXECUTIVE WORD PROCESSOR

JustWrite

VERSION 1.0



Criterion	(Weighting)	Score
Performance		
Basic editing	(125)	Excellent
Proofing tools	(125)	Very Good
Mail merge	(50)	Satisfactory
Fonts	(100)	Excellent
Graphics	(25)	Very Good
Compatibility	(75)	Very Good
Speed	(50)	Satisfactory
Documentation	(75)	Very Good
Ease of learning	(100)	Excellent
Ease of use	(125)	Very Good
Error handling	(75)	Satisfactory
Support		
Support policies	(25)	Very Good
Technical support	(25)	Satisfactory
Value	(25)	Very Good
Final score		7.8

PRODUCT SUMMARY

Company: Symantec Corp., 10201 Torre Ave., Cupertino, CA 95014-2132; (408) 253-9600.

List Price: \$199.

Requires: Intel 80286 or compatible; 2 megabytes of RAM; MS/PC-DOS 3.1, or 3.3 for PS/2, and Windows 3.X; one hard drive and one floppy disk drive.

Pros: Easy to learn; strong editing tools; powerful layout tools; complete outlining facility; strong import and export capabilities.

Cons: Relatively slow in functions and response to typing; limited graphics editing; no sorting; no macros.

Summary: JustWrite is a fine product that compares favorably to Professional Write Plus. While Professional Write Plus has a grammar checker and a better thesaurus, we found that JustWrite offers stronger basic editing and layout features with its collapsing outlining and simple table editor. JustWrite offers a strong alternative to Professional Write Plus.

JustWrite is a strong product largely because of its outlining system and table editor. The spelling checker is also quite sophisticated. Its features and capabilities help make it a powerful executive word processor.

or across more than one column. Graphic elements, imported from a wide range of file formats, can be cropped, scaled, made to fit a frame, and kept at the same ratio. They can't be rotated or edited, nor can you mix text and graphics in the same frame. You can nest frames up to four levels, and thus have a text frame inside a graphics frame. Graphic elements can use Dynamic Data Exchange (DDE) so a graph would reflect changes in linked spreadsheet data. Unlike Professional Write Plus, JustWrite has no line drawing or rotating capabilities. We rate JustWrite's graphics capabilities very good.

Compatibility: JustWrite supports a large number of word processor file formats including Ami, Ami Profession-

with this file may be a Windows problem rather than a JustWrite problem, we have kept JustWrite's score as very good.

Speed: Relative to Professional Write Plus, JustWrite is slower in almost every category we tested except cut and paste and append document to original document. In addition, JustWrite has very slow screen response. When typing, you can easily type ahead of the screen display and the updating of the screen appears jumpy. We rate speed satisfactory.

DOCUMENTATION:

JustWrite has two manuals: one that includes an introduction and tutorial with examples and the other that serves as a reference. There is also a quick-reference card. The manuals are well done, clear,

BENCHMARKS

INFO WORLD

Executive Word Processors

	Just Write ¹ Version 1.0	Just Write Version 1.0	Professional Write Plus ² Version 1.0
File³			
Load	0:04	0:04	0:03
Save	0:02	0:03	0:01
Import ASCII	0:06	0:05	0:02
Export ASCII	0:03	0:03	0:01
Import DCA/RFT	0:10	0:09	0:04
Cursor movement			
Top to bottom	0:02	0:02	0:03
Manual scroll ⁴	0:02/0:13	0:06/0:20	0:09/0:13
Reformat	0:01	0:01	0:03
Search			
Last word	0:02	0:03	0:01
Global replace	0:01	<1	0:02
Append file	0:07	0:07	0:14

¹Times are in minutes:seconds; lower numbers indicate better performance.

²JustWrite has two modes: a draft mode and a detailed mode. The times in the first column are the default draft mode; the times in the second column are the detailed mode.

³Professional Write Plus was reviewed May 13, page 87. The times shown are the default draft mode.

⁴File size is approximately 15K.

⁵First time is with a mouse; the second is using the cursor down arrow.