



Microcomputer Word Processors

Because written communication is both a very important part of any business and a very personal and subjective matter, it is no surprise that word processors are among the most hotly debated of computer software products, and often one of the very first business applications attempted on personal computers by a company.

In a recent survey, Data Decisions reviewed 47 products from 45 vendors. The review was made on the basis of

the special features of word processors most likely to affect their use in a corporate environment, where a product's first goal is to be acceptable to many even if it must excel for only a few.

The results of the survey are presented both in the form of a dot chart, indicating the presence or absence of key features, and a product listing which provides a summary of each offering.

MICROCOMPUTER WORD PROCESSOR SOFTWARE OUTLINE

VENDOR • PRODUCT	SYSTEMS SUPPORTED		HELP FACILITIES		FEATURES			Multiple Document Editing		Menus		Hard Disk Capability					
	Apple	IBM PC-DOS/MS-DOS/Other	Tutorial	Online Help	Spelling Check	Mail List Merging	Format to ASCII File	Footnotes	Background Printing	Windows/Spill Screens	Automatic Document Size	Automatic Reformatting	Function Keys	Control Sequences	Undo Function	Backup	Copies Allowed
Altos • Altos Executive Word Processor	—	•	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Apple • Apple Writer IIe	•	—	•	•	—	—	•	•	—	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	—
Apple • LisaWrite	•	—	•	•	—	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Apple • MacWrite	•	—	•	•	—	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Beaman Porter, Inc • Power Text	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Broderbund Software • Bank Street Writer	•	•	•	•	—	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Bruce & James Program Publishers • WordVision	—	•	•	•	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Circadean Software • CircaScript, CircaScript+	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Datatek • Datatek Word Processor	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Emerging Technology Consultants • EDIX + WORDIX	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Executec Corp • Execu/WRIITER	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Harris MicroComputer, Inc • Paperwork	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Hayden Software • PIE Writer	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
HFK Software • QWERTY	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
IIG, Inc • Electric Pencil	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Image Processing Systems • PROOFWRITER	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Information Unlimited Software • EasyWriter II	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
IT Software • WriteIT	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Kensington Microware • Format II	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Leading Edge Products, Inc • Leading Edge	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lifetree Software, Inc • Volkswriter	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
MAI/Basic Four Business Products • MAI/Basic Four	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
MARC Software • WordMARC	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Mark of The Unicorn • FinalWord	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Megahaus • MegaWriter	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Metasoft Corp • Benchmark	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
MicroArchitect Inc • Word-X	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
MicroPro International • WordStar	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Microsoft • Microsoft Word	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
MultiMate International • MultiMate	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•



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NBI • NBI Word Processing	—	—	•	•	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Office Solutions • OfficeWriter	—	•	•	•	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Palantir Software • Palantir	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Peachtree Software • PeachText	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Perfect Software, Inc • PerfectWriter	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Professional Software • WordPlus with BOSS	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Readiware Systems • ReadWriter	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Rocky Mountain Software • New Word w/ Merge Print	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Samna Corp • Samna Word III	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Satellite Software International • WordPerfect	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Select Information Systems, Inc • Select	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Signature Software • WORDEXEC 6.0	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Software Publishing Corp • pfs:Write	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Software Solutions • WordEase	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
SORCIM Corp • SuperWriter	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Structured Systems Group • Word-Right	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
VisiCorp • VisiWord	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
XyQuest Inc • XyWrite II Plus	—	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

MICROCOMPUTER WORD PROCESSOR SOFTWARE FEATURES

Nearly all word processors have the basic capabilities of storing and retrieving text, adding or deleting information. Likewise, all modern products have the ability to automatically "wrap" a word to the next line if it intrudes into the right margin. Support for special print attributes such as underscore and bold text is likewise almost universal. What makes a given word processor desirable is thus not the basic support of word processing but the way in which these basic features are provided and the number of advanced features which accompany them.

Many personal computer word processors were designed during a period when the average personal computer user was an electronics hobbyist or programmer who had occasional need to write letters and who perhaps could not even touch-type. Products tended to have 2 very different orientations, simplistic or technical. Those which were simplistic in their features provided little accommodation to the user whose constant typing with the product quickly elevated them to expert status. They were easily learned, but quickly outgrown. The technical products, on the other hand, approached mainframe text editors in command complexity and were very difficult for non-programmers to learn or to apply.

The ideal word processor for an individual is one which can be learned successfully and which can then be used for the normal text or letter functions at the frequency the user demands and with support for the user's requirements, but without constant re-learning. Thus, an occasional user may want a very simple product which creates a deliberate image of a typewriter in its operation, but a frequent user wants a product which is more than a typewriter. Corporations are normally made up more of frequent users, so products which are designed to accent ease of learning at the expense of total functionality should be avoided. The corporate word processor should thus be a product which more closely approaches the functionality of dedicated word processing systems (which corporations are likely to use).

Corporate word processors should also probably avoid cute or unconventional orientations. An individual user can select a

product which matches their particular orientation, but such a process in a corporation would result in the purchase of a wide variety of incompatible products. It is thus mandatory to avoid products whose style will please a few at the expense of offending many. This is made more important by the fact that very few word processors can truly exchange information with other products, making the use of several products in an environment where text exchange is desirable impractical or impossible.

Much has been written about "generations" of word processors, and some recent products are touted as representing a new wave of product functionality. In fact, these products do not necessarily provide anything new, only a different orientation. Corporate users must disregard buzzwords such as "software generation" in making product selection and concentrate on the traditional formula of "features, functions, and benefits." Some critical elements of this formula are presented in the listings which follow, organized as defined below.

Overview • provides a brief description in capsule form of the word processor; comparison to other well-known word processors may be made here; unique features are also indicated in this section.

Product Type • this section defines the major classification of the product, according to the features which it possesses; some of the indicated features are optional, at extra cost • word processor • spelling checker included; mailing list or form letter generator; text editor/program editor, substituting for traditional "line editors" such as the EDLIN program supplied with PC-DOS.

Hardware/Software Required • this describes the hardware and software required for the execution of the word processor, including the description of special or unusual devices • computers supported; operating systems supported; special hardware requirements minimum configuration.

Help Facilities • defines the features or aids supplied with the program to facilitate learning the product or using it efficiently; this would include documentation as well as operating aids and



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teaching tools • tutorial document; tutorial disk/programs; keyboard overlay or template • online help via help key; command summary card or chart.

Features • this lists the major features of the product, aside from the traditional ability to manipulate text and to read and store documents • mail merge facility; spelling facility • multiple text windows permitting several "views" of one or more documents; multiple document editing, either through the use of windows or through document selection features; background printing • utilization of cursor control and function keys for easy and constant operation; ability to undo most recent deletion; document size limitations, whether based on memory limitations or disk storage • backup and recovery facilities • system command entry, either via menu or through special key sequences • edit command techniques, including use of function keys, control key sequences, or special sequences; formatting and reformatting of data keyed or changed • special document support, including indexes, tables of contents, or footnotes; use of product with foreign ASCII files • hard disk capability; backup copies allowed.

Printers Supported • indicates the printer model which the word processor supports; some software developers claim support for many printers; in those cases we will indicate printer support by generic type, for example, all serial printers, or we will state the most popular models.

Price • retail price of product.

Certain product features may dramatically affect suitability of a product in a corporate environment, such as:

- Multiple text windows and multiple document support. These features permit users to view two or more different parts of a large document or multiple documents at the same time or by keying a "switch documents" command. This feature is useful in searching for previous references in a large document, constructing tables of contents, or copying material from one document to another.

- Document size limitations and the limiting factors. Word processors either maintain a document entirely in computer memory while it is being processed, or rely on disk storage for a working copy. If memory is used to store the document the disk image of the old version is safe during processing, but memory size may limit the document size. On systems which use disk

storage for working copies of text, disk space will restrict document size.

- Command entry facilities for both edit and system commands. The way in which commands are entered helps determine the ease with which operators can interact with the system. A simple menu structure for key system commands such as "read file" or "save file" helps prevent errors during these important phases of document production, but menus make the entry of basic editing commands such as "delete word" too time-consuming.

- Formatting and reformatting. Most word processors will format new text as it is keyed, but changes to previously keyed data may cause paragraphs and pages to lose format and structure. A word processor which reformats changed text with the minimum of operator intervention makes proofreading and correction easier and reduces errors.

- Support for foreign ASCII files. Few corporate users will be successful in standardizing on a single word processor for all text manipulation. A product which cannot read any form of external data file and format it for later use may leave users with masses of electronically stored text which must be rekeyed to be useful. The ability to read standard ASCII text files produced by other word processors is highly desirable.

- Program and text edit capability. Many corporate professionals must both generate memos or documents and enter programs or program data. Some word processors imbed special document control data in the keyed text, making the resulting information incompatible with programs or program processors. Use of such a word processor by a professional will require that a separate text or line editor product be used as well, resulting in confusion of commands and thus generating errors. Word processors which have separate text edit modes or which have companion text editors are preferred for such individuals.

- Backup copies and hard disk capability. Whenever disks are handled there is a chance that the data can be damaged. Ability to make backups of the word processor becomes important in those instances to prevent down time while a new copy is reordered. As a corollary to backup copies, ability to load the word processor and use it on a hard disk is important if the user has a hard disk drive and wants to use the advantage of the hard drive with the word processor.

MICROCOMPUTER WORD PROCESSOR LISTINGS

■ ALTOS COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC

375 East Trimble Road, San Jose, CA 95131 • 800-538-7872.

□ Altos Executive Word Processor

Overview • a word processor with hierarchical menu structure and written UNIX, with the user manual on disk.

Product Type • word processor • spelling checker on Xenix 16-bit versions; mail merge capabilities; text editor capability.

Hardware/Software Required • Altos system required; UNIX or Xenix operating system required; 128K bytes of RAM minimum.

Help Facilities • command summary card; keyboard template provided; Help key and on-screen display of entire user's guide.

Features • spelling checker available for 16-bit Xenix systems; mail merge facility • multiple display windows and multiple document editing background printing • full use of terminal function keys; can edit foreign files • disk storage is the only limit to document size; no automatic backup copy of file created; program may function as a text editor • menu entry of system commands; control sequences or function keys may be used for edit command entry; function keys may be programmed by user; reformatting of inserted text is automatic; footnotes supported; can format and write to ASCII files; can read foreign ASCII files • hard disk capability; backup copies allowed.

Printers Supported • NEC, Diablo, Epson, and all UNIX-

compatible printers are supported.

Price • \$295.

■ APPLE COMPUTER INC

20525 Mariani Avenue, Cupertino, CA 95014 • 408-996-1010.

□ Apple Writer IIe

Overview • word processor used with Apple IIe; easy to use Word Processor Language (WPL) available to create mail merge programs.

Product Type • word processor.

Hardware/Software Required • 64K bytes of RAM • Apple DOS; 1 disk drive.

Help Facilities • on-screen help via Help command at all levels of command operation.

Features • no spelling checker or mail list merging; fully supports special keys of Apple computer; no multiple window support • menu selection of system commands; control sequences used for entry of edit commands; can be used as a line editor for program entry on Apple programs; able to undo most recent deletion; automatic reformatting of inserted text; no automatic backup facility • no support for table of contents or index; footnote support provided; no keyboard template • no hard disk capability; backup copies not allowed.



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Printers Supported • Apple dot-matrix, Apple Letter Quality, Silentye, Centronics, Qume, and any parallel or serial printer with interface card are supported.

Price • \$195.

LisaWrite

Overview • a word processor designed to utilize the unique abilities of the Lisa computer; supports multiple type fonts when used with Apple printers.

Product Type • word processor for Apple Lisa.

Hardware/Software Required • Lisa computer; 1M-byte hard disk.

Help Facilities • extensive on-screen help displays; unique visual orientation; tutorial manual.

Features • no spelling checker or mail list merging; multiple document editing support; up to 25 text windows supported; memory limits largest size document that can be edited • fully utilizes Lisa special keys and mouse; no facility to read files created by Apple Macintosh • on-screen icon command structure for system commands; function key entry of edit commands with mouse support; able to undo most recent deletion; automatic reformatting of inserted text; no automatic backup; no facilities to read ASCII documents produced by other products or to write ASCII files • supports footnotes; no support for table of contents, or index • hard disk capability; backup copies not allowed.

Printers Supported • Image Writer is supported.

Price • \$295.

MacWrite

Overview • word processor designed to utilize the unique abilities of the Macintosh.

Product Type • word processor for Apple Macintosh; mail merge program is optional.

Hardware/Software Required • Macintosh computer.

Help Facilities • extensive on-screen help; tutorial manual and on-screen tutorial.

Features • no spelling checker or mail merge listing; no multiple document support; limited multiple window support; mouse used for control of cursor position and function selection; no automatic backup created • files stored in RAM—limit of approximately 12 pages applies; no background printing; system and edit commands are entered through the use of the mouse and icon selection; limited automatic text formatting functions; no facility to read ASCII documents produced by other products; cannot be used as a line editor for program entry; cannot write ASCII files; multiple type sizes and fonts; extensive graphics support via MacPaint (bundled with MacWrite); no footnote or index capability • hard disk capability; backup copies allowed.

Printers Supported • Image Writer is supported.

Price • \$195, bundled with MacPaint.

BEAMAN PORTER, INC

Pleasant Ridge Road Dept CC5, Harrison, NY 10528 • 914-967-3504.

Power Text

Overview • a word processor with fully automatic page numbering, footnotes, etc and based on a "format file" concept of document control.

Product Type • word processing based on format file control; optional spelling checker; mail merge support included, optional on Apple III • optional personal version (Power Pen) and network support (Power Net) • supports use as text editor.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC or PC/XT, using UCSD p-System (runtime support included with product); Apple II Pascal; Apple III Pascal; PC-compatible systems; Franklin • Apple systems require 64K bytes of RAM, one disk • IBM systems require 128K bytes of RAM, 2 disk drives.

Help Facilities • 10-lesson tutorial included; no help facilities.

Features • mail merge facility included; spelling check not available from vendor • no multiple window support; multiple document support through edit suspend function; full support of special function and control keys of computer; requires optional program to interchange documents between Pascal format and standard format; automatic backup copy created; supports background printing while editing and handles multiple document editing • product may be used as a program or text editor; optional communication support • menu-driven system command structure; function key support for edit commands; automatic reformatting of inserted text via format file commands • support for production of footnotes, index, and table of contents; automatic numbering of outline levels; provides an undo (whoops) function for erroneous deletes.

Printers Supported • BMC PB-401; Brother HR-1; C. Itoh 510; Comrex DW; Daisywriter; Diablo; IDS Prism 460; Mannesmann Tally; NEC 3530, 3550, 5510, 7710, 8023A, Okidata 83A, 84, 92A; Qume.

Price • \$299 for Apple II, \$399 for IBM products; spelling checker is \$125 for IBM, \$100 for Apple; mail merge is included with IBM and Apple II, \$199 for Apple III; utility to convert between Pascal and DOS formats for IBM is \$75.

BRODERBUND SOFTWARE, INC

17 Paul Drive, San Rafael, CA 94903 • 415-479-1170.

Bank Street Writer

Overview • an inexpensive word processor designed for easy learning and use by computer novices.

Product Type • basic word processor.

Hardware/Software Required • Apple II, DOS; Atari; IBM PC, PC/XT, and PCjr • Apple configurations require 48K bytes of RAM and one disk; IBM configurations require 64K bytes of RAM with DOS 1.1, or 128K bytes of RAM with DOS 2.X; double-sided disk required for IBM systems.

Help Facilities • on-disk tutorial and manual; demonstration diskette; Help screen shows the usage of control keys; Help screen shows function key list; two pages of Help text.

Features • no spelling check or mail merge features; multiple windows and multiple document editing • function keys may be programmed; reads any standard ASCII text file; documents reside in memory while being edited • no facility for use as a program or text editor; menu entry of system commands; control keys used for entry of editing commands, with additional prompting as required; automatic reformatting of inserted text.

Printers Supported • all parallel and serial printers are supported.

Price • \$69.95 for Apple or Atari; \$79.95 for the IBM PC versions.

BRUCE & JAMES PROGRAM PUBLISHERS, INC

4500 Tuller Road, Dublin, OH 43017 • 800-531-1309.

WordVision

Overview • an inexpensive editor with color monitor support and a very pleasing screen layout.

Product Type • word processor; optional spelling checker and mail merge support to be available second quarter 1984; support for use as a text or program editor.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, or PC/XT, with PC-DOS • 96K bytes of RAM; one double-sided floppy disk required.

Help Facilities • dealer demonstration disk, not available to user; key caps provided to define control keys; extensive on-screen help at all levels.

Features • optional mail merge and spelling check facilities to be available in July 1984; limited multiple-window support; multiple document editing • full support for control and function keys of computer; standard ASCII files may be imported and edited; disk storage is the only limit to document size; program may be used as a text or program editor; function keys are used



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to enter system and edit commands; inserted text is reformatted automatically; automatic backup; cut and paste, bold and underscore capability; full support for color monitor; very fast processing.

Printers Supported • Diablo 630, Epson MX series, IBM Personal Computer Printer, NEC 3550.

Price • \$79.95.

■ CIRCADEAN SOFTWARE INC

Box 1208, Melbourne, FL 32901 • 305-723-5717.

□ CircaScript, CircaScript+

Overview • a basic word processor for the Apple or Commodore 64 computers with support for an 80-column card.

Product Type • basic word processor • CircaScript+ has mail merge support.

Hardware/Software Required • Apple II, II+, IIe with DOS 3.3; Commodore 64 • one disk drive required; 48K bytes of RAM required.

Help Facilities • tutorial included; on-screen help available at all command levels; 4 screens of help text.

Features • CircaScript+, has mail merge support; no spelling check support available; no multiple window or multiple document support • full utilization of system control and function keys; reads and formats to ASCII files; memory limits size of document to be edited; menu-driven system command structure; function keys and control sequences used to enter edit commands; automatic reformatting of inserted text; supports 80-column card on Apple.

Printers Supported • any serial, parallel, or Centronics-compatible printer is supported.

Price • \$39.95 for CircaScript, \$59.95 for CircaScript+.

■ DATATEK

280 Railroad Avenue, Greenwich, CT 06830 • 203-625-0098.

□ Datatek Word Processor

Overview • called a "new generation" product, Datatek provides access to operating system utilities from within the program and has powerful formatting capabilities.

Product Type • word processor system; spelling checker; mail merge product using dBase II as list manager (dBase II not included); text editor features.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT; DEC Rainbow; DECmate II; NCR; PC-DOS or CP/M-86 • CP/M requires 96K bytes of RAM; PC-DOS/MS-DOS requires 128K bytes of RAM; requires 2 floppy disks or hard disk.

Help Facilities • tutorial provided; keyboard overlay and command summary card; help available on screen for each command.

Features • spelling checker included; mail merge facility designed to work with dBase II files; no multiple window or multiple document support; full support for PC function and special keys • program can read and edit foreign files; disk storage is the only limitation to document size; automatic backup copy created when a file is changed; program can be used as a text or program editor • function keys select system and editing commands; automatic reformatting, of inserted text; special support for indexes and footnotes; operating system commands may be issued from within the program (delete, copy, etc).

Printers Supported • Qume, Diablo 1650 and 630, NEC 3500 series, Centronics 737, Dataproducts letter quality, C. Itoh F-10, DEC LQP02, DEC LA50, and DEC LA100; also supports many other parallel and serial printers.

Price • \$450.

■ EMERGING TECHNOLOGY CONSULTANTS

2031 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80302 • 303-447-9495.

□ EDIX + WORDIX

Overview • a different approach to word processing—a text editor and text formatter as separate product; combined, they are very powerful but somewhat unconventional to use.

Product Type • text editor package (EDIX); text formatting and processing package (WORDIX); mail merge facilities included in WORDIX; spelling checker optional; text and program editor (EDIX).

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT; PC compatibles; TI Professional; DEC Rainbow; Zenith Z-100; NEC; Victor 9000 • MS-DOS/PC-DOS required • requires 128K bytes of RAM; one disk drive required.

Help Facilities • tutorial and diskette; Help key; 40 Help screens; Help available at the command level.

Features • two different, integrated products; EDIX provides for text entry; WORDIX provides text processing, formatting, and printing; mail merge feature integral to WORDIX; spelling checker not available from vendor; up to 12 documents can be edited at the same time; up to 4 windows into different files; any ASCII text file may be edited; memory limit of 640K bytes per document which can be edited • automatic backup copy of documents created; superior text and program editing capabilities; function key entry of system and edit commands; reformatting of inserted text is via a command • automatic section numbering; automatic footnote generation; automatic table of contents generation • optional INDIX product for index generation; user macro-commands may be written.

Printers Supported • large number of parallel and serial printers; control strings must be entered by the user during initial printer configuration; technical support is available for printer setup.

Price • EDIX is \$195; WORDIX is also \$195; SPELLIX is \$95; no price is yet available for INDIX.

■ EXECUTEC CORP

12200 Park Central Drive, Dallas, TX 75251 • 214-239-8080.

□ Execu/WRITER

Overview • a part of SeriesOne an integrated software system which includes a word processor, database program, and spreadsheet program.

Product Type • word processing system; part of integrated application system; text editor capability.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT; Televideo; NCR; DEC; Victor • MS-DOS or PC-DOS required • requires 128K bytes of RAM on IBM, 196K bytes on Victor.

Help Facilities • tutorial manual and diskette provided; command summary card supplied; Help feature available by special keystroke at any point; one to 6 Help screens displayed.

Features • no spelling checker; mail list merge facilities provided; multiple document editing via switch document function; no multiple window support • all special and function keys of computer fully supported; file exchange with remainder of SeriesOne system supported • disk capacity is the only factor limiting document size; user is prompted for creation of a backup copy of a changed document; program reads and formats to ASCII files; program or text editing supported; menu structure for system commands; function keys control entry of edit commands; inserted text must be formatted by a command • footnote and index support; background printing is not supported; integrated software system includes spreadsheet, database, and word processor.

Printers Supported • large number of parallel and serial printers; control strings are entered by the user into a menu-driven initialization program.

Price • \$450 for the SeriesOne integrated system, including Execuwriter.



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■ HARRIS MICROCOMPUTER, INC

2560 North 560 E, Provo, UT 84604 • 801-373-1605.

Paperwork

Overview • an inexpensive text editor and word processor with mailing list merge and list database program included.

Product Type • word processing program; text editor; mailing list merge program; list maintenance database program.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT, or PC-compatible computers; CP/M-80 8-bit computers; MS-DOS/PC-DOS or CP/M-80 • IBM PC or compatibles require 128K bytes of RAM • CP/M systems require 64K bytes of RAM; 300K bytes of disk storage required.

Help Facilities • online Help disk • 32K-byte Help data file; Help available for each command.

Features • mail merge facility with database program for list maintenance; no spelling checker available from vendor; no multiple window or multiple document support; control sequences used to initiate commands • any ASCII text file may be edited; does not handle footnotes automatically; provides no automatic index/table of contents; and has no simultaneous (background) printing capability; disk storage is the only limitation to file size; backup file created on request; program or text entry supported • system commands entered from prompts; automatic formatting of entered or changed text • control codes provided for special functions, and provides an undo function (whoops facility) to undo most recent delete.

Printers Supported • any parallel or serial printer is supported.

Price • \$129.95.

■ HAYDEN SOFTWARE

600 Suffolk Street, Lowell, MA 01853 • 617-937-0200.

Pie Writer

Overview • an inexpensive word processor available for most of the popular microcomputer systems and including a built-in typing tutor.

Product Type • word processor; mail merge facilities included.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT; some PC-compatible systems; Franklin Ace; Apple II, II+, IIe; Apple version supports 40 or 80 column display • Apple version requires 48K bytes of RAM, one disk drive; IBM compatible versions require 64K bytes for DOS 1.1, 128K bytes for DOS 2.X • one disk drive required for IBM systems.

Help Facilities • built-in typing tutor; quick-reference card supplied; single Help screen with command summary.

Features • mail merge feature included; no spelling checker available from vendor; support is provided for multiple document editing; 2 text windows supported on IBM version only • any document in standard ASCII text form may be edited; disk capacity is the only limit to document size; no support for text or program entry • function and control keys are used to enter system and edit commands; inserted text is reformatted automatically • superscript and subscript support • multiple page deletion • hard disk capability is available; backup copies are permitted.

Printers Supported • Epson MX/FX Series, Diablo 1620, Qume Sprint/5, NEC 5510, and Centronics 737; user may set parameters (control strings) for other printers with a menu-driven printer configuration; supports many other parallel and serial printers.

Price • \$149.95 for the Apple versions, \$199.95 for the IBM version; spelling checker is optional at \$49.95.

■ HFK SOFTWARE

P. O. Box 150-L, Danbury, NH 03230 • 617-259-0059.

Qwerty

Overview • a very different kind of word processor—one that makes the computer look like a typewriter.

Product Type • word processing system; mail merge facility

optional; text or program editor support.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC OR PC/XT PCjr; most PC-compatible systems; MS-DOS/PC-DOS • 128K bytes of RAM required; 64K-byte version on special order; one single-sided floppy disk required.

Help Facilities • tutorial text; function key reference card supplied; three Help keys for assistance; no general Help facility.

Features • no spelling check facility; mail merge feature is optional; no multiple document or multiple window support; uses numeric keypad for command entry • any ASCII file may be imported, edited, and saved • 48K-byte disk chaining at print time is supported; program or text editor support • automatic formatting of revised or added text; product emulates a typewriter.

Printers Supported • Centronics 353; Diablo 630; Epson FX, MX series; NEC 3530, 3550; Okidata 92; Smith-Corona TP-1; Toshiba P1350.

Price • \$325, one-month trial available at \$25; merge program is an additional \$75; PC Jr and Personal Qwerty versions \$99 (both include mail merge facility).

■ IJG, INC.

1953 West 11th Street, Upland, CA 91786 • 714-946-5805.

Electric Pencil

Overview • a product remembered with much nostalgia by many CP/M users of the 70s, Pencil has been upgraded to the PC, where it claims to be the most "bulletproof" product available.

Product Type • word processor; text editor; optional spelling checker • mail merge facility planned.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT; most PC-compatible systems; NEC; TRS-80; most 8-bit CP/M systems • one disk drive and 64K bytes of RAM required.

Help Facilities • separate tutor program available; quick reference card supplied; PC version has Help key and Help screen with help level set to control the amount of menu data shown on screen.

Features • spelling checker scheduled for optional availability in April 1984; mail merge facility is very basic; some versions support multiple document editing; up to 6 windows supported • cursor and special function keys of computer fully utilized; any file in ASCII format may be edited; memory limits the size of files being edited, but files may be combined at print time; footnotes, indexed table of contents and background printing are not supported • program and text entry supported; all system commands are entered by menu selection; control sequences and function keys are used to enter edit commands; inserted text is formatted automatically; supports editing of up to 2 files and provides 6 window/split-screen capabilities • function keys may be redefined by the user; extensive support for reading and reconstructing damaged files.

Printers Supported • all parallel and serial printers supported by the hardware Electric Pencil is operating on, including foreign language character sets on both printer and screen.

Price • \$299.95; tutorial disk is \$49.95.

■ IMAGE PROCESSING SYSTEMS

6409 Appalachian Way, Box 5016, Madison, WI 53705 • 608-233-5033.

PROOFWRITER

Overview • a product designed for the unusual application, with support for multiple languages and even on-screen character generation.

Product Type • word processor; spelling checker; mail merge program; text editor features.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT; most PC-compatible systems; TI Professional • 192K bytes of RAM required • some features require color graphics adapter • one disk drive required.



Microcomputer Word Processors

Help Facilities • tutorial manual and diskette; command summary card supplied; 2 Help commands, one for entry and one for print, provide command summaries; no command-level help.

Features • spelling checker and mail merge facilities standard; provides multiple document and multiple window support; full support for computer special and function keys • any DOS file may be imported and translated; disk capacity is the only limitation to document size; automatic backup copy creation • program and text edit features; menu-driven system command structure; single key command structure using function keys in edit mode; automatic reformatting of inserted text; support for German, Greek characters; scientific and equation symbol support • extremely flexible printer configuration; on-screen character generation for unusual requirements.

Printers Supported • over 25 of the most popular manufacturers printers are supported including; Epson, Okidata, NEC, Qume and Diablo • a configurator is also available allowing user to support other printers.

Price • \$250; \$300 for the international version.

■ INFORMATION UNLIMITED SOFTWARE, INC

2401 Marinship Way, Sausalito, CA 94965 • 415-331-6700.

□ EasyWriter II

Overview • a newer version of the first word processor for the IBM PC, this one supports interesting concepts like multiple tab rulers and on-screen underscore.

Product Type • word processor; spelling checker; mail merge program; limited text editor capability.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC or PC/XT with PC-DOS; most PC-compatibles; bundled with Sanyo system • requires 64K bytes of RAM for DOS 1.1, 128K bytes for 2.0.

Help Facilities • tutorial manual and diskette; stick-on function key labels; command summary card, single Help screen with command summary.

Features • mail merge and spelling check features are not available from vendor; no multiple document or multiple window support; fully supports computer special control and function keys • standard DOS files may be edited via import function; disk storage limits file sizes—approximately 76 pages are permitted per folder; file import/export commands may be used to edit or create text or program files • ESC key causes system to enter command menu, where system commands may be selected; function keys are used to generate edit commands; single function key formats inserted text • users may name and call back tab rulers • does not support footnotes, automatic indexed table of contents, multiple simultaneous document editing, windows/split screens, and automatic backup or reformatting • menu-driven, with full use of function keys and provides an undo (whoops) facility to correct recent (unwanted) deletions.

Printers Supported • Anadex DP 9000A, 9001A, 9500A, 9501A, WP 6000; C. Itoh F10, 8510A; Computers International Daisywriter 2000; Diablo 630, 1610, 1640, 1650; NEC 3515, 3530, 3550, 5510, 5520, 7700, 8023A; Okidata Microline; Qume Sprint; Smith-Corona TP-1; TEC 1500; Texas Instruments 810, 850; Vista V-300.

Price • \$350.

■ IT SOFTWARE

Division of Martin Marietta, P.O. Box 2392, Princeton, NJ 08540 • 609-799-2600.

□ WriteIT

Overview • a version of Multimate, WriteIT operates under control of KeepIT, a relational database system which forms the heart of Martin Marietta's integrated IT series.

Product Type • word processor; member of integrated application family (IT); other modules such as database management and graphics are optional; spelling checker; mail merge program.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT; most PC-compatible systems; Victor 9000 • requires 192K bytes of RAM under PC-DOS or MS-DOS 1.X; 256K bytes under DOS 2.X.

Help Facilities • tutorial manual and demonstration/tutorial disk; keyboard template and stickers; full Help facilities at all command levels.

Features • spelling checker and mail merge support standard; multiple document merging support; no multiple window support; fully uses computer special control and function keys • can read any DOS text file and edit it, if DOS extension facility is purchased; 128K-byte memory limitation; F10 function key must be hit for back-up; no support for use as a program or text editor • menu-driven system command structure; function keys used for entry of edit commands; automatic reformatting of inserted text; footnote support • operation similar to Wang word processing systems.

Printers Supported • any serial or parallel printer supported by the particular hardware WriteIT is operating on.

Price • \$500.

■ KENSINGTON MICROWARE

919 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022 • 212-475-5200.

□ Format II

Overview • an enhanced version of the original Format product, this one offers true microspace adjustment in printing, standard mail merge, and DOS-compatible text structure.

Product Type • word processor; mail merge program; text editor.

Hardware/Software Required • Apple II+, IIe; Franklin Ace; Apple DOS required • 80-column card required—16 supported.

Help Facilities • command summary card; no Help facilities.

Features • mail merge feature included; no spelling check facilities; no multiple document or multiple window support; uses escape and control key on Apple, no others available • reads standard DOS 3.3 files; memory used to store document while editing; program or text entry capability; menu structure for system commands; single key numeric keypad entry of edit commands • automatic formatting of inserted data; true microspace justification with proper printer.

Printers Supported • any parallel or serial printers supported by the hardware Format II is operating on.

Price • \$150.

■ LEADING EDGE PRODUCTS, INC

225 Turnpike Street, Canton, MA 02021 • 617-828-8150.

□ Leading Edge

Overview • a well-advertised product which offers the features of standalone word processors at a competitive price.

Product Type • word processor; merge print program; text editor.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT; most PC compatible systems; MS-DOS or PC-DOS required • 256K bytes of RAM required, 128K-byte version available on special order.

Help Facilities • tutorial manual and diskette; templates provided for keyboard; command reference card supplied; Help menu available at all levels of command; interactive tutorial.

Features • merge print facility standard; no spelling checker; 2 documents may be edited at a time using two windows • fully supports special control and function keys of computer; interactive file formatting for import of foreign files • disk storage is the only factor limiting file size; backup copies of edited files created automatically; program and text edit features • menu-driven system command entry; function key entry of edit commands with some control sequences also used; menu bypass facilities; automatic reformatting of inserted text; multiple formats within the same line of text.

Printers Supported • C. Itoh F10, Prowriter 8510; IBM Personal Computer Printer; IDS Prism; NEC 3550.

Price • \$350.



Microcomputer Word Processors

■ LIFETREE SOFTWARE INC

Suite 30, 411 Pacific Street, Monterey, CA 93940 • 408-373-4718.

Volkswriter

Overview • Volkswriter is available in several versions the most sophisticated being the "Deluxe" package; it is not as advanced as other word processors in the same price range but has a strong following; it was one of the first easy-to-use word processors.

Product Type • word processor; mail merge included in deluxe version; text editor.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT; most PC-compatible computers • standard version runs in 64K bytes and requires 1 disk • deluxe version requires two double-sided disks and 128K bytes of RAM.

Help Facilities • tutorial on disk supplied; small Help screen available to define function key usage.

Features • mail merge feature included in deluxe version; no spelling check facility; no multiple window or multiple document capability • full support of function keys; can read any ASCII text file; memory and disk used to store documents while editing • deluxe version offers optional automatic backup of edited documents upon exit; text and program editing supported; function keys used on deluxe version for system command entries, other versions use menu structure; edit commands are entered via function keys • international character sets; column movement supported; color display supported.

Printers Supported • Brother HR-1; C. Itoh F-10, Prowriter; Diablo 630; Epson FX, MX series; IBM Personal Computer Printer; IDS Prism; NEC 3500, 5530, 7730, 8023; Okidata; Olivetti DY 250; Qume 5, 11; Smith-Corona TP-1; Toshiba P1350.

Price • Version 1.2 is \$195; Version 1.3 is \$225; the deluxe version is \$285.

■ MAI/BASIC FOUR BUSINESS PRODUCTS

601 San Pedro NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108 • 505-266-5811.

MAI/Basic Four Word Processing

Overview • this custom product runs on the Basic Four S-10 system and provides multiuser word processing support.

Product Type • multiuser word processing system; optional records management/mail merge facility.

Hardware/Software Required • Basic Four S-10; Business Basic; BB-M operating system • 128K bytes of RAM; dual floppy disk or hard disk.

Help Facilities • tutorial manual and diskette provided; keycaps and command card provided; on-screen Help facility available at all command levels.

Features • optional mail merge and records management program; no spelling check available; no support for multiple document or multiple window operation • full support for S-10 function keys; no facility for editing of foreign documents or files; disk capacity is the only limitation to document size • no facility for program or text editing; automatic backup file created when document is edited; menu-driven system command structure; function keys used to enter edit commands; command used to format inserted text; math package • multiuser support.

Printers Supported • Basic Four letter-quality printer which is the Diablo 630; the Okidata 82, 84, 92, and 94 are also supported.

Price • \$695, with optional records management; mail merge system priced at an additional \$495.

■ MARC SOFTWARE

260 Sheridan Avenue, Suite 200, Palo Alto, CA 94306 • 415-326-1971.

WordMarc

Overview • a special word processing system for those involved in scientific typing applications and statistical formula keying, this

product will also serve more conventional needs.

Product Type • word processing system; spelling checker; mail merge program; Text editor.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT; most PC-compatible systems; MS-DOS or PC-DOS • 256K bytes of RAM required; 2 double-sided disk drives or hard disk required.

Help Facilities • tutorial manual included; keyboard overlay and command summary card included; Help facilities available online.

Features • mail merge and spelling check facilities standard; no support for multiple document editing or multiple windows; Wang files and ASCII text files may be directly edited • disk storage is the limiting factor to document size; automatic backup of edited files; program and text editing support • menu-driven command structure for system commands; function keys used to enter edit commands; automatic reformatting of inserted text • support for scientific typing; 16 levels of super and subscripts; 6 foreign languages supported, including spelling checking; alternate characters on screen for foreign character sets.

Printers Supported • any parallel or serial printer supported by the hardware WordMarc is operating on.

Price • \$495.

■ MARK OF THE UNICORN

222 3rd Street, Cambridge, MA 02142 • 617-576-2760.

FinalWord

Overview • a word processor noted for its footnote support and its ability to recover from a hardware crash.

Product Type • word processor; text editor.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT; DEC Rainbow; any CP/M 8-bit system; MS-DOS PC-compatible systems • 8-bit systems require 64K bytes of RAM • PC-DOS, MS-DOS, CP/M-86 systems require 128K bytes of RAM.

Help Facilities • tutorial manual provided; command reference card included; 8K bytes of Help files; general Help function only; no command-level files.

Features • no spelling check or mail merge features supported; 2 windows support dual document editing • full support for function and special keys of computer; generally, any standard ASCII text file may be edited; disk storage is the only limitation to document size; program and text editing supported; automatic backup upon exit of edited files may be selected; most system commands are supported via menu • editing commands may be supported by function keys or control sequences depending on the system; command causes reformatting of inserted text in fill mode; footnotes, table of contents, and index supported; system can recover data lost in crash of computer under State Save mode.

Printers Supported • C. Itoh 8510, Prowriter, Strawriter; Centronics 737; Computer International Daisywriter 2000; Diablo 630, 1610, 1620, 1640, 1650; Epson FX, MX series; Star Micronics Gemini 10X; IBM Personal Computer Printer; IDS 460, 560, MicroPrism-80; Leading Edge Printmaster; Mannesmann Tally 160; Nec 2200, 3500, 3550, 5510, 5515, 5520, 5535, 7700; Okidata 84, 92, 2410; Radio Shack Daisy Wheel II; Toshiba P1350.

Price • \$300.

■ MEGAHAUS

5703 Oberlin Drive, San Diego, CA 92121 • 619-450-1230.

MegaWriter

Overview • an inexpensive and basic word processor which includes a mail merge facility.

Product Type • word processor; mail merge program; spelling checker optional; Text editor.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT; Apple II with Apple DOS; PC-compatible systems • Apple requires 64K bytes of RAM and one disk • PC requires 128K bytes of RAM and one disk • uses UCSD P-system (runtime version included).



Microcomputer Word Processors

Help Facilities • tutorial manual and diskette; command summary card included; no online Help facilities.

Features • mail merge facilities included; optional spelling checker • no support for multiple windows or multiple document editing; control keys and special keys of computer fully utilized; import facility for foreign documents; memory holds document during editing • program for text editing support in UCSD format; menu-driven entry of all commands.

Printers Supported • Apple Dot Matrix; C. Itoh F10, Prowriter; Epson; IBM Personal Computer Printer; NEC 7710, 7715; Okidata 92; Siemens 80; Star Micronics Gemini.

Price • \$99.95.

■ METASOFT CORP

Suite E, 711 East Cottonwood Drive, Casa Grande, AZ 85222 • 602-961-0003.

Benchmark

Overview • a word processor with graphics support and special features to assist in assembling documents from "boilerplate" paragraphs.

Product Type • word processor; business graphics support; spelling checker; mail merge support.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT under DOS and CP/M; DEC Rainbow CP/M; Sony CP/M; Apple IIe; Toshiba; TeleVideo; Kaypro II; Corona; Columbia; Vector; TI Professional • 8-bit systems require 54K bytes of RAM • 16-bit systems require 128K bytes of RAM; floppy disk storage required.

Help Facilities • tutorial manual; ATI Training Power instruction available for PC version; command summary card; 4 Help screens with command summaries.

Features • mail merge and spelling checker support; no multiple window support; no multiple document editing support • ASCII files may be imported and edited; memory and disk capacity may limit document size; backup copy created on request • no facility for text editing; menus used for system command entry; function keys and control key sequences used to enter editing commands; inserted text must be reformatted by a special command • footnote support; document history maintained by program; graphics support; 4-function calculator • paragraph library and special commands for assembly of documents from stored text; mnemonic command structure.

Printers Supported • C. Itoh F10, F1500; Centronics 737; Diablo 630, 1610, 1620, 1640, 1650; Epson MX series; NEC 3500, 5500, 7700 series; Qume; Radio Shack Daisy Wheel II.

Price • \$475.

■ MICROARCHITECT INC

6 Great Pines Drive, Burlington, MA 01803 • 617-273-5658.

Word-X

Overview • a personal word processor package which is fast in operation and easy to use, yet supports mail merge capability.

Product Type • word processor; mail merge program; text editor.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT, or PCjr; most PC-compatible system; PC-DOS/MS-DOS • 128K bytes of RAM required; any monitor supported.

Help Facilities • tutorial manual included; 6 Help screens available; Help available from main screen for all commands.

Features • mail merge program standard; requires Data Base Manager program for list maintenance; no spelling checker; no support for multiple windows or multiple document editing • fully utilizes system special control keys and function keys; may edit any ASCII text file; automatic backup of edited file; program and text editing is supported • menu structure for entry of system commands; function keys and additional menus or prompts support edit commands; no formatting on screen—done at print time • high operating speed.

Printers Supported • most serial or parallel printers supported by the hardware Word-X is operating on.

Price • \$58; Data Base Manager for mailing list maintenance is \$149.

■ MICROPRO INTERNATIONAL

33 San Pablo Avenue, San Rafael, CA 94903 • 415-499-1200.

WordStar

Overview • the most popular word processing program ever written, WordStar seems to endure or outlast most of its competition.

Product Type • word processor; optional mail merge program; optional spelling check program; optional index and table of contents program; optional database program for list maintenance; text editor.

Hardware/Software Required • any MS-DOS computer system; any IBM PC system with PC-DOS; any CP/M 8-bit system • requires 64K bytes of RAM on 8-bit systems and 128K bytes of RAM on 16-bit systems; one disk drive required; 80-column monitor required.

Help Facilities • tutorial manual and diskette; keyboard overlay and command summary card; multilayer Help menus with extensive Help text available.

Features • optional mail merge program; optional spelling check program; optional index/table of contents program; optional database program for list maintenance • no multiple window support; uses special control keys and function keys but relies heavily on control key sequences; reads text files in non-document mode • memory and disk used for document storage, but disk capacity is the limiting factor on document size; automatic backup of edited files; non-document mode functions as a text or program editor • menu structure for entering all commands, with menu prompt level selectable and menu bypass supported; command is used to reformat inserted text • column move facility.

Printers Supported • C. Itoh Starwriter; Centronics 353,739; Diablo 630, 1610, 1620, 1640, 1650; Epson MX series; IBM Personal Computer Printer; MPI PrintMate 88G, 99G; NEC 3350, 8023A; Okidata 84A; Olympia ESW 102; Qume 5, 9, 11; Texas Instruments 810, 820.

Price • \$495; packages are available for combinations of mail merge, spelling, and index document programs at special prices.

■ MICROSOFT

10700 Northup Way, Bellevue, WA 98004 • 206-828-8089.

Microsoft Word

Overview • an ambitious product which offers optional mouse support and flexible screen formats, but is accused of being slow and fragile in its present state.

Product Type • word processor; mail merge program; text editor.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT with PC-DOS • 128K bytes of RAM required, 192K bytes recommended; one double-sided disk drive required, 2 recommended • mouse recommended.

Help Facilities • quick reference card supplied; function key template supplied; extensive context-sensitive Help text available online.

Features • spelling checker planned • up to 8 documents may be edited simultaneously in up to 8 text windows; full support for PC function and special control keys • can read, write, edit, and save any ASCII file; disk storage is the only practical limit to document size; up to 1G-byte files are theoretically possible; automatic backup copy of edited file is created; program may function as a text or program editor • function keys used for system command entry; control sequences and function keys used for edit commands, and mouse input is accepted for many text pointing tasks; instant automatic reformatting of text where inserts are made • footnote and table of contents support; on-screen tab/margin ruler with column markings; undo command for recovery



Microcomputer Word Processors

of information lost or altered on erroneous changes • 64 different type fonts supported; on-screen display matches printed image; support for wide variety of printers; English commands accepted at system command level.

Printers Supported • C. Itoh Starwriter; Epson FX, RX series, MX-80; Diablo 630; IBM Personal Computer Printer; NEC 3550, 7710; Okidata 92, 2350, 2410; Qume 11 Plus; Teletype; Texas Instruments 850; Toshiba 1350.

Price • \$375 or \$475 with mouse; mouse alone is \$195.

■ MULTIMATE INTERNATIONAL

52 Oakland Avenue, East Hartford, CT 06108 • 203-522-2116.

MultiMate

Overview • the original standalone word processor look-alike; Multimate has a significant following among corporate users.

Product Type • word processor; spelling checker; mail merge program.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT with PC-DOS; most IBM-compatible computer systems; bundled with Corona, Eagle, Victor • 192K bytes of RAM with DOS 1.X, 256K bytes of RAM with 2.X.

Help Facilities • tutorial disk available at no charge; keyboard template and keycaps supplied; full Help function with Help available at all command levels.

Features • spelling check and mail merge facilities included • no multiple window support; full utilization of PC function keys • facility for reading foreign documents; formats to ASCII files; memory limits size of documents; page-oriented save function limits text loss in event of crash; menu-driven system command structure; function keys support entry of edit commands • automatic reformatting of inserted text; operationally similar to Wang word processing systems.

Printers Supported • Brother HR-1, -15, CE-50; C. Itoh F10 series, Prowriter 1550; Canon AP; Centronics 353; Computer International Daisywriter; Comwriter; Daisy Printer TTX-1014; Dataproducts DP-55; DEC LA-100; Diablo 620, 630; Dynax DX-15; Epson FX, MX series; IBM Personal Computer Printer; IDS Prism 80, 132,480; Mannesmann Tally 160, 180 series; NEC 3510, 3515, 3550, 5510, 7730, 8023; Okidata 82A, 83A, 84, 92, 93; Olympia 3000; Qume 5, 9, 11; Radio Shack DMP-500, WP II; Silver-Reed; Smith-Corona TP-1; Star Micronics Gemini 10X; Teletype; Transtar 140.

Price • \$495.

■ NBI

P.O. Box 9001, Boulder, CO 80301 • 800-223-3626.

NBI Word Processing

Overview • a special kind of word processor, including a circuit board, which emulates the operation of the NBI word processing systems.

Product Type • word processor; mail merge program.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC or PC/XT; Compaq Portable; compatible with NBI standalone word processors • DOS 2.X required • 128K bytes of RAM required; NBI board-level product included.

Help Facilities • on-screen, interactive tutorial and documentation; decal for keyboard supplied; on-screen Help function available at all times; 4 Help screens.

Features • can communicate with NBI word processors; mail merge facility included; no spelling checker; one document and one screen window at a time; full support of PC cursor and special function keys except "print screen" • conversion program for translation of files to DOS format • disk storage is the limiting factor in document size; data is dumped to disk automatically at periodic intervals for backup; no practical means of text or program entry • function keys used for entry of all commands; automatic reformatting of inserted text; commercial editing features.

Printers Supported • IBM 80-cps matrix printer, Qume Sprint 9-11, Diablo 630, NEC Spinwriter 3500 and 8023, Epson MX-80 and 100, Okidata 94 Microline are supported.

Price • \$695.

■ OFFICE SOLUTIONS

P.O. Box 5146, Madison, WI 53705 • 608-274-5047.

OfficeWriter

Overview • like Multimate, OfficeWriter is a Wang look-alike and is designed to provide professional word processing on a PC.

Product Type • word processor; mail merge program; text editor; spelling checker option to be available in July.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT with PC-DOS; most PC-compatible computers; DEC Rainbow in July • 128K bytes of RAM required with DOS 1.X, 196K bytes of RAM with DOS 2.X; 2 disk drives required or hard disk.

Help Facilities • online tutorial and manual; function key template and reference card included; extensive on-screen help function at all levels; 25 help screens.

Features • mail merge facility included; no spelling check facility; multiple document editing supported; full support of PC function and special keys • memory and disk used for document editing, but memory is the limit to document size • reads and formats to ASCII files • automatic screen formatting • no automatic backup of edited file • program or text entry facility • menu-driven system command entry; function key entry used for editing commands; column operations • similar in operation to Wang word processing systems • new version scheduled for July; features will include support for DEC Rainbow, optional spelling checker, background printing, footnotes, and undo function • free back-up diskettes available from Office Solutions.

Printers Supported • Brother HR-1; C. Itoh Printmaster, Prowriter, Starwriter; Computers International Daisywriter; DEC Letterprint 100; Diablo 630; Epson FX, MX RX series; IBM Personal Computer Printer; IDS Prism; NEC 3550, 8023A; Okidata 80, 84, 92, 93; Qume 5, 11; Smith Corona TP-1; Toshiba P1350.

Price • \$325.

■ PALANTIR SOFTWARE

3400 Montrose Boulevard, Houston, TX 77006 • 804-577-2186.

Palantir

Overview • another of the "new generation" word processors, with a very powerful merge/text control language and integrated program menu.

Product Type • word processing system; powerful mail merge language; spelling checker optional; supports use as a text editor.

Hardware/Software Required • Apple; IBM PC or PC/XT; Televideo; CP/M, MP/M; MS-DOS/PC-DOS; TurboDOS; mouse supported • CP/M versions require 65K bytes of RAM; • MS-DOS version requires 128K bytes of RAM; 2 floppy disks with 320K-byte capacity required.

Help Facilities • tutorial manual and diskette; keyboard overlay and command summary card supplied; 25 Help screens selected from Help menu; Help available at command level.

Features • spelling checker program optional; mail merge via special control language (MailOut); multiple documents may be edited at the same time via switching function; no multiple window support • special and function keys of computer fully supported; disk capacity is the only limitation to document size; backup copy of modified documents is optional • program supports reading and writing ASCII text files and program files; system commands are entered by function keys with additional menus and prompts; edit commands are entered by function keys; single command reformat inserted text • main menu will support the running of up to 8 other programs sharing memory with Palantir (memory permitting).

Printers Supported • Anadex 9620A; C. Itoh Prowriter; Diablo 630, 1620, 1650; Epson FX, MX series; IBM Personal Computer



Microcomputer Word Processors

Printer; IDS Prism; NEC 3550, 7710, 7715, 8023; Okidata 84, 92; Qume 5, 7, 9, 11; Radio Shack Daisy Wheel II; Toshiba 1350.

Price • \$395; with optional spelling checker \$145.

■ PEACHTREE SOFTWARE

Division of MSA, 3445 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, GA 30326 • 404-239-3000.

□ PeachText

Overview • based on an earlier 8-bit product, PeachText has the reputation for extensive text control at print time but less "what you see is what you get" orientation.

Product Type • word processor; mail merge program; spelling checker; optional database program for list entry and maintenance; limited text editor.

Hardware/Software Required • Apple using the CP/M option and 80-column card • IBM PC, PC/XT; most PC-compatible systems; MS-DOS or PC-DOS required • 128K bytes of RAM required; 2 disk drives required or hard disk.

Help Facilities • ATI Training Power package included; keyboard overlay and command summary card provided; Help key with Help available in hierarchical menu form.

Features • mail merge and spelling checker included with PeachText 5000 only; no support for multiple windows or multiple document editing; full support for special control and function keys of computer • any ASCII text file may be read and edited; disk storage limits the size of the document to be edited; automatic backup of edited file is created only at the end of file run • limited program entry capability—Microsoft BASIC • menu function for system commands, but command file support is also available; format and other print commands may be imbedded in text; automatic reformatting of inserted data via function key.

Printers Supported • C. Itoh Starwriter; Diablo 630, 1610; NEC Spinwriter 3550, 5510, 5520, 5530, 7710, 7715; Qume Sprint 4, 5, 9/55, 11/40.

Price • \$250; other packaged versions of PeachText and other Peachtree products are available at discount prices.

■ PERFECT SOFTWARE, INC

1400 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94709 • 415-524-1926.

□ PerfectWriter

Overview • a popular word processor bundled with some PC-compatible computer systems and able to support editing of large documents.

Product Type • word processor; mail merge support optional; spelling checker optional.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT with PC-DOS; most PC compatibles with MS-DOS; TI Professional; CP/M systems; Apple with CP/M card • CP/M requires 64K bytes of RAM; MS-DOS/PC-DOS systems require 128K bytes of RAM.

Help Facilities • tutorial manual with on-screen tutorial; Help key and on-screen Help menu with command summary.

Features • spelling checker optional with some versions (Perfect Speller); mail merge capability optional (Perfect Filer); up to 7 documents may be edited simultaneously; split screen supported • full support of special control and function keys of host system; other file formats may be read and edited with some adjustment • disk capacity is the only limit to document size; no automatic backup of edited files created • no support for use as program or text editor; command line entry of system commands; control sequences used for entry of editing commands with function key support • index, table of contents, and footnote support • pop-up menu structure is easy for inexperienced users.

Printers Supported • C. Itoh; Centronics 353, 737; Diablo 630, 1610, 1620, 1640, 1650; Epson; IDS 125 series, 460, Prism series; NEC Spinwriter 5510, 5520; Teletype.

Price • \$349; Perfect Speller is \$129; and Perfect Filer is \$249.

■ PROFESSIONAL SOFTWARE INC

51 Fremont Street, Needham, MA 02194 • 617-444-5224.

□ WordPlus with BOSS

Overview • called "incredibly easy to use," WordPlus offers a full feature list at the going price for business word processors.

Product Type • word processor; mail merge program; spelling checker (BOSS).

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT, or PCjr; DEC Rainbow; TI Professional; most IBM PC-compatible computers; PCjr uses version without BOSS • MS-DOS or PC-DOS required • 192K bytes of RAM required except on PCjr, 128K.

Help Facilities • tutorial manual covers entire product; keycap labels; template provided; Help key selects 5 to 6 hierarchical menus.

Features • mail merge and spelling checker included; version also available without spelling checker; no multiple document support; spelling checker highlights misspelled words and gives suggestions as to how it should be spelled; based on phonetics • all function and special control keys of the IBM PC supported • memory does not limit file size; system handles 200 lines to work with at a time • reads and formats to ASCII files • function keys are used to control editing and issue system commands.

Printers Supported • Anadex; Brother; C. Itoh Prowriter, Starwriter; Diablo 620, 630; Epson; IDS Prism; NEC 3500, 7700 series; Olivetti; Olympia 102, 103; Qume 9, 11; Ricoh RP 1300; Silver-Reed; Smith-Corona; Texas Instruments 850, 855; Transtar.

Price • \$495.

■ READIWARE SYSTEMS

P.O. Box 680, West Reading, CT 06896 • 203-431-3521.

□ ReadWriter

Overview • a word formatter which takes created documents and formats them to a printer.

Product Type • word formatter; works with most spelling checkers and editors.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT with PC-DOS; most compatible systems running MS-DOS • 128K bytes of RAM and 320K bytes of disk required.

Help Facilities • tutorial manual; one Help screen giving command summary.

Features • mail merge feature optional; no spelling checker; no support for multiple documents or multiple windows; uses control and function keys of computer system • many special document formatting capabilities; handles footnotes, indexes, table of contents, proportional spacing, automatic document outlining, 4 types of list creation; reads and formats to ASCII files • command files may be keyed and replayed to issue keyboard commands.

Printers Supported • approximately 30 printers are supported from manufacturers including: Diablo, NEC, C. Itoh, Epson, Okidata, Silver Reed, and Gemini.

Price • \$125.

■ ROCKY MOUNTAIN SOFTWARE SYSTEMS

1280-C Newell Avenue, Suite 1011, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 • 415-680-8378.

□ New Word with Merge Print

Overview • a product with several different forms, including a Novice New Word for use as a personal word processor.

Product Type • word processor; mail merge program.

Hardware/Software Required • CP/M 8-bit systems; Apple IIe with 80-col card, Epson QX-10, IBM PC, Columbia PC compatible • 64K bytes of RAM required on 8-bit systems; 96K bytes of RAM required on PC systems.

Help Facilities • novice/beginner version includes special



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tutorial manual; command summary card included; 4 Help levels; Help key works with any command; extensive Help displays.

Features • no spelling checker included; mail merge facility; no support for multiple windows or multiple document editing (planned); control and function keys of computer system are supported • standard ASCII files may be read and edited; disk capacity is the limiting factor on document sizes; automatic backup of edited files • no support for use as a text or program editor; menu structure for system commands; control sequences or function keys are used for edit commands • command required for formatting inserted text • microjustification; superscript and subscript • special novice self-teaching version.

Printers Supported • C. Itoh F10, 1550, and 8510; Diablo 620, 630, 1610, 1620, 1640, and 1650; Morrow MP100, 200, and 300; NEC 2000, 3500, 5500, 8023, and 8025; Okidata 84, 92, 93, 82A, and 83A; Qume Sprint; Silver Reed 500 Series; Transtar 130 and 140; and all Epson printers.

Price • New Word and Novice New Word are \$249.

■ SAMNA CORPORATION

2700 NE Expressway, Suite C-1200, Atlanta, GA 30345 • 404-321-5006.

Samna Word III

Overview • full-featured word processor with automatic mail list merge facilities and Lanier-type capabilities; Word II with proportional spacing, math and other enhancements.

Product Type • word processor; spelling checker; mail merging facilities.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT running PC-DOS 1.1 or 2.0; PC-compatible systems; 128K bytes of RAM minimum; dual disk drives recommended; CP/M-86 microcomputers.

Help Facilities • tutorial and online Help key facilities included; automatically generates Help display when incorrect sequence of commands is used; Help information appears at top of screen.

Features • mail list merging; spelling check and hyphenation based on Proximity Spelling package; math functions; index/table of contents; foreign and mathematics keyboard; proportional spaced output • based on Lanier-type word processing capabilities with enhanced user interface; function key oriented avoiding extensive dependence on control sequences; disk-based text and split-screen/multiple file facilities.

Printers Supported • Epson MX-80, MX-100, FX-80, FX-100; NEC 3550, Diablo 620, 630; DEC LA 50; Daisywriter 2000; Okidata Microline 92, 93, C. Itoh F-10.

Price • \$450.

■ SATELLITE SOFTWARE INTERNATIONAL

288 West Center Street, Orem, UT 84057 • 800-321-5906.

WordPerfect

Overview • a powerful and flexible word processor with just about everything built in.

Product Type • word processor; spelling checker; mail merge program; separate, compatible text editor.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT; most PC-compatible systems; Zenith Z-100; Tandy 2000; DEC Rainbow; Victor 9000; requires MS-DOS/PC-DOS (2.X recommended); 2 double-sided drives required.

Help Facilities • tutorial section in manual; tutorial disk available at extra cost; keyboard overlay and keycap labels; on-screen Help by command with extensive text and linking to related topics.

Features • spelling checker and mail merge facilities standard • no multiple window support; ability to edit multiple documents; background printing • uses function keys for commands; no ability to undo most recent deletion; memory limits document size, but may spool to virtual disk files • no automatic creation of backup copies • system commands issued from menu invoked by function

key; user macro definition; movement of cursor through new text causes reformatting • no automatic indexing or table of contents; footnoting supported; will format to ASCII file or read from foreign ASCII file • no hard disk capability; backup copying permitted.

Printers Supported • Brother HR-15; C. Itoh Prowriter, Starwriter; Centronics 351; DEC LA -50, LA-100, LQP02; Diablo 620, 630, 1650; Epson MX series with Graffrax; MPI PrintMate 150; NEC 3510, 3515, 3525, 3530, 3550, 5515, 7710, 7715, 7725, 7730; Okidata 93; Olympia ESW 102, 103, 3000; Qume 5, 9, 11; Toshiba P1350.

Price • \$495.

■ SELECT INFORMATION SYSTEMS, INC.

919 Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, Kentfield, CA 94904 • 415-459-4003.

Select

Overview • a powerful and functionally complete word processor with its roots in 8-bit CP/M technology.

Product Type • word processor; spelling checker; mail merge program; text editor.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC and PC/XT with PC-DOS; • 8-bit CP/M systems; Victor 9000; TI Professional; most PC-compatible systems with MS-DOS • 8-bit products require 64K bytes of RAM; PC-DOS/MS-DOS versions require 128K bytes of RAM; concurrent CP/M version for PC requires 256K bytes of RAM • one disk required.

Help Facilities • disk tutor included; on-screen Help available at all command levels.

Features • spelling checker and mail merge support standard; no support for multiple document editing or multiple text windows; cursor control, special control, and function keys utilized • ASCII text files may be read and edited directly; disk storage limits the maximum size of a document; automatic backups of edited files are created; program and text editing is supported • menu-based system command entry; control sequence by mnemonic single key or function key entry of edit commands; automatic reformatting of inserted text; automatic pagination, and headers • provides a failsafe escape facility for deletions.

Printers Supported • Anadex 9000; Brother HR-1; C. Itoh Prowriter, Starwriter; Centronics; DEC LA series; Diablo 630, 1620, 1640; Epson MX series; Mannesmann Tally 1000; NEC 3500, 5500, 7700 series; PC 8023, Okidata 80, 84; Olivetti 128, 228; Olympia 103; Paper Tiger; Qume 5, 9; Smith-Corona TP-1; Teletype; Texas Instruments 810; Xerox 610C Memorywriter.

Price • \$495.

■ SIGNATURE SOFTWARE

615 West Gray Avenue, Houston, TX 77019 • 713-526-1889.

WORDEXEC 6.0

Overview • another word processor product based on the UCSD p-System, said to be easier to use than WordStar.

Product Type • word processor system based on UCSD p-System; optional spelling checker and mail merge program not yet released.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT; Apple II, IIe; uses UCSD Pascal runtime package (included) • requires 64K bytes of RAM • single disk drive required.

Help Facilities • tutorial documentation; Interactive Computer Tutor included; no online Help facility, but one is planned.

Features • uses UCSD p-System; spelling checker and mail merge optional, but not yet available; multiple documents may be edited at the same time (Version 6.0 only); multiple window support (6.0 only) • does not fully utilize special control keys of computer systems; RAM limits document size • no support for non-P-system files • no program or text entry support; reads and formats to ASCII; files menus are used to enter system commands; control keys and additional prompts or menus are used to enter edit



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commands; reformatting inserted text is automatic; no table of contents and index program provided; footnotes are supported.

Printers Supported • a configurator is available which provides support for: Okidata Pacemark 2350 and 2410; Prowriter 2; Qume Sprint 9; TEC F10-40; Okidata Microline 82A, 83A, 84, 92 and 93; Daisykey; Daisywriter; DEC Writer II; Diablo 630; Epson FX-80, FX-100, MX-80 and MX-100; NEC 3500 and 7700Q; Inforscribe 500; and DEC LA-50.

Price • \$395 basic price; \$495 with support license.

■ SOFTWARE PUBLISHING CORP

1901 Landings Drive, Mountain View, CA 94043 • 415-962-0191.

□ pfs:Write

Overview • a word processor with an attractive display format and most of the basic features.

Product Type • word processor; companion product for mail merge (pfs:File); companion product for spelling check (pfs:Proof); text editor capability.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC or PC/XT; most IBM PC-compatible systems; Apple IIe • Apple requires 64K bytes of RAM, 1 disk, 80-column support • PC requires 128K bytes of RAM, 1 double-sided disk supported.

Help Facilities • tutorial manual; PC version has function key template; 5 Help screens for online help list all commands and functions.

Features • spelling checker and mail merge not available from vendor; no multiple document or multiple window support; fully utilizes PC control and function keys • IBM version can read ASCII text files; memory limits document size—128K-byte system can support about 16 pages • no automatic backup of files; text and program edit support; menu entry of system functions; function keys used on IBM version for entry of edit commands; control sequences used on Apple version for entry of edit commands; automatic reformatting of inserted text • integrated with remainder of pfs: line of products • one backup diskette provided.

Printers Supported • a wide-range of parallel and serial printers can be used.

Price • \$125 for the Apple II, \$140 for the PC; pfs:Proof is \$95 for the IBM only; pfs:File is \$140 for the PC and \$125 for the Apple.

■ SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS

305 Bic Drive, Milford, CT 06460 • 203-877-9268.

□ WordEase

Overview • a word processor with a very friendly approach to multicolumn text.

Product Type • word processor; spelling checker; mail merge program.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT with PC-DOS; PC-compatible systems with MS-DOS; TI Professional • 128K bytes of RAM required.

Help Facilities • tutorial manual; 20 Help screens with contents displayed according to the context of the Help request.

Features • spelling check and mail merge facilities not provided; multiple document editing supported; no multiple window support • foreign ASCII documents may be edited; package formats to ASCII files • full support for PC function and special keys; RAM is the limiting factor in document size; no automatic backup of files; no support for program or text editing; function keys and menus control system commands; function keys and additional prompts as required are used to enter edit commands; automatic reformatting of inserted text • footnotes supported; table of contents planned • multiple columns display as printed.

Printers Supported • Epson MX-80, MX-100, FX-80, and FX-100; NEC 3550; Okidata Microline 82, 84, 92 and 93; and Diablo

620 and 630 • a menu-driven configurator is also available which supports other printers.

Price • \$295.

■ SORCIM CORP

2310 Lundy Avenue, San Jose, CA 95131 • 408-942-1727.

□ SuperWriter

Overview • based on a CP/M version of an early word processor; SuperWriter offers a good return of functionality for the investment; supports over 40 different printers.

Product Type • word processor; spelling checker; mail merge program.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT with PC-DOS; most PC-compatible systems with MS-DOS; 8-bit CP/M systems • CP/M 8-bit products require 64K bytes of RAM; MS-DOS and CP/M-86 products may require 128K bytes of RAM; one double-sided disk required.

Help Facilities • mini-tutorial manual included; keyboard overlay and command summary card supplied; 3K bytes of online Help which is selected by command context.

Features • mail merge and spelling checker support standard; no multiple window or multiple document edit support; fully utilizes PC function and special keys • ASCII standard files may be read and edited; documents are stored in memory while being edited; automatic backup copies are created for edited documents; no support for text or program entry; menu-driven system command entry • function keys and control sequences used for entry of edit commands; automatic reformatting of inserted text • user defined function keys supporting over 40 printers including color and ink-jet.

Printers Supported • Epson MX-80, MX-100, with and without Grafrax; Epson RX-80, RX-100, FX-80, FX-100, LQ1500; Okidata Microline 84, 84 step 2, 92, 93, Pacemark; Qume Sprint 5, 9, 11; NCR 6411; NEC 3550, 3510, 3520, 3530, 3515, 3525; TI 850, 855; Diablo 620, 630, 1620, 1640; C. Itoh 8510A, F14-45, F10-55; IBM Graphics Printer, Compact Printer; HP Thinkjet; Anadex Color Scribe; Sharp internal printer; Gavilan internal printer.

Price • \$295.

■ STRUCTURED SYSTEMS GROUP

5204 Claremont Street, Oakland, CA 94618 • 415-547-1567.

□ Word-Right

Overview • a word processor integrated with other Structured Systems products to provide a cohesive operating environment.

Product Type • word processor; spelling checker; mail merge system; text editor.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT with PC-DOS; most PC-compatible systems with MS-DOS; CP/M 8 or 16-bit systems; MP/M 8 or 16-bit systems • 8-bit systems require 64K bytes of RAM; 16-bit systems require 128K bytes of RAM • 250K byte disk storage required.

Help Facilities • extensive tutorial in manual; keyboard template and command reference card; full screen of Help display for each editing function; Help key; context-sensitive Help display.

Features • integral spelling checker and mail merge support; multiple program copies may edit multiple documents via optional window package; number of windows limited by available memory; configurable function key support • support for reading and editing ASCII text files and Magic WorkSheet accounting files; disk storage is limiting factor on document size; automatic backup copy of edited documents created; support for use as a program or text editor • control sequences used for entry of edit and system commands but function keys may be programmed by user to serve some control functions; automatic reformatting of inserted text • optional separate windowing program permits multiple applications to share memory and be alternately entered by toggle command control • proportional and bidirectional



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printing support • integral accounting and spreadsheet program available • hard disk capability; backup copies are permitted.

Printers Supported • Diablo 630 and 1600; Qume Sprint 5, 9 and 11; NEC 1515, 1525, 5500, 5510 and 5520 with Bold and Emperor proportional print wheels; Toshiba P1350 using T100 version of Word Right; Brother HR1, HR5, and HR25; Comrex CR-1 and CR-2; Transtar; Dynax DX-115; Silver Reed EPX- 500, 550 and 770; DPC 3802; NEC 7700; and Juki American 6100.

Price • \$495; Window Pack is \$295 additional.

■ VISICORP

2895 Zanker Road, San Jose, CA 95134 • 408-946-9000.

VisiWord

Overview • after a few performance problems in the early version, VisiWord is catching up.

Product Type • word processor; optional mailing list program; spelling checker included (latest version only); text editor capability.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC or PC/XT with PC-DOS; most PC-compatible systems with MS-DOS; TI Professional; requires DOS 2.0 • 192K bytes of RAM and one disk drive required.

Help Facilities • VisiTutor available at extra cost; function key template supplied; Help supplied on any command; 12,000 characters of Help data; help is context dependent.

Features • spelling checker included; mail list merge via VisiFile (optional); 2 windows supported into the same or different documents; full support for PC function and special keys • memory is used to store files and limits maximum document size; program uses 120K bytes of RAM • support for reading and editing any ASCII file; no automatic backup of edited files; ASCII save option permits use as text or program editor • menu-driven system commands; function keys are used to enter edit commands; formatting of inserted text is automatic.

Printers Supported • IBM PC dot matrix; Epson MX-80, MX-

100, FX-80, and FX-10; NEC Spinwriter 7730 and 8023A; Qume Sprint 9; Diablo 630; NEC Spinwriter 7710 serial; Qume Sprint II Plus; and Okidata Microline 82A, 83A, and 84.

Price • \$375.

■ XYQUEST

P.O. Box 372, Bedford, MA 01730 • 617-275-4439.

XyWrite II Plus

Overview • very fast, inexpensive word processor based on Atex publishing word processing; though not very user friendly, supports many features for its price; enhanced features over XyWrite II include remappable keyboard and micro justification.

Product Type • word processor; headers, footers, footnotes and review capabilities.

Hardware/Software Required • IBM PC, PC/XT under PC-DOS; CP/M-86 systems; dual disk drives recommended.

Help Facilities • online Help with single key for last Help screen viewed or Help command for main menu; return to exact point of editing; tutorial included.

Features • split-screen capabilities horizontally or vertically; ability to read and write ASCII files; full-featured index/table of contents and footnote facilities; automatic reformatting of paragraphs upon editing • based on Atex publishing word processing software; keyboard is remappable; offers high performance for price; though not particularly user friendly the user interface is logical and very fast; cutting, pasting and other function are among the fastest in the industry.

Printers Supported • Okidata Microline 84, 92, 93; C. Itoh F-10, 8510; NEC 2050, 3515, 3550, 7730, 8023, Brother HR 1, 15; Epson MX-80, MX-100, FX-80, FX-100, RX-80; Qume Sprint 5, Sprint 7, Sprint 9; IDS Microprism Series; Transtar; Diablo 620, 630, TI 855, Datasoft 180, Smith Corona TP-1, TP-2; Comrex.

Price • \$195.

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