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WORD PROCESSOR SOFTWARE FOR THE APPLE II
MICROCOMPUTER - SUMMARY OF COMPARISONS

by

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March 1, 1982

WORD PROCESSOR SOFTWARE FOR THE APPLE II
MICROCOMPUTER - SUMMARY OF COMPARISONS

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Robert D. Stevens*

A. WORD PROCESSORS-MAJOR FUNCTIONS AND SOME BASIC
TERMS USED TO DESCRIBE THEIR CHARACTERISTICS

Major Functions

1. Editing (Editor) - Entering and correcting text and specifying format.
2. Formatting (formatter) - The part of the program which puts the text into its final form for printing.
3. File Management - How the program puts and gets files from discs or other sources.

Basic Terms

Word Wrap - Automatic shift of words to new line when end of line is reached.

File Insertion - Can insert phrases or paragraphs previously stored on discs. Also called "merging" for form letters, etc.

Block Move - Move a section of text (words, sentences), or pages to a new location in text.

Global Search and Replace - Will find any word in document and replace it, if requested with another word.

Formatted - Text shown exactly as it will be printed.

Text Filling - Program automatically takes 40 column lines and fills text in to print longer lines say of 70 or 80 on 132 columns.

File Chaining - Adding one file on behind another.

Justification - Right - smooth right margin, Left - smooth left margin.
Both.

*The author appreciates the aid of the following individuals in collecting these materials: Dale Marshal, Jim Edwards, Joseph Byers, Ed Carlson, Vallerie Kelly, P.K. Wong, Bill Brown, Arnold Werner, Dean Roth, Compumart, East Lansing, and Computer Connection, Holt; and of Pat Neumann for the difficult typing.

B. - NOTES ON WORD PROCESSORS
COMPARISONS OF THE MOST POPULAR*

Robert D. Stevens
Dept. of Ag. Econ.
1982

GENERAL AND FILE MANAGEMENT	"NAKED" APPLE							AUGMENTED APPLE	
	Super Scribe II	Apple Writer	Super Text II	Easy Writer	PIE Writer	Magic Window	Letter Perfect	Easy Writer Pro	Word Star
Price	***? \$130	\$75	\$100	\$129	** \$150	\$100	***? \$150	\$250	** \$375
Additional Hdware Rqd.	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	80-Col.	CP/M
Display Columns	40,70	40	40,80	40,80	40,64,80	40	40/80	80	80
DOS File Formatting standard?	Y	Y	mod.std.	N	Y	N	N	N	CP/M
Handles Files Longer than memory	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N		Y
Program Disks copyable?	N	Y	N		Y		N		
Text Disks Copyable?	Y?	Y?	Y		Y		Y	Y dif.	Y
File Type	T,B	B	B	?	B/T	T,B	T,B	B	T
Issue DOS Comds. inside program	Y	Y	some	N	Y	Y		Y	Y
Edits computer programs	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N		Y
Documentation ^{a/}									
Getting started	Fair	Slow	Easy	V.Slow	Fair	Excel.	Good		Fair
Referenct Material	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Fair	Fair	Good		Excel.

^{a/} Popular Computing, Feb. '82.

* Vigorous efforts were made using the references indicated to assure accuracy, however, there may be errors. Blanks indicate information missing.

** Major Contendors.

NOTES ON WORD PROCESSORS

Robert D. Stevens
Dept. of Ag. Econ.
1982

EDITOR	"NAKED" APPLE							AUGMENTED APPLE	
	Super Scribe II	Apple Writer	Super Text II	Easy Writer	PIE Writer	Magic Window	Letter Perfect	Easy Writer Pro	Word Star
	**				**		**?		**
Number of Commands	28	18	67	20	74	34	50	50	47
Max.file size in Mem.	N/A	32K	20K	22K	22K	N/A		10K	N/A
Upper/Lower Case ^{a/}	U/L,C	I,P	C,P	I	I,P	I,P	I,P	U/L,C	U/L,C
Key for shift	ESC or shift	ESC	ESC, CTRL-A	ESC	ESC,Shift		ESC,Shift	ESC,Shift	ESC, Shift
Delete by Block	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y		Y
Insert Mode	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y		Y
Global Search	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Change Command Local (L), Global (G)	L,G	L,G	L,G	L	L,G	L	L,G	L,G	L,G
Word splitting at the end of line	N	Y	N	N	Both	N		N	Y
Formatted View	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
FORMATTER-Gen.									
Editor & Formatter Separate		N	N	N	Y		N		
# of Commands	58	12	28	20	41	7		13	50
Proof on CRT	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Most Printers Supported	Y	N	Y	Y	Y?	N	Y	Y	Y
Page Control									
Page titles, Head or foot	H,F	H	H	H	H,F	H,F	H,F	H,F	H,F
Page No.s top,bottom	T,B	T	T,B	B	T,B	T,B	T,?	T,B	T,B

^{a/} I= Inverse, P= Paymar, C= Control Characters, U= Upper Case

NOTES ON WORD PROCESSORS

Robert D. Stevens
Dept. of Ag. Econ.
1982

FORMATTER-cont'd.	"NAKED" APPLE						AUGMENTED APPLE		
	Super Scribe II **	Apple Writer	Super Text II	Easy Writer	PIE Writer **	Magic Window	Letter Perfect **?	Easy Writer Pro	Word Star **
Text Control									
Justification, Full, L, R, Center	F,L,R,C	F,L,R,C	F,L,C	F,L,C	F,L,C	F,L,R,C	Y	F,L,R,C	F,L,R,C
Paragraph Indent, Pos. Neg.	P[N]	-	P	P,N	P,N	P	Y	P	P,N
Tabs.	Y	N	Y	Y	Y?	N	Y	Y	Y
Underlining	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Output Control									
Interrupt/Resume	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Inserts External File	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Printer Control									
Underline	Y	Extra \$	Y	Y	Y	N	Y		Y
Super-Sub-Script	Y	N	Y	Y		N	Y		Y
RATINGS	*				*				*
Ease of Use ^{a/}	85	75	69	72	85	60		80	90
Vendor Support ^{a/}	90	85	80	60	60	70		70	80
Documentation ^{a/}	75	85	70	65	85	70		80	95
Price/Use Ratio ^{a/}	90	80	80	70	92	61		85	95
Visual Appeal ^{a/}	N/A	75	75	70	85	81		N/A	N/A
Reliabilities ^{a/}	85	75	75	75	80	80		90	85
Error Handling ^{a/}	90	81	81	75	81	80		85	85
Functionality ^{a/}	90	75	74	69	90	65		80	95
Overall Ratings ^{a/}	<u>85</u>	75	71	71	<u>87</u>	65		70	<u>95</u>
Overall ^{b/}	47		41		60 (80 colm)		54	45	63
Preference/Price ^{b/}	6.1		3.2		5.2 (80 ")		4.2	2.2	1.9
Execution (ranks) ^{b/}	3		6		2 (80 ")		3	3	1
Documentation (rank) ^{b/}	6		4		8		1	1	1
Total Points ^{b/}	55		47		<u>67</u> (80 colm)		48	54	<u>73</u>

a/The Book of Apple Computer Software, 1982.

b/Peelings II, July-August, 1981.

GENERAL AND FILE MANAGEMENT	"NAKED" APPLE							AUGMENTED APPLE	
	Super Scribe II **	Apple Writer	Super Text II	Easy Writer	PIE Writer **	Magic Window	Letter Perfect **?	Easy Writer Pro	Word Star **
COMMENTS									
<u>Popular Computing</u>	No. Hardwre required for 80 col. or lowercase.	A best buy	Personal favorite	Outdated	No Info.	Best for beginners	No Info.	No info.	Rqs. Z80 & RAM board
<u>OTHER</u>					Formerly Apple Pie- Format. Hayden has added incremental spacing.				

C. OTHER WORD PROCESSORS*

Word Power: See The Book of Apple Computer Software, 1982 (Overall rating 62)

Letter Perfect: Personal Computing, Feb. '82, Peelings II, July-August, 1981, also contact P.K. Wong.

Super Edit: Contact P.K. Wong.

Text Editor: See The Book of Apple Computer Software, 1982 (Overall rating 63).

Write on!: See The Book of Apple Computer Software, 1982 (Overall rating 64).

Magic Wand: Requires CP/M, see The Book of Apple Computer Software, 1982, (Overall rating 75).

Executive Secretary: \$250, Includes DBM system. See The Book of Apple Computer Software, 1982, p. 68. (Price usefulness ratio 81).

Zardax: \$295, Recently introduced from Australia. See Call APPLE, Nov/Dec. 1981.

The Word Handler: by Silicon Valley.

Editrix + Graphtrix: by Data Transformations (250 column horizontal scrolling).

Word Processor II: \$75.00 M.D. Software

* There are more than 30 on the market.

D. REFERENCES - ON WORD PROCESSORS FOR MICROCOMPUTERS

Personal Computing, Jan. 1981, pp. 26-33.

Creative Computing, Feb. 1981, p. 124.

Popular Computing, Feb. 1982, pp. 22-31.

The Book of Apple Computer Software, 1982, Lawndale, California:
The Book Co., 1981, pp. 58-85.

Call A.P.P.L.E., September 1981, pp. 41-55, Oct. 1981, Nov/Dec.,
1981, Feb. 1982, p. 68 PIE Writer (advertisement).

Peelings II, July-Aug 1981, Volume 2, No. 4, pp. 24-45.

Interface Age, May 1981.

80 Micro Computing, Feb. 1982, Review of SCRIPSIT for TRS-80 Model II.

Report on Word-Processors, or Selecting a Desktop Word Processor,
10367 Paw Paw Lake Dr., Mattawan, MI 49071: Information Research.
\$20.00.

Related Papers

MICROCOMPUTER SOFTWARE FOR PROFESSIONAL USE

-- NOTES ON PROGRAMS WITH EMPHASIS ON

APPLE, TRS-80, AND CP/M

- PART I Word Processors for Microcomputers - Comparisons and References by Robert D. Stevens, Staff Paper #82-16, pp. 160.
- PART II Data Base Management and Other Programs for Professionals Using Microcomputers - Comparisons and Reference Materials, Robert D. Stevens, (pp. 80), Staff Paper #82-22.
- PART III Statistics Packages for Microcomputer by Robert D. Stevens and Vallerie Kelly, (pp. 70) Staff Paper #82-23.

Separate Summary Comparisons

1. Word Processor Software of the Apple II Microcomputer - Summary of Comparisons by Robert D. Stevens, Staff Paper #82-21, pp. 9.
2. Comparisons of Data Base Management Programs for the Apple, TRS-80, and CP/M Microcomputer Systems by Robert D. Stevens, Staff Paper #82-31, pp. 16.
3. Comparisons of Statistics Program Packages for the Apple and TRS-80 Microcomputers by Robert D. Stevens and Valerie Kelly, Staff Paper #82-32, pp. 10.