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Print Screen: The newsletter of the Stanford/Palo Alto Users' Group for the IBM PC

PO Box 3738

Stanford, CA 94305

Volume 2 Number 6

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* Next meeting: Wednesday, June 27, 1984 *
* 7:00pm *
* Rm. 111 Polya Hall *
* Stanford University *
* *

AGENDA FOR THE MEETING —

- 7:00 General Club Business
 - Report on the Monday before the Wednesday Meeting
 - New Business
- 7:30 Reports - Curt Carlson: Club Software
- 8:30 Random Access
- 9:00 Conclusion of the Official Club Meeting

(Don't forget the Monday before the Wednesday meeting at Talbott's -
8:00 P.M. - 463 California Ave. - Come join us with suggestions/comments)

CLUB OFFICERS

Treasurer: Beverly Altman 329-8252
Speaker's Bureau: Mike Van Waas 325-2507
Soft Copy Librarian: Jim Caldwell 692-7181
Hard Copy Librarian: Joe Wible 497-6831
Bulk Purchasing: Greg Tinlow 493-7404
Membership: ← — — — — →
Bulleting Board: Lindsey Puckett 968-1809
Newsletter: Jackie Carr 858-1641
Periodical Review: Kevin Ohlson 494-2574

MEETINGS: Last Wednesday of each month - 7 PM

MEMBERSHIP FEE:

\$25.00 (includes a club library listing
diskette which you sign out & return)
1983 newsletters are included.

NEWSLETTER: Deadline for submitting
articles, comments, or information -
10 days before each meeting.

CLUB BULLETIN BOARD 968-1809
6 PM to 11 PM

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS:

DataBase - Greg Tinlow 493-7404
Communications - Glen Ingram 323-1669
Business - Linda de Sosa 856-6281
Expansion Boards - Curt Carlson 941-5680

VOLUNTEER RESOURCE PEOPLE:

Tony Nunes (857-0836) - PC Write
Jackie Carr (858-1641) - Word Star
Les Weil (321-5541) - Freeware
(Copies By Appointment)
Jeff (Days: 321-5930) Pascal; Dos 2.0
Paul 968-8283 - APL
Jim Webster (326-3365) - Multiplan
Corwin Nichols (494-8640) - "C";
Floppy Disk Formats
Greg Tinlow (493-7404) - AST Boards

ADVERTISING RATES

\$25.00 - 8.5" x 11" (full page)
\$15.00 - 8.5" x 5.5" (half page)
\$10.00 - 4.2" x 5.5" (quarter page)

Subject: Mixing semi-compatible software packages for achieving
specific ends SOFT-MIX.LTR Don Baird 415-365-6822

Packages are rare that do it all and are astronomical in cost when they try. The following is an example of using IBM's PROFESSIONAL EDITOR for easiest creation of text copy, (including a technique for efficient holding of single spaces between compound words during JUSTIFICATION); using WORD STAR to achieve paging with numbers, heading titles, periphery margin control, all with dot commands; and then FONTASTIC for the final printing in a wide choice of fonts.

The following is not a step-by-step example in tedious detail, but assumes specific familiarity with each software package in order to utilize the best of each package.

Note on compatibility: the PROF.ED is fully compatible with FONTASTIC but WORD STAR must be used only as a "print to diskette" (while page numbering, etc. via dot commands). ABSOLUTELY NO EDITING CAN BE DONE VIA WORD STAR!

1. PREPARING THE TEXT via PROF.ED: (Remember that we cannot use WORD STAR to insert hard spaces for compound words, nor hyphen-help).

A. Put all the compound words of the text into the macro of the PROF.ED: Example;

a P cf /Joe Blow III/Joe~Blow~III/90

b P cf /Taj Mahal/Taj~Majal/90

--and a long word like San Francisco Bay below

c P cf /n Francisco B/n~Francisco~B/90

--and up to 26+9 or 35 entries total

--and the last macro below

O P cf /~/ /1000 (for removing the ~'s after JUSTIFYING)

B. FORMAT! (will put one space between all words and after colons and semi-colons, and two after periods)

C. Invoke all of the macros into the text (Be careful not to invoke the last macro entry). JUSTIFY! Then invoke last macro.

D. Note: The PROF.ED will not split hyphenated words at the right margin, therefore desired end-of-line hyphenations must be manually introduced (well, we can't have everything)(I compromise with rigor by not having any end-of-line hyphenations, and get the benefit of never having a fickle set of ten successive hyphens running down the right margin)

E. Still using the PROF.ED, add the WORD STAR dot commands: for instance; .PO 0 for removing the default left margin offset of 8 spaces, .FA after last line of a chapter, .HE for heading on each page, etc. (remember that the lines having dot commands get deleted when print-processed by WORD STAR, and thus are not included in the line count).

2. WORD STAR PROCESSING

F. Call up WORD STAR, press the P key, enter filename to be processed, answer Y to "print-to-disk?", enter filename desired for the disk-processed file, (just use a different extension). Be sure to specify drive, otherwise the file will end up on the WORD STAR disk, -unless you want that to happen. Default the rest of the menu until print-to-disk starts (or just use ESC).

3. PREPARATION FOR FONTASTIC

G. Call up the processed file on the PROF.ED or use EDLIN.

H. Add the FONTASTIC font commands as desired but meticulously insure that each LINE command creates an additional line to the text. FONTASTIC will delete them when printing, thus preserving the line count established by WORD STAR. Other editing can be done as long as it doesn't add or subtract lines.

4. FONTASTIC PRINT-OUT

- I. Call up FONTASTIC and enter the processed filename.
- J. Answer the menu as follows: choose single space by default (I don't know yet what double spacing will do to the page numbers) If choosing more than one copy, be sure to have :EJECT at the end of the text. Enter 66 for Lines per Page (FONTASTIC counts all lines - the user guide is wrong). Left Margin, and Pause After Page are at your option. Lines per Inch should be defaulted to 6 and Form Length to 66 unless you want to be a pioneer in what otherwise will happen to the paging.
- K. Walla; a paged, dot commanded, and fonted print-out.
- L. MORE ON COMPATIBILITY: As long as NO editing has been done by WORD STAR, the file on the disk can be further edited by PROF.ED (being careful not to disturb the paging line count) and remains perfectly compatible. FONTASTIC commands can be added or deleted without disturbing the paging. Further FORMATTING or JUSTIFYING is verboten if paging is to be retained unless done locally on PROF.ED with strict observance for preserving line count. The 125,000 word speller WORDPROOF is compatible at any time but care is necessary lest spelling changes, after paging, affect the line count.
- M. SUMMATION: Why all the macro fuss? Ans: because punching all those hard spaces into compound words on WORD STAR, especially for repetitious ones, can be wracking. I suspect a similar deal for for other cadillac word-processors. A big gain is that we have utilized the power of WORD STAR's dot commands and paging without losing compatibility with IBM DOS and all the software vectoring in upon it.

4. This info is available on disk in ASCII DOS 2.0 per the IBM PROF.ED.

FOR SALE: New IBM Compatible PC TELEVISION IS 1650
14" no-glare screen, 128K, double disk drives.
Price negotiable - Sid (415) 494-7448

ARTISIS'CLUB: Computer artists using science & technology, working on different sized systems. meet bi-monthly. To receive a sample issue of newsletter write - 967 Moreno, P.A. 94303.

To recover from "Error" messages:

1. If it looks like a disk is damaged, format another disk and COPY a:*. * b: to another disk. This will save all the useable files.
2. When you format a disk and get "bad track" error, try reformatting a second time. Often this will correct the problem.
3. When working with a disk, be sure it was recorded with the same Disk Operating System you are using. Sometimes we forget - a disk formatted with DOS 2.0 will not run on DOS 1.1 in the computer.
4. Sometimes when you are doing a DISKCOPY & experience problems, reverse the disks in the drives. If the speed of one drive is different than another, this may work.



Word Proof

From No. Texas PC News

Word Proof is finally available! Word Proof is IBM's new spelling checker and thesaurus program. It is menu driven and thus one of the easiest programs to use that I have encountered in some time. It comes with its own full screen editor and has enough facilities to qualify as a rudimentary word processor. It requires at least 96K of memory and one disk drive (you'll probably be happier with two). It sells for the amazingly low price of \$60.

Once passed the proprietary notice the first thing you see is the Word Proof Main Menu. This menu offers several options but the one that will be used most frequently is option 1, Create, edit or proof file. Once you enter this option you will be prompted for a file name. If the file already exists, it will be loaded; if it does not it will be created. If you are proofing an existing file, you will now be presented with the first twenty some odd lines of text. To proof this file all that is need at this point is to press the F2 key. Even though the program accesses the diskette to read from its dictionary, the proofing proceeds at a rapid pace. When a word is encountered that cannot be found in either the main or auxiliary word lists, Word Proof displays a new menu in a window that overlays the text. This menu displays the word in question and gives you five options: 1) List the possible spellings, 2) Ignore word and continue scan, 3) Word correct, remember and continue spelling check, 4) Word correct, remember and stop spelling check, or you may press ESC to return to the edit mode. If option 1 is selected, Word Proof will search its word list for words that it thinks may be what you wanted to spell. In a few seconds a new window will overlay part of the text; this window will list the suggested words that Word Proof found. There may be one word or a half dozen words suggested. If one of the words is what you wanted, you can move the cursor so that that word is highlighted and press Enter; Word Proof will make the substitution and continue its scan. If none of the words is satisfactory, you may press the ESC key and return to the editor to manually correct the word.

Word Proof is generally very good in suggesting the correct word. I have found that it does have some blind spots. Its suggested words are generally of the same length as the misspelled word, which can cause it to miss some seemingly obvious corrections. It seems to consider the first letter of the word to be correct. Thus it may not be helpful when you are unsure whether a word begins with 'en-' or 'in-'. In cases like that, your best bet is to return to the editor, make your best

stab at correcting the word and then checking the new spelling for that word only with the F3 key.

Word Proof can suggest correctly spelled words but it cannot tell which word would fit your meaning. If you give it the word 'bazare', it will suggest both 'bazaar' and 'bizarre' but you will have to go to a printed dictionary to discover which is a noun meaning a kind of market and which an adjective meaning strange. In the same way it will not catch errors of grammar or sense. If your misspelling happens to match that of some correct word; Word Proof will scan happily on by. The manual has a section devoted to some of the more common problem words of this sort that the program itself is helpless to catch.

Word Proof comes with a standard word list that contains some 125,000 words. In addition it can create a permanent auxiliary word list of some 6000 characters (about 600 words), based on the words that the user has indicated were correct when flagged during proofing. This auxiliary word list can be edited via an option from the main menu. Its creation is almost automatic but the user must remember to save it before he exits Word Proof or the updates from that session will be lost. Once this permanent auxiliary word list is full, Word Proof can support an additional 2000 characters which can be used only for the duration of the program and cannot be saved.

Word Proof has a synonym dictionary to aid you in those times when you cannot think of exactly the right word. This is where that second disk drive comes in very handy. Place the diskette with the synonym list in drive B, locate the cursor somewhere under the word for which you want the list on synonyms, and press the F4 key. Word Proof will search its lists for a few seconds and then display its list of synonyms in a window overlaying the text. If the word you have chosen can be more than one part of speech (remember Word Proof cannot tell from context) the list will be divided by part of speech. You may select a new word with the cursor positioning keys and press Enter or, if none of the words seem an improvement on the original, you may press ESC to return to the editor.

The editor itself is a fairly complete full screen editor. It makes full use of most of the PC's special keys, Home, PgUp, End, PgDn, the forward and backward Tab keys and the four cursor positioning keys. The carriage return symbol can be displayed or not by toggling the Alt-M key. Full lines can be deleted via the F9 key (and the immediately previous delete can be undone via Alt-F9). The only major feature that seems to be missing is the ability to rearrange sections of text via move or copy commands, a feature that is often referred to as 'cut-and-paste'.

Word Proof works on ASCII text files. It can thus accept as input files created by any program editor and

by most word processors. It can be made to accept at least some of the special characters that many word processors insert into the text. The manual makes suggestions as how to best fit Word Proof to the various word processors that are sold under the IBM logo. Fitting it to other word processors is left to the ingenuity of the user. The Word Proof editor can, of course, be used to originate files. It does this with great ease as it supports 'word-wrap' so that you do not have to worry about line lengths and need press 'carriage return' (aka Enter) only at the end of each paragraph. If you intend only to print the file via Word Proof's printing facility, this is very handy and convenient. Be warned, however, that many programs cannot handle text files in which the carriage returns are further apart than 256 bytes. You can, of course, insert a carriage return manually at the end of each line, but, if you plan to use the text file with other programs, it might be wise to create it with some other editor and use the Word Proof editor only for proofing and minor corrections.

Word Proof comes in the standard IBM slip-case binder. The manual is at least up to the usual IBM PC standard, which in turn is better than the IBM mainframe standard. The first few chapters form an excellent tutorial and the latter chapters a reference section. The standard IBM Reference Card is supplied as is a cardboard template to place around the Function Keys. Word Proof's on-line help feature makes the template less necessary than with some programs but it is a nice thing to have; I wish more programs came with one.

Word Proof is not a complete word processing package, nor was it meant to be. It is much more than 'merely' a spelling checker. It could easily be used as a bare-bones or 'correspondence quality' word processor. With its low price and high quality it makes an extremely useful adjunct to any word processor that you may already have or plan to buy in the future.

INSURANCE: If you use a personal computer for personal use only (as opposed to business use), it is probably protected against theft, vandalism, fire and other perils usual to a homeowners insurance policy. Check with your insurance representative.

HELP = Linda deSosa, who faithfully acted as membership chairperson for a year and a half, has moved. At the last meeting, we literally "begged" for volunteers. We even suggested breaking up the job into two parts. (1) A person who would use their phone (with an answering machine if desired) to take 30 to 40 club business calls a month and pick up the club mail from the P.O. Box (2) A person to sign up new members, collect dues, and update the membership list. This is your club. We need volunteers to help keep it running.

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