WORDS, WORDS, WORDS......
by Mike Luttio

Well I am back again to say a few things about what is going on with the club. We were most fortunate to purchase a PC Junior system for the club's use. Phil Janz and Louie Levy worked very hard to get a good deal and I think they did an excellent job. The only problem so far is a boot error that shows up occasionally when starting the system. If anyone out there has come across the same problem and has a solution, we would be most happy to hear from you. There are a few items that came with the new system that the club does not need, and these are offered for sale in this issue.

Last month's meeting was well attended by members and their printers. We had four dot matrix and two daisy wheel printers to look over. Members also brought examples of the print quality available on their machines.

This month, we will look at some of the word processing programs that club members have, or are using at work. Louie will be contacting members to give a short synopsis on programs they have. Also on the agenda is upcoming elections for new club officers. A nomination committee will be formed from current officers to contact and form a slate of potential officers for the April meeting. April's meeting will also feature our annual spring cleaning.

There is plenty of interesting material coming up, but we need your support and input. Please come to your club's meetings and lend your support. Thanks!

MARCH MEETING AGENDA

The March meeting of the Eugene PCjr Club will be held at the Ida Patterson School Library, 16th and Polk, on the 9th. Set up and disk sales will start at 6:30 and the meeting will begin at 7pm. The program will consist of a short overview of word processing programs and text editors followed by a discussion session.
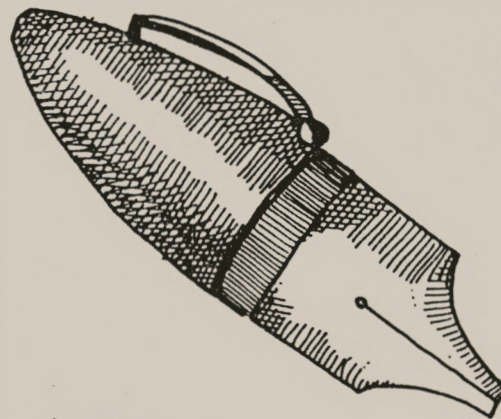
MARCH IS WORD PROCESSING MONTH

I guess that we all use a word processor of some type. We may not use the term "word processor," as we may not actually think of it as such a program. Sometimes we use the term "writing program" or "text editor," but they are all the same thing: a program that lets you create a text file.

At this month's meeting we will cover some of the more popular word processing programs. We hope to present an overview of Microsoft Word, First Publisher, Word-Star, Professional Write, Leading Edge Word Processor, PC-Write, WordPerfect and others, not the least of which is Home Word and Writing Assistant. For those who won't be able to attend, this article will present somewhat of an overview, but won't include the presentation that we plan to do at the meeting. As an aside, the club meeting will include an onscreen

presentation of each program's main menu and other screens that we feel necessary to demonstrate just how the program compares to other programs in the same price range or type. These will be shown with the program PRESENT from our library. What we hope to achieve by this article, and by the program this month, is to give you a better understanding of how to use your Junior to do jobs for you in a more productive way--easily.

Depending on when we acquired our Juniors, most of us are already using either **Home Word** or **Writing Assistant.** If the only writing you do are letters to friends and family, and letters to your computer club's newsletter (I hope), then these programs that came with your Junior may be the only word processor you will ever need. Both programs will "do the job." And there is much to say for ease of operation.

These programs allow you to write up to ten or so pages of text, they support bold and underlining of text, allow you to "merge" files, reformat and to print your documents. What more could one want from a word processor?

Well, when your publisher or that professor at the University says to put footnotes or end notes in your paper, then you have a problem. Or, how about superscripts or subscripts? (Al asks just WHAT is a super- or subscript?) When you say water is H2O, it really doesn't look right unless you type it as H_2O (the 2 is a subscript), and when you say the freezing point of water is 32o, it looks more correct to type it with a superscript, like 32°. To do this, we need a program that supports superscripts and subscripts.

Now that we have progressed into "real" writing, what about foreign characters, accent marks, multiple tabs, decimal tabs, two or more columns of text, widow or orphan protection, math functions in the middle of text, macros, justification of text, selecting more than one printer or type font and pitch, page numbering, chapter AND page numbering, merging of text, being able to "escape" to DOS to

format a diskette while still in the middle of a document...or two documents, and what is an end-note?

In order to get all of these bells and whistles, you must pay your cents and dollars, but is it worth it? I don't think so (this is your editor's opinion and not necessarily that of the entire membership). If you received Home Word or Writing Assistant with your Junior and it is doing all of your correspondence and writing chores, by all means, do not use your hard-earned bucks to purchase a program that will do things that you don't need to do and will be hard to learn.

But the real question remains: if your writing chores require you to merge formats, make footnotes and endnotes, consecutively number pages of your book regardless of chapter numbers, then you may need to look for another program. As Junior owners, we are somewhat limited by our memory. If we are using a 128K, a 256K or some other machine, we must either chose a program that will fit our machine, or, if the program we chose requires more memory that we presently have, we must upgrade our Juniors to fit the program. The choice is ours. We have a great color display, have invested many bucks in equipment--very dependable equipment---so what's the big deal? A few extra K or another machine?

From the data colected at the February meeting, we found out the following information on word processors. 100% of the attendees owned Writing Assistant, with WordStar coming in second. PFS Profession Write was right up there with WordStar when it came to ownership, but some owners were not actually using it. Unfortunately, "owner" and "user" are sometimes two entirely different things!

One word processor that no one at last month's meeting was using was **Galaxy.** Unlike many of the more costly programs, Galaxy is Shareware. Many times, cost equates to bells and whistles, and if Galaxy is economical, it is only because it doesn't have the extensive features found in more costly word processors.

While Galaxy doesn't quite have the extensive features that PC-Write has, it is much easier to learn. Galaxy uses "pull-down" help menus that appear at the top of your screen after you invoke the F7 key. You have the ability to work on two documents at once, jump in and out of DOS, and use all of the normal formatting modes found with most word processors. And while Galaxy doesn't have its own spell checker, it was designed to be used with Borland's Turbo Lightning and has a command line that will invoke this spell checker. If you ever get a chance to view Galaxy, the feature you will notice right away is its speed. It is a fast program, saving files, doing searches and replacements and other chores much faster than more costly programs. The registration fee is a modest $49.95 and Galaxy will run well on a 256K Junior. The colors are great! If your needs point to a very easy-to-learn program without all of the fancy features, Galaxy may be a "best buy."

By far the most popular of the Shareware programs is **PC-WRITE**. No matter what size Junior you may own, there is a PC-WRITE program that you can use. The latest version of this time-tested word processor from Quicksoft will do everything I can think of, and has much more friendly opening screens than in the past.

PC-WRITE is known for many features, but perhaps the best feature is its printer support; from name brand to off the wall, it supports them all. Its spell checker can be used stand-alone or can check words as you write. It is fully compatible with WordStar commands and the spell checker can be used to check Word-Star documents along with PFS:Write or Writing Assistant files. Quicksoft has always supported Juniors, and while the newest update of PC-WRITE requires 320K, there is special support for the Junior included in the program. Registration can run from $45 to $89 depending on the amount of support needed.

In the August issue of PC/COMPUTE Judy Housman said, "Upgrading to **WordPerfect** 5.0 is like having a two-year-old at home: each day you discover something new and wonderful." It couldn't have been said better. In fact, this newsletter is "constructed" entirely with WordPerfect 4.2 on a Junior.

Changing format or type size in the middle of a document, going from text to graphics is a snap, and the text doesn't override your graphics when you change sizes. You can automatically generate an index or a table of contents; great aids for professional writers or academics. As with 4.2, all directories are listed in alphabetical order.

But with all the many features you get, you also get the problem of trying to learn such a massive program. No wonder! The "complete" set of 5.0 consists of 13 diskettes! While the list price is $495, discount stores are pricing 5.0 in the "a little over" $200 price range. If you own 4.2, the upgrade to 5.0 is only 60 bucks.

Requiring less memory, **Microsoft WORD** has been a standard for quite sometime. The newer version 4.0 is "intelligent" software in that all you have to do is get your text close; it will put it precisely in position using inches, points and picas as measurements. Its style sheets will make your documents just right without having to start from scratch each time. You can pick your style sheet and the text you have already typed will conform to it! List for WORD is $450, but like other products, it is heavily discounted and can be purchased for less than $250. It does require DOS 3.1 or higher.

Perhaps the neatest thing about **WordStar** Professional and 2000 is the ability to convert printer fonts into screen fonts. Both versions of WordStar work with 2.1 DOS and 384K of free memory, but 2000 will require more if you use more than just the editor. All of these multi-use programs will do everything any normal writer would ever need, from multiple columns, math computations and most any other desktop publishing chore you may have.

In the more economical catagory is **PFS: Professional Write**. It has a 77,000 word dictionary and allows you to add personal words with one key stroke. It is a full-featured word processor that has the added capability of line drawing. One feature of Professional Write is the ability to have a listing of 256 names and addresses which you can quickly look up anytime you are writing. This is great for form letters. And Professional Write is very easy to use. The program requires 320K and DOS 2.0 or higher and can be purchased for a little over a $100 from discount stores.

Too many choices? Maybe. Try to attend the meeting on Thursday and maybe your choices will be narrowed. Come and ask questions of those who are actually using these programs with their Juniors.

PC- *S* TYLE ...

You'll like it!

No one answering your letters? Your publisher still sending you form letters? You may need to look at disk number 52 from the Library. This disk, PC-STYLE, is easy to use. You just put it in your drive and type PC-STYLE. It will ask for the name of the file you want to analyze. After you type in your file name, PC-STYLE will go to work.

What you will get is an analysis of your document. It will tell you your word count, the length of your words, the number of action words, the readability level of your document, and it will rate your writing according to several different standards. You can even get a print-out of these results. You then can elect to make changes to your original document should you desire.

Try disk 52; with its satisfaction guarantee, what can you lose except poor style!

Q: I saved some words to my WordStar personal dictionary that were actually misspelled. How can I correct them?

A: Rex Fox, an assistant editor for PC World magazine, gives us the answer. WordStar creates the personal dictionary in ASCII, so all you have to do is edit the file. After starting WordStar, press **N** to open a nondocument file. Type **Personal.dct** and press the <enter>. Next, press the <Ctrl> -**QF** to search for the misspelled words, or scroll through the dictionary listing to find the words you need to correct. When finished, press <Ctrl> -**KD** to save it.

HERD

"HEARD (HERD?) ON THE STREET"
by Dick Page

PRINTER REVIEWS

The topic of printers may be on the minds of some members because it was the main presentation at February's meeting. If you want a very comprehensive review, get ahold of the October 31, 1988 issue of PC Magazine. (You may borrow my copy if need be.) It not only reviews 60 currently available dot matrix and 30 laser printers, but has a 6 page, small print indexing of all printers it has reviewed since 1984.

EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT BIT & BAUD?

If you are using a modem (or plan to) you should read the excellent, in-depth summary of the difference between "bit" and "baud" written by James A. Walker. It is in the January 89 issue of Quad Cities IBM PC UG newsletter.

It is 3 pages long and nicely done. The Quad Cities NL is available for reading at our monthly meetings.

SHOWING THE MONTH
IN YOUR FILENAME

It is often useful to have the month mentioned in the filename you choose. One way to make the identification readily visible without listing the directory involves the following:

Use the numbers 1 through 6 for January through June and the first letter in each month's name for July through December. Also remember, the underline key can be used to give the illusion of a space. Do not start out a filename with a number. It won't work.

Some examples: PCF_6_88.LET
                 PCF_DATA.189
                 MS_WORD.N89

"RIBBON RE-NEW"

At the last meeting I mentioned a product called "Ribbon Re-new." Their ink has a special formulation which gives it better dispersing and wicking characteristics so it will spread evenly throughout your used ribbons.

The only qualifiers are that you must have a cartridge ribbon case which can be opened and reclosed, or a spool-type ribbon. The process can be a bit messy if you aren't careful. One bottle sells for $3.95 postpaid and re-inks about 40 average length ribbons. It can be ordered from V-TECH, Inc., 2223 Rebecca, Hatfield, PA 19440.

V-Tech also sells Auto-inkers, replacement ribbons, and ribbon inserts for printers. They will also re-ink your ribbons for you.

DOS's RENAME COMMAND

Unhappy with the name you gave a file? Was it too vague, to similar to another filename, or simply wrong because of a typo? DOS's RENAME COMMAND to the rescue!

One of DOS's internal commands (always available at the DOS prompt – no DOS disk need be in your drive) is the RENAME command. You simply type REN, then the old filename/extension, and then the new filename/extension. You can type the whole word "RENAME" if you want, but DOS will accept the abbreviation "REN" as well.

At the A> type the following (substituting your own filename choices):

REN OLDNAME.EXT NEWNAME.EXT

then press the <enter> key and your file will have a new name. (If your file is on another drive besides the one noted by the DOS prompt, just type that drive letter and a colon before the filename B:OLDNAME.EXT.)

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
COPY *.* AND DISKCOPY

There is an excellent book available for people using PC-Write, PC-File III, or PC-Talk. It is called "THE SHAREWARE BOOK" by Flock, Flock, and Schulman and published by McGraw Hill. It was printed in 1987 so was written for 1987 versions of these shareware programs. While a bit outdated, many aspects of the book still pertain and can be helpful.

Here is just one example: Interspersed throughout the book are many well-written sidebars called "WAYS AND MEANS." These sidebars are used to clairify topics being used or discussed in that particular section of the book. I like the thorough but concise writing. Maybe you will find this example helpful:

"DIFFERENCES BETWEEN COPY *.*
AND DISKCOPY:

"You will notice that you can copy the contents of an entire disk with the following command:

A> COPY *.* B:
"This command copies all files, no matter what their filename or extension, from drive A to drive B. How is that any different from using DISKCOPY.COM, which copies all the files from one disk to another? It is very different.

"In order to understand the diffences between COPY *.* and DISKCOPY.COM, you need to know a little more about how DOS saves files on a disk.

"Suppose you are using PC-Write and you save six files on a blank, formatted disk. Then you go back to the third file and add a page of text before saving it again. DOS saved the six original files one after another, without leaving any space in between. Now that you have increased the size of one of the files in the middle, it won't fit back in the same space on the disk – DOS must put the last page of the third file after the sixth

file. In order to do that, DOS leaves a "trail of breadcrumbs" from the original end of the third letter (just before the fourth letter) to the new end of the third letter (just after the sixth letter).

After a time (of saving and altering more letters), your data disk becomes fragmented because it has numerous noncontiguous files. This can actually slow system performance (because of the time spent reading the various parts of the disk).

"DISKCOPY.COM makes an exact duplicate of a disk with all the files in the same physical location on the disk. DOS's COPY command takes each file from the source disk and copies it to the target disk in contiguous form. This means that it collects all the pieces of the file from the disk, and the "trail of breadcrumbs" mentioned above is eliminated: The entire third letter is copied in a continuous stream and the fourth follows. Using COPY "straightens out" your disk, while DISKCOPY.COM retains any fragmentation that has developed. For these reasons, although it is slower, sometimes it is a good idea to use COPY *.* - it is therapeutic."

TECHNOLOGY "LEAPS ON"

Brior Technology demonstrated a version of its Flextra drive at the fall COMDEX show that can hold 21.4 MB on a 3.5-disk and can still read data from standard 720K and 1.44 MB floppies. They expect by summer to have versions that hold 40 MB. Access time is comparable to most hard drives.
                          from PC WORLD, January 1989

thanks

Thank you INFOCOM and SubLogic! They have stated that they will continue to fully support PCjr's 16 colors and keyboard. Jet has been upgraded to version 2.12 in order to do this.
                          from SFPCjr UG Newsletter

(NOTE: Please, please, please always state in your warranty cards and other correspondence that you own an IBM PCjr. Let the software manufacturers and computer sales companies know that the PCjr LIVES!)

ATLANTA PCjr UG HAS GREAT NEWSLETTER

We are now exchanging newsletters with the Atlanta PCjr Users Group. "The Orphan Peanut" is another nicely done newsletter which is available for viewing at our monthly meetings. Please look it over so the person lugging all that stuff to each meeting feels like it is worth the effort. You'll be glad you did!

The PCjr WORKSHOP: BBS of the Atlanta Georgia PCjr Group.

The System Operator of the PCjr WORKSHOP is Terry Markert.   Terry is running the BBS with a PCjr enhanced with a Racore memory expansion with DMA. This rig has 640K and two drives along with a Paul Rau Consulting Hard Drive which has two 20MB Seagate ST-225 Hard Disks. One HD for the board and the other for Terry.

The PCjr WORKSHOP is using the RYBBS, Ryan Bulletin Board System, to keep the board straight and going 24 hours a day.

Terry's goal is to "provide the solid core of the PCjr owner/users with a source of Public Domain and Shareware programs, advice, and on-line contact with others who have the same experience. All too often we encounter a sort of amused condescension when others learn what computer we have."   Terry wants to provide an environment where PCjr people can escape that kind of attitude.

The PCjr WORKSHOP is a service that Terry provides entirely at his own expense. The board is free and he receives no financial support from the Atlanta PCjr Group.   His is one of a small and diminishing number of BBS's that will accept calls at 300 baud, in case you have one of the Junior internal modems. He also supports 1200 and 2400 baud with other parameters of N,8,1.   The WORKSHOP supports XModem, YModem and ZModem proto- calls. drop in on him at (404) 623-8423.
                          (Adapted from The Orphaned Peanut)

BULLETIN BOARDS - MORE

When I answered the question from Al last month about Junior specific boards, it seems that some were not included. John Passantino, our correspondent in Ridgewood, New Jersey, says we forgot the following:

San Francisco PCjr	415 997-4874
Metro (Baltimore) PCjr	301 468-0984
Little Blue BBS	616 243-2645
Chicago PCjr	312 741-5757

John also makes the observation that the San Francisco and Metro boards are very active. He also informs us out here in the forrest that CompuServe has a forum for the PCjr and that it is one of the best. Thanks for the report, John! When all of the reports are in, we'll take your suggestion and print a master list along with membership comments.

PCjr Lives

WordPerfect 4.2 Tip: By now, I'm sure that everyone who is using 4.2 knows that the quick way to move a block is NOT by using the Block and Move Function keys. Instead, just delete the text you want to move, move the cursor to the place you want the text, and press the Fn 1 Cancel key to restore the deleted text. Try it!
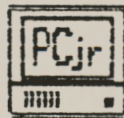
Things to Think About

All of us benefit from using programs from our Disk Library that are user-supported software. But this method of "try-before-you-buy" software distribution will end if we all fail to send them our fees for registration. The fees are very reasonable, so support the programers who have been so supportive of us! Become a "registered" owner.

Unprotect Writing Assistant?

Writing Assistant is copy protected software, and as such, making backup copies is a difficult task unless you utilize copy programs that require your having in excess of 256K. Still, another problem with the copy protection is that it is next to impossible to run from a hard drive or from a RAM drive unless you have one of your original Writing Assistant Program disks in your default drive. However, there is a solution.

Using the DEBUG program from your DOS Supplemental diskette, you can make your Writing Assistant so it can be used any way you desire, in RAM or on a hard drive. If you would like to obtain a copy of this DEBUG program, send a SASE to L.A. Levy, c/o Eugene PCjr Club.

> "Not until a program has been in production six months will the most harmful error be discovered."

The EUGENE PCjr NEWSLETTER is available for $12/year or as part of the paid-up Eugene PCjr Club membership at $20/year. Nonsubscribers may receive one free copy of the Newletter on request. The over-worked Editor accepts no responsibility for the accuracy or reliability of the information, opinions, or materials contained in this Newsletter. Reprint permission is freely given; please credit the appropriate author and the EUGENE PCjr CLUB NEWSLETTER. All contributions are encouraged and are gratefully accepted.

Make check or money order out to:

EUGENE PCjr CLUB, 1011 Valley River Way, Suite 220, Eugene, OR 97401. Please furnish the following:

Name_____
Address_____
City_____ State_____
Zip_____ Phone_____

< * < * < * < PEANUT   POWER ! > * > * > * > * >

FOR SALE: IBM PCjr Power Attachment, $30 complete; Parallel printer attachment, $20; PC Enterprises Configuration Plus cartridge, $15.   Phil Janz, (503) 343-1059.

MISPLACED: Somehow, we have lost our Writing Assistant manual. I loaned it, along with Flight Simulator, to someone in the club and I don't remember who it was. If this strikes a bell, how about letting me know. Louie 343-7592.

FOR SALE: DOS 2.1 complete, $20; HOME-Word word processing program, $10; Cartridge BASIC, complete $65;   LOTUS 1-2-3 for the PCjr, all disks and cartridges, but no manuals, $40.   These are sale prices, so call and make an offer if you want them. DSDD Precision brand diskettes, $5 per box, 2 boxes for $9. Eugene PCjr Club or call (503) 343-7592.

BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE If you would like to "catch up" on back issues of the Eugene PCjr Club Newsletter, just drop us a line. The "masters" are in the files, at least as far back as May 1986, and they are being made available to members and subscribers. We'd like to get reimbursed for the Xeroxing and postage, so the cost will be about .90 each. We can Xerox copies of earlier ones, but as they are real "copies," the quality won't be guaranteed. Let us know which ones you need.

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