



All ABoard

Tim Phillips finds a smart clipboard enhancement. There's a WordPerfect macro, and help formatting between WordPerfect and Word, too.

I'm not one for changing my software very often. Underwear yes, software no. Look at my computer desktop now and give or take a few macros, it's the same as ever. However, for all you Windows 3.1 and Windows 95 users, I have an excellent recommendation that will help your document editing no end. It's only a clipboard enhancement but it's one of those that you wish Microsoft would come up with instead of adding 17 new chart types to Excel.

I'm referring to SmartBoard, which you can get from Oakley Data Services for £15, and I believe it is £15 well spent. SmartBoard runs in the background, only popping up when you right-click on the control menu button or type ctrl-0. It simply stores the last few pieces of data you cut or copied to the clipboard — you set the exact number. This data is shown in four views, presented as tabs: text, bitmaps, metafiles and other

formats, in thumbnail views. To see the data full size, you right-click over a thumbnail and up it pops in a box.

Pasting can be achieved by just pressing enter, or by clicking one of the buttons on the toolbar; you can assign a hotkey to an item that will paste in when the SmartBoard dialogue is hidden.

There's a simple text editor for clipboard items, which includes a macro for stripping out unwanted carriage returns. And that, with a few refinements, is it.

What I love about SmartBoard is that it isn't bloated like most software, or over-complicated like the ClipBook equivalent that Windows for Workgroups supplies. It's a great argument in favour of this sort

of component-based software because it takes Windows cutting and pasting and marries it with the way we really work. If you are filleting a document for the most interesting bits, you can just go through it picking them out, then paste them into a new document later, or even merge them on the clipboard. If you copied something to the clipboard an hour ago and need it again, it won't have been written over.

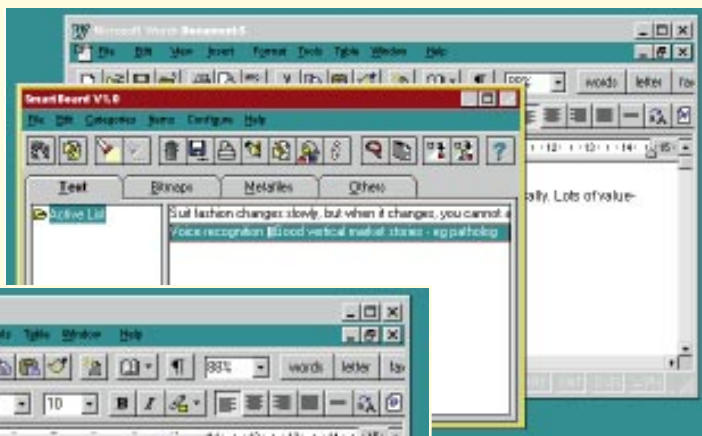
I get so many requests for solutions to problems that SmartBoard would solve. For example, it short-circuits the long debate about HTML generators because you can use it as a palette of codes and links to paste into an HTML document. It takes care of difficult names by allowing you to store half a dozen at once and then paste, using hotkeys.

WordPerfect makes its sale

Congratulations Corel, you bought WordPerfect. And Novell made its 31st January deadline for selling its applications.

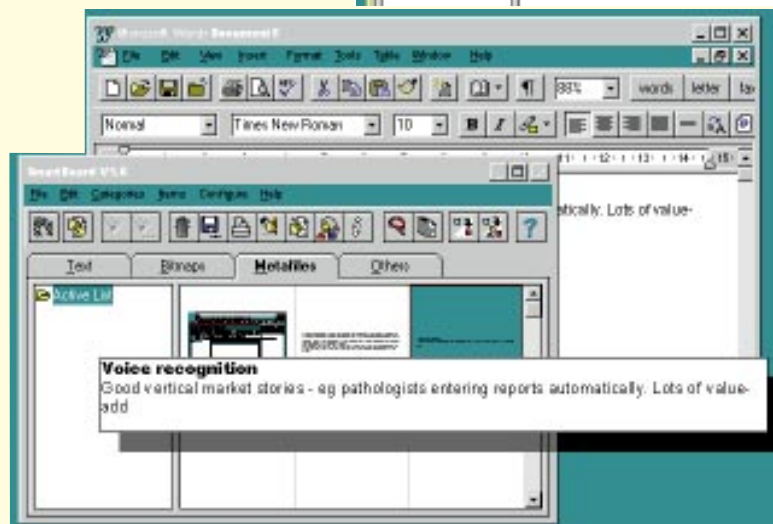
Buying WordPerfect must go down as one of the most spectacularly bad decisions in software history, being sold for a cool \$700m loss, but no-one could have predicted how Microsoft would clean Novell's clock (unless, that is, they took an objective look at the first Windows versions of WordPerfect).

Although the rebirth of WordPerfect is, initially, good news for users, I'm advising that you make plans immediately to dig an escape tunnel to Word Pro or Word, or even Works. I have nothing against Corel, which has been very successful, but I have little confidence that the necessary



Above SmartBoard pops up when you right-click on the control symbol. It lists the recent clipboard entries you made as text...

...or if you want, you can paste as metafiles (left). Right-click on the thumbnails to see the file as it would paste into your application



Tim’s Macro Club

● To celebrate the continuing existence of WordPerfect, there’s a prize for a WordPerfect 5.1 macro from Peter Kahrel in the Netherlands.

It removes duplicate entries from a list, although in this case, the list must be sorted. Revisions, improvements and of course versions for other word processors are requested for this macro:

```
SAVESTATE
WP51CursorMovement(On!)
DISPLAY(Off!)
NOTFOUND(Off!)

SearchCaseSensitive(No!)
ReplaceLimitNumberOfMatches(No!)
ReplaceConfirm(No!)
CheckHrt()
WHILE(NOT Eof())
    SearchString(GetLine())
    ReplaceString("")
    ReplaceForward
    DISPLAY(On!) DISPLAY(Off!)
ENDWHILE

FUNCTION GetLine()
BlockOn(CharMode!)
PosLineDown
RETURN(?BlockedText)
ENDFUNC

FUNCTION Eof()
RETURN(?RightChar="" AND ?RightCode=0)
ENDFUNC

PROCEDURE CheckHrt()
PosDocVeryBottom
IF(?LeftCode<>-12284)
    EnterKey
ENDIF
PosDocTop
ENDPROC
```

your Windows subdirectory. It should contain this (use Notepad to create it):

```
[InvoiceNumber]
NextNumber= 106
The macro
```

Bob explains: *“In this macro, the value of the next invoice is NextInvoice\$ and this is inserted into the document by moving to a bookmark, InvoiceNumber. If you want more than one insertion of the number, just use other bookmarks and duplicate the two lines of text for each insertion.”*

```
EditGoTo .Destination =
"YourBookmarkName"
Insert NextInvoice$
```

● That’s the sort of code I’m looking for. Use it as a starting point, because it is sound and compact. Remember, though, that some of your entries for the macro club are too long. I can’t print them because they would take up most of the column. The one shown in Fig 1 doesn’t.

This month’s problem

This is an easy one, so I’m looking for elegance and presentation.

Ken Gray emailed me with the following simple request:

“I seem to recall there was a fairly elegant way of printing all installed FONTS in WFW6.0 along with the title of the font. This could then be used as a reference sheet for selecting the font of choice. Please let me know if such a utility does exist, otherwise it could be the basis of a good macro.”

I only know that I can get a list of my printer fonts, but I’m sure you will all flood me with responses on this one.

Fig 1 Bob Lauder’s invoice-counter macro

```
Sub MAIN

NextInvoice$ = GetPrivateProfileString$("InvoiceNumber", "NextNumber",
"invoice.ini")

EditGoTo .Destination = "InvoiceNumber"
Insert NextInvoice$

SetPrivateProfileString "InvoiceNumber", "NextNumber",
Str$(Val(NextInvoice$) + 1), "invoice.ini"

End Sub
```



Problem solving: When home and work collide

● Julian Wickes, of Northallerton, has a problem using his Word for Windows at home and WordPerfect at work — formatting often gets lost or messed up in the conversion process when he opens a file at home. Is there anything that can be done to improve the filter?

There is one step he can take, which is often overlooked because it's a minor feature of Word for Windows (and not one I knew existed until recently). Under Tools, Options in Word, click on the Compatibility tab. This lets you set a number of "problem" features so when you open the file at home it has more sensible formatting; features such as spacing at the top of a page and hanging indents.

Click on the other file format (WordPerfect is the only non-Microsoft format supported) and it sets these formatting options automatically although you can change them if you wish. There's a custom setting, too, for trial-and-error with your own conversions.

These settings don't affect the formatting when you convert back to the original format so it isn't a "destructive" filter. It just makes them display more sensibly on the page in Word. It's a bit of a kludge, but the few times I have used it, it works.

Note, as well, that the Font Substitution button here checks the document to see if Word has to cope with any non-system fonts and allows you to set the substitutions manually if you prefer.

On the same subject, Word 7 users can edit their conversion filters. In the Macros subdirectory of the Word Directory, find CONVER7.DOT. Then in the macro names list, click on a macro called EditConversionOptions, and click Run. Name the converter you want to change, and it offers you the options to set.

● Janet Gee is an Ami Pro user, but when I found the solution to her

problem it occurred to me this applies to any number of word processors — she can't get small capital letters using the "small caps" formatting option. Looking at her document, I couldn't work out why not until I realised that the words she wanted in small capitals were already typed in capital letters. To get small caps from formatting, you have to format words in lower case.

● We're covering all sorts this month, so Arthur Madsen gets his WordStar query fixed. He's a WordStar user who wants to use long filenames under Windows 95. Unfortunately, this isn't possible.

Firstly, because 2.0 pre-dates Windows 95, it is a 16-bit 3.1 application, and this does not support long filenames.

Secondly, WordStar's way of creating temporary files which change the main body of the filename are going to make a fix difficult to achieve. So it's a question of waiting for a 32-bit version — unless someone out there knows better.

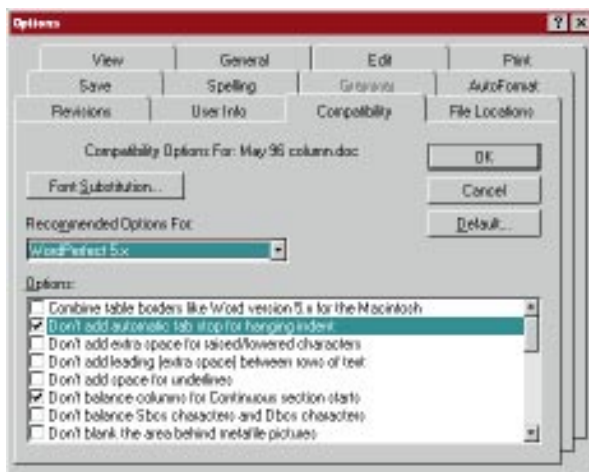
● Finally, this month's grumble — it's WordPad again.

Martyn Bannister wants to use WordPad to add a hard page break in his documents.

No way, dude. It's another stupid omission from a second-rate attempt to make a cut-down word processor. Instead of a simple Ctrl-Enter as in the rest of the world, on

the moon applet of Planet Microsoft you cannot do it.

Why not, is the question we really want answered, and the answer might possibly be that if Microsoft gave people too much functionality in WordPad, they might not buy Microsoft Office.



Setting the Compatibility Options in Word gets around some formatting and font substitution problems

development work will be carried out on WordPerfect Office.

This time last year it was probably the most powerful suite available. Now it isn't, and Corel's assertion that WordPerfect will be "profitable from day one" doesn't sound like it will break the bank by pouring in development resources.

Meanwhile, the Lotusphere annual technical conference revealed Lotus and IBM executives being bullish about the prospects for Word Pro, which according to my feedback is causing more than a

little glumness among you Ami Pro users. It is looking for 20 percent of the market in 1996. When number two is looking for one in five sales, you know what a mountain Novell has to climb.

Breaking the spell

Despite my admiration for the Word spellchecker, not all of you are convinced.

● One reader contacted me to ask how to turn it off and this coincided happily with this quick message from my macro-writing friend, Chris McCarthy: "The automatic spellchecking in Word is very useful but it's a real pain to activate and deactivate. A simple solution is to set up two buttons or hotkeys attached to macros (Fig 2).

"If you don't have the status bar enabled to see if the spellchecker is on, you could put in a message box to tell you that the

macros have run."

● My regular correspondent, Shane Devenshire, points out a feature of Word that I had missed: deleting files from within the application.

We're all good Windows users, but having to iconise Word to delete a file would be one multitask too far. Instead, in Word 2 and 6 you use the File, Find dialogue, find your files, highlight them, hit the Commands button and select delete.

In Word 7, this has been greatly improved — nice one Microsoft. Instead, you use the Open or Save As dialogue boxes, mark the files you want to delete in the same way, hit delete and they're off to the recycle bin.

Fig 2 Buttons/hotkeys

```
Sub MAIN
REM Word Macro to turn automatic spell checking on.
ToolsOptionsSpelling .AutomaticSpellChecking = 1
End Sub

Sub MAIN
REM Word Macro to turn automatic spell checking off.
ToolsOptionsSpelling .AutomaticSpellChecking = 0
End Sub
```

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