



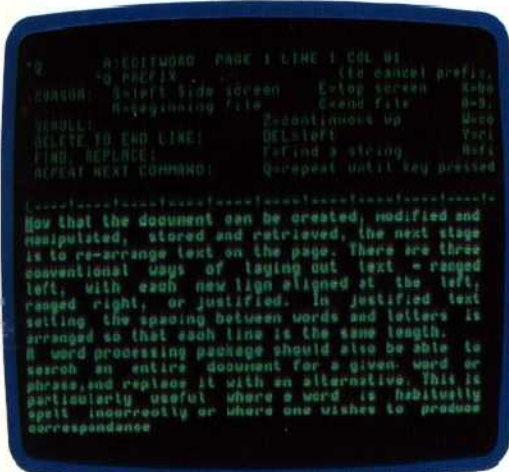
character. For instance, D creates a Document file and N creates a Non-document file.

The first request from the system is for a name for the file that you are about to create. Having named your file, the system switches into the working menu, which consists of prompts for such things as cursor movement, insertion and deletion, and reminders of the single-character control codes used to enter other branches of the main menu (the formatting menu, for example). WordStar does not assume that the machine on which it will be run (the 'object computer') will have the cursor control keys.

Single-character space movement is defined by the Control key in conjunction with the E, S, D and X keys (machines that have cursor control keys normally have WordStar installed so that the functions are duplicated). WordStar is rather powerful in its cursor control, accommodating cursor movement by character, word, line or paragraph in either direction. Much the same principle is applied to deletion. Single characters can be deleted either at the cursor position or immediately to the right of it; and whole words to the right of the cursor position or entire lines (irrespective of cursor position) can be deleted. The screen can also be scrolled using the control functions, without affecting the positioning of the cursor. This is very useful if you wish to refer back in the text.

Lastly, the user can decide whether to insert a

The Quick Command Menu



character at the cursor position, or replace the character with the one entered from the keyboard. This function is 'toggled' - that is, one depression of the appropriate key (V in this case) changes the status from insertion to replacement, and there it stays until the V key is pressed again (in concert with the Control key), when the status will revert.

The package automatically looks after pagination and wordwrap at line ends. Pagination defines the number of lines per page and wordwrap is the automatic taking-over of words to the next line.

The functions described are all that one normally needs for creating and editing documents, but WordStar has other features as well. It can centre lines on the page; enable

multiple striking to produce emboldened characters; give superscript and subscript characters; overprint the previous line; or underline and strike out individual characters. All these functions are available at text entry time or while editing.

The 'find and replace' function is accessible via the Q menu, which also contains the extra cursor positioning and delete functions. The user is requested to enter the string of characters making up the word or phrase that is to be searched for. He can nominate a particular occurrence of it, a specific number of occurrences, or indeed all instances, and decide whether the string located is simply to be pointed out by the cursor, or to be replaced, and if so whether that replacement should take place without further instruction.

Marked blocks of text can similarly be moved from one place in the document to another by means of various functions of the K menu, which otherwise deals with file handling. WordStar's three other subsidiary menus, the J, O and P menus, deal respectively with assistance to the user in creating or editing a document; formatting and arrangement of documents; and the way they are to appear when printed.

Overall, WordStar is a comprehensive, professional microcomputer software package. There are very few functions that it cannot happily perform, and it has been defined in such a way as to be accessible to a wide variety of

The Block Menu



machines. It might seem at first sight to be complicated and idiosyncratic, but thanks to its comprehensive menus, even the beginner can make use of it.

A significant number of the microcomputers that will support WordStar have programmable function keys as standard. The Osborne-1, for instance, on which our examples have been displayed, offers the user 10 of these keys, and reserves 256 bytes for their contents. These functions - accessed by means of the Control key and a numeric key pressed simultaneously - can contain a string of control characters, or a commonly used word or phrase, and enable that character string to be incorporated by just two key depressions.

The Quick Command Menu

WordStar's secondary menus are entered by means of a single character control code, which is to some degree acronymous. The Q menu, for example, is the short way of saying the Quick Command Menu. The Q menu provides the user with a resumé of the cursor control keys, as well as the package's find and replace functions.

The Block Menu

Some of the single character acronyms are rather obscure - K, for example, stands for block. It controls the saving and utilisation of files, the movement of blocks of text and some file access structures. Note that it replicates some of the package's standard housekeeping routines as well.

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