PERSONALIZING PERFECT WRITER

by Kenneth Janda
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September 18, 1983

One can almost always learn something useful from studying others' approaches
to a common problem. At least, that thought lies behind this account of my personal
usage of Perfect Writer on the Kaypro II. Maybe one or two of my practices and ideas
may be useful to others at this meeting who may, in turn, furnish me with helpful
tips. My comments will focus on four topics (reported using the ENUMERATE command):

1. disk utilities for Perfect Writer manuscripts

2. sample "setup" files for PW manuscripts

3. comments on the 65K SWAP file and long manuscripts

4. a view on formatting for different dot-matrix type "modes"

1. Disk Utilities for PERFECT WRITER Manuscripts

My practice is to put a set of useful utility programs and PW "setup" files" on
each disk to be used for PW manuscripts. Below is their size and description (done
with the DESCRIPTION command):

3k: D   a "directory" program available on the "KAYPRO TIPS" disk that
                     is superior to the "DIR" program in CPM. "D" is a combination
                     of DIR and STAT, not only naming the files but giving their
                     size in K-bytes and in alphabetical order.

2k: L   a "list" program also available on the "TIPS" disk that prints
                     any ASCII file with heading, margin, and page controls. It is
                     vastly superior to "TYPE" in CPM.

8k: PIP   the CPM file transfer routine, which is handy to have if you
                     exchange files often

10k: NUMODEM   This is MODEM7, the telephone communications program, modified
                     by Lillipute for transmission to the CYBER computer at
                     Vogelback Computing Center. NUMODEM transmits data at even
                     parity and tansforms "@" into a "BREAK" key, which the Kaypro
                     lacks. (Obviously, this is peculiar to my occasional practice
                     of using the PW screen editor to prepare manuscripts for
                     processing with a different program on the CYBER and printing
                     with either a high-speed line printer or letter-quality

printer.

1k: SETUP.MSS   a PW file with "@STYLE" commands set for writing professional
                       papers

1k: LETTER.MSS   a PW file with "@STYLE" set for Northwestern letterhead

1k: HOME.MSS   a PW file with "@STYLE" set for my home address

These seven files together occupy only 26K. If one's usage doesn't need the PIP
or "modem" files, then the disk space used is trivial for D, L, and related "setup"
files, which I think are enormously useful to have on a disk -- as described below.

2. Style Setup Files for PW manuscripts

The best way to demonstrate the usage of these files is to reproduce all three
above as examples:

                                    SETUP.MSS

@STYLE(FOOTPUSH NO, INDENT 5 CHARS, LINEWIDTH 80 CHARACTERS,
PAPERLENGTH 11 INCHES, HEADERSPACING 1 LINE, TOPMARGIN 2 LINES,
LEFTMARGIN 8 CHARS)

@PAGEFOOTING() @STRING(DATE="September 18, 1983")@STRING(NAME="ChiKUG Talk")

The "@PAGEFOOTING()" command above turns off the page numbers printed
at the bottom of the page. The two "@STRING" commands are used to insert
values for the "DATE" and the "NAME" to be printed at the top of the
page on subsequent pages with the "@PAGEHEADING" command below.

@PAGEHEADING(LEFT="@VALUE[NAME]", CENTER="@VALUE[PAGE]", RIGHT="@VALUE[DATE]")

If you wonder what type of output and heading this produces, study this
document, for it was prepared by calling in the SETUP.MSS file and then using
CONTROL-X, CONTROL-W to write to a different file before saving (thus preserving
SETUP.MSS to be called again for another task).

                                    LETTER.HD

@STYLE(INDENT 5 CHARS, JUSTIFICATION YES, LEFTMARGIN 8 CHARS,
LINEWIDTH 80 CHARACTERS, PAPERLENGTH 11 INCHES, SPACING 1 LINE,
TOPMARGIN 3 LINES, HEADERSPACING 0 LINES)   @PAGEFOOTING()
@CENTER(@B[N O R T H W E S T E R N @W(   ) U N I V E R S I T Y

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS 60201

(312) 492-7026]}
@STRING(DATE="September 18, 1983") @FLUSHRIGHT(@VALUE[DATE])
@STRING(NAME="ChiKUG Organization")
@PAGEHEADING{LEFT="@VALUE[NAME]",CENTER="@VALUE[PAGE]",RIGHT="@VALUE[DATE]"}
@FLUSHLEFT(@VALUE[NAME]
Lillipute Computer Mart
4446 Oakton
Skokie, IL 60076

Dear ChiKUGers:)

        Your text would go here.

@CLOSING(SINCERELY,

Kenneth Janda
Professor)

    To see how the LETTER.HD setup functions, see the last page of this material.

                              HOME.LET

@STYLE(INDENT 5 CHARS, JUSTIFICATION YES, LEFTMARGIN 8 CHARS,
LINEWIDTH 80 CHARACTERS, PAPERLENGTH 11 INCHES, SPACING 1 LINE,
TOPMARGIN 3 LINES, HEADERSPACING 0 LINES)   @PAGEFOOTING()
@CLOSING(
2341 Pioneer Road
Evanston, Illinois 60201)

@STRING(DATE=" 1983") @CLOSING(@VALUE[DATE])
@STRING(NAME="")
@PAGEHEADING{LEFT="@VALUE[NAME]",CENTER="@VALUE[PAGE]",RIGHT="@VALUE[DATE]"}
@flushleft(@value[name]

Dear :)

@CLOSING(Sincerely,

Kenneth Janda)

    This example completes the set. Because HOME.LET functions similarly to the
LETTER.HD setup, there is no need to provide an example of it in use.

3. Is a 65k SWAP File Enough?

    Some people ask how to increase the size of the SWAP file in PW, for they want
to write manuscripts longer than the "65" pages that PW says the SWAP file will
hold. First of all, the SWAP file will not hold anything near 65 pages -- at least
not the pages that I write. The "Perfect" people certainly are speaking of
double-spaced pages, and they must also be speaking of pages with very wide
margins. I find that I pass the limit with about 25 pages of single-spaced, 80
column text. Second, if you begin to push the limits of the SWAP file, you will
find that you simply do not have enough space to "wipe" out large portions of text
and move it around when editing.

    But third, I do not find the SWAP file limitation a handicap. With use of the
"@INCLUDE" command to switch from one PW file to another on disk, one can easily
write (and format) manuscripts that approach 90k on a single disk. Moreover,
manuscript files that approach 65k take seemingly forever to load and save. I find
it much more wieldly to compose my long manuscript in 15k or 20k chunks and assemble
the whole at the formatting stage. Manuscript files of this size will also allow
one to make good use of the multiple-buffer / split-screen capability of PW -- which
is extraordinarily useful and a must to learn, if you haven't already.

4. Formatting for Different Print Modes on a Dot-Matrix Pinter

    The PFCONFIG program can be used to customize the formatting program in PW to
invoke different fonts available on your dot-matrix printer. My printer, an OKIDATA
92, prints in three different "modes" -- data processing, emphasized, and
correspondence -- at either 10 or 12 cpi. (It can also print in a "condensed" mode
at 17 cpi.) Originally, I thought that I would configure six different "devices" to
print each of the modes for 10 and 12 cpi. But instead, I hit upon configuring PW
for only 10 and 12 cpi (my default is 12 cpi) and then "turning on" my printer in
CPM -- using CONTROL-P and the relevant "mode" commands for the OKIDATA 92 -- to
print in whatever mode I desired. This produces the decided advantage of being able
to choose the print mode after a manuscript file has been formatted. I usually
print the manuscript first in the high-speed data processing mode. If the result is
good, then I can reprint it at the slower-speed correspondence mode without
reformatting the file. I think that this procedure could be used with other
printers as well. Be sure to turn off the printer with a second CONTROL-P after you

set the mode, or you will get unwanted prompts from PW on your output as it tries to print.

N O R T H W E S T E R N   U N I V E R S I T Y

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SINCERELY,

Kenneth Janda
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