

EXP FOR WINDOWS, VERSION 3.0

A SOFTWARE REVIEW

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Good news for all scientific wordprocessor users. Finally, **EXP** (the best WYSIWYG program on the market) has come out with a new version for Windows!! And it is about time. The new version provides ease in making mathematical symbols in contrast to the DOS version, **EXP 2.1**. Unlike, $T_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ which must be compiled before you can see what you actually have on the page, **EXP** shows you right on the screen what your document looks like. There is no mystery, no printing pages or viewing DVI files on the screen to ensure that what was programmed into $T_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ is actually what you wanted before printing.

The new **EXP** uses much the same interface as that of other Windows word processors. For those unfamiliar with **EXP** at all, it will be a snap to learn and will produce an output that is comparable to $T_{\text{E}}\text{X}$. A new feature with the new **EXP** that is very nice, is its ability to support TrueType fonts. This means that one now has the ability to scale the fonts to any size as in any other Windows wordprocessor such as Word. In the **EXP** for DOS version, there were only a limited number of sizes and only four different types of typefaces available. Now, making slides or transparencies will be a breeze. With the touch of a button, the symbols and letters can be made larger or smaller within seconds.

I personally have used **EXP** for DOS for over 5 years. I like it better than $T_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ due to its ease of use and flexibility. Many mathematical equations call for symbols that are a little different than the preprogrammed ones that are written into the $T_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ program. **EXP** allows you to create your own symbols by using rugs and roofs in order to produce integrals, summations, etc. For example, in **EXP** a summation can be made within a sentence to look like $\sum_{i=0}^n$, while in $T_{\text{E}}\text{X}$, the summation within a sentence automatically is made to look like $\sum_{i=0}^n$. There is no way to override $T_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ in this regard, unless you go through some highly complicated manuals to figure out exactly what to program in. Frankly, after using $T_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ for about three years, I still can't understand any of the manuals well enough to be able to program in my own macros (and I have invested heavily in all available $T_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ user manuals and help manuals). In **EXP**, you can manipulate the summation to be either way with ease. Another great plus of **EXP 3.0** is the ease with which you can set up your margins and pagelength as well as page breaks. In $T_{\text{E}}\text{X}$, you have to view your document to see where the program has decided to insert your spaces for figures, etc. ($T_{\text{E}}\text{X}$ takes it upon itself to figure out where your space will look and fit best within your document. Of course, that may be three pages away from where you initially wanted the figure, but oh well, you just have to spend a little while longer trying to manipulate the system to make it fit in the correct space.) With **EXP**, you just leave the space and you can see it of the screen so you know that it is in the correct place and this is also much easier than in **EXP 2.1**. The manual is very easy to follow. Actually, the program is very easy to use and a manual is just there for backup rather than for reading before you use the program.

There is an array of built-in filters for graphs, charts, and diagrams which can be embedded

into your documents to support .BMP, CGM, .JPG, TIFF, and .WMF files. Unfortunately at the present time, **EXP 3.0** does not support .WPG files nor is it OLE supported.

As usual, the spell checker in **EXP 3.0** is the best. It has a huge dictionary of scientific and medical terms as well as the names of many major scientists. If you are using T_EX, you are aware that you have to import your file into a wordprocessor with a spell checker in order to spell check. Doing so, sometimes can create problems, especially if you forget to save the file as ASCII text. Personally, I always pull my T_EX documents into **EXP** to use the spell checker because it is the best for scientific terminology.

Finally, how does the new version of **EXP 3.0** compare to other wordprocessors and to its counterpart **EXP 2.1** for DOS? Well in comparison with other wordprocessors for ease in use and quality, it is the best. The symbols are much more clear than the scientific symbols in Word or WordPerfect. **EXP 3.0** for Windows is much easier to use than T_EX for Windows and Scientific Word. There is no compiling, no viewing, no having to know what to type for what symbol. It is just point and click. That simple. **EXP 3.0** is a great, easy way for someone who needs to start using a scientific wordprocessor, wants great output (this article along with other *JAMSA* articles) were typed in **EXP 2.1**), and yet has no time to learn a complicated system.

There are a few flaws with the new **EXP** version for Windows. For one, numbering the pages is not as easy as in version **2.1**. Like Word, it is very difficult to start numbering pages in the middle of a document (which can be a problem if you are doing title pages, table of contents, etc. for a book). Also, the program does not support the series 4 of the HP laser printers which is not a big problem. I am sure that this will be rectified very soon. If you are an **EXP** for DOS user, you will have a little difficulty getting used to the new system (especially if you are very proficient with the old one). **EXP 3.0** appears to be more work than the older DOS version, but it is easier once you get the hang of it. You will also find a few more things that are not the same, some ease of manipulation as compared to the DOS version is lost. This version is a little more rigid like Word and WordPerfect. I am confident that the next upgrade will have most of the flaws that are in this version corrected.

In conclusion, **EXP 3.0** for Windows is one of the best scientific word processors on the market. It relieves the stress on a person who does not know how to use T_EX and needs to produce a manuscript or paper of top quality from learning a cumbersome and difficult program. **EXP** is easy to use (with its pull-down menus and point and click options), WYSIWYG framework, print-outs of top quality form, and now offers the availability to use TrueType fonts. The list price is \$318.75; upgrade \$99. Requires: 4MB RAM, 3MB hard disk space, Microsoft Windows 3.1 or higher. It is available from Brooks/Cole Publishing Co., 511 Lake Forest Lodge Road, Pacific Grove, CA 93450; phone: 408-373-0728; fax, 408-375-6414.



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