Tax planning software might help on April 15

The Business Library Corporation has introduced a personal tax planning module for the company's Business Library that enables personal computer users to model 1983 Federal individual income tax liability under a variety of circumstances as well as to produce certain reports acceptable to the IRS as support schedules. Designated the Personal Tax Planner, the company recommends it for use by CPAs and other accountants, financial planners, attorneys, and individuals to evaluate the effects of tax strategies and investment alternatives on tax liability. Editions for subsequent years are planned. The package is implemented on the IBM PC and PC-XT personal computers and others that are software compatible with IBM.

A menu-driven system, the Tax Planner allows its users to input tax information at the detail level or to enter summary numbers that correspond directly to Form 1040, pages 1 and 2. Operator interaction with the input screen follows logical steps that correspond to the gathering of tax data. Input screens guide users through the program as they use it by means of questions and prompts.

The package is priced at $295.

Reader Service Number 35

Package customizes IBM PC keyboards

Rose Soft, Seattle-based software developer, has introduced Pro Key 3.0, a package that allows users to create macros to customize both off-the-shelf software and self-written programs for the IBM PC and IBM PC-compatible machines.

The package works by assigning new definitions to keys selected by the user. The new definition can contain anything from a single character to over 12,000 characters of text or commands. For example, with a single keystroke, Pro Key 3.0 can fetch stock histories from Dow Jones and send the data to a 1-2-3 spreadsheet. The package can also address envelopes, type boilerplate text, enter complicated sequences of formatting commands, or manage the log-on protocol for telecommunication networks--again, all with a single keystroke.

The software features a menu-driven program to aid in changing key locations. Users can create their own customized keyboard layouts or use the alternate layout files provided on every Pro Key diskette.

A file is included for the Dvorak keyboard layout. Another file mimics the layout of the IBM Selectric keyboard. By reversing the locations of keys such as the shift and “/,” Pro Key 3.0 solves the complaints of many touch-typists who have been struggling with the layout of the IBM PC keyboard, according to company spokesmen.

Pro Key 3.0 is compatible with virtually all software that runs on the IBM PC. The diskette includes files that streamline Wordstar, Lotus 1-2-3, Visicalc, and dBase II.

Registered owners of previous Pro Key versions will be able to update to Version 3.0 for a nominal fee.

Reader Service Number 36

Code design program can be used by novices

Code Writer, an automatic code design program from Dynatech Microsoftware, allows users of desktop computers to produce unique application programs without previous computer programming experience, the company states. A tutorial disk is included with the program, and data disks, a manual, and other material come with the package to enhance the user's ability to produce working programs.

Using Code Writer, a computer owner writes a unique program by typing the screen layout form and the calculations onto the computer's screen in plain English. Code Writer automatically translates that plain English into proper code. According to company spokes-

men, applications that can be developed with the package include payables and receivables, sales analysis, customer and personnel files, mailing lists, invoicing, inventory and production tracking, order entry, and other similar business uses. Home users include the development of teaching programs to aid children, inventories of possessions, and tax information.

Code Writer for the IBM-PC is $249.00. It also is available for the Apple IIe at $199.00 and is priced at $99 for the Commodore 64 and Atari 800 and XL series personal computers.

Reader Service Number 37

Microdata adds spreadsheet to Reality/Sequel systems

Microdata has introduced an electronic spreadsheet software system that makes sophisticated financial planning tools and database access available to users of Microdata Reality and Sequel business computer systems. Realcalc accommodates basic financial analysis, as well as complex divisional reporting, sales projections, cash-flow analysis, and "what if" investigation.

Designed for nonprogrammers, Realcalc commands are entered by a single keystroke, with one-letter mnemonic codes specifying the action to be performed. The user is able to call for HELP any time and obtain on-line instructions.

The system lets the user design his electronic spreadsheet to fit particular numbers. Individual column widths can be varied according to needs. Arithmetic and conditional and relational operators allow the formation of virtually any numeric relationship. Simple arithmetic operators add a column or row of numbers, while more complex relationships can test for a particular condition, such as change in interest or the payment of a loan.

The Microdata Realecalc system is available for the Reality OS for $1595.

Reader Service Number 38

 Classified Ads

WANG INSTITUTE OF GRADUATE STUDIES
School of Information Technology
Software Engineering Professionals

Faculty applications are being accepted from software engineering professionals having extensive academic and industrial software design, implementation, and management experience. One-year visitors are also sought. Expected duties include teaching, closely interacting with students, supervising production-quality software development projects, and participating in curriculum development for the School's Master of Software Engineering degree program.

The Wang Institute is located near the heart of Boston's high tech corridor and offers a unique environment for academic and professional growth. Instructional computing facilities include a VAX 11/780, a Prime 750, a Wang VS 100, Apollo DOMAINS, color graphics, and local network.

Qualified applicants should submit the names of three references and resume stating professional specialty areas and past software development or management efforts to: Faculty Search Committee, Wang Institute of Graduate Studies, Tyng Road, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts 01879.

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