

Wordperfect 5.0 and 5.1 Differences

By Richard Wood

1. WP 5.0 does not include either mouse support or drop down menus. These are the most obvious visible differences to a WP 5.1 user. If, as a WP 5.1 user, you do not use a mouse or the drop down menus feature then the interface is nearly identical. WP 5.0 was introduced in May 1988.
2. WP 5.0 does include support for expanded memory. It does not, however, include a startup option to show the user the use of expanded memory as is available with WP 5.1. Overall the number of startup options available with WordPerfect 5.0 are much fewer than with WP 5.1.
3. WP 5.0 uses different printer drivers than WP 5.1. This means that the printer driver support available for WP 5.1 on the WPDOS web site is not available for WP 5.0 users. The WP 5.0 printer driver modification program (download PTR50.EXE) is available on the Corel web site as well as a font copying program for use in conjunction with the WP 5.0 PTR program. The font copying program is download “COPYFN.EXE”.
4. WP 5.1 can import WP 5.0 files but not vice versa.
5. WP 5.0 does have a extensive list of printer driver files available for download from the Corel FTP site. It also has a number of utilities and upgrade files available if you have other than the last release version and wish to upgrade some of it' s files, though the tutor file is corrupted and not useable. Printer file support stops in September 1991 which means that the last HP printer drivers available are for the LaserJet III family and the DeskJet 500, getting pretty antiquated. LaserJet III family support does include Postscript drivers and these work fine with the LaserJet 1300 I tried them on.
6. WP 5.0 was almost a complete rewrite of the program compared to WP 4.2. There are major differences in help file format and printer driver/font support structure between the two versions, as well as major differences in program setup and configuration. WP 5.0 is much more closely related to WP 5.1 than to WP 4.2, as would be expected from the version numbers.

WP 5.0 is still viable for the fast and skilled touch typist who does not bother with mice or drop down menus. It has most of the commonly needed capabilities of version 5.1. From the standpoint of the ready availability of third party support such as Macros packages, file support utilities, updated printer drivers and technical help it is probably far better to update to WordPerfect 5.1 or 5.1+ . They can be setup to have virtually the same interface as version 5.0 if no mouse is used and the display of the drop down menus is not enabled. If you have a need for a version with less disk storage requirements than WordPerfect 5.1 I suggest that you

look for a copy of LetterPerfect 1.0, a reduced capability version of WordPerfect 5.1 designed for use on early laptops.

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