Communications
Software

The communications programs that met the criteria for the PC/Computing 200 are commercial products available in software stores or from mail-order vendors. All the packages include a scripting language to automate the log-on and communications process, and all support high-speed (9,600 bits per second or higher) modems.

Product

Procomm Plus 2.01
Datastorm Technologies
P.O. Box 1471
Columbia, MO 65205
(314) 443-3282
Price: $129

HyperAccess/5 2.1
Hilgraeve
Genesis Centre
111 Conant Ave., Suite A
Monroe, MI 48161
(800) 826-2760
(313) 243-0576
Price: $99.95

Relay Gold 5.0
Microcom
55 Federal Rd.
Danbury, CT 06810
(203) 798-3830
Price: $299

Mirror III 2.2
SoftKlone
327 Office Plaza Dr., Suite 100
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(800) 634-8670
(904) 878-8564
Price: $149

Crosstalk Mk.4 2.0.1F
Digital Communication Associates
1000 Alderman Dr.
Alpharetta, GA 30202-4199
(800) 348-3221
(404) 442-4000
Price: $245

Relay Gold for Windows 5.0
Microcom
55 Federal Rd.
Danbury, CT 06810
(203) 798-3830
Price: $399

DynaComm for Windows 3.0
FutureSoft
1001 S. Dairy Ashford
Houston, TX 77079
(713) 496-9400
Price: $249

Crosstalk for Windows 1.2
Digital Communication Associates
1000 Alderman Dr.
Alpharetta, GA 30202-4199
(800) 348-3221
(404) 442-4000
Price: $195

BLAST Professional DOS 10.5
U.S. Robotics Software
8100 N. McCormick Blvd.
Skokie, IL 60076
(800) 242-5278
(708) 982-5001
Price: $295

Professional YAM 17.92
Omen Technology
Box 4681
Portland, OR 97208
(503) 621-3406
Price: $139

Terminal Plus 3.10
FutureSoft
1001 S. Dairy Ashford
Houston, TX 77079
(713) 496-9400
Price: $99.95

Smartcom Exec 2.1
Hayes Microcomputer Products
P.O. Box 105203
Atlanta, GA 30348
(404) 840-9200

Price: $129

PereLine 3.0
PereLine Data Systems
750 Camden Ave., Suite B
Campbell, CA 95008
(800) 359-6612
(408) 364-2770
Price: $49.95

Smartcom III 2.0
Hayes Microcomputer Products
P.O. Box 105203.
Atlanta, GA 30348
(404) 840-9200
Price: $199

Evaluation	Score
Versatile Procomm Plus 2.01 garnered perfect scores in documen- tation, number of protocols and terminal emulations, and script language. It's easy to set up and use, and it packs a lot of power for a reason- able price.	90
HyperAccess/5 2.1 has a unique feature: a built-in virus detector that checks files as they're downloaded. Its colorful interface is easy to use, and the program supports remote control of other PCs running either the DOS or the OS/2 version of HyperAccess/5.	83.50
Relay Gold 5.0 stands out because of its support for a number of IBM 3270 boards and mainframe terminal emulations. This makes it ideal for corporate environments where communications with a variety of systems is necessary.	83
Mirror III started out as a clone of Crosstalk XVI; while it remains fully compatible with Crosstalk XVI's scripts, it also adds a number of its own extensions, such as more protocols and emulations and a memory-resident mode. Version 2.2 comes with a 60-day money-back guarantee, and a portion of the price is donated to one of six charities.	77
The flagship of the Crosstalk family of programs, Crosstalk Mk.4 2.0.1F provides a robust script language, a wide variety of protocols and emulations, and support for 3270 boards. The interface can be either menu driven or command-line driven.	76.50

The Windows 3.0 version of Relay Gold shares all the features   76
of its DOS counterpart, including support for 3270 boards and complete
script compatibility. This makes it ideal for corporations that want the
same communications program for DOS and Windows. Its drawbacks are
its high price and lack of an online tutorial.

This highly rated program for Windows 3.0 includes the icon-based   75.50
Director interface, written in DynaComm's powerful script language, which
makes it easy for novices to get online fast. Unfortunately, DynaComm for
Windows has few predefined modem settings, which complicates the
installation process.

A less expensive alternative for communications under Windows,   74.50
this Crosstalk uses the same powerful script language as Mk.4; however,
the language is heavily modified for Windows support, so it's not com-
pletely compatible. Crosstalk for Windows 1.2 has better ANSI terminal
support than DynaComm.

BLAST stands out for the number of platforms it supports, including Unix,   72
Macintosh, and VAX/VMS. In addition to its general communications cap-
abilities, BLAST includes full support for remotely controlling another PC.
It can also be run in background mode.

Getting started with Professional YAM can be intimidating. How-   72
ever, a powerful scripting language, frequent updates, and bullet-proof
file-transfer protocols distinguish this program. It also ranks high for the
wide variety of platforms supported, including OS/2, Unix, and VAX/VMS.

FutureSoft wrote the Terminal module that comes withevery copy   71
of Windows. Terminal Plus 3.10 is an enhanced version that adds more
terminal emulations and support for the Zmodem and CompuServe-B
protocols. It's also script-compatible with DynaComm, so it's ideal for
Windows users who want more power than the original Terminal offers
without the complexity of the full DynaComm package.

The "lite" version of Smartcom III shares the features and limitations   65.50
of the original, including the lack of predefined setups for modems other
than Hayes's. Smartcom Exec 2.1 is fully script compatible and supports
five languages (English, Spanish, French, Italian, and German).

Priced at just $49.95, PereLine is the least expensive comm program 64
here, yet it's easy to use and powerful enough for day-to-day communi-
cations. The menus are written in PereLine's extensive script anguage and
lcan easily be customized as the user becomes more adept with the
program.

Smartcom III from Hayes supports five languages and has terminal 63
emulations that support the European Minitel and Viewdata online services.
Its principal drawback is a lack of predefined setups for non-Hayes modems