

## Sheet1

### Memory Managers

The memory managers that met the requirements for the PC/Computing 200 are designed specifically for use with 386 systems. We did not consider products intended for special purposes, such as those that manage memory only when used with Lotus 1-2-3 or only when used with Lotus 1-2-3 or only on PS/2 machines. The HIMEM.SYS and EMM386.EXE memory managers that come with MS-DOS 5.0 were also excluded.

#### Product

QEMM-386 6.0  
Quarterdeck Office Systems  
150 Pico Blvd.  
Santa Monica, CA 90405  
(310) 392-9851  
Price: \$99.95

386Max 6.01  
Qualitas  
7101 Wisconsin Ave., Suite 1386  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
(800) 676-8386  
(301) 907-6700  
Price: \$99.95

Memory Commander 2.19  
V Communications  
4320 Stevens Creek Blvd., Suite 275  
San Jose, CA 95129  
(800) 648-8266  
(408) 296-4224  
Price: \$99.95

NetRoom 2.20  
Helix Software Co.  
47-09 30th St.  
Long Island City, NY 11101  
(800) 451-0551  
(718) 392-3100  
Price: \$99

Evaluation	Score
<p>QEMM-386's top showing was almost a foregone conclusion. This product and Qualitas's 386Max have seesawed for years as the most useful and innovative memory managers, and now the lead belongs to Quarterdeck. QEMM-386 6.0's unique ability to run Windows 3.0 in Standard mode makes it the leader of the pack, and installation is virtually idiot-proof. Toss in Manifest, a utility that lets you peek at how memory and other resources are used, and you have a winning combination.</p>	90.80
<p>At any moment, 386Max could take the lead from QEMM-386. 386Max is a more conservative program that doesn't test the goodwill of DOS and Windows. (No memory manager, other than Microsoft's own HIMEM.SYS, for example, is supposed to let Windows 3.0 run in Standard mode, which QEMM manages and 386Max does not.) If 386Max's slightly smaller memory recovery is OK with you, 386Max has a suite of utilities that more than makes up for its conservatism.</p>	85
<p>Memory Commander is the most innovative of the memory managers, which is both its strength and its weakness. It succeeded in reclaiming the most conventional memory not by loading programs in high RAM as other managers do, but instead by juggling the order in which memory addresses are used by hardware resources, so that conventional memory itself increased. The process is not automatic, however, and it requires you to rethink how to use a memory manager a process made difficult by Memory Commander's dense documentation.</p>	82.80
<p>Despite its name, NetRoom works fine on standalone PCs. But since it suffers from an overly technical manual and less-than-obvious installation procedures, it's a better choice for networks, which can take advantage of NetRoom's special features and are run by people who get paid to read technical jargon.</p>	75.50