Spreadsheets

The spreadsheets that qualified for the PC/Computing 200 are DOS and Windows programs with high-end analytical capabilities and robust presentation-graphics features. All the programs can link across worksheets with at least the sophistication of Lotus 1-2-3 Version 2.3's /File Combine command. We tested only applications that could both load a Lotus 1-2-3 WK1 file and execute Lotus-style macros, allowing us to benchmark them for speed.

Product

Microsoft Excel 3.0
Microsoft Corp.
One Microsoft Wayf
Redmond, WA 98052-6399
(800) 426-9400
(206) 882-8080
Price: $495

Quattro Pro 3.0
Borland International
1800 Green Hills Rd.
Scotts Valley, CA 95067
(800) 331-0877
(408) 438-8400
Price: $495

Lotus 1-2-3 Release 3.1 Plus
Lotus Development Corp.
55 Cambridge Pkwy.
Cambridge, MA 02142
(800) 343-5414
(617) 577-8500
Price: $595

Lotus 1-2-3 for Windows 1.0
Lotus Development Corp.
55 Cambridge Pkwy.
Cambridge, MA 02142
(800) 343-5414
(617) 577-8500
Price: $595

Lotus 1-2-3 Release 2.3
Lotus Development Corp.
55 Cambridge Pkwy.
Cambridge, MA 02142
(800) 343-5414
(617) 577-8500
Price: $495

Informix Wingz
Informix Software
16011 College Blvd.
Lenexa, KS 66219
(800) 331-1763
(913) 599-7100
Price: $499

| Evaluation | Score |
|---|---|
| Microsoft Excel is the most comprehensive spreadsheet in its class; it's far more advanced than DOS spreadsheets and snappier than 1-2-3 or Windows. With slick graphics capabilities, full implementation of Windows conventions, and robust help for 1-2-3 users, Excel covers all the bases. If you make the leap to Windows, this product will pay off handsomely. | 94.50 |
| The most full-featured DOS spreadsheet is Borland's Quattro Pro. With a built-in 1-2-3 interface, slideshow-building capabilities that rival those of presentation-graphics packages, and all the spreadsheet-publishing muscle you could want, this package is well equipped. We recommend Quattro Pro on the DOS platform. | 83.50 |
| For the army of 1-2-3 users working under DOS, Lotus 1-2-3 Release 3.1 Plus is a cutting-edge product. It's a better choice than Release 2.3 if you have 1MB of RAM, as it has fully implemented 3-D functionality. It is more expensive than competitors such as Quattro Pro, but Release 3.1 Plus is a very capable DOS spread-sheet and a longtime leader. | 81.50 |
| 1-2-3 for Windows is a great choice for Lotus regulars moving to Windows. Excel is snappier and more in line with Windows conventions, but 1-2-3 for Windows won't throw you off if you're used to 1-2-3 for DOSit even has 1-2-3's classic slash-key interface. Lotus's SmartIcons make the product much easier to use than most other spreadsheets, and 1-2-3 for Windows produces advanced, presentation-quality spreadsheets. | 81.50 |
| 1-2-3 2.x has defined spreadsheet standards for years, and this release is still fit to be a leader. Release 2.3 doesn't work with multiple worksheets in RAM, but if you can forgive this fault and like Lotus's slash-key menus, you'll find this product is a powerhouse that runs well with only 640K of RAM. You can increase functionality, via add-ins included with the product, and third-party add-ins abound. | 68 |

A leader in the graphics category since its move from the Mac                    65.50
to the Windows platform a few years ago, Wingz carved out a
niche for itself. Its lead has closed somewhat as other spreadsheets
have taken on robust graphics capabilities, but Wingz is still
powerful. Though it lacks the easy-to-use toolbar feature of Excel and
1-2-3 for Windows, it's an attractive and flexible program.