PC TOOLS PRO PRESS RELEASE

BEAVERTON, Ore - Central Point Software, Inc. today announced PC Tools Pro 9.0 for DOS, which includes the first utility capable of restoring unsaved work-in-progress following a surprise system crash or power failure. The new release also features integrated hardware diagnostics, support for DoubleSpace and Stacker drives and large disks up to 2GB, expanded protection against unknown viruses, and critical-error messaging for LAN administrators.

The new work-recovery utility, called CPR, automatically backs up system and video RAM to an image file on the user's hard disk at regular time intervals. If a crash occurs, the user can eaily 'roll back the clock' and restore an entire session - including multiple applications running under Microsoft Windows - so that critical data files can be saved to disk.

"CPR builds on PC Tools' reputation for complete data protection and raises the bar for other providers of data protection solutions," said Tom Darnall, manager of the DOS business unit at Central Point. "Customers report that system crashes are the most frequent cause of data loss today, and when a user reboots, it often means hours of lost productivity. With CPR, people can work more confidently and with less rework than ever before."

Hardware Diagnostics

PC Tools Pro is the first release of the company's flagship product to include hardware diagnostics, capable of performing more than 70 tests, analyzing components such as memory, video boards, disk drives and sound cards to identify failing hardware before data is lost. The diagnostic tests are part of an enhanced System Information program - SI Pro - which now provides data on over 170 local and network parameters, including system configuration, all forms of memory, software and hardware interrupts, BIOS data, and video hardware.

Improved Anti-Virus and Backup

PC Tools Pro includes enhanced versions of Central Point's award-winning standalone Anti-Virus and Backup packages. The new Central Point Anti-Virus features Virus Analyzer and SmartChecks, which provide detection and cleaning of unknown viruses without signature updates. An updated release of Central Point Backup now includes support for SCSI tape drives, QIC 40/80 tapes and newer DAT drives, and features full, auto-compare to ensure 100-percent backup integrity.

Other key new capabilities in PC Tools Pro include:

Full support for DoubleSpace and Stacker compressed drives in Optimizer (disk defragmenter) and DiskFix (disk diagnostics and repair), plus compatibility with large drives up to 2GB and/or over 50,000 files.

FastCopy, a utility that enables fast, one-pass duplication of floppy disks, including automatic conversions between different media sizes and densities. For the convenience of making additional copies at a later time, FastCopy can keep an 'image file' of the source floppy on the user's hard disk.

Support for PKZIP 2.x file compression and decompression within PC Tools Desktop/Shell.

Viewers for WordPerfect 6.0, Microsoft Word 2.0 and 43 other popular applications. Enhanced FileFix now can repair corrupted WordPerfect 6.0 files.

An improved Task Switcher that keeps track of the most recent programs and data files loaded in memory, and automatically loads the same configuration again when the PC is restarted.

Extensive Network Support

PC Tools Pro has been designed for use on a network. The product can be installed and updated centrally, with different utility configurations and customized menus developed for different user groups. It includes DriveMap, a memory-resident driver that connects disk drives and printers over a LAN so users can access them as if they were attached to their local PCs.

PC Tools Pro is CentralTalk-enabled, so it can use the CentralAlert program on networks that have Central Point Anti-Virus for NetWare (version 2.0) installed. Three tools in PC Tools Pro - DiskFix, Optimizer, and Emergency Disk - use CentralAlert to send messages to a network administrator about disk problems at a workstation.

More Focused, Higher-value Product

Extensive surveys of PC Tools customers, press and resellers were conducted early on to determine which, if any, less frequently used programs in PC Tools 8 could be dropped to make room for new, more important functions and provide headroom for pricing flexibility. As a result, infrequently used accessories such as the Desktop Accessories (Notepad, Appointment Calendar, Database, etc.) and Commute remote computing were dropped from the PC Tools Pro release to put a cap on overall code size and maintain better pricing flexibility.   To ensure satisfaction among PC Tools 8 customers who now use these programs, PC Tools Pro employs a smart install program that automatically detects use of the older programs and keeps them integrated in the PC Tools Pro menu system.

Pricing, Availability and Introductory Offers

PC Tools Pro 9.0 for DOS is available now from major software distributors and resellers in North America for a suggested retail price of $179.95, although

with special introductory offers the street price is expected to be $99 in most locations. For the first time, Central Point is offering a $49.95 'universal' upgrade to users of previous versions of PC Tools, as well as owners of competitive products, including The Norton Utilities, The Norton Desktop for DOS, Fastback and XTree. Customers in the U.S. and Canada can order upgrades or obtain more information by sending a private email to CPS KimS or calling (800) 964-6896.

In addition, while introductory supplies last, customers who buy a full, retail copy of PC Tools Pro are eligible to receive a free copy of Campbell Services' OnTime calendar software for DOS or Windows, providing the user returns the order form included in the PC Tools Pro package with $9.95 shipping and handling to Central Point no later than May 31, 1994.

System Requirements

PC Tools Pro 9.0 for DOS requires a 286-class or better IBM or 100-percent compatible PC; 640K RAM; up to 8MB free disk space (for a full install); DOS 3.31 or higher; and the 6.14 or later Microsoft Mouse driver.

Central Point Software Inc., headquartered in Beaverton, develops, markets and supports a complete line of utility software products for DOSv Windows, Macintosh and OS/2 on the desktop, as well as for the NovellNetWare network operating system.

Founded in 1981, the company now has a worldwide customer base of 5 million users. Central Point's products are translated into six foreign languages and are available in more than 30 countries.

America Online: CPSTech