This Premiere edition of *WindoWatch* is being published using <u>*ACROBAT*</u> the Adobe Systems' authoring tool. Because of the many entrants into the world of on-line publishing, we decided to give them all a good solid sampling. As we go to press the WordPerfect Corp. is announcing at Comdex that they will make their viewer freely available using the many electronic services for distribution. Adobe Systems in the last month did exactly that. The choices are growing at a very rapid rate and include even more features than those we talked about in this same space in the Preview Issue of *WindoWatch.*

Traditional on line publications for Windows platforms have been limited to the Windows help engine. Recently, the Windows help tool has been enhanced by a variety of add-ons including Help Magic, RoboHelp, and Doc2Help which are on our list for evaluation. Other authoring packages will include Common Ground by NoHands Software, WorldView 2 byInterleaf Inc., the Quarterdeck's HTML authoring tools Normandy and still other new and emerging contenders like Middleware by netApp Systems.

All of the product managers have heard the same words of caution about file size either for distribution of separate articles to be read by a viewer like the Acrobat reader...Acroread.Exe or stand alone compiled issues like the Envoy authored Preview Issue of *WindoWatch* . Envoy was a v.1 which has been replaced by their v.2 iteration. We are presently using Acrobat v.2 and have been told that it is far superior to their first. *Paul Kinnaly*'s evaluation and review of v.1 Envoy appears in this issue. *Jim Plumb* will do the same for Acrobat v.2. At another time, several of the editorial staff will look at all the tools and describe their strengths and weaknesses.

We hope you find these articles useful and welcome your criticisms. We promise to forward "bug reports" to the developer in question. These tools will become even more sophisticated as more features are added and other venders come into this market. We must wonder aloud if conversion tools from one format to another will become one of the "new" features! I certainly hope so. *lbl*

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