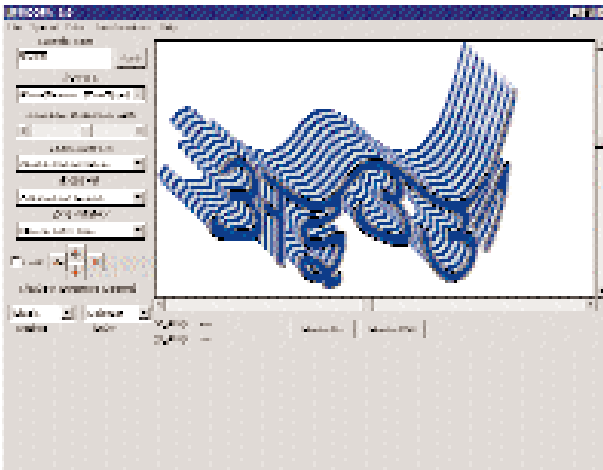




Featured this month: a regional language software, a compression software, a partition utility... and more

ShreeLipi 3.0 Rewriting history



Modular Systems was one of the first companies in India to develop a regional language word processing tool, called ShreeLipi. They recently launched the latest version of the software, ShreeLipi 3.0

ShreeLipi 3.0 incorporates many new user-friendly features and modules, and offers more functions than just a simple multilingual word processor. However, since the software is targeted largely at entry-level DTP professionals, the system requirements remain unchanged—a basic Pentium with 16 MB RAM is sufficient. The installation process is relatively simple too.

ShreeLipi 3.0 allows you to choose from among various hardware locks offered with the package. While buying, choose a hardware lock that can be connected to the parallel port of your machine, and not one that needs to be connected inside your machine to the ISA slot.

Flavours of ShreeLipi 3.0

The new ShreeLipi is available in various configurations—from Opal, the smallest package, to Diamond, which has the maximum number of features and fonts. Depending on what modules you need,

the cost of the software would vary. The modules are labelled according to their functions, and since the software is targeted at the Indian DTP professional, some of them have Indian names.

Here are some of the modules that ShreeLipi offers:

Avishkar

This font styler allows the user to either modify the currently available fonts to suit their needs

or develop new fonts of their own. Avishkar supports various degrees of font condensation and expansion. The module also offers users the options of italics, bold text and outlines (normal and graded), among others.

Roopa

This is a text styling package and resembles Microsoft's WordArt feature. The module is suitable for presentations and for those in the advertising media. It contains readymade envelopes and text styles with over 1000 pre-formatted effects.

Spell-Checker

ShreeLipi 3.0 offers a Hindi and Marathi spell check utility that has a comprehensive dictionary of words, and checks for spelling errors in that particular language. The Spell-Checker can also be used with PageMaker, Word etc.

Import Utility

This utility is compatible with the older versions of ShreeLipi (which had DOS text-editors), and allows you to import from packages like ISCII (Indian Script Code for Information Interchange) data, PC ISCII data, Prakashak, Akshar,

Devyani, SRG, Script etc, to any other Windows-based text editor.

Suchika

Unlike other multilingual text-editing packages, ShreeLipi 3.0 has incorporated a regional language database management tool, which you can configure and maintain. One important feature in Suchika is the ability to sort data within fields. Unlike the Roman script where data can be sorted on the basis of the first few letters of the word, in Suchika it is done on a combination of consonants and vowel signs of the language. Suchika is a user-friendly, menu-driven module that allows the user to index online data, as well as transliterate words.

Language server

With this utility, you can convert numerals to words, insert the date and time, or even transliterate from English to any of the languages supported by ShreeLipi.

Apart from these modules, ShreeLipi 3.0 offers built-in support for keyboard layouts such as the Standard English layout and True Typewriter (Remington), thus reducing the learning curve for a new user. To make it even simpler for the novice, the developers have included a keyboard tutor and a keyboard generator for those who would like to customise their keys. A shortcut bar provides you quick access to the modules from the desktop itself.

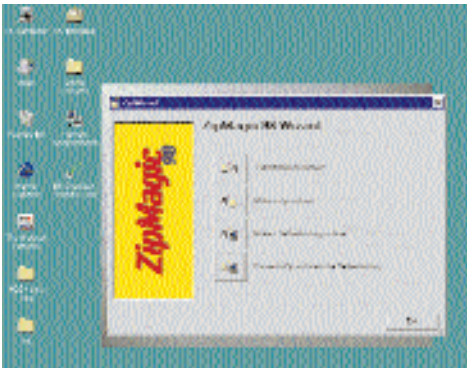
The only drawback of ShreeLipi is the layout of its menus. Some changes in the menu structure like the keyboard and application selection areas as well as the font setting could make ShreeLipi a very commendable product.

- ♦ Many useful modules
- ♦ Complex menu layout

Contact: Modular Systems
 Price: Rs 3,500 to Rs 20,990 (depending on modules)
 Phone: 020-527994
 Fax: 020-525896
 Web site: www.modular-systems.com

ZipMagic 98

Simple compressor with advanced functions



Perhaps the best compression utility for a novice, ZipMagic 98 is a tour de force utility from Mijenix, makers of the widely used Powerdesk Utilities 98.

ZipMagic 98 offers an excellent interface design. With Mijenix' 'transparent zip control' feature, the program compresses files and places them in a Windows Explorer-type window, with the new ZIP file resembling a Windows file folder.

You can view, open and edit docu-

ments, or run programs while they are still in the ZIP archive. You can also add or remove files from a ZIP archive, or zip up the contents of an existing Windows folder by simply changing its extension to .zip. To create or extract a ZIP archive in most applications, you just have to right-click the File > Open or File > Save As dialog box.

If you are a beginner, ZipMagic 98 has wizards that share the startup dialog box. These automate the process of creating ZIP files or extracting them.

The program is also designed to provide the operating system access to the files inside ZIP archives.

Though this helps some programs (like anti virus tools) to search the zipped files for viruses, it causes a significant slowdown of your machine when doing a file search—the command searches through the zipped files too. This is a drawback.

While Nico Mak Computing's WinZip7.0, ZipMagic's closest rival, is designed for

the advanced user who needs to perform very specific work on compressed files (such as in print/production houses), ZipMagic 98 offers advanced features that are also beginner-friendly.

For instance, the ZipTools utility can handle 17 compression and encoding formats, and also adds 60 new multimedia file viewers for previewing zipped files without having to open them. As in WinZip, ZipMagic's Advanced User mode turns ZipTools into a full-blown stand-alone zip utility.

The latest version of ZipMagic 98 supports operating systems such as Linux, and is compatible with Windows 3.x, 95, 98 and NT.

VERDICT A

- ✦ Excellent design and execution.
- ✦ Might slow down file/text searches on your system

Contact: Microware Computer Services
 Price: Rs 1925
 Phone: 022-8729725
 Fax: 022-8727446
 E-mail: sales@mwcdr.com
 Web site: www.mwcdr.com

TurboSketch 4.0

CAD functionality with voice directions



TurboSketch 4.0 combines excellent drawing tools with the accuracy of computer-aided design software and features speech recognition technology to make technical drawing incredibly easy. Installation is simple and the system requirements for the application are less than those required by most CAD tools. Packaged with the software are 35,000 clipart from IMSI and, for the very first time, a speech recognition software—Voice

Directs DragonDictate, which enables users to access and control menu items and drawing tools using voice-activated commands.

TurboSketch provides you with the familiar Microsoft Office interface, along with numerous toolbars on the work area. The user has the option of reducing the number of active toolbars to reduce clutter. The interactive drawing Wizard zips you through the initial process of setting specifications such as

dimensions, drawing scale type and page type. Besides providing assistance with new drawings and setting design templates, the TurboSketch Wizard provides support for conversion and assembly of flat 2D diagrams in a single 3D view as well as create 3D perspectives with Axonometric (Isometric) drawings. In addition to the online help, a multimedia presentation assists users in becoming familiar with the new features.

TurboSketch provides a high accuracy of up to 10 decimal places and magnetic point highlighting for accurate source-to-point connectivity. Availability of 2000 drag-and-drop CAD symbols and 33,000 vector clipart images provides the user with more presentation options. Built into TurboSketch 4.0 is full support for AutoCAD Release 14 DXF/DWG and export/import compatibility with OLE 2.0, Word, Excel or PowerPoint.

Using TurboSketch you can draw and design office layouts, network diagrams, technical schematics, organizational charts, building plans and much more.

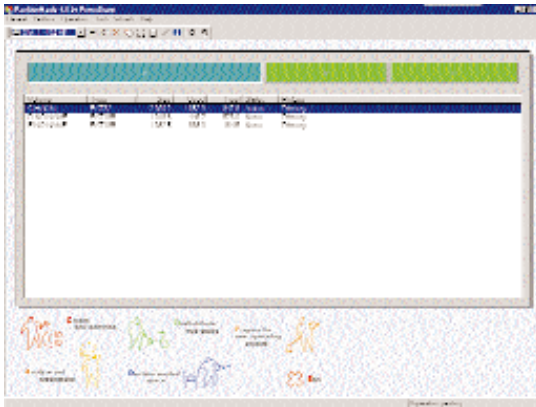
VERDICT A-

- ✦ Simplistic CAD tool
- ✦ Too many toolbars

Contact: Microware Computer Services
 Price: Rs.6550
 Phone: 022-8729725
 Fax: 022-8727446
 E-mail: sales@mwcdr.com
 Web site: www.mwcdr.com

PartitionMagic 4.0

For system administrators only



With the proliferation of low-cost, mega-sized hard drives and the development of more robust operating systems, there is a growing need for powerful utilities that can create, delete and resize disk partitions, convert file systems and manage multiple operating systems on a single computer. PowerQuest's Par-

tionMagic is just right for these tasks.

Considered to be one of the best partition utilities developed, the latest version of PartitionMagic includes major improvements such as a refined interface, support for huge hard drives (20 GB and higher), and the ability to convert a partition's file system from DOS/Windows FAT to NT 4.0 file system (NTFS), as well as OS/2's high-performance file system (HPFS).

Among other new features is the batch operation utility, which allows you to select and combine several partitioning steps at once.

Also new to PartitionMagic are the Wizards which you should ideally avoid. Though these are programmed to assist you, they sometimes assume tasks with-

out being assigned any, and thus make a mess of your disk. However, the efficient manual partitioning mode compensates for this shortcoming. Also, version 4.0 could benefit from a real Undo feature that can reverse batched operations.

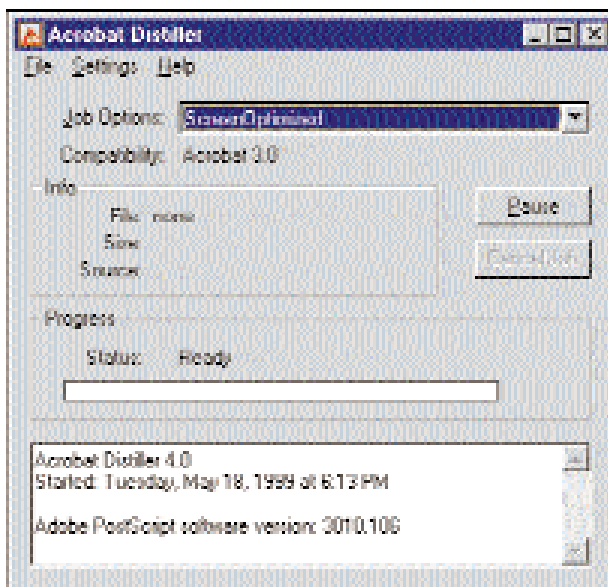
PartitionMagic 5.0 lacks NTFS support and is unable to convert from any version of NTFS to FAT. The Wizards are no help here either. What's more, the program does not offer a serious boot manager, nor support multiple operating systems within a single partition.

- Supports 20 GB or higher drives; excellent new interface
- Boot manager not very useful

Contact : IT Secure
 Price: Rs 35,000
 Phone: 022-6431233
 Fax: 022-642212
 E-mail: vishar@itsecure.com
 Web site: www.powerquest.com

Adobe Acrobat 4.0

Same features, more convenience



The world's most preferred format for online document distribution has just got better, with the release of the new Adobe Acrobat 4.0. The program's strength, of course, is in maintaining for-

matting of text and other components of the document exactly as in the original.

Besides being platform-independent, what makes the program really popular is its file viewer, called Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is downloadable for free on the Internet, while the Portable Document Format or PDF file creator (Acrobat Distiller), has to be purchased from Adobe.

Adobe Acrobat 4.0 enables you to create PDF forms that users can fill and submit online. You can convert

documents created in any application into PDF, even scanned paper documents and Web pages, which can be posted to the Web without losing any links or bookmarks. Also, you don't need to

re-author your document in HTML.

Acrobat 4.0 incorporates an electronic annotation facility that provides more security and control for your files. (For example, you can use digital signatures to verify and track changes made to your PDF document.)

When creating the PDF file, you can also include bookmarks and Web links, making the file easier to navigate. Viewers can then use electronic sticky notes, highlights, or even make handwritten marks with the pencil tool, to add their comments to the document.

For those who need to transfer many PDF files at a time, Acrobat 4.0 includes a new Batch Process feature, while a Send Mail utility allows you to automatically attach your PDF files to e-mail.

- HTML to PDF conversion

Contact : Adobe Systems
 Price: Rs 15,000
 Phone: 011-91-532026
 Fax: 011-91-532010
 E-mail: sagarwal@adobe.com
 Web site: www.asia.adobe.com



SHAREWARE

NetCaptor Multiple Web sites in one

With Microsoft's Internet Explorer as its browsing engine, NetCaptor allows you to open and view multiple



Web sites at a single click. You can switch between the sites by clicking on the tabbed toolbar.

Apart from the enhancements to IE, NetCaptor has the ability to load the sites you last opened, and allows you to quickly delete all cookie data or clear the address history. A CaptorBar, which displays favorites and history, is displayed on the left side of the screen. The Search tab has options to search single or multiple engines.

Rating: HHH

NetCaptor
Download size: 984 KB
Web site: www.netcaptor.com

Perfect Screens '99 PRO Multiple Desktops

If your work requires you to toggle between multiple applications and you think even your 19-inch monitor is not giving you the performance you need, Perfect Screens '99 PRO is what you are looking for.

This shareware lets you have multiple virtual screens (or desktops) and switch easily between them. This activity does not affect the application, wallpaper or background colour on the screen. For example, you could set up a virtual screen for file management

that displays two Explorer Windows next to each other.

Perfect Screens '99 PRO features the ability to cut and paste between screens, toolbar auto-hide options, taskbar integration, configurable screen menu, drag-and-drop support; password options; and more. This new release also offers 'Sticky' windows, better switching between screens, and an improved user interface.

Rating: HHHHH

Perfect Screens '99 PRO
Download size: 612 KB
Web site: www.kagi.com

NextStart Alternative Start Menu

If you are fed up with the Windows Start menu but cannot do without it either, try using NextStart.

This customizable program launching menu provides an alternative to the Windows Start menu, and can be accessed from its taskbar (System Tray) icon, or from



one or more hot spots that you define on your desktop. You can even attach a NextStart menu to other applications, or customise its appearance and functions.

For example, you can choose whether or not to display 3D effects, adjust the height of the title bars, select backgrounds, choose text alignment, or decide on a colour and fonts for the titles and buttons. You can have buttons with icons on them, choose hot keys, add optional menu arrows and set scrolling options, among other utilities.

Rating: HHHHH

NextStart
Download size: 2,438KB
Web site: <http://members.xoom.com/WinSTEP2000/wsmain.html>

1 col.
Ad