WordSearch
Version 1.6
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CompuServe: 70327,135

WordSearch makes scrambled word puzzles from a set of words you enter. We use it with the weekly spelling words. Searching the puzzle helps the kids memorize their lists.

To enter words
Click in the box labeled "Enter new words here". Type in words, pressing ENTER after each one. If you make a mistake, click on the incorrect word, then click on delete. It will be removed from the list.

To make the puzzle
After you've entered the words, click on the "MAKE" button. This will build the puzzle. Your entries will show up in red. Note that no word can be longer than the lesser of the number of rows and number of columns. Words that are too long will be rejected. If you see the message "Unable to fit word into puzzle", the program has run out of free space for new words. Try clicking "MAKE" again. If you don't like how the words are arranged, try "MAKE" again.

Setup
The Setup menu lets you

1. Set the number of rows and columns (between 5 and 15).

2. Build the puzzle with capital letters (and capitalize your entries) or build the puzzle with lower case letters and use your entries as entered.

3. Specify printer fonts for the puzzle and the word list, and the top and left margins for the printed page.

4. Set probabilities for each orientation. Use the slider controls under Setup/Orientations to set relative frequencies. The probability of any each orientation appears in the box to the right of the slider. Use the check boxes to turn an orientation on or off without losing the saved value. (Note: At least one orientation must be enabled when you leave this window.)

Setup entries are saved in your WIN.INI file and will be recalled the next time you run the program.

Printing the Puzzle
The "PRINT" button will print out a copy of the puzzle. "PRINT", on the

menu, lets you print the puzzle (same as clicking the "PRINT" button) or printing a solved copy of the puzzle. The solved copy shows the characters of the list word bolded, but does not connect them into words.

Feedback

There's a lot that can be done to improve this program. This version is slow and uses a lot of system resources. I'll fix these as I learn more about Visual Basic. I'd like sugggestions about the interface and features that should be added. Please send your suggestions to me via CompuServe mail. Future versions depend on your feedback!

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WordSearch was written in Microsoft Visual Basic, and requires the Visual Basic runtime library, "**VBRUN100.DLL**", which may be obtained at no charge, other than connect time, from the Microsoft Basic Forum ("Go MSBASIC") on CompuServe.

Update History

Version 1.5

Initial Release

Version 1.6 (11/17/91)
Margin settings
Print solution
This document in COURIER
Uses <windir>\WordSrch.INI instead of WIN.INI
(Note: If you used version 1.5, you may remove the section headed [WordSearch SDS] from your WIN.INI file.)
Adjust probabilities for directions (up, down, LtoR, RtoL, etc.)
Diagonal Words(DownLtoR,DownRtoL)

Version 1.7 (11/19/91)
Oops! Did all of the above, but broke printing the puzzle. Fixed.