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Create your own daily newspaper

By Michael J. Hinnowitz
By business day
One of the problems with the available information is that there's so much information there — far more than any human can filter or absorb.
This is one reason why desktop publishing is so popular in its corner of the world. Computer or desktop publishing will never replace your daily newspaper.

Traditional newspapers have long served as vehicles to filter and organize the information available on the data highways of the world and present it in a format that the average reader can understand and absorb.
Besides gathering news themselves, newspapers have tapped into information networks for years — largely through wire services that dump thousands of stories and millions of bytes of financial data into their computer systems every day.

Because newspaper is expensive and readers' time is limited, newspapers can offer only a fraction of the information. So editors choose the news they present very carefully, trying to provide a mix of stories that are important, interesting and entertaining. And that's the something-for-everyone approach that not satisfy those who want deeper daily coverage of specific subjects.

The growth of personal computers and popularity of Prodigy, CompuServe, America Online, Hot News and other electronic information services have the potential to change that equation by providing users with direct access to their huge data bases of information.
Unfortunately, the average person doesn't have time to sort through it all. This is why a program like Journalist is compelling: It gathers the information people want and puts it into a format — the daily newspaper — that they understand.

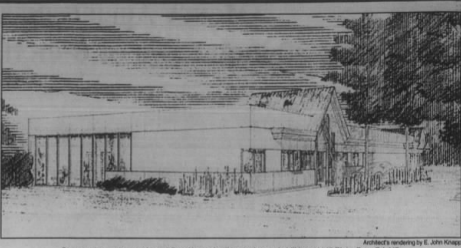
THE LATEST VERSION OF Journalist requires an IBM-compatible computer running Microsoft Windows, a subscription to the Prodigy Windows software and a 9000 baud modem.
Here's how it works: Using basic page layout software, you design a newspaper section front, or a series of action frames, laid out in frames for different categories of news. To get started quickly, you can choose from a set of half-done templates or let Journalist's design assistant walk you through the process by asking you questions about the kind of news you want.
There are 24 news categories, including: Headline News, Politics, Economy News, International Business, Baseball, Computers, Science, Travel and Home. You can also create frames to display the latest price quotes of stocks you select, performance graphs for the 30 Dow Jones Industrial Average securities, scores and schedules for your professional sports teams, and local, regional, or national weather forecasts and maps.
If you're interested in business news, you can set up a frame that will display stories about specific companies or industries — which makes Journalist a particularly good tool for investors.
You can also select the news "spiffs" for each frame, which tells Journalist how many stories you want in each

category, and how far back to go.
By desktop publishing standards, the layout software is simple but effective enough. The layout extends only to the first page of each section. Additional stories and images are printed across the full width of succeeding pages.
Once everything is set up, just click the program to fill the newspaper.

If you're really bored, you can watch the stories flow onto the page, but even a 9000 baud line can take a while. And printing takes almost as long.
ONCE YOUR PAPER IS ready, you can roam in on any frame and read it from the newspaper layout can exercise its graphics, or zoom in on any category, select a story from a table of contents and display it on a full screen. Once you've done that a few times, you'll realize that this is the real value of the program — the newspaper layout is just a metaphor that lets information into computer.

It would be nice if you could just get the news you wanted, organized in the same way. Without jumping through the desktop publishing hoops.
To its credit, Journalist works right out of the box. I used the design assistant to create a basic, four-section newspaper, then tasked Prodigy and watched the newspaper appear on the screen.

In the end, however, I had to ask myself: "Can I have good journalism at Journalist?" While it's a decent effort, it's not very good. Unlike the editors who put newspapers together, Journalist doesn't make distinctions about the importance of news, its accuracy, or its source. Nor can it place individual pieces of news into context. Some of Prodigy's news comes from wire services, others straight from corporate press releases. It's not always easy to tell which is which, and that's very important. Also, Prodigy offers only a fraction of the news sources available to the print and electronic media.
Still, if you have an interest in specific types of news that your newspaper can provide, it's a good buy. Journalist software is inexpensive enough (90 on the street), and access to all articles except corporate information is part of Prodigy's base rate.



Construction on the new Animal Care Hospital will begin this week. It'll be at 1145 Blair's Ferry Rd. NE.

New Animal Care Hospital to be built

Animal Care Hospital — the one with the black iron dog out front — will begin construction on a new \$12.116 hospital building on Thursday.

The present hospital, at 801 A Ave. NE, will be relocated to the new site 1145 Blair's Ferry Rd. NE, by Sept. 1, according to Dr. David Greff, owner.
Animal Care employs nine staff and is making the move to a new facility after nearly 50 years at its current location.
The iron dog will make the move, too. Greff says although they may need a crane to move it, he believes it's included in the contract.

Greff says the new facility will offer space for additional services including grooming and boarded boarding capacity, and a new pet supply "boutique."
A driveway window will be a highlight of the new facility.
This unique feature will allow low pet owners the opportunity to watch their pets get a haircut, obtain pet food and supplies. Cats that board in the new facility will be treated to an

Architect for the project is E. John Knapp of Johnston, Wis., who, Greff says, is an expert on the subject, designing over 300 facilities worldwide.
Point Builders of Cedar Rapids will be general contractor and Sutton Inc., also of Cedar Rapids will serve as the interior design firm.

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Pension laws leave women poorer at retirement

Women have become poorer at retirement.
The pension rates favor men so much that working women continue to retire with only a fraction of the benefits their male colleagues receive, according to the latest federal labor statistics cited in a pension rights symposium Thursday in Washington.
In fact the "pension gap" is growing, symposium sponsors said, and they will spend the next year framing recommendations to present to a White House Conference on Aging next May.
Not all benefits experts agree with the symposium's view, and even some who do advise caution in approaching employers to do more in this country, but all sides agreed that U.S. pension laws and practices effec-

ively have women poorer at retirement.
"We think eventually this gap is going to be like health care law," said Cindy Howland, an attorney and organizer with the sponsoring Women's Pension Policy Consortium. "This is creeping up on us, with our aging population, and eventually something has to be done."
The problem, Howland said, is that pension laws and practices are designed for the way men traditionally work — with no breaks in employment, holding earnings, often at a single company.
Women more typically work in lower-paid, non-union jobs, she said, and often work part

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