Subject: Re: Composure for WordPerfect
From: Diane Kistner <futurecyclepress@gmail.com>
Date: 11/29/2024, 12:35 PM
To: Tim Garner <tgarnerca@yahoo.com>

I'm gobsmacked! I just went to Prof. Mendelson's site, and I agree that WordPerfect for DOS is absolutely the most awesome program. It's such a shame that Microsoft Word took over. I'm so happy to hear people are still using Composure and that you find it so helpful. I came from an advertising typography background in the pre-PC era, so I wrote Composure mostly for myself to replace what was missing from what I was used to working with.

It feels like it's been six lifetimes since I wrote Composure, and it certainly has not been developed over these decades. I thought when Windows supplanted DOS that it was dead (although I suspect somebody from the Windows development team built on my ideas). I have no earthly idea if there were other iterations of it. At 72, my memory is not what it used to be.

I would be honored to donate Composure for the WPDOS community to freely use. I don't have the ability anymore to remove or negate any registration information, but if you know how to do that, please feel free to do so, or add a note to the effect that it's not necessary if you think it's important. All I would ask is that, if my name remains attached to it, that it not be altered in any way that would be an embarrassment to me or hurt people. (I know you would not do that!) It's been so long since I worked in DOS that I don't have a clue how one would go about protecting the code from nefarious actors…or if it's even possible.

So, anyway, Tim, you've really made me happy. Please let me know if there's anything else you need from me to proceed as you wish.

All best…
Diane

Diane Kistner
283 Frederick Drive
Athens, GA 30607

On Fri, Nov 29, 2024 at 1:54 PM Tim Garner <tgarnerca@yahoo.com> wrote:
> Hello, I am writing to Ms. Diane Kistner.
>
> Ms. Kistner, I came across the Composure for WordPerfect for DOS program that you designed in the early 1990s and marketed as shareware through Darkhorse Industries in Winterville, GA.
>
> It's a really nice, helpful program for WPDOS users. You may be surprised to learn that

there's still a thriving WPDOS community out there. There's even a website maintained by Prof. Edward Mendelson of Columbia University that's devoted to it (www.mendelson.org/wpdos).

I am contacting you to ask whether you'd be willing to donate your Composure for WPDOS without the registration or payment requirements. If so, I would send it on to Prof. Mendelson for inclusion in his growing list of free third-party tools.

The version of Composure that I have is 2.0. I'm not sure whether there are newer versions.

Many thanks for your consideration,
Tim Garner
San Diego, CA