Make the Active Document's Directory the Temporary Default
By The Cobb Group

The included DOCDIR.WPM macro is based on a macro submitted by Steve Murphy of Alexandria, Virginia.

When you save a document, WordPerfect stores it in the default directory. Typically, the default directory is the one you specify for documents on the Setup: Location of Files menu. Or, if you don't specify a directory for documents, the default is the directory in which your WordPerfect program files reside (for example, C:\WP51).

As you're probably aware, you can save a document to any directory other than the default by typing a different path before the filename. For example, pressing (F10) and typing "C:\LETTERS\MOM" at the "Document to be saved:" prompt will save a file named MOM in the C:\LETTERS directory, regardless of which directory is your default.

If you find yourself needing to retrieve multiple files from (or save multiple files to) the same non-default directory, or if you repeatedly need to view the directory's contents in List Files, you'll want to make the active document's directory the temporary default. Doing so typically requires a number of keystrokes.

If changing to a new temporary default directory seems to take too many keystrokes — and it undoubtedly will if you do it very often — the DOCDIR.WPM macro will automatically perform the keystrokes required for making the active document's directory the temporary default. This directory-switching macro will even get the active document's path name for you so you don't have to type it at the "New directory =" prompt.

This macro uses a combination of conventional keystrokes and advanced WordPerfect macro commands to do its job. In this article's introduction, we mentioned that you can change the default directory by pressing (List), typing an equal sign, typing the new path name for the default directory, then pressing (Enter) or (Cancel).

While most of WordPerfect's directory-switching process consists of fixed, predictable keystrokes, one part doesn't — typing the path name for the new default directory. When you want to change the default directory to that of the currently active document, your macro needs to be able to identify the currently active document's directory on its own.

Fortunately, WordPerfect's macro programming language provides a tool for reading the path name of the active document: the {SYSTEM}Path~ command. Because the {SYSTEM}Path~ command reads the path name of the currently active document, it takes the place of manually typing a directory path at the "New directory =" prompt after pressing (List). This command is especially useful if your active document's path name is very long (e.g., C:\WP51\DOCS\AUGUST24).

Testing the basic engine

The default directory macro will play from within any document, but will be able to assign a temporary default directory only if the onscreen document already has a path name associated with it (in other words, only if you've saved the document). To make sure the macro really switches directories, you'll want to use a document that you've saved to a directory other than WordPerfect's default.

To play the directory-switching macro, press (Alt-F10), then type "docdir" and press (Enter). When you press (Enter), the prompt will disappear, and your document's path and name will reappear on the status line. So how do you know if the macro really worked?

Did the macro work?

To find out whether the macro switched to a new temporary default directory, press (F5). Instead of displaying the default document path at the "Dir" prompt as it usually does, WordPerfect will now display the path of the current document — your new temporary default directory. If you press (Enter), WordPerfect will show you the names of all the subdirectories and files in the new directory. If you press (F1), WordPerfect will remove the Dir prompt and return you to your document.

Temporary vs permanent default directory

Keep in mind that the DOCDIR.WPM macro changes the default directory only temporarily — that is, only for the duration of the current editing session. When you exit WordPerfect, then restart it, the program will revert to its permanent default directory.

You can also revert to the original default directory by pressing (List), typing "=," then typing the name of the original default directory and pressing (Enter). If you do a lot of directory switching, you can record a macro from the keyboard that will do this for you. The macro might look something like this when you display it in the Macro Editor:

```
{DISPLAY OFF}
{List}=C:\WP51\DOCS{Enter}
```