A Menu to Choose Favorite Directories
By Alan M. Kaplan

The included DIR.WPM macro can be used by anyone to choose directories using a menu. After you choose a directory, the macro will ask you whether you want to make that directory your new default directory. Unless you press the "n" or "N" keys, the default directory will be changed, and all files created will be saved in the new directory. If do press "n" or "N", the directory will be displayed without changing your current display.

To edit this macro, follow these keystrokes: Press (Ctrl-F10), then type "dir," and press (Enter). Then press 2.

In the macro editor, use the down arrow until you will see the following (line numbers added for reference):

```
1 5 {;}LINES·TO·EDIT·START·HERE~
2 5
3 5 {ASSIGN}row~5~                      {;}Starting·row·(may·be·changed)~
4 5 {ASSIGN}col~25~                     {;}Starting·column~
5 5
6 5 {ASSIGN}1~c:\wp51\docs~             {;}List·your·directories·~
7 5 {ASSIGN}1n~Documents~               {;}and·descriptions·using~
8 5 {ASSIGN}2~c:\wp51\macros~           {;}this·format~
9 5 {ASSIGN}2n~Macros~
105 {ASSIGN}3~c:\wp51\backups~
115 {ASSIGN}3n~Backups~
125 {ASSIGN}4~c:\wp51\learn~
135 {ASSIGN}4n~Tutorials~
145
155 {;}LINES·TO·EDIT·END·HERE~
```

In line 3, you can change the row where the menu will be displayed. Row 5 is five lines from the top.

In line 4, you can change the column where the macro displays. A standard display has 80 columns.

Lines 6, 8, 10 and 12 are the full pathname of the directories that you want available. The number following the {ASSIGN} command is the number that will appear on the menu. Lines 7, 9, 11 and 13 are the descriptions for the directories.

This macro allows you to extend the number of entries in the menu to the limits of you display. An example follows:

```
{ASSIGN}5~c:\wp51\letters~
{ASSIGN}5n~Letters~
```

Note that you must have a directory name for each directory listed.

This macro deliberately uses advanced 5.1 macro commands with only basic remarks. It has a number of interesting programming techniques that I have found along the way. Because of how this macro works, it is not the speediest in displaying the menu. The advantage of the macro is that you move the display on the screen, and extend the menu with a minimum of commands.

Note that if you have ten or more directories, the display is adjusted so that the tenth and subsequent directories are aligned properly. The prompt changes from one character to require pressing the ENTER key.

This macro was written in response to an article seen in PC Magazine, and to discussions in the Working Word section of PCMAGNET.