WordPerfect® OFFICE

COREL®

Security, compatibility and ease-of-use make WordPerfect® Office the best office suite for West Parry Sound Health Centre

Overview

Name: Dan Hildebrandt

Company: West Parry Sound Health Centre

Location: Western, Ontario

Industry: Health Care

Product: Corel® WordPerfect® Office

When the West Parry Sound Health Centre decided to upgrade the productivity software on more than 160 computers throughout the campus, Chief Technology Officer Dan Hildebrandt knew he had to conduct a thorough evaluation of products from multiple vendors before making a decision. "We looked in-depth at several applications from companies like Lotus, Microsoft, Corel and Open Office," he says. "In the end, we felt that the product that is best suited to meet our current and future needs is WordPerfect Office."

The West Parry Sound Health Centre is a renowned health care provider in western Ontario. The relatively new WPSHC is the result of a recent amalgamation of the town's two hospitals, and the facility continues the long tradition of providing quality care established by both the Parry Sound District General Hospital and the Parry Sound Area Health Centre, Chronic Care Facility (formerly St. Joseph's Hospital).

A system-wide upgrade of all computers can provide increased productivity if handled correctly, but the Health Centre's Information Management Advisory Committee, or IMAC, had to proceed with care to minimize potential disruption for the users.

"Our administrative and medical staff produce a wide variety of documents, including clinical reports, memos, room schedules, agendas and general correspondence," explains Dan Hildebrandt who chaired the committee. "The objective was to standardize on a modern productivity suite."

IMAC evaluated more than a dozen different types of word processing applications in this process, including various versions from Microsoft, Open Office, Lotus Notes and Corel.

"We used nine key criteria in our evaluation," says Mr. Hildebrandt. "Among the most important ones were cost, functionality, stability, security, platform portability and document portability. We thoroughly evaluated each product in each category and tallied up the final score."

Cost was definitely part of the final decision, but according to Dan Hildebrandt it was not the most important one in this case, as the committee wanted to make sure they provided the best solution for their clerical and medical staff. Mr. Hildebrandt continues:

"In fact, the Microsoft offer came in at about the same cost level as the Corel offer, so in that regard the bids were very close. But we felt Corel had the most well-rounded, integrated and secure solution that best suits our current and future needs."

Any full-featured productivity suite in today's market has to be compatible with Microsoft Office formats to stay competitive, and the Information Management Advisory Committee conducted many tests importing and exporting documents between Word and WordPerfect.

"We deal regularly with many governmental organizations that have chosen .doc as their default file exchange format, so compatibility with Microsoft Word was a crucial component in our evaluation process. We found that WordPerfect in most cases imported and exported Word documents seamlessly."

By adopting WordPerfect as their standard word processor, the IT staff at West Parry Sound Health Centre also ensured that the staff had complete access to a substantial archive of legacy documents, many of which were created in DOS versions of WordPerfect well over 10 years ago.

"In our organization, we have many very dedicated WordPerfect users who have used the product since the DOS days of version 4.0," recalls Mr. Hildebrandt. "Some of them were still using versions 7 and 8 before this upgrade. Initially they were wondering why we were bothering them, when they had a word processor they really liked," he says with a short chuckle. "Having said that, they do appreciate many of the modern functionalities that a modern productivity suite offers."

Another reason Dan Hildebrandt and the rest of the committee decided to go with WordPerfect Office was the inherent graphic capabilities in the Corel package.

"We found that the graphic handling in WordPerfect was far superior compared to what Word had to offer."

Unlike some of its competitors, WordPerfect Office has the ability to publish documents directly to PDF, without requiring additional software like Adobe® Acrobat.

"This important feature speaks directly to our document portability requirement. PDF has become the de facto standard for document distribution, and WordPerfect offers a very elegant solution that fits well within our workflow," says Mr. Hildebrandt.
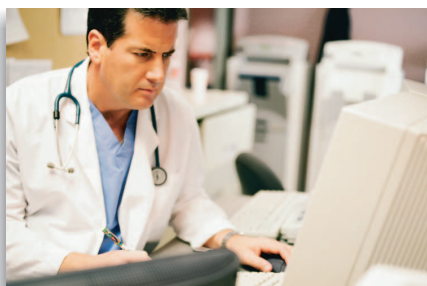
Power users of word processing applications have long preferred WordPerfect over Word, in no small part due to one of its trademark features — Reveal Codes. Anybody who has tried to format a Word document is probably familiar with its tendency to reformat parts of your documents seemingly at random. Move a paragraph of text and all of a sudden fonts change, your text turns bold and much time is spent getting it back to the way you want it. With Reveal Codes, a user can look under the hood of the document and see the underlying code. A simple click-and-drag is often all it takes to restore a format gone wrong.

"Needless to say, Reveal Codes are extremely popular with most of our users," says Dan Hildebrandt.

Security is tantamount for any network administrator and emails with Word documents as attachments are a known problem. A macro virus embedded in a Word file can create havoc on any system. A few years ago, a virus known as Melissa quickly spread around the world, sending emails to all addresses in the infected computer's address book.

"Security was one of the key criteria in our evaluation, and we came to the conclusion that the security features in WordPerfect are by far superior to Word," concludes Dan Hildebrandt.

For more information please visit **www.corel.com/wordperfect**

West Parry Sound Health Centre profile.
44 beds of in-patient acute care including:
- intensive care unit and step-down unit
- obstetrics
- surgery
- specialists in internal medicine, radiology, pathology, general surgery, anesthesiology, other visiting specialists

64 beds of in-patient chronic care, including:
- complex continuing care
- continuing care
- rehabilitation
- transitional care

Out-patient clinical programs, including:
- emergency department
- ambulatory care
- day surgery
- chemotherapy

By the numbers:
1 new patient is admitted every 26 minutes
2 Nurse Practitioner Programs
3 babies delivered per week
5 nursing stations
55 emergency patients per day
75 emergency patients per summer day
108 patient beds
150 babies delivered each year
450 critically ill patients in ICU per year
1,278 mammograms performed in 2002
2,200 surgical procedures
3,000 CT cases (estimated) per year coming in 2005
11,800 ambulatory care procedures each year
18,100 treatments offered in physiotherapy
20,000 year-round service population
24,300 radiology sessions per year
150,000 summer service population