

Center Multiple Lines of Text
PC Magazine
Solutions

For those times when you need to horizontally center multiple lines of text in WordPerfect, the included CTRMULT.WPM macro will do the trick.

Briefly stated, the macro enters the format code for centered justification followed by the code for full justification, then moves the cursor back one position. Any text you then type will fall between the two codes. Hitting the right arrow key will move the cursor past the second code and move you back to full justification for further text entry.

– John D. Sherlock Kingston, Ontario, Canada

PC MAGAZINE: If you like to see text centered as you type it, this macro offers a small but worthwhile improvement over the Shift-F6 command that enters the [Center] code. Unlike the centered justification code, the [Center] code applies only to text that comes after the code on the same line. Centered justification applies to all text until the next justification code.

Mr. Sherlock's original macro assumes that you haven't yet typed anything that you want to center. In fact, if you are in the middle of a line and run the macro, WordPerfect will insert a soft return before the center justification code, so that you're forced to a new line. In the real world, however, odds are that you will at least occasionally forget to run the macro until after you've started typing the line. The included macro takes that possibility into account.

The macro uses {Home} {Home} {Left} to ensure that it is at the leftmost position of the current line before entering the first format code, then {Home} {Home} {Right} to ensure that it is at the rightmost position before entering the second code. It then moves the cursor one position left. If there was no text on the line when you started the macro, this will be the correct cursor position to let you continue typing. If there was text, however, WordPerfect inserts a deleteable soft return ({DSrt}) between the end of the text and the second justification code. This causes the cursor to go to the line after the original text, so that anything you type goes on that second line.

The improved macro handles this problem as follows: The last line in the macro takes advantage of the SYSTEMLeft command to test the value of the character or code to the immediate left of (just before) the cursor. The number 36864 is the value that the command will return for a {DSrt} code. If the macro finds a {DSrt} code, it moves the cursor one more position left, letting you continue typing at the last character of the previous line.