
Twin delivers its promise and then some

Mosaic Software's Twin lives up to its name: It is a twin of the popular Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheet program. It is also a bit more.

To test Twin, I created two real-world spreadsheets: a cost tracker for production and distribution of *IEEE Software* and a tracker of how many pages ran for each topic versus how many were budgeted. The two together took about four hours, including data entry.

The program is indeed Lotus-like. And there are some welcome enhancements, including repositioning of the menu to the bottom of the screen, better field-protection handling, and more sensible printing defaults.

But where Twin really shines is in its graphics. You can create bar charts (horizontal and vertical, 2D and 3D), pie charts (2D and 3D), line charts, and Cartesian charts. You can have several type styles, colors, and

patterns. You can display to the screen (color or Hercules-driven monochrome), printer, plotter, or slide-making device.

At \$99, Twin is a terrific buy. The only problem I had was with the printing: several blank pages printed at the end of each run, and I couldn't figure out how to stop it.

Twin runs on IBM PCs and compatibles running on MS-DOS Version 2.0 or higher. (The company says you need at least a dual-floppy-drive PC and 260K RAM, but I wouldn't use it, or any other spreadsheet, on less than an XT with a hard disk and 512K.) A math 80287 coprocessor will speed execution considerably, the company advises. For more information, contact Mosaic Software, 1972 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140.

— *Galen Gruman, Assistant Editor*
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