

## SOFTWARE REVIEW

# Multifunction software aimed at professional users

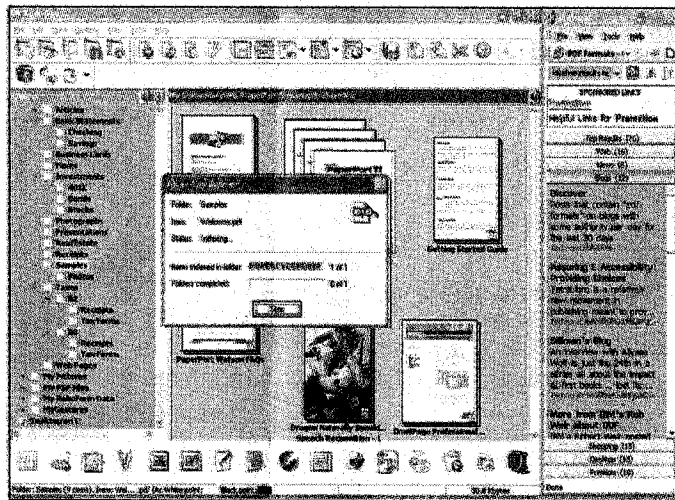
LINDA WEBB

*Special to The Plain Dealer*

PaperPort Professional 11 is software that combines tools for scanning, organizing, finding and exchanging information. It is aimed at business and professional users and features new how-to guides that reduce the product learning curve.

An interactive, configurable desktop displays documents and thumbnail images of scans while also showing a Windows Explorer-like folder structure; adding or removing folders is simple.

You can initiate scans directly from your scanner, although this didn't work as described on my test system. Built-in scan profiles facilitate your scanning outcome, and you can automatically apply image enhancements and file formats. Scans can be saved in the native MAX format or as PDFs, using the included PDF Create! 3 software.



The software significantly compresses large color or grayscale images to ease storage requirements, and Scanner Enhancement Technology (SET) tools let you improve the scanned image quality.

PaperPort uses optical character recognition, or OCR, to con-

vert scanned images directly into text in Microsoft Word, but I got better recognition results by dragging a scanned image thumbnail onto the Word icon. OCR results from PDF and MAX formats seemed comparable.

The software lets you set keywords to maximize file searches.

## PaperPort 11 Professional

**Maker:** Nuance Inc.

**Price:** \$199.99 online at [www.nuance.com](http://www.nuance.com)

**Minimum requirements:** Microsoft Windows 2000 SP4 or XP SP2; Intel Pentium processor or equivalent; 128 MB RAM, 256 MB RAM or higher recommended; 250 MB free hard disk space; Internet Explorer 5.5 or higher; CD-ROM drive; SVGA monitor, internet connection for activation and automatic updates.

**Rating:** ★★★★★☆

**Soundbyte:** Useful utility for users willing to invest in learning the many beneficial features.

If you have Nuance's OmniPage 15 software, the software will also search your PDF files for specified text keywords.

You can stack a group of PDF

or MAX files into a single PDF file, then unstack them to work with individual images or a small group of images. A set of annotation tools is handy for text notes — or to add color for emphasis.

Images can be sent to other network users' desktops using DesktopDelivery and shared folders. I had no trouble adding and viewing a folder on a peer-to-peer PC connected to my test laptop.

This multifunctional software is not without issues, however. An AddIn conflict added many blank toolbar buttons in Word 2003 on one test PC, and the fix required repeated correction. Technical support by e-mail costs \$8.95 per incident, and the PaperPort community forum is not currently enabled. Be sure to check the list of supported scanners — and the system specifications — before purchasing the software.

*Webb is a free-lance writer in Shaker Heights.*