

Verizon sells Yahoo Media Group to Apollo



Verizon is selling Yahoo Media Group, for \$5 Billion. That's the combination of companies that Verizon accumulated through multiple acquisitions, including America Online, which had already bought many other companies. Besides Yahoo!, there are Compuserve and MapQuest; the list includes NetScape, TechCrunch, and a hundred more companies. Even Time Warner was bought by America Online, but that was undone and removed from AOL back in 2009. The list of properties is still massive:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_acquisitions_by_AOL

That combination, formerly known as OATH, is now known as Yahoo Media Group, and going forward will be known as Yahoo. The buyer is Apollo Global Management, online at <u>Apollo.com</u>, and publicly listed on the New York Stock Exchange as APO. They're described as "an alternative investment manager in private equity, credit and real estate. The Company raises, invests and manages funds on behalf of pension, endowment and sovereign wealth funds, as well as other institutional and individual investors."

Does this matter to computer users and business owners?

It matters if you have an email address ending in @verizon.net, yahoo.com, or aol.com. These are all controlled by America Online. And Yahoo Small Business web hosting is part of the Yahoo Media Group product line. Apollo will work on making more money from each of the current users of all the Yahoo Media services and web sites.

Verizon will keep 10% ownership of Yahoo Media, so services provided to Verizon customers by AOL (mostly email) might continue as they are, or might change with not much notice. The sale is expected to close in the second half of 2021.

What's left? Verizon is going to be much closer to a utility company, selling mostly cellular and internet services.



WordPerfect 2021 Arrives

WordPerfect has broken their new release cycle. For many years, there's been a new release every two years in the Spring, up through version X9. Last Spring, there was WordPerfect Office 2020, and now there's already a new version, WordPerfect Office 2021.

The feature list is here: https://www.wordperfect.com/en/product/office-suite/

New features include enhancements to Microsoft Office compatibility, document stats, Quattro Pro search, PDF import, and corporate environment use, which they describe as improved performance and stability when using files directly on a server.

I'm testing the 2021 product. So far, here's what I've seen:

The install worked, no issues. I ran my tests through a remote computer, editing documents and macros over a network, and it behaved as it should. The product layout is unchanged, and still has the very logical menu layout, mostly verbs, including View, Insert, Format, and so on that has been in-place since at least WordPerfect 7. Reveal Codes is still there, and the keyboard shortcuts are unchanged.

In the Help menu, Reference Center, I like the new Quick Reference Cards. The full manual for WordPerfect Office is also available there. Both are downloaded as PDF files. A smaller version of the manual is available here:

WordPerfect manual (pdf)

PDF import is greatly improved. There are a few import options to try for complex documents, and they mostly affect how graphics are imported, either as OCR (text conversion), or as an image (if WPG format), or as a box if they they're JPG, with a "JPG2000 and JBIG2 image formats are not supported" message. I loaded a complex instruction manual; the resulting document had the original formatting, and was editable. Embedded links in a table of contents did not transfer over, even when importing a PDF that was originally created in WordPerfect. PDF import is still only in the Professional and Standard editions, and is not available in Home & Student.

The improvement in document stats is that character counts are now shown with and without spaces. Not a major change.

The Oxford Concise Dictionary is included now, and listed as new, but it's been in some WordPerfect editions for years. It's now included in all editions: Professional, Standard, and Home & Student.

Graphcat



And they're editable in WordPerfect. www.Graphcat.com

As in every version of WordPerfect since 5.1, all the way back in 1991, there has to be a photo catalog program that creates an image index as an editable WordPerfect document, and my Graphcat Photo Cataloger package has been the standard now for nearly 30 years. Last year's version of Graphcat, version 6.6, added support for WordPerfect 2020, but an update will be required for WordPerfect 2021. I won't commit to a release date yet, but let's just say it will be in weeks, not months. I'll announce it when ready at https://graphcat.com and in this newsletter.

Buy the new WP?

My initial impressions are good. If you're using WordPerfect older than X7 in Windows 10, yes, buy it. Check the Product Family list first to be sure you are buying the edition with the features you need. There's a free trial (30 days) available at WordPerfect.com.

Compare product family, Pro vs Standard or Home & Student (pdf)

For users of X7 through 2020, check the new features list to see what you gain:

Compare versions WP X7 through 2021 (pdf)

*Links to WordPerfect are subject to change. If in doubt go directly to https://WordPerfect.com.



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Mailing address: Science Translations PO Box 1735 Westminster, MD 21158-5735