About the Author of PC-Write

Bob Wallace started designing text processors in 1969 at Brown University under Professor Andries vanDam. Bob's project FRESS was one of the first Hypertext editors. Hypertext, invented by Ted Nelson, is a way to structure text.

In 1978, Bob earned his M.S. in computer science and joined a 12-person company called Microsoft. From 1979 to 1983 he designed the language and architecture and wrote the compiler front end and much of the runtime for Microsoft's MS-Pascal. Still one of the fastest and most powerful languages for the IBM PC, MS-Pascal was used with assembly language to create PC-Write. By February 1983, Microsoft had grown to more than 300 employees, and Bob left to start Quicksoft.

Bob released the first version of PC-Write in August 1983. Response to a review of PC-Write in the February 1984 issue of *PC Magazine* generated enough revenue to hire the first employee, Megan Dana, as operations manager and artist (Megan and Bob were married in July 1986). In February of 1985 Quicksoft had a staff of five and had grown to eighteen in September of 1986. Sales in 1984 were $290,000, growing to $790,000 in 1985 and about $1,500,000 in 1986.

Bob is active in Pacific Northwest personal computing. He started the Northwest Computer Society in 1976, managed the first Seattle Personal Computer Fair in 1977, and worked in Seattle's first retail computer store. He started and now manages the Seattle area Software Marketing Forum, a monthly meeting for personal computer software entrepreneurs. He sits on the executive committee of the Washington Software Board, a trade association.

"It's challenging to create a text processing program many different kinds of people find useful and enjoyable, and to bring together the other elements that make up a successful product and a viable company. Even more, it's exciting to demonstrate that a software company can be successful by encouraging, instead of prohibiting, the copying and sharing of its software."