PROGRAMMING QTYP

QTYP is surprisingly versatile. Strictly speaking it is not a spellchecker but a series of extensions that allow you to do spellchecking. When you buy QTYP you get no fewer than 3 versions of the program, QTYP, QTYP_FlLE and QTYP_SPELL. You also get dictionaries, a configuration program and a dictionary editor.

You can link QTYP with almost any program. All you do is start the program, then press the hot key you have set up to activate QTYP to spellcheck as you type. The programs that do not work with QTYP are those, like Perfection, that grab all CTRL + letter key combinations making it impossible to call up the QTYP menu. If you obtained your version of QTYP with Text87, you will be unable to spellcheck as you type. The version supplied with Text87 is QTYP_SPELL and for real time spell checking you need QTYP.

When you have QTYP set for real time working, you hear a beep with each keypress. As soon as the first few letters of the word you are typing can no longer be found in the QTYP dictionary the sound of the beep changes. You press CTPL + t, or a combination of your own choice, to call up the QTYP menu. In my opinion this is a poorly designed menu. When you are spellchecking you want quick access to the dictionary, but the command for this is buried on the 6th row of menu items. The other rows have useful commands for configuring QTYP, but you will only use these occasionally The menu item you most use should always be at the top.

Call up the dictionary and it will display only a small number of words. QTYP works by checking a word letter by letter If I type accommodate as acommodate, QTYP will buzz when I have typed acom'. If I call up the dictionary I first have to delete the last letter in this case 'm' and QTYP then suggests the words 'acorn', 'acorns', acoustic' and 'acoustics'. Not much use when I am trying to spell 'accommodate'.

You can also use QTYP to check a complete document. This is what happens when you use QTYP in Text87

The third way you can use QTYP is customised spellchecking. For this you can use either QTYP_SPELL or QTYP.

How easy is it to program using the QTYP extensions? It is the old QL story The main problem is understanding the manual. The programming itself is easy. For example, my program, SPELLING-CRIB uses four QTYP commands'

err=SPELL_OPEN (#ch,dic$) tells QTYP the program wants to link with it. In this case err gives an error number if something goes wrong, ch is the channel to be used and dic$ the QTYP dictionary.

err=SPELL_NEW (#ch, dic$) clears out all existing information and allows you to load a new dictionary

err=SPELL_CHECK (#ch,str$) gives QTYP the search string.

word$=SPELL_WORDS (#ch) extracts the words starting with str$ from the dictionary You repeat this command until you get an empty string.