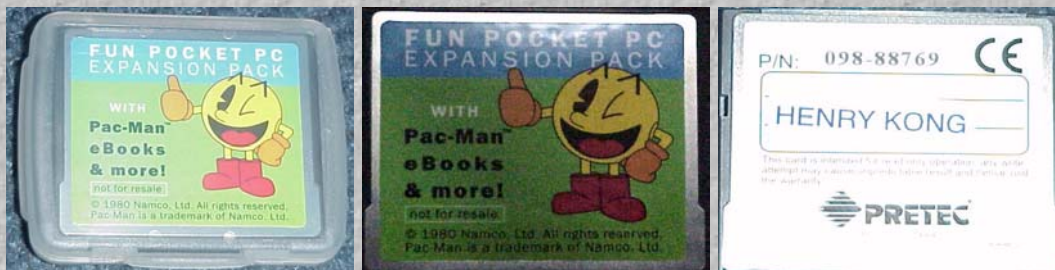


IT's (Information Technology) A Brave New World Seven Things Better Than Sliced Bread



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1. This past week I received the expansion pak for pocket pcs from MicroSoft. As I opened it, I saw a little bulge in the envelope. The translucent plastic box inside that looked like a gameboy cartridge was actually a CF card with Pac Man and other stuff, instead. Sliding it inside any ppc, the autorun feature reveals a menu with an option to run it from CF or install it in your ppc. How neat, I thought. Here are six other things that are just as nice.
2. In the bad ole days of WinCe, you have to go all over the web to locate a program and then find that it either doesn't install, installed but looked funny or in one of those rare occasions, install okay. Today, most programmers do an all-ppc-in-one setup. If this is not enough, companies like [PalmWare](#) are coming out with MPS (Multi Platform System) programs that will run on all PDAs!
3. While I continue to bemoan the fact that the ppc does not have a neat little desktop like the Palm OS, there is a trend for developers like [IliumSoft](#) to include a desktop version of their programs for just an additional US\$10. This is a real saver from handwriting overload.
4. Since MicroSoft does not see it fit to include a pocket PowerPoint in their stable of pocket apps, it used to be the best you can do in whipping up a pda-presentation is to do a passable slide show using a graphic program. Today, you are spoilt for choices in using [ScreenSnap](#), [ImageExpert](#), and even [eWallet](#) and the Internet Explorer that comes with your ppc.
5. In today's fast-paced computer-generated work schedule, it is becoming increasingly rare to find the time to curl up with a good book. Since the mountain may not come to us, we can take eBooks with us to fill up those wasted moments waiting for meetings to start, at the MRT or en route to the next job. There are many readers available. With [TomeRaider](#) and [StarBuck](#), you can read almost any stuff found in the web on your pda.
6. Although not much of a multimedia freak, I enjoy good music and videos as much as the other guy. The latest ppc media player 7 not only allows you to play wma files (near CD quality music at

half the size of mp3) but streaming fast videos on the Ipaq. I downloaded a 100mb full length Bruce Lee movie recently, and while at it, zapped a silver 'skin' for the player to match the Ipaq - all these goodies for free! Hmmm... I'm thinking of getting a couple of 128mb CFs to download movies to take along for overseas trips.

7. Games are a great distraction and a good way to take unwind during a long trip or at the end of the day. There is no end in the release (and purchase) of new games. An excellent and painless way to have your cake and eat it at the same time is to go for emulators. There are a bunch of emulators running on ppc from old classic computers (C64) to Consoles (Nintendo Entertainment System and NeoGeo) and Arcade Games (Multi Arcade Machines Emulator). They are literally thousands of free ROMs available on the internet (from Frogger to Pinball) that run on these. Download a bunch on a CF and check 'em out on your next cruise or business trip.

In summary, there are probably much more great, new stuff that I have not mentioned, simply because they do not appeal to me as much. Life doesn't get any better than this.