

Who Moved My PDA? (Apologies to Dr. Spencer Johnson)

If you had the taste of first blood with your PDA and lust for more power, for a few dollars more (than the Palm IIIc) or less (than the Visor Prism) you can get a HP Jornada or Cassiopedia Em-500 Pocket PC.

As good as the Palm OS is, 8mb is really too small and 30hz too slow for the power user. The autoMS and autoCF for Sony and TRGpro doesn't work seamlessly like the PPCs and in general, are a pain to use.

Change is difficult, especially when it took us a while to get used to our present PDAs. However, not to change would be to miss out on all the new breakthroughs, and become extinct like the dinosaur. While Palm people are talking about streaming videos, pda-phones, GPS, voice-activated commands, they are already up and running on the PPCs.

A few months ago, I entered into the world of PPC by purchasing a Cassiopedia on an internet auction. It took me a few hours to get it up to speed and a month before I became fluent with it. The rest of the article is a summary of the good stuff that I would like to share with you, in case you are thinking of migrating but are afraid to take the plunge.

- 1. If you are using a PDA, congratulations, you already have most of the know-how to use a PPC. The stylus input, synch to PC, reset button etc are all the same... so the learning curve is shortened.**
- 2. For less than the Visor Prism (S\$869), the HP Jornada (S\$699) and Cassiopedia Em-500 (S\$765) gives you twice the RAM (8mb vs 16mb), 5 times the speed (30 hz vs 135-150 hz), more bundled software and best of all, much more expandibility with micromedia cards (up to 64mb), compact flash (up to 192mb) and micro-drives (340-1gig).**
- 3. Every PPC comes with these free applications: a great Internet Explorer as well as Pocket Excel and Word that you can use with the PC, so you are productive on day one. Also bundled free of charge are Pocket Money, eBook Reader (that reads graphics as well) and a bunch of goodies. At this time, Microsoft is also offering one of their much sought-after expansion paks free. What a deal.**

The CeBible is also freeware and has more options than the Palm Scripture Software that I paid \$\$\$ for. My favourite versions are also free (KJV and ASV) as well as several others including the Greek New Testament. Other free stuff include a super media player 7 where I downloaded a full-length Bruce Lee movie on my Ipaq and keep an hour's worth of near-CD quality hymns and pops on the CF. Again, all free.



4. If these were not enough, there are a bunch of emulators as you can see above that runs on the PPC. These emulators ranges from old classic computers (C64) to Consoles (Nintendo Entertainment System and NeoGeo) to Arcade Games (Multi Arcade Machines Emulator). They are literally thousands of ROMs available on the internet (from Space Invaders to Metal Slug) that run on these. Best of all, these emulators don't cost you a cent.



5. If you would like to spend a few dollars to beef up your PPC, here's what I recommend.

i. Instead of paying \$\$ for a thesaurus, another \$\$ for a dictionary and more \$\$ for an encyclopedia... for a measly US\$25, you can get a registered version of TomeRaider and download hundreds of free reference materials. [TomeRaider](#), IMHO is faster, easier to navigate and more elegant than the MS eBook Reader. It's great to be able to carry a Bible dictionary and the complete Matthew Henry commentary into the Bible class and check up on info while the discussion is taking place.

ii. Another nice software, [StarBuck](#), (only US\$10) out-distances eBook reader by being able to read all manner of doc, prc, pdb, htm and a host of other texts. How comforting it is to be able to go to [www.memoware.com](#) and continue to download from the largest etext library in the world, all the Palm OS stuff and read it in my PPC. The zipped htm capability is a real space saver - I zipped brother Dacus' Great Return to the Bible Course into a fraction of the actual space and it reads like the real stuff.

iii. If you want to cut short the learning curve further, get hold of [StarTap](#), (just US\$10) which will turn the PPC GUI into the familiar Windows Desktop, complete with Control Panel and Recycle Bin. You get a better than MicroSoft's explorer and lots of good stuff like screen grabber (where I got these screen shots), menu etc. etc.

6. Even if you purchased all the programs I recommended above (total of US\$45), it won't break

your bank and you may have more cash burning a hole in your pocket. Here is where for an extra US\$100, you can fine-tune your PDA into a useful and powerful personal assistant.

i. The first program that I recommend is the US\$19.95 [KeepTrack](#). If you are like me, when it is time to reconcile your accounts, you are hard pressed to find all the scraps of papers and bills. With KeepTrack, at the touch of a button, you can keep track of any expense. Very handy for regular stuff like weekly contributions. Now, personal accounts are no longer a chore.

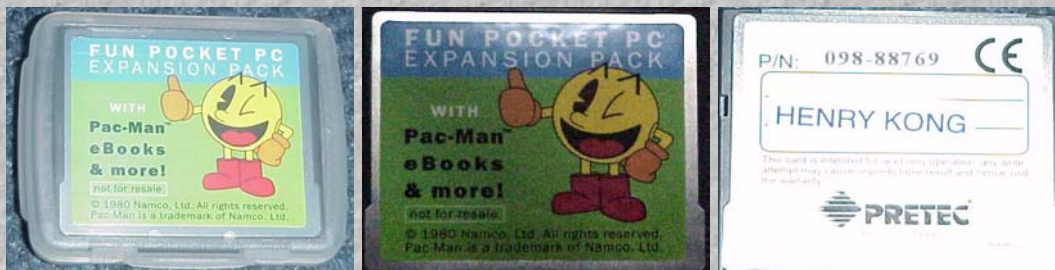
ii. Another nifty little program is the US\$24.95 ListPro. It is very easy to create elegant databases (just 2 steps) with this. I use it for preaching schedule, prayer journal, baptism/visitors follow-up and keeping track of loans. Click on [this link](#) to see what I have done. There are 200 samples that you can download - from pilot's stuff to medical references, daily Bible study to Pokemon Cards.

iii. A third program that I highly recommend is the US\$39.95 [eWallet](#). If you have used the Palm version you will immediately realised that this is THE reason you brought a PDA - to keep your little bits of info in order. I have discovered that by using eWallet's picture card option, you can actually do a nice presentation on it - better than flipchart, and definitely more versatile.

It is interesting that all these three programs come from the great guys at [IliumSoft](#). These people got their ears to the ground and really knows how to use the PDA for needed tasks. For US\$10 more each, there is a desk top version that allows you to do heavy duty stuff on your PC and then uses it on the PPC.

In summary, I just like to say that if anything I have mentioned hits a responsive cord, well and good. If you are satisfied with what you have, that's just fine and dandy. If you would like to take the plunge, welcome to the club! Do whatever works for you - I am not under the employ of Bill Gates.

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.