



Gecko

February
1998

Still Free!

A Monthly Newton Magazine



- Keep notes
- Draw maps
- Doodle



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Well another month has raced by and I am up to my neck as usual. I'm not quite sure how this always seems to happen to me but, well, here we are.

One thing that has really kept me going this month has been the letters and comments you, the readers, have sent. Most have been supportive and I just wanted to take a few moments to say. Thanks!

On the Newton front, it has been a rather quiet month at least in terms of the usual doomsday hints that have been coming out at increasingly regular pace. In this regards, no news is certainly good news. No further mass layoffs, and such. Most likely everyone connected with the Newton in Cupertino is rushing around madly trying to keep up with demands for the upgrade. I myself would dearly love an upgrade myself but for some reason upgrades are not available in Japan. I guess unless some kind soul at Apple Japan takes pity on me and my limited heap (C'mon Can't you guys take a hint? Geez Man!) then I will have to suffer along enduring the system reset tango a while longer.

Now that you are reading merrily along, let me take a moment to ask, plead, and otherwise beg those of you who read this magazine to consider **writing reviews** for it. As you may notice, almost all the reviews and commentary are written by me. This is a tough job especially as I then have to do layout as well. I enjoy publishing it but really could use some help here. All I ask is a measly one review a month. Do it! Newton Users around the globe and beyond will appreciate your efforts.

Check out the submissions page for details on what you can do.

As always, with warm virtual greetings from Japan,

geraldfox@aol.com

We really need people to help.

Hi, I can't do it alone!

Need people who are willing to write commentary, reviews or even art work.

Check out the submissions guidelines.

**Click Here for more information!
Please!**

Jerry Fox

Writing for Gecko

Well, I and several others put a lot of time and effort into getting Gecko out each month. We could really use some help.

Generally, I try to review 7 - 10 products a month. and as many Commentary columns as I can get. This is difficult to do when enough people are not contributing so.... I would like to find several people willing to write ONE Review or Commentary item each month and send it to me on time. (without nagging)

Writing Commentary

Are you a lawyer, teacher, health care professional?
Why not write a monthly commentary section?

This section is really open to most anything you would like to do. For example if you are a health care professional, you could discuss trends in Message Pad development and the impact it may have on health care. How to use the Newton for keeping records, billing, and just about anything else you can think of. Discuss and recommend software (provided you are not the author) and in general comment on anything that suits you.

Gecko is read by at last "rough" count some three thousand or so people a month. It is free and there is no advertising. The quality of the magazine is largely up to you, the reader.

So, if you are interested in writing commentary, here is what you should do.

1. Write a column, with title, and send it to me.
2. Do this every month. (due date is the 1st of each month)
3. send me a web site url if you have one.

That's it! Not so tough once a month is it?

Thank you very much for your support.
Jerry Fox

Writing Reviews

Step one: Check and see that what you are interested in has not been done recently. Look in the reviews section for this information.

I would like to suggest that you write one review each month and email it to me by the 1st of each month. Shareware reviews are fine as are commercial and freeware reviews. In most cases, content and style are up to you. You can look at the reviews in the current issue for style guidelines. Generally though, I do not interfere much in what reviewers write as long as it is in good taste and is fair to the company involved. If questions arise, I will contact you about possibly re-working an item but so far this has not come up much. If you can COMMIT to one review a month, that will be really helpful. Also, as to the "what shall I review", well if you have not seen it reviewed recently, then feel free to do it. If I get two reviews for the same package, I will publish both. Sometimes it's good to get two views of a product. Different angles and all that. Still if you want to avoid this, drop me a line and I will try to work things out. I'd like to have included in the review the following parts

: a. Gecko rating 1-5

b. Publisher name, and email addresses as well as phone info if available.

c. Type of software. Shareware (also how much \$\$) Commercial (Ditto \$\$)

d. Screen Shots if possible (1 or 2) company logo also if possible.

e. Purpose of the software.

f. The review itself. Size is not a consideration on the web. Long or short is OK. f. Pros and Cons g. Bottom line...

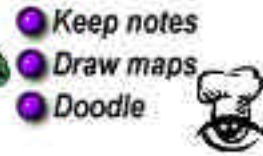
Lastly, If you are going to review items each month, send me a short self description with any web pages etc that you have up. I will add the links to Gecko. Last note.. Perhaps the a-g outline looks daunting but really I think it should be a few hour or less job each month. Not too much and well appreciated by the Newton Community. Again thanks a lot for your help. I look forward to receiving your reviews.

Anyone out there good at drawing?

Could really use some new Gordon gecko picts. Someone did the one you see on the main page a year and a half ago and so It's getting kind of old. Other art work gratefully accepted as well.

Drop me a line if you can help here!

Thanks!



Easy Newton note keeping lets you quickly jot down reminders, to-do lists and directions, draw maps, or just doodle. With Sticky Newts running, you can instantly access your notes, create new ones, show and hide notes, or even print, fax or email them by simply tapping on your screen.

- * Floats above other applications, giving you constant access to your most-needed information.

- * Set alarms to bring up individual notes and wake up your Newton.

- * Drag and drop text and graphics from other Newton applications to create new notes.

- * Drag notes to different locations on the screen and easily re-size them.

- * Hide or show all notes with a single tap.

- * Individually tile notes. * Auto-start Sticky Newts when the Newton is reset.

- * Access built-in graphical help for quick reference.

Visit the Concept Kitchen website to download a demo of Sticky Newts at
<http://www.conceptkitchen.com>

The Essential
Tool
for the Newton

NewtCard

What can you put on a card?

Cool!

Pictures and drawings

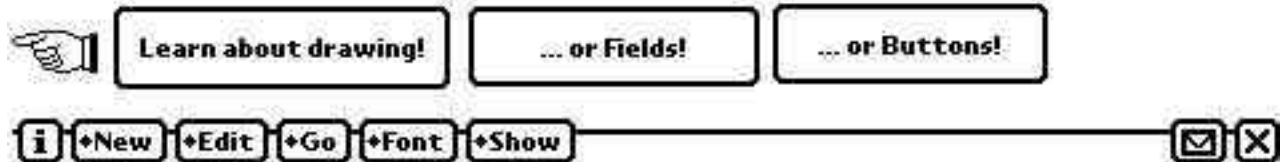


There are many
different kinds of fields
that specialize in
different kinds of data.

Text and other data

Scroll Box
If you have a lot of
information, you can use
a scrolling field to hold it
all. Fields like this one.

Buttons to control your stack



What could be easier than a stack of cards?

NewtCard lets you put text, drawings, pictures and sound into a stack of smart cards. Add buttons to navigate, fields to collect data, and scripts to bring your project alive with the tap of a pen!
go to..... <http://www.nsbasic.com>

NS Basic Corporation

Phone: 416 264-5999
info@nsbasic.com

Fax: 416 264-5888

Advertising?

Yes, I am finally going to make the move to offering ads in this magazine. I do need to pay for stuff like Acrobat, Quark when it comes, and other items.

If you are interested in seeing an ad placed here, drop me a line at geraldfox@aol.com for details.

Upcoming...

Another Gecko Review

By: Gerald Fox (geraldfox@aol.com)



Contact Information:

info@nsbasic.com



As I write this review it is becoming increasingly obvious that I am not going to make the January 18th deadline. This is entirely due to this software. Not that there is anything wrong with it, the plain fact is that I have spent so much time playing with this neat program that I just have not had a chance to get around to the usual magazine writing chores.



Thus it will come as no surprise when I say that this is one very cool piece of software. Going out on a limb perhaps, I will also say that this very possibly could be a ground breaking software package for the Newton.

What it does is allow the user to create hypercard-like stacks on the Newton MessagePad and emate. In other words, It's an easy to use multi-media authoring tool for Newton devices. (You will need a 2000 - 2100 or emate to play though) Using the familiar concepts of stacks, cards and backgrounds you can create projects with pictures, drawings, sounds and text. Users can even create Fields which can be set up to collect data.

I installed this program on my 2000 and spent several hours creating buttons and such. I also created a very nice, simple stack that would allow me to keep track of attendance in my classes. My college likes to see everything on one page and most grade keeping programs being set up for elementary school need several pages to hold all the data. Well, the point is that this was accomplished readily and without scripting. If you want to put together something more challenging, you can add scripts written in NSBasic to cards, backgrounds, buttons, and fields. This is a very

The program comes with a lite version of X-Port (see last month's review) which allows the user to import text and graphics into NewtCard projects. As if that were not enough, it also adds a full featured drawing environment to the 2000. While this has been available on the emate, this definitely was a hit with me on my 2000! With this, a fairly broad range of design options are made accessible and easy to accomplish. Thus not only will it be possible to create stacks that can store information, and move between cards, but it is a snap to make them with a pleasant interface as well.

Ok to sum up here. Newt Card has the following properties:

- * A browser, which allows the user to navigate through a stack and add or delete cards and backgrounds.
- *Buttons & Fields, which allows the user to create and modify fields and buttons, which can be on cards or backgrounds.
- *A Draw module, which allows the user to add shapes and designs to cards or backgrounds.
- *A Scripting module, which allows the user to add scripts to cards, backgrounds or buttons.

Will you be able to share your stacks with others? Yes, in that too it is like other multimedia tools. By the time this hits the virtual press, a NewtCard reader should be available. This will allow you to send stacks as packages and will allow other Newton users to use what you have created. Actually, the player package is available now!

The bottom line here is that like HyperCard or HyperStudio, this program opens a new area to the Newton. It allows even non-programmers to create virtual applications that can collect and manipulate data. It is one very nice program and one that all Newton users will no doubt want.

Pros: Very Versatile, Fun, Useful

Cons: Wait... I'll think of one...

Gecko Rating: 5 out of 5

Gecko Award Winner

Available from:

**NS Basic Corporation
77 Hill Crescent
Toronto, Canada M1M 1J3**

**888-NS BASIC (888-672-2742) [Toll Free - 24 hours]
416 264-5999 [phone - 24 hours]
416 264-5888 [fax]**

**info@nsbasic.com
sales@nsbasic.com
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Another Gecko Review

By: Stuart (haikustu@aol.com)



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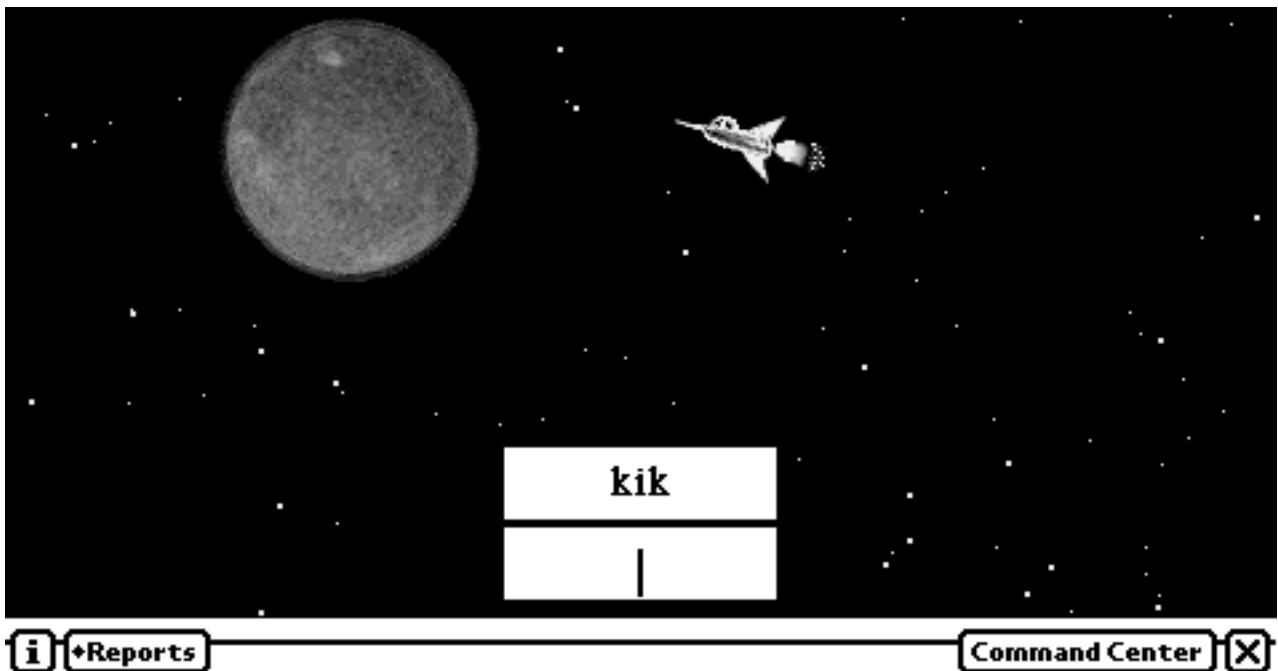
Sunburst Communications
1-800-321-7511
service@nysunburst.com



I remember my authoritarian grade-school typing teacher, the loud clacking typewriters and the painful way I learned to type (listening to typing records while this imposing woman hovered over me). Type to learn is a refreshing new way to teach an essential skill.

Type to Learn is a prime example of the type of educational software that should be available for the eMate and Newton, but isn't. It is one of a handful of educational titles by Sunburst Communications.

The interface is both fun and substantial. This electronic typing tutor takes you through a self-guided routine of exercises and games that teaches typing painlessly and pretty much effortlessly. It is built on 22 progressive lessons. The areas students concentrate on are New Frontiers, Games and Warpspeed.

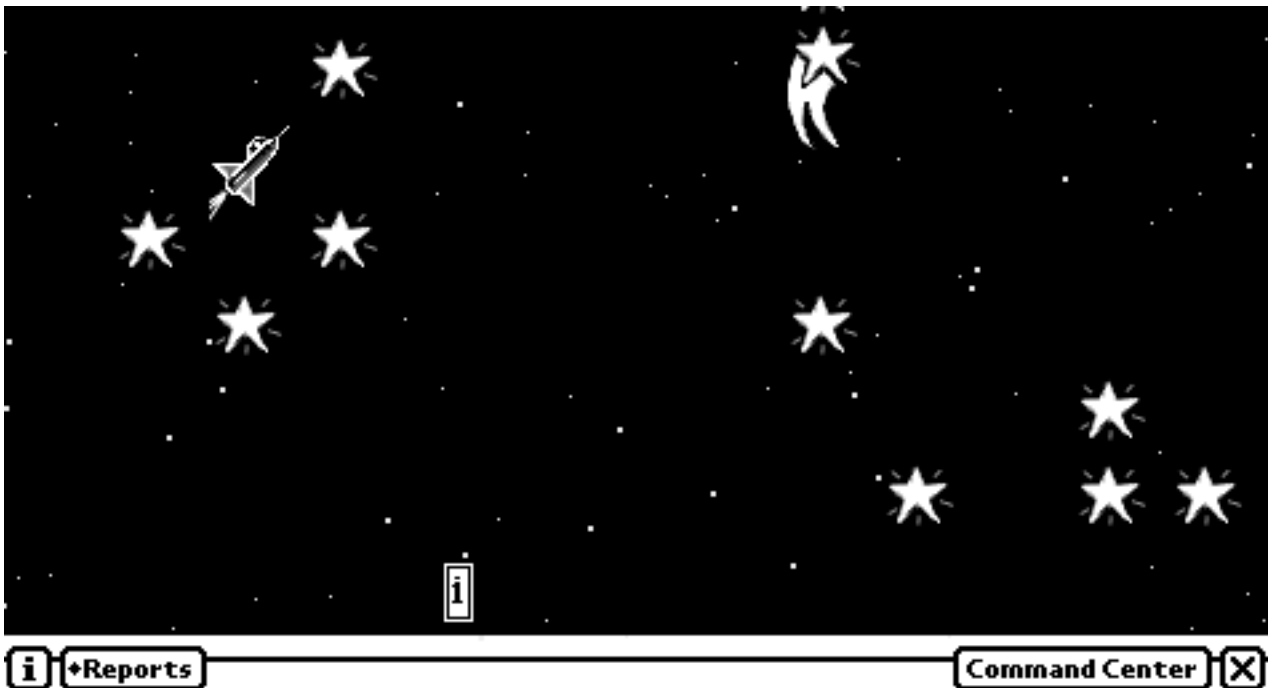


In New Frontiers the students learn new keys and, if at a higher lesson, continues to reinforce keys already learned. The nice part about this section is that the program remembers where a given student is in her learning. If she has not gotten to where the teacher wanted her to be (set by the teacher before hand) next time she uses the program it will be set at the same level.

Games includes four different fun diversions that also build skills. Star Maker gives the student 45 seconds to create as many stars as possible by correctly typing words. Man Game builds shift key skills. How Many builds proficiency on the num

The Warp Speed section is for general typing practice of longer sections.

As the typing student, your name is entered into the program and your progress is tracked through several levels. The eMate keeps track of your accuracy and speed. This is a wonderful feature since it is almost like competing against yourself to type faster and more accurately.



Type to Learn comes in a complete binder that includes the program on CD Rom, instructor information package and reference materials. The program is intended for ages 6-14, but really can function for older kids and adults interested too.

Home Position

Make sure that you have your:

Fingers curved.

Wrists flat.

Feet flat.

and: **Sit up straight.**



Your fingers should be on:



and your thumb on:



Pros: This is a great way for students to learn to type at their own pace.

Cons: It would be nice to have a version of the program that would work on older Newtons

Gecko rating 5

Cost: \$99.95; quantity pricing available

**Sunburst Communications 1-800-321-7511
service@nysunburst.com**

Another Gecko Review

By: Gerald Fox (geraldfox@aol.com)

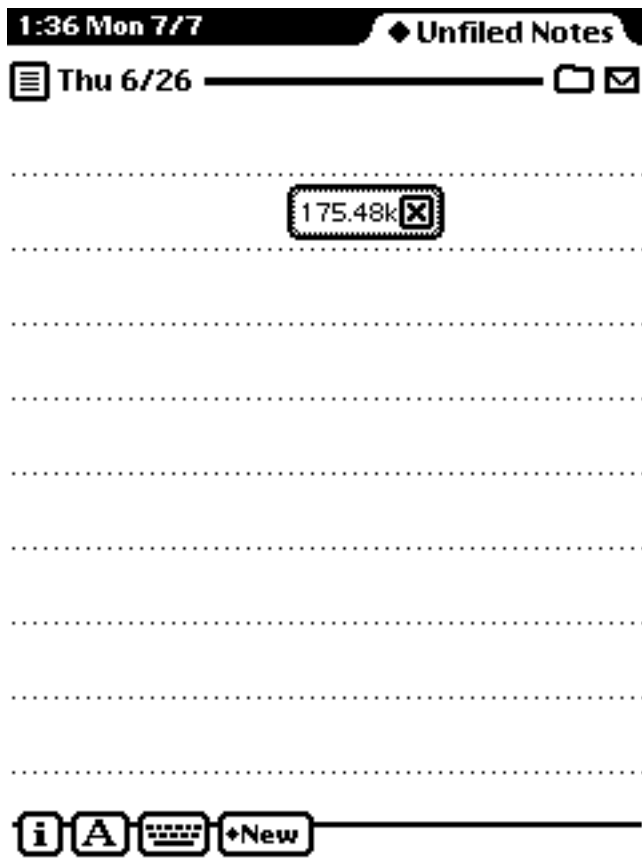


Contact Information:

info@standalone.com
http://www.standalone.com/newton



A related program (to FreezeMan) from StandAlone is Heap Check 1.0. I mean related in the sense that if you are a regular FreezeMan user and are concerned with how much heap space your MessagePad is using, then this little free application may be worth your while.



Actually Heap Check gives you a small floating window which displays the available heap. Tapping on this window will perform a garbage collection and then update the heap display. Simple, elegant and terribly useful.

Having to watch my weight electronically, this is a not only useful but life saving little application. Often when I have been working for a while and open a new application, the Newtons heap space hovers on the edge of crashdom. Tapping this restores some of the heap and has often saved me from a messy restart.

Doesn't have any fancy features, it is just a small and useful program that we should all be thankful to Ben Gottlieb for.

Pros: Useful, small and Useful

Cons: None

Gecko Rating: 5 out of 5

If you have any questions regarding Heap Check, or any other Stand Alone Newton application, please don't hesitate to contact us:

Email:

internet: info@standalone.com (<-- preferred)

AOL: Std Alone

CompuServe: 76612 2257

Voice: (773) 477-2492
Fax: (773) 477-2579

Regular Mail:

Stand Alone
3171 N. Hudson, Suite 1
Chicago, IL, 60657, USA

World Wide Web:

<http://www.standalone.com/newton>

*** Version History**

1.0	July 27, 1997	First public release.
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Another Gecko Review

By: Gerald Fox (geraldfox@aol.com)

Contact Information:

Jeremy Wyld

(jeremy-wyld@postmaster.net)



This small package really knocked my socks off after downloading it to my 2000. All right, I know that many things we are reviewing these days need a 2000 or emate to play, but that is the price of progress. Now if you do happen to have a newer machine, read on. You will be downloading this shortly.



Cliphoard as the read me file explains, is a preferences panel which allows you to set the number of clipboards which are available for use on the MessagePad 2000 and the eMate 300. (I'm assuming this works on the 2100 as well) Multiple clipboards were added into these products but were not turned on by default. This panel gives you the ability to set the clipboard "depth" to 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 15, or 20 through the use of a simple picker.

Now why Apple would put such a capability into the MessagePad and not bother to turn it on is a mystery to me, but

well... is anyone really surprised?

When multiple clipboards are turned on, (via a picker in the preferences section of your MessagePad) the main or active clipboard shows up black as we are all accustomed to. All other clipboards will be a shade of gray. This gives you a visual clue as to what Cmd-V will paste when using the keyboard. Thus, you can have several clippings lining the edge of your screen and can drag and drop them wherever you please and in any order. Grabbing one with your pen makes it "active".

What if you have a debth of three and already have three things chosen? The newest items placed on the clipboard will replace the oldest items on the clipboard.

Pros: Great, Useful, Wonderful

Cons: None, Nada, Zip

Gecko Rating: 5 out of 5

CLIPBOARD 1.0

Any Ideas Or Requests? Hey Say Thanks To:

Jeremy Wyld (jeremy-wyld@postmaster.net)

FREEZE MAN

Another Gecko Review

By: Gerald Fox (geraldfox@aol.com)

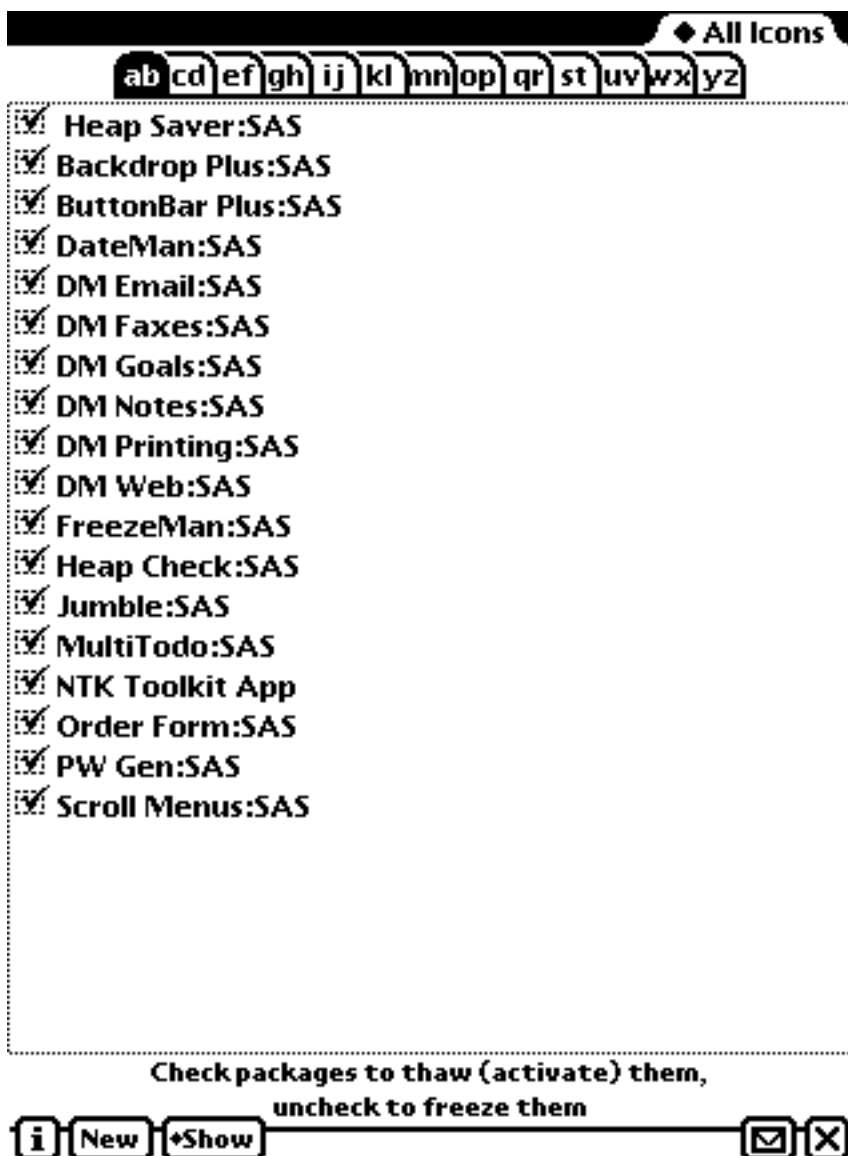


Contact Information:

info@standalone.com



FreezeMan is one program that I find indispensable on a day to day basis. Let's face it. If you haven't got a new 2100 with the vastly (finally!) expanded heap space, then you really need this.



FreezeMan is designed to save heap space by freezing packages that aren't in use. In other words, any package you have installed eats some of this precious space even when it is not active. What can you do to avoid those nasty system restarts and crashes? Install this program and start freezing those things that you are not using on a day to day basis. FreezeMan goes beyond the normal freezing functions found on all NOS 2.0 devices by allowing you to freeze and thaw many packages at once, and to set up groups of packages to be frozen and thawed as one package. This is frankly handy as I often want to freeze the internet applications and extensions en masse rather than do a one by one freeze/thaw every time I plan to surf the web with my Newton (which

is not all that often)

Another nice touch is that you can give a set of packages its own extras drawer icon thus making this a very simple one click kind of process.

I use FreezeMan every day as heap is still a very precious commodity on my 2000. As it is still impossible to upgrade here in Japan, it looks like I will be using it for a long time to come. Would I still use it if I had a 2100? Well, I'd use it less that is for

Pros: Saves Heap Space, Easy to use, Vital on heap starved MessagePads

Cons: Less useful if you have loads of Heap or if you only use the built in apps.

Gecko Rating: 4.5

FreezeMan is shareware, with a built in 30-day demo period. If you decide after 30 days that you'd like to keep using it, you'll need to pay the registration fee of \$20.

If you have any questions regarding any Stand Alone Newton application, please don't hesitate to contact us:

Email:

internet: info@standalone.com (<-- preferred)
AOL: Std Alone
CompuServe: 76342,3057

Phone:

Voice: (773) 477-2492
Fax: (773) 477-2579

Regular Mail:

Stand Alone
3171 N. Hudson, Suite 1
Chicago, IL, 60657, USA

World Wide Web:

<http://www.standalone.com/newton>

Another Gecko Review

By: Gerald Fox (geraldfox@aol.com)

Contact Information:

Stand Alone

info@standalone.com

<http://www.standalone.com/newton>



Prefs Cleaner is a free utility that allows you to quickly go in and remove soup entries for applications you no longer use. This is particularly useful if you have deleted software from your Newton and would like to get rid of the soup information. For example, I have tried several games on my MessagePad and later deleted them because either they were boring or I just got tired of them. The problem is that even though I have deleted the application from my MessagePad, there are still little bits of things floating about in my Newtons electronic primordial soup. This cleans up those bits. Useful!

That said, it must be mentioned that this IS a utility that can seriously ruin your day if used incorrectly. If you delete the wrong thing like say your names soup, you may be tempted to bang your head against the wall.

Now that I have sufficiently scared off any "new" or unexperienced Newton users, let me say once again that this is a nice utility and one that I keep close at hand.

Pros: Its Free, Useful and easy to use.

Cons: Potentially hazardous if you don't know what the heck you're doing!

Gecko Rating: 5.

StandAlone

Email:

internet: info@standalone.com (<-- preferred)

AOL: Std Alone

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Chicago, IL, 60657, USA

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PREFS CLEANER 2.0

I gotta get Back In Time



Just like the character in the song from Huey Lewis and the News for “Back to the Future” I’ve traveled through time. I’ve gone back to 1994, and I gotta get back to 1998 as soon as possible. I shipped my Message Pad 2000 off for its upgrade into an MP2100, and while my new Message Pad is away I’ve gone back to my Original Message Pad. Wow! What a difference five generations of Newtons have made.

To start with there’s the screen. The screen on my MP2000 is gray scale, while the OMP’s screen is just black on that grayish green background with no back light. Luckily my old screen is in good shape with no major scratches, but still the MP2000’s screen is vastly better.

Batteries have once again become a big part of my life. With the MP2000 I finally took the plunge and popped for Lithium AA cells. Yes they’re more expensive than standard Alkaline cells, but due to lighter weight and a much longer useful life I’d forgotten what a pain changing batteries, or a dead Newton can be. Rayovac Renewals get the job done in my OMP, but I do have to stay on top of them. My power hungry Newton has already completely drained one cell so that it will no longer accept a charge.

The silk-screened button bar is a real fooler. The button bar on the MP2000 is finally software driven so that it goes away when the Newton is open, but off, while sitting atop its homemade stand on my desk. With my OMP on the same stand, I’ve had to do a double take more than once to be sure the Newton is off and not further gobbling up its limited battery power.

I’ve always felt it’s the little things that make or break a user’s relationship with their computing tools, and the above examples show that the Newton has come a long way in enhancing the user experience. Steady improvements and some breakaway speed increases provided by the StrongARM processor made the MP2000 experience a memorable one. I’m looking forward to my newly enhanced MP2100. Now where’s that Plutonium powered stainless steel FedEx truck? I gotta get back in time.

Think Different!



I have often wondered at the wisdom of what Apple does and how it markets it's products. Hell, who hasn't? Wouldn't it be nice if just once or twice we could say " They really have it together!" ?

Yet once again I have had to wonder where Apples head is buried when I picked up a copy of Mac Fan magazine (Japanese Mac zine) and noticed an ad for an emate. Now those of you who have and love your emate, don't get me wrong. I think it's a great idea and wonderful that Apple has finally decided to market some sort of Newton OS item here. I just wonder at the decision to "only" market the emate.

Here is why I think Apple is loopy.

The emate while a nice unit and definitely cool will appeal to only a few users in Japan. Walk into an electronics store and check out the PDA items. There are lots of them, they do some cool stuff, and they are small. In other words, people in Japan generally like the compact size of electronics especially when they are powerful and versatile. The emate is certainly powerful and versatile but small is not the adjective I'd use to describe it's size in relation to the multitudes of Zaurus and Windows CE units that spawn in the aisles of Japanese electronics super stores.

Think for a moment. Portable radios were the size of a Mac (Truck) before the Japanese got hold of it. Ever hear of a Walkman? GameBoy? TamaGochi? The list goes on....

So, Apple decides to release it's biggest PDA thingy in this world of small is best.

Unbelievable! I don't even want to think about the emates much less powerful processor. Frankly, I must wonder how the unit will be able to deal with the Japanese language components and still be acceptably fast.

Granted, some people would want the form factor the emate offers and I know several folks who may go that route but it certainly would have been a no-brainer as to which NOS item to release first.

Earth to Apple. WAKE UP! What works in the U.S. Does not always play well abroad. Windows CE has caught on very well here. Practically every store I go into has a Casseopea WinCE (I love that! "wince" Did Apple come up with that advertising idea?) unit on display and they are selling like hotcakes. (do they really sell well?) Where was Apple when these were being marketed. Where was Apple and it's terrific Message Pad when Zaurus was sell

Apple could have, and I have said this time and time again, doubled and perhaps even tripled world wide sales of it's Message Pad line with just a bit of effort in this lucrative market.

Think Different!

In the Classroom

By: Gerald Fox (geraldfox@aol.com)

The Good News is...



I have been really impressed with the quality and fast pace of new software releases for Newton OS devices recently. There is a lot of really cool stuff out there.

In the education field though there has not been that much. Oh sure the occasional grade keeping program (Making the Grade is my pick) but finally we are beginning to see a trickle of neat stuff for those of us in the education game.

Teachers and MessagePads, I have always felt represent a match made in heaven. To be able to jot down some notes in class or have my gradekeeping data at hand at all times is pretty cool stuff.

Just last month I was at another college in the teachers lounge when a few students came in and asked some questions about their last years grade. I just pulled out my 2000 flicked the switch and ten seconds later had all their data at hand. My colleagues watched in absolute awe! No joke.

Now things have heated up even more with two new and cool titles. Both are reviewed in this issue by the way.

Newt Card makes it possible for teachers to create interactive stacks that students can run on their emates and MessagePads. The emate is, I have felt a wonderful item for students and with this, it makes them ever so much more powerful. Teachers can also use this to create lesson planners, attendance keepers and other useful things. It is a must have item that will impact on the educational scene...

The other that is a boon is the Type to Learn software. Finally, we are beginning to see educational software for emates. I can't think of a more useful title for emate users. If you have a child lugging around an emate, you should consider buying it.

As sales of the 2100 and emate grow, it is hoped that more and more educational software will become available. Just the release of NewtCard should make this a reality.

Until next month, I'll see you...

In the Classroom

One Happy Camper



I don't have any software to review this month but I do have a happy Apple story to tell.

I sent my MP2000 off for the upgrade the Monday before Christmas. Let me tell you I had no idea how much I depended on it. Christmas was very different without my newton, (please, don't let my wife read this). Well I had a friend who had recieved his upgrade back and all he said was "don't count on it coming back in the time they say". So I didn't have high hopes in seeing it before the first or second week in January, even though Apple was saying 5-7 working days after recieved.

The other glich that had me nervous was the fact that the top hinge of the door was broken and I had heard that they may not upgrade it if the MP was damaged. I sent it in hoping they would upgrade it anyhow. Now there have been some people with broken doors with horror stories about not being able to get it repaired without sending the unit in, even though the door comes off and can be sent in seperately. I also had been trying to get someone to listen and hear that there was no reason to send the whole unit back if the door could be sent back independantly. What I did find is that the MP2100 does have a part # for the door and it appears that it can be ordered seperately.

So, back to the upgrade.....believe my surprise when my newton was in the mail the tuesday before new years. That's 6 working days with Christmas in the middle. My newton was actually upgraded on Christmas Eve! PLUS THEY REPLACED THE DOOR!!!!!!

You will have to talk to someone else if you want to hear anything bad about Apple. This is one satisfied customer.....

From: Steve Overton <wonder77@together.net>

From the Editor:

We often forget that Apple does do some things right. It was indeed nice of them to replace the door and get Steves unit back so quickly. If the entire company worked that way, and the ad department too... we would have a lot less to complain about.



Evangelist Page



What is a Newton Evangelist anyway?

A: Quite simply, A Newton Evangelist is a person who so believes in the power of his Newton and makes a conscious effort to show and sell this item to those he comes in contact with. You are a person who swims against the tide seeing the You may show it to friends, a stewardess on the plane, or to your childrens teacher. You are a person who instantly reacts when someone says "What is that you are writing on?"

What Can you Do?

A: Well, One thing is that you can share your stories with others. This can take a number of turns. For example, You can write a note about how you convinced a friend to buy a Newton, A story about how you are using your Newton, Celebrity Newton sightings, Wish list ideas, or any other neat stuff you have seen or heard. Flexibility is the key here!

To participate: (Please DO!) send email to me at: Geraldfox@aol.com or follow the Newton Evangelist Link on the Gecko Home Page!



From: globa39@ibm.net

The major drawbacks are:

1) Email programs. Please see my attached email below. We need all Newton users wishing for a better email package (compatible with Exchange/Outlook) to send in requests to Mail on the Run (River Run Marketing Department [info@riverrun.com]). Or perhaps you can help me with options for other 3rd party vendors.

2) Apple's inconsistency and strategic plan. Per your last issue, it is terrible to think that Jobs would let ego (w/ Sculley) in the way of a great product. Lack of full force marketing is also a negative. They have run a few good ads (Fast Company startup magazine) but much more is needed.

3) Looks like CE machines beat us to the color screen. However, I am "happy as of today" with the speed, backlighting and handwriting recognition.

Anyway, thanks for your article. As a frequent global traveler, I always get into a conversation in the air w/ people when I break open the Newt.

Last trip, I debated the Newt versus the Zaurus and the Pilot (someone had the nerve to say that was a machine to compare to the Newton).

Thanks and let me know how I can help.

Best Regards,

William Robinson
globa39@ibm.net



ME & MY PDA's

My first PDA was a Psion S1 with 1 line by 20 chr's not dad for a system in 1989, yes it played games HI or LOW and guest the number. Then came the Psion 3 I at to have this one. It was not long when the 3A came out yes I had to get one. Then a friend showed me the Apple 120 so needles so say this was the next PDA in my hands.

I live in South Africa and software is hard to get. Then the 3C came out, my family live in the UK, and Psion software is dime a dozen. So the 120 went and I now had the 3C. And then the Psion 5 arrived this I hat to have 32Bit system. It cost me a lot of Rands. This system I only had for two month. I was very disappointed as the cover did not close properly, and it looked as if the skin covering the case was coming off. A friend showed me the Apple 2000, needless to say I hat to have this one to. I have had the 2000 for only one month and find it to the BEST PDA in my desk. The only thing is Apple is not a big seller in South Africa and because of this it is hard to get any software. I hope that this is the last PDA I precise for a wile as my wife thinks I am MAD. If any one lives in South Africa and reads this please Email me Glennw@Global.co.za

Thanks



Hi Gerald!

I enclose a JPEG of our last edition and our Palmtop - Pro Logo. We kindly ask you to put as in your next edition of Gecko magazine. We shall of course carry also in our next magazine a note reporting your activities to our readers.

Thanks for your kind assistance.

Boris

bm.v.luhovoy@magnet.at



A new star is born

Palmtop-Pro

The magazine for the mobile user

<http://www.palmtop.at>

Is hitting the market.

This **German language** magazine is devoted to all mobile computers with a strong Newton and eMate touch.

The bimonthly hardcopy magazine has about 136 pages and sold worldwide via Internet and in all german speaking contries (Germany, Austria, Switzeland) via local dealer. It carries news surrounding all the mobile market computers, reviews of Software and shareware, tips, tricks and a lot of workshops. With the Newton, Pilot or Psion to the Internet, Works, Word, Sheet, Data and so on.

The magazine is completely producer independend and carries practically no advertising and is based on the dedication of a group of Mac, Newton, Psion evangelists who are contributing their workforce (and their savings) to this common task. For a detailed program please visit our webpage.

Boris

Publisher

The Palmtop Team



Letters To Gecko

From: buehmann@livingonline.com
Subj: I just downloaded your Jan 98 Mag. ,nice very nice
To: Geraldfox@AOL.COM

I just downloaded your Jan 98 Mag. ,nice very nice. The larger format and the pictures add something. I just bought the case from PDA Concepts due too the great review and pictures. I and all the Newton users here at Johnson Controls use and appreciate what you are doing. Have a great Holiday and please don't stop producing this masterpiece.

Thanks. It is a great case. I have one as well. If you have a 2000 or 2100, you will want this great case! Ed.

From: fountain@tidalwave.net

Gerald, please accept my congrats for a very useful site and mag. I have two questions, though. First, I downloaded the January Gecko issue and tried to install in on my MP2K, but NCU did not recognize the file as a package. Am I doing something wrong? Second, how do I find a review of a program that was published in an older issue? In particular, I am trying to get the review of Bills to Pay. Can you tell me how to get it?

Thanks, Frank

Thanks. This has been an ongoing issue these last few months. Right from the start let me mention that if anyone is having hassles they really ought to look at the help links. Usually the problem is that your browser needs to be set up to recognise a pdf file or a pkg file.

Some may wonder why I am not stuffing files this month. Unix users and PC users had hassles with it and frankly stuffing the pdf file didn't save much space anyway. I'd love to put both versions up but web space is becoming an issue.

I want to thank you for your prompt reply to my request for help. Frankly however I have still not been able to enjoy either the december or january issues of Gecko-and I am bummed.

Each monthly issue has several versions of course. Because my messagepad is a 110 I don't even try to download the versions marked for the 2000. I have been able to download the other versions but no luck when trying to view them or get them recognized by NCU as a downloadable package. I am running acrobat reader 2.1 on my power mac. When I attempt viewing any issue the reader is activated but I get 2 error messages basically telling me that there is a problem incurred by the reader with the page and then with the document. I am left looking at images of blank pages which can be viewed 1-30 or so. Actually I have been able to open 1 small note on some page that tells me you had trouble aligning text but that for the sake of time you were not fixing.

Well I can't think of anything that I might still be doing wrong but maybe you can help. I sure miss your "raq"

That is your problem. Get version 3.01 of the reader and all will be well with the .pdf version. Look for it on CD's that you have. The OS8 disk has it for example and other "free" disks often have it as well.

As to the book version. I can't understand why you would have a hassle with that.

Have you set up your browser to download .pkg files? It should load in a seperate window not the browsers window. If it loads as gobbledy gook in your browser then you need to set up your browser. There are instructions for this in the Help page of Gecko. Check that out. anyway, the pdf thing is a small hassle.

Hope that all helps!



Tips and Rumors

Dec 15, 1997 - 22:19 -

Type:Tip

Name:

Email: yogibubu@ix.netcom.com

Dear friends: I am very bothered by the reflection from my Messagepad2100 screen. it is also too dim for me. Any suggestions on how to truely cut down on the glare and increase the brightness of the screen? Please help.
yogibubu@ix.netcom.comase



Dec 17, 1997 - 13:24 -

Type:Wish List Item

Name: Scott Shuster

Email: SShuster@ix.netcom.com

My wish is for a change to the highlighting in NewtWorks. It's a minor thing, but every other word processing program permits one to highlight from (say) left to right or (say) top to bottom, and then 'back off' from the right, or from the bottom if one has highlighted slightly too far. That is not the case with NewtWorks: highlight left to right, and try to back off, and instead of backing off, the highlighting extends itself to the left of the initial starting point. Same goes for the top to bottom example -- if you highlight a series of lines and highlight one-too-many, you cannot back off from the bottom line -- instead the highlighting is extended up from the initial starting point of the top of the selection. In this user's opinion, it would be preferable to be able to back off from the last character highlighted, rather than have the 'other direction' highlighting.



Jan 9, 1998 - 20:14 -

Email: dlord

Is anyone designing a hard drive connection so Newton data and files can be transferred to a Zip instead of a computer? Has anyone heard of new emate models with the same speed as the Newton 2100?

Copyright Stuff

Everything you see here is copyrighted by Gerald Fox.

You may read this magazine, make copies of it (as long as you don't change it) and give it to your friends. You may include it on CD collections if you like. Hey! I'm easy!

You really should:

Ask though before printing any part of this magazine in advertising or in commercial endeavors.

Thanks a lot!

Gerald Fox

geraldfox@aol.com

Reviews Index

This will help you locate a review. I have listed the last four issues reviews. Sorry didn't have time to go back further!

Product	Rating / 5	Issue
BluePrint 1.87	3.5	10 / 97
ButtonBar Plus	5.0	10 / 97
Chiral	4.0	10 / 97
ClipHoard	5.0	02 / 98
CouchFire	4.5	10 / 97
Cross Pen	4.5	01 / 98
Executive Stand	5.0	10 / 97
FreezeMan	5.0	02 / 98
Handstand Case	4.5	01 / 98
HeapCheck	5.0	02 / 98
Home Inventory 1.0	4.5	11 / 97
MP Carrying Case	2.5	10 / 97
NewtCard 1.0	5.0	02 / 98
Out of Pocket 1.5.6	4.0	11 / 97
PaperBoy	4.0	10 / 97
PDA Panache Pen	4.5	11 / 97
Preferences Cleaner 2.0	5.0	02 / 98

Sher. Holmes NewtBook	5.0	10 / 97
Sound Off	4.5	11 / 97
Sound Icon Maker	4.0	11 / 97
SunRise	4.0	10 / 97
The Wedge	4.0	11 / 97
Type To Learn	5.0	02 / 98
World Conquest	5.0	01 / 98
X-Port 2.0	5.0	01 / 98

Advertising?

Yes, I am finally going to make the move to offering ads in this magazine. I do need to pay for stuff like Acrobat, Quark when it comes, and other items.

If you are interested in seeing an ad placed here, drop me a line at geraldfox@aol.com for details.

Upcoming...

Next Month!

Not sure at the moment but expect the best in Reviews Commentary and

Heck. I'm too busy to think straight these days!

Gecko Award Winners

These are the best as chosen by the Gecko Staff and you!

ClipHoard This neat little package allows up to 20 clipboards on NOS 2.1 devices. It is so useful that it is a must have!

Namigator Another catamount product! This is recommended by not only our reviewers but by many readers as well.

Making the Grade Newton. This is the Cadillac of Newton Grade keeping. Full featured and well designed. Free upgrades forever too. If you are a teacher, it doesn't get better than this!

NewtCard 1.0 This is so completely great that no MessagePad 2000 - 2100 or emate user will want to be without it! Hypercard like Stacks on your Newton!

StartBar 1.0 If you have a MessagePad 2000, you will want to have this. The folks at Standalone have scored again with this wonderful utility. The basic premise is to add multi-finder qualities to the Newton experience. Insanely great!

Font Pack II I love this! For \$15.00 you get several Laser ready fonts for your Newton. Making great looking documents on the Newto has never been easier.

NewtsCase One of the most useful utilities Packages I have seen. If you have a Newton, You need it!

Aloha Get your aol email on the Newton. If you are an America On Line member. You need this!

More Info from Silverware comes very highly recommended by several members of the Gecko Staff.

Apple Newton Keyboard If you have a Newton and do not have one of these, Get One! This is by far the best thing since cream cheese! No Kidding!

Kwik Menu: If you get one and only one commercial product for your Newton, This should be it. This is by far the most useful and well thought out utility for the Newton MessagePad.

PDA Panache The first thing any new Newton user should do is get rid of the chintsy Pen that comes with all Newton MessagePads. PDA Panache provides a superior product at a reasonable price. Available in Gold or Silver (I like the Gold best) the pen feels good and makes the Newton experience much more like writing on Paper. Gordon Gecko says "Just get it!"

QuickFigure 3.1 If you must use a spreadsheet on your Newton, then this is the one I recommend. Not anywhere near as fast as a desktop but far better than the competition. Great transfer utility so backing up is a snap

New! X-Port 2.0 From Landware. This is just a great and indispensible utility. If you ever want to transfer information from your Newton device to a desktop and vice versa, you need this!

New! HandStand Case from PDA Designs. This is quite simply the best case out there. I have seen them all and this is the first that comes close to doing everything I want.