# [***NEWS WATCH: HAND-HELDS; An Assistant That Knows The Real You***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:47KD-PN60-01KN-20BP-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

Carrying vital information you cannot afford to leak? Hewlett-Packard's new iPAQ Pocket PC h5450 is not merely as powerful as its competitors (with 64 megabytes of memory and a 400-megahertz Intel processor), enabled with the short-range wireless technology Bluetooth and Wi-Fi-ready. It is the first hand-held organizer with a biometric fingerprint reader designed to prevent it from being used by anyone but its owner.

To unlock the machine, you must pass your finger across a narrow thermal sensor; the biometric technology confirms your identity by measuring temperature differences between the ridges and valleys of your skin.

Why should a hand-held offer this level of security? This $699 iPAQ's wireless features make it more than just a pricey calendar and contacts machine. Bluetooth allows it to connect remotely to and synchronize with other nearby devices like PC's, printers and ***cellphones***; and its Wi-Fi capabilities make it an easy on-ramp to the Internet whenever it is within range of a wireless server, giving its user access to business and personal network accounts whose passwords are stored in its memory.

Other features include a rechargeable lithium battery and Microsoft Office applications. The device even has speakers and a headphone jack for those who really value their MP3's. Adam Baer

[*http://www.nytimes.com*](http://www.nytimes.com)

**Graphic**

Photo

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