



Picture that Palm

It is not impossible to take screenshots from the Palm, as many would believe. Mark Whitehorn presents some solutions to this and a whole handful of tips and tricks.

Recently, I wrote about taking screenshots from the Psion and Win CE machines. I contacted the people at 3Com who assured me that they knew of no way of doing this with a Palm, so I threw the question open (*PCW*, September). I received lots of replies with many different methods to achieve the required end result. Thanks to all who wrote in.

Just in case you thought this column wasn't hip, this first reply comes from a cat! Eek The Cat alucin@bigfoot.com tells me: "I am the owner of a PalmPilot and have found that it is the practice of developers to use the emulator available from Palm's web site to make screenshots. My Pilot tip is one of personal preference. Since the graffiti area already has a 'hot corner' for the onscreen keyboard, I reassigned the motion from the graffiti area to the top of the screen to display the graffiti help. I find this much more convenient than the sticker help. This setting can be found in Preferences/Buttons/Pen."

I located this emulator at palmpilot.3com.com/devzone/pose/pose.html. I downloaded it, and it is on our cover-mounted CD-ROM as emulator.zip. While I was on that site I was amazed to discover that Panutat "Jimmy" Tejasen

has ported a version of the Pilot emulator to Windows CE. I had to think about this for a while... So, I can carry a Windows CE machine around with me, but I can



◀FIG 1 IS THIS A PALM RUNNING ON A WIN CE MACHINE, OR A WIN CE MACHINE RUNNING ON A PALM?

PilotCE emulator in real life. It's impossible to run it as fast as the real PalmPilot machine." True, but that doesn't stop it from being a truly wild idea.

A totally different way of taking screenshots was provided by Kieron

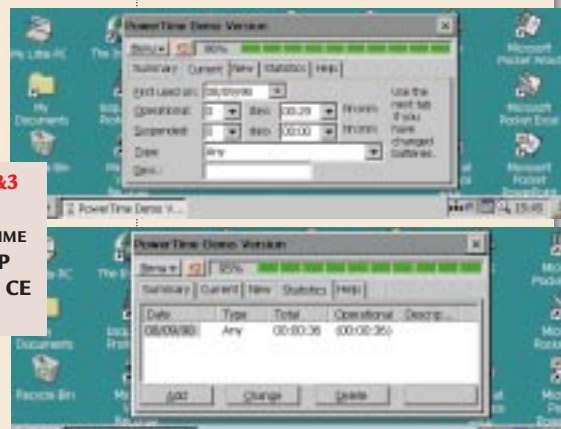
TIPS AND TRICKS FOR WIN CE

◀ **Jon Whiten** whiten@usa.net writes: "Password-protect the device to keep your data secure. Then, the only way to bypass the password is to pull the batteries and hence lose all data. This will keep your information away from prying eyes."

◀ **Battery life** is never as long as one would hope for. The current WindowsCE devices offer various solutions to reporting battery life; from a simple Good/Bad to percentage of battery charge left.

◀ **A good enhancement** to the above tip is PowerTime by Sixxac Software www.sixxac.com. This little package stores statistics of actual battery life as you use the unit and change or re-charge its batteries. It is eventually able to offer a percentage (and time) figure for anticipated battery life. This figure is based on the actual usage pattern for the device and so provides a real estimate of battery life. Complete peace of mind costs only US\$17.95 and a preview is available.

The program actually says that you shouldn't install it unless you have downloaded it from www.sixxac.com so I haven't included it on the cover CD. Nevertheless, it seems like an excellent utility. [Figs 2 & 3]



▶FIGS 2&3 USING POWERTIME ON MY HP 620 WIN CE MACHINE

◀ **One of the problems** of a WindowsCE device can be speed. To help limit the impact of this, keep your most-used applications open for quick, one-click switching. With this, the handheld will take no longer to boot-up but the most-used applications will be instantly available. ◀ **CaptCE**, a screen capture utility, is available from www.oohito.com/wince/wince_j.htm. A lot of other software is also available at this site.

use it like a Palm? OK. You can find more information at www.jimmy.com/Beta/PilotCE/index.html which is where this screenshot [Fig 1] came from. Be warned that Jimmy himself says: "The speed of most HPCs is too slow to run the

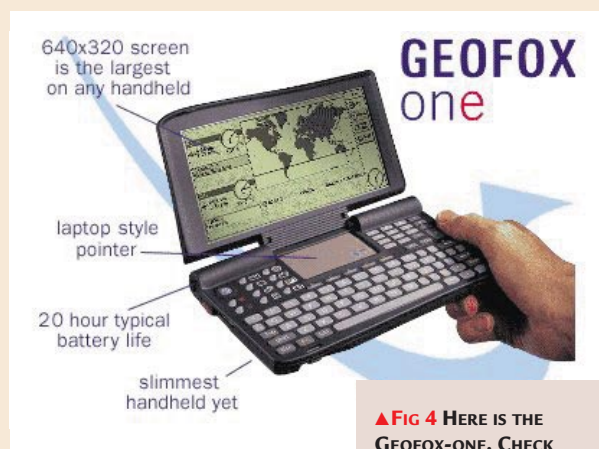
Edwards (kierone@teletext.co.uk) who says: "The Palm III is bundled with an application called TealPaint which can take screenshots and then, on the full version, be exported to a PC." This is interesting and may represent some kind of regional or temporal variation, since mine didn't come with TealPaint.

And here's another. This is from Richard Earney rearney@routledge.co.uk: "Snapshot, by Joseph Strout, available at <ftp://ftp.strout.net/pub/snapshot.zip> does Palm screenshots. It can also be obtained at www.palmcentral.com, as can just about everything else." I downloaded Snapshot,

checked that it is freeware, and have popped it onto this month's cover CD. Incidentally, Richard is absolutely correct: PalmCentral is a huge resource, dripping with shareware and freeware. I have no hesitation recommending that you go there and download as much Palm software as you like.

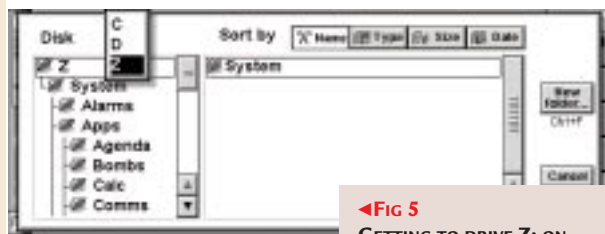
GEOFOX TIPS (but also read this if you have a Psion 5!)

The Geofox-one [Fig 4] is another PDA. It runs the same operating system as the Psion — in fact, Geofox licences it from Psion. It has a larger screen and a built-in mouse pad. I have not yet seen an actual Geofox-one but hope to soon, after which I will publish a short review for your edification.



▲ FIG 4 HERE IS THE GEOFOX-ONE. CHECK OUT THAT MOUSEPAD...

Here is a fascinating FAQ list for the Geofox-one, from company representative Ian Peel. He has also included a huge list of shortcut keys for the different applications. These seem to be identical to those for the Psion 5 and therefore may be of interest to owners of those machines, too. These lists would take up the remainder of this column, so I have included them instead on the cover CD as an RTF document (I cannot do it as a straight text file because the formatting is so important for the tables).



◀ How do I access the menu with the mouse?
Tapping the upper right corner of the mouse pad will

◀ FIG 5
GETTING TO DRIVE Z: ON THE PSION. CTRL TAB FROM THE SYSTEM SCREEN GETS YOU TO HERE, WHERE YOU CAN CHOOSE Z FROM THE LIST

bring up the menu bar for the application you are using.

◀ How can I upgrade from Message Suite 1.10 on the Geofox to Message Suite 1.50 for the Psion (downloadable at www.pSION.co.uk)?

You can do this by installing the patchv15.sis file located in the downloads section of the Geofox web site. (Which is, predictably, www.GeoFox.com.)

◀ Is the Geofox power supply compatible with that of the Series 5? The Series 5 uses a 6v power supply and Geofox-one uses a 9v. The plug going in to the system has the opposite polarity between the systems. As such, they are not compatible.

◀ How can I change default fonts? (The default Font for Agenda in Geofox is Arial 9, in Psion Series 5 it is Arial 10.)

Create a document called Normal.uk or try looking in Z:\system\apps\word to see if the default document on your ROM is called something different.

(Hmmm... On the Psion I can get to drive Z — see *Hands On PDAs* passim and Fig 5, below — and I can find Normal, but this doesn't seem to be helpful since drive z: is read-only — MW).)

◀ How can I link a Geofox to a Mac? I urgently need a scheme to build a male DB9 to male Mac DIN8 adapter, in order to use the PC cable provided with my Geofox-one. What are the exact pin correspondences? For instance, where does pin 1 of db9 male go on mac DIN8, and so on? I have VirtualPC 2.0 and would like to use it to emulate EPOC Connect 2.1.

The Geofox-one pinouts are at www.geofox.com/support/faq/index.html in System Questions. The Mac

[FIG 6]

Pin points

	8		7		6	
5				4		3
		2		1		

pinout is: 1 DTR. 2 CTS. 3 TD. 4 Ground. 5 RD. 6 RTS. 7 DCD. 8 DSR. The pins are more or less as illustrated in Fig 6.

◀ How can I use the Geofox as a terminal emulator?

Use the pre-installed Comms application (under Comms & Dialler).

◀ What other web browsers can I use with the Geofox?

Other than the pre-installed browser, there is a new version available from Psion Software on its EPOC World site, which supports frames. Opera is also reportedly working on a port of its browser to EPOC32, which will even support SSL3.0 in addition to other features.



● **This brings us** to an interesting point: do you want me to carry on putting freeware/shareware on the PCW CD-ROM? Before you all answer "Yes, of course!" consider this: computer viruses are a pain and the PC world has responded with virus checkers and the like. The PDA world has been mercifully

Remember that PDAs are not small PCs

virus-free so far but it is foolish to think that this state of affairs will continue. However, even when virus checkers appear, they will lag behind the viruses. Remember that PDAs are not small PCs, so the current virus checkers are useless. If I continue to put programs onto our CD-ROM it is virtually certain, despite our rigorous checks, that one day I will unwittingly distribute something infected, neither on purpose nor maliciously. It remains a possibility.

The other side of the argument is that these programs are out there on the net anyway, so it doesn't really matter if they appear on a CD-ROM as well. The bottom line is that there is no way I can guarantee that anything that appears on the CD-ROM is safe (incidentally, that also applies to SnapShot on the current disc). So, should I supply programs that may not be safe? Send in your votes, please, to the usual email address (see "PCW Contacts", below).

Not-so-dumb terminals

Reader Joe Tarrant jtarrant@compuserve.com writes: "My web site is dedicated to dumb terminals and terminal emulation. I have a list of terminal software applications (mostly apps for PDAs). I think all computers should be able to wire-

up, not just the popular boxes running Windows and Mac OS8, so I'm adding information to my site on how to connect virtually anything as a VT100, which is still the computer world's Esperanto. Unix doesn't care what's connecting up to it, and it's a lot easier to connect a machine as a terminal than go setting up TCP/IP

VT100 is still the computer world's Esperanto

and all that. It runs faster, as well."

The site is at ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/jtarrant/.

I have a younger brother (Jamie) who is also a PDA freak. A couple of years ago he was on-site with a client when the sole dumb terminal in the machine room

blew up. So, rather than drag one in from the user areas, Jamie pulled out a Psion 3 (complete with that horrible cable) and

proceeded to drive the Unix box from that. This gobsmailed the Unix drivers on-site, who couldn't get over their big, powerful box being driven from a handheld. To my shame, until Jamie told me about it, I had never really considered

TIPS FOR PILOTS (AND OTHERS)

Mike Schorah mike.schorah@dial.pipex.com sent in these tips and tricks. Many of them are more about the effective use of a PDA than Pilot-specific, so users of other machines may wish to browse, too.

➤ **When adding** an appointment to the Date Book, get into the habit of adding a To Do to prepare for it.

➤ **When lending** a book or CD to someone, add a To Do to remind yourself to get it back!

➤ **Use shortcut texts** to save entering standard text, like "Prepare for".

➤ **Set up** a custom field in the Address Book to note the name of family members, assistant etc., so you can make personal references when you next talk to someone.

This one sounds just a little creepy to me — overtones of Big Brother, somehow. Still, never mind.

➤ **Keep a note** attached to the record with brief details of the last conversation, using the date-stamp shortcut.

This sounds more like it. Shades of Woodward and Bernstein.

"It must be true, it's in my notes."

➤ **Paste the text** of word-processed documents onto the icon on the Pilot Desktop and HotSync so that you can work on a letter or part of a report while on the move. HotSync on your return and then transfer back into the word processor. This way,

you can make valuable use of odd moments in your day away from your main PC.

I agree. I have never got on with the Pilot as a device for entering text of any length, but I do proof-read a huge amount of material in a year. By about the third draft, the changes are minor and well within the capabilities of the Pilot. Even if you decide that a more drastic change is required, you can mark it for further attention when the words are back under keyboard control.

➤ **When adding** an appointment, note down the travel details and/or agenda at the same time.

➤ **Book a day out** at a different location by adding an appointment set to "No time". Your reminder will appear at the top of the day's agenda with a diamond icon by it. Several days away together can be set up as a recurring item.

➤ **Note birthdays** and anniversaries as To Do items set to show a few days before the event, but with the name of the celebration and its date as the text of the To Do. When it's over, don't tick it as complete, but reschedule it for next year.

➤ **Book preparation time**, or thinking time, into your Date Book so that it does not get squeezed out by other things to do.

Ah, yes, I agree wholeheartedly. But if only I could actually get this one to work in practice.

the terminal emulation to be anything other than a useful tool for connecting to bulletin boards. Since then, I have used a PDA in the same way several times and have found that having a "dumb terminal in the pocket" is wonderful.

The collection of tips and tricks which appear this month have been sent in by readers of this column. Your email response has been immense. Thanks for all the information, and keep it coming.

PCW CONTACTS

Mark Whitehorn welcomes readers' correspondence and ideas for the Hands On PDAs column. Contact him via the usual PCW editorial office (address p10) or email pda@pcw.co.uk