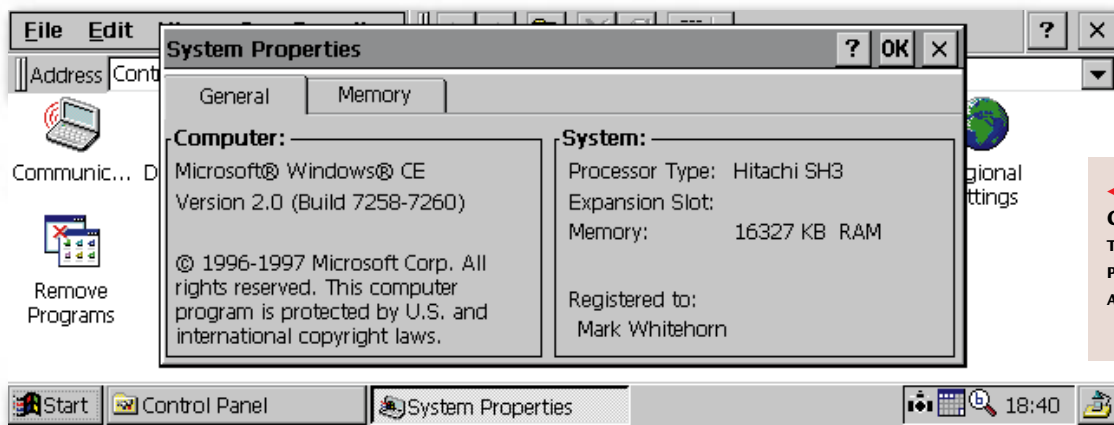# See hear — it's CE

The world according to Windows CE, as Mark Whitehorn presents some handy help and hints.

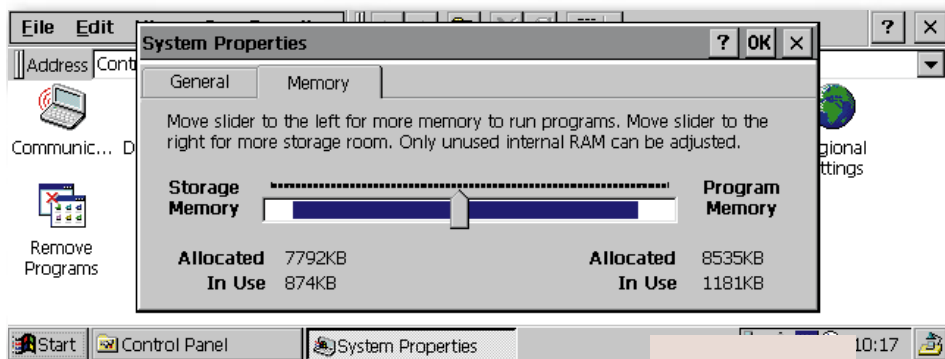◄**Fig 1** The General tab of the System properties reveals all…

T he web is full of shareware and freeware. Not unreasonably, you may be tempted to download some and run it. If so, you should find out what processor is fitted to your machine (e.g. MIPS, SH3) because you may be confronted with different downloads compiled for different processor types.

Most commercial software automatically detects your processor type and installs the version you need, but this isn't always the case for shareware. If you need the information, have a look in Control Panel, System and select the General tab. My HP 620LX is running on a Hitachi SH3 [Fig 1].

RAM under control

Windows CE machines have no hard disk so they store information in ROM and RAM. Thus RAM in a CE machine can be made to function like a hard disk and used for storing applications and data. It can also function like conventional RAM in a PC (used for running applications). Have a look in the same System area (*see above*) but select the Memory tab [Fig 2]. This is where you can control the way in which RAM is allocated between these two functions.

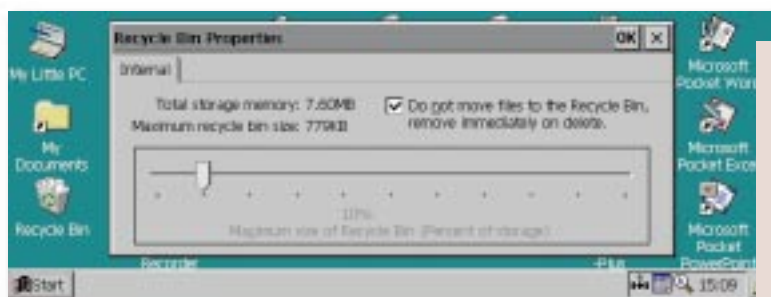It is up to you to decide what the optimum setting

▲**Fig 2** …but the Memory tab of the System properties reveals more

for your usage happens to be, and probably, when you get the machine, you won't have a clue. Fine. Leave the setting where it is, but remember that this is where the information is stored. As soon as you seem to be running out of space for either function, pop back here and take appropriate action.

Bin and gone

The Recycle Bin is mega-useful on a Widows CE machine, just like it is on

95/98 and NT. Not, you understand, that I have ever deleted anything by mistake, but I have a friend who once… Anyway, my advice is to leave the RB operational. However, if you find that you are becoming very short of space, you can turn it off by Alt Tapping the RB icon and un-checking "Do Not Move Files…" to free up more space [Fig 3]. You can also take the less radical step of setting the RB

◄**Fig 3** Disabling the recycle bin in Windows CE. This is possible, but only recommended in extremis (see text)

Questions & answers

Q I'm looking for an idiot's intro to programming the Palm 3. Hope to see one soon.

MIKE RILEY
<MRILEY@MAIL.BOGO.CO.UK>

a This is one of the few emails I've had that refer to the Palm. I've no problem with doing a tutorial on programming for Palms, Psions and/or Windows CE machines. Please let me know your thoughts.

Q I would like to ask you about the possibility of using Polish fonts in PDAs. I used to have an HP OmniGo 100 and I now own a Psion 3c. The former used English fonts as well as French and German ones, but no Central European versions. I can use Polish fonts when I work with my Psion 3c, but can you tell me how it would look in the systems using Windows CE (I mean the "keyboardable" ones) and Epoc 32?

PRZEMYSLAW SPERLING
<SPERLING@AMU.EDU.PL>

a I haven't the faintest notion of how to get a Windows CE machine to run with Polish fonts. Nevertheless, I have the greatest faith in the readership of PCW. Can someone out there enlighten us?

Q Can small Windows 95 or NT-based programs be run on a Windows CE palmtop?

IAN DAVIES
<IAN.DAVIES@VIRGIN.NET>

a The simple answer to this one is "No". Despite the name, Windows CE is essentially a totally different operating system.

to take up less memory.

While on the subject of saving memory, another useful trick is to save your documents as *.txt rather than *.doc files because they take up less space. You can also have a hunt through the file system and delete any sample documents, *.BMP and *.WAV files that you don't actually use.

Power saving

So much for saving "disk" space. What about saving battery power?
● Use the backlight as infrequently as possible when running on batteries.
● Don't abandon your machine for days with alarms bleeping and lights flashing. It will feel that you don't love it and flatten its battery in a fit of pique.
● Sounds not only irritate everyone around you, they also drain power.
● Don't leave the machine docked while on internal power.
● One of the biggest power hogs are modem PCMCIA cards, so only use one while on mains power.
● NiMH batteries last longer than conventional Alkaline.
● Conventional batteries last longer than rechargables, but the latter are cheaper in the long run.
● Lithium rechargables are better than normal rechargables because essentially they have no "memory".

No PDA, no fun

There are some old people ("old" defined in this instance as one who was sentient

MORE TIPS AND TRICKS FOR WINDOWS CE

John Kennedy <john@sticky.net> has provided these useful tips for Windows CE machines.

● **Speed up your desktop** by keeping only the bare minimum of shortcut icons on it. Each icon redraw takes time, and if you have a lot you can spend five seconds watching your desktop appear. Delete those you don't need.
● **If your HPC has shortcut buttons** (e.g. Philips Velo) use them instead. You can launch apps in a second or less.
● **Keep your most frequently used applications** running all the time, minimised in the Start bar. You won't even have to wait for them to load.
● **Use the Control Panel "Owner" applet** to display your name and contact when the HPC is turned on. Make sure you have a "Reward if returned to owner" message display.
● **Upgrade to Windows CE v2** because the extra features are definitely worthwhile. For example, I can keep a record of all my important and personal information such as CC numbers and ISP passwords in a Pocket Word document for easy access. And, as Windows CE v2 will encrypt files, I don't have to worry about losing it.
● **Use Power Toys**, available from the Microsoft web site. The Pocket Paint utility is reason enough to download it, but there are plenty of other goodies, too.
● **Windows CE v2 knows about** Ethernet cards and networking. You can even connect your HPC to your LAN and browse through Windows 95/NT directories if you download the Networking tool from the Microsoft web site.
● **Customise it**! Windows CE allows a backdrop image to be used. Use your favourite paint program, such as Photoshop or PaintShop Pro, to reduce the colours and add dithering. Then save as a BMP and copy it across. ALT-tap on the screen to bring up the screen properties, and select your new pattern. There are plenty of pictures on the web if you don't want to make your own.

in the early 1980s) who argue that PCs have become more boring in modern times. As PCs have passed from "interesting toy" to "cutting edge corporate tool" they have undoubtedly become more productive. But are they

TIPS FOR PSION 5 USERS

From John Goss's monster bundle <john.goss@dial.pipex.com> here are some more tips, the first of which were published in last month's column.

● **Shift-Ctrl-C brings up a window**, letting you insert special characters.

● **Sometimes programs can waste memory** when they are closed and leave you with less space than you should have. An occasional soft reset can be a good idea, or download MMU, a program which frees up the wasted space.

● **It is possible to connect your Psion 5 to a PC via infra-red**. Most laptops and some PCs now come with infra-red ports, so it's a good idea to make use of them, and here's how :

1 Uninstall PsiWin.

2 Now you need the latest IRDA drivers from Microsoft. Get them from <www.microsoft.com/windows95/info/irda.htm>.

3 Install the driver you need and then go to your relevant infra-red Com port and set the speed to the maximum available.

4 Go to Control Panel and into the infra-red settings. Click on the options tab, make sure everything is on the right settings and enabled on the right port.

5 Install PsiWin 2.1. (Note: If you don't have PsiWin 2.1 you can get it from <www.psion.com>.)

6 Double-click on your connection monitor, go to the connections tab and tick the infra-red box. Also put the baud rate to 115200 if it's not there already.

7 Now turn on your Psion, enable the remote link on infra-red (press Ctrl-L to bring up the dialog) and point at your PC's infra-red port. Wait a few seconds and it should connect. You can also find this information on the web at <5alive.psionking.com/Archives/Reviews/IrDA.htm>.

ROM display

● This tip is courtesy of Tim Jeffries <JudgeJeffr@aol.com>.

If you want to access the Psion Series 5's ROM drive (Z:):

1 View the directory tree window, but rather than use the standard keyboard shortcuts of Tab or Ctrl+G, use the alternative of Ctrl+Tab.

2 Wait a while until all the directories on C: are displayed and then click on the box at the top left that reads "C" (without the quotes).

3 Press Tab, and then click on "Z" from the drop-down list that appears.

4 The ROM drive will be displayed. Press Enter to view it in normal mode.

If you want or need to do this often, you could press Shift+Ctrl+B to bookmark this folder. Then you can just press Ctrl+B to get back to it. Note that this will override any other bookmark settings you have made. Although you cannot change anything, because it is stored in the ROM and is therefore read-only, you can view it and it is useful to find out about the Psion's architecture.

Just browsing

Nice one, Tim! I didn't know about this one and spent a happy hour just browsing. Glad to know that you aren't the real Judge Jeffries (nor yet Judge Dred).

It worked!

▲**Fig 4 All you have to do is work out what this has to do with PDAs**

any more fun? "No" is the short answer. This is one reason that I love PDAs. They have yet to attract the interest of the suits, so they are still fun.

Take a look at Fig 4. This is an aerial shot of John Kennedy's house. He obtained it by tying a DC25 digital camera to a kite that he flew, one assumes, from his back garden.

What has this got to do with PDAs? John was experimenting with manipulating images with PDAs, sent me the image for the fun of it, and it seemed to me to sum up why I like PDAs.

On the other hand, please don't do this at home. Please don't tie your two-year-old child to a kite in an attempt to better John's artistic composition. Don't try to move images from a digital camera to your PDA. I wouldn't want you to start enjoying this stuff!

Hotel guide

"I'd like to let you know about a new Psion product our company has just released. You can find full details on our web site http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Fawnbench. It's an electronic version of the popular AA Hotel Guide book. Being in electronic form means a user can now filter, sort and locate geographically the types of hotel in which he is interested. It also links with our 'Geographical Database' application, allowing a hotel entry to be located on a map — and all from the Psion screen."

fawnbench@mailcity.com

Been there, looked at it, and it seems like fun. This brings us rather neatly to the topic of mapping with PDAs. As this seems to be a recurrent theme, we'll start looking at it next month.

PCW CONTACTS