



Fundamental Objects

FO HANDHELD NEWS
Volume 4, Issue 2
April 17th, 2003

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Welcome

... to the April edition of our user and developer PDA tips newsletter.




In the past, we have covered topics on Palm, Pocket PC and Phone PDA issues. We have also included information that is meant specifically for developers, and separate information meant specifically for users.

As part of this issue, we will ask you for your comments on the direction of this newsletter.

Please lend us a hand, and complete our [simple survey](#) below -- which will be used to help to steer our (your) newsletter in the future.

As always, please feel free to submit requests or ideas through the links at the [bottom](#) of this page. This is also where you will find subscription and removal information.

This issue has a focus on freeware tools, for users *and* developers. There are also several online news and tip sites listed as well.

Palm related items in our newsletters are marked with this icon . Pocket PC/WinCE items are marked with this  one. Phone-related PDA tips show a  icon.

Please note: This newsletter contains tips and tools that can alter your PDA. These items are offered here "as is" and without any warranty or support from FO. Please consider them carefully before using or trying them (and as always ... backup, backup, Backup! first before making any changes).

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Shadish".

Bill Shadish, Principal

User Tips and Tools

User Tools

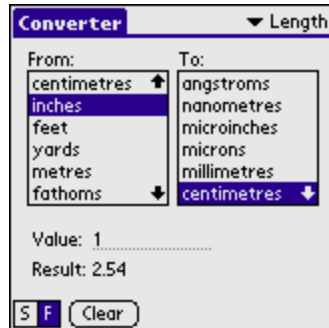
Project v.25

<http://project.sf.net>

A mini-project manager. Includes project tasks, sub-tasks, % complete, priority, due dates, categories. Notes that can be attached to tasks to communicate more information to other users. A very nice little tool -- and free.

Converter v 2.2

<http://www.mattmarsh.net/computing/palmpilot.shtml>



Converter

Converts between MANY different units of measure, such as Angle, Area, Density, Energy, Flow, Force, Fuel Consumption, Length, Power, Pressure and more. Also a very nice little tool -- and also free.

Software Web Sites

Pocket PC Central

<http://www.unitedcommand.com/new.php?thecatno=6>

A must see for Pocket PC users, this is a large list of Pocket PC-related web pages.

WIN CE (and Pocket PC) Web Ring

<http://www.windowscewebring.com/>

This is the hub (the main) site for the Win CE web ring. There are links to 500 Pocket PC sites found in the indices of this page.

International Palm Users Group

<http://www.interpug.com>

An international site that contains information on many (most?) of the Palm user groups spread around the world.

See also the user Tips section found on the INTERPUG site:

<http://www.interpug.com/palm/tips/search.html>

Brighthand Forums

<http://discussion.brighthand.com/palmhandhelds/>

A large discussion area on a WIDE variety of Palm-related topics, both technical (hardware, software, utilities, tips) and vertical markets (construction, sales, military, healthcare, and many more). A good place to go to ask questions, or stay abreast of your industry's interest in PDAs.

Glitches

<http://jkevinwolfe.home.att.net/glitch/> A nice site showing how to handle various "glitches" on a Palm platform (Treos, Handeras, Sony, Palm).

Here's an example:

"You can read an email, but when you reply, the Palm just beeps at you. The built-in Mail App can read 32K messages, but send only 10K messages. Start deleting unneeded text of the original message in your reply. Once you get below 10K you can start typing. (Any PalmOS)"

Wired CEO 🌐🌐🌐

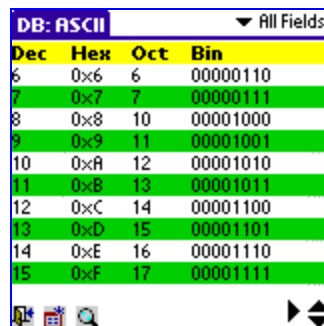
<http://www.wiredceo.com>

Another interesting find, this page focuses on selecting and having sent to you various wireless issues affecting management. Topics covered here include business, daily news, travel, reference tools, technology news and more. The site is truly geared towards the wireless user, as the information that is delivered is inaccessible from a PC.

Development Tips and Tools Sites with real content for Developers

DB (Pilot-DB) v1.0.4

<http://pilot-db.sourceforge.net/>



Dec	Hex	Oct	Bin
6	0x6	6	00000110
7	0x7	7	00000111
8	0x8	10	00001000
9	0x9	11	00001001
10	0xA	12	00001010
11	0xB	13	00001011
12	0xC	14	00001100
13	0xD	15	00001101
14	0xE	16	00001110
15	0xF	17	00001111

Pilot DB

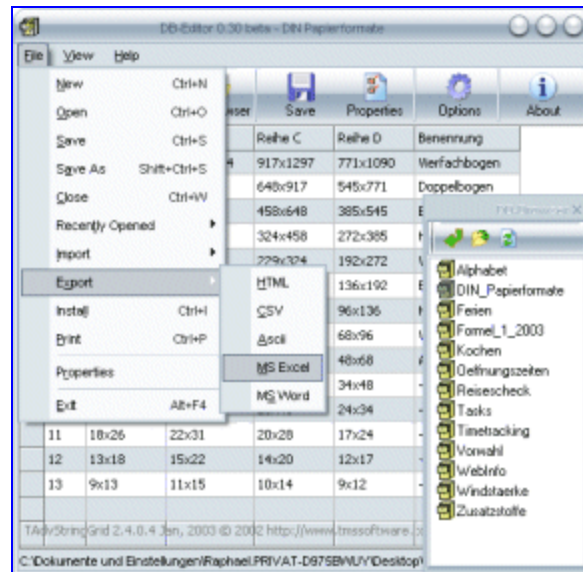
Pilot-DB is freeware. This is a Palm OS flat-file database manager that handles the following field types: String, Integer, Float, Boolean, Date, Time, Note, List & Link. Pilot-DB has versions for English, German, Portuguese, Italian, and French languages and includes Handera/Clie HiRes screens. Best of all, there is a desktop version available as well!

This version (March 21st) adds keypad support for the Tungsten T.

DB-Editor (Pilot-DB) 🌐

<http://www.jakewalk.de/>

If you like Pilot-DB, make sure to check out this tool, which is a desktop editor for the Pilot-DB database. Freeware.



DB-Editor

Wyrd Dev v1.7

<http://www.wyrdsoftware.co.uk>

Provides information about your PDA, such as battery life, button setup, color and font information, hardware information (memory/palm/screen/sound), etc. Freeware.

LeftOvers v1.0

<http://www.freewarepalm.com/utilities/leftovers.shtml>



When you delete an application, frequently the supporting files and data are left behind. LeftOvers provides an interface to get rid of these "left over" files. This is particularly useful if you are working with several versions of your application on the same Palm. Note: There is NO VFS support. Freeware.

QED

<http://www.qland.de/qed/pafpage.htm>

QED is a nice editor for use on a Palm device. This version of the software adds support for the Sony Clie and OS 5 devices. QED has been available on different platforms for 10 years. This one does cost some money -- but a shareware version is available to try it with first.

Developer Software Web Sites

Emulator Commands

<http://www.palmos.com/dev/support/docs/emulator/EmulatorTOC.html>

This page contains a large number of flags that you can use when you start the Palm OS emulator. There are ways to start gremlins, set gremlin flags -- such as how many times to run the test, load apps, load sessions (PSF) files, choose the device type (Pilot, Pilot1000, Pilot5000, PalmPilot, PalmPilotPersonal, PalmPilotProfessional, PalmIII, PalmIIIc, PalmIIIe, PalmIIIx, PalmV, PalmVx, PalmVII, PalmVIIEZ, PalmVIIx, PalmM100, m100, PalmM105, m105, PalmM125, m125, PalmM130, m130, PalmM500, m500, PalmM505, m505, PalmM515, m515, PalmI705, i705, Symbol1500, Symbol1700, Symbol1740, TRGpro, HandEra330, Visor, VisorPlatinum, VisorPrism, VisorEdge), etc.

An up to date list of many topics related to the emulator is included.

Ron Nicholson's Palm OS programming FAQ ☼

<http://www.nicholson.com/rhn/palm/>

A number of updates have been made to this programming FAQ, including things such as pin out diagrams for the various Palm cradles and the "universal interface". e.g.:

Palm m500/505 Universal Interface

When viewing front of unit, pins are numbered left to right.

1	GND (power)	
2	USB D+	
3	USB D-	
4	USB VBUS	
5	HotSync IRQ	(+3.3 V for button push)
6	reserved (N/C)	
7	GND (signal)	(to DE-9 pin 5)
8	ID (peripheral type detect: 7.5KOhms to GND for serial)	
9	Vout ~ 3.3V @ 100 mA max	
10	Rxd (input)	(to DE-9 pin 2)
11	Txd (output)	(to DE-9 pin 3)
12	Attach Detect	(gnd)
13	CTS (input)	(to DE-9 pin 7)
14	RTS (output)	(to DE-9 pin 8)
15	DTR (output)	(to DE-9 pin 6)
16	charge Vin	(+5.0 VDC 5% @ 1.0 A)

Chris De Herrera's Programming Languages 🌐

<http://www.cewindows.net/developer/languages.htm>

A nice list, including tools for C, C++, Basic, Forth, Java, Lisp, Python, Perl, Smalltalk (remember Smalltalk?) and even [PocketASP 2.1](#) (ASP and HTML on a Pocket PC) and running IIS (Internet Information Server on the Pocket PC).

Reader Tips 🌐 📧 📧

After each issue, we receive a number of reader comments, questions and tips regarding handheld development. We would like to share these tips with all of our readers as well.

A user tip ☼, submitted by:

Andy Dent, (<http://www.oofile.com.au/>), Australia

Here is a tip for your Handheld User Interface Ten Commandments (<http://www.fo.com/articles/mc-01.htm>) article,

1. If you are designing an application which you particularly expect will be used in an airplane (or vehicle), make it forgiving of shaking hands. (an old tip from Apple HI people for laptop design).

This may imply:

- a) larger target (tap) areas,
- b) extra Undo or more acknowledgement dialogs,
- c) more tolerance of sudden jerks of the stylus if there is a drawing aspect, effectively running a smoothing algorithm.

Maybe even a special (moving) mode is needed?

2. Seconding the tip about using thumbs ("Thou Shalt allow Chubby Fingers to Operate a Touchscreen") -- remember the poor soul who just lost their stylus and don't trap them without being at least able to finish an operation without one (ie: if there are important buttons to press make them fingerable).
3. Tip #1 ("Thou Shalt use only a Couple of Fonts") applies even more so if your target audience is aging or people with illness affecting motor control.

If you would like to submit a tip for inclusion in our newsletter, please fill out the information below. Your name and email will be shown along with the tip, if it is used in our newsletter.

Enter your first and last name:	<input type="text"/>	*
Enter your email address:	<input type="text"/>	*
Company:	<input type="text"/>	
Reader Tip:	<input type="text"/>	*

* = required.

Submit

FO Newsletter Survey

Help us to improve this newsletter to better meet your needs!

This form is provided for our readers to provide comments about our [FO PDA Newsletter](#).

Your name: Email address:

How important are the following areas to you? (importance: 10=high, 1=low)

PalmOS: PocketPC: Phones (eg WAP): TabletPCs:

Discuss topics on this site for:

Users: Developers:

Concentrate on: (importance: 10=high, 1=low)

Tips: 3rd Party Tools: International web sites:

Any additional comments?

Click the Image to Answer

Click the survey graphic above or [click here](#) to answer the 4 questions. These questions are largely meant to rate your current interest in the platforms of PalmOS, Pocket PC and Phone applications; as well as to see if your current interests are user or developer oriented.

Only registered newsletter users answers are saved, as these are the folks who are affected.

Subscribe, Unsubscribe & Comments

The FO newsletter site itself is found at <http://www.fo.com/newsletters/>.

To **subscribe** to this newsletter, simply [click here](#).

To **unsubscribe** from this newsletter, [click here](#).

If you would like to suggest topics for us to focus on, we will strive to add content in the direction of the most interest. Choose from the following categories, or add your own, and include this in [your email](#):

- Palm Development
- Palm User Interface topics (look & feel issues),
- Palm User-oriented topics (tips!),
- Palm vs. Pocket PC issues
- <other>

If you have other comments or suggestions, please send us an email with your thoughts by [clicking here](#).



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