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THE HP Palmtop Paper

The HP 320LX

Hands On!



HP 200LX:
Vet's Personal Assistant



06

Publisher's Message	1
Letters to the Editor	2
New Third Party Products and Services	6
HP Announces Third Party Software Listings on Their Web Site	6
HP Palmtop User Groups	9

REVIEWS

The HP 320LX—The First Hands-On Impressions	11
Tom Gibson shares his initial reactions to the new HP 320LX and to Microsoft's Windows CE operating system	

Thaddeus Computing Introduces Handheld PC Magazine	16
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HOW TO USE

Palmtop Wisdom	4
Staying organized on a project-basis, organizing for archiving, Filer text search for "God."	

User Profile: Veterinarian Tracks Horse and Cattle-care Using Her HP Palmtop on Farm Calls	19
With HP Palmtop in her holster and printer in her van, this vet tracks the medical needs of 3,000 animals.	

User Profile: Mechanical Engineer Helps Link Palmtop Community	23
Mitch Hamm hosts the palmtop S.U.P.E.R. page and a list-serve newsletter. Here he also discusses his use of his HP 200LX for faxing, e-mail, spell checking, databases, as well as his use of the Linux operating system.	

Choosing the Correct Batteries for Your Palmtop	30
David Shier reviews the advantages and disadvantages of different types of batteries.	

User to User: Using the Palmtop to Develop Intuition: The Palmtop as an Oracle Device	34
Hal Goldstein describes how built-in software can be used to learn any new language or discipline. He concludes with a listing of DOS-based numerological, astrological, and tarot software.	

Basic Tips	43-44
Quick Tips	45-47
Advertiser's Index	48
Files on May/June 97 ON DISK	48

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Software

WWW/LX: The graphical web browser from D&A specifically designed for the 100/200LX

Magnify: Magnifies any area of the palmtop screen, making viewing much easier.

Quick/LX: The typing aid for the HP Palmtop

ABC/LX: adds intelligence to battery charging and monitors battery usage.

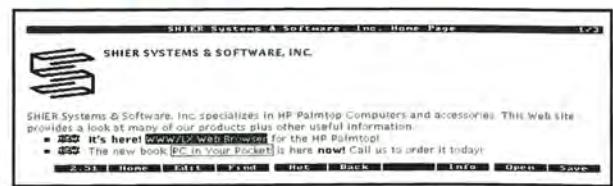
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Publisher's Message



Hal Goldstein

This issue concludes our series of articles on the new HP 300LX/320LX palmtop PC. Technical Editor, Tom Gibson, gives a detailed summary of his hands-on, first impressions of the HP 320LX palmtop PC. As you will see, there is a lot to like, although in many ways the HP 100LX and 200LX are more capable machines. Among the strengths of the HP 320LX are a large screen, bigger keyboard, connectivity with Windows 95, backlighting, two PC card slots, and similar look and feel to Windows 95. Advantages of the HP 200LX include stronger built-in applications, the ability to run thousands of pieces of DOS software, a much deeper knowledge-

base, and a smaller footprint.

From our side, *The HP Palmtop Paper* will continue to serve you, the HP 100LX/200LX user, as long as we continue to get new subscriptions and renewals. We anticipate publishing at least through 1998. (In order to control costs with a smaller subscription base, we have decided to make this year the last year we send out Subscriber PowerDisks, PC Card Review, and Best Tips to ongoing subscribers. We hope this won't be too inconvenient, since much of the material is repetitious or available on our Web site). Our new sister publication, *Handheld PC Magazine*, will support all handheld devices with Windows CE, including the HP 300LX/320LX palmtop PCs.

The rest of the May/June issue is filled with fun and useful articles, new product announcements, and the usual assortment of Tips and Wisdom. Our profiles are interesting, with lots of useful ideas. A large animal veterinarian makes one wonder why all mobile professionals don't own palmtops. A mechanical engineer has created a great Web site for palmtop users, and describes how he's made new friends from all parts of the globe because of his palmtop. David Shier lucidly explains how different kinds of batteries work on the palmtop.

Finally, I challenge you to see how open and non-judgmental your mind really is. In my user to user column I go into quite a bit of detail describing how built-in Database, 1-2-3, and Appointment Book can be used to learn a new language or discipline. The example I use will raise a few eyebrows — learning the tarot. I discuss how the palmtop can be used as an "oracle device" to help determine your future and develop your creative intuition. In any case, you will see how powerful a tool the HP Palmtop can be for learning something new.

Hal Goldstein

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BY EXPANDING YOUR
PALMTOP'S POTENTIAL

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May/June 1997

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Letters

Liked Windows CE comparison article

The article in the latest *HP Palmtop Paper* ("Comparing the Windows CE Handheld PC to the HP Palmtop," Volume 6, Number 2., page 16) is what keeps me subscribing.

The comparison was done the way comparisons should be done... point by point, efficient, effective and comprehensive.

The article saved me a bundle by (a) saving me having to look for the information elsewhere, or phoning HP or trying to interpret

sales brochures, and by (b) helping me decide that the new Windows CE Handheld PC just loses too many good points that are already found in the HP 200LX. (For example, the calculator functions.)

Thanks.

Thomas Garrick
tgarrick@ucla.edu

Phone Book does have custom fields

You did a GREAT job in the recent issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper* comparing the new HP 300LX palmtop PC with the current 200LX. That was really a thorough piece of work that provides good insight as to what this

new machine will really do.

While it may be a "nit," I'd like to point out a possible error. In the phone book analysis, you said custom fields are not available on the 200LX and the number of phone numbers is limited to four.

Since the phone book is really a database, which can be modified, the ability to create custom fields certainly exists. As for phone numbers, the same is true. My phone book currently has six, although I did have to modify the basic "shell" provided with the machine.

In the final analysis, the new HP 300LX does some nice things, but in my mind, the 200LX is a better machine. I'm staying put! Keep up the good work.

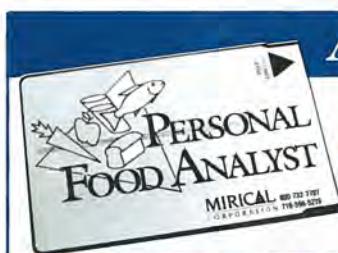
David Vaughan
dbaugh@VNET.IBM.COM

More on comparison article

Just received the latest copy of *The HP Palmtop Paper*, read it from cover to cover as usual, and it was a great read! Learned more tips from this one than ever before!

Illuminating article by Mark Scardina comparing the HP 200LX with the new Windows CE Handheld PCs, but where is the database comparison? One of the main strengths of the HP 200LX is that it is built around an excellent database engine.

(Continued on page 42.)



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THE FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS

Palmtop Wisdom

Personal Effectiveness Using the HP Palmtop

TIME MANAGEMENT

by Carol de Giere

Staying Organized on a Project-Basis

On top of your already busy schedule, suddenly you have been honored with a major new responsibility—heading up the fundraising campaign for a local charity. With multiple phone calls, schedules, and notes to take, you'll need a way of keeping the project integrated.

On the Palmtop

First you could create a catch-all master storage spot in Phone Book, such as a record named "FUNDRAISER," where you will stick any assorted notes you make on the run, as well as lists of other files to check.

Next, take advantage of the category field in all palmtop database programs. In Phone Book, Notetaker, and Database, you can label anything related to your fundraiser project by the same category code, such as "FUND," and then use subsets to display only Fundraiser-related items.

However Appointment Book and Memo don't have category fields. A short code word could be used, nonetheless. If you shorten "FUND" to a 3 letter code "FUN," you'll have a good cross-application code to use to keep coherence in your records system. (This play on meanings might also help you enjoy the project more.) Here's how it would work in Memo.

If you need multiple Memo documents (such as letters or meeting agendas), you can save them with the three letter extension FUN. They

can be retrieved by pressing [MENU], (File), (Open), *.FUN.

In Appointment Book, when you record appointments or ToDos, begin them with your chosen code. Enter "FUN make phone calls to entertainers," "FUN schedule luncheon with the board," etc. When you need to find the next FUN item, simply press [F4] [Find], enter FUN, and press [F10] [OK]. Your next FUN thing to do will show up on your screen.

An alternative to this approach is to use Flexpad software to integrate phone records, schedules, and notes in one file. Flexpad is a text editor with indexing and label features. You can assign category labels to blocks of texts in order to retrieve them through a category search. (See Sept/Oct 1996 issue, p. 24 for a review of Flexpad.)

If you enjoy the success of your project and find that similar responsibilities are coming your way, it may be time to investigate commercial project management software. (See Nov/Dec 1996 issue, p. 16 for a complete article on project management.)

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Organizing for Archiving

by Randolph Sly

"Oh, No!" Those words were uttered by an Olympic Ski Jumper heading for an accident due to a slight fault in form.

Losing computer data may not seem as serious as losing your balance on a ski jump, yet lost information can make you feel it is the end of life as you know it.

On the Palmtop

This experience of loss can even happen to our trusty palmtops and flashcards. While good monitoring can prevent battery problems, Hewlett-Packard has yet to design anything to prevent "cockpit trouble" -- operator error. I know from experience the emotion of such a loss.

The best weapon we have against such disasters is a regular system backup. Surprisingly, many people don't take data backup very seriously. I have found that those who don't back up regularly usually fall into two major categories: techno-faithful or techno-frazzled. The techno-faithfuls are those willing to risk all they have to maintain their belief in the palmtop's ability to hold data until Judgment Day; the techno-frazzled feel that backing up is too cumbersome and confusing to do very often.

Most likely, only a major data loss will wake up the techno-faithful, but for those of us who are frazzled, I would like to suggest a simple method for backing up large amounts of data. As a rule I leave only a couple of data files on my C drive... those that I will need when replacing the flashcard with my modem/flash card. Otherwise all my data is stored in drive A.

When I first set up my A drive I set up directories for the major divisions of work. It didn't take me long to realize that this was going to make for a cumbersome backup process. I also realized that since the applications sorted by extension, this filing method wasn't necessary. I then decided that placing all my files in one data file would make for a tedious backup session and a huge directory to wade through. I decided to use three directories:

200DATA, 200RESRC, and 200ARCH; giving me three specific levels for backup. 200DATA is used for my active files, those on which I work all the time. 200RESRC stores resource files, such as meeting notes for long-term reference, presentation outlines, etc.; these files rarely change. The last file, 200ARCH is my true archive. Here I keep last year's calendar for reference, old databases, used Notetaker files and other out-of-date documents that I will never change but may need at some point. Every few months I review my data files to see if any need to be moved to resource or archive. This cuts down on the clutter. When backing up my palmtop, I first use the backup command for my C drive and then copy my three A drive files on to the same disk.

Later backups rarely require the archive or resource files to be touched, so I only need to copy the 200DATA file. Using this system I have developed an easier backup rhythm for my HP 200LX. Do I have

faith in this little palmtop and its ram card? Absolutely! But after a long day of traveling or meetings, I also know how easy it is to delete or destroy a file. I don't want to say "Oh, No!" ever again.

Randolph Sly is an Archbishop in the Charismatic Episcopal Church and is also a published writer. (E-mail address: bprandy@sprintmail.com) He wrote this article on his HP 200 LX and stored it in 200DATA. If this gets published, he will move it to 200ARCH.

On the Palmtop

I took notes in Memo on my HP 200LX while attending a lecture by Neale Walsh, author of the current best seller, "Conversations with God." A week later I wanted to refer to my notes but couldn't remember what I had named the file or whether I had made notes in Memo or in Notetaker. So in Filer I did a text search on my A drive by pressing [Menu], Options, Text Search. In the "Search For" box, I entered "God." My trusty palmtop fulfilled my query and located God.

Searching for "God"

by Carol de Giere

Finding a meaningful relationship with the cosmos occupies all of us at some point in our lives. Funnily enough, my own quest includes a palmtop incident.

Products mentioned in this article

FLEXPAD—A shareware text editor that can be used for multiple purposes and that creates an index for rapid searching. Version 2.0 appears on the HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK March/April 1997 and CompuServe's HP Hand forum 11.

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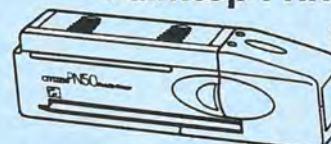
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New Products!

This section lists new products of interest to users of the HP Palmtop PCs. New Products includes descriptions of hardware, software, books, videos, training and service offerings. Prices listed in this section are suggested retail. You may be able to get the products for less if you shop around.

HP Palmtop Paper Staff

HARDWARE

PC CARDS

Apex Data 33.6 Mobile Plus Modem Card V. 34 Works on the Palmtop

The Mobile Plus modem card, which includes a high speed (33.6 bps) modem, has been tested by the manufacturer for safe operation on the 100/200LX. It has a lower-than-normal power draw than typical fast modems, which means that it does not exceed the 150 milliamp maximum power draw suggested by HP. Most 14.4 bps cards draw about 130 milliamps, and the Apex card draws 138, according to Tom Boyles, Technical Support Engineer for Apex Data Products Division. The card moves data at 33.6 bps and faxes at 14.4 bps. It comes with a 5-year warranty.

Pricing: \$199 (Note: Apex Data also provides a fax/modem card with 6MB of flash memory, which is intended for the 100/200LX. Transmission rates are 2400 bps for data and 14.4 bps for fax. Pricing: \$349.)

CONTACT: Apex Data Products Division, 4305 Cushing Parkway, Fremont, CA 94538, USA; Phone: 800-841-2739 or 510-623-1231; Fax: 510-249-1600.

CABLE

Aegis Serial-Parallel Adaptor

Ace Technologies formerly sold this product, however they are no longer in business. It will continue to be sold by EduCALC and Shier Systems.

Use the Aegis serial-to-parallel converter to connect your 100/200LX to a parallel printer or other parallel port. Converter is bi-directional, and compatible with any PC application software, printer or hard drive. Transmits data at 9600 baud via a 36-pin Centronics male connector. Weight: 3 oz. Part number 2816B.

Pricing -- \$79.95
CONTACT: EduCALC, 27953 Cabot Rd., Laguna Niguel, CA 92677, USA; Phone: 800-677-7001 or 714-582-2637; Fax: 714-582-1445.

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ACCESSORIES

HP95/100/200 LX Snap-in Holder

This plastic, self-adhesive holder is shaped exactly to the contour of the HP95/100/200 LX case. The holder enables users to secure or remove their palmtop to/from any solid surface (including car sun-

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Shipping/Handling: \$4.50 per order
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SOFTWARE

DATA TRANSFER

Personal-E Mailbox Uses "Smart Form" on Palmtop as Input Device for Field Workers in a Wide Variety of Industries

Personal-E Mailbox V3.0 with "Smart Form Designer" allows field representatives to create custom interactive forms and reusable e-mail messages tailored to their application. These forms are capable of automatically performing math calculations on whatever data the user enters in fixed length fields in the message. Completed form messages auto e-mail themselves to any data center PC as standard database management records suitable for machine processing.

A completed Smart Form message is an e-mailable soft calculator that can be used during customer meetings. For example, an insurance agent meeting with a customer could provide a return on investment analysis, or a physician on medical rounds could perform clinical calculations.

The developers suggest

Third Party Products to be Displayed on HP's Web Site-- Developers Register on the Web

Hewlett-Packard's Web Site will soon be an important source of information on third party products for the palmtop. For this to be organized, HP invites developers to register their product information, and this will become available on the site. Developers themselves can update the information. To register a product go to:

<http://www.hp.com/handheld>

and click into "For Developers Only."

Users check this site for product information.

applications in business, medicine and field research.

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SALES

Pocket Merchandiser for Sales Reps

From the United Kingdom comes Pocket Merchandiser, a palmtop program for data collection by a mobile sales force.

On a desktop comput-

er, computer administrators can design a database and screen layouts for use on the palmtop. These are automatically configured for transfer to the palmtop. The program comes complete with communications software and proprietary e-mail. Users dial up the central system and upload information into a Microsoft Access Database. Free demo disks are available upon request.

Pricing: Varies
CONTACT: CM Software, 1 Abbey Street, Eynsham, Oxford, OX8 1HP, UNITED KINGDOM; Phone: 44 (0)1865 881878; Fax: 44 (0)1865 881844; E-mail: cm_software@compuserve.com

PC Carbook on HP Palmtops Gives Dealers Access to Critical Data

Chrome Data Corporation announces that their software for pricing and "spec"ing new and used cars can now be linked with the 200LX, allowing automotive dealers to use the program where their customers do business. PC Carbook is part of the company's business-to-business auto dealership sales program, a service available at an annual subscription fee of \$125 (in addition to the cost of the palmtop).

CONTACT: Jack Rubinger, Chrome Data Corporation, 524 Main Street, Oregon City, OR 97045, USA; Phone: 800-936-8906.

MISC.

Car Calculator 2.0 Computes Leasing Costs

This program serves as a user's guide to car leasing mathematics, providing

both the concepts and the calculation capabilities. It calculates such things as the total cost of a lease and how it compares with financing a car. Users are provided with answers to common questions, such as whether or not leasing is advisable if you plan to use the car more than 3 years or write it off as a business expense.

Pricing: \$29.95 in Canada plus shipping; \$25.00 for product and shipping in USA.

CONTACT: OrangeSoft, P.O. Box 33518, 1277 York Mills Rd., North York, ON M3A 1Z5, Canada; Phone: 416-441-0297.

REFERENCE

HarperCollins Electronic Dictionaries

HarperCollins Electronic Reference Department of the United Kingdom provides dictionaries that run in DOS 3.1 or higher. There is Collins English Dictionary and Thesaurus, ver. 1.5, requiring close to 10MB of memory on a flashcard. It provides definition searches, wildcard searches, pronunciation and etymology. The program can be run from System Manager. Pricing: 25.52 pounds sterling plus tax and shipping.

(Editor's note: this is the same dictionary sold by Word Perfect as "Websters" that we've reviewed and recommended previously.)

Their bilingual dictionaries cover English with either French, German, Spanish, or Italian. They require 2MB of free hard disk space. There are two types: Collins Series 100, ver1.1a, containing 75,000 references, and Collins On-Line v. 2.20 containing

40,000 references. The latter includes two non-English pairs such as French to German or French to Spanish. Pricing: 35.52 pounds sterling each plus tax and shipping.

All programs come with documentation and help functions.

Demo versions of the bilingual dictionary products can be downloaded from CompuServe's Foreign Language Forum FLEFO. The files are called COL2 and S100.

CONTACT: HarperCollins Electronic Reference, 14 Steep Lane, Findon, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 0UF, UNITED KINGDOM; Phone: 44-(0)1903-873-555; Fax: 44-(0)1903-873-633; E-mail: 100317.1372@compuserve.com

COMMUNICATIONS

WIRELESS

New 2-Way Wireless Service Launched by LocusOne Communications

LocusOne Communications wireless service provides e-mail, faxing, and phone call tracking, using PC card radio modem technology. The service is available in major cities in the US.

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Customers using a OneTrac 800 number will see calls and faxes displayed by name and number on their palmtop. Routing of

calls can be changed on the palmtop.

Pricing: \$35/month basic service, includes 75,000 characters and personal 800 number.

CONTACT: LocusOne Communications, 800-675-6287. E-mail: info@locusone.net; Web: http://www.locusone.net

FREWARE & SHAREWARE

UTILITY

New Version of Buddy Released for 100/200LX

Like its previous releases, Buddy version 3 adds dozens of features and key-stroke shortcuts to the built-in applications on the 100/200LX.

According to the program's author, Jeffrey Mattox, the major enhancement of the Buddy update is additional support for multiple macro files and macro chaining.

At any time users can command Buddy to load and scan 37 different macro files. Three sets of macrolabels are automatically saved (instead of one) for three different macro files.

After executing a macro, Buddy will automatically chain to the next macro if the macro label ends with a plus sign.

Buddy displays power-source, main battery voltage, battery usage time, and the serial port status on the Application Manager's icon screen.

A smaller, DOS-only version of Buddy is available to registered users.

Pricing: \$40 registration fee, upgrade

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continued on page 41

USED PALMTOPS WANTED

Do you have a Palmtop You No Longer Use? We'll buy it ... even if it's broken!

Thaddeus Computing (that's us) can always use extra palmtops for various projects. If you want to mail in your Palmtop equipment and manuals to us, here is what we will pay.

Palmtop in good working order and good shape:*

HP 95LX (with manuals): \$ 55	Broken Palmtop*
HP 100LX (with manuals): \$75	Broken 95LX (with manuals): \$25
HP 200LX (with manuals): \$100	Broken 100LX (with manuals): \$35
	Broken 200LX (with manuals): \$35

* Without manuals: HP 95LX subtract \$5; HP 100LX or 200LX subtract \$10. We'll adjust the price if equipment works but has some significant damage.

Accessories

HP Connectivity Pack with cable and manual:

HP100 or 200LX: \$15; HP95LX: \$5

Uncompressed Flash and SRAM cards:

\$7.50 per megabyte (eg 40 Meg=\$300)

Modem cards, cables, software, chargers, other items: we'll look things over, but we may not be able to offer much. We'll adjust price as appropriate if accessories come without manuals, or if other items are missing.

Send equipment to: HP Palmtop Used Equipment, Thaddeus Computing, 110 N. Court, Fairfield, IA 52556, USA. Include a note mentioning this offer with your phone and fax number. If you need to talk with us, you may call, 515-472-6330. You will receive reimbursement within three weeks after we receive the equipment.

Offer good March 1 - June 1, 1997

fee: no charge

Type: Shareware

Location: CompuServe HPHAND Forum, Library 11; Web: <http://www.buddy.com>; May/June HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK. Or write Jeffrey Mattox, The Buddy System, LLC, P.O. Box 45282, Madison, WI 53744-5282. E-mail: info@buddy.com

GAMES

Familiar Pac Man Face Appears in Arcade Game

PAC.ZIP is a classic arcade game, now written for the palmtop. Use the 2,4,6,8 keys to move the

face. Shareware.

May/June HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK
or Web: <http://home.hkstar.com/~tterence/>

MISC

LUNCH102.ZIP ■ Pocket Launcher

With Pocket Launcher ver. 1.02 you can execute as many EXE, GDB, NDB, and other files as you want to from within System Manager (though not at the same time.)

HP PALMTOP USER GROUPS

Those interested in participating in an HP Palmtop users group should contact the following individuals. Send us contact information formatted as below if you wish to be added as a contact for a users group in your area. Some of the individuals listed offer Palmtop advice but may not be organizing an official users group.

HP Palmtop Worldwide User Group News -- Send material about User Group activities to Conrad Cox at the San Francisco, CA USA User Group; E-mail: 76164.467@compuserve.com; Web: <http://ccnet.com/~cdcox>

ARGENTINA -- Buenos Aires: Miguel Angel Misseri; E-mail: 73070.3665@compuserve.com. **Cordoba:** Paul Nani; Phone: 54-51-715649; E-mail: pnani@si.cordoba.com.ar

AUSTRALIA -- Dr. Barry Collins, c/o Forensic Science Center, Phone: 08-8226-7700; E-mail: collib@atom.forensic.sa.gov.au

AUSTRIA -- Ulrich Hoesch; hoesch@hpclub.or.at

BRAZIL -- Marcos L. Pedroza; Phone: 55 84 211 6162; E-mail: mpedroza@summer.com.br

DENMARK -- Jesper E. Søig; Phone: 45 49 15 60 42; Fax: 45 49 16 10 01; E-mail: 100660.3503@compuserve.com; Web: <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Sii/g/hug.htm>

EGYPT -- Mohamed Farag Ahmed; Phone: 20-344-9680; Fax: 20-2-344-9680; E-mail: [mhamed@asme.org](mailto:mahmed@asme.org)

FRANCE -- Olivier Della Valle; Phone: (1) 43 53 95 67; E-mail: 101533.160@compuserve.com

GERMANY -- Eckart Prinz; Phone/Fax: +49 6151 370605.

GERMANY / LUXEMBOURG -- Gilles Kohl; E-mail: 100114.3146@compuserve.com; Phone: +49 721 69 36 55 (after 6 p.m. Central European time).

GREECE -- Athens: Stavros D. Zacharakos; Phone: (+3 01) 8050041; Mobile Phone: (+3) 093 254 717 24hrs.; Fax: (+3 01) 8050041...**Galatsi:** John Tatsiramos, c/o TAFARM, Phone: (01) 29.17.401; Fax: (01) 29.28.174.

HUNGARY -- Zoltan Matok, ORbitRADE Hungary Ltd.; E-mail: zmatok@orbitrade.alba.hu; Phone: 36 22 327 687; Fax: 36 22 327 784.

HOLLAND/BELGIUM -- Mister G. Dongs; Phone: +31 75 6 704205; E-mail: 74064.173@compuserve.com

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Dirk H. Eversbert, c/o P.T. Austindo Mitratama, Mr. Elman Sunarjo, Jl. Gunung Sahari 2/6E, Jakarta 10610, INDONESIA.

ITALY -- Stefano Gigli; Phone: 071 36845 or 071 200916; Fax: 071 200916; E-mail: sigili@mbox.vol.it

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SINGAPORE -- Chaikin Koon; 334-B King George's Avenue, SINGAPORE 208571; E-mail: chaikin@pacific.net.sg

SWEDEN -- Kent Illemann; E-mail: Kent.Illemann@eca.ericsson.se; or 100775.2027@compuserve.com; Telephone/Fax: 08- 611 48 85; Also Thomas H., Phone: 46 (70) 5308970 or Phone/Fax: 46 (8) 7733740; E-mail: Thomas.Hult_n@mcyey.se (This is a 200LX group)

SWITZERLAND -- Alexander Gutfeldt; Landoltstrasse 28, CH-3007, Berne, SWITZERLAND; E-mail: 100527.2461@compuserve.com; or gutfeldt@msmail.advd.unibe.ch

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AZ—Phoenix and Tuscon -- Cory L. Curtis; Phone: 602-930-9661; Fax 602-930-8554; E-mail: 102010.632@compuserve.com or palmtop@starlink.com

CA—Los Angeles -- David Shier; Phone: 805-371-9391; Fax: 805-371-9391; E-mail: david@shier.com; Web site: <http://www.shier.com>

CA—San Diego -- Don Williams; Phone: 619-452-6267 or 619-546-8166; E-mail: donw@cts.com

CA—San Francisco -- Conrad Cox; E-mail: 76164.467@compuserve.com

CO—Denver -- Bill Hoeltgen; Phone: 303-933-0023; Fax: 303-971-0347

GA—Atlanta, —AK Avasti, Phone: 770-471-1389

KS—Manhattan -- Marietha Wilson; Phone: 913-532-9775

OH—Cleveland -- Craig de Fasselle, c/o MEM, Inc., 4702 East 355th St., Willoughby, OH 44094

MA—Boston -- Bryan Krauthamer; Phone: 617-374-9600 x 197 (work); Fax: 617-374-9620; CompuServe ID: [70444,41]

MI—Detroit -- Jeff Zorn; Phone: 313-489-1855 or Louis Peoples, St. Clair Shores, MI 48080; Phone: 313-777-9390

ME—Orono -- University Palmtop User's Group; E-mail: palmtop@tree.net; Web Site: <http://www.tree.net/palmtop>

MN—Minneapolis -- Beth Silverwater; Phone: 612-541-5631; Fax: 612-541-5636; E-mail: 73502.3645@compuserve.com

NJ/NY—New York -- Stanley Dobrowski; Phone: 201-807-5857 (work); E-mail: 76711.2302@compuserve.com

OK—Oklahoma City -- Richard B. Meek; Phone: 405-842-1267

SC—Charleston -- Ron Rivers, P.O. Box 31284, Charleston, SC 29417-1284; Phone: 800-864-8444; CompuServe ID: [75023,44]

TX—Houston -- Houston Area Palmtop Users Group; Phone: 713-777-0868; E-mail: horacek@iacp.net

VA—Richmond -- John Haskell; Phone: 804-288-6073 (work); E-mail: 70750.1243@compuserve.com

Washington, DC -- Rick Shaddock, c/o Computer Instructors Corporation, Phone: 703-486-2222; E-mail: rick@cicorp.com

WA—Bellevue -- Suzanne Ow; E-mail: suzanne_ow@hp.com

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Type: Freeware
Available on May/June HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK

LXPIC.ZIP version 3.5 Fast and Tiny Picture Viewer

LXPIC version 3.5 program by Stefan Peichl has nine updated enhancements including interlaced gifs and variable panning. The program displays color pictures in simulated shades of gray on monitors in B&W mode. It is specially designed for the HP Palmtops (95/100/200LX) but also runs on any desktop (EGA, VGA, CGA support). LXPIC processes graphical files including BMP, GIF, ICN and PCX files of any kind.

Type: Freeware
Location: CompuServe's HPHAND Forum, Library 11 and on <http://home.t-online.de/home/stefan.peichl/>

SEE ALSO USER-TO-USER ARTICLE
AND QUICK TIPS FOR MORE FREEWARE/SHAREWARE LISTINGS.

CONFERENCES

Utility Industry Hand-Held and PDA Forum Slated for St. Louis

The 3rd annual Utility Industry Hand-Held and PDA Forum will be held August 20-22, 1997, in St. Louis, Missouri, USA. Sponsored by World Market Strategies-PDA Inc., the forum gathers technology vendors, operations/administration executives, CIOs, and project managers representing electric, gas and telephone companies from around the world to discuss handhelds, PDAs and wireless

technology.

Agenda topics include sales automation, inspections, mobile GIS, field trouble call and work order management, mobile enterprise strategy, and others.

CONTACT: World Market Strategies-PDA, Inc., 4309 17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114, USA; Phone: 415-252-8008; Fax: 415-252-8055; E-mail: info@wmsltd.com; Web: <http://www.pda-expo.com>

Second Annual Forum for Hand-Held Computing in Healthcare

The Forum for Hand-Held Computing in Healthcare '97 will be held May 28-30, at the Royal Sonesta Hotel, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. See Mar/Apr 1997 issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper* for further

details.

CONTACT: World Market Strategies - PDA Inc., 309 17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114, USA; Phone: 415-252-8008; Fax: 415-252-8055; E-mail: info@wmsltd.com; Web: <http://www.pda-expo.com>

RESOURCES

Japanese Texts Available in USA

If you read Japanese, you can use reference texts by Hiroyuki Sekiya and Hirotaka Hamada, published by Softbank Corporation. *HP 100LX/200LX Bible* describes both built-in applications and freeware, and comes with floppy disks. *HP 200LX Software Bible* focuses on freeware/shareware. Also described are a large number of database files, including Raman Noodle Shops in Japan, Japanese flag signals, the meaning of flowers (e.g. romance, friendship, etc), and the qualities of 1,154 kinds of saki. A CD-ROM disk is included with the book.

(Note: there is no English translation in these books.)

The best way to order these texts outside of Japan is through Japanese book stores including those listed below.

CONTACT: Kinokuniya Book Stores of America, 1581 Webster St., San Francisco, CA 94115, USA; (415) 567-7625; OR Kinokuniya, 10 West 49th Street, New York, NY, 10020, USA; (212) 765-7625

OR
Asahiya Bookstores New York, 52 Vanderbilt Ave., New York, NY 10017, USA; Phone: 212-883-0011; Fax: 212-883-1011; E-mail: asahiyabook@tomio.com

EDITORIAL NOTE: If you have a product to list or recommend, please send information to—E-mail: carol_diegere@thaddeus.com; Fax: 515-472-8409.

The HP 320LX - First Hands-On Impressions

Tom shares his initial reactions (both good and bad) to HP's new 320LX Palmtop PC, and to Microsoft's Windows CE operating system

by Tom Gibson

I have been anxiously awaiting the HP 320LX palmtop PC since the Fall COMDEX show, and now it is finally here. After waiting for Hal Goldstein and the rest of the publishing staff here at *The HP Palmtop Paper* to play with it for a couple of days, I am finally getting my hot little hands on it.

Our pre-release HP 320LX palmtop PC came with an AC adapter that has fold-down prongs to make it more compact; a serial cable to connect the HP 320LX to another computer, printer or modem; the Microsoft Handheld PC User's Guide; and a CD that contains Microsoft's Windows CE desktop software.

Neither the HP 320LX nor the CD that we received are final versions. The CD that will eventually be shipped with the HP 300/320LX will contain software that will convert the 100/200LX, OmniGo 100/120 (and OmniGo 700LX) Appointment Book to the Windows CE Calendar format, and the 100/200LX, OmniGo 100/120 (and OmniGo 700LX) Phone Book to

Windows CE Contacts format. There will also be a number of free trial software packages from developers.

The CD also contains all of the software you need to connect and synch your Handheld PC with your Desktop PC (running either Windows 95 or Windows NT 4.0), as well as the software to convert your desktop Word and Excel documents and workbooks to the native format for Pocket Word and Pocket Excel.

The HP 320LX will also come with a docking cradle that has an AC adaptor and serial connection built-in. However, we were not able to get a docking cradle in time for this article, as they are still in pre-production.

Size and weight

On first examination, I notice that the HP 320LX palmtop PC is slightly larger than the 200LX — about an inch longer and maybe an eighth of an inch or so wider. (See Photo 1.) There is virtually no dif-



ference in the thickness, but the HP 320LX is heavier than the 200LX. (The HP 320LX is 16.1 ounces, whereas the 200LX weighs 10.4 ounces.)

The HP 320LX has the familiar clamshell case, with nicely rounded corners, giving it a sleek look. The latch holding the HP 320LX closed is now a plastic, raised button that is narrower, but longer, than the latch on the 200LX, and is also located in the center of the lid.

On the right edge of the front of the unit is the pen slot. Looking over the HP 320LX before opening the top, I notice that there is a PCMCIA slot on the left side, same as on the HP 200LX. But the release for the PCMCIA card is on the back, and is a push-in button, as contrasted with the sliding latch on the HP 200LX.

I like the location (and type) of the PCMCIA card release better than the slide on the front of the 200LX, as it seems much easier to use. The button appears to be made so that it won't break off with overuse or aggressive use.



Photo 1. The 200LX on the top, with the new HP 320LX on the bottom.



Photo 2. The bottom of the HP 320LX, with the covers for the main battery, backup battery and ROM removed. (The cover for the compact flash is on the left.)

AC adapter and serial port

The AC adapter's plug (which pushes into the palmtop) is smaller, the post being less than half the width of the plug on the 200LX, and is located on the back of the machine, along with the serial port. The serial port is not the old 10-pin style we are all familiar with, but instead, looks like a miniature Centronics connector for a parallel printer.

When the included serial cable's connector is seating correct-

ly, you can not only hear an audible click, but can also feel it. This redesign of the serial port should put an end to all of those bent pins we experienced when plugging in the serial cable upside down on the HP 200LX.

The locations of the AC adapter plug and serial port were designed to facilitate the use of the docking station. But they are also an improvement over the right side location on the 200LX, as the two cables won't interfere with the use of the machine, and will also get

rid of the permanent bend that many of us have on our 200LX serial cable.

Two card slots

On the right side of the unit is the infrared port. Next to this is a covered compartment for a Compact Flash PCMCIA card. The cover slides out, revealing the actual slot. This means that users can have a PCMCIA modem attached in the full-sized PCMCIA slot, and still have a compact flash card available for storage.

On the bottom of the HP 320LX there are three different covers. (See Photo 2.) The main battery compartment (containing two "AA" batteries) is at the back of the machine, and has a cover that is approximately an inch shorter than the 200LX's battery cover. This will probably help keep at least one of the batteries in if the machine is dropped and the battery cover flies off.

There is also a compartment which contains the coin backup battery, as well as a red reset button. Immediately to the right of the backup battery compartment is the speaker. The remaining compartment, located on the front center of the bottom, is for upgrading ROM.

Altogether, the look of the machine is very pleasing, with its sleek rounded edges, and I have no problem putting the HP 320LX into either my shirt pocket, pants or jacket pocket. I can feel the weight difference (compared with the 200LX), but it is not drastic enough to tear my shirt pocket off.

Looking inside

Now it's time to open the cover and take a look inside! There are many differences on the inside, most striking at first glance being the generous size of the screen. The display is a full 6-1/8 inches wide,



Photo 3. The 200LX on the left, with the new HP 320LX on the right.

and 2-3/8 inches tall. This contrasts with 4-13/16 inches wide, and 1-7/8 inches high for the 200LX display.

The image seems to extend almost to the edges, which gives the impression that the screen is even bigger than it is.

The next thing I noticed was the size of the keys, and the lack of a few keys that I am used to seeing, as well as the addition of two new keys. (See Photo 3.) The keyboard keys are much more generous in size than those on the 200LX, although the spacing between the keys is about the same. The keys are rounded on the front, and the back of each key is higher than the front.

There is no ON/OFF key. To turn the unit on, you press the right side of the space bar. To turn it off, you press the **[Fn]** key and at the same time press the right side of the space bar.

There are no function keys (F1 through F10) on the HP 320LX, and no separate numeric keypad. There are two new keys on the keyboard: the special "Windows key," and the "back light button," (which is just to the left of the space bar).

The keyboard seems to be much easier to touch type on. However, I am still a four-finger typist, (sometimes going to six fingers, if I'm feeling especially good),

so I will have to rely on others here to tell me about the touch-typing capabilities. Carol de Geire, Associate Editor, (and a very fast touch typist) says that she is able to type much faster on the HP 320LX keyboard than on the 200LX, and that it lends itself much more to setting on a table and touch typing

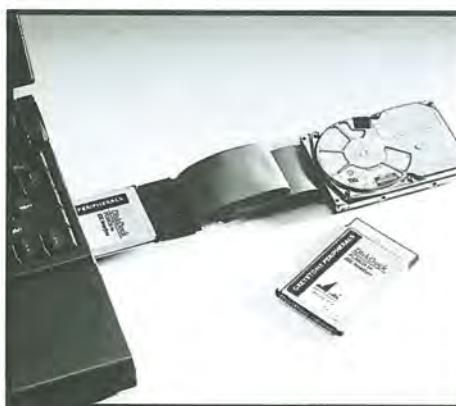


Screen 1. The Windows CE Desktop. (Note: because our screen dump utility couldn't handle the HP 320LX's wider screen, the dumps in this article are from a narrower, 480 pixel-wide Windows CE Handheld PC.)

than the 200LX does. This seems to be the general consensus of everyone here at Thaddeus Computing.

Getting started

Well, now it's time to turn it on! When the HP 320LX palmtop PC starts up for the very first time, you are given the opportunity to put in the owner information, date and time, and calibrate the pen, and then it's time to try the machine



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The HP 300/320 LX Palmtop PCs: Specifications

Features	(104 F) maximum.
HP 300LX (2-MB RAM) (#F1220A, \$499.00)	
HP 320LX (Backlit, 4-MB RAM, CompactFlash Card Slot) (#F1221A, \$699.00)	
Includes:	
Two AA and one CR2032 batteries	
CD-ROM (with additional software - see below)	
Synch cable (for connecting to your PC)	
Docking cradle (for added convenience in connectivity, included with HP 320LX only)	
Physical Specifications	
18.3 x 9.4 x 2.9 cm (7.2 x 3.67 x 1.1 in)	
442 g (15.6 oz) with batteries	
Memory	
2-MB RAM (HP 300LX)	
4-MB RAM (HP 320LX)	
5-MB ROM, upgradable	
High performance Hitachi SH-3 32-bit RISC CPU running at 44 MHz	
Display	
640 x 240 pixels (1/2 VGA)	
FSTN liquid crystal display with 4 gray scales	
Pen & Touch interface	
Backlight (HP 320LX only)	
Keyboard	
Well spaced QWERTY layout	
Input/Output	
Built-in serial interface for connecting to RS-232 devices	
Built-in infra-red transmitter/receiver (IrDA standard, 115K bps)	
PC Card Type II card slot (for adding memory or I/O cards)	
CompactFlash card slot (HP 320LX only)	
Audio Speaker	
Power	
Two 1.5V AA batteries (rechargeable NiCad optional)	
One 3V CR2032 coin cell backup battery	
Optional AC adapter F1218A : for powering and recharging	
Operating Requirements	
Operating temperature: 0 to 40 C (32 to 104 F)	
Storage Temperature: 0 to 60 C (32 to 140 F)	
Humidity: 90% relative humidity at 40 C	
Software Built into ROM	
Operating System	Microsoft Windows CE
Applications	Microsoft Pocket Word Microsoft Pocket Excel Tasks Calendar Contacts Calculator World Clock Terminal application (TTY, VT-100 emulation) Remote Networking (for connecting to remote access servers) Solitaire Direct printing from HP palmtop PC to HP PCL printers (from Pocket Word and Information Manager)
Additional Software Included Free	
H/PC Explorer version 1.1 (desktop PC software for connecting HP palmtop PC to PC), HP 100/200LX & HP OmniGo 100/120 translation software (for appointment book & phone book) FREE trial software from many software vendors included on CD-ROM	
Accessories from Hewlett-Packard	
HP CompactFlash Memory 2-MB & adapter for PC Card Slot (F1229A, \$99.99)	
4-MB & adapter for PC Card Slot (F1231A, \$149.00)	
HP AC Adapter (F1218A, \$29.99)	
HP Docking Cradle (included with HP 320LX) (F1224A, \$29.99)	
PC Synch Cable (included with both models)	
HP Leather Case (F1227A, \$69.00)	
Spare Pens (pack of 3: F1225A, \$9.99)	
<i>Information in this sidebar Copyright Hewlett-Packard Company, 1997, and courtesy of HP's Handheld Home Page: http://hpcc920.external.hp.com/handheld/palmtops/product_info/new_prdt1.html</i>	

out and play a little.

Like all Microsoft Windows operating systems, Windows CE allows you to adapt, or personalize, the look and feel of the machine. (See Screen 1.) This is a very intelligent decision on Microsoft's part, as you really

make it your own and begin to feel a real companionship with the machine by molding it to suit your personality.

There are eight different background schemes built into the HP 320LX palmtop PC, and other schemes can be added by the user

later, since the background schemes are bitmap images. For instance, I could scan a picture of myself and save it as a bitmap, then transfer it to the HP 320LX, and my smiling face would then be the background for the Desktop. The HP 320LX lets you choose whether or not the owner's page will be shown every time the unit is turned on. (Contrasted with this, if you left an application open when you shut off a 100/200LX, the owner's page will never appear first when the unit is turned on.)

Built-in applications

The HP 320LX palmtop PC comes stock with Microsoft Pocket Excel, (a version of the popular Windows spreadsheet /database application); Microsoft Pocket Word, (a version of the popular Windows word processing application); Calendar, (an appointment book application); Contacts, (similar to the Phone Book application on the 100/200LX); Tasks, (a ToDo list which can also be accessed from the Calendar application); Microsoft Pocket Internet Explorer, (a Windows CE version of the popular Microsoft Internet Explorer); a Recycle Bin, (where all the stuff we delete goes); and an Inbox for e-mail.

Additionally, there are two things that should be familiar to the users of Windows 95: My Handheld PC, which is the same as the My Computer Icon, and the Start Button, where all of the applications and files are registered and the programs can all be run from.

The HP 300/320LX also comes with a simple Calculator (not HPCalc), a World Clock, Terminal application (TTY, VT-100 emulation), Remote Networking (for connecting to remote access servers), Solitaire, and the capability of printing directly from the HP 320LX to HP PCL printers from Pocket Word and Information Manager.

	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
2	Fairfield Country Club	Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3	Front 9	Par	4	5	4	3	4	3	3	4	5
4	Tom Gibson		4	4	4	3	5	4	4	5	5
5											
6											
7											
8											
9											

Screen 2. Using the built-in "golf card" template in Pocket Excel.

Pocket Excel

Pocket Excel, which looks like its big brother, Excel for Windows, shows 9 columns by 7 rows on the HP 320LX. (See Screen 2.) Pocket Excel, however, has nowhere near the capabilities of the desktop version. The scaled down version can only read and write files in its native Pocket Excel format, as contrasted with the full Windows version, which can read and write in a wide variety of formats.

There are only four Menu Bar choices (File, Edit, Format and Tools), and eight Icons (New, Open, Save, Cut, Paste, Copy, Undo and Autosum.) There is also the (?) Help icon, and the (X) Exit icon.

The Format pull-down menu has an option for Cell, which can also be accessed with the shortcut key-combination of **[CTRL]+[1]**. This option allows you to change the cell formatting for the current cell (or range of cells), similar to the Range Format command in Lotus 1-2-3.

With other options you can change the vertical and horizontal alignment of the entries within the cells, select the font you want to use (along with the size and style of font), and select a border for the cell or range of cells. You can also change the row height, (or choose to hide the row), and change the column width (or hide a column from the Column Width option of the Format menu).

The Tools pull-down menu contains the GoTo option (also available by the hot-key combination of **[CTRL]+[G]**), which works the

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same as the Lotus 1-2-3 function GoTo **[F5]**.

Also available is the Insert option. This contains nearly 100 commonly-used Microsoft Excel functions, and also gives a short description of what the functions do. The functions, which are arranged in categories, include Financial, Date and Time, Math and Trig, Statistical, Lookup, Text, Logical and Informational.

Since the functions are arranged in categories, it makes it simpler than having to scroll through one long list looking for the function you need.

The next menu option under Tools is Define Name, (similar to the Lotus 1-2-3 Range Name menu selection), which allows you to add new range or cell names, delete ranges, and paste a listing of the range names and their cells.

The last option on the Tools

menu is Modify Sheets, which allows you to rename, insert, delete or move up or down in the sheet listing to any of the sheets contained in the open workbook.

Along the bottom of the Pocket Excel screen there are two selection boxes. The first is for selecting other sheets in the workbook, and the second allows you to find out information about cell ranges quickly, such as the Sum of the cells in the range, the Count of cells in the range that contain data, the Count of the cells that contain numbers, the minimum and maximum values in the range, and the average of the cells in the range.

There are no macros or database functions built into Pocket Excel, and many of the other features of the full Windows versions are missing, due to the size constraints of the amount of ROM, and the size of the HP 320LX itself.

Thaddeus Computing announces Handheld PC Magazine to support the new Windows CE Handhelds

Handheld PC Magazine is a bi-monthly Thaddeus Computing publication, due Mid-1997, exclusively for Windows CE handheld computer users. Subscription price is \$34.95 1 year, \$59.95 2 years. Each issue is crammed with tips, articles and reviews that focus on built-in software and third-party solutions. Autobiographies describe how professionals use their handheld PC's to solve everyday challenges.

Bonuses with subscription:

- **Annual Windows CE Buyer's Guide** - complete listing of known commercial Windows CE products plus best shareware and freeware
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75300.2443@compuserve.com or hal_goldstein@thaddeus.com

However, Pocket Excel is still a fairly usable spreadsheet application.

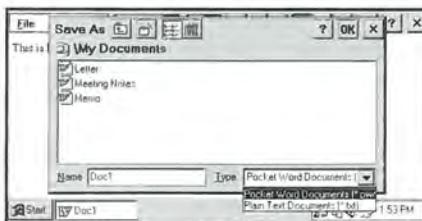
Pocket Word

Pocket Word is the little brother to Word for Windows. Like Pocket Excel, Pocket Word has nowhere near the capability of the desktop version.

There are the usual File, Edit and View pull-down menus; the font selector and size of font pull-down menu; buttons for Bold, Italics and Underline; buttons for Left, Right and Center justification,

and a button for bulletting text.

Pocket Word can read and write files in its native Pocket Word format, or in straight (ASCII) text. (See Screen 3.) The application comes with nine different fonts built in, so you can make your



Screen 3. Pocket Word can save documents in either its native format, or as ASCII text.

word processing documents look good.

If you're using HP's 300/320LX, you can print the documents directly from your palmtop PC to your printer. (With the other makes of handheld PCs, you have to transfer the document to the desktop, convert it to the desktop's version of Word, and then print from the desktop.)

You can view your Pocket Word documents in either Normal or Outline format, but the feature of Word for Windows that lets you preview how the document will look when printed ("Print Preview"), is not available.

There is no built-in spell checker, for those of us who have trouble spelling our names right. But again, with the limited size of ROM available, it is impossible to include this feature. This is another function that we will have to look to third parties for.

Pocket Internet Explorer (PIE)

The HP 300/320LX palmtop PC comes with Microsoft's Pocket Internet Explorer, version 1.1, built into ROM. (See Screen 4.) Being in ROM, we're saved from having to install the program into the precious 2- or 4-Megabytes of RAM that we are given for storage space, and for running the programs.

Version 1.1 has the latest features available for Pocket Internet Explorer, so you are able to connect to the Internet and browse to your favorite sites, or download software or documents to your Handheld PC. With the HP 320LX's built-in Compact Flash capabilities, you can have the space



Screen 4. Viewing Thaddeus Computing's Web page with Pocket Internet Explorer.

to do all of this, even while using a PCMCIA modem.

Calendar

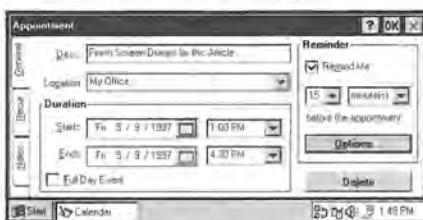
The Calendar on the HP 320LX has a decent look, although it shows only a nine-hour block at a time. (See Screen 5.) (The 200LX shows more time slots.) There is a calendar (to the right of the appointments) which shows six weeks at a time. This calendar is "hot," meaning you can tap on a day, or use the arrows on either side of the date and month to scroll through the months.

The current date is shown reversed in a football-shaped black field, and is circled. This lets you know at a glance what day the Calendar application is referring to, and you can use the right and left arrow keys to move, day-by-day, through the calendar.

Above the calendar is a scroll bar for Tasks, or ToDo's. You can start a new appointment by either tapping on the New Appointment icon, or on the time slot that you want to put the appointment into. The Appointment screen shows description, location, and duration of the appointment (with the beginning and ending dates and times), which allows you to have an appointment that spans more



Screen 5. In Calendar, nine one-hour blocks are shown.



Screen 6. The Appointment Screen in Calendar.

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than one day. (See Screen 6.)

There is a check box for Full Day Event, a Reminder section with a Remind Me check box (which is like the Alarm-Enabled check box on the HP 100/200LX), and lead time for the reminder, which can range from 0 minutes to 99 weeks.

There are options for choosing which alarm sounds will be related to a specific appointment, as well as the option to have messages interrupt you, regardless of which application you're in. The Recur tab on the Appointment screen lets you set the repeat options for the appointment (once, daily, weekly, monthly or yearly) and also set the date range for the repeat option.

There is also a Notes tab where notes for the appointment can be put. Looking at the Day or Weekly Calendar screen, you can tell which appointments have alarms, notes, locations and recurring options attached to them.

The Agenda view shows your appointments for the day (and all active tasks), and on most of the screens there is an icon for a pop-up date-picker calendar.

Tap on the Active Tasks bar and a drop down menu listing all

of the To Do's or Tasks is shown. When you select one of the Tasks, the Task screen pops up. Along the right border of the screen there are three tabs: General, Recur and Notes.

The General tab shows the task, the priority you have assigned to it, a project or category, and the start and end date of the task.

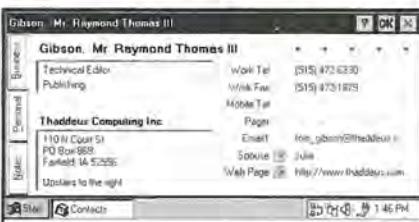
Although the Calendar application on the HP 320LX is similar to Appointment Book on the HP 100/200LX, it has many new features that are lacking on the 100/200LX.

Contacts

The Contacts application is the HP 300/320LX's Phone Book application. The default screen has tabs (i.e., buttons) down the left side of the screen so you can go to different groups of records ("cde," or "fgh," for instance) when the Contact file gets beyond the nine names that show on each screen.

There is a box at the top, Find Last Name, to help you find the person you are looking for. The main screen contains four fields

REVIEW: The HP 320LX palmtop PC



Screen 7. The Contacts entry screen.

which the user can switch around by using Options in the Tools pull-down menu.

The Menu bar has options for File Edit, Tools, and icons for New Record, Delete, Find, and Find Last Name, along with the standard Help and Close. The Contact database can be sorted on any one of the four fields chosen for display on the main contacts screen, simply by tapping on it.

The Contact entry screen consists of three pages for each record (business, personal, and notes). In addition to fields we're already used to, there are fields for Pager, Mobile Phone, three e-mail fields, Web Page Address, Spouse and Children, Birthday and Anniversary, Assistants Name and Number, Category, and More. (See Screen 7.)

Entering contact information is rather slick, with pop-up windows for all of the "parts" of a name. For example, my full name is Raymond

Thomas Gibson, III, and all four of these parts of my name can be entered as separate fields, along with a salutation (Mr.).

There are similar pop-up entry boxes for the Business, Home and Other address fields, giving abundant room to put street addresses and a scroll bar for the Country field.

This is a very nice version of a phone book application, and since all of this information can be accessed from other applications, it will make corresponding (via e-mail, for example) easy.

Other Goodies

The other built-in applications that come with the Windows CE operating system are a simple calculator (similar to the one that comes stock with Windows), World Clock, Remote Networking, the Inbox for e-mail, PC Link (for connecting to your Windows 95 or Windows NT Desktop PC), a Terminal dialer, and Solitaire.

The system has the usual Windows control panel, where most of the settings are made.

Conclusion

The HP 320LX palmtop PC is a very nice machine. It has the feel of a Hewlett-Packard product, and is solid and well manufactured.

HP has an advantage over the other manufacturers of Windows CE Handheld PCs, in that their units have a larger screen, the ability to print directly to HP PCL printers, and come with Pocket Internet Explorer version 1.1 built into ROM.

The units from the other manufacturers won't have these features until future versions of the Windows CE operating system are released.

The RAM is easy to replace and upgrade, (through its own

door on the machine). The backlighting feature is nice and is done very well, allowing me to play solitaire for a half hour in the dark without the unit timing out or draining the batteries dry.

In the few days I've had the HP 320LX palmtop PC, I've used it a lot, mostly on battery power, and the batteries that came in the unit (Duracell Alkaline) are still 7/8 full. HP has done a wonderful job by giving us a machine that is battery friendly.

I have a feeling that this machine will make many more people throw away those paper Day Timers and get with the rest of us and our handheld computers.

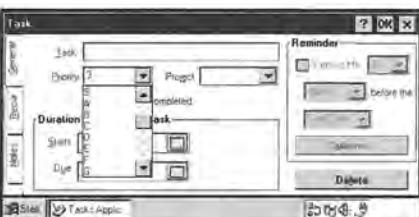
For a Version 1.0 release of anything, this is a very good start. The Windows CE operating system is still a baby, compared to many of the other systems that are out there.

There are many things that would be nice to have on this HP 320LX, like a real database application (similar to that on the HP100/200LX), where we can design our own databases. I'd also like to have a spell checker, (like the one on the desktop version of Microsoft Word), and HP Calc. There is a real need for third-party vendors to come up with solutions that are not addressed by the core applications.

The HP 300/320LX palmtop PC and the Windows CE operating system are not for everyone, but they will satisfy the needs for many desktop computer users, especially those whose first computer was a Windows 95 machine.

[Editor's Note: Hewlett-Packard will officially announce the release of the HP 300/320 LX palmtop PCs during the third week of May. The units will be available from the same sources that carry the 200LX (including a number of HP Palmtop Paper advertisers).]

[Tom Gibson is Technical Editor at The HP Palmtop Paper.]



Screen 8. This is the Task application, which is similar to ToDo on the 100/200LX.



Screen 9. Setting the Time Zone in World Time

Veterinarian Tracks Horse and Cattle-care Using Her HP Palmtop on Farm Calls

With HP Palmtop in her holster and printer in her van, this veterinarian tracks the medical needs of 3,000 animals. She communicates with colleagues using WyndMail and uses the palmtop to support all aspects of her practice.

By Dr. Jean F. Feldman

When I first purchased my 95 LX in 1992 I was clueless about computers. I am a veterinarian for large animals, which means I work with horses, cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and llamas. I was looking for a very portable method of computerizing my practice and at the time a software company called DVM Manager was the only source for a veterinary program that I could use right on the farm. Their package included a 95LX, a Sparcom transfer station and a card reader made by DataBook. I purchased a personal computer to run the main program. To solve some problems I was having running the program on a 95LX I quickly upgraded to a 100LX palmtop.



I make farm calls all day, carrying my palmtop in a holster. The palmtop hangs just below my left shoulder slightly above my waist. If my patient moves while I am handling it or pushes me into a wall my left arm takes most of the pressure, protecting the computer.

How I use a palmtop in a barn

My 100LX travels with me as I make farm calls all day. It stores a scaled-down version of DVM's business program on a 20MB (stacked to 40MB) flash card. There are over 1,000 client records on the card (name, address, phone, barn location, etc.) with 3,000 or so animals and two years worth of med-

ical history on each.

I now carry my 100LX in a holster. This is much safer than in a pocket—over the years my palmtop has fallen out of and into, ...well, just about everything. Carrying a palmtop at my side is also superior to laying it down where cats or kids could play with it while I'm working in a barn.

As I discuss with a farmer an



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Jean F. Feldman is a practicing veterinarian living in Western New York State. She started a mobile, large animal veterinary practice in 1985, caring for horses, llamas, cattle, pigs, sheep and goats. Her undergraduate work was done at D'Youville College (BA in Biology) and her DVM degree was conferred by Cornell University. She can be reached at DrJeanF@aol.com

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animal's medical history and perform a physical exam, I enter findings in my palmtop. The alternative would be to try to recall 20 animals' heart rates, temperatures, etc., at the end of the day or use a dictation device and have to spend time transcribing later. I prefer creating palmtop records on the spot, which I then upload at night.

In general, typing with two thumbs hasn't been too difficult even in a cold barn, although when it's really cold (like 10 degrees F) the screen on the palmtop will darken.

After examining all the animals in one location, I go to my mini-van and place the 100LX in a Sparcom cradle that connects the unit to a power source (wired from the fuse box just like my car phone) and to a Kodak Diconix printer. With one keystroke I am able to print out a bill and hand it to the farmer.

Thanks to my palmtop, ques-

tions about an animal's past history can be answered while standing in the barn talking to the owner instead of looking through volumes of paper (See Screen 1 on page 22.) Right on the spot I can tell an owner when future vaccinations or treatments are due. Since the area in which I practice is a rabies endemic area, clients are very interested in having proof of rabies vaccination (for liability reasons they need the certificate to enter their horse in a show) so I print that before I leave. This is far less painful than hand-writing multiple certificates at the end of the visit and it enhances my professional image.

Securing data while I sleep

At night, I upload data from the business program and closeout on my 486 IBM (client and animal records are "updated" and not written over). Once a week I download

from the main computer so client balances and reminders remain relatively current. This takes about 3.5 hours and goes on while I sleep.

I really don't worry much about data security as far as the 100LX is concerned. Worst case scenario would be total loss of the flash card and palmtop, but since all new data is uploaded every night and backed up using a tape drive, I might lose one day's work at the most. That is probably better than losing control of an entire paper record on a windy day and running across lawns and fields chasing pieces of paper. Now, a printed copy of the animal's history is safely stored at the office!

Horse-For-Sale database and the palmtop built-ins

I have gradually started to use built-in programs for scheduling and todos (I try to reconcile the cal-

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America Online—(see On-Line Support information on the back index page of this issue.)

Databook Card Drive—Databook internal and external drives are now manufactured by Karby Corp. and have various prices. Karby Corp., 10 Alder Bush, Rochester, NY 14624, USA; Phone: 716-889-4204; Fax: 716-889-2593; E-mail: karby@vivanet.com; Web: <http://www.karby.com>. Or available from Envoy Data, Essex Portable, PalmTree Products, and All Pioneer Standard Electronics Sales Offices.

DVM Manager (veterinary software)
DVM Manager, 200 Frankfort Street, Versailles, KY 40383, USA; Phone: 1-800-827-2243.

E-Texts: The Harvester; The Island of Dr. Moreau—part of the Gutenberg Project collection of public domain literature in electronic form. Available on the 1997 HP Palmtop Paper CD InfoBase.

Holster—Pocket Liberator from Opus 63. Phone: 718-706-6787; Fax: 718-706-7034; Web: <http://www.opus63.com>

Kodak Diconix printer—Discontinued by manufacturer.

Playlx—See: MUSIC-LX.EXE on the 1997 HP Palmtop Paper CD InfoBase, which contains PLAYLX and a collection of music files that let you play music. Tunes run the gamut from the Star Wars theme to Bach and Chopin. Works on the HP 95LX as well as 100/200. Freeware. (See also PlayEX, a similar program which enhances the alarm function of the System Manager to play music. Freeware. Available on the Jan/Feb 1997 HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK. and Web: <http://www.thaddeus.com>)

Sparcom cradle, (a docking station called SmartDock)—\$99.95. Contact: da Vinci Technology Group, Inc., USA; Phone: 541-757-8416; Fax: 541-753-7821; Web: <http://www.sparcom.com>

Vertical Reader—(VR 100) Software for reading text vertically on the palmtop screen. Shareware. Available on Best Tips 1997 HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK and CompuServe HPHAND Forum, Library 11.

WyndMail—For wireless communications. Wynd Communications, USA; Phone: 800-549-2600; Fax: 800-549-6001.

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endar in the office with the palmtop at least daily). I use the ToDo list extensively to remind me to mail lab samples, do follow-up phone calls to owners of sick animals and generally keep me from forgetting the numerous details of daily living.

When conversing with my clients, I often hear of horses for sale or of their purchasing interests. Until I created a horse database in my palmtop, I would forget details once I left the farm. Now I can quickly answer clients questions in that regard pretty easily, using the Database search function.

(See Screen 2 on page 22.)

Memo is handy for mobile professionals

I am using Memo more and more. Last year I didn't write any Christmas letters, but this year I typed them returning from the annual American Association of Equine Practitioners Conference in Denver. They were printed right off the palmtop using a HP Desk 340 (a recent purchase as a backup for the Kodak Diconix). This article

Dr. Jean F. Feldman
History for Gay
01/29/97

Page 1

Date: 07/15/96 Doctor: Jean F. Feldman, DVM
HC to Ancaster Exchange, T=100, Tape=9161bs,
International Health Cert.

Date: 05/30/96 Doctor: Jean F. Feldman, DVM
ultrasound lf; small (.10cm³) area roughed
tendon lf

Date: 05/22/96 Doctor: Jean F. Feldman, DVM
HC To Northwest PA All Arab Show
phf50020a, T=100.4 lf foot longer than
right, area over mid-cannon where may have

Screen 1: DVM software holds my medical history records for each animal I examine. When I have finished with one animal, I merely close its history and go on to the next. This process can be accomplished from the "transaction screen," so when all of an owner's animals have been examined and treated, I know the cost.

Database: HORSE Data Item 01/29/97 2:07 a
Owner Schaeffer, Darlene Phone 649-4802
Name(animal) Missy

Breed TB Age 09 Sex M Color Chestnut
Uses
 Trail Western
 Show English

Buy/Sell
 Wants to Buy
 For Sale

Notes lower level dressage horse

Help Add Note Find Clip Prev Next Cancel Done

Screen 2: As a free service, I maintain a horse database, which includes names and phone numbers of clients wanting to either buy or sell a horse. I also indicate what talents the horse has and whether it is good for showing, trail riding or for being ridden by a child.

was written in Memo while waiting for my clinic van to be fixed.

service.

WyndMail e-mail saved me headaches at a conference

One of the tough parts about trying to get away from the Buffalo, New York area is having coverage for client emergencies when I am gone. I read the articles in the *HP Palmtop Paper* about wireless communication and elected to try "WyndMail" when I went to Denver (the colleague who covers is on the Internet). It worked well. I could check my messages at the conference center instead of waiting to get them at my hotel at night or checking for notes on a crowded bulletin board at the conference. I was also able to call my aunt and advise her that my return flight was late using the "text to speech" service. I intend to keep both the modem and the

NoteTaker stores small files for large purposes

After reading through several issues of the *HP Palmtop Paper* I figured out that small files need to be kept on NoteTaker. I use it to log hours for my volunteer work with Compeer, an organization that supports individuals recovering from mental problems. (Volunteers and their "compeer" do things together as friends, such as go out to dinner or a movie.) My shopping list is in NoteTaker (even vets have to eat) as well as specific files for drug dosage regimens and a list of Web sites I plan to check out.

Quiet moments on the farm with Vertical Reader

I use America Online Internet service and downloaded Vertical

Reader from the palmtop section there. So far I have read one book ("The Harvester" by Edgar Rice Burroughs) while waiting at the clients' farms if I am early or they are late. I just downloaded "The Island of Dr. Moreau," by H.G. Wells.

Making noise with the palmtop

At my conference, instead of having the hotel staff wake me in the morning, I used the alarm function of stopwatch to play "tiny trumpets" as my wake-up call.

In addition, Playlx is on the flash card. It impresses kids when I can get my palmtop to play music.

Future needs

One thing I would like to do is use Lotus 1-2-3 to keep track of the scheduled drugs I use. Since I am always adding stock, and subtracting from that stock it is a more difficult thing to do than it first appears.

Each bottle carries a number and the records need to reflect the ultimate disposition of each milliliter of drug. In addition, legally all records must be kept in printed form or they won't be recognized by the DEA. Suffice it to say, I'm working on that project.

With America Online, I want to use my access to the palmtop user area to evaluate some of the small medical programs there that use the HP calculator software to determine dosages.

The 100LX has enabled me to practice high quality veterinary medicine and, along with the other computerized aspects of my practice, increased income while limiting the need for an employee to handle records. It has been an integral part of my entrance into the "computer age." I count its purchase as one of the best business investments I've ever made.

Mechanical Engineer Helps Link Palmtop Community

In addition to using his 200LX for faxing, e-mail, spell checking, databases and viewing digital photographs, Mitch Hamm discusses his use of the Linux operating system.

By Mitch Hamm

I received my first Hewlett-Packard handheld for my 22nd birthday in the form of a HP15C programmable calculator. Eleven years later I still have a love affair with my latest HP, a 5-Mb 200LX with a 20-Mb flash disk. My HP goes everywhere with me, helps out in countless ways throughout my day, organizes my life, manages my finances, entertains and teaches me, introduces me to wonderful people the world over and keeps me in contact with home and office when I travel.

When traveling, I always have my HP either in the perfectly-sized outside zipper pocket of my Tumi briefcase or snug in its Ripoff case clipped to my belt. My modem of choice is a Megahertz XJACK PCMCIA data/fax cellular model due to its compact size and low price. I also have a backup Zoom, 14.4 Pocket modem with a custom-made 12-inch serial cable. I used to use the Zoom exclusively until I found out how convenient an XJACK can be. A friend and I built our cables from the bare-ended EduCALC cable and some Radio Shack 9-pin serial cable ends.

I use several different software packages to keep in touch with the outside world. acCIS is always ready on my palmtop to whisk me on and off of CompuServe so I can keep close tabs on the HPHAND

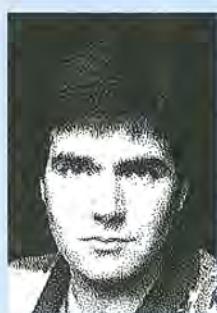
Forum or participate in software beta tests. My office has a fairly robust cc:Mail system in place so I use my palmtop, modem and cc:Mail to send and receive e-mail when I'm away from the office. For Internet e-mail, I use David Colston's NetTamer ; and for faxes, I use Anthony Mai's Quickstar Fax Pro . Finally, my newest toy is WWW/LX, which I use for cruising the Web and to access my home PC while away.

My desktop PC is a hub of worldwide palmtop activity

This brings me to my next big passion, the Linux operating system. Linux is a free UNIX clone for the Intel PC platform (and others) which has almost entirely replaced my home use of Microsoft Windows. I am constantly amazed at all I can do with Linux, and it has

given me the means to get even more involved with the worldwide palmtop community.

I use my Linux computer to host the HP Palmtop Mailing List which was born in early September 1996 and at the time of this writing has over 700 members from all over the world. Anyone interested in subscribing to the list should send an e-mail to majordomo@palmtop.net with "subscribe hplx" in the message body. I run the free majordomo mailing list software, which takes any question or comment e-mailed to the list and automatically resends it to the list's subscribers. My Linux machine also hosts the list's Web site at <http://www.palmtop.net/hplist.html>. I use programs called "Glimpse" and "Hypermail" to index e-mail and convert to HTML format every word in every e-mail message sent to the list so previous exchanges



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mitch Hamm is a native Kentuckian currently residing in West Chester, Ohio. He lives with his wife, Victoria, and hyper-intelligent cat, Tigger. He graduated from the University of Kentucky in 1987 with a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering. An admitted "technical junkie" who takes things apart to see how they work, he indulges in UK basketball, inline skating, woodworking, and bicycling. He is also the founder of "The Palmtop Network" (<http://www.palmtop.net>), an online resource for HP Palmtop users worldwide.

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The HP Palmtop Paper	The HP Palmtop Paper On Disk
100/200LX User's Guide	MicroRef DOS / 1-2-3 Manuals
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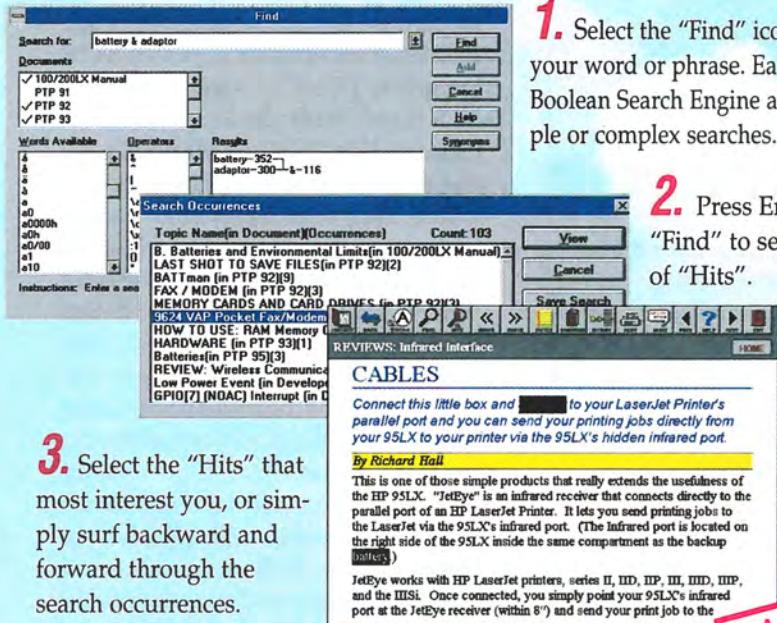
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3. Select the "Hits" that most interest you, or simply surf backward and forward through the search occurrences.

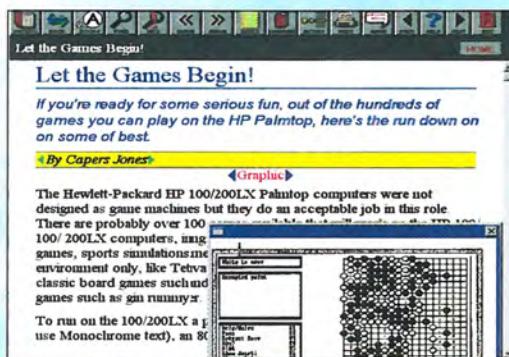
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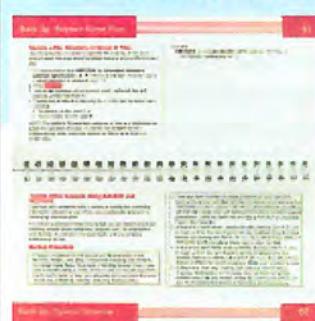
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can be retrieved at any time.

Linux is really just another UNIX operating system. Because of this, I can easily let other users access my system. My friends Jorgen Wallgren (Singapore), Tom Gibson (of *The HP Palmtop Paper*), Murray Barton (Western Australia), Peter Watkins (Washington, D.C.) and Jeff Davis (Indiana) all have accounts on my machine. They often drop in via telnet to "chat" with me from wherever they may be. My system actually acts as another Internet provider for some of my friends, since it provides telnet, ftp, file storage, Web space, mail, news and use of the powerful applications that reside on other UN*X systems. Jorgen, Murray and I have become fast friends due to our many common interests, and we are now working together to engineer an awesome Web site devoted to palmtops. The Web site is called "The Palmtop Network" and its home page can be reached at <http://www.palmtop.net>. It is a work in progress, but has become very popular with tens of thousands of accesses from around the world in only two months. It currently offers:

□ **S.U.P.E.R** — The Simply Unbeatable Palmtop Essentials Repository is a growing collection of the best palmtop software available. The S.U.P.E.R Team is comprised of Mitchell Hamm, Toshiki Sasabe (Tokyo), Jorgen Wallgren (Singapore), Peter Watkins (USA), and Rattipat Aramwatanapong (Thailand). Files are neatly ordered with good descriptions, screen shots where applicable, mail links to authors, versions, sizes and the date added. There is a good search engine to find exactly what you are looking for in palmtop software.

□ **Database Repository** — This is a collection of databases to use with the HP Palmtop and covering a myriad of topics. It is maintained by Murray Barton (Western Australia).

□ **Currency Conversion Macro Generator** — This page, created by Peter Watkins, allows you to update the currencies in your HP CALC application any time you need to. Rates for 69 currencies are updated daily and the page will build a custom macro for you with any combination of the listed currencies.

□ **Palmtop.Net.Store** — This page is home to hard-to-find items for the palmtop. The most popular item for now is a neat little clip-on flashlight that you can use with your palmtop in dim light.

I also use my Linux machine as a file server to access the Palmtop Paper's CD InfoBase in one of its eight CD-ROM drives. With this arrangement, I have access to all of the software on the InfoBase, including the Gutenberg texts. Since I can telnet to the system, I can access the information even while traveling. Since I can't run Windows applications on my Linux system, I use a program called Samba to export the InfoBase CD as a Windows for Workgroups "share". Then my Win95 machine can run the InfoBase's HyperWriter search engine and access the CD across my ethernet just like the disk was in its local CD drive.

Andreas Garzotto has written LXTOOLS , an excellent set of software tools for manipulating files between the palmtop and a machine running Linux. I can easily transfer files to and from my palmtop and can backup my palmtop drives to any disk on my home network. The LXTOOLS package contains lmdir, lxcopy, lxdel, lxrmdir and lxmkdir whose names define their function. To backup an entire drive to hard disk, I connect a serial cable between my palmtop and my computer running Linux and enter the command:

```
lxcopy -r a: /home/mitch/backup/hp/a
```

The -r switch in the above com-

mand line means "recursive" and causes all of the palmtop's subdirectories to be backed up. The path statement that follows -r tells lxcopy where to backup the files.

Favorite Win95 trick

I still use Windows, but only for a few things. I like Win95 because of its ability to intelligently manage PCMCIA devices. I have an SCM Swapbox PCMCIA drive installed in a hand-built desktop machine running Win95. The Swapbox uses one of the PCMCIA controllers that Win95 supports in enhanced mode. (I checked this out before I bought it). This means that most devices that you insert into the card slot (like modems, flash disks or network cards) will be recognized and automatically configured by the system.

I run Quicken 3 for Windows and the HP Connectivity Pack on the Win95 machine. Though all my Quicken transactions are entered on the palmtop, I periodically merge new transactions to a master Quicken file on the Win95 desktop to save space and to provide quick, detailed reporting. When it's time for a merge, I pop my palmtop's flash disk into the Swapbox, the disk gets recognized and mounted as drive F, and I merge right from my flash card to the desktop. It takes about 5 seconds.

The Swapbox also makes backups incredibly fast. I periodically backup my palmtop's C drive to my flash disk in the palmtop's card slot using Jorgen Wallgren's clever LXBatch-based backup utility (<ftp://ftp.palmtop.net/pub/lxbacup.zip>). All I have to do to backup the entire palmtop is slip the flash disk into the Swapbox card drive, and do a quick drag and drop in Windows Explorer. My entire 20 Mb card is copied to hard disk in about 40 seconds. If I want to get really fancy, I can map my Linux machine's Syquest EZ-Drive or Iomega Zip drive as a Win95 drive

and drop the files across the ethernet right to a cartridge. To do this, I open one Explorer window for my destination drive and one for my source drive (the flash disk). By right-clicking on the Task Bar and choosing "Tile Vertical," I get two side-by-side drive windows just like in good old File Manager. Finally I go to the source drive, do a "Select All" and then drop the selection set onto the destination drive.

Keeping data on the HP Palmtop

I keep a detailed record of all the gasoline fill-ups for my vehicle. I have fashioned a Lotus spreadsheet to handle this, with some help from Tom Gibson at *The HP Palmtop Paper* (<ftp://ftp.palmto p.net/pub/mileage.zip>). I have a Lotus macro that accepts new data, such as the date, location, amount spent, price per gallon and odometer mileage. The spreadsheet keeps a running tally of all sorts of numbers like average miles per gallon, total spent on fuel, average miles driven per day, etc. There is also a macro to view a graph of the mileage over time.

Since gas mileage is an excellent indicator of a vehicle's health, this lets me know when I need to spin some wrenches and correct problems before they get serious. All of my maintenance records are kept in a little GDB database so I will always know when it's oil change or tire rotation time.

I also have GDB databases for my book and CD collection, phone area codes, Internet domains and interesting sites, and even one for the members of the HP Mailing list with their pictures. iPeX , by Tsumori "Brahma" Masaki, is a brilliant program that will allow you to show PCX or ICN files inside your database files. By loading a small TSR, you can show a picture by including a simple code in your database or datacard templates.

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Lotus Organizer 2.1

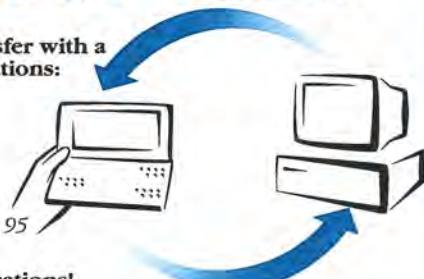
NetManage ECCO 3.03

Sidekick 95

*Sidekick for Windows 1.0, 2.0
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A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	
	\$1.24	= Average cost per gallon							
	16.8	= Average miles per gallon							
	1298	= Average miles per tank							
	16.8	= Average gallons per fill-up							
	24160	= Total miles travelled							
	1463	= Total gallons burned					ALT-Q	Fillup	
	\$1,800.95	= Total spent on fuel					ALT-A	Graph	
	583.7	= Average monthly fuel cost							
	\$0.675	= Fuel cost per mile							
	20.77	= Best fuel economy							
	13.9	= Worst fuel economy							
	36.88	= Average miles per day							
	13433	= Average miles per year							
	7.5	= Average days between fillups							
A	DATE	STATION	CITY	ST	QTY	#	PRICE	ODO	MPG
01/13/97	Shell	West Chester	OH	17.3	1.289	\$22.40	24160	14.8	
01/02/97	Shell	West Chester	OH	16.5	1.189	\$19.85	23993	19.6	
01/01/97	Shell	Carrollton	KY	16.8	1.269	\$20.35	23529	17.9	
12/30/96	Shell	Indianapolis	IN	16.1	1.299	\$21.00	23277	18.4	

This Lotus spreadsheet keeps track of fuel costs, miles driven per day, and miles per gallon.

Database: S10	All Database Items	01/13/97 7:56 pm
<p><u>Service</u></p> <p>Temperature door actu Oil Change Wiper Blades Brake Pads Clean and re-oil K&N Tonneau Cover Chassis Lubrication Oil Change Rotate tires Differential Lube Oil Change</p>		
<p>Service Performed: Oil Change</p> <hr/> <p> Date: 11/16/96 Mileage: 19866 Cost: \$19.18</p> <hr/> <p>Miles since last: 4945 4.5 qts Mobil 1 5W30 Fram PH3980</p> <p>(2/25)</p>		

Maintenance records are kept in another database.

Contact Information for products mentioned in this article

WWW/LX — World Wide Web browser for the HP Palmtop. D&A Software, Inc. Phone: 805-370-1088. E-mail: info@dasoft.com. On line: <http://www.dasoft.com>

acCIS — CompuServe access program designed for the HP Palmtop. Shier Systems & Software, Inc. Phone: 805-371-9391. FAX: 805-371-9454. On line: 64777.2477@compuserve.com

Software Carousel — Task switching enhancement for the HP Palmtop. Group 32 Corporation. Phone: 800-553-0400. FAX: 954-581-5902. On line: www/group32.com

SCM card drives — Pricing varies. SCM Microsystems, Inc., 131 Albright Way, Suite B, Los Gatos, CA 95030, USA; Phone 408-370-4888; FAX: 408-370-4880.

The American Heritage Dictionary — by WordScience Corporation. Out of print.

AutoMap for DOS — Out of print.

PC Globe — No longer available.

Shareware/freeware mentioned in this article

NetTamer — (N107-PT.ZIP) Suite of common Internet applications. Shareware. Available on Vol. 5, No. 6 issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK*. Also available at <http://people.delphi.com/davidcolston/>, and CompuServe's HPHAND Forum, Library 11.

Quickstar Fax Pro — (QFAX.ZIP) Fax with your Palmtop. Shareware. Available on Vol. 5, No. 6 issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK*. Also available at CompuServe HPHAND Forum, Library 9, and <ftp://ftp.palmtop.net/pub/qfax.zip>

LXTOOLS — Set of software tools for manipulating files between the palmtop and a machine running Linux. Freeware. Available on this issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK*. Also available at <ftp://ftp.dasoft.com/pub/MISC/lxtools.tgz>

IPeX — Allows you to show PCX or ICN files inside your database files. Freeware. Available on Vol. 6, No. 1 issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK*. Also available at <ftp://ftp.palmtop.net/pub/ipex112.zip>

MaxDOS — Allows you to run any program right from the System Manager. Freeware. Available on Vol. 6, No. 1 issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK*. Also available at <ftp://ftp.palmtop.net/pub/maxd03b.zip>

LOOKUP.BAT — A batch file that lets you launch a DOS program with input. Freeware. Available on this issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK*.

Linux — UNIX clone operating system for the Intel PC platform. Freeware. Available at <http://www.linux.org>

Majordomo — Mailing list software. Available at <http://www.greatcircle.com/majordomo/>

SKYGLB.ZIP — Planetarium program. Shareware. Available on the 1997 *HP Palmtop Paper's CD InfoBase*.

I have separate phone books for personal contacts, CompuServe dial-ups, business contacts, airlines, hotels, rental car companies, HP friends and even my company's interoffice directory. Finally, I keep the data needed to build all of my Web pages in other databases. When I need to make changes like adding a file to the S.U.P.E.R. Site, I do that on the palmtop and print the updated database to a delimited text file using a custom clip that orders my fields correctly. Then, I use LXTOOLS to move the files to my Linux machine where I process

Launching a DOS program with input

Some DOS programs can be launched with input. For example, you can launch some word processing programs and specify a text file to be loaded, all from the DOS prompt. The word processor starts, the text file is loaded automatically, and you're ready to start working. I wanted to be able to do this with The American Heritage Dictionary. Specifically, I wanted to start it with the word I wanted to look up and have it go right to it. One way to do this is to create a batch file that lets you input the word to be looked up and start the program. After some serious web-searching, I found a description of such a batch file in an old *PC Magazine* article.

One problem with the approach described in the article is that it uses an MS-DOS utility called FC.EXE. As most of you know, the palmtops don't come with a complete version of MS-DOS 5.0. I had to get FC.EXE from an old MS-DOS 5.0 distribution disk that I had. After making some adjustments to the original batch file, I came up with the following batch file, named LOOKUP.BAT. ☐

```
@echo off  
c:  
rem echo This will copy your input to the environment variable INPUT_  
echo American Heritage Dictionary - Definitions Plus!  
echo.  
echo Lay your righteous word on me...  
echo.  
fc con nul /lb1 /n l time l find " 1: "> setinput.bat  
echo.  
echo Working...  
echo @echo off> enter.bat  
echo set input_=%~4>> enter.bat  
call setinput  
del setinput.bat  
del enter.bat  
echo.  
echo Done!  
echo.  
echo The definition is.....  
a:  
cd\defplus  
def %input_%
```

I added a new item to AppManager, setting it up to run this batch file. I specified the "+" as its hot key. The program needs only 105K of RAM to run, so now when I need to look up a word like "inveigle" from a past "X-Files" episode, I open Application Manager, hit the "+" key and enter my word. In two seconds flat I know it means: "To lead astray or win over by flattery or deceiving."

them with a perl script. The perl script opens the text file and goes through line by line extracting the data and formatting it into a new Web page. The pages are generated automatically; I hate to write HTML by hand.

Not long ago, I found an old copy of The American Heritage Dictionary by WordScience corporation in a discount bin. Six years ago, it was a \$60 (U.S.) program that filled in for the lack of dictionary capabilities in the word processors of that time. I bought it for \$1.95 (U.S.) and found that it works great on the palmtop, but it really needs to be run from the DOS command prompt (see sidebar on page 28).

I have given up my use of Software Carousel since finding a great piece of Japanese software called MaxDOS which can run any program right from the System Manager. It does this by swapping your current session out to disk and giving you all available DOS memory for your application. Now I can run memory-hungry programs like PC Globe, language translators or astronomy software like Skyglobe. With my handy little flexible pocket flashlight clipped to the screen, I can star gaze and use Skyglobe as my reference tool.

Another great reference tool that's right at home in MaxDOS is an old copy of AutoMap for DOS. By configuring it for a black & white screen and dumping some of the unnecessary overlay files, I

Database: HPBASE		Data Item	01/13/97 8:08 pm
hp PALMTOP MAILING LIST			
Name	Hamm, Mitch		
Email	mitch@palmtop.net		
URL	http://www.palmtop.net		
City	West Chester		
State	Ohio		
Country	USA		
Profession	Mechanical Engineer		
<input type="button" value="Help"/> <input type="button" value="Add"/> <input type="button" value="Note"/> <input type="button" value="Find"/> <input type="button" value="Clip"/> <input type="button" value="Prev"/> <input type="button" value="Next"/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/> <input type="button" value="Done"/>			

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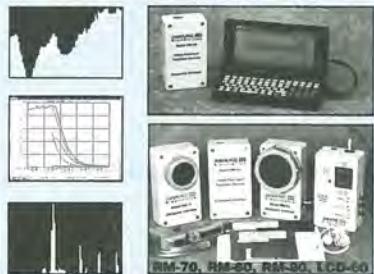
reduced the required disk space to a bit less than 3-MB. It's a bit slow on the 80186, taking about 45 seconds to figure a trip from Miami to Seattle, but it's definitely a "gee whiz" application to show the doubters in the crowd.

I could go on and on about the great applications and uses I've found for my 200LX, but you get the idea that it is an indispensable part of my life. Thanks, HP, for such a wonderful product and

thanks to the palmtop community in general for being so friendly, informative and interesting.

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Choosing the Correct Batteries for Your Palmtop

There are a number of types of batteries you can use in your palmtop. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each type?

By David Shier

There are literally dozens of things that we use every day that are at once both extremely simple and incredibly complicated. We rarely think about the complexities that allow us to press a few buttons on a telephone and talk to someone on the other side of the world. We turn the key to start our car's engine without a thought about the thousands of parts that make up today's fuel-injected wonders.

Then there are all the circuits that come to life each time we press the **ON** key of our little Palmtop computers. But batteries seem to take this paradox of simplicity and complexity to an extreme.

This is especially true of rechargeable batteries, which have chemistry which is so complex that there's no definitive information available to tell you exactly what takes place inside as you charge and discharge them.

Fortunately, we don't need to understand the chemistry in order to use batteries effectively. But, just as knowing a little about how your car works can help you get the most performance out of it, knowing a little about your batteries can help you get more performance out of your palmtop — especially when using high-power PC Cards.

Alkaline batteries

There are currently four types of batteries available for use in the HP Palmtops. Of course the most common are alkaline, which are very inexpensive to purchase, but are single use (primary cells.) That is, when they are drained, you just throw them away. The exception is the renewal rechargeable alkalines. However, these do not perform well in the palmtops due to their internal resistance (more on this subject later).

The Eveready Energizer Lithium L91

The second type of battery is the Eveready Energizer Lithium L91. These are the highest capacity AA cells available, but like alkalines, are single use. The Lithiums make great spare batteries since they

have about a 10-year shelf life, but they make poorer main batteries since they cost about four times the price of alkalines, and last only about three times longer.

NiCd and NiMH rechargeables

The third and fourth types of batteries are rechargeables: NiCd and NiMH. NiCd are more readily available and are recommended by HP, but have the lowest capacity of any of the types discussed here. NiMH have higher capacity, and although many people use them, you should note that they are not approved for use by HP.

Battery life

To help you understand battery life, we need to introduce some of batteries' characteristic parameters.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Shier is a former software engineer and marketing/sales director in the electronics industry. He is now President of Shier Systems & Software, Inc., and a principal in D&A Software, Inc. Together these companies develop and market products and applications for the palmtop computer market. David can be reached at: Phone: 805-371-9391; Fax: 805-371-9454; E-mail: david@shier.com; Web site: <http://www.shier.com>

Voltage is the parameter that is the most used, and the most misunderstood. Voltage is a measure of electrical pressure — not capacity. Think of it this way: If two people are asked to push equally-loaded wagons up a big hill, one may be able to push harder, but may get tired sooner. It's the same with batteries: A higher starting voltage is not necessarily an indication of higher capacity. And just like an athlete that suddenly "burns out," some types of batteries may start out with higher voltages, but as they near the end of their lives they lose power very fast.

Alkaline batteries start out with a voltage of about 1.5 volts per cell, or a total of 3.0 volts. Alkalines are unique in that their voltage drops at a slow and relatively regular rate as you use them. Knowing this rate and the present voltage of the battery makes it possible to determine remaining power. The Palmtop has built into it the hardware to measure the voltage of the batteries, as well as the software (in the SETUP program) to estimate the remaining power of the batteries.

This built-in software uses an average rate of discharge for alkaline batteries. It is relatively accurate for these batteries, but not accurate for lithium, NiCd or NiMH batteries.

Rechargeable batteries start out at around 1.2 to 1.4 volts each, or 2.4 to 2.8 for a pair. However, unlike alkalines, they maintain an almost constant voltage for most of their useful life, then the voltage drops quickly at the end. This is why the battery life scale in SETUP disappears when you switch the battery type to NiCd.

Also, the starting voltage for rechargeable batteries seems to vary greatly from pair-to-pair, even for batteries from the same manufacturer. This is a very important point, since many users of rechargeable batteries tend to be

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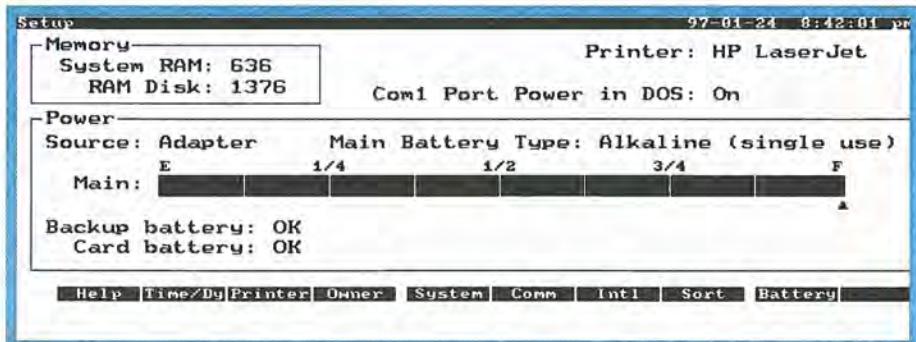
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overly concerned with the maximum voltage they get when they charge their batteries. But the final voltage value doesn't provide a reliable indication of how long they will last before they start their rapid fall.

Battery life is measured in milliamper-hours (mAh). Amperes (or simply amps) are a measure of the rate of electrical current flow, so multiplying the amount of elec-

tricity that flows by the amount of time that it's flowing gives you a measure of the total volume of electricity used. (If electricity was a liquid, then amps would be liters-per-hour, so an amp-hour would be equivalent to a liter-per-hour flow rate for one hour, or one liter of volume.) Since one amp is a very large amount of current relative to the consumption of the palmtop, the measurements are in thou-



The palmtop's built-in SETUP program displays a battery bar that gives an estimate of the remaining power in a pair of alkaline batteries. The estimate of the power remaining in non-alkaline batteries is not accurate.

HOW TO: Choosing batteries for your palmtop

sandths of an amp (mA).

Typical alkaline batteries have a total capacity rating of 2500mAh. The ratings assume that you are using the batteries until they drop below about 0.9 volts each. However, the palmtop will not operate on batteries totaling about 2.2V for the pair. This means that you will not get

the full 2500mAh from the batteries (although you could take them out of the palmtop and use the remaining life in something else that can run the batteries to lower voltages).

Most NiCd AA batteries have a capacity rating of only 500 to 600mAh. High capacity NiCds, such as the Radio Shack Hi Capacity NiCds or the GP brand that we sell, are rated at 850mAh. NiMH AAs are available in capacities of 1200mAh from my compa-

ny, Shier Systems & Software.

While the ratings listed for rechargeable batteries seem substantially lower than for alkalines, remember that the rechargeables

"Many times, I'm told that rechargeable batteries seem to be too much of a bother. Most palmtop users forget, or simply never knew, that they can charge the batteries right in the palmtop. I personally open the battery cover no more than once or twice a year!"

maintain their voltage for more of their rated life than alkalines do.

Work load

Another very important point is that rechargeables tend to perform much better under heavier workloads than alkalines. Therefore, when using modem cards or certain flash memory cards in your palmtop — which tend to require short surges of high power — you may find that alkaline batteries will not be up to the task unless they are very fresh, whereas the lower-capacity rechargeables can support these cards even as they get close to needing a charge. The net result is that you may find that you get close to the performance of alkalines from your rechargeables.

The issue of how the work load affects the useful life of batteries is even more pronounced when we compare alkalines to the Eveready Lithium batteries. The specification for the Lithiums rates them at only 2600mAh. This is almost identical to the alkaline rating, yet we know that they tend to last about three to four times longer than alkalines in our palmtops! So what's going on here?

It turns out that there are two factors working in the Lithiums' favor. The first is that they have a flat discharge curve — much like that of the rechargeable batteries. This again allows them to work in the palmtop for more of their rated life than the alkalines can. The sec-

ond factor is that they work far better under heavy work loads than alkalines do.

Looking at Eveready's specification sheets, and making some assumptions about the typical draw of a palmtop using a 14.4k bps modem, we find that the Lithiums should last for about 12 hours of

steady use, whereas the alkalines only last about four hours. However, if we compare their lives when used to maintain the memory of a palmtop turned off in a desk drawer, we find that they both should last about the same three months!

Different brands, different characteristics

It is interesting to note that different brands of alkaline batteries can have different chemistries, and therefore very different discharge characteristics. For example, the Duracell brand that HP ships with the palmtops operates very poorly with heavy loads. These batteries have a capacity rating of 2450mAh, which is very close to that of the Eveready brand. In a palmtop without any accessories, they may provide similar performance as compared to other brands. However, palmtop users find that they get the "low battery warning" almost immediately when they use modems or flash cards with Duracells. The Rayovac Renewal batteries also perform poorly under high loads, and we don't recommend them for use with PC Cards in the palmtop.

This shows that the more you use your palmtop, especially with PC Cards, it's important to choose your batteries carefully to get the best performance.

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My recommendation

At Shier Systems & Software we strongly recommend to our customers that they get a pair of high-capacity rechargeable batteries as their primary power source for the palmtop. Many times, I'm told that rechargeable batteries seem to be too much of a bother. Most palmtop users forget, or simply never knew, that they can charge the batteries right in the palmtop. I personally open the battery cover no more than once or twice a year! (If I'm on a long business trip and don't bring the AC adapter.)

A bad choice for spares

Note that rechargeable batteries don't make good spares. Rechargeable batteries tend to discharge themselves much faster than non-rechargeables. Of course, this is less of a problem, since you can simply recharge them. However, NiCd's can lose about 10% of their capacity in less than a month and be basically useless in less than three months. NiMHs have an even greater rate of self discharge — losing almost half their capacity in the first month! This is why we don't recommend rechargeable batteries as spares, since by the time you need them, they may be as dead as the ones in the palmtop you are replacing. As spare batteries, we recommend the Eveready Lithiums. They have the best shelf life.

Can batteries remember?

An article which discusses rechargeable batteries wouldn't be complete without a few words about "memory." This is the term used for the reduction in capacity seen when you don't completely discharge the batteries before recharging them.

What is typically called the "memory effect" is really a func-

tion of a host of sins, most of which have nothing to do with memory. Almost all premature failure of rechargeable batteries can be linked to overcharging, heat, or reverse voltage due to over-discharging. Lately, a lot of people have been saying that the "memory effect" does not exist at all. This is not completely true, but clearly makes the point about how little information is available about battery chemistry.

One cause of rechargeable batteries exhibiting "memory" is the formation of large crystal cadmium. The smaller the crystal structure, the greater the energy transfer. However, with time, or extremely slow charge rates (long trickle charging) the crystal structure of the plates inside grows larger (like growing sugar crystals into "rock candy") and the cell appears weaker. Fortunately, this can be corrected by simply discharging the batteries (without shorting them out) which will break up many of the large crystals and allow new, smaller ones to form during the next charge.

Don't overcharge

On the other hand, overcharging batteries can cause permanent damage. Heat is the enemy of batteries. When you have fully charged a cell, but continue to pump energy into it, the energy must go somewhere. Where it goes is into the generation of heat. When you heat the cell by overcharging, you can change the chemical properties and lower the output voltage, thus reducing the cell's useful life. Even if you don't generate much heat, such as when you overcharge for long periods with a trickle charger, you still reduce the useful range of the batteries as noted above.

As a final endorsement of rechargeable batteries, I want to remind you about the price we all pay when we throw away all those alkalines. Not only are we throw-

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ing away money, but we're also contributing to the waste in landfills. While most alkaline battery manufacturers have eliminated toxic chemicals such as mercury from their formulas, using rechargeables greatly reduces the burden on the environment from our use of these electronic wonders we call palmtops.

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The Editors, The HP Palmtop Paper

User to User: Using the Palmtop to Develop Intuition: The Palmtop as an Oracle Device

Hal describes how built-in software can be used to learn any new language or discipline. He concludes with a listing of DOS-based numerological, astrological, and tarot software.

By Hal Goldstein

Last week a doctoral student working on her dissertation on small business asked me how many of my day-to-day decisions are based on intuition. After thinking, I answered "about 100%." It's not that I don't try to gather as much information as possible. However, ultimately, after factoring in that collection of data, my decisions concerning marketing, hiring, firing, developing contacts, HP Palmtop Paper editorial content, business operations, and customer concerns are still based on some kind of "leap of faith," some kind of inner knowing. There are never enough hard facts to be certain of a decision.

Before modern society became dominated by scientific thinking, people more commonly cultured intuition, using methods ranging from studying mythological symbols and signs, to oracles and astrology, to meditation. In modern times many educated people dismiss these methods, but perhaps that's because we only see the tip of the iceberg and because much of the wisdom of these ancient tradi-

tions has been lost or distorted by time.

Personally, I have always been fascinated by ancient knowledge. In-depth study of oracle traditions, such as tarot or astrology, reveals much wisdom about the psychological, sociological, and spiritual foundations of being human. References to these traditions can be found in ancient Judaism, Christianity, and in Egypt, India, and Greece. If nothing else, astrology, tarot, I-Ching, numerology, and fortune cookies at a Chinese restaurant are fun. Playing with numbers and cards, and trying to predict the future are natural pastimes.

The Western mind may see oracle systems as self-fulfilling prophecies, as meaningless aphorisms with wordings so vague and universal that anyone could say they are true. To my thinking, that is exactly how they stimulate intuition. Let's say, while sitting with a tarot card deck, we ask a question about our life and, at random, draw the Magician card from the deck. We read about the qualities of that card, and ask ourselves how



increasing the Magician's qualities within ourselves, (specifically joy and ability to manifest objects), could improve our own situation. In other words, we use the universal attributes in the symbolic information to enliven our inner knowing and help us create the future we desire.

The palmtop as an oracle

How does this all relate to the palmtop? It turns out there is quite a collection of DOS-based oracle software that runs on the palmtop. On the palmtop, random number generation takes the place of picking a card, throwing the dice, or flipping coins. Laborious calculations on where the planets are in the heavens at a given latitude, longitude, and time zone can be instantly computed. Given the palmtop's instant availability, an oracle can be consulted any time, any place.

In addition to the palmtop's computing capability, the storage of information in databases makes

it possible for even beginners to make use of these oracle systems. For example, DOS software or built-in palmtop applications could

Synchronicity: How Oracles Work

Oracle systems such as tarot, astrology, I-Ching, and numerology are based on the premise of "synchronicity." The idea behind synchronicity is that each microcosm in the universe contains the macrocosm. That is, there are fundamental principles and patterns that repeat themselves everywhere in creation—within my cells, within my personality, and in the planets. Like a hologram, the entire universe can be found at every point in creation. Therefore, the imprint of the heavens at birth or the layout of the tarot cards or the I-Ching patterns contain within them clues to understand our questions about past, present, and future, if we know how to interpret them.

Dr. James Wanless in "Voyager Tarot™, Way of the Great Oracle," defines synchronicity as, "the great law that all events are related in time and space even though there may seem to be no tangible cause-and-effect relationship. The card you select, therefore, is the 'right' card for you at that time in spite of the seeming randomness of your choice. There are no accidents. With this knowledge, we gain trust in the universe and the invisible ways that it works." (For more information also see by Dr. Wanless, "Strategic Intuition in the 21st Century - Tarot for Business" and his Voyager Tarot™ deck.)

A religious person could apply the principle of synchronicity by posing a personal question, and then opening his or her scriptural text to a random verse. After reading the verse, the person thinks on how that verse helps answer the question. In this way oracles are used to expand our free will by giving us more information to accomplish our goals. For example, if Astrology tells us that we are about to enter a "Mars—accident period" we put a little more attention on our driving. If we pick up the tarot card that symbolizes inner wisdom, we might decide that a detached, active listening approach would be the most effective style dealing with an important client. In other words, using this principle of synchronicity we can use oracles as guideposts, as warnings, or confidence-builders.

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contain a listing of the 78 tarot cards and their basic meanings. The built-in WorldTime application lists the latitudes, longitudes, and time zones of major world cities, and is useful for astrological calculations. The meanings of planets, houses, and signs can be input to a database. In fact, with a little time to enter data, plus an understanding of how things are calculated, then the built-in applications of Lotus 1-2-3, Worldtime, HPCalc, and Database are all that one needs for making the palmtop an oracle machine.

Using the palmtop to learn something new

The palmtop is a great tool for learning a new language, a new discipline, a new vocabulary. The records in the Database application can be used like a set of flash cards. Once entered, that data can easily be transferred to 1-2-3 and, as we shall see, to Appointment Book, for different ways of viewing and learning.

In the Database example that follows, I will describe methods I used to learn the meanings of 78 tarot cards as defined by Dr.

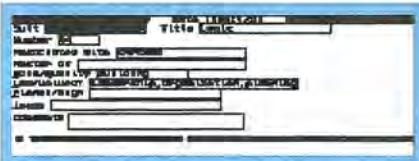
HOW TO: Using your palmtop to develop intuition

Wanless and his modern Voyager Tarot™ deck of universal symbols. These same methods can be used to study any discipline or language.

Database as reference

The built-in Database program is ideal to store the basics of any discipline or language. The palmtop becomes an always-available reference tool and learning device. At any moment, you can pull out your palmtop and quiz yourself, especially with the 200LX's datacard capacity. Furthermore, the database's [F5] Smart Clip function makes it easy to output data to Lotus 1-2-3 and Appointment Book for different kinds of presentation and manipulation. In addition, the Database [F6] subset function lets you look at the data in different ways. The database is flexible enough so that you can continue to add content to, as well as modify, the structure of the database. A work-in-progress database lets you continually refine your information, making it a robust reference source.

As a learning and reference database, I created a record for each of the 78 cards of the Voyager Tarot™, including the meanings associated with each card. (Actually, there are many unique tarot decks and the same card may have a different meaning or name depending on the deck. That information could also be stored.)



Screen 1. A database record referring to one of 78 tarot cards.

Screen 1 shows an example of a tarot card record. Each tarot card has a suit that is associated with the mind, heart, body, or spirit, or

is one of the "Major Arcana" cards referring to one of 22 fundamental human archetypes. Each card also has a number associated with it or is one of four royal family cards (like a modern card deck's jack, queen, and king. In fact, modern decks originated from the tarot.) Also, as you can see from Screen 1, I use Dr. Wanless's association of the cards with business attributes.

The [F6] Subset function lets me study my data in different ways — I have many subset views. For self-quizzing and reference I have subsets that sort the cards by their title, suit and number. I also have smaller subsets such as the royal family, or all 7s. To create a subset with all records, but sorted a different way, I define a new Subset [F6] and leave all the fields blank. After naming the subset, I Sort it [F7] for this different view.

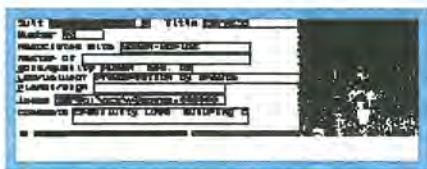
In addition, the 200LX data card view serves as a flash card. I can work my way down a list of card titles and guess the next title's number, suit, and characteristics. I then move the cursor down one record to check my guess with the data card. (See Screen 2.)



Screen 2. Using the data card like a flash card in this example I guess at the content of "Negativity." I move the cursor down one to check.

There are two fields in my record structure that deserve explanation. I scanned in some of the tarot cards, converted them to a PCX file, and used iPeX freeeware to install them in my Database. I then created the Image field so that iPeX could associate the PCX file with the record. (See Screen 3.)

Unfortunately, early experimentation has yielded PCX images that aren't of good enough quality



Screen 3. My attempt to include the scanned in image of a card within my Database record.

given the detailed full-color imagery of the Voyager deck. Other tarot decks would be better suited. Storing the card's image in the database is valuable because of the importance of what the visual symbology and imagery evoke. The use of 6K PCX graphic files associated with databases has much promise in other reference and learning material.

The second field, "No.", I have hidden on a second page in each record. (See Screen 4.)



Screen 4. A single field, "No.", resides on the second page in each record.

Each card has a value in the No. field from "001=" through "078=". To enter these numbers with a minimum of keystrokes, I modified the database ([Menu] File, Modify Database) and made No. the first field for immediate data entry. When I finished entering the 78 values, I once again modified the data base ([Menu] File, Modify Database). This time I changed the record structure by cutting [Fn] the No. field, paging down to the second database page, and pasting the result at the bottom of the screen. I did so to hide the No. field, since it has no reference value. I used this No. field to create an APPTS.INI file, as described in "Exporting from Database to Appointment Book Greeting Card" below.

Meaningful messages in the Appointment screen

An undocumented feature of the HP 200LX allows you to create a random message for the appointment Greeting Card screen that pops up when you first open Appointment Book each day. This way, every morning you can view a new affirmation, joke, Biblical phrase, or language vocabulary word, which appears automatically. (See Screen 5.) For this effect you can manually create the APPTS.INI file, or import material from Database.



Screen 5. An Appointment Book Greeting Card that displays a tarot card definition at the bottom. (The top lines display the first items of the day's Appointment Book — events repeated daily which contain personal affirmations. ABDMOON ☽ was used to generate the phases of the moon.)

To see a sample APPTS.INI file in action, if it isn't there already, copy D:_DAT\APPTS.INI to C:_DAT\APPTS.INI (using the copy command in Filer).

To create your own custom messages, open MEMO, open APPTS.INI as a MEMO file ([Menu] File, Open) and then locate the APPTS.INI file in C:_DAT. Edit the file by deleting each of the numbered lines which follow after the "[FORTUNECOOKIE]" and tildas at the start of the file. Save the result as a separate template file. (Note: it appears that lines in the APPTS.INI file beginning with ";" are comments and can probably be eliminated, but to be safe, I've left them.) (See Screen 6.)

To create a custom APPTS.INI file, add single lines to the template (the single lines shouldn't contain hard carriage returns within the line). The first such line should

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CARD-LINK	85 159 --	

Screen 6. My APPT.INI template ready to add material for Appointment Book Greeting Card display.

start with "001=", the second "002=" and so forth. Then save the file, making sure it is in the C:_DAT directory. The Appointment Book will use this modified file when creating the Greeting Card screen.

Exporting from Database to Appointment Book Greeting Card

The Smart Clip feature of the Database program facilitates creating and updating APPTS.INI files in a more automatic way. In my case, using the database export facility described below, I generated 78 lines, one for each card. I appropriately changed the "COUNT=" line to "COUNT=78".

Note that, when displayed, the Appointment Book Greeting Card can contain up to two lines of

about 45 characters. However, the APPTS.INI allows only single lines for each message. A tilde ~ embedded in the line forces a line

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THE HP PALMTOP PAPER MAY/JUNE 1997 37

Oracle Software

Divination Programs from R.K. West—

By the Numbers (NUMBERS.ZIP)

Using numerological techniques formulated by the ancient Pythagoreans, this program analyzes your name and birthday for their symbolic meaning and "metaphysical vibrations." It considers name changes, analyzes ten personality elements, makes a forecast, and saves readings for future reference. Three-page reports can be printed. Pricing: \$29

Fortune Teller Plus (FORTUN.ZIP)

Select from eleven fortune telling techniques within this program: 3 playing-card methods, dice, 2 kinds of numerology, geomancy, auras, runes, Astro-mates and "Instant Oracle," plus an ESP test. Fortunes can be printed and used for gifts or for parties. If you want to store just one such program on the Palmtop, this is probably it. Pricing: \$29

Personal Tarot

This program automates shuffling and dealing of Tarot cards, builds a ten-card layout, and displays card descriptions and meanings. (This is not a graphics program; card pictures are not portrayed on the screen.) The program has three layout types. Users can edit the interpretations to conform to their favorite Tarot deck or add their own comments. Readings can be saved to disk. Pricing: \$29

Wynter Stone's I-Ching

The traditional Chinese fortune-telling based on the I-Ching (Book of Changes) involves coin tosses or the drawing of yarrow sticks. This program offers computerized coins or yarrow stick descriptions so that the necessary pattern of six lines forming a hexagram can be selected. The documentation comments, "The 'yin and yang' philosophy of the I-Ching is ideally suited to the 'yes and no' or '0 and 1' mentality of the computer." After the hexagram is derived, text from the I-Ching is available for interpretation. This text can be edited and printed or saved to disk. The software is menu driven. Pricing: \$19

CONTACT: R.K. West Consulting, P.O. Box 8059, Mission Hills, CA 91346, USA; (Use this address for further information or for ordering by check or money order.); For credit card orders only contact Public Software Library, P.O. Box 35705, Houston, TX 77235, USA; Phone: 800-242-4775 or 713-524-6394; Fax: 713-524-6398. Internet address for R.K. West: <http://members.aol.com/rkwest/> or <ftp://ftp.asp-shareware.org/pub/asp/programs>. CompuServe: Go RKWEST, section 9.

Numerology Programs from Widening Horizons—

Personal Numerologist

Personal Numerologist makes use of full name

and birth date to create descriptions of an individual's character. The analysis is based on Pythagorean numerology, and reports on the following: life path, talents, soul urge, important numbers, karmic debts and lessons, strengths and weaknesses, and other areas. Pricing: \$69.95

Intimacy: Understand Your Romantic Relationships (Based on Numerology)

If you enter name and birth date in this program, it will report on your adaptability, sociability, sensitivity to your own and others' feelings, ability to give love and affection, physical compatibility, ability to earn a living, and mutual ambitions. The text of the reports was written by Matthew Oliver Goodwin, author of Numerology: The Complete Guide. Pricing: \$69.95

CONTACT: Widening Horizons, Inc., 21713 NE 141st Street, Woodinville, WA 98072, USA; Phone: 206-869-9810; Fax: 206-869-1821.

Astrology—

Haydn's Jyotish

The author, Haydn Huntley, uses an HP Palmtop. His excellent Vedic astrology program, based on the Sidereal calendar with either a Northern or Southern Indian display, has a host of features and options. The latest version 1.61 supports transits where the current state of the heavens can be superimposed over a given chart. Pricing: \$95. A demo version is available for \$10.

CONTACT: Haydn Huntley, PO Box 1161, Fairfield, IA 52556, 515-472-7025, huntley@mymenus.com.

Microcycles

Microcycles, Inc, distributes a large variety of astrological software including programs written for DOS.

CONTACT: Microcycles, Inc, PO Box 3175, Culver City, CA 90231, USA; Phone: 800-829-2537 or 310-202-8337; fax: 310-202-6365.

Astrology freeware/shareware—

Horary.zip and Ast30.exe are two shareware Western astrology programs that both display wheel charts on the palmtop screen. Ast30.zip (419k zipped) is three times larger, has more features and computations although some of the graphic options won't display on the palmtop's CGA screen. Rassi.zip is freeware and computes the Vedic Siderial values. SKYLOT.ZIP is a spreadsheet that computes the positions of all the planets and Jupiter Moons at a given instant. No interpretation is provided in these programs.

Other New Age Software

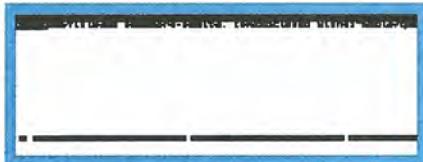
Universal Software, is a shareware distributor specializing in New Age-type software.

CONTACT: Universal Software, PO Box 3683, Lakewood, CA, 90711-3683 USA; Phone: 310-866-1274.

break on the Greeting Card screen. (If you read D:_DAT\APPTS.INI in MEMO, the single lines starting with "001=" appear to be two lines, but MEMO just wraps them automatically; they contain no hard carriage return.)

One way to learn tarot is to pick a new random card each day and pause to reflect on how the content of that card relates to the challenges and opportunities of the day. Appointment Book randomly picks one of the "[FORTUNECOOKIE]" lines in APPTS.INI to display at the start of each day on the Appointment Book Greeting Card. By filling APPTS.INI with tarot definitions, the palmtop picks the tarot card for the day. If you wanted to learn a language or discipline, this method would cause a reminder of one word or definition to pop up each day.

In order to create this APPTS.INI, I created several similar Smart Clip definitions with Database. (See Screens 7 and 8.)



Screen 7. One of my Smart Clips used to create APPT.INI file—all one line which continues off the screen.



Screen 8. I created this file for APPT.INI using the above Smart Clip.

The cumbersome parts of creating the APPTS.INI are entering "001=" through "078=", placing tildes ~, and entering the content of the messages. Using Smart Clip, this information gets automatically generated from information already contained in the Database or embedded in the Smart Clip def-

inition.

I created two Smart Clips because I wanted slightly different information to be displayed in the suit (minor arcana) cards than what I wanted displayed in archetype (major arcana) cards. Similarly, if you wanted to create a language vocabulary APPTS.INI file, you might want nouns to have different fields show up on the Appointment Book Greeting Card then verbs.

To export Smart Clipped data to a file simply tag with the space key all items you want Smart Clipped. (Tagging isn't necessary if you want to export the whole file.) Then press [Menu], File, Print and fill in appropriate boxes. Be sure to tag the Custom button in Style and select the appropriate Smart Clip. You want to print to a file. (You can leave the title blank.) When you press [F10] OK, you are prompted for a file name. (See Screen 9.) Then in MEMO, by pressing [Menu], File, Insert, and selecting the file you just named, your Database Print File output will merge with the APPTS.INI template. Make sure COUNT= has the correct number of lines. Save this new APPTS.INI in your C:_DAT directory so that the Appointment Book will automatically draw from it when the Greeting Card is created.



Screen 9. The Database Print File screen that lets you output records to a Memo file according to the selected Smart Clip.

The beauty of this method is that as the database gets refined, it is a simple matter of updating the APPTS.INI file.

Fortunately, to see if APPTS.INI is working properly you don't have to wait a day for each single test, if you use a free-

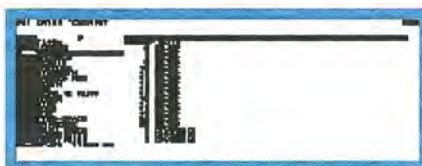
ware utility GREET100. GREET100 contains two programs that will let you set the time for the daily greeting and force the daily greeting to appear upon demand.

Smart Clip to Lotus 1-2-3

Similarly, it is easy to move data from Database to Lotus 1-2-3. To begin, I wanted a 1-2-3 spreadsheet with the name of the card, its number, and suit. I created the following Smart Clip. (See Screens 10 and 11.)



Screen 10. This Database Smart Clip generates a comma delimited file that can be directly imported into Lotus 1-2-3.



Screen 11. This spreadsheet was created by importing the file generated from the above Database Smart Clip.

I generated the file using the same method described above, using a .PRN extension in the name of the output file. In Lotus 1-2-3 I issued a [Menu] File Import Numbers command and imported the tabular listing of the 78 tarot cards in a few seconds.

Using the power of 1-2-3

Importing the data into 1-2-3 allowed me to view the data in a tabular spreadsheet format. I actually created several Smart Clips which allowed me to import and study the information from several views.

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using 1-2-3 for tarot cards is its random number generation ability using its table look up facility. Using formulas I set up, I can randomly select a card from a subset of cards (from the fives or the "wands" suit for example) and place them on traditional tarot layouts. This random generation can also be used for self-quizzing. For example, if I used this same method to learn a language, I could randomly pick a noun or verb and hide in a nearby cell its meaning or conjugation to test myself.

This approach requires a generous use of the @vlookup and @rand functions. (See Screen 12)

The purpose of the above table is to randomly generate a card in each of a number of subcategories. The first column contains a description of the category. Using the [Menu] Range, Name, Label, Right functions, these descriptions

HOW TO: Using your palmtop to develop intuition

also became the name of the randomly generated card name in the next column. The next columns are filled with the number and suit of the randomly selected card if the information is not redundant. The results from this table are used in tarot spreads - one to ten card configurations located in patterns of cells within the spreadsheet.

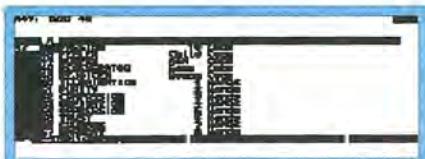


Screen 12. This table contains randomly generated cards from various subsets of the deck.

As you may be able to see from Screen 12, the formula to randomly generate a card from the entire deck is as follows: @vlookup(@int(78*@rand)+1,\$deck,1). Previously, I used **Menu** **Range**, **Name**, **Create** to name the cell range, \$deck, consisting of the table containing the 78 cards. Note that I added a new column of ascending numbers, 1 through 78, using the **Menu**, **Data**, **Fill** command. The Vertical Lookup (@vlookup) function requires a column of increasing or decreasing values. (See Screen 13.)

The @rand function in @vlookup(@int(78*@rand)+1,\$deck,1) creates a random number between 0 and 1. Taking the integer part of that number after multiplying by 78 and then adding 1 creates a random number between 1 and 78. The Vertical Lookup, @vlookup function searches for that number in the above table. The last argument "1" in the @vlookup function says to use the contents of the cell 1 column over as the resultant value. In the example in Screens 12 and 13, the random number was 51 and "PURITY" was the value.

To generate a new set of random cards, I simply press the **F9** **Calc** key and in about a second a new set of cards is generated. If you are studying language, you



Screen 13. A portion of the table of the 78 cards named DECK from which all random cards are generated.

could set up a similar method for generating nouns, verbs, adverbs, adjectives, and prepositions.

My spreadsheet with different charts and tarot spreads has become a little unwieldy. To navigate I simply press **F5** (goto) **F3** (name) **F3** (list). A list of range names such as "deck" and "any-card" appears, and I point to the one I want to jump to. (See Screen 14.)



Screen 14. I can jump to any of these defined-range names. This screen was generated by pressing **F5** **F3** **F3**.

My TAROT.ZIP (TAROT.GDB, APPTS.INI, and TAROT.WK1) are included in this issue's *The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK*.

DOS oracle software on the palmtop

The value of the palmtop as an oracle device is probably not its ability to predict or interpret. Some of the software listed below does provide interpretation. However, human intelligence is needed to make meaningful sense of the billions of possible horoscopes or tarot layouts. What the palmtop does is effortlessly create the starting point, for example, the calculated horoscope or the randomly generated tarot layout. It also can provide reference material useful both for the beginner and for the experienced practitioner from which to interpret.

If you take the time and use the information to trigger your intuition, it can have some practical value. Studying the interpretations can teach you about the symbolic and metaphorical language of a given oracle and at times can be surprisingly specific in their prediction or description.

Freeware, Shareware, and Books mentioned in this article

Books and cards by James Wanless—Available from Merrill-West Publishing, P.O. Box 1227, Carmel, CA 93921, USA; Phone: 800-676-1256 or 408-644-9096; Fax: 408-644-9097; E-mail: voyager84@aol.com

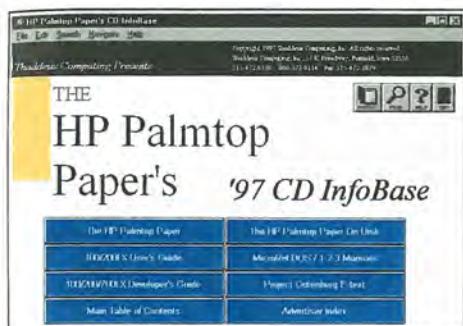
ABD Moon—Utility: generates phases of the moon for Appointment Book. Freeware. Available (ADBMOON.ZIP) in library 11 of HPHAND on CompuServe; or <ftp://ftp.ics.uci.edu/pub/garzotto/palmtop/adbmoon.zip> or 1997 *HP Palmtop Paper CD InfoBase*.

iPEX—Utility: Adds graphic images to System Manager applications. Freeware. Available on Jan/Feb 1997 *HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK* and <http://www.thaddeus.com>

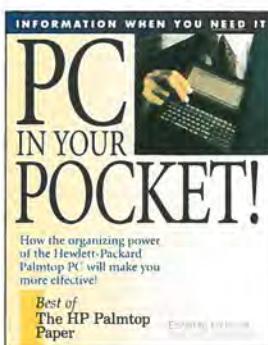
Greet100—Utility: Allows the Appointment Book Greeting Card to appear upon demand. Freeware. Available on The 1997 *HP Palmtop Paper CD InfoBase* and *Power Disk* for 1995/96.

TAROT.ZIP (TAROT.GDB, APPT.INI, and TAROT.WK1) files described in this article. Freeware. Available on May/June 1997 *HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK*.

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- 5) PAL: A C source code library for developing software with the look and feel of the HP Palmtop built-in applications

Letters to the Editor

(continued from page 2.)

The phone book comparison doesn't mention that the HP 200LX phone book is fully 'customizable' using the database application.

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I have three phone books:

1. People — with fields for spouse and offspring, a check box for sending a Christmas card, and many other personal fields. The name field is split into two: forename and surname, to allow flexibility with subsets, clips, sorting, etc.

2. Companies — obviously laid out differently from the above.

3. Internal company list — again laid out differently.

This flexibility is much more important to me than any syncing ability found on the Windows CE Handheld PCs.

Roger Law

100045.1000@compuserve.com

HP 200LX superior to new palmtop PC

I received my copy of Volume 6, Number 2 here in Australia on Friday 4th April. I immediately read with interest the articles comparing the HP 200LX and the new HP 300LX palmtop PC. In particular, Mark Scardina's excellent article comparing the software on the two machines.

Mark's article indicated that the HP 200LX Phone Book does not have custom fields and only has four phone numbers per record. As most readers would be aware, the Phone Book format can be customised using the Database application. (Useful for people outside the U.S.A. who don't use "ZIP" codes, for example. :-)

Therefore, it seems that the HP 200LX Phone Book is superior to the Windows CE PIM Contacts module in almost all of the categories that Mark listed.

Given the effort that has gone into developing the hardware for the Windows CE machines, it seems strange that the built-in PIM software is so limited and that the only software that will run will be Windows CE specific.

Although the HP 300LX palmtop PC sounds very interesting, I can't see myself changing from the HP 200LX. I'm more likely to upgrade my HP 200LX with extra RAM, cards, etc., and retain the formidable capabilities of the built-in software that the Windows CE machines don't match (e.g., HP Calc's Solver).

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WWW/LX is graphical, not text-based browser

In the recent article, "The HP Palmtop: A Corporate Solution," by Carl Merkle and David Shier, (Volume 6, Number 2, page 36) the characterization of WWW/LX needs correction.

While it is true that WWW/LX can run in text mode, it is not a text-based Web browser, but a graphical Web browser. It is fully capable of displaying graphics mixed with text right on the screen. For speedier operation, the graphical display can be turned off on the fly.

This is one of the main features that distinguishes WWW/LX from all other Web browsers available for the HP-LX palmtop on the market today.

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Low temperatures didn't harm palmtop

Before we sent a palmtop to accompany the Norwegian TransArctic team, we froze a couple of HP palmtops in the lab down to minus 44C, (minus 47F). We kept them like that for some hours, then let them thaw out. They performed like they did before, flawlessly.

On the real test to the North Pole, the palmtop was carried in the sled at times, and at other times, close to the body. Drastic temperature changes. Needless to say, it did what it was supposed to do. Of course, it takes some time to thaw out something that's colder than an ice cube.

Back to "earth," I forgot my own palmtop in the car at Telemark, WI, while skiing. That night it got down to -22F. I still use that same 200LX, and I have no problems with it.

These HP palmtops are top quality. Personally, I wouldn't test another brand this way. That could be expensive.

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••• BASIC TIPS •••

[All tips are by HP Palmtop Paper Managing Editor Ralph C. Turner, unless otherwise noted. You can contact Ralph at ralph_turner@thaddeus.com]

PhoneBook

Selecting records quickly

If you have a large number of records in your Phone Book, it can be annoying having to type in three (or more) different keys in order to jump down to a record that you frequently access.

For example, let's assume that your Phone Book has more than one record that has the letters "TU" as the first characters in its Name field. If you want to find the telephone number for the TubeRight Corporation, you'll have to type in at least three characters ("t" and "u" and "b") in order to select the proper record.

Instead of having to do this each time you want to view a record, try one of the following tips.

For those records that you access most often, place one or more spaces or numbers before the first character in the Name field (such as " TubeRight" or "1 Jean d'Arc"). (See Screen 1.) Such records will appear at the top of your list of records, and thus will be immediately visible every time you open the database.

You can use this method to clump eleven of your most frequently retrieved records at the top of your database list. (The Phone Book displays eleven records per screen.) The name and phone numbers for all eleven records will be displayed in the opening screen, and you won't have to do any record selecting to view your most-used contacts.

If you're using a 200LX, and the data card covers up the display of telephone numbers, press **CTRL+D** to remove the data card.

Since it's so easy to add the extra characters to a record (and to later remove the characters), inserting spaces or numbers can be useful even when used for short periods of time. For example, if you realize you'll be calling three clients many times during the next few days, go in and add the extra spaces

Phone : TEST		
All Phone Book Items 03/29/97 1:49:26 pm		
Name	Business	Home
Garfield, James Abram	312-555-2384	312-555-8841
Henry, Patrick	555-0001	555-9927
Kant, Immanuel	66 362 99828	66 362 85201
TAX	472-6535	
Thatcher, Margaret	98 631-69875	98 631-69235
TubeRight Corporation	515-555-5997	515-555-2293
Tweed, William (Boss)	515-555-5997	515-555-5997
Zeuxis	61 8 58327	61 8 36729
1 Jean d'Arc	32 8 558-3698	32 8 558-2252
2 Purcell, Henry	518-555-0757	518-555-1124
Ad Lib (Marie)	472-6617	

Help | Add | Note | Find | Clip | Subset | Sort | Columns | Open |

Screen 1: Placing one or more spaces or numbers before the first character in the Name field places the record at the top of the record list, and thus makes the record immediately visible.

Phone : TEST2		
All Phone Book Items 03/28/97 9:36:01 am		
Name	Business	Home
Taylor, Liz		
Tchaikovsky, Pytor Ili		
Ted's Underwater Baske		
Teitzman, Bryan		
Thomas à Becket		
Thomas Aquinas, Saint		
tt TubeRight Corporati		
Tutankamen		
Tutu, Desmond		
Twain, Mark		
Tweed, William (Boss)		

tt TubeRight Corporation
 Work = 515-555-5997
 Home = 515-555-2293

(189/122)

Help | Add | Note | Find | Clip | Subset | Sort | Columns | Open |

Screen 2: Typing in the first letter on the Name field twice makes it easier to select a record.

or numbers to each record. Then, when you realize that you're no longer regularly calling those clients, edit out the extra characters.

Another way of making record selection easier is to type in the first letter of the company name (or the first letter of an individual's last name) *twice*, followed by a space. For example, for the entry for the TubeRight Corporation, type the letter "t" twice, then a space. This will make the Name field read, "tt TubeRight." (See Screen 2.)

Here's what this accomplishes. Whenever you open the Phone Book and you want to go to that record, all you have to do is press the **T** key twice, which is a lot easier than having to press the **T** key and then the **U** key and then the **B** key, (and possibly even having to press the **E** key, depending on what your other "T" records are).

Both these record selection techniques can be used not only in Phone Book, but also in Note Taker, Database, and World Time.

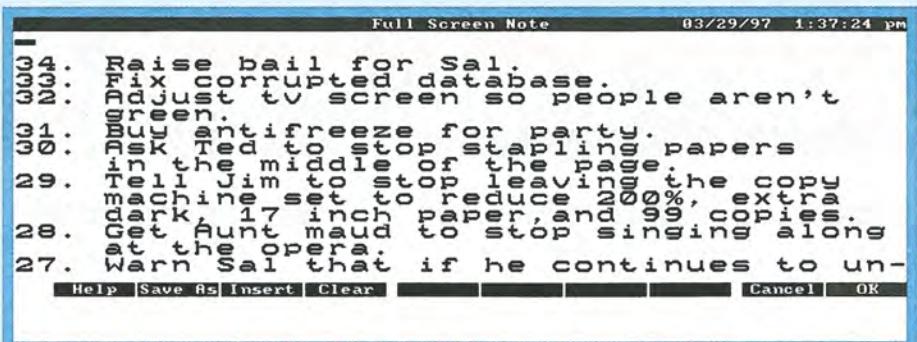
Memo

Saving Memo Files

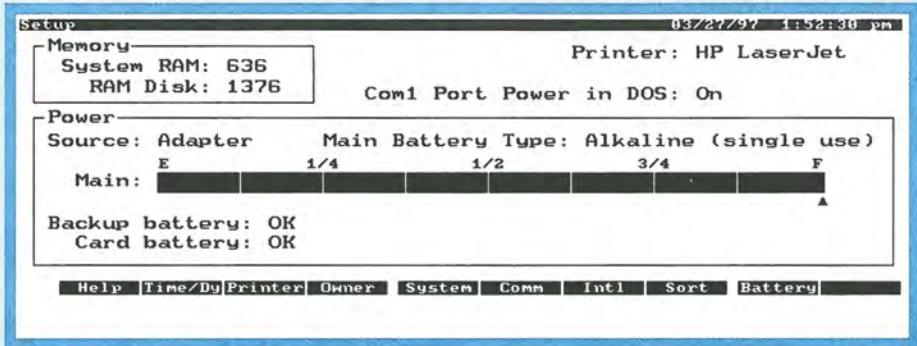
Memo files remain in volatile memory until you save them, so if you are creating a quick Memo record, it's worth taking time to save it before you dash off to do the next item on your agenda.

When you first try to save a Memo file (by pressing **F10**), the dialog box which appears offers you a blank spot to write in a file name. There's even a blinking cursor, making you think that typing in a name is the first thing to do. However, this may not be advisable if you need to change directories.

If you know exactly the name of the directory or subdirectory where you want to save your file, you can enter the path name on the Save File As line. On the other hand, if you don't know what you called the subdirectory where your file should be stored, find out. First tab to Directories (or press **Alt+D**), and arrow



Screen 3: Entering items in an unconventional, upside-down order can make it easier to type in each succeeding item in a list.



Screen 4: The opening screen in Setup shows the condition of batteries, and whether the AC adapter is connected and working.

down to the directory or subdirectory where you want to store your file. Notice that, suddenly, the new path name appears in the Save File As line above, erasing whatever name you might have put on that line. Once you get to the right place, and press [ENTER], then tab up to the Save File As line (or press [Alt+A]), and type in the name of the file at the cursor.

Because I am using Memo quite a bit, using Filer I created a directory called "A_MEMO" for storing all my Memo files on my A: drive. This saves time in saving my Memo creations and transferring them to my PC for editing and laser printing.

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MISC.

Using upside-down lists

If you've pressed [F3] (Note) in Phone Book, Database, Note Taker, World Time, or Appointments, (or you're using Memo), entering a list of items or tasks in upside-down fashion may make sense. Here's how, and why, to do it.

First, start your list with a blank line. In other words, press [ENTER], then type

in your first item on the second line. (You'll understand the reason for this shortly.)

When you're ready to enter the second item, instead of pressing [ENTER] and typing it on the next line, press the [UpArrow] key, then the [ENTER] key. Now type in the next item. (You'll note that it's being typed in above the first item.) In similar fashion, enter the third item above the second, and the fourth above the third, and so on. (See Screen 3.)

The advantage of this procedure has to do with the manner in which many of us create lists, as well as the way in which the palmtop opens a note. Most of us don't create a list all at once, in one sitting. Instead, we typically add a few items to a list, then close the note. A few hours (or days) later, we open the note and add a new item, then close the note again.

Since whenever a note is opened, the cursor is at the top of the note, employing this tip will allow you to start entering a new item immediately upon opening the note.

Contrasted with this, if you've created the more conventional type of list (with the items entered in ascending order), every time you open the note and want to enter a new item, you have to first scroll down to the bottom of the note

(or press [CTRL]+[FN]+[RightArrow] to get to the bottom of the note).

The reason you should press [ENTER] before you type in a new item is that, after an item has been entered, there needs to be a blank line for you to "arrow up to," and onto which you can enter your next item.

The "CTRL+Break" key-combination

Pressing [CTRL]+[MENU] produces what is called a "control break." This key-combination may cancel certain operations that are being performed, such as the scrolling of a file, the running of a DOS program, a batch file, a Lotus macro, or an electronic transmission or file transfer. In some situations, pressing [CTRL]+[C] may produce the same effect.

BATTERY

Create an appointment to change the backup battery

HP recommends that you change the backup battery after a year's use. A fool-proof method of remembering to do this is to set a "change backup battery" appointment in Appointment Book. Schedule the appointment for one year from your last battery change.

Be aware, however, that in some situations a yearly change may not be enough. If the palmtop's main batteries run completely down, the unit will start drawing power from the backup battery. This will drain the battery quickly, and it may last only a few days.

Before replacing the backup battery, make sure the main batteries are charged. If the backup battery is removed when the main batteries are dead, you'll lose everything on the C: drive and everything in memory.

To check the condition of your batteries, run the Setup application, by pressing [CTRL]+[FILER]. The opening screen will tell you the charge status of the main batteries, the backup battery, and the card battery (if a card is installed). (See Screen 4.)

If you've got your palmtop plugged into an AC adapter, make sure that the screen displays the words, "Power Source: Adapter." These words indicate that the adapter is, in fact, powering your palmtop. If the screen says, "Power Source: Battery," there's something wrong with the adapter, its cord, or the connector.



QUICK TIPS



Pocket Quicken

Take Control of Your Pocket Quicken File

I have been using Pocket Quicken (PQ) since the 200LX was released in August 1994 and have a pretty good system for interfacing the palmtop and desktop. I have stayed with Quicken for Windows 3.0 on my desktop, since this version does all I need and is still fully compatible with PQ files. Quicken for Windows 4.0 is the last version of Quicken to have this compatibility.

I keep a full Quicken file on my desktop going back eight years or so. My palmtop gets ALL of my entries, but I only keep a three or four month moving "window" in its file. Once my file size climbs to around 200K, I pare it down to the last three months of data and drop the file size to around 110K.

To merge in all my new transactions from palmtop to desktop, I remove my flash card and put it into my Windows 95 machine's SCM Swapbox. The flash card holds the latest backup copy of my PQ file, but I always keep the working file on the RAM disk for speed. Windows 95 recognizes the card as a hard disk and sets it up as the E: drive. I then run the HP Connectivity Pack's merge function to take the last two months of data directly from the flash card. I only take two months because there are balance forwards sitting three months back in the palmtop file and they will throw the balance off.

If you do not have a PCMCIA drive, transfer your PQ file to your desktop's hard drive and merge from there. Do not try to merge or synchronize over a cable con-

nexion as data corruption can occur.

The problem with trimming PQ files is that they don't decrease in size. They are supposed to re-use the new space created by the trim for new transactions, but I have not seen that in my use. The file just continues to grow.

Here is my procedure for paring down the file size:

1. Run Trim to remove everything before three months back.
2. Make a new blank PQ file in C:\TEMP called XFER. (It's best to use the RAM disk instead of a flash disk for the increased speed.)
3. Export my checking account file from C:\TEMP to a file called TEMP sending all categories and accounts.
4. Open XFER and import TEMP.
5. From here I have macros that handle all the keystrokes for import/export. I go to my just-trimmed PQ file, cursor to the account to export and hit the export macro. When the macro ends, I'm in XFER. I cursor to the account to import into and hit the import macro.
6. Finally, I run another macro several times to upgrade the last reconciled balances of several accounts in my new file.
7. I now have two identical files, XFER and the original, except the original is bloated and inefficient. It gets deleted, then XFER is renamed and I'm done.

MACROS

The following are the macros I use. They should be entered as one line in the macro application.

Export to TEMP

Place the cursor over the account you want export and run this macro. You will need to modify the date window to start before the latest trim's cutoff date and after the last transaction in your file.

```
{Menu}{Enter}e{Tab}12/15/96{Tab}4/15/97{Tab}{Alt+O}{F10}c:\temp\temp{F10}{F10}{Menu}{Enter}oc:\temp\xfer{F10}
```

Import to XFER

Place the cursor over the account in the XFER file that you want to import into and run this macro. Change "oldfile" to the name of your PQ file.

```
{Menu}{Enter}ic:\temp\temp{F10}{Alt+A}{F10}{Menu}{Enter}oc:\quicken\oldfile{F10}
```

Balance update

Place the cursor over the account you want to update in XFER. Switch to the original file, place the cursor over the same account and run this macro.

```
{Enter}{Menu}ae{Shift+Tab}{Copy}{F9}{Esc}{Menu}{Enter}oc:\temp\xfer{Enter}{Enter}{Menu}ae{Shift+Tab}{Paste}{Tab}{Paste}{F10}{F10}{Enter}{Esc}
```

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DOS

Get More Free Memory to Run DOS Programs

One of the strongest features of the HP 100/200LX is the fact that these computers are DOS machines and will run any DOS program that does not require a

processor higher than an 80186 and doesn't require a co-processor or a VGA monitor.

This leaves a vast amount of old and new DOS programs available to users of the 100/200LX. Some of these DOS programs, such as WordPerfect 5.1 for DOS or NetTamer, require quite a bit of memory to run, and until now, users were left with the following three ways to free up more memory:

1. In Setup, allocate more memory for the system and less for disk space.

2. Allocate all available memory for the running of a DOS program. Do this by appending the "pipe signal" (|) to the path name in the Path field of the "Add an Application Screen," which is found in Application Manager. (The pipe signal is created by pressing Shift+|.)

3. Terminate all applications from the AppManager. Terminating all applications had the disadvantage that you lost the use of built-in applications like the Phone Book and Appointment Book.

Now, MeW has written a TSR (Terminate and Stay Resident) program called MaxDOS that allows you to run virtually any size DOS program without having to leave System Manager. MaxDOS allows you to do this by using a swap file that takes an image of everything that is currently running and saving it to a temporary file, freeing up all of the DOS memory to run another program.

MaxDOS first tries to use EMS memory, if you

have EMM200 loaded. If you don't, MaxDOS saves the image to a directory specified in the AUTOEXEC.BAT file. If you are not using EMM200, a temporary directory must be designated. MaxDOS requires 600 Kb free on the drive designated.

INSTALLING MAXDOS

Copy MAXDOS.COM to a subdirectory that is included in the path statement of the AUTOEXEC.BAT file. For this example we will assume that it is in the A:\BIN directory. Then open your AUTOEXEC.BAT file in Memo and add the following lines to it:

```
maxdos -l  
100 (or 200)  
maxdos -r
```

The first line loads MaxDOS, the second line starts the System Manager and the last line unloads MaxDOS. If there are other TSRs loaded in the AUTOEXEC.BAT file, MaxDOS should be loaded before them and removed after them.

To use MaxDOS with your DOS programs, set the DOS program to start from Application Manager, using the following Path statement in the setup screen. (For this example, we'll set up WordPerfect.)

Path: a:\bin\maxdos.com
a:\wp\wp.exe
This will start WordPerfect on your Palmtop using the maximum amount of memory available without having to terminate the System Manager.

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MISC

Add Spell Checking to PalEdit

PalEdit, by Andreas Garzotto, is one of my favorite

programs. I use it for everything that requires editing/reading of text. I also use PalEdit when I write my faxes, so it's very convenient to have the ability to do a spell check from within PalEdit. To be able to do this, you need PalEdit, of course, and the following programs installed on your palmtop: Exkey, MAXDOS, and GDSPELL.

The first step to add spell checking to PalEdit is to modify PE.CFG (PalEdit's configuration file) and add the following lines under the appropriate sections:

```
[Filter]  
&Spell Check =  
c:\bin\maxdos.com  
a:\pe\spell.bat %s
```

[Labels]

```
2 = Spell
```

Note: Please observe that no PalEdit Macro is associated to the above key- F2 Spell. You only need to have the label.

Next you'll have to create SPELL.BAT in the same directory as PalEdit with the following 2 lines:

```
a:\gdspell\spell.exe /t:15 /s:5 %1  
c:\bin\lexkey  
x{wait}{Menu}{f}{o}{wait}{paste}{Enter}
```

Note: " /t:15 /s:5" is setting the colors in GDSPELL, so you set it as you want. Please enter SPELL in the directory of GDSPELL for more information.

Next edit your EXKEY.INI file as follows:

```
[PE]  
{F2}={Menu}{fa}{Copy}{Enter}  
{Enter}{Ctrl+x}rs  
{Shift+Right}={Shift+Home}  
{Shift+End}  
{Shift+Left}={Shift+Home}  
{Shift+Down}={Shift+Home}  
{Shift+End}{Down}  
{Shift+Up}={Shift+Home}{Shift+End}{Up}  
{Ctrl+Right}={Ctrl+Shift+Right}  
{Ctrl+Left}={Ctrl+Shift+Left}  
{Ctrl+End}={Ctrl+Shift+End}
```

Note: The second to seventh macro lines fix some problems which occur when you

are using PalEdit and EXkey.

Before you run PalEdit, you have to install EXkey, which can be done by adding the following line to your Autoexec.bat file:

```
c:\bin\lexkey.com -Fc:\bin\lexkey.ini
```

The last step is to install PalEdit in the Application Manager, following the standard installation procedures. This tip is set-up to run PalEdit from the Application Manager.

When you are in PalEdit, you will see that the function key F2 will have the label "Spell." When you want to check your spelling in the active document, you hit F2 and this will activate the EXkey macro:

```
{F2}={Menu}{fa}{Copy}{Enter}  
{Enter}{Ctrl+x}rs
```

This macro is installed in the memory. Here's what the macro does: it will jump to PalEdit's menu and go to File/Save as, then copy the active documents name and press Enter. PalEdit will then ask if the document should be replaced, and one more Enter will confirm this. Then the EXkey macro will open the Filter menu with {Ctrl+x}r and chose Spell Check which has "s" as the hot key.

PalEdit will now execute the line: &Spell Check = c:\bin\maxdos.com a:\pe\spell.bat %s, so it will shell out to DOS with maximum memory (you don't need the Application Manager in order to use MaxDOS) and start the batchfile spell.bat.

Spell.bat will now run GDSPELL with: a:\gdspell\spell.exe /t:15 /s:5 %1, where "%1" contains the file name. When the spell checking is finished, GDSPELL will save the edited file under the same name. Then we will be back in the batch file (spell.bat) and the following line will be executed: c:\bin\lexkey x{wait}{Menu}{f}{o}{paste}{Enter}.

This is an EXkey macro in "direct mode" and it will wait until we are back in PalEdit and then open the file again (which is now edited with GDSPELL): **File**, **Open** and Paste in the name which we earlier placed in the clipboard. Then press **Enter** and there we have the file again, but now it's checked for spelling errors! If you have any problems with this last macro, try to play around with the {wait} command (please check the EXkey documentation).

This was one way to build-in spell checking in PalEdit. I hope you find it as useful as I do.

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Offer a "Slide show" on Your Palmtop

There is a new freeware graphic viewer program written by Stefan Piechel called LXPIC that will allow you to display PCX, ICN, IMG, JPG and GIF format graphics on your HP Palmtop, as well as convert Casio QV-10A camera images to JPEG format. LXPIC has a "Slideshow" feature that lets you sequentially display a group of graphics files in a directory.

To setup LXPIC as a slide show, copy the small (9k) LXPIC.COM file to a subdirectory that contains the graphics files on your Palmtop. Start the program by either exiting the System Manager to DOS and typing LXPIC from the DOS prompt, or by adding it to the Application Manager and starting it from there. (Assuming you put LXPIC.COM in the C:\LXPIC subdirectory, the path statement should read: C:\LXPIC\LXPIC.COM l100.)

If your graphics are displayed backward, press the **I** key to invert the graphic. Then press **S** to start the slide show. LXPIC will display all of the graphic files in the subdirectory.

To speed up the slide show, press the **Right Arrow** key and to slow it down press the **Left Arrow** key. When you are done, press the **Escape** key to terminate the program.

Stefan has included a thorough documentation file along with code that can enable LXPIC to be used by other programs, such as Web Browsers.

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Crossword Puzzles on the HP 100/200LX

When I pick up a newspaper, after scanning over the front page, sports section and reading the comics, I usually go to the crossword puzzle to get my mental juices flowing. Besides being fun, crossword puzzles can increase your vocabulary and word skills. There have been a few good crossword puzzle programs written for computers, but most have been written for Windows—that is until now. Jim Gasbarro has written a "Postcardware" crossword puzzle program for the 100/200LX called XWORD that uses the USA Today electronic format crosswords having the .PUZ extension and available from:

<http://www.usatoday.com/life/puzzles/puzzle.htm>

To install XWORD in the Application Manager, press **[&]** More then press **F2** Add and fill in the fields as follows:

Name: Cr&oss Word

Path: a:\xword\xword.exe

Comments: Fn-?

Then **TAB** to the Icon window and the CrossWord icon should appear.

Press **F10** OK

xword.exe also takes a command line argument, so you can also start CrossWord from DOS by typing, for example:

xword sample.puz

Or you can also start the program directly from the Filer by adding the following entry to

your C:_DAT\FILER.INI file:

[Launcher]

puz=c:\xword\xword.exe %

Then just highlight a .puz file in Filer and hit **Enter**.

Upon startup, you will see a blank playing field. To load a game, press **MENU** File, Open and select sample.puz (for example). The puzzle will load and you will see the blinking cursor in the upper-left corner, the crossword's title, and the Across and Down clues.

Cursor movement is done using the arrow keys, which move the cursor a box at a time, and the Fn-arrow keys, which move the cursor a word at a time. The Enter key advances to the beginning of the next line. For type-in, you can choose any key A through Z and 0 through 9. All letters are converted to upper case. The space key is used to erase characters in the forward direction, and the backspace key erases in the reverse direction, either horizontally or vertically, depending on typing direction. The TAB key selects the typing direction, either horizontal or vertical. Typing direction is indicated by making the Across or Down clue titles reverse video. The Across and Down clues are displayed for the box that the cursor is currently selecting. The box numbers are not shown in the grid but are shown with the clues, just in case clues refer to each other by number.

CrossWord can be played on either the Easy or Hard skill level. The Easy level will only allow correct answer letters to be typed in. The palmtop will beep if an incorrect letter is typed. The Hard skill level will allow anything to be typed.

Your solution can be checked by selecting the **MENU** Check function. This will check your type-in against the answers. Incorrect type-in will be highlighted in reverse video. If the

HP Product Index

HP Products contact information: Authorized HP computer dealers worldwide (i.e. the same place you can purchase an HP LaserJet). To locate an authorized dealer in the USA, call 800-443-1254. You can also purchase the 95LX & 100/200LX and its accessories from: EduCALC at 800-677-7001, Fax: 714-582-1445; A One-Stop Palmtop Shop at 800-709-9494 or 608-752-1537, Fax: 608-752-9548; Notebook Supply Warehouse at 800-566-6832 or 714-753-8810, Fax: 714-753-8812; PDA Direct at 800-279-4732 ext 130; Shier Systems at 805-371-9391, Fax: 805-371-9454.

HP 300LX (F1220A)—\$499 (est.)

HP 320LX (F1221A)—\$699 (est.)

HP 200LX 4 MB (HP F1216A)—\$599

(versions available include: US English, UK English, German, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Japanese and Korean)

HP 200LX 2MB (HP F1061A)—\$499

HP 1000CX 2 MB Palmtop PC (HP F1222A)—\$449

(versions available include: US English, UK English, German, Spanish, and French)

HP OmniGo 700LX — \$NA (Combination HP 200LX, fax software and Nokia GSM cellular phone.)

1.8 Mb Flash Disk (HP F1024A, with Stack) — \$199

6 Mb Flash Disk (HP F1215C, with Stack) — \$425

10 Mb Flash Disk (HP F1013C, with Stack) — \$600

20 Mb Flash Disk (HP F1014C, with Stack) — \$999

AC/DC Adapter (HP F1011A)—\$39.95

USA/Canada (Opt. ABA); Europe (Opt. ABB); Australia (Opt. ABG); South Africa (Opt. ABQ); United Kingdom (Opt. ABU).

PC Connectivity Cable (HP F1015A) — \$24.95

MAC Connectivity Cable (HP F1016A) — \$24.95

100/200LX Connectivity Pack — \$119.95

U.S. (HP F1021B); International (HP F1021C)

Connect/Adapter Kit — \$24.95

(HP F1023A) 4 adapters for connecting the 100/200LX to modems, printers, and PCs.

Palmtop Maintenance Kit (replacement parts) (F1216-60998) (US only) — \$20

Service Agreements (2-year extension) — \$85. For U.S. HP Palmtop users. Units must be under warranty to extend. Contact: HP, Corvallis Service Center, USA; Phone: 503-757-2002. *NOTE: Prices listed are suggested retail price. Dealer prices may vary.*

palmtop does not beep, your answers are correct.

You can peek at the answers (i.e. cheat) by pressing the ? key. This will reveal the answers one letter at a time.

A partially completed puzzle can be saved for future play by selecting **MENU** File, Save. The file is saved with the extension ".sav" so the original file is left unchanged. CrossWord can then reload the saved puzzle using **MENU** File, Restore. Note that both the .puz and

.sav files must exist in order to restore a puzzle. To leave CrossWord select **MENU** Quit.

Tom Gibson
tom_gibson@thaddeus.com

Product Mentioned in This Article

SCM Card Drives—Pricing varies.

CONTACT: SCM Microsystems, Inc., 131 Albright Way, Suite B, Los Gatos, CA 95030, USA; Phone 408-370-4888; Fax: 408-370-4880.

Shareware/freeware mentioned in this section

EMM200 — Utility: Allows DOS programs to be loaded into expanded memory simulated on the C drive. Freeware. Included on the 1997 HP Palmtop Paper CD InfoBase.

EXKEY — Utility: For creating DOS and system macros. Freeware. Included on the 1997 HP Palmtop Paper CD InfoBase.

GDSPELL — Application: Spell checker for the palmtop. Included on the 1997 HP Palmtop Paper CD InfoBase. Shareware (GDSP300B.ZIP). Also on Web: <http://src.doc.ic.ac.uk/pub/packages/simtel/msdos/editor/gdsp300b.zip>

LXPIC — View/modify PCX format graphics on the palmtop. Freeware. Available on <http://www.thaddeus.com> and 1997 Best Tips ON DISK.

MAXDOS — Utility: Allows users to launch from System Manager a program requiring a large amount of memory. Freeware. Available on <http://www.thaddeus.com> and Jan/Feb 1997 HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK.

PALEDT — Application: Text editor with look and feel of the Palmtop's built-in applications. Freeware. Included on the 1997 HP Palmtop Paper CD InfoBase.

XWORD — Application: Crossword puzzle program for the palmtop. Postcardware. Web: <http://www.palmtop.net/super.html> and on this month's HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK.

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[Please note: *The HP Palmtop Paper* does not and cannot provide technical support.]

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On-Line Support—offered by these bulletin board services.

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- o INTERNET NEWS GROUPS: news:comp.sys.palmtops.hp; or news:comp.sys.handhelds

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Aware	(Micro Roentgen Radiation Monitor)	[302-655-3800; Fax: 302-655-3800]	29
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ConectUS Wireless Comm	(Wireless Messaging)	[800-350-0373]	35
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	(Knowledge products: HP Palmtop Tech Ref. Manual, Lotus/DOS Reference Books, HP PTP's CD InfoBase)	[.....]	8
Times2 Tech	(The Palmtop Paper's new 1997 CD InfoBase)	[.....]	24, 25
World Market Str./ PDA Inc.	(HP 200LX 5MB RAM Upgrade)	[Phone/Fax: 205-620-1408]	33
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Shareware and Freeware Index (May/June 1997) Software on *The HP Palmtop Paper* ON DISK or CompuServe

PRODUCT	FUNCTION	CIS FORUM / LIBRARY	TYPE	PAGE
BUDDY.ZIP	Application: Adds dozens of features to built-in apps.	HPHAND, 11	Share	7
FORTUN.ZIP	Application: Multiple fortune telling programs.	SPIRIT, 2 *3	Share	38
HORARY.ZIP	Application: Astrology program.	SPIRIT, 2	Share	38
LNCH102.ZIP	Application: Ver 1.02; helps launch programs.	*2	Free	9
LOOKUP.BAT	Batch file: For launching a DOS program with input.	NA	Free	28
LXPIC.ZIP	Application: Ver 3.5; processes graphical files.	HPHand, 11	Free	10,46
LXTOOLS.TGZ	Application: Linux and Palmtop transfer tool.	*2	Free	26
MILEAGE.ZIP	Lotus Macro: Calculates gas mileage.	NA	Free	27
NUMBERS.ZIP	Application: Numerology software.	SPIRIT, 2 *3	Share	38
PAC.ZIP	Game: The Pac Man arcade game for the palmtop.	*1	Share	9
PTP33.ZIP	Text: The HP Palmtop Paper, May/June 1997.	NA	NA	NA
README.ZIP	Text: Cover letter to the HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK	NA	NA	NA
RASSLZIP	Application: Vedic Siderial astrology program.	SPIRIT, 2	Free	38
SKYLOT.ZIP	Spreadsheet: Planetary positions spreadsheet.	HPHAND, 7	Share	38
TAROT.ZIP	DOS program: learn Tarot.	SPIRIT, 2 *3	Free	38
TAROTHAL.ZIP	Files: Hal Goldstein's files as described in his article.	NAs	Free	36
XWORD20.ZIP	Application: Crossword puzzle program.	*2	Postcard	47

*1 http://home.hkstar.com/~terence *2 http://www.palmtop.net/super.html *3 http://www.rosemarywest.com/list.html

Software mentioned and included in *The 1997 HP Palmtop Paper CD InfoBase*

ABDMON.ZIP, utility, free, p. 37; EMM200, utility, free, p. 47; EXKEY, utility, free, p. 47; FLEXPAD, Application, share, p. 4; GDSPELL (GDSP300B.ZIP), application, share, p. 47; GREET100, utility, free, p. 39; HARVESTER, e-text, free (Project Gutenberg), p. 22; ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU, e-text, free (Project Gutenberg), p. 22; NetTamer (N107-PT.ZIP), application, shareware, p. 23; PALEDIT, application, free, p. 47; Playlx (MUSIC-LX), entertainment, free, p. 22; Quckstar Fax Pro (QFAX.ZVR, VR100, application, share, p. 22

Software included in the Special Jan/Feb 1997 Edition of *The HP Palmtop Paper* ON DISK (These files also at www.thaddeus.com)

iPeX, application, free, p. 27, 36, MaxDOS, application, free, p. 29, 45, 46, PlayEX, entertainment, free, p. 22

Software included in the March/April 97 ON DISK

FLEXPAD, application, share, p. 5

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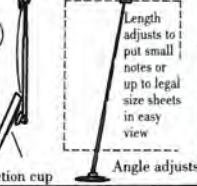
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