

Volume 8, Number 3, 1999

# THE HP Palmtop Paper

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## CONNECT!

### 6 Pathways Out to the World



**Application Manager**  
*Great New Techniques for Stretching the Limits!*

**WorldTime Palmtop Geography Takes Off!**



**Publisher's Message** ..... 1

**Letters** ..... 2

**New Products: Software Now Available** ..... 3

**HP Palmtop User Groups** ..... 24

**MUPs (Most Unusual Places)** ..... 25

The HP Palmtop: don't leave home without it! Palmtoppers take their computers with them and let the rest of us know what they're up to.

## HOW TO

**Email and The Palmtop** ..... 1

Email for the HP Palmtop comes from several sources. Here are two new ways to stay connected with The HP Palmtop Paper and with fellow Palmtop enthusiasts.

**The Palmtop Connection** ..... 1

A master of Palmtop connectivity guides you through the maze of ways to hook your HP Palmtop to other devices.

**Through the Looking Glass: Using Application Manager to Connect Your Program and Data Files to Your Fingers** . 1

If you want to coax more out of Application Manager here is a procedure that won't cost you anything except some time and a little planning. The rewards will surprise you.

**The WorldTime Connection** ..... 21

A world traveller describes how he uses the WorldTime application along with several geography programs.

**User to User: Long Live the HP 200LX** .. 24

Hal discusses the past and the future of the HP Palmtop.

**Quick Tips** ..... 28

**Basic Tips** ..... 30

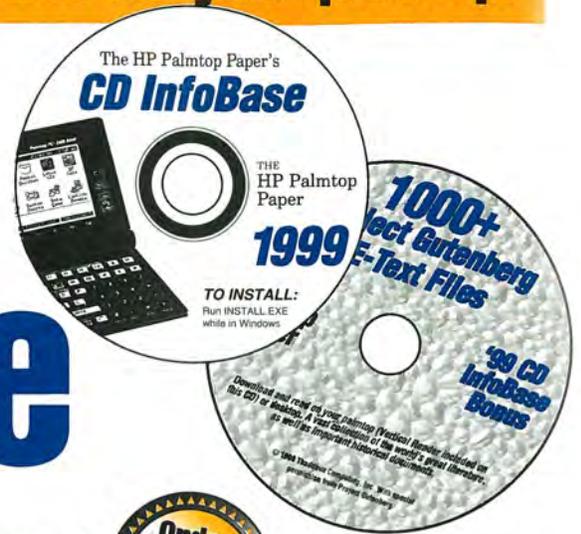
**Advertiser's Index** ..... 32

**Files on May/June 1999 ON DISK**..... 32



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# Editor's Message



**T**his issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper* has the theme of connectivity.

Gottfried Burckhardt tell us how to connect our Palmtops to other devices such as modems and other computers using the latest hardware and software.

David Sargeant shows us how we can connect with each other through the medium of email and describes the latest email server [www.news.hplx](http://www.news.hplx).

Linda Worthington gives some prime examples of e-mail: MUPS (Most Unusual Places). This collection includes messages from all over the world. I think you'll agree: a MUP is much more engaging than a postcard saying "Having a great time, wish you were here."

Bill Quinlan's article about the built-in WorldTime database shows how to figure out where in the world you are — and how far from home you've wandered or wished you could wander.

My "Through the Looking Glass" article presents what some have called "Super App Mgr." You'll discover how to expand the capabilities of this built-in Application Manager. You'll also learn how to run almost any System Manager compliant program without having to actually install it in App Mgr.

Hal Goldstein talks about the past and future of the HP Palmtop and decries HP's lack of marketing.

Several weeks ago, my wife was telling me about one of her favorite childhood books, "The Little Engine that Could." I can't imagine what I was thinking of at the time, but I put my foot in my mouth when I blurted out "that's a great way to describe the Palmtop." (Oops!) Your non-palmtop spouses and friends can sympathize with Helen. They can appreciate what she has to put up with: a person with a one-track mind.

Be that as it may, I still think of the Palmtop as "the little engine that can." The HP Palmtop just keeps chugging along. It may seem like a steam-driven locomotive compared to the faster desktop machines on the market but with extra memory and a double speed transplant it still moves a lot of useful information. It isn't as spiffy-looking as some of the newer machines but looks are deceiving.

Hopefully this issue will reinforce your conviction that you're staying with a computer that has staying power for the long haul.

*Ed Keefe*

## The HP Palmtop Paper

Increasing Your Personal  
Power By Expanding Your  
Palmtop's Potential

**Volume 8/Issue 3**

**May/June 1999**

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The HP Palmtop Paper (ISSN 10656189) is published by Thaddeus Computing Inc., at 110 North Court Street, Fairfield, IA 52556. Periodical postage paid at Fairfield, Iowa. Subscription rates payable in U.S. dollars, checks drawn on a U.S. bank, or by credit card — one year: \$39; two years: \$69. Postage: U.S. and U.S. possessions free; Canada, Mexico add \$6 per year; other countries add \$18 per year. Published bi-monthly. Please allow four to six weeks for receipt of first issue. Executive, Editorial, Circulation, Marketing and Advertising Offices: 110 North Court Street, Fairfield, IA 52556. Telephone: (515) 472-6330, FAX: (515) 472-1879.

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# Letters



HP Palmtop  
First Class

## An Awesome Issue

I have subscribed to *The HP Palmtop Paper* magazine since it just covered the HP 95LX. I finally found time to dig into the January/February 1999 issue.

This is the best issue I have seen by a significant margin. It is 1 AM and I can not get to sleep I am so excited by the different articles.

Your Basic Tips on linking Lotus spreadsheets opened my eyes to a whole new set of applications. The optimization tip has led me to reorganize my 32Meg Palmtop.

Great Job!

Leland Hambley  
leland@hambley.com

*I'm glad you enjoyed the issue. It was not my intention to cause you to lose any sleep. Could it be that insomnia is infectious? I seem to recall that this issue kept me up late at night writing and editing it.—Ed*

## Hooked on Logo

Dear Sirs,

I must congratulate you on the publication of Ed Keefe's article entitled "Programming Is Child's Play" in the January/February 1999 edition of *The HP Palmtop Paper*.

It was enthralling to the extent that I could not stop reading it and had to download first Ladybug Logo and then MSWLogo and try each for myself. I am not a programmer and indeed have limited computer experience.

I had never heard of Logo before but you could say that I am now hooked.

It is amazing how learning starts off so simply that a child can do it, yet it progresses to such a complex outcome, limited only by one's imagination.

As Ed Keefe himself aptly puts it, Logo is for kids but also Logo is for the kid in all of us. It is both fun and serious at the same time. I introduced my young granddaughter to it and she started picking it up right from the word "go".

Furthermore, as users keep saying, it is amazing what Palmtops can do and it is gratifying to see new and interesting ideas to apply in each edition of *The HP Palmtop Paper*. Keep up the good work.

Yours sincerely,  
Dr. Barry Collins  
collib@forensic.sa.gov.au

## Keep Those Columns Coming

Dear Ed,

I have procrastinated in writing to you before, but wanted you to know that I have enjoyed your articles and software reviews over the years. You have increased my knowledge of the palmtop and computers in general and I continue to use the tips and methods described in your articles. I hope that your new responsibilities as editor of *The HP Palmtop Paper* do not prevent the continuation of your "column."

Sincerely,  
Jay Bachmayer MD  
jbachmay@dtgnet.com

*Actually, editing The HP Palmtop Paper is a great way to get new ideas for articles. I also get*

*the feeling that I'm really part of a select community of ingenious, busy, and creative people. I hope that feeling comes through in my articles as well as those of our authors.*

## Help with Application Manager

Dear Sirs,

Some time ago I read about changing or deleting the assigned letters of the hot keys for the built-in programs in the Application Manager of the HP 200LX.

I remember only that this trick was done with a hexadecimal editor but I do not know which file to edit and I did not succeed in finding it. I looked through all my Palmtop Papers twice, but I could not find any article on it. So I must have seen it elsewhere. Searching on the Internet did not give any result either. Could you tell me which file to edit, if I want to change the "&a" of appointment book or the "&n" of notes?

I would appreciate very much if you would help me.

Sincerely,  
Jay Bachmayer

*This is a good example of how I get new ideas. I too remembered reading how to perform this trick and even did an electronic search of the CD InfoBase to no avail. I also noticed that we've mentioned the Application Manager in several articles but never have done a complete article on it. Hopefully, the Through The Looking Glass article in this issue will take care of this oversight.*

## GPS WebSite

In the Nov/Dec 1998 issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper*, you

featured an excellent article by Chris Lott on using a GPS receiver with the HP Palmtop. Just in case anyone is looking for more information, there's an excellent tutorial on all of the details of the magic that is the Global Positioning System (GPS), check out this Web site: [www.trimble.com/gps/fsections/uaa\\_f0.htm](http://www.trimble.com/gps/fsections/uaa_f0.htm) If typing in the complete URL doesn't get you to the site, try working your way down to it from [www.trimble.com](http://www.trimble.com).

I found the information fascinating and well written so that it is easy to understand but still complete.

Stan Dobrowski 76711,2302

## Inmax Closes Its Doors

Inmax Publishing, the producers of Project:Vision has gone out of business. They no longer sell or support one of the best project management tools for the HP 200LX.

Users may continue to use the product and should be able to get support from fellow users on Compuserve's HPHand forum.

# New Products: Software Now Available

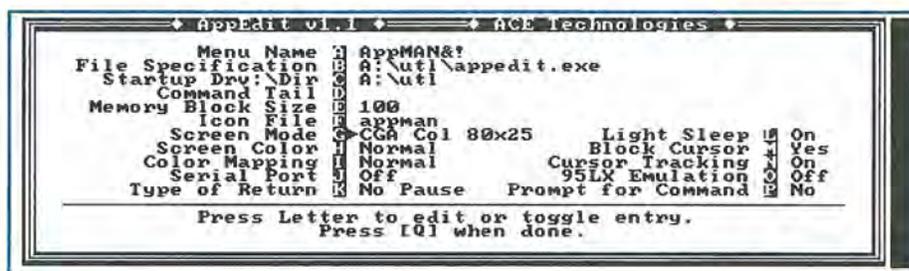
by Ed Keefe

## AppMAN! v. 1.2

Mark Scardina has recently released AppMAN!, version 1.2, as copyrighted freeware.

Formerly, ACE Technologies marketed the program as a commercial product. Mark Scardina is a long-time contributor to The HP Palmtop Paper and is the Sysop of the HPHand Forum on CompuServe. His AppMAN! program is designed to enhance the usefulness of Application Manager on both the HP 100/200LX computers.

In brief, AppMAN! lets you build elaborate Path statements in Application Manager's "Add an Application" screen. You use the APPEDIT program from the AppMAN! package to create these statements simply by filling in some blanks and toggling other options on or off (See Screen 1). When you have finished making entries and quit the APPEDIT program you will have a new or updated entry in the App Mgr program. Since APPEDIT modifies the APPMGR.DAT file, the program is smart enough to know that you shouldn't have the APPMGR.DAT file open in both the App Mgr and APPEDIT programs at the same time. APPEDIT automatically turns off the App Mgr program when you run the APPEDIT program. Another program in the AppMAN! package, AR (AppRun), interprets



Screen 1: AppEdit lets you set commands easily.

these new commands when you start a DOS application in App Mgr. AR is unusual in that it is a TSR program but you don't need to install it in any of your start up files. You simply highlight the program, once, in Filer, and press Enter. The small program will announce that it has been installed successfully. From then on AR will start every time you start the App Mgr program. AR takes about 1.4K bytes of working memory.

AppMAN! creates Path field commands that will start a DOS program in any of the 8 screen modes built into the HP Palmtop. You can even start a DOS program designed for the HP 95LX (such as ACT!) on the 100/200LX. Beyond this you can also add a command that will start the application in 1.) inverse or normal mode, 2.) with light sleep on or off, 3.) with the serial port set to infrared or wire, 4.) block cursor on or off, and even 5.) force the application to

prompt for input before it starts.

If you have ever used Mark Scardina's freeware program, APLOAD, you'll have some idea of the enhancements that can be added to App Mgr. AppMAN! takes APLOAD to the next level both with more features and with an easier to use interface. AppMAN! comes without any printed documentation. However the package contains an Adobe Acrobat file (APPMAN.PDF) which may be viewed or printed with any computer that has the Adobe Acrobat reader. Better still, the documentation for the program is also included in a NoteTaker file (APPMAN.NDB) which you may use on the Palmtop. This lets you have both APPEDIT and APPMAN.NDB running on the Palmtop at the same time. You can switch back and forth between the two thereby gaining "pop-up" help when you're using APPEDIT.

AppMAN! adds a whole new

dimension to the built-in Application Manager program. On behalf of the Palmtop community, we would like to thank Mark Scardina for making this program more widely available.

**LXPGP, Version 1.0**  
by Walter Francis

LXPGP is a graphical front-end for the PGP 2.6.x (Pretty Good Privacy) encryption program. LXPGP was written using LXBatch. If you've ever tried to master all the settings in the PGP program you will appreciate the LXPGP interface. It handles all the PGP tasks as if they were built into the HP Palmtop.

**Days, v.1.0**  
by Dr. David J. Bird

Several years ago, a programmer known as Lord Jonin, wrote a program called Clock of Doom that would let you specify any event in

the past or the future and get the number of days, hours, minutes, and seconds between the event and the current time. However, the program failed to handle leap years correctly.

Dr. Bird's rendition of this program, written specifically for the HP Palmtop, handles leap years accurately and produces similar results.

**LXPic v.6.2**

Stephan Peichl has updated LXPic, the fastest GIF/ICN/PCX/JPG/BMP viewer for the 100/200 LX. This new version includes a small converter for Casio QV-10 CAM files and fixes the OmniBook DEL key bug. It also has limited Casio CAM and Kodak IMG support built in. Be sure to try the J, K and L keys in LXPic. They all produce thumbnail versions of all the graphics files in a given directory. This is most useful when you're looking for just the right icon or topcard.

**LxPro v.2.2**

LxPro gives you complete control over all special HP Palmtop features. In addition, it has an ASCII table window, a memory window, a keycode window, a programmer's calculator and an I/O port window. This version of the program by Stephan Peichl supports EMS if available and exits at power down to prevent problems with password-protected machines.

**Edit: An Editor from the Portable Days**

In the days of the HP Portable Plus many users favored a shareware text editor called Edit (also called "ED" after the author Ed Gilbert). Ed Gilbert has offered the ED editor as copy-righted freeware. It is available on this issue's *The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK* and on the Web at [www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm](http://www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm)

For those who never tried ED, it uses a Lotus style menu system and supports most text editing functions. The unique feature of ED is that it never wraps or truncates lines of text. You have to press the Enter key to start a new line. This is sometime very useful when reformatting text for inclusion in a Note field, in a database or for reading email letters that are all on one line. Thanks, Ed, for the editor, from Ed, the Editor, on behalf of myself and the rest of the Palmtop community.

All of the software mentioned in this column is either shareware or freeware. The files will be available on this issue's *The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK* as well as on the Web at [www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm](http://www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm) (type a key word into the search field and click Fetch! and download the file from the S.U.P.E.R. site. This is the fastest way to get the file you're looking for). ■

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# Email and The Palmtop

*Email for the HP Palmtop comes from several sources. Here are two new ways to stay connected with The HP Palmtop Paper and with fellow Palmtop enthusiasts.*

*David Sargeant and Ed Keefe*

In the past, Palmtop users relied on CompuServe's HPHandheld forum and, to a lesser extent, the PDA forum on AOL as ways to stay connected to other Palmtop users.

Those who did not subscribe to these commercial databases exchanged ideas in electronic news groups such as comp.sys.palmtops and the HPLX-L mailing list.

As the World Wide Web grew, at least a dozen user-supported Web pages came on line. Soon [www.PalmtopPaper.com](http://www.PalmtopPaper.com) and [www.palmtop.net](http://www.palmtop.net) became the main repositories of software and documents for the HP Palmtop.

As one of the largest email servers [www.hplx.net](http://www.hplx.net) also provides a variety of services to the Palmtop community. At this Web site you can find product reviews, FAQs and how-to articles. There you'll also find a news server for discussion groups: [news.hplx.net](http://news.hplx.net).

## **News.hplx.net**

What makes [news.hplx.net](http://news.hplx.net) somewhat unique is that it requires a password to access the news group. This prevents the onslaught of junk email that has become prevalent on public news groups. Also, since the news site is mediated, abusers can be denied access.

Since [news.hplx.net](http://news.hplx.net) is a news server, the information on it is not broadcast to computers all over the world, as is the case with Usenet new groups. Thus Palmtop users get the

advantages of a semi-private site like HPHAND along with advantages of a standard news server. Another advantage is that you can access it with almost any email program available for the Palmtop or a desktop machine. This is no longer true of the HPHand forum on CompuServe.

[News.hplx.net](http://news.hplx.net) currently contains a number of sections called newsgroups. Each newsgroup has a particular topic that is reflected in the title. For example, [hp200.software](http://hp200.software) is a place to deal with software issues while [hp200.fireside](http://hp200.fireside) is a place to chat about almost anything. A complete list of newsgroups can be found on the [news.hplx.net](http://news.hplx.net) Web page at [news.hplx.net](http://news.hplx.net) (or [www.hplx.net/news/](http://www.hplx.net/news/) for WWW/LX users).

To access the [news.hplx.net](http://news.hplx.net) server you must have a newsreader that supports authentication. Windows newsreaders include Netscape Messenger ([www.netscape.com](http://www.netscape.com)), Outlook Express (included with Windows 98), and WinVN ([www.ksc.nasa.gov/software/winvn/winvn.html](http://www.ksc.nasa.gov/software/winvn/winvn.html)). For Unix users or those who telnet to Unix machines, tin and pine are popular programs for reading news.

Palmtop users can use News/LX that is part of the WWW/LX software suite. News/LX provides sophisticated filtering of messages and many other options such as downloading headers-only for a quick overview of the newsgroups. News/LX can download full mes-

sages with the Post/LX program. A recent update to WWW/LX lets you use an Ethernet connection to download news messages quickly.

A demo version of the WWW/LX suite can be downloaded from D&A Software, [www.dasoft.com](http://www.dasoft.com).

Another newsreader program that works on the 200LX is Rod Whitby's LXNNTP program. This program downloads messages which can then be read with PNR (Palmtop News Reader) a System Manager compliant program.

Articles in each newsgroup can be left unsorted or can be "threaded" to indicate an ongoing discussion or the development of a new idea. Like WWW/LX, LXNNTP works over a modem or an Ethernet connection. LXNNTP, a part of Rod Whitby's freeware LXTCP package can be found at [lxtcp.hplx.net](http://lxtcp.hplx.net).

Other users have found that Robot/LX scripts work quite well for sending and receiving mail. Robot/LX is a tool that automates text-based Internet sessions and has an almost unlimited number of uses. Robot/LX is an add-on program for WWW/LX and can be found at the D&A Software site.

With all the advantages mentioned, it's no surprise that [news.hplx.net](http://news.hplx.net) has grown continually since being opened for public use. If you would like to sign up point your web browser to [news.hplx.net](http://news.hplx.net) (or [www.hplx.net/news/](http://www.hplx.net/news/) for WWW/LX

users) and fill out the online form. You will then be given access to the newsgroup server and all the discussions going on inside.

In short, news.hplx.net is a good place to go for an orderly arrangement of messages. You can browse through the first few lines of messages and download those you want. You can skip messages in the fireside section if you're just looking for Palmtop related information. The choice is yours.

HPLX-L is the place to go if you want to pose a question to anyone who happens to connect with this site. Once you've posted a question or a message it is sent out to everyone else who has signed up for the service. Wait half an hour and you'll get replies from fellow Palmtoppers who seem to go out of their way to be helpful. You'll also get all the questions and replies that others have posted on this site. If you don't want 50 to 60 messages a day in your email box, you choose to receive only a "digest" version of the most recent postings and ask for selected messages from this email digest.

### The Palmtop Paper Newsletter

Another way to stay informed

about the HP Palmtop is through The Palmtop Paper Newsletter (PTPN).

On April 6, 1999, *The HP Palmtop Paper* sent out the first issue of PTPN to over 5,700 people who had requested this free, electronic mail.

The plan is to have two mailings per week and also save a copy of the newsletters on our Web site at [www.PalmtopPaper.com/articles.htm](http://www.PalmtopPaper.com/articles.htm).

The purpose of the newsletter is to share one item of information about the Palmtop per issue. Another reason for the newsletter is to call your attention to the services provided by Thaddeus Computing Inc., the sponsor of the newsletter.

If you requested the newsletter and have not yet received an issue, please try requesting it again. The first mailing showed that 530 of the email addresses on our list were invalid. That could mean either that your address changed after you requested the newsletter or, perhaps, you hit the wrong key when you filled out the form at [www.PalmtopPaper.com/free.htm](http://www.PalmtopPaper.com/free.htm)

Please note that if you did receive PTPN, you are already subscribed. You don't need to subscribe again. If you no longer wish to be informed about the HP Palmtop, use the

method at the bottom of any issue of PTPN to unsubscribe.

The PTP Newsletter is somewhat like the HPLX-L email service except that, if you reply to PTPN, your response will not be broadcast to all the other subscribers.

The first issue of PTPN unexpectedly drew more than 40 favorable comments about the newsletter. Some of the respondents even offered to pay for it. Apparently there is a need for this service and the best part about it is that it's free.

We also received almost 50 replies requesting help using the Palmtop.

We tried to answer as many of these as possible but quickly ran out of time and knowledge. If you have questions, we suggest that you sign up with HPLX-L and news.hplx.net. You'll get a wider range of answers and you can start a dialog with other users from around the world.

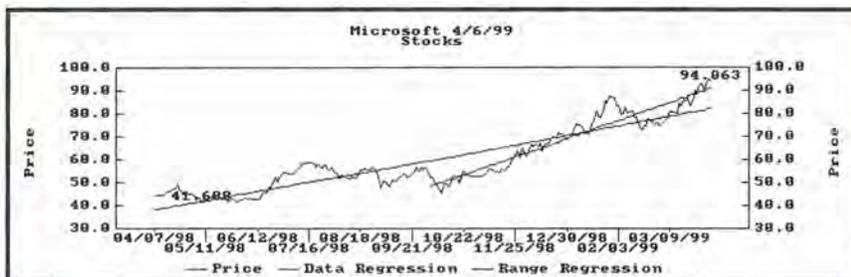
### Name of the Game: Communication

All of these email services have one overriding purpose: communication—keeping users connected with users.

If they do nothing else these services will give you a feeling that you're not alone in your choice of a truly "personal computer," the HP Palmtop. ■

## Imagine!

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Available on our website: <http://www.ive.com/dps> Price \$124.95

Also available from D&A Software, Inc. <http://www.dasoft.com>

Kan-Do Enterprises <http://www.galaxymall.com/computers/palmtop>

## How To Connect

To sign up for the free Palmtop Paper Newsletter send an e-mail to [listserv@unbounded.com](mailto:listserv@unbounded.com). The subject line of the email must be empty and the body of the message should contain the words `Subscribe PalmtopPaper <your email address>` (omit the brackets).

To register for the HPLX news service use your Web browser to go to <http://news.hplx.net/> and fill in the form. You'll be notified by return mail with your registration.

To sign up for the HPLX-L list use your Web browser to go to <http://www.sp.uconn.edu/~mchem1/HPLX.shtml> and fill out the registration form.





Screen 2: Cirque TouchPad Pointing Device

tem. However if you want to connect the Palmtop to a mouse you will need to get a null modem adapter to cancel the null modem in the HP cable.

Merely connecting the Palmtop to another PC won't assure data transfer. You also need connectivity software running on both machines. For example, the Palmtop's DataComm program has a limited version of the Kermit transfer software along with Xmodem, Ymodem and Zmodem software built in. This transfer software will let you connect your Palmtop to another computer as long as the other computer is running a program like Cross-talk or ProComm. The communication is slow and the set up is time-consuming. For faster throughput you're better off using the communication function built into the Filer along with the HP Connectivity Pack running on a desktop. The Connectivity Pack also contains a version of LapLink that you could use along with the Palmtop's

built-in Laplink Remote program.

For the fastest serial port transfer between the Palmtop and another computer most Palmtoppers use ZIP.COM from Eric Meyers.

In theory, serial connections will let you transfer data at a speed of up to 14 Kbytes/sec.

It doesn't matter if you set the Palmtop to the maximum of 115,200 baud. In car-talk this is like saying that you've opened the throttle all the way. However, if your engine is only 50 horsepower, don't expect to win any races.

Sometimes it's better to set the speed lower than 115,200 baud to improve communication. By way of analogy, I can communicate at top speed with my co-workers in our native language, German. However, if I try communicating in German with Ed Keefe, he would probably ask me to slow down, otherwise we'd lose a lot of information due to "input device overload" and I'd have to

repeat myself too often.

Note also that the number of files will also effect the transfer speed. An analogy would be to go shopping for a dozen items on a list one item at a time. You might drive back and forth at top speed but you'd have to stop and drop off an item before going for the next one.

For me, the serial transfer speed is useful only for moving small amounts of information. Copying many large data files from one computer to another is agonizingly slow.

For example, I put together a set of 72 files totaling 900 Kbytes and transferred them from the Palmtop to a desk top PC. The best transfer rate I could achieve was 2.4 Kbytes/sec: far less than the theoretical maximum of 14 Kbytes/sec.

Furthermore, if you pump up your Palmtop to 64 MB, load it full of data and then do a complete backup, you can plan on getting a good night's sleep. Your Palmtop will be busy transferring data for 7 to 8 hours! For me this is reason enough to look for faster alternatives.

### PC Cards and Parallel Port Cards

The first thing that comes to mind is using a flash card as a backup medium. For example, writing my 900 Kbyte set of test files from Palmi, my double speed 32MB Palmtop, to a 48MB compact flash took 14 sec. This is a transfer speed of 60.7 Kbytes/sec. Even my single speed Palmtop needs only 24 seconds (35.4 Kbytes/sec). That's good, but what is not so good is that you need a PC Card reader attached to your desktop to transfer the PC Card data to a hard disk.

A faster transfer rate can only be achieved using a parallel port. Since the HP Palmtop does not have this built in, you will need to buy a card and install the necessary drivers on your Palmtop and PC. David Sargeant's column in the Nov/Dec 1998 issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper* will get you started down this path.

I've used a Transdigital Parallel Port card as my main transfer device

for more than a year. At first I hooked the card to a battery powered hard drive that was left over from an old Toshiba portable computer. With this setup I was able to achieve transfer speeds of up to 22.5 Kbytes/sec. The advantage was that I could connect the external hard drive to the parallel port of another computer and copy data from one hard disk to another. The disadvantages are that the external hard disk is one more thing to pack when going on the road. Also, when you want to transfer data, there's a lot of extra unplugging and plugging to do.

Several users, myself included, have hooked up an Iomega ZIP drive and achieved transfer speeds of about 24.5 Kbytes/sec. However the same disadvantages apply, namely, extra weight, extra cables and a large AC adapter.

A word of caution: don't expect all external drives to work with a parallel port card. Modern equipment often does not connect because it needs software that will only run on an Intel 80386 machine.

If you have a parallel port card and have access to another PC try using a direct parallel port connection. You may be able to achieve transfer speeds of about 25 Kbytes/sec. A complete backup of a 64MB Palmtop will still take three quarters of an hour but, compared to the transfer times using a serial cable, this is quite acceptable.

#### New Hardware and Software

This article could stop here but new hardware has come on the market. There are now three parallel port cards from which to choose.

The tried and true Transdigital card provides a standard parallel port with a preprogrammed EEPROM on the card that holds all the software (including a file transfer program). You just insert the card, load the enabler software called CIC from the A: drive and your Palmtop is ready to communicate via parallel port. The version sold by Thaddeus Computing



Screen 3: Three parallel cards that work with the Palmtop

also contains doublespeed and memory drivers.

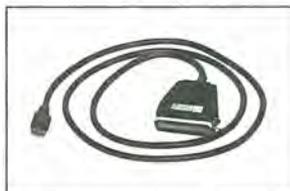
The Quatech SPP100 card doesn't provide additional "on board memory" but it provides EPP (enhanced parallel port) capability. According to Quatech, the HP doesn't support their EPP protocol but Mr. Hiroyuki Sekiya from Japan wrote an alternative card enabler, which provides a "limited"

EPP support on the Palmtop. Quatech can be found through some U.S. retailers or through their Web page at [www.quatech.com](http://www.quatech.com)

The Epson XPORT is another unique parallel port card that comes with full EPP support and additional (up to) 32MB flash RAM on the card. As far as I know it's only available in Japan but there are probably

## New! Link-A-Printer II

Smaller size & Attached cable



Link-A-Printer II is a serial to parallel converter that allows direct printing from your OmniGo 100 to any parallel printer. It also works with the HP 100/200LX.

**\$79**

Link-A-Printer II has a built-in connectivity cable that plugs into your OmniGo 100. Since it does not require batteries or extra cable Link-A-Printer II is simple and easy to use.

### Also Available Link-A-Printer I

Requires connectivity cable and optional battery. Features auto on/off fixed 9600 baud.

**\$59**



Tel: 704-875-8490  
Fax: 704-875-2801  
Toll Free: 800-476-4070

Greenwich Instruments LTD  
European Distributor  
Tel: 011-44-181-302-4931  
Fax: 011-44-181-302-4933

## A brief history of parallel ports

When computers started to conquer small offices and homes in the early 1980's, they were equipped with a port that would let you connect to either a printer or plotter. This "Centronics" port is what we now call a unidirectional parallel port or a Standard Parallel Port (SPP).

It didn't take long for people to see that a parallel port could transfer data faster than a serial port: theoretically 5 times faster.

But there was a bottle-neck caused by the design of the port. The SPP provided only 4 wires with which to transfer data. Parallel port file transfer was faster than serial transfer but the extra speed didn't justify the extra cost.

Later, when IBM introduced the PS/2 line of computers, they also introduced a new standard called "bidirectional". The new port had 8 data lines with which to transfer data and

other ways to get one.

All three cards work flawlessly on the Palmtop's DOS platform and provide fast file transfer capability. If you use your card only for file transfers any of these parallel port card will do. Even when using a special 8-bit transfer cable none of the transfer software I have tried works on the HP Palmtop in bidirectional or EPP mode.

On the other hand, if you use the parallel port not only for file transfers between computers, but also to connect to additional hardware such as hard disks, CDROM drives, scanners etc, you may benefit from EPP capabilities. For example, my Bantam CDROM drive transfers files to the Palmtop at 40 Kbytes/sec in SPP, but speeds up to 120 Kbytes/sec when hooked to the Quatech or Epson cards using EPP.

My personal recommendation for road warriors is the Epson card. You can back up the Palmtop in a couple of minutes to the 32MB of on-board flash RAM and later you can hook

transfer speed increased to 150 Kbytes/sec and more.

Many companies redesigned their products to take advantage of the parallel port's speed. Such devices as hard disks, scanners, CD-ROM drives, CCD cameras and even networks appeared in rapid succession.

Three companies (Intel, Zenith and Xircom) created a new standard called EPP (Enhanced Parallel Port), which increased the transfer speed of the port to 1000 Kbytes/sec.

Finally, Microsoft introduced another standard called ECP (Enhanced Capability Port) and the transfer rate jumped to 2000 Kbytes/sec. Unfortunately all these different protocols are only partially compatible with each other. It's a matter of "plug and pray", i.e., try it and hope that it works for you and your hardware.

into any computer system to transfer the files to a hard disk via a parallel link or by plugging the card into a card reader. The only drawbacks are the Japanese documentation and the limited availability of the Epson card.

### Software Considerations

Without the necessary software, the Quatech and Epson cards would be useless. So here are some suggestions for file transfer programs that will work on the HP Palmtop.

Interlnk/Intersrv is a file combo bundled with MS-DOS. It does what it is supposed to do, namely transfer files but Interlnk has to be loaded as a device driver. To load the driver you have to reboot the computer. Establishing a link is a bit awkward because the start up has to be done in the correct order. You first start the server program on the first computer then reboot the second computer with Interlnk loaded as a device driver. I

have found Interlnk/Intersrv less than useful due to the limited number of drive letters it lets you have. This shows up when you try to connect to a LAN in which all the drive letters are taken by the network. Furthermore Interlnk/Intersrv doesn't work in a DOS window on a Windows machine.

XTLINK is part of XTREE GOLD, a commercial program suite that runs well on the Palmtops. XTLINK is loaded from the DOS prompt and controlled via some easy to remember parameters. If you didn't forget to set the LASTDRIVE statement to an appropriate drive letter (26 drives is the maximum that can be addressed from DOS) all logical server drives appear as additional drive letters on the host computer. All DOS commands work over this link. Even Filer, under System Manager control, works flawlessly. The connection can be removed without reboot.

LapLink is another commercial program to link two computers. The difference among the programs mentioned above is the fact that the second computer stays "independent" from the first computer. This is useful when you connect to a computer running a huge network. For example, my office computer has all drive letters occupied from the network. Using LapLink I get 26 drive letters on the right side of the screen and another five or six on the left. I tried LapLink versions 4 and 5, both work well. Personally I prefer LL4, which needs less memory and has fewer features.

FileMaven is another transfer program. It provides a LapLink-like, dual window display and provides serial and parallel port connections "on the fly". Better still, FileMaven is freeware.

All four programs establish connections at more than 20 Kbytes/sec (using Palmi, my double speed 32MB Palmtop) and run from a standard 3.5" floppy disk. If the link software isn't already on the computer to which you want connect your Palmtop, you can easily load it via the floppy disk drive and the connection will be established.

There is no "universal solution." As always, which programs to use for file transfer heavily depends on your needs. Sometimes, when I need to hook into my Win95 controlled HP OmniBook 800 portable, I want control over all the Palmtop's drives. The following steps are needed:

- insert PC Card in the Palmtop
- connect the cable (including gender changer and LapLink adapter) to both computers
- run the following batch file on the Palmtop:

*(The text inside the parantheses are comments and should not be typed in an actual batch file.)*

@echo off

SETIT MF (disable timeout using Larry Tachna's setup utility)

XPORT (enable the Epson parallel port card)

XTLINK P1 B (start the transfer program, LPT1, B&W display. Now the Palmtop is waiting for a response from the Client. Transfer is interrupted by pressing <ESC> )

SETIT M3 (reenable 3 minutes timeout)

XPORT -R (remove the card enabler from memory)

- start the client computer
- modify its CONFIG.SYS file to allow adding the appropriate amount of drive letters (set the LASTDRIVE=x)
- add "XTLINK P1 L" (without the quotes) to your AUTOEXEC.BAT
- restart the client to load the transfer software
- now all Palmtop drives will show up as local drives and can be used from any program on the client computer.

To establish an "interim" connection between my Palmtop and my Win3.11-controlled, office computer which runs in a network, I recommend the following procedure.

- insert PC Card in the Palmtop
- connect the cable (including gender changer and LapLink adapter) to both computers
- run the following batch file on the Palmtop:

@echo off

SETIT MF (disable timeout using Larry Tachna's setup utility)

XPORT (enable the Epson parallel port card)

LLPRO (start the transfer program, Setting port number

and color options is done interactively from the menu of

LapLink and saved to LapLink's configuration file)

SETIT M3 (reenable 3 minutes timeout)

XPORT -R (remove the card enabler from memory)

— start a DOS box on the client computer

— within that box start LLPRO and you can access all 26 logical drives from the Palmtop.

These two examples work for me but will have to be adapted to your situation. ■

### Shareware/Freeware mentioned in this article

**ZIP.COM** — (shareware, \$30), **FileMaven 3.5** —(freeware) are available on the 1999 CD InfoBase from Thaddeus Computing, Inc. as well as at [www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm](http://www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm).

**FMAV35.ZIP** is also on this issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK*.

### Commercial products mentioned in this article

#### Hardware

**Cirque Easy Cat** — touch pad pointing device. Available from most computer catalogs or from [www.cirque.com](http://www.cirque.com) on the Web (\$31.95).

**TransDigital Parallel Port** — parallel port card. Available from Thaddeus Computing at [www.palmtoppaper.com/cart/shop/transdig.htm](http://www.palmtoppaper.com/cart/shop/transdig.htm) (\$179.00).

**Iomega ZIP drive** — available at most computer and office supply stores, e.g. Staples, CompUSA (\$199)

**Quatech SPP100 parallel port card** — Available at [www.quatech.com/pub/lic/spp100.htm](http://www.quatech.com/pub/lic/spp100.htm)

**Epson XPORT parallel port card** — Not yet available outside of Japan.

**HP Connectivity Pack** — available from Thaddeus Computing at [www.palmtoppaper.com/cart/shop/connect.htm](http://www.palmtoppaper.com/cart/shop/connect.htm) (\$120).

#### Software

**Xtree Gold 4.0 for Win** — available from Symantec or from many computer retailers.

**LapLink** — for more information see [www.laplink.com/products/what\\_sright.asp](http://www.laplink.com/products/what_sright.asp)



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# Through the Looking Glass: New Ways to Stretch the Capabilities of Application Manager

*If you want to coax more out of Application Manager here is a procedure that won't cost you anything except some time and a little planning. The rewards will surprise you.*

by Ed Keefe

If you like to connect your fingers to your software using the icons in Application Manager (&...) you're not alone. Over the past several years I've received hundreds of messages about Application Manager (App Mgr). The messages usually expressed a liking for the App Mgr program and most often ended with a desire that it could do more.

I've collected these desires in an "App Mgr Wish List" and condensed them down to the following seven wishes. I'll try to grant as many of these wishes as I can in this article.

1. I wish there was a way to have more than 38 applications in App Mgr.

2. I wish there was a way to have more than 16 icons visible on the opening screen. More icons would mean not having to press the Page Down key to find an application.

3. I wish there was a way to get rid of the icons for the built-in software that never gets used, e.g., cc:Mail, Pocket Quicken, DataComm, LapLink Remote, etc.?

4. I wish there was a way to change the hot-keys for the built-in software?

5. I wish there a way to associate an icon with either a database file, a Memo file or a specific Lotus 1-2-3 file and start the application along

with the data file?

6. I wish there was a way to add an icon to App Mgr without have to rename the icon and put it in the same directory as its program.

7. I wish there was a way to have more than one App Mgr session with no extra software.

## Your Wish Is Our Command: Almost

There's some good news and some bad news. The bad news is that there's no way to grant the first three wishes directly. The programmers who designed Application Manager fixed the total number of applications at 38. They locked in the 16 or 18 built in applications leaving room for only 22 or 20 user-added applications. (The 200LX has two extra built-in programs that take up two more slots.) That's the bad news. The good news is that there are several indirect ways to grant these first three wishes.

## Known Solutions

The desire for a better Application Manager has prompted several pro-

grammers to create alternative programs.

The most noteworthy offering is the HDM program by Harry Konstas. HDM looks and acts like Application Manager. However, HDM lets you add over 200 icons and their associated applications. HDM also displays 24 icons on the screen at the same time. You can also have more than one HDM session and even nest one HDM session within another. It's a slick and sophisticated program that has been put to good use in the Super Software Carousel package from Thaddeus Computing. The downside is that HDM only works with DOS programs—not System Manager compliant programs.

Tonata, a Japanese programmer, used a different approach with Pocket Launcher (LAUNCHER.EXM). This program, among other things, adds applications to App Mgr on the fly.

When you run Launcher it lets you pick a program from a list. It then uses another program (EXKEY or Keystuff) to stuff a path statement



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ed Keefe is an author and editor of *The HP Palmtop Paper* and the book *PC In Your Pocket: Information When You Need It*. Ed is also a former college instructor of logic and computer science and a consultant in the computer industry. Ed can be reached at [ed@thaddeus.com](mailto:ed@thaddeus.com)

into the last available slot in App Mgr and then runs the new program. The program works but, to me, it seems like a round-about workaround and the setup procedure is not intuitive. If you've tried Pocket Launcher, be sure to read the tip in the sidebar entitled "Temporarily Fooling App Mgr". You'll see how to get similar results without using Pocket Launcher.

There are other programs, such as MoreExm and XFinder that overcome some of App Mgr's limitations but at the expense of extra time spent in setting up and maintaining additional software.

### **"If you can't beat 'em, join 'em"**

Since there's no way to overcome the limitations of App Mgr directly, why not think of the limitations as undocumented features and see if they can be used to our advantage? Here's how.

If you limit the number of user-added icons in App Mgr to sixteen or fewer, you'll be able to see all your icons on the opening screen. You won't have to press the Page Down key to see more. Also you'll have fewer hot-keys with which to contend. Likewise, reducing the number of icons eliminates what I call "visual clutter," i.e., too many icons in your visual field.

### **Getting By With Fewer Icons**

If you can get by with sixteen or fewer icons you can make App Mgr even more useful by moving the most frequently used icons to the first two rows. This means that the icons for the built-in applications will be pushed down in the list, but that's all right. You already have the blue keys at your finger tips. Having an icon that performs the same function seems redundant.

The easiest way to move the icons is to press the F8 (List) key to display a list of the applications. Then highlight one of the blue key applications, e.g., HPCalc, and press the F7(Order) key. Use the down arrow key to move the item to the bottom of the list and

press F7 again. Do this for all the blue key programs.

With the blue key programs out of the way, you could eliminate their hot keys but this really isn't necessary. Once you move a blue key application lower in the list, you can use its hot key for an item that is higher in the list. For example if you move HP Calc to the bottom of the list, you could add "Hex Edit" to App Mgr and set its hot key to "H" by putting an "&" before the "H" in the Name: field of the "Add an Application" screen. When you move the icon to the top of the list you can press "H" and always start "Hex Edit".

However, if you still want to remove or change a hot key for a built-in application, see the sidebar for a way to perform this trick.

Once you've moved the built-in blue key applications to the bottom of the list, you might want to add some more icons to App Mgr to fill up the opening screen.

To add an application, just press the F2(Add) key, fill in the various fields in the "Add an Application" screen and press F10.

When you install an icon you can choose one of the four default icons or pick an icon that has the same name as the associated program. Ordinarily the icon must be in the same directory as the associated program. To get around this restriction see the sidebar tip entitled "Adding Icons in a Round-about Way." The sidebar also shows how to use the OPEN.EXE program to add an icon for a Database file. There's even a way to use an icon in App Mgr to switch to a different Software Carousel work area. Again, see the sidebar for how to do this.

### **Creating Two or More App Mgr Sessions**

If you have more than 16 programs (but fewer than 30) then it's time to consider using two (or more) Application Manager sessions.

You won't need any special software to do this. Everything you need is already on your HP Palmtop.

However you'll need some forethought before creating extra App Mgr sessions and some patience to get things just right. When you're finished, you'll find that switching between App Mgr session is relatively fast and effortless.

I'll describe the procedure for creating two App Mgr sessions and present some guidelines for adding more sessions if you want them.

Creating multiple App Mgr sessions is somewhat like creating Group Boxes in the Program Manager of Windows 3.1. Group boxes let you gather together applications that are similar in nature, e.g., Games or applications that pertain to a project such as editing *The HP Palmtop Paper*. If you're not familiar with Group Boxes, Screen 1 may give you an idea of what they look like on my Win 3.1 desktop.

The instructions that follow show how to create the App Mgr equivalent of Win 3.1 group boxes called "WORK" and "PLAY." The steps in the procedure are prefaced with a small check box. As you work through the procedure, check the box when you've completed a step.

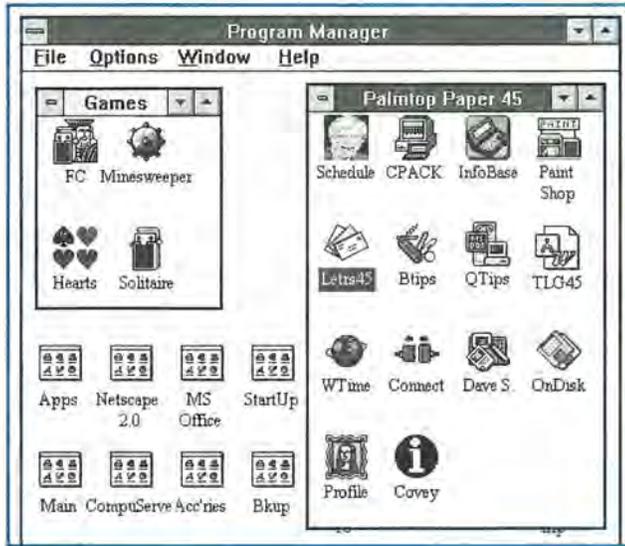
Subscribers to *The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK* can avoid some typing. All the files that we'll describe are available on the disk. You can also download them from our Web site at [www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm](http://www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm). Just type APPMGR in the search field and click on the Fetch! button.

Start Memo or your favorite text editor and type in the following DOS batch program.

```
@echo off
copy c:\_dat\apname.lst c:\_dat\%1
>nul
copy c:\_dat\appmgr.dat c:\_dat\%1
>nul
del c:\_dat\apname.lst
del c:\_dat\appmgr.dat
copy c:\_dat\%2 c:\_dat >nul
c:\_dat\apm.com
```

Check your typing and, when ready, save the file as C:\\_DAT\APPM.BAT.

Create a new file in your text edi-



Screen 1. Group boxes in ProgMan

tor and type in the following assembler code.

```
N APM.COM
A 100
MOV AX,0500
MOV CX,1C0D
INT 16
MOV AX,0500
MOV CX,011B
INT 16
MOV AX,0500
MOV CX,A400
INT 16
MOV AX,0500
MOV CX,3D00
INT 16
MOV AX,0500
MOV CX,4400
INT 16
MOV AH,4C
INT 21

RCX
2C
W
q
```

- Be sure to leave a blank line before the RCX line and after the last line.
- Save the file as C:\\_DAT\APM.SCR and quit the editor.
- Quit System Manager with the MORE, MENU, Applications, Terminate, OK keys.

- Change to the C:\\_DAT directory in DOS and, at the DOS prompt, type the command D:\DOS\DEBUG< APM.SCR and press Enter. If you see the word "error" when Debug assembles the file, you probably made a typing mistake. Correct the mistake and try again.

- To check your work, type DIR APM.COM at the DOS prompt and press Enter. You should get a report that APM.COM is a file of 44 bytes. If you get

some other size for the file, you may have mistyped the 2C command in APM.SCR.

- (Optional: use the D:\BIN\ICN200LX.EXE or ICN100LX.EXE program to create two icons: call them WORK.ICN and PLAY.ICN and save them in the C:\\_DAT directory.)
- Use Filer to create a new subdirectory in the C:\\_DAT directory by highlighting the C:\\_DAT directory and pressing MENU File, Create Dir... Name the directory WORK and press F10 (OK). Then highlight the C:\\_DAT\WORK directory and press MENU, File, Create Dir... again. This time name the directory BAK and press F10 (OK).
- Repeat the above instructions but substitute the name PLAY for WORK.
- In Filer, tag the APNAME.LST and APPMGR.DAT files in the C:\\_DAT directory and copy them into both the \_DAT\PLAY and \_DAT\PLAY\BAK directories.

- The next step involves modifying the APPMGR.DAT file. Since this file contains information used by the Application Manager program, make a copy of the file somewhere else on your Palmtop just in case you want to undo everything and return to your current setup.

- Open Application Manager and create the App Mgr WORK session by deleting any Game items. (Just move the box-cursor to an icon and press the F4 and Enter keys.)

- Press the F2 (Add) key and fill in the fields for the Game icon. This will let you switch from the Work session to the Play session.

- In the Name: field type &Games

- In the Path: field type C:\\_DAT\appm.bat work play | 64

- Leave the Comments field empty and press F10 (OK).

See the sidebar for a roundabout way to get the PLAY.ICN to appear or pick one of the default icons provided by App Mgr.

- Press the End key (Fn+RightArrow) to find the Games icon at the end of the list and press the F7 (Order) key and move it to the top of the list. (If you use the CLOSEFLR program you'll need to put the Games icon as the second item in the list.)

- Rearrange the other icons so that the most frequently used applications are in the first two rows.

- Close App Mgr, return to Filer and copy the new APNAME.LST and APPMGR.DAT files to both the C:\\_DAT\WORK and C:\\_DAT\WORK\BAK directories.

- Copy the files in C:\\_DAT\PLAY into the C:\\_DAT directory, overwriting the current files.

- Open AppMgr again and delete (F4 and Enter) the work-related applications leaving the Game icons.

- Press the F2 (Add) key to create the Goto Work icon. Fill in the fields with Name: &Goto Work

- Path: C:\\_DAT\appm.bat Play Work | 64

- Select the WORK.ICN or choose one of the icons from App Mgr. and press F10 (OK).

- Move the WORK entry to the first or second spot on the list of icons.

- Rearrange the other icons so that the game icons are in the first two

# Tips For Application Manager

## Installing Hot Keys in App Mgr

To set a hot key in App Mgr highlight an icon, press the F3(Edit) key and insert an "&" before one of the characters in the Name field. Don't restrict yourself to just the alphabetic and number keys as hot keys. You can use other characters such as "/", "=", "?", "@", etc. as hot keys.

## Eliminating or Changing Hot Keys from the Built-in Applications

This operation requires the use of a program that can edit the C:\\_DAT\APPMGR.DAT file.

The built in DEBUG program will work but it's not recommended. We prefer HEX.EXE, a freeware program on this issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK* and at [www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm](http://www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm)

If you don't like HEX.EXE, we've also included a shareware hex editor, PSEDIT, on the disk and on our Web site.

Before making any changes to APPMGR.DAT, copy the file to another directory and close the App Mgr program. Once you've saved a copy of the original file run HEX.EXE (or your favorite hex editor) and load the APPMGR.DAT file.

By way of example here's how to eliminate the "H" hot key for HP Calc.

In the hex editor search for "Calc". The string will appear on the right side of the screen as &HP Calc with white spaces on either side of the string. On the left side of the screen you'll see the hex values for the string beginning with "26 48 50...". To eliminate the "&", using HEX.EXE, put the cursor on the "&" and press the DEL key. This will delete the character and shift the other letters to the left. If you're using another hex editor just type over the "&" with "H" and type over the second "H" with "P". You want to shift all the characters in the string one character to the left.

Finally, if you're using the HEX.EXE program, you need to insert a hex 00 byte at the end of the string to make up for the character you deleted. With another hex editor you can type over the last character with a hex 00. You can perform this micro surgery for as many blue key programs as you wish including any of the

built-in applications that you don't use, such as cc:Mail, DataComm, LapLink Remote, etc. If you want to change the hot-key rather than eliminate it, just delete the original "&" and type in a new "&" before another character. Make sure that, if you add extra characters, you must also remove a hex 00 character to preserve the total number of bytes in the file.

Save your work and open App Mgr. and examine all the entries by pressing F3 (Edit) for each one. If App Mgr fails to open or shows garbage in any of the items, close App Mgr and copy your APPMGR.DAT back up file over the modified version.

## A Roundabout Way to Add Icons

Here's how to add icons to App Mgr without having to put them in the same directory as the associated program.

1. Start App Mgr and press the F2(Add) key. Type a name in the Name field and put an "&" before a hot key character.

2. In the Path field type the path and file name for any icon that's on your palmtop. Don't enter the name of the program yet.

3. Press ALT+I and the icon should appear.

4. Press ALT+P, delete the icon name and substitute the path and file name for the program you want to use.

5. Press F10 (OK) and you're done.

Remember that, when you've added an icon, you can delete the icon file from the Palmtop's disk. The icon is stored in the APPMGR.DAT file. (This tip is courtesy of Avi Meshar.)

## Removing the Built-in Apps from App Manager

Can you remove the icons for the built-in applications, e.g. HP-Calc?

Yes, but the following procedure is undocumented and unsupported. You didn't read it here. I'll deny I ever wrote it, but here is what I've heard from a hacker.

Back up the original APPMGR.DAT file. Once you remove the built-in applications from App Mgr, the only way to recover them is to close App Mgr, delete the APPMGR.DAT file and open App Mgr. You'll get the default App Mgr icons but

lose all your additions and modifications.

In App Mgr, use the F8 (List) key and the F7 (Order) key to move the unwanted apps to the bottom of the list. Then go back to the icon view and close App Mgr.

Load APPMGR.DAT into a hex editor and search for the strings of characters for the applications you want to delete. Overwrite all the hex values in the strings with a series of '00' bytes. Save your work. Open App Mgr and go to the last screen where you'll find a bunch of icons without any labels. Use the F4(Delete) key to remove the icons. You will now have some more slots that you can fill with your applications.

There are two caveats to be aware of if you use this trick. (1) You will not be able to use the MENU, Application, Close All command to close applications that have been removed from App Mgr. For example, if you have cc:Mail open in the background and remove the entry from Application Manager, you will only be able to close cc:Mail by switching to it and using the Menu, Quit command. (2) You may not be able to add more than 8 or 9 additional EXM programs to App Mgr. However, the next tip will give you a workaround for this restriction.

## Temporarily Fooling App Mgr

System Manager and Application Manager limit you to 8 or 9 additional System Manager compliant (.EXM) programs.

Here's one way to get around this limitation. The workaround is based on a tip from Jud Hardcastle (CSi: 71155, 1761) in the Nov/Dec 1994 issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper*.

Begin by creating a dummy .EXM program. Do this by using the Filer, Options, DOS command and at the DOS prompt, type REM > C:\\_DAT\TEMP.EXM. This will create a file, TEMP.EXM, with 0 bytes.

Type Exit and press Enter to get back to System Manager. Start App Mgr and press the F2 (Add) key and fill in the fields with Name: &What Ever, Path: C:\\_DAT\TEMP.EXM.

Pick the empty icon supplied by App Mgr and press F10. When prompted for

*Continued page 18*

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- Draw**  
Palmtop drawing/paint program.
- PC Outline**  
Enter thoughts, plans, ideas, and organize them into a hierarchical structure.
- Stereo Shell**  
DOS File Manager.
- garlic**  
Fixes corrupt database files.
- PKZIP**  
File archiver/compressor.
- LHA**  
File archiver/compressor.
- LXPIC**  
Lets you view GIF, JPG, BMP, PLX graphics files.
- Andrew3**  
More readable palmtop font.
- CloseFir**  
Close Filer to save memory.
- Buddy**  
Zillion utilities in one.
- fastdb**  
Speeds up database programs (e.g. Phone).
- MoreEXM**  
Breaks system limitation of 7 EXM files. Enable software like ZOOM.
- Typing Tutor**  
Type faster on the palmtop.
- Zoom**  
Wonderful Magnify-like program that enlarges and makes more readable any section of the screen in built-in apps. For example, can blow-up datacard for more readable phone numbers.
- Subst**  
DOS 5 utility superior to ASSIGN.
- Vclock**  
Whole screen clock and timer.

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### Games

- |                   |            |                   |                 |
|-------------------|------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Dominoes          | Golf       | Mine Sweep        | Solitaire       |
| FreeCell          | Blackjack  | Reversi (Othello) | (many kinds)    |
| Yahtzee           | Bridge     | Sokabin           | Therapist       |
| 42 LX             | Hearts     | Boggle            | Play Music      |
| Cribbage          | Backgammon | Chess             | 3-D Tic Tac Toe |
| Tiles (Mah Jongh) | Checkers   | Go                | Worm            |
| Klondike          | MasterMind | 777               |                 |
|                   |            | Go-Moku           |                 |

### How to Order

Super Software Carousel comes on a CD with complete, easy-to-follow installation instructions and a concise electronic User's Guide.  
If you have Thaddeus Computing install it while your palmtop is with us (free installation) you'll still receive the CD. (You can even send your palmtop just for the free Super Software Carousel installation.)  
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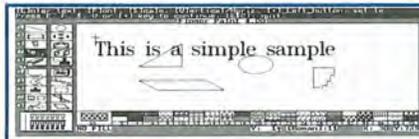
### System Requirements

Includes the complete version of Software Carousel, plus lots of additional software. Runs on HP 100LX, 200LX, or 1000CX on flash disk or in system RAM (C drive). Full package requires 5 meg; a little over 2 meg for applications, 2 meg for games, and 1 meg for Software Carousel sessions. Even more applications than listed are included on CD.

## Here's a brief preview of what SUPER Software Carousel does for your palmtop!



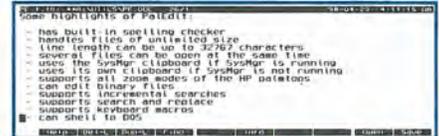
Use HV and LXPIC to view web documents graphics.



Paint, Flowcharts and maps with Draw



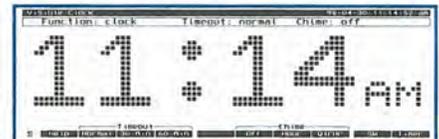
LXPIC can view PCX, BMP, JPG, GIF files on your palmtop.



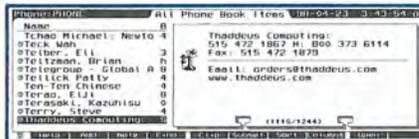
Advanced editing with MEMO-like PalEdit with spell checker.



Read literature or documentation on palmtop sideways.

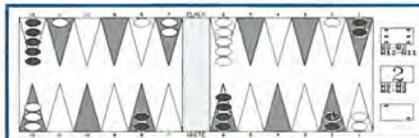


Visible Clock: Full screen clock, timer, stopwatch.

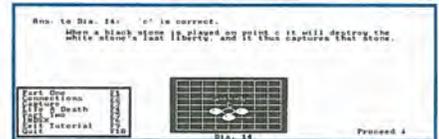


Zoom blows up any phone book, appointment book, or database item. Above is a before and after view.

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Here's how Backgammon, FreeCell, Chess, and a Go tutorial look on the palmtop. Other games include Tetris, Checkers, a music selection, and a palmtop therapist.



Apps

Zoom Anywhere

Games!

rows of App Mgr.

❑ Close App Mgr, return to Filer and copy the new APNAME.LST and APPMGR.DAT files to both the C:\\_DAT\PLAY and C:\\_DAT\PLAY\BAK directories.

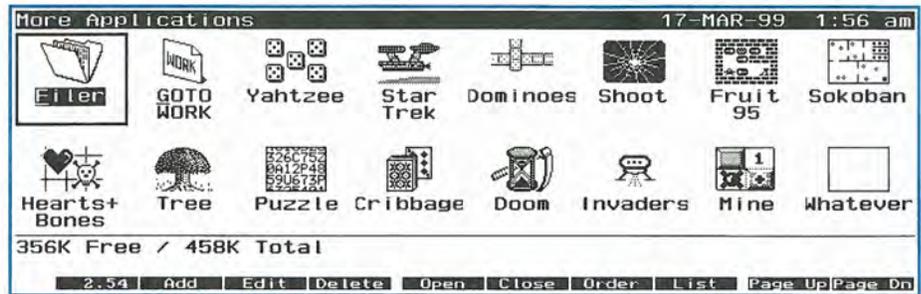
### Switching Application Manager Sessions

❑ Open Application Manager to see the App Mgr Play (Games) session. (My Games session is shown in Screen 2).

❑ Close any DOS application that may be running.

❑ Press the G key.

If all is working well the screen will go blank. Then App Mgr will open and close (you'll see the top-card or another open application briefly) then App Mgr will start again. The first item will open and close. You should see your App Mgr Work session. (Mine is shown in screen 3.)



Screen 2: A Sample App Mgr Games Session



Screen 3: A sample App Mgr Work Session

Press G again and you'll be back in the Games session.

The APPM.BAT file copies the current set of App Mgr files to the appro-

*Continued from page 15*

a hot key, select one that is not currently in use, e.g. CTRL+F10. Press F10 (Done). You can move this icon anywhere you want in the list.

Here's how to use this setup to temporarily fool App Mgr.

Suppose you have a System Manager compliant program called RARELY.EXM that you use on rare occasions and you don't want it taking up a slot in App Mgr. You can still run the program without installing it.

Use Filer to copy the RARELY.EXM program to C:\\_DAT\TEMP.EXM replacing the current TEMP.EXM file. Return to App Mgr and point at the Whatever icon and press F3 (Edit), F10 (OK) and press Enter.

The Edit and OK commands are critical. If you don't Edit and close the Whatever entry the program will either not run or it will crash the Palmtop hard. You can automate most of the procedure with a System Macro, e.g., {F2}C:\\_DAT\TEMP.EXM{Enter}Y{More}{F3}{F10}{Ctrl+F10}

### Adding Data Files to App Mgr

Here's how to add a database file, a

NoteTaker file, a Lotus 1-2-3 file, etc. to the list of applications in App Mgr?

For example, in my App Mgr Work session I have an icon for the SUPER.GDB file. When I point at the icon and press Enter the SUPER database comes up on the screen even if I have another database file running in the background.

To make this happen, I opened an Add Application screen (F2) in App Mgr, filled in the Name field with S&uper and installed the SUPER.ICN using the procedure from the "Adding Icons" tip given above. In the Path field I entered the line A:\utl\OPEN.EXE A:\DB\super.gdb AND put an upside down "?" question mark (Fn+3) in the comment field. This last step is critical otherwise you'll get an "insufficient memory" message when you try to open the file.

The program that makes this possible is OPEN.EXE (version 1.10) which is available on this issue's *The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK* and at [www.palmtop.net](http://www.palmtop.net). You can use the OPEN program to start almost all of the built-in applications with an appropriate data file.

### Switching Software Carousel Sessions

If you have Software Carousel you can create App Mgr items that will let you switch from your System Manager work area to any other Carousel work area.

To make this work you'll need the LXBatch program on your Palmtop.

Here's an example of how to fill in the fields in the Add an Application screen to create an item that will switch to SC work area 2.

Name: &2Car'sl

Path: A:\BAT\LXB.EXE SCSWITCH 2

Key Assignment: Ctrl+123

Comments: <upside down ?, Fn+3>

Icon: <any suitable icon>

How you fill in the Path field will depend on your particular setup. The upside down question mark in the comment field is critical.

The advantages to this technique are that switching to a different work area requires only a single keystroke. To return from a different work area to App Mgr you only need to press the [&...] (More) key in the other session. The only disadvantage comes about if you have more than 4 or 5 work areas. You could use up a lot of icons in App Mgr this way. ■

## Freeware mentioned in this article

The following files may be found on the 1999 CD InfoBase and/or on the Web at [www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm](http://www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm) (type a key word in the search field and click Fetch!): **HDM, ver 2.40, OPEN.EXE 1.10, Laucher, EXKEY, MoreExm, XFinder, Keystuff. Closeflr** and **ICN100LX** are also available in the HPHand forum on Compuserve. The following files will be found on the May/June, 1999, issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK* and on the Web at [www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm](http://www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm) (type a key word in the search field and click Fetch!) **APPM.BAT, APM.COM, WORK.IGN** and **PLAY.IGN, HEX51.ZIP:** Freeware hex editor **PSEDIT.ZIP:** shareware hex editor

## Commercial products mentioned in this article

**Super Software Carousel** from Thaddeus Computing, Inc. on the Web at [www.PalmtopPaper.com](http://www.PalmtopPaper.com)

appropriate directory, deletes the files and then copies another set of files into C:\\_DAT. The APM.COM file closes the current App Mgr session and gives it a chance to read the new APPMGR.DAT and APNAME.LST files before starting up again. The APM.COM file also opens and closes the first icon to force App Mgr to register new applications in the APPMGR.DAT file). There's a lot of winking and blinking of the screen but the swapping is relatively fast and effortless.

### More App Mgr Sessions

If two sessions aren't enough for all your DOS and SMC (Systems Manager Compliant) applications you can extend the above procedure to create three or more sessions. For example you could have AppMgr sessions for Math, Graphics, Editing, Programming, Project Management, etc.

If so, you'll need to make directories

for each session. You'll also need to create icons for all your new sessions.

The only trick will be in setting the Path statement in the "Add an Application" screen of App Mgr. The generic path statement is C:\\_DAT\appm.bat <current session name> <new session name> |64

If you create three sessions, you'll need to reserve two icons per session for switching. If you want 6 sessions, each session will need 5 icons. That's 30 icons and applications to maintain and that's awkward. To make this less awkward, create a MAIN App Mgr session that contains icons that indicate a switch from the Main to Work session, Main to Play session, Main to ProjMgt, etc. In the working sessions use only one icon that switches from Work to Main or Play to Main. To get from the Work to Play sessions you can switch from Work to Main and then switch from the Main to Play session. It may take a few more seconds to switch but it will take far less time to maintain such a setup.

### Dealing With APNAME.LST Files

If your Palmtop usage dates back to the HP 95LX you're familiar with APNAME.LST files. They were the only way to add extra SMC (.EXM) programs. The HP 95LX didn't have an Application Manager. APNAME.LST files are still available on the HP 100/200LX but you won't find any mention of them in the User's Manual. App Mgr automatically creates or updates the APNAME.LST file in the C:\\_DAT directory whenever you add, edit or delete an SMC entry. If an SMC program resides on a PC Card, App Mgr will also create or update an APNAME.LST file in the root directory of the A: drive. Whenever you start App Mgr, it reads both the APNAME.LST files and updates its information. If you do a system reset or swap a card in the A: drive, the files listed in the A:\APNAME.LST file will be added to App Mgr.

You may have noticed that I did not refer to the A:\APNAME.LST file

in the APPM.BAT file above. This reflects my current practice. I keep all my EXM files on the C: drive in a \EXM directory. That way I don't have to contend with the extra A:\APNAME.LST file. You might consider this strategy as well.

### One Word Of Caution

You won't harm your Palmtop by trying the technique described in this article but you may lose a few App Mgr sessions if you make a mistake along the way. I've tried to eliminate the risks for you but there are no guarantees. Note that the technique was developed on a standard HP 200LX. If you have Software Carousel on your Palmtop and have two or more System Manager sessions, you run the risk of swapping App Mgr sessions in one SC session and forgetting to swap back to the original session before changing SC sessions. I guarantee that you'll wind up confusing your Palmtop, and yourself. The best advice I can give is "don't do that."

Be sure to read the tips in the sidebar for this article. One or more of them are sure to make Application Manager your most frequently used Palmtop program. ■

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# The WorldTime Connection

*A Palmtop traveler describes how he uses the WorldTime application along with the built in programs and other geography programs.*

*By Bill Quinlan*

**M**y hunch is that many Palmtop owners pay scant, if any, attention to the built-in WorldTime application. My conviction is that WorldTime is one of the best reasons for owning an HP Palmtop.

I do business all over the world and would be lost without WorldTime. Over the years I've added many cities to the WORLD.WDB database and further increased the size of the file with notes from my travels and contacts. In short, WorldTime is one of my main business tools.

This article will take a look at the WorldTime application. I'll describe how it can be connected to some of the other built-in Palmtop software and how it may be enhanced with other DOS and System Manager programs.

To start the WorldTime program press the Ctrl+HPCalc keys to see the list view of the database. The built-in All Cities list comes with about 478 cities. The F2 function key will let you add more cities when you want. For example I've added my home town, Evanston, IL, USA.

To have Evanston always appear at the top of the list, I entered the city name with a leading space. This lets me "go home" quickly by pressing the HOME key. I also set Evanston as the Local City by pressing the F7 key in the list view and pressing OK.

This sets Evanston's time to the current system time. To fill in the other fields, I used 011 as the Int'l Access, and 1 847 as the City Prefix (telephone area code). I checked the Custom List box by pressing the space bar, left the Category blank, set "Time Offset From" to -6 and Universal, set the Daylight Savings field to Automatic and selected Northern from the pull down list.

## World Time and HP Calc

To fill in the Latitude and Longitude fields, I went out on the Web to [www.indo.com/distance/](http://www.indo.com/distance/) and keyed in Evanston, IL as the Destination city. The "indo.com" site replied with "Location: 42:02:47N 87:41:40W."

Latitude and longitude are usually given with the N, S, E, W letters appended to indicate the hemispheres on a globe. Most map programs show east longitude as positive (+) and west as negative (-). The WorldTime application uses the opposite convention: west is positive and east is negative. WorldTime uses the standard convention for latitude: north latitude is

positive, south is negative. Some have called this a bug but I think it's just a different convention. You just need to be aware of this when converting from some other map programs to WorldTime.

Since WorldTime wants latitude and longitude in decimal degrees, I used HPCalc's Math application and converted the values to 42.05 latitude and 87.69 longitude. (In the Math application, just press F10 [More] twice to get to the trig functions and key in 87.4140 and press the F4 [->HR] key. Once you calculate the decimal value you can copy it from Calc and paste it into WorldTime.)

Let me mention that the [www.indo.com](http://www.indo.com) site is one of several sites on the Internet that can provide you with geographic information. [indo.com](http://www.indo.com) is not cluttered with a lot of extra information so it is faster than the other Web sites. You can also use the site to compute the distance between two cities "as the crow flies" but you can do the same calculation on the Palmtop. The site also has links to the Xerox PARC site where you can see the city located on a map, but,

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bill Quinlan is a senior partner in a major Chicago-based international law firm. He has been a computer enthusiast since 1978 when he got his first HP-25C. His hobbies include stargazing, bicycling, swimming and running. Bill lives with his wife, Susan, in Evanston, Illinois. He can be reached at [bquinlan@mwe.com](mailto:bquinlan@mwe.com) or [bquinlan@compuserve.com](mailto:bquinlan@compuserve.com).

again, once you have the latitude and longitude entered in WorldTime, you can press the F10 (Map) key and see where in the world you are.

[See the HP Calc tip in the Basic Tips section of this issue of The HP Palmtop Paper. It describes how to perform "great circle computations" to find the distance between any two coordinates on the globe. —Ed.]

### WorldTime Sorts and Searches

The WorldTime database, like the other database applications in the HP Palmtop, can be sorted and used for rapid searches. When used with the Subset function (F6) you can organize the data by city, country, international access or latitude and longitude. For example, to create a subset that shows the countries in the first column and cities in the second column, start with the All Cities subset. Then press the F6 key and the F2 key to define a new subset. Without changing anything in the subset screen press F10, name the subset as "Sort by Country" and press Enter twice. In the list view, press Menu, View, arrange Columns and use the arrow key to highlight the country column. Press the F8 key to move the City column one to the right and press F10 (Done). Use the Menu, View, Sort command to open the Sort dialog box. Set the "1st sort field" to Country and check the Ascending box. The "2nd sort field" is City with its Ascending box checked as well. When you press F10, you'll have a new way to use the database. For example you can start typing "Me" and you'll hop to a list of all the cities in Mexico that are in the database.

### Time Conversions

In WorldTime you can select a time for any location and determine what the time will be for any other location. For example, I deal with clients in the United Kingdom quite frequently and find this function invaluable for figuring out when I can call them. I start with the All Cities

subset in play and begin typing "Lon" until London appears in the list view. Then I press the F8 key and set the desired time to 8 AM and press Enter. I can then press the HOME key to move back to my home location. In the list view I see that I need to make the call at 2am Evanston time. To clear the operation and return everything to the current time, I simply press the ESC key. If I want the call to originate at 10AM, Evanston time, it will be 4 PM in London.

### Latitude & Longitude Locator

Sometimes I want to know the latitude and longitude coordinates for a particular location that may not be in the WorldTime database. I simply press F2 to Add a new location and then press F8 to start the map view with the cross hairs centered at 0.00 latitude and 0.00 longitude. I use the arrow keys to find my desired location and read the coordinates. If I press F10 the coordinates will be saved to a new record in the database or if I press F9 twice the process will be cancelled. I put "???" in the City field of the new record for reasons that will soon become apparent.

The coordinates are in decimal degrees which are perfect for most uses. If you want degrees, minutes and seconds, you can convert them with the [->HMS] function in HPCalc's Math application.

Here's how to make use of the "???" (unknown) city. Create a subset by pressing the F6, F2 and F10 keys in succession and name the subset Lat+Long Sort. Press F10 to return to the list view and use the Menu, View, Sort command and set the 1st sort field to Latitude and the 2nd sort field to Longitude and press F10. Use the Menu, View, Arrange Columns. command and use the F5 key to decrease the width of the city and country columns. Then press the F2 key to add a latitude column and F2 again to add a longitude column. Use the F7 key and move latitude to the first column and longitude in the second column. Press F10 (Done) and you will

find the Falklands at the top of the list and Thule at the bottom. Now press the F4 (Find) key and look for "???". For example, a location of 19.00 degrees south and 63.33 degrees west shows that the database city closest to this location is Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

### Daylight Saving Adjustment

The WORLD.WDB database automatically adjusts for daylight saving time. The first time you open WorldTime, after a change from or to daylight saving time, the program will announce the change and ask for permission to make it. The formula for these changes is in a file called TIMEZONE.DAT. This seems to change regularly outside of the United States. To accommodate this change, create your own TIMEZONE.DAT file with Memo following the guidelines set forth below and put it in your C:\\_DAT directory.

European

3:25-31 6 1:00

10:25-31 6 0:00

Northern

4:1-7 6 1:00

10:25-31 6 0:00

Southern

3:1-7 6 0:00

10:25-31 6 1:00

### WorldTime and Lotus 1-2-3

I have adapted a great circle worksheet originally prepared by Curtis Cameron to let me find the sun rise, sun set, transit, twilight and great circle distance in miles and kilometers. I also added a system macro that connects WorldTime with the 1-2-3 worksheet. The GCC.WK1 worksheet is way too complex to explain in this article. It will be available on this issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK* and on the Web at [www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm](http://www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm). To use a System Macro to copy data from WorldTime and paste it into the spreadsheet, you need to create a

## HOW TO USE: The WorldTime Connection

Smart Clip in WorldTime. Here's how to do this.

Start the WorldTime database and press the F5 (Clip) key. Then use the F2 (Add) key repeatedly to add the following fields to the smart clip. Be sure to put a comma between City and Country on the first line of the definition.

>City<,>Country<

>Latitude<

>Longitude<

>Hours<

Make sure there are no blank lines after the >Hours< entry. When you're done, press F10 to save and name the definition as "GCCDAT."

Open the System Macros application [Ctrl+More] and type the macro into an empty slot, name it "Use with WTime and GCC.WK1" and save it.

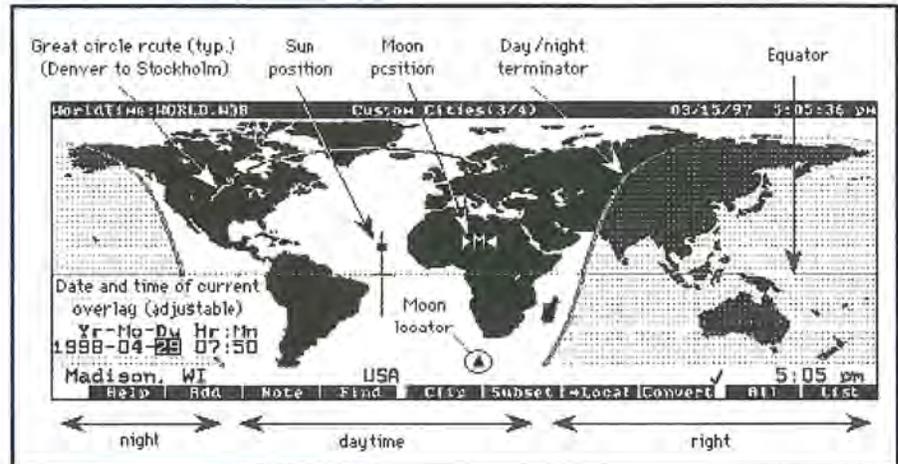
{F5}G{F10}{123}{Menu}frgcc{Enter}{Paste}{Alt+X}

Copy the GCC.WK1 worksheet to a place on the Palmtop where Lotus 1-2-3 will be able to find it but do not start 1-2-3.

Go to WorldTime, clear any tags that may be set by pressing Shift+Space bar and select two cities and tag them by pressing the space bar. Run the Macro. The macro will copy the necessary information from the database, start 1-2-3, retrieve the GCC.WK1 file and paste the information into the appropriate location. When the worksheet stops jumping around, you'll see the Distance (in miles, km, and nautical miles) from one city to the other. You'll also get the Sun Rise, Sun Set, Transit, daylight hours and much more information. In the worksheet, you can press the ALT+H keys to see what the other assigned keys will do. You can also press F10 (Graph) to get a plot of the great circle route.

### Buddy Worldtime Overlay

WorldTime has been greatly enhanced by Buddy. Screen 1 shows how the application looks with Buddy added.



Screen 1: Buddy adds an overlay to the WorldTime Map.

The overlay shows all the special features available from a registered copy of Buddy. I use WorldTime and Buddy to find the locations of the sun and moon and when they will transit (be directly due south) of my location. The two programs used together can give the approximate phases of the moon by referencing the location of the moon to the day/night terminators and the sun. If the sun and moon are together it is new moon. If the moon is on a terminator and is to the right of the sun, it is first quarter. If the moon is in the middle of the terminator, it is full moon. If the moon is on a terminator and is to the left of the sun, it is third quarter. Buddy is worth having if just for the WorldTime overlay!

### World Travel 2.0

World Travel 2.0 is a PAL application, i.e., a DOS program that looks like a built-in application. The program was created by Jim Gasbarro and Alfred Lee to provide the Palmtop with many of the features found in the GeoClock and AutoMap programs but at a fraction of the disk space! World Travel saves a lot of disk space by using the D:\\_SYS\WORLD.WDB database rather than providing a separate data file. It comes with several maps including world, USA, Canada, Europe, Asia,

and Africa. With one of the supplied maps loaded you can set two or more locations and determine the great circle route and distance. There is a list function which allows you to find the distances to various cities along the route (way points). You can also determine sunrise and sunset for a selected location. Finally, you can customize the database to add your own cities to those that come with the WORLD.WDB database. You can also make your own maps. I've used a registered copy of PC Globe and PC USA to generate additional maps including a more detailed U.S. map and maps for the UK, Ireland, France, the Great Lakes, Illinois, etc.

### LXMAP Application

This is a great application by Stefan Peichl which uses PCX files and another program, LXPIC.COM, to show detailed maps on your Palmtop. LXMAP and a collection of maps are available from the palmtop network, [www.palmtop.net/supernew.html](http://www.palmtop.net/supernew.html). You can grab maps from the Internet; for example, from the White Pages in most search engines, and convert them to black and white PCX files with LXPIC. Then you can build an index file and try out your map in LXMAP. The directions for building the index file are contained in the documentation for the LXMAP program.

## Various DOS Geography Applications

In addition to the applications discussed above, the Palmtop can run the following legacy DOS programs: GEO CLOCK (cga version).

I registered the EGA version of this older program so I could use most of the same features when I converted it to a CGA format for use on the Palmtop. This is one of my favorite programs but it does stretch the capacity of the Palmtop. World Travel is almost as good. The complete CGA package together with instructions on how to convert EGA maps to CGA versions can be found at [www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm](http://www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm).

## PC Globe

This is a shareware program that may fall into the category of abandonware. I have not been able to contact the developer (PC Globe, Inc of Tempe, AZ). Version 5 runs quite well on the palmtop if you exit from System Manager altogether with the

More, Menu, A T command. It contains maps and economic data of most countries through 1992. It also contains flag pictures and national anthems that play quite well on the Palmtop. It's the only place I've been able to find the national anthem for Ireland, "A Soldier's Song".

## AutoMap

Version 1 works on the Palmtop, but like Flight Simulator is more for the "gee-whiz" factor than anything else. It really taxes the capabilities of the Palmtop and is mentioned here for the sake of completeness.

## Conclusions

The HP Palmtop is my main computer. Not only have I used it to write most of this article while riding the train to and from work but I use it daily in my travels and with my hobby of astronomy. Hopefully, this article will help you in your globe hopping even if you do it all on the Palmtop. ■

## Shareware/Freeware mentioned in this article

**Buddy200** (ver 3.0) — shareware. Available on the 1999 CD InfoBase from Thaddeus Computing, Inc. as well as on the Web at [www.palmtop.net/super.html](http://www.palmtop.net/super.html) and in the HPHand forum on Compuserve

**GCC.WK1** — freeware, is included in this issue's *The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK* and on the Web as **GCC-WK1.ZIP** from [www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm](http://www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm)

**World Travel 2.0, LXPic** (v. 6.2), **LXMap, GEO100** and **WTNOTE.ZIP** are available on this issue's *The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK* and on the Web at [www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm](http://www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm). Although the newly released **WTNOTE** file is not mentioned in the article we put it on the *DISK* since it contains a NoteTaker and a database file that contain information to update and augment the built-in **WORLD.WDB** file.

## 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; E-mail: [76164.467@compuserve.com](mailto:76164.467@compuserve.com); Website: [www.ccnet.com/~cdcox](http://www.ccnet.com/~cdcox)

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# User to User

## Long Live the HP 200LX

*Hal talks about the past and the future of the HP Palmtop.*

*Hal Goldstein*

**H**ewlett-Packard introduced its first Windows CE product almost two years ago. In the past, such a change in its product line meant that the previous product would go out of production very soon. Yet HP continues to sell the HP 200LX and HP 1000CX in large enough numbers to show a profit.

HP has not invested marketing or R&D dollars into the HP 200LX platform. On the contrary, since HP does not want to confuse potential customers, only the Windows CE HP Jornada line gets mentioned. HP leaves it to the consumer to learn about the HP 200LX and find out where to buy one. HP 200LX sales continue due to word of mouth and because the HP 200LX/1000CX DOS platform is the best solution for many corporate customers.

Speaking not as a purist but as a businessman, I understand HP's strategy. HP believes that Windows CE will be the industry standard—the future for "PC Companions". HP feels that a standard handheld operating system will accelerate the "hockey stick" growth curve for handheld devices.

HP now sells the color palm-size HP Jornada 420 and a mini-notebook sized HP 820 "handheld PC /Pro". HP 200LX users may also be interested in the new HP Jornada 680, a

color Windows CE device, a little bigger than the HP 200LX. Next issue we hope to look at one from an HP 200LX user's perspective.

As the publisher of *Handheld PC Magazine*, I have my pick of Windows CE devices. Instead, I chose a memory-upgraded double-speed HP 200LX as my main "personal computer"—the one I keep on my person. The built-in HP 200LX applications are superior to Windows CE apps and there are many more (and less costly) DOS programs than Windows CE programs. The HP 200LX has longer battery life and is more reliable.

On the other hand, Windows CE devices let me have color screens with backlighting, voice recording, touch screen, Outlook synchronization and the Windows look and feel. As I have written about in the past, I've used a half-screen NEC on the road and look forward to testing a full screen HP Jornada HP 820. When I travel, what I care about is less weight, long battery life, touch typing, instant on, reliability, email, word processing, and spreadsheets. I get all that with the Windows CE H/PC pro.

### **The future of the HP 200LX?**

As long as the HP 200LX continues to sell, HP will continue to manufacture it. Even if HP decides to discontinue the Palmtop line altogether, we at *The HP*

*Palmtop Paper* plan to support the HP 200LX platform with previously owned palmtops, repairs, upgrades, software, and knowledge products. We are counting heavily on the extraordinary number of loyal, satisfied, HP 200LX customers. We're hoping that history will repeat itself. When the HP Portable Plus laptop computer was discontinued in 1987, we maintained a thriving business supporting users for four more years until HP introduced the Palmtop in 1991.

As time passes, I think it is apparent that we have lived through the "golden age" of palmtop computing. Brilliant HP engineering, accompanied by enthusiastic users, created a software and knowledge base for the HP 200LX second to none.

In that golden era we have witnessed the HP Calculator and Palmtop division reorganize itself several times. The last major reorganization involved the move from Corvallis, Oregon (where the HP 200LX was created) to Singapore. When the HP 200LX was in Corvallis, there was very little marketing investment and when the division moved to Singapore, R&D shifted to the short-lived HP OmniGo 100 and then to the Jornada Windows CE line. It is simply unfortunate, that HP never got behind its Palmtop line with continued improvements.

## New HP 200LX products on the horizon?

We are always on the lookout for new HP 200LX products. The two most commonly requested items are a backlit screen for the HP 200 LX and Outlook 98 transfer or synchronization. Both projects are being worked on, but as of this writing, we still can't say, if or when those products will be available. (You'll be the first to know from reading our new electronic newsletter and our printed catalog).

## On Again Off Again Windows

For many months we have tried to get permission from Microsoft to sell Windows 3.0 along with early versions of Word and Excel. These products can be made to work on an HP 200LX. Data from Word and Excel can be transferred back and forth with the current versions of the same programs.

Unfortunately, it seems that while we will soon have permission to sell Windows 3.0, we won't be allowed to distribute the early versions of Word or Excel. We feel that Windows 3.0 would be a fun, novelty product, but not very practical, especially since it can only be run in a limited way on the 200LX. The amount of freeware and shareware available for this mode of operation appears to be almost nonexistent. We'd also have to rewrite the Windows User's Manual since Microsoft will not allow us to reproduce this out of print document. At this point we are leaning towards not distributing Windows 3.0, but we'll see. ■

# MUPs

*The HP Palmtop: don't leave home without it! Palmtoppers take their computers with them and let the rest of us know what they're up to.*

by Linda Worthington

**O**n the Hewlett-Packard Handheld Forum of CompuServe, in the Fireside Section, you'll find dozens of messages that contain the term "MUP." The notes cover a vast range of subjects, styles, moods and methods of transmission. But all have their origins in a simple idea: Palmtoppers are a wide ranging, well traveled and wonderfully diverse group of folks, most of whom travel with their beloved LXs and many of whom have learned to connect to various types of phone lines in all parts of the world. As these messages began to collect in the Forum, some of us felt that they deserved official recognition, a name, some organization. MUP means Most Unusual Place and a MUP is a message written from somewhere, anywhere (beaches, mountain tops, boats on the water, the Channel beneath it, in planes, trains, cars, on bicycles, roller blades and on foot). When possible, they are sent from that place, using a wonderfully inventive variety of means, including cell phones, Konnex

Kouplers and hard-wired phones (after some strategic surgery with various tools) and, more recently, by means of wireless technology. On-site transmission is not a criteria, however, and many are sent later from less hazardous and/or less expensive locations. Strangers stare, spouses fuss — but those of us reading the new messages cheer for each new MUP and plan to send another one of our own! There is no wrong MUP, no bad MUP: we love 'em all. Our only suggestion is that no one risk their life in the interest of The Most Unusual Place. The Ultimate MUP does not exist!

MUPs have been collected in poems and articles in *The HP Palmtop Paper* on several occasions and Avi Meshar has a collection of some of these and others on the D & A Web site ([www.dasoft.com/FUN/mups.html](http://www.dasoft.com/FUN/mups.html)). Because they are a fine way to demonstrate the infinite variety of our Palmtop Family and a much-loved, unifying force on the Handheld Forum, we hereby introduce a new series of MUPs which probably



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Linda Worthington is a native New Englander living in Maryland. She is a fly fisherman and loves hiking, photography and computing. Linda's company, LOW-TECH, is designed to help people choose and use portable computers. She also uses computers to do extensive volunteer conservation-related work for several organizations.

demonstrate, more eloquently than any other words could do, the power and practicality of the LX in maintaining communication across time and space, all around the world.

MUPS for the Millenium? Here they come....!

### **The infinite variety of the MUP!**

Over the years, from around the world, they arrive from Palmtoppers sharing adventures, special events and sometimes difficult moments. From the past come some excerpts of particular favorites:

#### *The Elegant MUP*

From Daniel Legendre (CIS: 100572,3340), in Paris:

"I am typing on my HP100LX...supported by a photo book, Lee Miller, *Photographs et Correspondante de Guerre*...And I am at "Chez Les Filles", a tea-room, 64 rue du Cherche-Midi, near the corner of rue de Albbe Gregoire, 6th. I am tasting a strudel..."

#### *The Underwater MUP*

From Ron Vieceli (CIS: 73310,3663)

"I am writing this to you from about halfway between England and France under the Channel. We are on le Shuttle, the car train that lets you drive the car onto the train and then drive off at the other end. ..."

#### *The Airbourne MUP*

Bud Riker:

Right now I am flying high above the Venezuelan jungle on a flight to Caracas from Sao Paulo, Brazil...

#### *The Adventure MUP*

From "lexu", Alexandre Gutfeldt (CIS:100527,2461)

"Sal, ...from the top of Champagna da Diavolezza, above the Col Bernina in the Grissons (South-Eastern Switzerland). I am sitting in the mountain top restaurant, sipping a cup of coffee..."

#### *The Pyramid MUP*

From Francisco Bricio (CIS: 74174,1442)

"I am writing this E-mail from the top of the Sun Pyramid (The highest pyramid in the world with 365 steps. Cheers!"

#### *The Domestic MUP*

From Stan Dobrowski (CIS:76711,2302)

With paternal pride: "I am sitting on the pitcher's mound in the middle of the school yard at my daughter's school..."

#### *The Historical MUP*

Larry Tachna: 6/20/96

Hello All, not sure if this is a real MUP but I am sitting somewhere on highway 528 in Florida, waiting for the Shuttle to go up...

#### *The Special Moment MUP*

Frank Louwers (CIS:72361,2161) Belgium

"I am writing this, still gasping for some air after a wonderful in-line skate ride under the bright stars and Hyakutake-2's fuzzy head and eerie tail. ...A perfect night I wanted to share..."

A patchwork quilt of wonderful word pictures from Palmtoppers around the world!

And still they come, some new voices, some old familiar ones, but still traveling, still sharing high adventures, small moments and real technological wizardry, often inventing new ways to send those MUPS, still enjoying the LX and all the practical pleasures of that wonderful little computer:

Daniel Legendre 100572,3340 11/10/98

I went today to Nogent-Le-Rotrou ...am having a light lunch at Hotel du Lion d'Or, Hotel of the Golden Lion, on the main place, facing Town Council...This morning twice I got "Message rejected" by Compuserve Mail, with land line, went through finely with GSM Cellular. This message sent same way, cellular RD Sagem 750 T. Tomorrow photography on the Armistice ceremony in

Mortagne -au-Perche, the true capitale of Normandy's Perche.

#### Gottfried Burckhardt

101525,3644

11/14/98 7:36:11 AM

Hi all, I'm sitting here in a cold and wet Porsche 911 in Rodder/-Germany and waiting for the recovery vehicle. We, that means Palmi, (Gottfried's LX) Bernhard and me, we are sitting here in the middle of stage 5 of the "Rally K`In-Ahrweiler". It is snowing and about 1 degree Celsius plus, so no snow on the road, just slush. Up to now it was a nice and competitive rally...

#### David Shier [SS&S],

75030,3374 12/18/98 12:27:07 PM

I just wanted to share some of the views out the window on the flight from LAX to Seattle. The sky is clear and the views are nothing short of breathtaking! We passed by Crater Lake and the snow covered slopes that ring the lake were reflected off the black surface of the water.

#### Larry Nielsen,

104475,2520 12/22/98 4:21:03 PM

It's a beautiful day here on Avenue Florida, a major pedestrian-only shopping street in Buenos Aires. After cooler temp and some rain yesterday, it is nice to see the sun and not wear a jacket in December...What is that sound?...A group of small children singing Christmas Carols at 80 F. Their high pitched youthful voices literally shouting the words with enthusiasm. Navidad, Navidad...This place is wired and wireless. More people on the streets with portable phones, and using them, than I have ever seen.

#### Tony Hutchins,

100250,2347 12/26/98 18:44:46

Greetings from Box 6.2 Royal Festival Hall. Palmtop comfortable on red leather table surround, and light directly overhead. Perfect palmtopping spot! Theatre is about 10% full. In 15 mins will be 99% full for final 1998 "Cinderella" by Royal

Ballet. My favorite dancer is the "Orange Page" She might just be the Orange Page, but also my daughter! It's delightful. Fairies everywhere, plus 2 hilarious ugly sisters. Regards, Tony (About to send right from here!)

David Shier [SS&S],  
75030,3374 1/13/99 5:20:01 PM

Thomas Rundel and I are not morning people, so, standing in the cold wind, at 7:15am local time, this is both a MUP and a MUT - Most Unusual Time!...Here is the South Rim of the Grand Canyon just before sunrise...In any case, this is truly a MUP. Not only for the beauty of the place, but because we have Most Unusual Weather as well. It was 55F (13C) and sunny at the rim yesterday which was great for any time of year - perfect for hiking - but was incredible for January!

David H. Fisher, Jr.,  
102711,3602 1/20/99 8:06:07 PM

I am writing this MUP at 28,000 feet in a Kansas Air National Guard KC-135 Strato Tanker where we just refueled a B-2 Stealth Bomber. The view was spectacular. A few years ago I would have thought I was seeing a flying saucer...

Gottfried Burckhardt,  
101525,3644 1/28/99 1:59:06 PM

Unfortunately our Porsche retired again (a strange gearbox problem, just 2500km after the last rebuild...) about 100km away from Monte Carlo OTOH this gave us the chance to see a giant (yes, I mean a GIANT - at least \$100,000!) fireworks. Thanks to Caroline and her third marriage.

David Shier [SS&S],  
75030,3374 2/10/99 7:17:09 PM

Well this should be the first of many "True MUPs" I will send. I'm writing this message, and it will be sent from the wood deck outside our office overlooking the duck pond.

I now have a Sagem CS755 PCS 1900 (GSM) cell phone with a built-in modem. I'm sending this message

using a 200LX, acCIS 4.0 and the Sagem phone. Thanks to Daniel Legendre and Thomas Rundel I have been able to set up a dealer relationship (the first in the US) with Sagem to sell the phones and accessories (www.shier.com).

Fred Kaufman,  
75162,2616 2/16/99 7:31:10 PM

I am at Boothill Cemetery in Tombstone, Arizona standing beside the graves of the Clanton Gang. They lost the gunfight at Okay Corral. Buried side by side are: Billy Clanton, Tom McLaury and Frank McLaury. They were killed by Wyatt Earp and friends. There are a number of others who died in gunfights, were murdered, lynched and self-done-in!... There were some witty sayings on some of the stones but frankly, my Dad did not have patience for a guy standing in a cemetery typing on a computer!

Alexander Gutfeldt,  
100527,2461 2/2299 8:11:03 AM

This is a MUP from a mountain pass in the Jura, Switzerland. Around me the wind is blowing, it is snowing lightly, the temperature is ca-2c ...my official/primary job is to prevent civilians from walking into the line of fire. My comrades further down the hill are shooting their rifles in one of many exercises. It starts to rain.. will have to send now ..

Victor Roberts,  
70413,1423 2/22/99 4:59:10 PM

It is Monday evening. Right now I am on the IC train from Cologne to Frankfurt after attending a trade show in Cologne with a business companion. On Sunday morning we arrived in Frankfurt from Albany via Philadelphia. I had contacted Martin Breidenbach to see if he was free some evening during this trip. He was free on Sunday evening and he was kind enough to pick us up at our hotel (in his new GPS-equipped car no less) and drive us to a Mexican Restaurant in Frankfurt. We discussed palmtops (of course), computers in general and

lots of other interesting stuff.

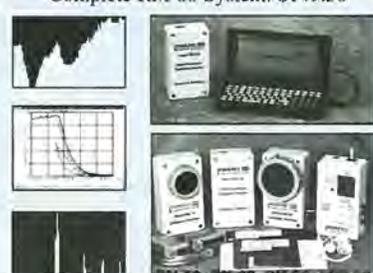
Mitch Preston,  
101673,1334 2/28/99 12:21:02 AM

So, here I am in Amsterdam. As this is the first time I've been abroad since I got my cellular modem, I've been trying to think of a great location for a MUP. However, I've not had a great nights sleep, so at 5.30am, when my wife was still fast asleep, I installed myself in the bathroom, to catch up with forum messages, and to write this MUP... the floor and the ceiling are also decorated with white tiles - it is so clinical and devoid of any character, I could be in a mid-range hotel anywhere in the world.

MUPs! They are constantly fascinating, often instructive and always fun! ■

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# ••• QUICK TIPS •••

All Quick Tips are by Ed Keefe unless otherwise noted.

## APPOINTMENT BOOK

### Salvaging a Corrupted APPT.ADB file

If you ever experience a corrupted Appointment Book here's a tip that may save you some heartache and grief.

The Windows based version of the Appointment Book is able to open files that the Palmtop reports as "Record not found". Once opened, you should be able to export the Appointment Book to a new empty .ADB file and transfer it back to the Palmtop.

The Windows version of the Appointment Book was originally created to run on the HP OmniBook laptop/ notebook computers. It will run under Windows 3.1 on a desktop. You can find the files on the 1999 CD InfoBase in the \ONDISK\97 DISK\97NovDec\OB6DSK directory. The files are also available on the Nov/Dec 1997 *The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK*.

Laurence Harvey  
laurence@HARVEY-L.FREESERVE.CO.UK

## DOS

### RPN DEMO

Reverse Polish Notation (RPN) has been the preferred mode of operation of almost every HP calculator. It is also the mode of operation in the Forth and TIPI programming languages. RPN is also available as an option in the HP Calc program on the Palmtop.

If you've tried using RPN and have been confused by its way of doing calculations, then you might like to try RPN-DEMO.

RPNDEMO is a freeware program from John Kennedy. It doesn't merely emulate an RPN calculator, it animates the operation in slow motion. When you key in a number and press Enter, you can watch previously entered numbers move up the X, Y, Z, T stack registers. When you perform a math operation, you can see the X and Y values pulled off the stack. You can also see where the LastX value comes from. The program allows keyboard entry of numbers and operations and it even lets you write programs that will automate the solution of complicated

equations. The programming language is a subset of the language used in the HP 41C calculator.

If you're already familiar with RPN but would like to relive those glory days of the HP 41C or the HP 12C business calculator then you'll enjoy playing with RPN-DEMO.

I tried the program on both a double speed Palmtop and a 100MHz desktop machine. Interestingly, the program works faster on the Palmtop: no kidding!

There is one nuisance feature. When you exit the RPNDEMO program, the cursor, at the DOS prompt, will have vanished. You can bring it back by Zooming the screen (Fn+Space) to the largest font size.

For more information about how to use RPN in the Palmtop's HP Calc program, see the Through The Looking Glass article in the May/June, 1994, issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper*. The same article can also be found on the CD InfoBase from Thaddeus Computing.

### Diagnostic Software

If you have a copy of the HP Connectivity Pack, you also have three diagnostic programs that will work on the HP Palmtop: APPMEM, APPDRV, APPCOM. Of course, copyright rules mean that you can't run the same software on both your desktop and Palmtop at the same time. All of the programs are DOS programs and can be run from Filer or App Mgr. They're all under 10K bytes in size.

APPMEM is a memory mapping program that lists all the files currently loaded into working memory along with the number of bytes used by each.

APPDRV lists all the available disk drives on the computer and whether they're in use or not.

APPCOM will search for all the serial ports in the computer and, with the /I switch will display the name of the port (COM1, COM2), the address of the port and the IRQ number in use.

### Disable the Fn+PRTSC Key

Users sometimes accidentally press the Fn+0 [PRTSC] key. The Palmtop appears to lock up and the tendency is to reach for the CTRL+ALT+DEL keys to reset it. Actually the machine is not "locked up". It's just waiting for you to connect a

printer so that it can print the contents of the screen. If you wait about 20 seconds, the computer will return to normal operation on its own.

However, if your fingers find the Fn+0 keys too often and it's becoming a nuisance then here is a way to disable the key altogether.

Type the following code into MEMO and save the file as C:\NOPSCR.SCR. Preserve a blank line between the code "int 20" and "rcx" and at least one blank line after the final "q"

```
n nopscr.com
a 100
pop ds
or by [500],1
int 20

rcx
8
w
q
```

Use the More, MENU, Applications, Terminate All, OK, commands to get to the DOS prompt. Type the command DEBUG < NOPSCR.SCR and press ENTER. If any error messages appear check your typing and try assembling the code with the DEBUG command again.

The result of a successful "assemble" will be an 8 byte file called NOPSCR.COM. When you run this program at the DOS prompt, it will disable the PRTSC key altogether. Now you can press the Fn+0 key and the cursor will continue to blink normally and you won't have to wait for the Palmtop to come back to life. The good thing about the program is that it is not a TSR. It merely sets BIOS interrupt 5 to 1 which disables the function. The bad thing about the program is that you'll have to reboot the Palmtop if you ever do want to use the Fn+0 [PRTSC] key.

The source code and the assembled version of the NOPSCR.COM file are available on this issue's *The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK* and on the [www.PalmtopPaper.com](http://www.PalmtopPaper.com) Web site.

### EXMBATCH

There will always be some DOS or PAL program which you use more often than others, e.g. WordPerfect or POST/LX. Instead of hassling with App Mgr setups or switching to a different Software Carousel session and running the program, try using

EXMBATCH. With EXMBATCH you can assign a hotkey such as CTRL+E (for Post/LX Email) and run the program directly as if it were an EXM program.

To see how EXMBATCH works, please check out the documentation which comes with the program. To get the extra memory required to run a memory hog program such as WordPerfect try using the MaxDOS program in conjunction with EXMBATCH. Modify EXMBATCH with the command "c:\bin\maxdos-dc:\wwwc:\www\post.bat" This will let you run WordPerfect 5.1 from System Manager with CTRL+W.

### Converting tools

Some of the most difficult programs to write are those that convert data from one format to another. Such programs take time and a lot of detective work.

Here is a list of files found in the HPHAND libraries on Compuserve that purport to do data conversions for many of the applications in the HP Palmtop.

ADBIO.ZIP by Andreas Garzotto, May 1994

Two programs plus the source code convert \*.ADBs (Appt Book files) to \*.CDF (comma-delimited format) and back.

BMP100.ZIP Dan Pinson, July 1993

Converts Windows \*.BMP files into 100LX icons. The converted icons may need some editing with ICN200LX.EXE before they look right.

CAT2CDF.ZIP 70323,343 Dec.1995

Reformats a library catalog into \*.CDF. (This is the newest of several versions in the lib.)

DBIO.ZIP Andreas Garzotto, December 1994

A program for menu driven usage of the ADBIO and DBUTIL conversion programs.

DBUTIL.ZIP Stephen Roth / A. Christensen, Aug. 1993

Two programs for converting \*.GDB files to \*.CDF files and back. The programs were designed for the HP 100LX but work also with the 200LX.

DOCRTF.ZIP Thomas Lienhard, 20 April 1996

A program for converting Memo \*.DOC files to \*.RTF (rich text format) and back.

EXP100.ZIP Gilles Kohl, 1995

Writes \*.?DBs to \*.CDFs - without note and option fields (referred to in GDBIO.ZIP)

GDBIO.ZIP Craig Payne, 16 March 1995

A program plus the source code for converting \*.GDB and \*.PDB files to \*.CDF files and back.

GIO2DB.100 71147,201 Jan.1994

Converts \*.CDF files into a FoxPro database file.

IMP100.ZIP Gilles Kohl, June 1993

Keyboard-stuffing program plus source code, Imports data into GDB and PDB files via the Palmtop's clipboard "until the real conversion tools are available."

IMPHONE.PDB 72242,125, Jan. 1996

Makes phonebook more compatible for converting into popular PIMs.

MODEMS.ZIP Jesper E. Siig, March 1996

Includes a demonstration of how to convert 200LX database files into HTML that can be viewed with a Web browser.

N2GDB.ZIP Jorg M. Trevino, 2 Dec.1994

Two programs for converting an NDB (NoteTaker file) to a GDB (database file) and back.

PQ2CDF.ZIP Andreas Garzotto, 27 Aug.1994

A program for converting Quicken data to \*.CDF (comma delimited format).

*Norbert C. Maier*

### Connecting A Cirque Easy Cat to the Palmtop

Several users have been able to get mice and trackball pointing devices connected to their Palmtops.

Having recently purchased a Cirque Easy Cat™ touch pad for use on an older desktop, I tried making it run on the Palmtop. Here's my recipe for doing this.

I used the HP serial cable and a small mouse driver, MSCmouse.com (18K bytes). To connect the serial cable to the Easy Cat cable I bought both a null modem and a gender changer adaptor from Radio Shack. (current part numbers: 26-264B and 26-260 respectively). The null modem adaptor is needed to undo the null modem that's built into the HP serial cable.

I transferred the MSCmouse.com file to the Palmtop, used the More MENU

Applications, Terminate all commands to get to the DOS prompt. I plugged the cable into the serial port, ran the mouse driver program and then started Stereo Shell (a file manager that uses mouse commands), and tapped the Easy Cat touchpad. Nothing happened. Oops: I forgot that I still had another program running in the background, REMKEY, which takes over the serial port.

Once I had disabled REMKEY, the touchpad started to work. You might like to try the touch pad as an alternative pointing device. It's the same width as a floppy disk and about 3/4 as long.

If you don't want the hassle of carrying around an HP serial cable and a couple of small adaptors, you might replace these three items with a Sagem phone adaptor from Shier Systems. Gottfried Burchard reports that this adaptor works well.

Two cautions: pointing devices will not work with any of the built-in System Manager software. They only work with DOS programs that are specifically written to handle mouse commands. Secondly, a touch pad device may take some getting used to. It only works with fingers and doesn't work with a stylus.

### Commercial products mentioned in this article

**The HP Connectivity Pack** — (\$120) available from Thaddeus Computing, Inc. at [www.palmtoppaper.com/cart/shop/connect.htm](http://www.palmtoppaper.com/cart/shop/connect.htm).

**Cirque Easy Cat** — (\$31) touch pad pointing device. Available from most computer catalogs or from [www.cirque.com](http://www.cirque.com) on the Web (\$31.95)

### Shareware/Freeware mentioned in this article

The Windows based version of some of the HP Palmtop's programs is available on the 1999 CD InfoBase from Thaddeus Computing, Inc. in the Nov/Dec, 1997 issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK*.

**RPNDEMO** — (freeware) is available on this issue's *The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK* as well as on the Web at [www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm](http://www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm)

**EXMBATCH15** — (freeware) is available on this issue's *The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK* as well as on the Web at [www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm](http://www.PalmtopPaper.com/download.htm)

# ••• BASIC TIPS •••

Unless otherwise noted, the Basic Tips are by Ed Keefe.

## APPOINTMENT BOOK

### Appointment Book Shift Arrow

If you press the Shift key and the down or up Arrow keys you can move a week forward or backwards.

### Appointment Book Shows "Carried Forward ToDo's" only in the Current Day : not in Future Days

To enable the carry forward setting for all appointments on the Palmtop open the APPT program and press the MENU, Options, ToDo Defaults... and make sure the Carry Forward box is checked.

You can change the carry forward setting in each individual

ToDo by checking or unchecking the Carry Forward box in the ToDo edit screen.

When carry forward is enabled the ToDo's that are not checked off will not appear on future days until the SYSTEM date changes to that date. For example, if it's May 5 and you look at May 6's ToDo list, you will not see any carried over ToDo's. However, once the system clock changes to May 6, carried over ToDo's will appear in the ToDo list.

You can check off a ToDo item by highlighting it in the ToDo list and pressing the Spacebar. ToDo's that are to start on a future date are displayed when viewing that date.

Wherever you are, you can skip forward to the next scheduled ToDo by pressing the CTRL + Right Arrow keys.

*Ronald Viecel  
CSI: 73310,3663*

## HP CALC

### Compute Distance Between To Cities with WorldTime and Solver

Finding the distance between two places on the globe is called a "great circle computation." Such computations are easy to do with the HP Palmtop. HP Calc's Solver function will do all the math and you can use a couple of System Macros to

fetch the data for the Solver equation from WorldTime. Here's how to set this up on your Palmtop.

1. Start by defining a macro. Press CTRL+MORE and pick an empty macro field and press Enter. In the Description field, type in the word CITY#1 and press Enter. In the Contents field type the following macro. (To enter any key other than a letter or number key press the F6 key before pressing the key.)

```
{Enter}{Alt+D}{Copy}{Calc}{Paste}{F3}{WorldTime}{Tab}{Copy}{F 9}{n}{Calc}{Paste}{F5}{WorldTime}
```

Be sure to type the above macro as a continuous string of characters and let the macro editor perform any wrap around. In other words, don't press the Enter key to end a line.

2. Create a second macro and name it City#2. Type the following code into the contents field.

```
{Enter}{Alt+D}{Copy}{Calc}{Paste}{F4}{WorldTime}{Tab}{Copy}{F 9}{n}{Calc}{Paste}{F6}{F2}
```

3. Open HP Calc by pressing the blue key and start the Solver function by pressing CTRL+S. Pick an empty line in the Solver Catalog screen and press the F6 key to start the Solver Editor. Type the following equation.

```
Distance=69.0466*ACOS(SIN(LT1)*SIN(LT2)+COS(LT1)*COS(LT2)*COS(LG1-LG2))
```

This equation will calculate distances in miles. If you want kilometers, then change the 69.0466 to 111.1197.

4. Now that the equations are entered, start HP Calc, go to the Solver, and pull up the calc mode with the above equation. Make sure the calc is set to degrees mode

(Menu-Options-Calculator Modes...).

5. Go to the WorldTime application by pressing CTRL-Calc, find the start city (city 1). If you're using speed locate to find the city be sure to press Enter when you've found the city. Then hit Fn+F7. The macro will grab the latitude and longitude and enter it into the calc equation variables and bring you back to WorldTime. Find the destination city (city 2) and press Fn+F8. The macro will store

these coordinates and calculate the distance between the two. For example, when the start city is Des Moines, IA, USA and the destination city is Chicago, IL, the distance is 311.0282 miles.

## WORLDTIME

### Use the "subset" feature to create a listing sorted by City code.

Start the WorldTime application by pressing CTRL+HPCALC. Press F6 to select the Subset screen. Press F2 to define a new subset. Since we want all the records to be listed, simply press F10 and name the subset City Code. Then select OK (F1).

Next sort the subset by pressing MENU View Sort.

1st sort field: City Prefix (Ascending)

2nd sort field: City (Ascending)

3rd sort field: None

Press F10 to complete the sort - it may take a while. Finally, set up the first column for "speed searching". Press MENU, View, Arrange Columns to arrange the columns. Press F2 to add a column and add City Prefix and press F10. Then, move the new column to the left by pressing F7, then F10 for done.

Now, to speed search for a city code, simply enter it on the keyboard. For area codes in the USA precede the 3-digit code with "1 ". For example, to find which city belongs to area code 212, press 1 212. The list will jump to New York. When you want to get back to the standard list order, simply press F6 and select All Cities then press ENTER.

## LOTUS 1-2-3

### Entering dates in 1-2-3

It's a simple matter to enter today's date in Lotus 1-2-3. Just put the cursor in the cell that will contain the date and then enter @NOW and press Enter. Then use the MENU Range Format Date command to format the cell to show the date. The cell will be updated to the current date. If you want to lock in the date so that it doesn't

change with the passing days just put the cursor in the cell that contains the @NOW function. Press the F2, F9 and Enter keys. That will evaluate the function and put a date/time value in the cell.

On the other hand entering an arbitrary date in Lotus 1-2-3 is not all that easy. Try this date macro. Type the following into an arbitrary cell, e.g. A6,

```
'@date({?})~/rfd1~/wcs12~
```

Use the command MENU Range Name Create \D and specify cell A6..A6 as the named range. To use the macro move the cell cursor to an empty cell in the worksheet and press ALT+D. When you see @date (on the prompt line, enter the year followed by a comma then the month number followed by another comma then the day of the month. Press Enter and the date should be displayed. For example if you enter 99,3,8 you'll see 08-Mar-99. For dates beyond the year 1999, enter the year number as 100 plus the last two digits of the year. For example if you enter "100,1,1" (without quotes but with commas) the date would appear as 01-Jan-2000. In other words, the Lotus way of entering years means that 1900 is the same as 0 and the year 2000 is 100.

## DOS

### Shopping List Software

Many of us use the ToDo list as a crude shopping list. For example, I enter a ToDo item called "Grocery List" and use its Note field to keep a list of all the things I need to buy on my next trip to the store. If needed I can create other ToDo items for "Supplies list" or "Sundries list." Then, of course, there's a "Birthday/Anniversary list." (I dare not forget that one.)

Other users have developed Agenda templates and Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheets to serve the same purpose. The advantage to using these two programs is that you can use the math capabilities to keep a running total of your purchases and to make price comparisons in the supermarket.

Finally, there's a special Shopping Assistant program designed for the HP 100LX called SHASS. SHASS helps you organize and automate tasks related to (grocery) shopping. These tasks include maintaining an inventory of items and coupons, deciding what and how much you need to buy, making a shopping list, and keeping track of your shopping while in the grocery stores. SHASS learns your shopping habits and environment as it is

used. The more you use SHASS, therefore, the more help it can provide you.

We featured SHASS in an article in the July/Aug, 1994, issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper*. The SHASS program is available on the 1999 CD InfoBase as well as on CompuServe in the HPHand forum. It's a shareware product with a registration fee of \$20.

## System Macros

### Loading Sets of System Macros

System Macros (CTRL+&...) are real time savers for people who use the built-in applications on the HP Palmtop. Simple system macros can be used to open databases or memos at the touch of a key. More complex macros can perform such keystroke intensive tasks as running the TVM application in HP Calc and posting an amortization table in Lotus 1-2-3. Once you discover system macros the tendency is to create one macro after another until you reach the limit of 10. At that point it's time to get organized, take a look at your current macros and see if they can be categorized. For example, you might have one or two macros that work to let you start different databases or phonebooks. Another couple of macros might deal with HP Calc and yet a third group of macros may not fit into any category. To start the process of creating sets of macros, open the System Macro application (CTRL+&...) and use the File Save as... command to save your current set of macros as BIG.MAC. Then delete all but the macros for HP Calc. If you want, use the cut and paste keys to move these macros to the top of the list in the System Macro screen. Then save this set of macros as CALC.MAC. Use the File Open command to retrieve BIG.MAC and create a new file by clearing (F7) all but the database related macros, cut and paste the macros to the top of the list and save the file as DBASE.MAC. Open the BIG.MAC file again and create a MISC.MAC file and save it as well. Any time you want to work with databases, you can begin by opening the System Macro application and using the File Open DBASE.MAC command. Then you can open the database with one of your database related macros.

### Automating Macro Loading

This tip makes use of a TSR program called KEY200.COM that is built into the HP 200LX. For users of the HP 100LX you can get the same functionality by loading

the KEY100.COM file onto your Palmtop and putting it in a directory where DOS can find it. The following instructions refer to the KEY200 program. If you're using a 100LX you'll need to change "200" to "100".

To get started, insert the following command in your AUTOEXEC.BAT file d:\bin\key200 c:\\_dat\key.txt

Put the line above the line that starts the HP System Manager (100 or 200). Then enter the following lines into a new file in MEMO. You may omit typing the lines that start with "!" They're comments. There will be a total of 3 lines (discounting word wrap). The three lines start with "^CTRL". Double check your typing. One error can ruin your effort. Use the File, Save As... command and name the file C:\\_DAT\KEY.TXT. Be sure that the ASCII box in MEMO has a check mark in it.

! Swap System Macros Files !

! ===== !

^Ctrl 7 : Ctrl More ^Ctrl ^More Menu  
^Menu F ^F O ^O a ^a

Enter ^Enter Alt ^Alt Q ^Q

! open "A.MAC" !

^Ctrl 8 : Ctrl More ^Ctrl ^More Menu  
^Menu F ^F O ^O b ^b

Enter ^Enter Alt ^Alt Q ^Q

! open "B.MAC" !

^Ctrl 9 : Ctrl More ^Ctrl ^More Menu  
^Menu F ^F O ^O c ^c

Enter ^Enter Alt ^Alt Q ^Q

! open "C.MAC" !

Finally, reset your palmtop to load the Key100 or Key200 TSR and the KEY.TXT file. With the above you can load sets of macros (macro files) called: A.MAC, B.MAC and C.MAC. To load the A.MAC file, press and release the Ctrl Key, then press and release the number 7 Key. You can add additional sets of files by modifying the KEY.TXT file.

Dara Khoyi  
CSI 74147,242

We've adapted this tip slightly. Dara used the CTRL 1, 2, and 3 keys. We've substituted the CTRL 7,8, and 9 keys since the version of Software Carousel we favor uses the CTRL 1,2, 3 keys to swap sessions.

### Shareware/Freeware mentioned in this article

KEY100 and SHASS are available on this issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK*, on CompuServe in the HPHAND forum as well as on the 1999 CD InfoBase.

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May/June 1999

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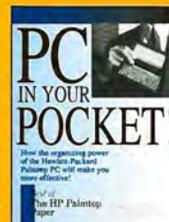
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