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Volume 6, Number 4, 1997

THE HP Palmtop Paper



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— by the HP Palmtop Paper Best Tips 1997

Hardware

- HP Palmtops • Windows CE HPCs • Digital Cameras • Portable Printers • Modems • Memory Cards • Custom Cables • Cases
- High Capacity Rechargeable Batteries • Wireless Modems
- Accessories...



Software

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

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

Quick/LX: The typing aid for the HP Palmtop

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

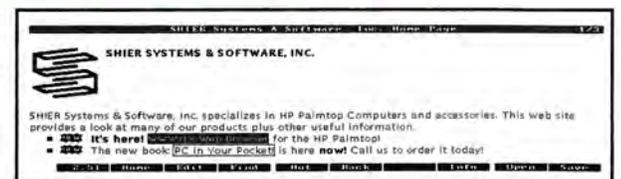
NEW! **acCIS4.0:** CompuServe automation program - all new look and ease of use! Supports CompuServe's "new mail", forums, weather, stock quotes and more.

Mail/Forum/Folder	Sections	Msg	Hed	Snd	Bin	Status
Electronic Mail		a		d		0 new
Weather Forecast		-		-		-
Stock Quotes		-		-		-
System Messages						
acCIS	12 18 19	a		d		d
WinCE & Vendors	14 15 17	a		d		d
Ventura Publisher	1 2 3 7 8 10	a		d		d
Corel Graphics	1 2 7 8 10 12	a		d		d
Terminal Emulation		a		d		d

acCIS4.0 Screen

Corporate Solutions & Development

- Let our team of experts find the perfect solution for your ultra-portable computing, communications & imaging needs.
- Our Corporate Solutions Group can prepare a detailed plan for you—including full cost analysis, training and implementation.
- We can help you select the hardware and software that is right for you.
- If needed, in cooperation with our software development partners at D&A Software, we'll provide custom software as well.



WWW/LX Screen

Contact our Corporate Solutions Office in Irvine California at 714-559-1142 for details on how we can help your company or organization.



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E-mail: support@rundel-d.com Web site: <http://www.rundel-d.com>

Publisher's Message



Hal Goldstein

When *The HP Palmtop Paper* first came out six years ago the focus was on the palmtop itself, its potential for organizing and computing. Over the years, the HP palmtop has evolved into an even more powerful stand-alone device. However, glancing through the contents of this issue, it's obvious that the HP palmtop has become much more social – now the palmtop's ability to communicate with other devices is of major importance.

For example, check out the New Products section. You'll see upgrade descriptions of two fax programs and two online access applications. In this issue's featured story, Ray Kump discusses how he uses one of those access programs, www/LX, to read *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times* each morning on his palmtop.

A number of large companies regularly make use of the palmtop's mobility and ability to collect and transfer data. For example, read about a Hong Kong brewery

and a plastic's manufacturer to see how data is collected and how data is transferred using the palmtop. In another article, Tom Boyle describes how he combines a number of gizmo's to transfer data between the popular Iomega Zip drive and his palmtop's flash card.

As an outward expression of the palmtop facilitating communications, Linda Worthington describes a palmtop get-together. Twenty-nine HP Palmtop Paper subscribers and CompuServe users gathered in New York's Bear Mountain to share tips, tricks and good fun.

In this issue Ed Keefe represents the old school of stand-alone palmtop usage. In his entertaining column Ed demonstrates a number of creative and useful Lotus techniques as he describes how to generate poetry writing on the palmtop.

Finally, the introduction of the Windows CE-based HP 320LX palmtop PC has caused quite a stir in the HP palmtop user community. Reminiscent of the Mac versus PC debates, you'll read about the merits and demerits of HP's new palmtop offering from a number of users. Hopefully, these letters, pro and con, will provide you with more information on whether or not you want to switch to a Windows CE device.

Some of our staff is now using Windows CE devices and liking them. For the foreseeable future I will stay with my 200LX. Its built-in database, its ability to run DOS applications, its CompuServe access capability, its built-in 1-2-3 and HPCalc keep me from switching. However, there is a lot to like about the HP 320LX, including wide screen, battery-preserving backlighting, larger keyboard, and Windows 95 data compatibility and synchronicity.

Unless you are sure that you will never switch from an HP 200LX, I encourage you to send for our premier issue of *Handheld PC Magazine* (see inside back cover or order card). Since we anticipate a larger advertising and subscription base than *The HP Palmtop Paper*, we have been able to move to four-color throughout, and expanded pages. If you like the style and philosophy of *The HP Palmtop Paper*, you will appreciate *Handheld PC Magazine*. The premier issue is filled with product descriptions, profiles, reviews, tips and tricks, and Website reviews. You can also check out our Website at www.thaddeus.com for details about the issue and an electronic version of some of the articles.

Hal Goldstein

The HP Palmtop Paper

INCREASING YOUR
PERSONAL POWER
BY EXPANDING YOUR
PALMTOP'S POTENTIAL

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Letters

A PCMCIA VGA Card

As a long time user of the HP200LX, I am very interested in keeping it alive as a platform for as long as possible. I've had a chance in my job to use all of the new Windows CE units, the Apple Newton MP2000, and pretty well everything else that fits in your palm and has a PCMCIA slot.

They're all pretty cool at first, but I still end up back with my 200LX. And now that I've just had my unit speed and memory (6MB) upgraded by Times2Tech, I

think I've extended its life even more.

The reason that I get to play with all this neat technology is that I've developed a PCMCIA form factor VGA card that draws sufficiently low power that it can run from most palmtops. We currently have software for screen copy and full color GIF playback for both WinCE and Newton platforms.

The implication of these applications is that you can now either duplicate your internal screen to a VGA monitor or projection device, or you can use your 200LX to make presentations, eliminating the final reason to carry a notebook computer on the road. EZShow Systems introduced these products at

COMDEX in Atlanta at the beginning of June to an overwhelmingly positive response.

It occurred to me that if there was sufficient interest in the HP 200LX community, it may be possible to develop similar applications for this platform. The reason I just don't go ahead and do it (other than the limit of 24 hours in a day), is that the DOS platform really does not lend itself to slipping in a new video card. In other words, it will actually take some work!

However, if there is a reasonable volume of interest, then I think I could convince the best minds to apply themselves to this problem and we'll keep the 200LX platform right up there with the newcomers.

If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at:

Rick Kozak
EZShow Systems, Inc.
rick@ezshow.com
Voice: 604-299-2033
Fax: 604-299-5118

HP service quality

The battery door on my HP has been getting loose, so I put some tape over it to hold it down. Then the other day it slipped as I was setting it down and kind of clattered to the table. This caused the battery door to pop loose. Apparently the little prongs on the ends had been getting weak (making it loose) and just finally gave up the ghost.

(Continued on page 32.)

The EduCALC Catalog—FREE for One Year

Cutting Edge Products to Enhance your HP Palmtop!

Memory in Flash



Expand your HP Palmtop's memory with high-quality PC Card technology at an affordable price. Whether you require only a few extra megabytes or 40 megs, IBM flash cards are your solution. Built-in data compression provides up to 80MB RAM for your palmtop.



- #3423A [3MB/6MB Flash] \$199
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- #3425A [10MB/20MB Flash] \$419
- #3426A [20MB/40MB Flash] \$739
- #3427A [30MB/60MB Flash] \$999
- #3428A [40MB/80MB Flash] \$1239

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Call for more info —
714.582.2637

Wireless Access

Experience the freedom and power of portable wireless palmtop communication. You can now reach anyone, anywhere, who has an email address, fax machine or RF messaging device—wireless and from your HP Palmtop!

- #3422 [Motorola Wireless Modem] ... \$699
- #10020A [EnBloc PalmStation+] \$1495

Your Name in Silver

Personalize your palmtop with this self-adhesive nameplate—it installs quickly in the recess on the back of your machine. Just give us up to 24 characters and allow two weeks for delivery.

- #2786 [Nameplate] \$4.95

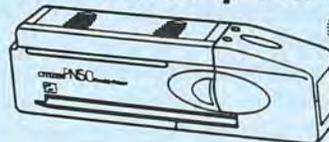
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<http://www.educalc.com>

HP 100/200LX memory upgrade now available! Call for details

Palmtop Printing



Print anywhere with your palmtop. These plain paper printers have great resolution (360 dpi) and allow you to print last minute, life saving charts and graphs—in color. Designed for today's professionals on the go, these small (10"×2"×1.85"), featherweight (1.1 lb.) portables fit in your briefcase and deliver laser quality printing. 2 pp per min on transparencies, cut sheet or letterhead. The economical PN50 gives you approximately 30 text pages on black cartridge (requires serial/parallel converter with HP serial cable). The versatile PN60 model gives you a color option as well—print 3-5 pages using color cartridge.

- #PN50 [PN50 Printer] \$249.95
- #PN60 [PN60 Printer] \$349.95
- #3289 [NiCad Battery] \$78.95
- #3290 [Car Adapter] \$44.95
- #3061 [Palmtop Cable] \$34.95
- #GA935 [S/P Converter] \$54.95
- #3292 [2 black ink Cartridges] \$8.95
- #3293 [2 color ink Cartridges] \$13.95

New Products!

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

HP Palmtop Paper Staff

PC CARDS

Low Cost ATA Turbo Flash Memory Card

MagicRAM Turbo Flash Memory Cards are specifically designed for handhelds, PDAs, and digital cameras, and provide storage solutions for data and digital pictures. They feature rapid read/write plus low power consumption.

Price: Ranges from \$99 for 2Mb to \$699 for 64Mb.

CONTACT: MagicRAM, Inc., 1850 Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90057 USA; Phone: 800-272-6242 or 213-413-9999; Fax: 213-413-0828; E-mail: info@magicram.com; Website: <http://www.magicram.com>

COMMUNICATION

Post/LX

Post/LX, which is the e-mail and Newsgroups component that works with the communication engine from WWW/LX, is now available. Features include:

- READER, which manages messages and lets you read and reply off-line.
- POST, which performs the sending and retrieval of e-mail messages.
- NEWS, which performs

the sending and retrieval of newsgroups articles.

—A GUI interface that uses the PAL emulation of the HP System Manager "look and feel", is used in READER. The ability to work on e-mail off-line saves you connect charges and gives you mobility and flexibility.

—Folders for messages, and filters for e-mail messages, (to redirect them to appropriate folders).

—Filters applied to newsgroups articles can block unwanted articles from ever reaching your palmtop.

—Multiple e-mail addresses may be checked to download e-mail in one session. Similarly, multiple newsgroups may be "visited" and scanned for new articles.

—E-mail has integrated MIME encoding and decoding so you can send and receive binary files transparently to and from Internet correspondents.

Price: \$119.00 (price includes the Web browser with new version of WWW.EXE.) Current customers of WWW.LX can upgrade for \$30.00.

CONTACT: D&A Software, Inc., 22817 Ventura Blvd., Woodland Hills, CA 91364 USA; Phone: 818-341-1188; E-mail: info@dasoft.com; Website: www.dasoft.com

acCIS 4.0 Enhancements

The biggest new feature of acCIS 4.0 is the user interface. acCIS is now a PAL application, which means that it looks like the built-in applications in the 100LX/200LX. Other major changes:

- Supports the middle size font in the message reader
- Supports the CompuServe new mail and HMI-only forums
- Message "folders" for saving and categorizing messages

—Supports editing messages waiting to be sent

—Internal support for maintaining the UID list

—Improved setup dialogs

—Internal support of weather and stock quotes

—user scripts were removed

Price: \$89 (upgrade from acCIS 3.1, \$35).

CONTACT: Shier Systems & Software, 920 Hampshire Road, Suite A, Westlake Village, CA 91361 USA; Phone: 805-371-9391; Fax: 805-371-9454; E-mail: 74777.2477@compuserve.com; Website: <http://www.shier.com>

MAILING LISTS

HP Palmtop Mailing List Resurrected

The HP Palmtop mailing list, which has not been functioning for awhile, has recently been resurrected by Al Kind. The list, which is dedicated to discussing everything pertaining to the HP palmtops, is a good place for both the novice and advanced user to find and share palmtop information. In order to participate in the mailing list, all you need is an e-mail address.

To subscribe, send a message to:

LISTSERV@UCONNVM.U
CONN.EDU

In the body of the message the following single line should appear:

SET HPLX-L

After sending this message, you'll receive an e-mail reply explaining how to use the list (as well as how to unsubscribe from the list).

FREWARE & SHAREWARE

[NOTE: In this issue's User-To-User article by Hal Goldstein there's a discussion of a number of additional freeware and shareware programs.]

FAXING

BGFAX 1.70 Palmtop Version now available

This palmtop edition includes bug fixes and new features. It gives palmtop users the ability to send and receive individual faxes as BGFAX and can also send faxes from the command line and return specific status codes back to the user via error levels. Everything is driven by simple batch files making it very easy to automate faxing of purchase orders, memos, messages from answering services, etc.

Type: Freeware
Available on May/June HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK and HPHAND, "100/200LX Datacomm" section. A full-blown version is available on Internet, <http://www.blkbox.com/~bgfax/> or
E-mail address: bgfax@blkbox.com
Phone: 281-893-9320
FAX: 713-507-9620
<http://www.blkbox.com/~bgfax/>

QFAX Upgrade and Website

Version 1.08 of this fax program for the palmtop adds several enhancements. It will do correct word wrapping now, according to the program's author Anthony Mai. PCX graphics files can be inserted in a fax, which means you can put your signa-

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

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

**Palmtop in good working order
and good shape:***

HP 95LX (with manuals): \$ 55
HP 100LX (with manuals): \$75
HP 200LX (with manuals): \$100

Broken Palmtop*

Broken 95LX (with manuals): \$25
Broken 100LX (with manuals): \$35
Broken 200LX (with manuals): \$35

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

Accessories

HP Connectivity Pack with cable and manual:

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

Uncompressed Flash and SRAM cards:

\$6.00 per megabyte (e.g., 40 Meg=\$240)

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

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

Offer good June 1 - September 1, 1997

ture on the fax if you have a PCX file of your signature. A sample FAX Broadcasting Program and the C SOURCE CODE is included so that users can send personalized faxes to a list of fax numbers automatically, without user intervention. QFAX now has 4 separate parallel versions: DOS, Palmtop, Chinese, and Hebrew.

QFAX (HPFAX108.ZIP)

Type: Shareware

Location: - HPHAND, Library 9, E-Mail address: QFAX@QFAX.COM. Web-site: <http://WWW.QFAX.COM>

C ONFERENCES

**Utility Industry
Handheld Forum**

Handheld and mobile computing will be the focus of the third annual Utility Industry Handheld & PDA

Forum this August 20-22, 1997, in St. Louis, MO.

The forum — a "meeting of the minds" between top utility company executives and technology vendors — will examine how handheld/mobile hardware and software solutions can be applied to projects that face the utility industry.

Executives and project managers from a broad spectrum of water, gas, electric, cable, and telephone companies will be featured speakers at the forum.

The forum will examine various portable and mobile computing solutions that can cut costs and improve service.

CONTACT: For more information, call World Market Strategies, Ltd./PDA Inc., 4309 17th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114 U.S.A.; Phone: 415-252-8008; E-mail: info@wmsltd.com
Website: www.pda-expo.com

HP PALMTOP USER GROUPS

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

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

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

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2597216; Internet: sulplano@individual.eunet.pt

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UNITED STATES:

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

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

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

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

GA—Atlanta -- A.K. Avasthi; Tel: 770-471-1389.

KS—Manhattan -- Marietha Wilson; Tel: 913-532-9775.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WEST INDIES -- Ian Melville; Tel: 809-658-3452; E-mail: ianmel@opus.co.tt

The First Annual Bear Mountain Palmtop Meeting

What happens when 29 enthusiasts gather for the weekend in a state park to share their love for the HP Palmtops?

If you would find it strange to see a man standing on a boulder on the peak of a mountain holding a Cel phone, a modem, an HP 200LX, and trailing assorted wires (while attempting to send a message to a woman who is standing right in front of him), then perhaps you have never been to a palmtop gathering.

If eating lunch amid a welter of wires and widgets, with 28 other folks, all enthusiastically talking at once about their newest, favorite electronic gadgets and goodies sounds like your kind of eccentricity, seek out a Palmtop Users Group.

On the weekend of May 10th & 11th, 29 aficionados of the HP 95LX, 100LX and 200LX handheld computers, along with assorted spouses, children and friends, gathered at the Bear Mountain Inn, in Bear Mountain State Park, on the banks of the Hudson River in New York State.

The meeting was arranged by Vic Roberts and Stan Dobrowski, representing the NY/NJ Users Group. This was an unusually large number, as most arranged get-togethers consist of perhaps six to ten people, more or less. The prospect of a Spring day in the woods of New York, meeting each other, in many cases for the first



Left to right: Larry Finch holding a cell phone up in the air; Stan Dobrowski holding a palmtop; Ray Kump.



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. She can be reached at 54452.105@compuserve.com

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time, after months and years of "conversations" in the Handheld Forums of CompuServe, proved too much to resist.

Everyone had items to contribute to Show and Tell

Fred Kaufman, visiting his home state from Seattle, WA, brought with him the newest member of the Hewlett-Packard handheld family, a WinCE 320LX, whose green glowing backlit screen elicited Oooo's and awe. We might have been holding our palmtopping future...time will tell.

I brought my HP OmniBook 800CT, whose beautiful bright screen and superb keyboard, speed, sound and light weight charmed Vic into making that final decision to buy one. I displayed a neat little portable light, too...but I could not remember where I got it,

to the considerable dismay of others! One of my best finds is the Grip-It Strip, a rough self-sticking material which, when applied to the edges of a palmtop or a portable computer, efficiently keeps it from slipping from your hands.

When the dining room closed, we adjourned to the grounds and reconvened the meeting on three picnic tables. Stan sent another message, this time to the Forum, while Larry Finch held the cell phone high to catch a stronger signal. Spouses hovered, children played beneath the trees and on every horizontal surface palmtoppers shared software via I.R. ports, demonstrated more gadgets and traded tall tales and tech tips.

We all have favorite applications on our LXs, and individual ideas about how to use them. Many of the tools and toys that we add to our collections augment our

palmtops wonderfully. A gathering is an ideal way to demonstrate to one another some of the innovations we have discovered or developed for ourselves.

Late in the afternoon some members drifted away to make the long drive home; others lingered, not wanting the day to end. Incidentally, Stan was the man on the mountain; he and Fred climbed it that morning. We Palmtoppers have many other interests, too, and we love to talk about those as well!

There are impromptu gatherings here and there, all over the world, usually arranged with little notice via the Fireside Section of the Handheld Forum on CompuServe, often when a member is coming to an area on business or for pleasure. Users Groups hold meetings that are more formally arranged, and members are notified via e-mail and the Forums.

Palmtoppers can, and do, get together with little reason and on very short notice, always happy to talk to another believer about the beautiful little computers that share and order our lives. I have even "joined" a tiny group via speaker phone on one occasion!

In the case of The First Annual Bear Mountain Meeting, judging by the enthusiastic reactions before, during and after, I think we can look forward to the Second Annual Bear Mountain Meeting. I, for one, certainly hope so!

Stan and Vic: have you set the date yet?

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All prices are manufacturer's suggested retail price. It may be possible to purchase the product for less at third-party vendors.

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A Busy Plastics Manufacturer Uses Palmtops to Help Control Costs

By connecting a serial cable between an HP 100LX and a high-quality Setra scale, this company has streamlined its data collection process.

By Joe Goeke

As the Administrative Projects Manager of a busy plastic parts manufacturer in northern Arkansas, I am constantly thinking of different ways to automate our processes and methods of data collection. I deal with many different employees who are less than computer literate and who need an easy way of collecting data that is also easy to learn. The HP 95LX and 100LX are the perfect tools for the type of data we gather on a daily basis.

In the beginning

The HP 95LX was initially used at our company to help organize the daily routines of some of the upper-level management people while they were away from the plant on business. From there, the use of the palmtop spread to different people and departments within the company (myself included). We found that the HP 95LX was perfect for use in the quote department. (The quote department figures the cost of tooling and production for each customer's order.) Using the Lotus 1-2-3 application, we wrote a simple macro that greatly increased our response time when quoting new jobs. The palmtop is the perfect tool to use in this area because of its low cost as compared to a full-sized, full-function desktop computer. The unit is reliable and easy to use, and transferring a macro from a desktop computer was a snap using the connectivity kit.



Screen 1: Datacomm's Settings screen is accessed by opening Datacomm and pressing (MENU) Connect Settings.

Using the HP Connectivity Pack and Datacomm to satisfy our customers

We also use the HP Connectivity Pack and desktop computers to transfer and manipulate data from the HP 100LX. When one of our major customers needed SPC (Statistical Process Control) data to accompany each shipment made to them, the HP 100LX was the ideal tool to gather the data. The customer requires that we send the individual weight of each piece we send, measured in grains. Using a Setra 500C electronic scale fitted with an RS-232 port, we can weigh each item and transfer the data

from the scale to the palmtop via the COM port.

We first set up the scale to transmit at 9,600 baud. Next, we set the HP 100LX to transfer data between the scale and the palmtop. We open the Datacomm application and press (MENU) Connect, Settings to go to Datacomm's Settings screen. (See Screen 1 on previous page.)

We set the baud rate to 9,600, leave the rest of the default settings alone and press (ENTER) to return to Datacomm's main screen. Then we press (F5) (Capture), which brings up the "Capture File" screen.

Then we enter a file name for



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joe Goeke is the Administrative Projects Manager at Micro Plastics, Inc., in Flippin, Arkansas. He has been with the company for 15 years and has served in several different positions, including Production Scheduling/Shipping Manager and Molding Supervisor. He can be reached by e-mail at jgoeke@centuryinter.net

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continued on page 29

HOW TO: Plastics manufacturer uses palmtops

the captured data and press (ENTER).

At this point the palmtop should be back to the main Datacomm screen and ready to be hooked up to the scale. We connect the 100LX to the scale using the HP Connectivity Pack's serial cable. The scale has a 25-pin RS-232 port on the back of it, and the cable uses a 9-pin connector, so we use the 9-pin-to-25-pin modem adapter that comes in the connectivity kit (HP part #5181-6642).

When we press the (F10) (Connect) key, the palmtop and the scale are connected to each other. Using the Capture feature in the Datacomm application, data transfer is easy and straightforward. No additional software is required to connect the scale and the palmtop; all the features we require are built into the palmtop.

Next, we send an upper case "P" from the palmtop to the scale. (It is the scale that is anticipating the "P" character; the character has nothing to do with Datacomm or the palmtop.) The "P" character instructs the scale to send its current weight reading to the computer screen. (For example, if the scale display reads 1.168 grams, pressing the (P) key on the palmtop causes "1.168" to be sent to the palmtop's screen.)

Each piece is weighed individually and the data is sent to the palmtop immediately, one piece at a time. On the palmtop, each piece's measurement appears on its own line, placing the data in column fashion.

After gathering 100 samples from the production run, the data is then placed into a simple Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheet in the 100LX. This is done by pressing (MENU) Quit, to close Datacomm. (All the data collected so far has been saved in SAMPLE.CAP.) Then we start 1-2-3 and press (MENU) File, Import, Numbers, type in the name of the file to import (SAMPLE.CAP in this example) and press (ENTER).



This scale from Setra Systems, Inc., can easily be set up to send its data to an HP palmtop through the HP Connectivity Pack's serial cable.

After the first 100 entries are transferred to the spreadsheet, we go back to the Datacomm application and collect another 100 sample weights. (We ship the product in barrels that contain several thousand pieces per barrel. The customer requires 100 samples from each barrel and each column represents one barrel.) The data is transferred into the same spreadsheet, in the column next to the first one. The process is repeated until all of the 100 piece samples have been recorded for the day.

The spreadsheet is then given a name that corresponds with the date the data was gathered. At this time, the HP 100LX is taken to a desktop computer and the spreadsheet is loaded into it via the HP Connectivity Pack at 115,200 baud, making data transfer very quick. The Connectivity Pack software makes downloading data into the desktop computer easy and fast. After the data is downloaded, the spreadsheet is then opened on the desktop computer, and a simple formula is used to convert the

weight entries from grams to grains. With this setup, data can be gathered from virtually anywhere in the plant without regard to how to get the samples to an available computer.

Moving inventory to a new warehouse

We have also used the 100LX in other areas of the factory where data collection was a problem. We recently moved our shipping facility to a new warehouse, and we were faced with the problem of setting up a new computerized stock location system. This system allows us to locate any item in inventory by entering the part's name or identification number.

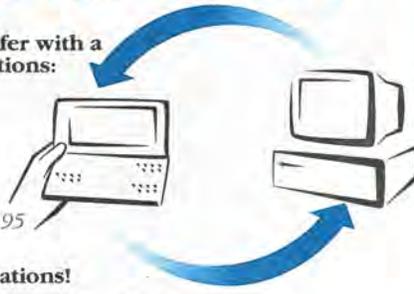
Our stock location system uses three numbers to identify the row, bay, and shelf that the boxes are located on. For example, location number 010503 refers to row 1, bay 5, shelf 3. We enter the item number in the spreadsheet, then enter the location number of the item.

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With over 14,000 boxes in the warehouse that needed to be individually entered into the location system, we were faced with a huge task. Each box had to be verified and its location entered into our AS-400 minicomputer system. Each terminal on this network is in a fixed location and cannot be moved easily. We were faced with the task of walking through the warehouse and manually writing down the box number and location on paper, and then at a later time entering those numbers into the AS-400. We have tried several times to use wireless terminals to gather and enter data directly into our minicomputer system, but the metal buildings at our facility caused so much interference in the signals that the data was unreliable and difficult to transmit.

The HP 95LX and 100LX, with the built-in Lotus 1-2-3 application, proved to be the perfect portable tools for the job. A simple two-col-

umn spreadsheet was set up in each palmtop to enter each box location along with the corresponding item number. For example:

Item #	Location
010632P025	010207
17W02300	231002
22CC50D0250	190804

After only a few minutes of instruction for the inventory team, the data collecting began. Each person collecting data had to learn only six keystrokes to enter the data, and eight keystrokes to save the data. At the end of the day, I backed up each spreadsheet one final time and then dumped each spreadsheet into a desktop computer. The files were then translated into ASCII format and loaded into the AS-400 minicomputer system.

The HP 95LX and 100LX are a low-cost alternative to buying stationary, single-use computer work

stations. The palmtops have enough power to handle most of the data collection jobs that we can think of. Their portability and use of standard "AA" batteries are another definite plus when considering them against most other data collection methods. The palmtop's portability also allows us to use a computer in a warehouse environment where a regular computer would not be feasible.

Our use of palmtops also saves us money. We can use one palmtop computer to gather SPC data for an hour in the morning, then use the same palmtop to do stock locations the rest of the day. It is more cost effective to have one \$600 unit being used for two different jobs in one day, than to have two \$2,000-dollar desktop units being used for an hour or so each day and sitting unused for the rest of the day.

Palmtops are an ideal choice

The extraordinary portability, power, and low cost of the HP 95LX and 100LX make the palmtop an ideal choice in the manufacturing sector. With the built-in features and the ease of connecting them to desktop units, the HP palmtops are a sure bet for gathering data, and for on-the-go record keeping. I am constantly amazed that there is a product on the market that boasts the power that the HP palmtop possesses, and which runs on batteries that are cheap and readily available.

Pricing and Contact Information for products mentioned in this article

All prices are manufacturer's suggested retail price. It may be possible to purchase the product for less at third-party vendors.

Setra 500C scale - \$2,125.00

Setra Systems, Inc.; 159 Swanson Road, Boxborough, MA 01719, USA; Phone: 508-263-1400, or 800-257-3872; E-mail: scale.sales@setra.com; Internet: www.setra.com

Using Your Palmtop to Read Newspapers on the Web

Early each morning while this user sleeps, an alarm in Appointments runs a batch file which causes his modem-equipped palmtop to go online. All automatically, front page articles from The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times are downloaded via the Internet to his palmtop.

By Ray Kump

Many years ago when I got my first palmtop, the HP 95LX, I subscribed to *The HP Palmtop Paper*. The majority of the articles would make reference to the HPHAND forum on CompuServe. I would log onto HPHAND every Saturday and print the forum messages for the past week.

I did not want to be tied to a computer screen and a desk to read the messages, so I printed it on paper. I thought there had to be a better way than wasting the paper and toner, but there were no other options yet.

After a few months I noticed a program called acCIS, which permitted offline reading of the forum messages with the 95LX. It was shareware, so I gave it a try. The only problem was lack of mass storage on my HP 95LX; I only had a small 256K SRAM card, so I used my portable Drive95 battery-operated floppy drive. It was not an elegant solution, so I stayed with paper.

A little while later acCIS became a commercial product with more robustness, and I purchased a 1-meg SRAM memory card. It was perfect timing and I began my offline reading of the CompuServe HPHAND forum. I added the AP Newswire Online and *TIME* magazine to my list via the scripting

available with acCIS. The scripting was cumbersome, as the format on CompuServe kept changing, and I missed the depth that the newspapers provided.

The only thing missing was reading *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times* on my palmtop. I felt eliminating the daily pile of newspapers and the newsprint ink from my fingers would make sense, but until recently there were no options.

WWW/LX

With WWW/LX, HV, and GET.COM I was finally able to read *The Wall Street Journal* on my palmtop. I am actually able to read many different publications, such as *Business Week*, *The New York Times*, and others. When I wake up in the morning I have *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times* waiting for me. I created an alarm which runs a batch file

(NEWS.BAT) before I wake up. I plug my palmtop into the modem and turn on the modem before I go to bed the night before. The batch file, using GET.COM and WWW/LX, goes online and downloads the Web pages to my flash disk. The front pages of each section have the same Web address each day, making this process easy.

The NEWS.BAT file downloads the front pages of the different sections of *The Wall Street Journal*. Each article is summarized by a few sentences and references the full article as a separate Web page. While I have my morning coffee I use HV to read the downloaded Web pages. By reading or scanning the summaries on each front page I am able to get a summary of the day's news. I select those articles where I want the full story and details. The articles will be downloaded when I have finished the summaries. *The New York Times* is similar. Some of the sec-



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Raymond J. Kump, C.P.A., graduated from Hofstra University with a B.B.A. in public accounting and joined the firm of Coopers & Lybrand at their New York City office. In 1983 he started his own practice, Kump Associates C.P.A., P.C., 111 Smithtown Bypass, Suite 207, Hauppauge, NY 11788. He and his wife Marianna and their two sons are all HP Palmtop users. You can reach Ray at 516-360-3215 or on CompuServe at [71773,1274].

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point your browser to www.wsj.com. For *The New York Times*, point your browser to www.nytimes.com.

How it all works

Maybe I should explain how the different pieces work together. There are three different programs. WWW/LX is a communication platform which dials your Internet provider and provides the communication backbone. It is basically transparent to the user. HV is a program which permits you to view Web Pages online (using WWW/LX) and offline as well. GET.COM is a program which uses WWW/LX to retrieve Web pages you have selected with HV and stores them on your palmtop. You then view those pages offline with HV. GET.COM also does one very important thing. It fixes the Web Links on the page. The Links are relative to the current page, and when you are online it links you appropriately. When the file is saved to the A drive (as when you are reading a downloaded article) the link would reference the A drive and not the actual full Web address. GET.COM fixes the relative Web links to a fixed Web link when it saves the files to the drive during the download process. In order to read a Web page and mark links for further downloading, the page must be retrieved with GET.COM. If you save the page while actually online using F10 to save the page, the links will not be properly updated and the link will point to the A drive, instead of an actual Web address.

The directory structure I use keeps things in order and helps identify where to find different pages on my flash disk. I keep WWW/LX and GET.COM in A:\WWW. I keep HV and its related programs and the GET.DAT file in A:\HV. I keep the Wall Street Journal articles in A:\HV\WSJ. I keep *The New York Times* articles in

tions contain summaries and the reference to the full article, and some sections contain only the headline or title with the reference to the full page.

When I am done reading the front pages I go back online using GETART.BAT to download the new articles (Web pages) I wish to read. I then use HV to read these new articles. By automating the download process with the batch files and GET.COM, you save a tremendous amount of time, as compared to reading the summaries and selecting and reading

the articles while you are online.

The Wall Street Journal is a paid subscription Web site. The cost is \$49.00 per year. If you already subscribe to the paper version you get a discount on the Web version. *The New York Times* is free, but requires you to register. *Business Week* does not require any registration. I have noticed that many Web sites do not require any registration or fee.

The best way to register is to log on with a full-featured desktop Web Browser of your choice, as HV does not handle the registration pages. For *The Wall Street Journal*,

Batch File and Data File Load Newspaper Pages

I use the following batch file and *.dat file to load the main pages of *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times* each morning. Each line should begin with HTTP and should be on one line, with no line wrapping.

NEWS.BAT

a:

cd\www

www "!get a:\www\news.dat"

NEWS.DAT

http://www.wsj.com/edition/current/summaries/front.htm a:\hv\wsj\Front.htm

http://www.wsj.com/edition/current/summaries/edtorl.htm a:\hv\wsj\EdFront.htm

http://www.wsj.com/edition/current/summaries/money.htm a:\hv\wsj\MoneyFr.htm

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http://www.nytimes.com/yr/mo/day/news/financial/ a:\hv\nyt\financ.HTM

the A:\HV\NYT. At the end of the day I delete all the articles I have read, to make room for the next day. I also move the unread articles to another directory, using the date as part of the file name. The unread articles from June 15 would be in A:\HV\WSJ0615. If after a few days I have not read the articles, I delete them. Just like with the print version, you have to admit defeat and toss the old papers for recycling.

The Wall Street Journal and *The New York Times* both require you to enter a username and a password. GET.COM works with authentication, using a file called GET.AUT to store the required information. I use the following format in the GET.AUT with xxxx as the username and yyyy as the password. You can create this file with Memo.

GET.AUT

HTTP://WWW.NYTIMES.COM

xxxx:yyyy

HTTP://WWW.WSJ.COM

xxxx:yyyy

There is one very important point to make regarding the *.DAT files. Memo inserts spaces when you edit the *.DAT file, due to the long lines without spaces. I set memo to 120 characters per line before loading the *.DAT file. Memo causes a problem because the file names and paths could not have spaces, and memo added them when editing with 64 or 80 column widths, and the line wrapped on the right margin. Why? I don't know. This is very important to remember as GET.COM will hang with the extra space which Memo adds to long lines when it wraps the text to the next line. I use EDIT.COM from my desktop to edit the *.DAT files. I use the EDIT.COM from Win95 because it permits multiple files to be open at the same time, so I can cut and paste among them easily when editing. You can use

EDIT.COM from Dos 5 or 6. Memo will work if you set the right margin big enough so that it does not force any line wraps.

The sidebar on this page contains the actual content of the batch and data files.

I read, using HV, the front pages of the different sections and select the articles I would like to read by pointing to the reference and pressing (Fn) (Copy) and giving it a file name. The pages have summaries of the articles. By just reading the front pages of *The Wall Street Journal* you get a good feel for the news of the day. I set my cache directory to a:\hv\wsj so that path pops up automatically when file name is requested. It is important to make the file name descriptive so that you read the important articles first.

A&E, CNN, and Business Week

You will note that I also have a reference for the A&E schedule for the day, and the computer news Web site. You could also add the CNN (www.cnn.com) news site and others to suit your news preference. Once a week I download the *Business Week* table of contents from www.businessweek.com/c/contents.htm and select the articles I want to read.

To retrieve the articles I have selected I use the following batch file. It uses the GET.DAT file which was created by the (Fn) (Copy) selection. After I have the articles downloaded I delete the GET.DAT file, since I no longer need it and do not need to download the articles a second time. GETART stands for GET ARTicle.

GETART.BAT

www "!get a:\hv\get.dat"

Be selective when choosing the articles you download, consider how much time you have, and choose accordingly. If you do not get to the article, I suggest you

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delete it, or scan it briefly if the topic is important for later reading. It's no different than with the print version, when you finally admit you will not get to that stack and you bundle it for recycling.

I average about 200K to 400K of disk space for the articles, etc., for one day. I usually delete the front pages before I retrieve the articles, to save disk space.

The most recent versions of HV and GET.COM are at the D&A home page (www.dasoft.com) with instructions for their setup and use.

I have used this combination to download the concert schedule

from the radio station Web site, tax forms and instructions and other business information I need from my palmtop. HV does permit you to view graphics inside the document, but I generally use it with the graphics turned off. The process is much faster without the graphics, but even with graphics turned on it is much faster than logging on with my desktop browser.

I now get to read my paper the first thing in the morning, and I do not have to wait for the mail delivery. Although reading the newspaper on the palmtop was difficult at first, I quickly learned to adapt. I

scan the articles when reading the print version, and initially I did not scan the articles at all when reading on the palmtop. I would read every word of each article I downloaded. Now that I learned to do more scanning on the palmtop screen, I get through the news much faster and still read the full text when I need to. If the article is not interesting or informative I no longer feel compelled to read every word. There are also references in *The Wall Street Journal* pages to other sites, such as governmental reports and their full text, if you need them. I find *The Wall Street Journal* to be the best site. I probably get most of my news that way. Although the articles come from the print version, the Web site adds many "Web specific" features.

Pricing and Contact Information for products

All prices are manufacturer's suggested retail price. It may be possible to purchase the product for less at third-party vendors.

WWW/LX - \$119.00 (includes the Web browser, as well as Post/LX, a program described in this issue's New Products section).

Shier Systems & Software, Inc., 920 Hampshire Road, Suite A, Westlake Village, CA 91361, USA; Phone: 805-371-9391; Fax: 805-371-9454; E-mail: info@shier.com

Rundel Datentechnik, Rappenstr. 20, 73033 Goeppingen, Germany; Phone: +49-7161-14707; Fax: +49-7161-24473; E-mail: 100023.2477@compuserve.com

Shareware/freeware

HV.ZIP — View Web pages on the palmtop. Freeware. D&A Software; Phone: 818-341-1188; Web: www.dasoft.com Available on this issue's *HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK*.

GET.ZIP — Lets you download Web pages on the palmtop. Shareware. D&A Software; Phone: 818-341-1188; Web: www.dasoft.com Available on this issue's *HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK*.

NEWS.ZIP — The batch file (NEWS.BAT) and data file (NEWS.DAT) that the author uses to load newspaper pages (see sidebar, p. 13). Available on this issue's *HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK*.

Connecting a Zip Drive and an IDE Hard Drive to Your Palmtop

Exchange information between a Zip drive and the palmtop and its PCMCIA flash card directly, using DoubleSlot.

By Tom Boyles

How important is backing up your palmtop? When you lose some important data, you'll know the frustration of not having a backup.

On the other hand, maybe you are great at taking the time to making the back up of your palmtop. But what happens when you are away from that backup archive you've made and you lose important data? You may as well not have made the back up at all! What good is a backup when it's not available to you when you need it?

Wouldn't it be great if there was a way to make a backup of your palmtop no matter where you are? Sitting in a car, waiting in an airport, or even in your hotel room. With important data being created on your palmtop, the risk of losing that data is a risk you will no longer need to take. Completely back up everything on your palmtop (including the C: drive and any and all memory cards) in a single, very portable solution that will pay itself off in purchase dollars and set-up time.

When you have a backup with you to recover that important data, the hardware described in this article will be as important as your palmtop itself. Even the extra few pieces of hardware you will carry with you will be worth it when the loss of data does not send you into a panic attack. It's the 1990s, and we need better solutions. Here is a



The H45 Technology IDE Hard Drive Kit (at far right) is connected to the Zip drive, which is being powered by the BTi Zip Drive Battery Pack on its right side. The cable from the Zip drive leads to the TransDigital Parallel Card, which is plugged into DoubleSlot. DoubleSlot, in turn, is plugged into the HP 200LX palmtop.

solution for the existing problem of making a backup and having it available when you need it. Defy that version of Murphy's Law that would probably be something like, "When you need to restore your data, your backup files will be 1,500 miles away." Plus, this is a solution that will lower your stress

level!

This article describes the hardware, software and set-up of a few incredible computer components that together make a very impressive portable backup solution. (See sidebar on page 17 for step-by-step hardware instructions.)



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tom Boyles is a Technical Support Engineer for the Apex Data Products Division of SMART Modular Technologies. He specializes in electronic communications and handles the support for all PDAs and handheld PCs. Of all the handheld PCs used in work and play, he considers the 200LX the best on the market. He can be reached at tom.boyles@palmtop.com or at his Web page at: <http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Way/6215>



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The Hardware

The hardware you will need is simple. In fact, you may already own a parallel port Zip drive. If you don't, in addition to the flexibility the solution has to offer for use on desktops and laptops, it also works on the palmtop!

To connect the Zip drive to the palmtop you will need a parallel PCMCIA card. The card from TransDigital Corp. is excellent. Manufactured for fast parallel access, it also contains a small 128K ROM that has the necessary drivers to load on the palmtop. The manufacturer really took into consideration the concerns of the palmtop user. With the card in the palmtop slot, you can access drive A: and load the TSR (terminate and stay resident) executable program, and within moments, it is ready to run your Zip drive.

The last piece of hardware you

will need is Accurite's DoubleSlot for the HP Palmtop. This peripheral is a palmtop owner's dream come true, since it gives your palmtop two PCMCIA slots. With the DoubleSlot in the palmtop, the parallel card in the top slot of the DoubleSlot, and your regular memory card that you use in your palmtop in the bottom slot, you are ready to back it ALL up.

The software

The drivers needed for the above hardware come with the associated peripherals. As mentioned, the TSR driver to load the parallel card is on the card itself. The drivers to load the DoubleSlot (explained in the user guide) is on the DoubleSlot itself, in ROM. With access to the A: drive in the same way as the parallel card, the driver can be copied to your C:\ drive and loaded as a device driver at boot-up. The driver to load for the Zip drive comes on an install diskette with the Zip drive. No need to search the Web or online services for drivers — the manufacturers knew how to make it quick and easy! (Make sure and consult each manufacturer's user's guide for proper installation of the drivers associated with the product.)

Battery pack for the Zip drive

As an added bonus to this backup solution, there is a battery pack available for the Zip drive so that the bulky power adapter isn't needed. The battery pack is more compact and easy to carry and to charge. A fully charged battery pack provides three to four hours of Zip drive use.

Remember: all three products described in this article are not limited to this use. The parallel card can be connected direct (or through the Zip drive) for printing. The

DoubleSlot can accommodate many combinations of cards, like a modem and a memory card, or even Type III hard drives (with a separately available AC adapter from Accurite). The Zip drive, of course, can be used for desktops and laptops for backup and storage, etc. All are well worth the investment!

Connecting an H45 Technology IDE hard drive kit

Also as an additional hardware idea, take a look at H45 Technology's IDE hard drive kit, called "Quick Drive." This kit, which comes in an attractive box (along with the necessary hardware), allows you to connect a standard 3.5" IDE hard drive to your computer through a parallel cable!

With the included cable, you can connect a hard drive to the Zip drive, and then load the included DOS driver to have access to an IDE hard drive on your palmtop! The IDE drive operates at a much faster read/write access time than a Zip drive, but weighs a bit more. Plus, the H45 Quick Drive kit must be powered by AC. But the ability to access a 420 Mb hard drive is incredible! (The 420 Mb is the largest I tried; I'm currently running a 120 Mb drive.) For portability, the Zip drive is the best solution, but for mass storage and around the home or office use, the H45 Quick Drive kit might be something to look at.

Using the Zip drive and the hard drive at the same time

For those needing access to both the Zip drive and the IDE hard drive, try this: After the H45 driver software has been installed, follow the steps in the sidebar on p. 17 to get connected to the Zip drive. Then unplug the cable from the Zip drive and plug it into the H45

Quick Drive kit cable. Then load the TSR for the Quick Drive. (There is a small conflict of drivers in this setup, but the conflict can be ignored. When the error message appears, which will include "Abort, Retry or Fail?," press F for Fail and the installation of the TSR will continue).

After the drive is located and a drive letter is assigned, unplug the TransDigital cable from the H45 cable and plug it back into the Zip drive. Now plug the H45 Quick Drive cable into the Zip drive on the printer side. You should now have access to the Zip drive and the IDE hard drive at the same time. I also noticed when looking at H45 Technology's Website that they have a parallel port CDROM drive! Quad speed even! Next for testing?... probably!

Access an endless number of devices

The combination of TransDigital's Trans PC parallel card and Accurite's DoubleSlot for your palmtop provides access to the parallel devices described above, as well as to others that are out there waiting to be tried out, and even to some devices that are being developed as this article was being writ-

Contact information for products mentioned in this article

TransDigital Corporation, 39210 State Street, Suite 105, Fremont, CA 94538, USA; Phone: 510-745-9777

Accurite Technologies, Inc., 48460 Lakeview Blvd., Fremont, CA 94538, USA; Phone: 510-668-4900 ;

WEB: <http://www.Accurite.com/>

E-mail: sales@Accurite.com

ioMega Corporation, 1821 West ioMega Way, Roy, UT 84067, USA; Phone: 800-697-8833; Web: <http://www.iomega.com/> ;

E-mail: sales@iomega.com

H45 Technology; Phone: 800-220-6346;

Web: <http://www.h45.com/>

E-mail: Tech@h45.com

Connecting the Hardware, Step-by-Step

Here is a step-by-step guide for getting all the hardware ready to backup. It can be confusing when you think about all of the hardware, and how they might work as separate pieces, but in conjunction with each other they create a great "carry-everywhere" backup solution.

1. Remove any card in the palmtop's slot and insert the 'Double Slot.'
2. Insert the TransDigital Trans PC parallel card in the bottom slot.
3. Power on the palmtop and get to a DOS prompt. Change to drive A:
4. Execute CIC.EXE to load the palmtop client driver from TransDigital. You will hear audible tones letting you know the card is recognized. (Later, when the Zip drive TSR is loaded, it will likely assign the Zip drive as the F: drive. The CIC executable program has a switch that you can use to automatically assign it to drive B:. If this is something you would like to do, use "CIC /B" instead of just "CIC" by itself. If you use the /B switch, go to step 5, if not, skip to step 7.)
5. Power off the palmtop.
6. Power on the palmtop. (You should hear audible tones. Anytime the power is turned off and back on, you should hear that double tone, letting you know the parallel card is recognized each time. Powering off and back on reassigns the F: drive to drive B:)
7. Attach the TransDigital Zip drive cable to the parallel card and the Zip drive. (The cable is not provided when you purchase the parallel card, but is available separately from TransDigital.)
8. Execute GUEST.EXE (from the Zip drive install diskette).

NOTE: The files you will need from the Zip drive diskette are: GUEST.EXE, GUEST.INI, NIBBLE.ILM, and ASPIPPM1.SYS. The ASPIPPM1.SYS is a text file you can edit. To make it load the Zip drive as fast as possible on the palmtop, you can edit it or create a text file named ASPIPPM1.SYS with the following information:

[--- begin file ---]

```
SCAN=ON
ASPI=ASPIPPM1.SYS /INFO FILE=NIBBLE.ILM SPEED= 1
```

[--- end file ---]

9. After executing GUEST, the Zip drive will be located and then connected to a drive letter (most likely drive F:. NOTE: if you used "CIC /B" you'll have access to the Zip drive as drive B:.)
10. Power off the palmtop. Move the parallel card to the top slot and insert your memory card in the bottom slot.
11. Power the palmtop back on.
12. You will now have access to three drives: the palmtop C: drive, the memory card (drive A:) and the Zip drive.)
13. Copy all contents from drive C: and drive A: to a Zip diskette. (I personally used PKWARE's PKZIP and PKUNZIP to compress and uncompress all files, or selected files, on the C: and A: drives. Other methods of your choice will work well, too, with some experimenting.)

To recover data, simply follow the steps above and recover problem files to the C: or A: drive as needed.

The hardware described in this article is very compact and easily carried while away from the office. When catastrophe hits, you will be ready to recover no matter where you are.

ten. The ideas are endless, and the testing "to-see-if-it-works" is lots of fun! The TransDigital Trans PC parallel card is incredible, simply because it provides full access to the hardware described above, and because it runs at about 10mA in use! The Accurite "DoubleSlot"

name speaks for itself. Two slots on the palmtop! Now that's what we've been needing!

Connecting a PCMCIA card and a battery-equipped Zip drive to your palmtop creates a very portable backup solution.

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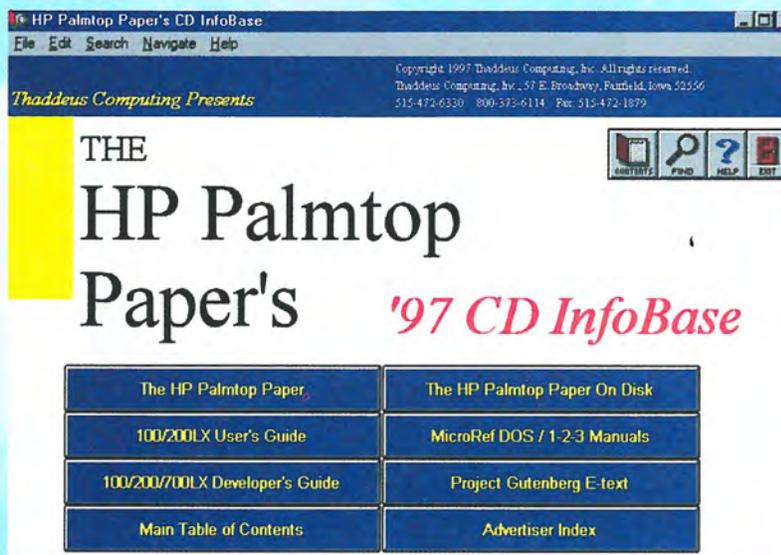
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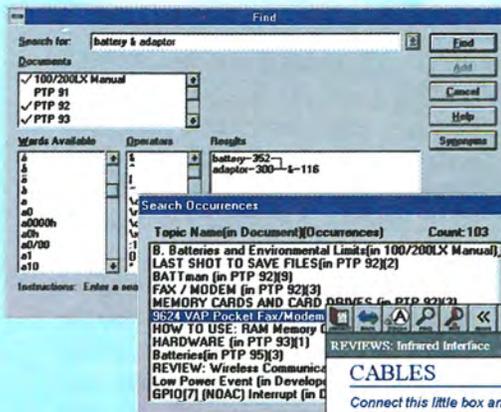
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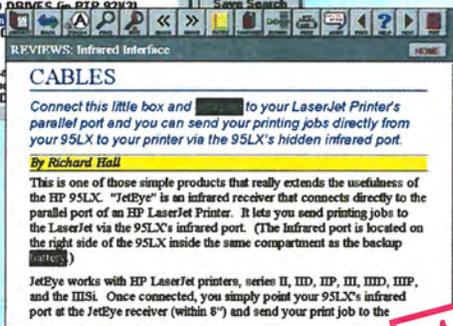
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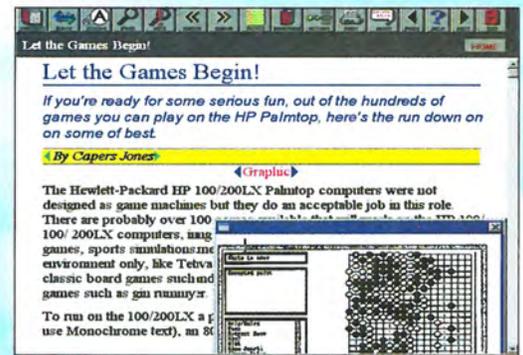
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Through the Looking Glass

The HP 200LX can entertain you with games, let you draw pictures, and play or compose music. To round out the machine's capabilities, Ed shows how you can make your HP palmtop write poetry — using Lotus 1-2-3!

By Ed Keefe

The seed of an idea

In the March/April column we pushed the palmtop's Solve function to the limit. It took us into the realm of probability and revealed the power of the SIGMA function to perform numeric integration. Pretty stiff going, if I do say so myself!

This issue's column does an about face and turns from such profundity to a bit of whimsy:

something that might appeal to Lewis Carroll, the author of "Alice, Through the Looking Glass."

I imagine that Charles Dodgson, (i.e., Lewis Carroll), being a logician, math teacher and creator of jabberwocky, might be drawn to a math engine that creates poetry.

The quest for an electronic bard

The quest for an automated poetry generator is probably as old as computers themselves. My first acquaintance with this quest dates back almost thirty years to when I was a grad student at the University of Iowa.

A student from the School of Fine Arts had been awarded a full scholarship for a slim book of poetry. During his acceptance speech, he thanked the people at the U of I Computing Center for their help. He claimed that with their help he had written a program that generated all the poetry in the book. After spending several months getting the program to work, he spent an additional six weeks poring over ream after ream of printout. He discarded 99% of what the com-

puter had spewed forth and published the best of the best.

Upon hearing this, the awards committee immediately withdrew the prize and accused the student of plagiarism. They allowed that he might have been the editor of the book of verse, but the computer was the author.

The student rejoined that he was the author of the poetry. He'd merely used the computer as a tool; a more sophisticated typewriter, if you will.

The opinion of the awards committee prevailed, and in the process, opened a Pandora's box. The committee's claim that a computer had written poetry drew vitriolic replies from poets and artists the world over. The campus newspaper, *The Daily Iowan*, carried letters that stated, "How dare the members of the Fine Arts School say that a machine could perform a uniquely human activity, one that called for creativity and imagination," and "Shame on the committee, the School of Fine Arts, and the U of I!"

The student left the School of Fine Arts when he got a full scholarship from the Computer Science



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A long time contributor to Hewlett-Packard Handheld support publications, Ed Keefe is an author, editor, programmer, computer science instructor, and part-time consultant in the computer industry. Ed's articles appear in *The HP Palmtop Paper*. He is also the editor of the book *PC In Your Pocket: Information When You Need It*.

Department. The head of that department was apparently impressed with a person who could teach himself programming and could then teach a computer to write poetry. What was even more impressive was that the program was written in Fortran, the premiere number-crunching language.

The quest continues

I've occasionally told this story to students as a lead-in to a discussion of the role of computers in the arts. Only once did a student challenge the premise that a computer could create poetry. Rather than get into an argument, I proved that it could be done by writing a simple, free-form poetry generator using the Pascal programming language. The program, called FastPoet, appeared on the old

Diversions Disk for the HP 95LX and on the Fall 1991 *Palmtop Paper ON DISK*.

The FASTPOET program uses a random number generator to pick lines of text from a file and mindlessly present them on the screen. Then the human mind takes over and tries to make sense out of nonsense. The outcome is that the text begins to look and sound like the kind of poetry you might hear in a coffeehouse back in the 1970s.

I recently rewrote the program for the HP 200LX, this time in C++. The source code and executable file (POETCLX.EXE) are contained on this issue of *Palmtop Paper ON DISK* (and at www.thaddeus.com) However, to modify the program you would need a C++ compiler. Realizing that very few readers would have such a tool, I decided to write the program in a language

```

1      J
2      VARIABLES
3      counter
4      numrows
5
6      FUNCTIONS
7      offset @INT(@RAND*NUMROWS)
8      source @INDEX(LINES,0,OFFSET)
9
10     PROCEDURES
11     \p {paneloff}/wgdocfq(windowsoff){bordersoff}
12     {let numrows,@rows(lines)}{goto}poetry-
13     {panelon}{paneloff}
14     generate {indicate " ONE MOMENT "}/retarget-/rncrtarget-c1-
15     {for counter,1,20,1,subrtn}(windowson)
16     {indicate " PRESS ESC TO QUIT "}(windowsoff)
17     {get more}{if more<>"}{ESC"}{branch generate}
18     {indicate }{calc}/wgdocsq
19     /retarget-/chelp-c5-
20
21     subrtn {appendbelow target,source}{calc}
22
23     help ZOOM TO 21 LINES.
24     ALT P STARTS THE POET
25     PRESS ANY KEY TO
26     GET MORE VERSES
27     PRESS ESC TO QUIT
28
29     Range names      Setup
30
31     COUNTER J3      Column A; Width 1
32     GENERATE J14    Column B; Width 17
33     HELP J23..J27  Other cols: Wid 9
34     LINES Q1..Q49  Ranges A1..B21
35     MORE J2      and G1..H21
36     NUMROWS J4    are filled with
37     OFFSET J5     \
38     POETRY A2     If you add more lines
39     SOURCE J8     to the verses, make
40     SUBRTN J21    sure that "blank" lines
41     TARGET C1..C21 have a couple of
42     \P J11       spaces in the line

```

Figure 1: The program.

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that's available on the HP 100/200LX palmtops: the Lotus 1-2-3 macro language.

Without further ado, here is the program. (See Figure 1.) It, as well as the "data" contained in Figure 2, which is culled from the work of Ned Davison (*Creative Computing Magazine*, 1982), are also on this issue's *Palmtop Paper On Disk*.

The Lotus program uses a couple of the more esoteric functions and macro commands in the spreadsheet language, namely "{appendbelow,source,target}" and "@index()."

The data

The data (see Figure 2.) consists of 49 lines of poetic sounding gibberish. Put it in Column Q of the spreadsheet. The output will look like "poetry" if you maintain a format similar to the one shown. Be

HOW TO: Lotus 1-2-3 writes poetry

```

Q
1  ...and it was
2  without breath or fear or love
3  they know
4  I suppose,
5  as if gliding down
6  while air shifted, sullen, heavy
7  under velvet skies
8
9
10 too far
11 too long
12 too late
13 ... still it's early
14 grasses glistening
15 warm earth and fields
16 shallow trails, shadows
17 always the clock and pen
18 just alloy and circuitry
19 no time to turn
20 time, time to start again
21 to feel again
22 (the air, moist--skin, cool)
23 and later her dry palms
24 forever dusk, always
25
26 but there's always spring
27 if the water's dark
28 it won't be easy
29 and she turned away
30 as the fields rolled in the sunlight
31
32 please, now!
33 softly, softly
34 ...with little care or gesture
35
36 like a new green leaf
37
38 the sky's violent blue
39
40 with the graceful line of flight
41
42 it's so simple...
43 softly
44 when we're there
45 smooth, like sand
46 it's over
47 I know it's over
48 I suppose, she said
49 the words were brittle
    
```

Figure 2: The data.

sure to press the (SPACEBAR) a couple of times in what appear to be blank lines. (If you don't do this, your output may contain lines with the number 0 in them.) Once you have the data keyed in, use the (MENU) Range Name Create command to name the range q1..q49 as LINES.

Comments on the Lotus 1-2-3 code

I've arranged the "code" so that it looks like a C or Pascal program. The NAMES of the variables, functions and procedures are in column I of the spreadsheet. The actual variables, functions and proce-

dures (macros) are in column J. This makes it easy to name most of the ranges in the sheet by putting the cursor in cell I2 and using the command, (MENU) Range Name Labels Right. Pressing the (.) (period) key and moving the cursor down to cell I24 and pressing (ENTER) will create most of the range names all at once. In cells I31 through I42 the actual list of the named ranges appears. You need not type this in. Just key in the code and data, name the ranges and then put the cursor in cell I31 and use the command (MENU) Range Name Table and press (ENTER) twice. The resulting table will let you compare your version with mine to make sure that you've named the same ranges as I did.

The "program" uses three variables, "more" will contain the result of the {GET} macro, "counter" is used by the {FOR,,,,} macro, and "numrows" keeps track of the number of rows in the data

range.

The "offset" function finds a random number between 0 and 1 and multiplies it by the number of rows of data. It then converts this fractional number to a whole number.

The "source" function uses the @INDEX() function to find a particular, random line in the data.

The first procedure is named "\P". This will let you initialize the program by pressing (ALT)+(P). The procedure turns off the spreadsheet display, jumps to the poetry range and displays the file name in the lower right corner of the screen.

The "generate" procedure is a loop. It begins by changing the indicator in the upper left of the screen to " ONE MOMENT. " It clears out the "target" range that will hold the next 20 lines of poetry. The {for counter,,,} loop calls the subrtm (subroutine) macro twenty times. This subrtm appends the contents of the "source" cell below

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 when we're there
 it the water's dark
 please now!
 when we're there
 the words were brittle
 ...and it was
 they know
 no time to turn,
 it's so simple
 forever dusk, always
 time, time to start again
 and she turned away

too far
 if the water's dark
 if the water's dark

Figure 3: Verses created in Lotus 1-2-3.

the previous line in the "target" range. When the {for ,,,,} loop is finished, the screen is refreshed with the {windowson} macro. The indicator is then changed to "PRESS ESC TO QUIT."

At this point the program waits for you to press any key. If you press (ESC), the program will end; the target range will be erased and the contents of the "help" range will be copied into this space on the spreadsheet and the Time and Date will appear in the lower right of the screen. If you press any key other than (ESC), the "generate" loop will repeat itself and show another 20 lines of poetry.

Preparing the display

To prepare the screen, move to cell A2 and key in \. and press (ENTER). This will fill the cell with periods. Then use the command (MENU) Copy A2..A2 to H22. When you press (ENTER) the screen will fill with "periods." In cell B2 enter the word "target" . Use the command (MENU) Worksheet Column Set-width to make column A, 1-character wide, and column B, 17 spaces wide. The other columns can remain in their default width of 9 spaces. Finally, press the (FN)+(SPACEBAR) keys to zoom the display to small fonts. Press the (TAB) key to move off-screen and then press the



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(ALT)+(P) keys to start the program.

Hopefully everything will work as advertised and you'll see some verses (see Figure 3, this page). The first few screens may not make any sense. However, if you relax and let your mind go blank and just continue reading screen after screen, you may experience a mood shift. (Some people even claim that the poetry is a little risque!) I hope you have a couple of minutes of pleasure from all your work.

More of the same

If you're interested in this use of the palmtop, you'll probably enjoy a more elaborate version of a poetry generator. The file POET.ZIP, on this issue's *Palmtop Paper ON DISK*, (and at www.thaddeus.com) will generate line after line of random

verse, most of which is nonsense, but some of which has been good enough to be published in national magazines. And for totally random text, you can try the shareware program BABBLE200, from Korenthal Associates, in the PCVENB forum on CompuServe.

Shareware/freeware mentioned in this article

POET.ZIP — Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheet containing poetry generating program and data file mentioned in this article, plus POET-CLX.EXE, (executable version of the program), and related files. Freeware. Available on this issue's *HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK* and at: www.thaddeus.com

BABBLE200 — A program that generates totally random text. Shareware. Available in the PCVENB forum on CompuServe.

FASTPOET — Poetry generating program written by Ed Keefe for the HP 95LX. Available on 1997 HP Palmtop Paper CD InfoBase.

Hong Kong Brewer Uses Palmtops for Order Capture

This company's sales staff uses HP 200LXs, each equipped with a PC card modem, to take customer orders and transfer the data back to the sales department offices.

By Ross Milburn

San Miguel, Hong Kong's largest brewer, has provided its sales team with palmtop computers to be used for order entry and uploading sales data to the company's distribution systems. San Miguel delivers about two million hectolitres of beer annually to thousands of bars, restaurants, hotels and shops throughout the Territory.

In the past, the company carried out its own deliveries with a fleet of trucks driven by salespeople, each assigned specific routes. Orders were taken by the salesperson, either for immediate fulfillment on a COD (cash-on-delivery) basis, or for delivery at a later time. All orders were recorded on handheld terminals from Marvel Technology Co. Ltd.

After an order was entered, the handheld terminal was connected to a printer installed in the cab of the delivery truck, and an invoice printed out. At the end of the day, the salesperson would take his terminal back to the office and upload the data to a PC, which then transmitted it by telephone line to the order entry system running on an IBM AS/400. "This system was

very advanced when it was introduced, and San Miguel used it successfully for about five years," said Eric Cheung, the brewer's IT manager.

San Miguel has since grown rapidly to become a major regional organization. Also, competition in beer products has increased. To meet the challenge of changing market conditions, and focus on customer service and market data collection, the company decided to outsource the delivery aspects of distribution to a specialist distribution firm, the South China Warehousing Company, a member of the Tibbett & Britten Group.

In the new system, which was introduced in December 1995, San Miguel's sales team, known as pre-sellers, have been equipped with

HP 200LX palmtop computers, used to take customer orders. The software program used, called the Sales Order Maintenance System, runs on DOS, and was written in about three weeks by a three-person team from San Miguel's IT department, using Clipper language.

The palmtops are equipped with PC Card modems, and at the end of each afternoon's sales calls, the salesperson uses this to transfer data by any telephone line to a receiver linked to a PC in the sales department. In turn, the PC uploads the information to the main order entry system, which is part of the accounts programs running on an AS/400. Both these applications were also written in-house.



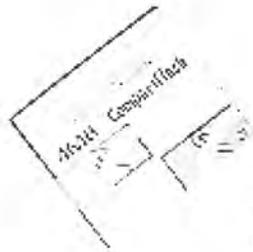
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San Miguel has located a printer and some terminals in the offices of the South China Warehousing Co. and authorized the vehicle route planners to access the AS/400, via a leased line. Delivery information is downloaded as required, and for cash customers, the invoice is also the delivery note. Invoices are printed out for delivery drivers to collect COD for small customers, while larger purchasers have credit accounts.

The new system allows San Miguel to concentrate on its core business - products and customers - while responsibility for warehousing and delivery is in the hands of an international specialist company. In the previous system, complex delivery schedules could conflict with the need for good customer liaison.

When San Miguel carried out its own deliveries, modern route optimization software was considered, but not adopted, said Mr.

Cheung. "It would be difficult to maintain route optimization software, in the face of many fluctuating orders, frequent changes to the locations of outlets, and a road system subject to many delays and diversions. In these conditions, expert local drivers used by our delivery contractors may be a better solution," he said.

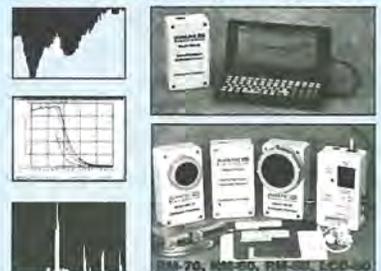
The new system frees the sales team so that, instead of just going to outlets to take orders, they can provide a better service to customers. One key function is to determine the kind of co-operative sales promotions activities that will benefit particular outlets. These include competitions, offers such as "buy two, get one free," and "promoter teams" (young ladies that promote beer sales). "In addition, more customer contact means better feedback on customer profiles, drinking habits and preferences, necessary for efficient marketing," said Mr. Cheung.

This company's sales staff uses HP 200LXs, each equipped with a PC card modem, to take customer orders and transfer the data back to the sales department.

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User to User:

Hal shares his perspective on HP's new five-year R&D program; gives directions for using HP 200LX PC Cards in HP 300LX Series Palmtop PCs; and describes a few interesting freeware/shareware programs.

By Hal Goldstein

As you can see from the article on page 30, there are strong feelings from many HP 200LX users about the Windows CE platform. Those of us who use HPCalc, the HP 200LX database program, the full version of Lotus 1-2-3, and run DOS programs will be slow to switch. Others who use a handheld for phone book, appointment book, and want the ability to easily synchronize with Windows 95 desktop programs should look seriously at the HP Windows CE machine. These users will appreciate having Pocket Word and Excel on their handheld and will like HP's larger screen and keyboard.

HP is certainly committed to the handheld arena. According to a news report: "Hewlett-Packard is injecting \$28.5 million (\$40 million Singapore) dollars into its Asia-Pacific Personal Computer Division (APCD) in Singapore, to develop new technologies designed to give a boost to handheld computing through a five-year R&D program. HP will use the funds to design and develop products aimed at tapping the growing palmtop market, especially as Microsoft's Windows CE operating system begins to find wide acceptance."

HP is focused on H/PC

I asked Kheng-Joo Khaw, General Manager of APCD, the division responsible for producing palmtops, to confirm the report. Khaw e-mailed back to me: "We are 'dead serious' about making the H/PC

successful. My whole organization is focused on H/PC and nothing less."

The handheld future is exciting. Hundreds of third-parties are creating applications for Windows CE-based handhelds. Just by examining current technology we can guess that handhelds in the coming years will include color screens, voice and handwriting recognition, wireless communications, and more.

Microsoft wants Windows CE to be the operating system for a variety of electronic devices including other types of handhelds. According to *PC Week*, future versions of Windows CE will allow manufacturers to create thin, keyboard-less, Pilot-like devices. For those of us who pioneered this field owning HP DOS LX palmtops, it will be fun to watch what happens. At the same time many of us have a renewed appreciation for what the HP Palmtop engineers achieved beginning in 1991.

Why not an upgraded 200LX

As you can see from the letters section, we receive many letters and e-mail complaining about HP's commitment to the HP 200LX. Users don't understand HP's seemingly poor marketing efforts on behalf of the 200LX. They don't understand why engineering dollars can't be spent upgrading the 200LX. Here is my analysis of the situation.

When HP Corvallis created the

LX series they had great engineers with years of calculator experience, but little marketing savvy in the new palmtop marketplace with few marketing dollars. When HP Singapore took over at the end of 1994, they fell victim to the classic NIH (not invented here) syndrome.

HP R&D started over and created the OmniGo 100 organizer, with a number of innovative features, but missed the mark. HP now works closely with Microsoft on Windows CE. HP sees the potential for future handheld PC sales working with Microsoft to create a standard handheld operating system. Unfortunately, even though Singapore has a lot of marketing savvy, they never got behind their orphan, the HP 200LX.

Rather, they invested most of their R&D and marketing dollars into the OmniGo 100 organizer and now the HP 300 and 320LX palmtop PCs. In other words, the timing was never right for HP to properly get behind the HP 200LX.

Using your HP 200LX PC Card in the HP 300 Series

For users who do want to move from the HP 200LX to the HP 320LX, a common concern is PC cards. Since PC storage cards are expensive, users don't want to have to purchase new cards. There is good news and bad news. Basically, older cards won't work, newer cards will.

Software-wise, the file systems are compatible. This means, for

example, that Pocket Word, which reads text files, can read Memo files. (However, Pocket Excel does not have conversion capability and cannot read Lotus 1-2-3 files.)

If your card is of the newer 3-Volt variety it should work; if it is a 5-Volt card, you may only be able to read it; and if it is a old 12-Volt card, you can't use it at all. (The SDP3B-XX and SDCFB-XX [CompactFlash] SanDisk cards, which have been produced in 3.3V as well as 5V versions, are useable in the HP 300/ 320LX Palmtop PCs.) According to the HP manual, the largest capacity that the HP 300/320LX can use is 32 Mg. However, SanDisk reports that there are no problems using its higher capacity 40 Mg and 85 Mg cards.

My last column not appreciated by some men of science or religion

We received several subscription cancellations based on my column last issue. In the column I described the palmtop as a tool to learn new subjects using as an example, learning the meanings of tarot cards. Two (former) readers wrote saying they appreciated *The HP Palmtop Paper* but were disappointed (to put it mildly) with my column. In one letter the author provided Biblical passages that he felt condemned the subject matter of the column. He wrote that he did not want the information contained in the issue in his house. In the other cancellation, a scientist stated that articles such as mine in credible publications help perpetuate ignorance and superstition.

Even though I am a religious person and a proponent of scientific thinking, I wasn't surprised by the cancellations. The subject matter contradicts much scientific thinking and some religious sentiment.

On the other hand, both science and religion teach that the

world is a mysterious place, that there is much more that we don't know than we do know. The universe is vast. Our senses of perception limit and determine what we know about our world. I believe that there is much wisdom contained in ancient traditions when humans were much closer to nature. Most of this knowledge has been lost or distorted in the modern world. Hopefully, religion and science are powerful enough to incorporate ancient knowledge that can be shown valid and useful even if it seems counter to current understandings.

I can just imagine a discussion 500 years from now. Someone speaks of a palmtop that many people used as their primary computer, that ran 10,000s of programs, many of them free. It had a full implementation of a spreadsheet; it had a numeric keypad with an intuitive, powerful, multi-function calculator; and it made use of a super-flexible database engine. According to mythology these palmtops only needed 1 megabyte for memory and storage and ran on an incredibly slow "8086 processor." Priests of the Gatesian religion study their manual and call these

notions sacrilege. The scientists say impossible, just palmtop mysticism.

Interesting Freeware and Shareware

Back to the world of palmtop computing. I have come across the following freeware and shareware that you may find of interest.

Free Palmtop Editor/Spellchecker combination

Andreas Garzotto, who has contributed so much to the HP palmtop user community, has upgraded his popular PalEdit (PE) program to include a spell checker. Andreas is the author of WWW/LX, a palmtop Web browser from D&A Software. He created HV, a Palmtop hypertext (HTML) viewer and PE to work with www/LX. Andreas has made HV and PE available for stand-alone usage as copyrighted freeware.

Andreas describes the new version of PE as follows: "PalEdit (PE) 2.0 is a PAL based DOS text editor with the same look and feel as the built-in applications. It also accepts many of the commands the

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4000	75	175	285

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T1900, T2100 Series	89	159	---
T4500, 4700, 4800, 4900	99	199	329
T4400, 6400, 6600	99	179	---
Tecra 500, Protege 650	85	159	289
Tecra 700, 710, 720	85	165	325

WinBook	8M	16M	32M
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complex. The player and the computer take turns placing "stones" on the intersections of the board. Each player tries to surround the other. The player controlling the most squares at the end is the winner. The good news is that this version is freeware. The bad news is that the company that publishes the full commercial 19-by-19 version seems to be out of business.

Food database

Several databases on food have emerged through the years. The 37K FOOD.GDB file is small, straightforward, but may contain all the information you need.

The database contains over 400 common foods. It can be used for people who are on diets, in training or just want to be conscious of the foods they eat. The file contains the following fields: Food Name, Category (meat, fruit, cereals, etc), Calories, Protein, Carbohydrates, Fat, Sodium, Cholesterol. The database comes sorted by food name. I have been told to watch cholesterol, so I sorted by the cholesterol field to study the worst offenders.

famous EMACS editor accepts. Major features: edits multiple files of unlimited size and with long lines, incremental searches, sends and receives e-mail using WWW/LX. New in 2.0: integrated spelling checker, reads formatted Memo documents, undo function. Copyrighted freeware by D&A Software Inc. Developed by A. Garzotto."

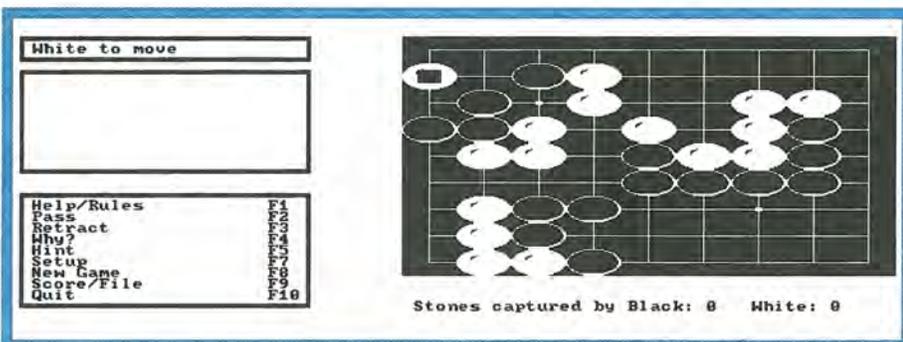


TILES is an addicting shareware game where the player removes matched pairs off a pile.

Games

I came across two new games for the palmtop. The first is shareware TILES, a Mah Jongg-like solitaire game where the player removes matched pairs off a pile (see screen dump on previous page). I am not sure why the fascination, but it is challenging and addicting to try to find matches and eliminate the pile.

The other freeware game, IGO, is a subset of the classic Japanese game of GO. GO is normally played on a 19-by-19 board, ideal for fast games and for learning how to play. The rules of the game are simple but strategies are



In the freeware game IGO, the player and the computer take turns placing stones on the intersections of the board. IGO is a subset of the classic Japanese game of GO.

Shareware/freeware mentioned in this article

PalEdit 2.0 (PE.ZIP) — A PAL-based DOS text editor. Freeware. Available on this issue's *HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK*.

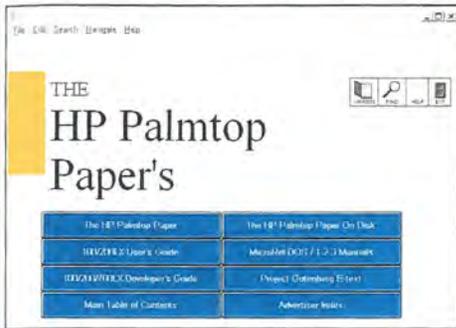
HV.ZIP — A HP Palmtop hypertext (HTML) viewer (and PalEdit) program that works with WWW/LX. Freeware. Available on this issue's *HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK*.

TILES.ZIP — Mah Jongg-like solitaire game. Shareware. Available on the this issue's *HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK*.

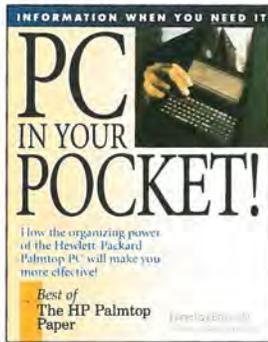
IGO.ZIP — Game, similar to Go. Freeware. Available on this issue's *HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK*.

FOOD.GDB (FOOD.EXE) — Database file containing over 400 common foods. Freeware. Available on this issue's *HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK*.

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

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continued from page 8

The Great Palmtop Debate: HP 200LX vs HP 320LX Palmtop PC

PRO

He has no guilt in using HP's 320LX

I've played around with my HP 320LX Palmtop PC for only a few days, so I'm no expert. So far, I am very impressed with it.

My only complaint is the screen is not as bright as the HP 200LX. It's actually no problem for me because mostly I use the HP 320LX with backlight and an adapter.

I am very happy with the built-in programs, especially Internet Explorer and Inbox (e-mail). I am on a trip in London so I need a rather complicated setup for e-mailing (for me anyway) and it worked brilliantly.

My ISP and mail/pop3 server is in Hong Kong and I wanted to connect to them by logging on to CompuServe in London. I followed the instructions in the enclosed manual and it worked first time. Very impressive.

Now when I travel I no longer have to log on to CompuServe and telnet (terminal emulation) to a couple of my ISPs to check e-mail while being online the whole time. The Inbox e-mail program can be an offline reader.

PocketExcel and Word are ok for me because I don't do very complicated things on them. Actually, Excel will be great because my secretary will copy me files and I need it simply for reading information. She currently saves Excel files as *.wk1 (Lotus 1-2-3) so I can read them on my HP 200LX's Lotus 1-2-3. PocketExcel on the HP

320LX will be better for me, since the screen is MUCH wider on the HP 320LX. Plus, Lotus 1-2-3 is too complicated for my needs.

I am still waiting for an offline CompuServe reader like I'm using now. When that happens, I might even pack away my trusty little HP 200LX. No guilt, though, because I'm still using an HP! We shall see.

Dick B. Chatjaval
100426.1716@compuserve.com

The myth of DOS compatibility

Regarding the HP 100/200LX's ability to run DOS programs:

Unfortunately, the version of DOS that the machine runs doesn't permit EMS memory; the unit, itself, doesn't support VGA; and the upshot is, you can't really run the "last" batch of powerful DOS programs.

Take FoxPro, for instance. You can *run* version 2.4, but you can't *buy* 2.4. More recent versions may still be findable, but the HP 200LX won't run them.

So the claim of DOS compatibility is, in my opinion, more virtual than real.

Unlike the new HP 320LX Palmtop PC, the HP 200LX has a built-in database function, but if you have more than several hundred records, editing begins to slow, and at 500 to 1,000, it may take 30 to 120 seconds just to edit one record, save it and bring up the next.

Then if you need to go to another database, you have the same wait while one exits and the next loads. You can use Carousel to hot switch, but you lose big chunks of memory for each

application.

Switching is not a truly background operation, and you end up managing things the computer should be managing. As weak as it is, the Mobile Forms database by AllPen is as useful as the database for the HP 200LX.

Lotus 1-2-3 on the HP 200LX is more powerful than the HP 320LX's Excel, as long as you only want one spreadsheet and don't need to enter dates. Of course, when you need several spreadsheets you create a book of them in Excel and "hot key" from one to the next with the HP 320LX, as compared to Quit, Confirm, Close, Open, etc., with the 200LX's Lotus.

Dates? Just format the column and type them in with Excel. With 1-2-3, you either do something like enter @date(97,12,25) [and then format the cell as a date] or you have to write a macro. Same for time. Don't tell me that is a handy way to keep track of elapsed time and mileage.

So while the HP 200LX is a useful machine that fits all of the palmtop computing needs of many, it's an oversimplification to focus on the weakest points of the HP 320LX Palmtop PC vs the strongest points of the HP 200LX, then conclude that the HP 200LX is a superior piece of anything.

Both units have their strengths and weaknesses, but the market has left DOS and will never return. So the fact that it has some useful DOS stuff is not going to impress most of the folks who make a living using Windows on their PCs.

Don Vine
dvine@compuserve.com

Why he likes HP 320LX Palmtop PC

The new HP 320LX I purchased is proving its worth in a number of ways:

- No-brainer syncing with Outlook, which our office uses.

- A better Web browser than I expected on such a small machine.

- Very useful screen size, and with backlighting it's actually pretty good.

- Easy e-mail access.

- Easier to use when not at your desk. I find using the pen with handwriting recognition like CalliGrapher (while holding the HP 320LX in one hand) much easier than thumb typing.

(Incidentally, CalliGrapher has to be tried to be believed. No training required, recognizes cursive, print, whatever.)

Sure, there are problems. No database, no RPN calculator, relatively limited spreadsheet, but I suspect that for most people it's a more useable solution (than an improved HP 200LX).

Vikas M. Gore
70761.2322@compuserve.com

CON

Won't program for WinCE

As the author of WWW/LX, PalEdit, HV, QuickLX, and other popular HP 200LX programs, I've been encouraged by a number of people to start writing programs for the new WinCE platform.

Sorry, but I have no intentions of developing anything for what I consider one of the poorest platforms

available. I am less interested in turning something that is currently "not really usable" into something that is "barely usable." I am more interested in perfecting already useful things.

Also, I am not interested in purchasing a desktop computer with Windows (and upgrading it all the time) just to be able to do something as simple as a backup, or installing software. This would be necessary because WinCE forces you to use a Windows desktop for making backups, installing software, and development.

Also, software development for the CE would lock me to a desktop and force me to develop within a system where I would spend a lot of my time rebooting and finding work-arounds for all the flaws. (I think it is obvious that I am not a Windows fan.)

By the way, everything I developed for the 100/200LX was developed on my 200LX. This alone made it possible to develop all the software I wrote. If I had been locked to a desktop, I simply would not have had the time to write any of it. On the HP 200LX, I can work whenever I have some spare time, e.g., when sitting in a train or in an airplane.

Andreas Garzotto
73064.1657@compuserve.com

He sent back his WinCE unit

I had a Windows CE machine for two weeks and ended up sending it back for credit. Why?

1. The CE version of Calendar doesn't have a search utility. So if I enter an event or appointment, but later can't remember the date, I have to manually go to each date and search for the item! My HP 95LX Appointment lets me search.

2. The CE version of Excel

doesn't allow me to freeze rows or columns, so once I scroll, I lose my column headings. I want my 1-2-3!

3. The calculator is a total waste; nothing but the basic +, -, *, /. I have to have the power of my HP 95LX, with which I can write my own equations in Solver.

4. The screen was not bright enough to read, and required constant adjustment with every new location. To use the backlight was to destroy the battery life.

On the plus side, I really like MS Outlook, which loads on my desktop. I also liked using the stylus like a mouse. But these pluses were far outweighed by the negatives.

I'm now determined to buy an HP 200LX 4 Mb. For \$739, the CE machine wasn't a good buy.

Michael Valadez
mdv@nr.infi.net

Returns HP 320LX, prefers HP 200LX

I'm returning my newly-acquired HP 320LX Palmtop PC for a refund. For what it's worth, here's why: I loved the keyboard and the screen of the 320LX. But that's where it stopped. The rest is a triumph of marketing over many years of engineering excellence and creativity at HP regarding calculators and handhelds.

For my own individual purposes, HP would have done us all a great service if it had done nothing more than put all of the outstanding functionality of the HP 200LX inside the HP 300/320LX case.

To stay with the HP 320LX Palmtop PC, I'd be giving up too many outstanding features of the HP 200LX, such as a much better PIM, a fully-functional RPN financial calculator, a much more functional spreadsheet, etc. Life is too short for such compromises.

It's of course possible that the HP 320LX wasn't intended at all for the HP 200LX crowd. In that case HP missed a deeply loyal market that's ready for an upgrade. It's also possible that the company was stuck with the pathetic limitations of Windows CE; if so, why bother?

That's why I'm going to continue using, enjoying (except for typing difficulties) and relying on my HP 200LX, until HP comes up with a worthy successor.

Ehud Mouchly
emouchly@compuserve.com

He returns HP 320LX, buys HP 200LX

Recently I bought a new HP 320LX Palmtop PC.

When I got home I began to convert my HP 100 files over to the new system. The calendar and phone systems were different from what I was used to, but they were acceptable, even though they don't have the characteristic HP attention to detail.

I was sorry to see that the HP calculator with solver wasn't included. I loaded my Lotus files into Excel and saved them as Excel files, then moved them to the HP 320LX. This is when my frustration began.

I discovered that the Pocket Excel couldn't plot the data in my Lotus files; nor could it run macros as Lotus can. I then scoured the manual to see what other limitations it had that Lotus didn't. Excel can't do any database functions such as sort or DSUM.

Unfortunately, these are the functions that I use frequently. It has no table calculation capability, and it can't do multiple linear regression. Lotus can do all of these. I am reluctantly coming to the conclusion that the HP 320LX Palmtop

PC isn't an improvement for me.

Technically the unit looks good and works well. I like the back light capability. It's unfortunate that HP had to use the Microsoft operating system and programs. I don't think that anyone at Microsoft has any experience doing anything other than writing software.

The thing I always liked about HP equipment is that it seemed to be designed by people who actually knew how measurements or calculations should be done. They included those special features that made the user's life easier. My impression of Microsoft is that they think everyone spends all of their time surfing the net, making out expense reports and sending e-mail.

I guess I should have known better than to expect so much from Microsoft software.

I returned the 320LX and found that Service Merchandise is running a clearance sale on the 200LX. I bought one.

What convinced me to return the 320LX is that it has no Find function that I could discover in the Scheduler. I was in a meeting at work, and was asked about a future meeting that I was to attend. That's when I learned that that feature was not available. That night I discovered that it is available on the desktop version.

The Hewlett-Packard engineers who designed the software for the HP 100/200LX must have used the prototypes to learn what features are important.

I think that Microsoft simply started dropping features until they could shoe-horn their software into the available space. That approach doesn't serve the customer.

Genr Kohlenberg
72155.1051@compuserve.com

(continued from page 2.)

Calculators & Palmtop

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200LX 6 mb.....	\$688
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Philips - Velo

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4 mb.....	\$688

Compaq

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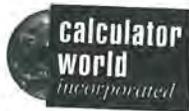
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So I called HP and asked how to get a new battery door. They said I had to buy the "Palmtop Maintenance Kit" for \$20 and that it included a new door. Actually, it has lots of little things (including three screws) that I'll detail below.

I called the other number he gave me and ordered the kit. The lady said I would have it in 2-4 business days for a total of only \$20.85.

I was expecting a padded envelope in my mail box. Instead, two days later I got home and found a FedEx box, 8.25w x 10.5d x 13h inches. All I could think was that HP must have somehow mixed my order up with someone else's (which would also explain the FedEx delivery). Opening up this big box (larger than the one my entire HP & accessories originally came in), I found, neatly packed for safety, a box measuring 6.25w x 5.5d x 5h inches. Inside that box I found the parts kit, in an assortment of bags.

This level of service and commitment kind of makes me pity HP's competition.

For those of you who might need it, the parts kit is part number F1216-60998 (Palmtop Maintenance Kit), and can be obtained by calling HP service. I only have the US 800 number (800-227-8164).

The kit contains:

- 2 battery doors
- 2 backup battery trays
- 8 rubber feet
- 3 replacement screws (added to original kit by customer request)
- 4 hinge caps
- 2 IR covers
- 2 metal ID plates (the ones you get engraved for the bottom).

Steve Van Dyke

70611.2147@compuserve.com

Handheld comparisons

The March/April '97 issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper* was yet another job well done! Thank you. I especially enjoyed the article entitled "Comparing the Windows CE Handheld PC to the HP Palmtop," which was well written, informative and unbiased.

I do have a few comments about the article, however:

1. Under the 'Specifications

Comparison,' Mark omitted Memo in the included applications and also neglected to note that the HP 200LX can support even the latest IRDA specification with an optional driver, as he noted in the case of EMS Support.

2. In the 'Phone Book vs Contacts' he said, "No" to custom fields in the 200LX. This is odd because the phonebook is fully-customizable. The user is free to change the *entire* format of the phonebook, if desired.

3. In the "Spreadsheet Comparison" Mark also says "No" to Undo in Lotus, and "Yes" to Search and Replace! I believe that he may have got his wires crossed here. There is an Undo feature on my HP 200LX, but I have been unable to locate the Search and Replace function! (Undo can be found by using: "Menu/ Worksheet /Global/Default/ Other/Undo/Enable".)

Ian Melville

ianmel@opus-networx.com

She misses lost palmtop

I am a physician who calls her palmtop her "peripheral brain."

I recently lost my palmtop and had my PC hard drive crash at the same time.

Of the two computers, I miss my palmtop the most. I especially miss having my phone books at my fingertips, and being able to jot down ideas and compose letters.

I also miss being able to add to expense accounts and databases wherever I am, and then being able to plug my palmtop in and send the information to wherever it needs to go — PC, printer, fax or e-mail. The palmtop was always where I needed it.

Of my two computers, if I had a choice as to which one I had to get rid of, it would be my PC every time.

Marta Jacenyik

Gulf Breeze, FL

How to Write to The HP Palmtop Paper

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• • • BASIC TIPS • • •

LOTUS 1-2-3

Use compatible format

Lotus 1-2-3 has been out for a long time, and there have been many enhancements to the program and many different versions of it for a variety of platforms (DOS, Windows, etc.).

The version used on the HP 100/200LX is Version 2.4 for DOS. There can be a compatibility problem if you are using a newer version of Lotus on your desktop and try to import a worksheet file you created on your desktop. You may get the error "Worksheet revision is out of date." This is because the newer versions save the files in slightly different ways.

Fortunately, the people at Lotus foresaw the potential problem. Different versions of Lotus allow you to save spreadsheets in a variety of formats. All you have to do is save the worksheet in a compatible format. From the desktop, choose File, Save As, and specify the File type as 1-2-3 (WK1).

MS-Excel and most other spreadsheet programs on the market will allow you to save files in Lotus WK1 format and will also be able to open files in this format.

*Al Sherman
Internet E-Mail: als@an.hp.com*

PHONE

Enter multiple names from same company easily

Many people use the Palmtop for Business. It is a very convenient and powerful tool for storing information about your contacts, but if you want to keep track of a number of people at the same company, it can be a pain to have to enter all of the same information into different records. You can save yourself all of that time and effort by using the built-in Cut and Paste features of the 200LX. Here is how to do it.

Let's say that you are a salesman and one of your biggest customers is the ABC Corp., and that you have 100 people which you need to contact there. After you create one record and save it,

all you have to do to create more records is to highlight the first record and then press (FN)+(Copy), and then (FN)+(Paste). This creates two identical records, and all you have to do is open the new one and change the name field.

This will save a lot of time, as well as lessen the chance of making errors.

*Tom Gibson
Technical Editor, HP Palmtop Paper
tom_gibson@thaddeus.com*

FILER

Use Filer to delete or save game scores

When Thaddeus Computing's mailing director, Kerry Smith, started sharing palmtop game playing with her family, she found that one family member won all the hands in her favorite palmtop game. The program, like many games, keeps track of (and displays) the highest scores from previous games.

The youngest children in the family, who never could beat the "champion's" highest scores, were disappointed because their scores never appeared in the score box, even when they played the game by themselves.

Luckily, Kerry discovered that it was possible to delete the record of scores from the program (as well as from many other games). After she deleted the file that stored the scores, the youngsters' scores appeared in the score box. (If there's no existing score file, the program creates a new one.)

Some games automatically start with a score of zero each time, but other games (like Kerry's program) store their scores in a special file. Here's how to try to "reset" the scores.

First, play a hand (or session) of the game. This will cause (in most games) a new score file to be saved (i.e., a file with the current date and time).

Second, press (FILER) and go to the directory where the program is located. If there's a score file, chances are it will be in the same directory as its program.

Third, press (F7) (Full), which will display in full view the file list. This will allow you to see the date of creation of

each file.

Fourth, press (MENU) **O**ptions, **S**ort. Then select "Sort files by...Date" and "Order...Descending. This will display the most recently saved file at the top of the screen.

Fifth, if the file at the top of the screen has a date and time which is only a few minutes old, that's the program's score file. (The file may or may not have a *.DAT or *.SCO extension. Kerry's program stores its scores in a file called GAME.RES.)

You could delete the file, but it's safer to rename it, or move it to a different directory. By renaming or moving the file you give yourself the option of reintroducing the old score file if you want to.

To rename the GAME.RES file, press (MENU) **F**ile, **R**ename. Then type in a different name, such as GAME.R, or GAME.OLD.

Now play the game again. The previous high scores should be gone, and the youngsters will be happy when they see their own scores displayed.

*Carol de Giere
Associate Editor, The HP Palmtop Paper
carol_degieri@thaddeus.com*

BATTERIES

Insert batteries correctly

Most battery-equipped devices are designed so that all the batteries get inserted with their negative ends resting against the spring coil.

For some reason, Hewlett-Packard designed their palmtops so the positive end of one battery rests against the spring coil, while the negative end of the other battery rests against the other spring coil.

If you're not paying attention when you change batteries and you insert both batteries with the negative ends touching the springs, your palmtop won't work when you turn it on.

When you replace the main batteries, orient them according to the symbols in the battery compartment, not according to the position of the springs.

*Ralph C. Turner
Managing Editor
The HP Palmtop Paper
ralph_turner@thaddeus.com*

▲▲▲ QUICK TIPS ▲▲▲

LOTUS 1-2-3

Search and Replace in Lotus 1-2-3

In Mark Scardina's comparison of the HP 200LX with the HP320LX, he mentioned that Lotus 1-2-3 on the 200LX has a search and replace function. I have heard a lot of people say that they can not find it. The search and replace function is pretty well buried in Lotus's menu system, but it is there. I'll tell you where it is and how to use it.

The search feature is located in the Range menu. To invoke it, press (MENU) Range Search. You will be prompted to enter the range of the spreadsheet you want to search (for example, A1..Z500). You are next prompted to "Enter string to search for." At this point you need to enter the letters or numbers to search for. The search string is not case sensitive.

Supply the search string and press (ENTER), and Lotus will ask you where you want to search: in formulas, labels, or both.

If you select formulas, then Lotus will only search the formulas in the range you specified for the search string. This would be very useful if you had a spread-

sheet that calculated salesmen's commissions, and the commission rate changed.

Searching through labels will search everything that is not a formula. For example, it will search text or numbers that are not used in formulas.

Searching both formulas and labels will find the first occurrence of the search string in the range, regardless of where it is.

Once you have told Lotus where to search for the search string, you are asked if you want to find or replace the search string.

Find will go through the specified range and stop at the first occurrence of the search string and prompt you to find the next occurrence, or to quit.

If you choose Replace you are prompted to supply a replacement string. Once you have given Lotus the replacement string, the program will go to the first occurrence and prompt you to "Replace," "All, Next, Quit."

If you select "Replace," Lotus will replace it and go to the next one, then give you the same prompt. "All" will replace all of the occurrences in the range, and "Next" will go to the next occurrence and ask what you want to do with that occurrence.

The Search and Replace feature in Lotus 1-2-3 can be

a very powerful tool for your arsenal. It's too bad that it isn't well documented.

*Tom Gibson
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MISCELLANEOUS

Turn your numeric keypad into a mouse

There are many DOS programs that are capable of running on the palmtop. Unfortunately, some of them, particularly drawing programs, function better using a mouse.

It is not impossible to use a mouse with the palmtop, but it is difficult to set it up. Fortunately, a program called HPMouse makes it easier.

HPMouse is a TSR program that turns the numeric keypad into a mouse. After activating the mouse driver, you can use the numeric keypad for mouse movement. Press 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 6 or 7 or 8 or 9 to move the cursor in the eight directions. Press 0 or = for the left and right mouse buttons, respectively. The cursor moves as long as you hold the key down, and stops when you release the key.

To use the program you have to first run the program from the DOS prompt or Filer. To activate the program, press (CTRL)+(ALT)+(M). Your palmtop's keypad is now a mouse. Unfortunately, it stays a mouse until you reboot your system by pressing (CTRL)+(ALT)+(DEL).

HPMouse makes working with CAD and some game programs a lot simpler and easier. It has been tested with the following programs successfully:

- Flight Simulator 4
- Champions of Krynn
- Finger Paint

HPMouse works with the HP 100/200LX only; it will not work with another PC.

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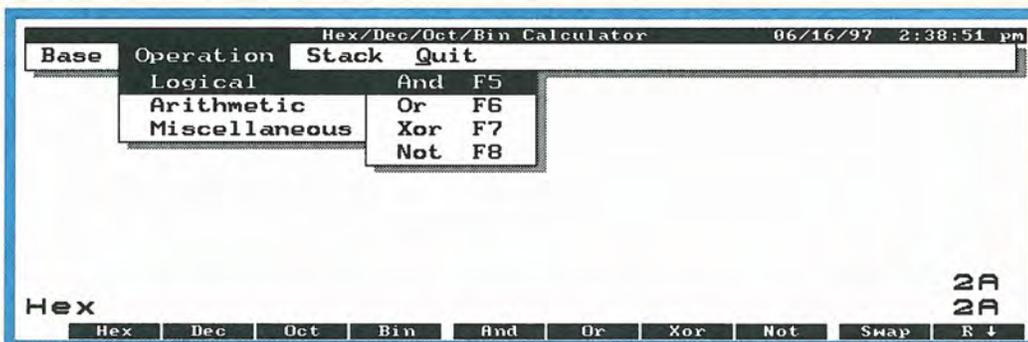
HP 200LX hex calculator: a built-in but undocumented program

In a recent issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper*, Tom Gibson described LXPRO, a feature-packed TSR by Stefan Peichl that includes HEX/DEC/OCT/BIN conversions.

This reminded me that the only references I have seen to the HP 200LX's built-in but undocumented programmer's calculator in *The HP Palmtop Paper* were in the initial reviews of the HP 200LX palmtop.

Well, for those who don't know it's there, the HP 200LX has an emulation of the HP16C programmer's calculator. It provides arithmetical and logical operations in binary, octal, decimal and hexadecimal.

The program and its associated icon are:



HEXCALC, an undocumented programmer's calculator that is built into the HP 200LX, provides arithmetical and logical operations in binary, octal, decimal and hexadecimal.

D:\BIN\Hexcalc.exm, and
D:\BIN\Hexcalc.icn

The program can be added to the HP 200LX applications menu by adding an entry with the following fields:

Name: He&x Calc
Path: D:\BIN\Hexcalc.exm
Key Assignment: Alt+Calc
(Press (F4) to set this up.)

This entry allows quick access to the calculator in one of two ways. It sets up a shortcut key of "x" for use when the applications menu is displayed, but also sets up an appropriate "hot key" combination of (Alt)+(Calc) (My method of remembering the "hot key" combination is to think of "alternative calculator.")

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Learn Morse code on the palmtop

If you'd like to pass the upper level Amateur Radio exam, or you'd merely like to have some fun sending a message in code, take a look at Freeware Morse Code Trainer 1.1 (KB9PSL) by David A. Nye. (He can be reached at nyeda@uwec.edu)

This DOS program, which works on the HP 100/200LX, will help you learn Morse code quickly. The program provides different ways of practicing the code, including:

The Koch method — With this method, (which is also known as the "Hear->type mode") you hear the Morse code for a character and then press the corresponding key on your palmtop. The computer displays the correct character if you enter the wrong one, and keeps track of the percentage of correct answers.

The Elim method — This is like the "Hear->type mode,"

but after you have gotten a character right three times in a row it is eliminated from the list so you can concentrate on the ones you still don't know. When all characters have been eliminated, the session ends and the percent correct is displayed.

You may also have the computer sound out characters you type (Type->hear). This can be useful to review a few characters that keep giving you trouble, or to play a text file.

To install Morse Code on your Palmtop, unzip the archive and copy MC.EXE to your palmtop. Run it from the DOS prompt, from Filer, or set it up in APManager.

Good luck in learning Morse Code and passing the exam.

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REPAIRS

Use Crazy Glue and paper to repair broken latch

The latch on my HP 100LX broke about 18 months ago and as I live in Atibaia, Sao Paulo, Brasil, sending it out for a seven day trip to replace the latch was out of the question. Since that time I have tried stuffing folded paper, rubber bands, cardboard, paper and rubber bands, etc. Every' solution worked to some degree. A week ago another piece of the latch broke, (how? I don't know, I just noticed one day that the latch was about to fall). At this point the latch was not working at all.

Today while fixing my child's toy with Crazy Glue an idea came to me. Here is what I did, and so far it is working great, and the latch feels firm like when it was new.

I cut a small piece of paper 2.9 by 2.3 cm. I then

folded the paper in half and then in half again, now measuring about 2.9 by 0.6 cm. Then I cut a length of rubber band about 2.7 cm in length, inserted this into the opening in the folded paper, and Crazy Glued it on two sides, very close to the opening. I then removed the latch and Crazy Glued the the folded paper inside the latch compartment, rubber-band-side closest to the screen. I then put Crazy Glue on the latch and pushed it in place.

On my first attempt I did not push the latch all the way up into position, and as a result the unit did not close completely. So be sure to put everything in place with no glue first, so once you put the glue on you can get everything in place fast, before the glue dries.

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HARDWARE

Running the diagnostics self test

[WARNING: The following tip refers to a procedure that can destroy data and possibly harm flash cards. Do NOT try to perform this procedure before you read and understand the cautionary notes listed below.]

The HP 95LX, HP 100LX and HP 200 LX all contain a set of built-in diagnostic tests, collectively called the "self

test."

With these tests you can check the condition of your palmtop's display, keyboard, serial port, batteries, RAM, ROM, IR port, timers, and any plugged-in RAM card.

CAUTION #1: Before you run the self test, save data in any applications you have open, since the self test performs a system reset.

CAUTION #2: Do NOT run either the "Plug-in RAM card" test, or the "Test all" option if you have a Flash card in your palmtop. The plug-in test can destroy all the data on a Flash card, and possibly harm the card itself. It's all right to perform the plug-in test if you have an SRAM card inserted in your palmtop.

To get to the diagnostics screen, press the (OFF) key to shut off the unit. Next, while holding down the (ESC) key, press and release the (ON) key, then release the (ESC) key. The diagnostics screen will appear, containing instructions. (One instruction that's not there: if you want to terminate a test, press the (BACKSPACE) key.)

As each test is run, result messages will appear on the screen, such as "OK," "Bad," "No Card," (if you don't have a card inserted in the card slot) or "No loop," (if you don't have a loop-back tester connected to the serial port).

During the tests, don't press any keys.

Ralph C. Turner
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Shareware/freeware mentioned in this article

HPMouse (HPMOUS10.ZIP) — A TSR program that turns the numeric keypad into a mouse. Freeware. Web: www.thaddeus.com and on this issue's HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK.

Morse Code Trainer 1.1 (MC11.ZIP) — DOS program that helps you learn Morse code. Freeware. Web: www.thaddeus.com and on this issue's HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK.

LXPRO — A TSR utility (designed for the 100LX and 200LX palmtops) that monitors battery voltages, card status, serial power status, and more. Freeware. Included in the March/April 1997 HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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There are a number of ways to get in touch with *The HP Palmtop Paper* staff. You can write, mail us a disk with your comments, send CompuServe or Internet e-mail, fax, or call. Our mailing address and contact information is:

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If you can, especially if you write a Palmtop Profile, send us a photo of yourself — black and white is preferred, but color is acceptable.

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Thaddeus Computing	(Subscriptions: HP Palmtop Paper, HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK)	[800-373-6114 or 515-472-6330; Fax: 515-472-1879]	.29
	(Knowledge products: HP Palmtop Tech Ref. Manual, Lotus/DOS Reference Books, HP PTP's CD InfoBase)	8
	(The Palmtop Paper's new 1997 CD InfoBase)		18,19
	(Handheld PC Magazine)		inside back cover
Times2 Tech	(HP 200LX 5MB RAM Upgrade)	[Phone/Fax: 205-620-1408]	.21

Shareware and Freeware Index (July/August 1997) Software on *The HP Palmtop Paper* ON DISK or CompuServe

PRODUCT	FUNCTION	CIS FORUM / LIBRARY	TYPE	PAGE
BGFAX170.ZIP	Utility: Send/receive FAX on the palmtop.	HPHand, 9, *1	Freeware	3
GET.ZIP	Application: Download Web pages on the palmtop.	NA, *3	Shareware	14
HPFAX108.ZIP	Application: Palmtop Faxing program.	NA, *2	Shareware	3
HPMOUS10.ZIP	Utility: TSR program turns numeric keypad into mouse.	NA, *5	Freeware	35
HV.ZIP	Utility: Palmtop hypertext Web page viewer.	HPHand, 11, *3	Freeware	14, 28
IGO.ZIP	Game: Similar to classic Japanese game of GO.	NA, *4	Freeware	28
MC11.ZIP	Application: DOS program helps you learn Morse code.	NA, *5	Freeware	35
NEWS.ZIP	Text: Batch & data files to load Web newspaper pages.	NA, *4	Freeware	14
PE.ZIP	Utility: PAL-based DOS text editor.	HPHand, 11, *4	Freeware	28
POET.ZIP	Spreadsheet: Lotus poetry program; related files.	NA, *4	Freeware	23
PTP33.ZIP	Text: The HP Palmtop Paper, July/August 1997.	NA	NA	NA
README.ZIP	Text: Cover letter to the HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK	NA	NA	NA
TILES.ZIP	Game: Mah Jongg-like solitaire game.	NA, *4	Shareware	28

*1 <http://www.blkbox.com/~bgfax/> *2 <http://www.qfax.com> *3 <http://www.dasoft.com> *4 www.thaddeus.com
 *5 <http://www.palmtop.net/super.html>

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

FASTPOET, application, freeware, p. 23; LXPRO, utility, freeware, p. 35.

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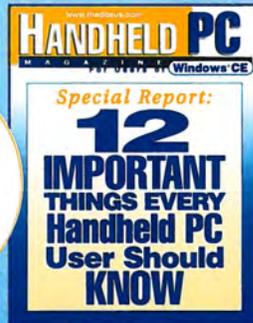
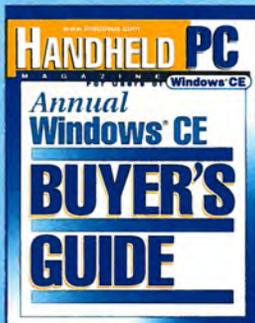
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