

Volume 9, Number 2, 2000

THE HP Palmtop Paper

U.S. \$7.95

HP 200LX Still the King!



Palm



Pocket PC

The Pretenders

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.....

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Editor's Message



The HP Palmtop continues to live on in spite of its official demise. I'm reminded of the proclamation: "The King is dead. Long live the King."

Several Palmtop users have moved on to other handheld machines for whatever reason. Their Palmtops are now in the hands of people who have yet to discover the advantages of the HP Palmtop. The new users have stuffed my e-mail box with all the typical beginners' questions such as how to reset the Palmtop without pulling the batteries (CTRL + LeftShift

+ ON and answer No). It's easy to respond to such calls for help and to give encouragement.

Veteran users of the Palmtop continue to use their machines in a variety of situations. See Wayne Kneeskern's article on how he used the Palmtop to keep track of his battle with cancer.

Other veteran Palmtop users have coupled their machines with a variety of electronic devices such as GPS monitors (see Mr. Bev Howard's article in this issue) cellphones, 56K PC Card modems, insulin monitoring devices, etc., and have taken their systems into the current millennium. I can't count the number of e-mails I get requesting help with these latest external devices. Since I don't have any of the extra devices at my disposal, I'm at a loss to answer these calls for help. The best that I can do is to refer the questioners to the HPLX-L mailing list where the veteran users hang out. For a small sample of the information that appears on the HPLX-L mailing list, see the "HPLX-L Connection" article in this issue of PTP.

In his User to User column, Hal Goldstein discusses the Palm PDAs and the forthcoming Windows CE handheld. He points out their plusses and minuses and comes back to his HP 200LX with its long battery life and trusted familiarity.

The "Through the Looking Glass" article is about how to acquire an out-of-production Windows CE subnotebook and my reactions to its quirks and limitations as well as its nicer features. My hunch is that the IBM z50 WinCE computer is a machine that was put together by a committee. For me it is not a viable option but my wife seems to like it.

If you have an idea for an article you'd like to see in an upcoming issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper*, please let me know. We'd love to hear from you, our loyal readers.

Ed Keefe

The HP Palmtop Paper

Increasing Your Personal
Power By Expanding Your
Palmtop's Potential

Volume 9/Issue 2
March/April 2000

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

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Letters

Like Low-Power X-Jack But Need More Modem Speed?

I have been using X-jack modems for years in my Newtons and LX and have recently been using an ACE 14.4 modem since LXCIC allows you to power down the modem with it still in the slot but I have always wanted more speed. I went and got myself a SimpleTech 33.6 off eBay but it drew too much power and 'nuked' my LX, so that wasn't an option.

Well.... I've just discovered the answer to my need for speed and thought I would share it with everyone. I'm sure there are others like me who want to go FAST! The answer is a 56K modem that Thaddeus Computing is selling. It's a PC card modem that works well with the LXCIC driver and is able to power down while it's in the Palmtop but not being used. The modem appears to draw about the same current as my X-Jack 14.4 modem but it runs at 56K! I am connecting consistently at 45K or higher and able to maintain these speeds. I'm sure that there will be some discussions about whether or not it's really that fast but it definitely seems to be 3-4 times quicker than my 14.4 X-Jack.

I have been using the W2 command to have it report the connection speed. I will admit that it took a bit of playing with to get it to maintain a comfortable, quick connection speed. Mack Baggette helped me there and I have been able to add S373D?? where ?? equals a certain number. In my case, I have it set for about

29 or 30 which seems to work great with my ISP. You may have to play with the settings to get it to match up with your ISP's modems as is sometimes the case with desktop internal modems.

I have been using the modem with WWW/LX, Goin' Postal and LXTCP and in particular LXTelnet. It is so cool to be able to have my Palmtop do dial-up at the same speed as my desktop but yet not get so hot as to 'fry' the Palmtop.

The modem does use a dongle but the speed increase is definitely worth the extra hassle of the dongle over the X-Jack for me. I believe that Thaddeus is selling the 56K modem for around \$100 and if you do a lot of dial-up with your Palmtop like I do with mine it's money well spent. The bonus is that you also get a cool modem for use with your laptop if you have one.

Anyway, I know this has sounded like a plug for Thaddeus and I guess in a way it is, but they have continued to support our 'dead' platform and continue to find new products such as this modem that work with it. So Hal and the gang deserve a plug and a heartfelt "thank you!" 56K modems that work in the Palmtop rule!

Jeff Johns

jeffj@HIWAAY.NET

A Second Favorable Opinion About the New 56K Modem

I just bought one of the 56K Modems from Thaddeus (thanks Hal!) and received it this weekend. It works like a champ and downloading e-mail and other files is noticeably faster. I never really used WWW/LX for browsing the Web, as I thought it was too slow, but I may have to give it

another try, even though I prefer browsing with a color display and a Pentium laptop. Again, thanks to Hal, Mack, and all those involved for their development of this modem.

Brian

Serial Printers for the 200LX: Try DeskJet 500

The DeskJet, DeskJet Plus, and DeskJet 500 all have serial ports on them. The drivers for the DeskJet printers with the serial port are built into the 200LX.

David Peterson

HP Corvallis (not MCD)

EDITOR'S REPLY: I thought this message was an error but soon realized that David Peterson is right. I tipped my old DJ 500C printer over and saw the familiar "Centronics" plug and another plug that, for seven years, I'd assumed was just another parallel plug. I hooked an HP connectivity cable to a Radio Shack nine-pin gender changer and, from there, to a nine-to-twenty five pin serial cable. I plugged one end of the long cable into the Palmtop and the other end into the printer. I happened to have Memo running on the Palmtop, so I tried the MENU, File, Print, Enter command. Whaddya know, it works! Thanks, David, you taught an old hand a new sleight of hand trick.

VR and FCL Still Available for Download

For your information: VR (Vertical Reader) and FCL (Font Compiler/Loader) for the HP 100/200LX are still available for download via <http://ourworld.compu-serve.com/homepages/gilles>. Just follow the "VR and FCL" link.

CompuServe discontinued their SWREG service in 1999 and the replacement service

did not prove as reliable as its predecessor. For this reason, I decided to offer another registration path — VR (or FCL) can now be registered by buying yourself a book (any book will do, provided you do so via the Amazon.com link on the Web page mentioned above). The Web page has the details of the deal as well as a few additional suggestions for actual books to get, based on my personal favorites.

Gilles Kohl

Problem with Date Comparisons in the Databases

I noticed that the subset language for my HP 100LX doesn't seem to work correctly with dates in the year 2000. Does the HP 200LX have this problem also, or is there a fix for it?

Here is an example of an SSL Statement that has worked fine until now:

```
DOS>{04/08/96}&(DOS<(01/01/00)|PROC<>""&(D<
```

D & DOS are date fields. I found previously that any date value > 01/01/00 was interpreted as a blank field, and I have been using this in SSL statements. Similarly, any date < 01/01/00 is interpreted as a non-blank field. Any blank field is interpreted by the language as being greater in value than any actual date. Now that we're in the twenty-first century, these date comparisons don't work. I can't make any date comparisons and my subsets don't work like they used to. All I want to do is find all the records that have blank date fields.

Richard Kline

klinerm@home.com

In a similar vein, Steven Karp (skarp@RICOCHET.NET) asks

"How do I set up the subset definition to show only those items for which the date field called "Recd" is blank?

EDITOR'S REPLY: My guess is that Richard Kline has found another undocumented way to look for empty date fields (i.e. DOS<(01/01/00)). The reason it no longer works is that there's no way for the computer to tell that you mean 01/01/2000 rather than 01/01/1900. My approach is to use another undocumented feature to find empty date fields. What follows is from an article in PTP (May/June, 1999).

*"To find items with empty date fields use the SSL code !*Date Field. For empty number fields use the code !*Number field (i.e., NOT wildcard field name). Note you can also use NumberField0 but this will give you fields that contain a 0 as well as empty fields. For empty time fields use TimeField".*

The use of the wildcard operator with a field name is not supposed to work, but it does, at least for the date and number types of fields. The same trick fails to work for time fields, so look for time fields that do not contain a colon, as in 12:34am. If you're using a time format such as HH,MM,SS you'll have to substitute a comma in place of the colon."

Use of HP F 10011A Power Adapter

If you live in a country where the AC line voltage is 220 Volts AND if you live in an area which is sometimes quite hot (France in the Provence) AND if you have a trafo 220/110 for your many pieces of American computer equipment, THEN it is recommended to use that trafo for your power adapter. When connected to 220 V it will get quite hot, although I experienced no problem even under the severe condition.

A. Lutsch
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The Palmtop Flies Faster and Higher

You may be interested to know that this year, 1999, all the British Airways Concorde crew have been supplied with HP 200LX computers. The uses are directly connected with the operation of the aircraft. The programs are written in MS Basic v4.5 and supplied on a PCMCIA card. Programs are used to 1.) Check the engine condition by monitoring the exhaust gas temperature and comparing it to an ideal engine. 2.) Calculate a full loadsheet. 3.) Calculate the fuel flight plan, the fuel required for the entire sector. Perform in-flight checks of fuel burn relative to the plan. Calculate tactical situation to ensure safe diversion in the unlikely event of an engine failure. 4.) Calculate the refuel uplift and the contents of each of the 13 tanks for various fuel loads and fuel density. 5.) Calculate the position of the center of gravity in the event of onboard computer problems. 6.) Perform the take off calculation of limiting weight and the various speeds required.

The very competent HP 200LX has been well received by the crew and now forms an important part of the operation.

Ian V Kirby, Programmer and retired Concorde Flight Engineer
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What if the Next Version of Windows Does Not Contain DOS?

I recently read that the next domestic Windows OS (WinME or Millennium Edition) will improve stability by dropping support for all DOS programs.

How will the APP100.COM or APP200.COM file work — the HP connectivity pack for HP Palmtops? Do you have any suggestions for use of the HP Palmtops in WinME?

Rick Steinberg
fnsteinberg@pol.net

EDITOR'S REPLY: I want to say, let's hope we can cross that bridge when we get to it. However, I think I can say that we will cross that bridge when we get there. As evidence for my confidence, I look at the WinCE computers that have no support for DOS software and don't even have an Intel CPU. It took a couple of years to happen but WinCE users now have a couple of DOS emulators with which they can run APP200 and many other DOS programs. If the emulation can work on a WinCE machine how much easier it would be to get it working on a WinME (or Win2K) machine? Time will tell.

HP 95 Software: Where?

As the owner of a second hand HP 95LX Palmtop, I was advised to contact your publication. I'm trying to find out what happened to all of the HP 95 software. Someone told me it was on the MIT (Eddie) FTP site, but that site is gone. Supposedly there was a very generous listing of all shareware, freeware, etc. Any ideas?

Max Butcher
mabutcher@netzero.net

EDITOR'S REPLY: Consider the 2000 CD InfoBase from Thaddeus Computing, Inc. It contains most of the shareware and freeware programs developed for the HP 95LX. It also contains almost all of the shareware, freeware developed for the HP 100/200LX, in case you ever decide to upgrade.

If that is too much information or is beyond your budget, try the S.U.P.E.R. site at www.palmtop.net and look for the link to the HP 95LX section. You'll find 71 programs for the HP 95LX.

Why Isn't There Better Support for Printers in the HP Palmtop?

Why did HP support only 3 types of printers? And why

did they allow users to change only the baud rate when using the serial interface in the printer setup? It is somewhat awkward to carry a printer with you. Likewise, if you try to borrow a printer on the job, the person you are trying to borrow it from will probably say no when you ask if you can change the printer's configuration. It would be so much easier if the word length, stop bit and parity could be changed in the 200LX printer setup. Have I overlooked something somewhere or is there a routine or patch available that will allow me to change these options when printing from applications such as the Editor, Quicken or Lotus?

C. Goodwin

EDITOR'S REPLY: You can change some of the characteristics of the serial port in the Setup program. You can change more of the serial port parameters in the DataComm program (MENU, Connect, Settings). That's where you'll find the options for setting the parity, data bits, and stop bits. The XON/XOFF parameter is in the dialog box accessed via the "Advanced" option.

As to the question "why did HP support only 3 types of printers", realize that the HP 95LX came to market in 1991 and the HP 100LX made it to market a couple of years later. In those days, there were a lot of dot-matrix printers, a couple of LaserJet printers and the popular IBM ProPrinter. The drivers for these printers were burned into ROM and have not been changed since then.

The printer explosion came later. Nowadays it seems that HP reinvents the DeskJet and LaserJet every six months or so. Other printer manufacturers do their best to keep up. All of them require new drivers. When you get a word processing program such as VDE, Word, Word Perfect, etc. you also get the option of installing more printer

Letters

drivers. If you want, you can load up your RAM disk with a lot of printer drivers. However, most of them will not do you much good if you want to print from 1-2-3 or Quicken. You can, of course, resort to printing Lotus and Quicken files to disk and, from there, importing the files into a word processor for formatting and printing.

Since nowadays most printers use a parallel port, you might consider getting a serial-to-parallel adapter or getting a PC card that will act as a parallel port. Neither option is cheap.

A less expensive route is to try the old trick of hooking a fax/modem to the serial port and sending a fax to someone's fax machine. For fax software, go to www.palmtop.net and search on FAX. You'll find six different programs that will let you send faxes from the Palmtop.

HP 200LX Cut and Paste Software

I have subscribed to your paper since the very beginning. It's still OK although a little bit thin. But I think I know why, so that's OK. My question is: Is there any software available that can cut/copy and paste between DOS applications, not just the built-in ones? It would be fine if it would work to cut and paste across the built-in and any DOS applications.

PS: We have developed a software for 200LX called "Butler." It's an electronic notebook manager for managing your business contacts etc. You can create whatever templates you have a need for, e.g., letters, invoices, fax, etc. It has a free text search engine; a very fast one that searches through the databases within a fraction of a second even if you have thousands of contacts and letters etc. Price: \$40.

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www.tysys.se

EDITOR'S REPLY: ClipVue is a small 100LX .EXM utility that extends clipboard functionality to DOS programs. ClipVue lets you save the clipboard contents to a file, and load that file back into the clipboard. This file can in turn be read from, or written to, by DOS applications that normally don't have access to the SysMgr clipboard. ClipVue can also be used to take a quick glance at clipboard contents in text format before doing a paste. ClipVue.exe is a freeware program available on the 2000 CD InfoBase and on the Web at www.palmtop.net

Questions and Answers

1. Since HP stopped manufacturing the 200LX I am planning to get one more 200LX. I am planning to buy a doublespeed but the question is what is the best trade off if I plan to surf the Internet on a limited scale — 5, 8, 32 or 96 MB RAM?

One answer would be to get as much memory as your budget allows. Also add the cost of a Web browser, such as WWW/LX to your budget. See our Web site for the most recent prices for each of the RAM disk upgrades.

2. Which is the best Internet program - NetTamer or a commercial program or some other solution? I have a CompuServe account which I am not sure whether to terminate or not.

Most people who use the HP Palmtop for Web browsing and e-mail seem to prefer the WWW/LX + Post/LX combination. Again see our Web site or the Ultimate Palmtop Catalog for more information and the price. For connecting to CompuServe, many people still use acCIS 4.0 from Tom Rundel.

3. Is there a better word processor than Memo? I use the Microsoft Office package on my desktop. Memo is good but I miss split windows as in Word97. With DocRTF I have

the opportunity to keep the format in the RTF format. Is there any other word processor that has this feature?

If you want something that rivals Word97 in complexity and bells and whistles, you won't find it in the DOS world. You can come close to what you're used to with a few programs such as Word Perfect 5.1 or 6.0 for DOS, WordStar 4.0 for DOS and MS Word 5.5 for DOS. The latter is now available on the 2000 CD InfoBase from Thaddeus Computing and for free at the Microsoft download site.

Lars Enochsson
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Likes Flexpad

I began using Flexpad several months ago after I read a message from a HP 200LX user who said it was one of his favorite programs. I use it every day at work (all day long). All in one file I have my (1) ToDo lists (which are simple to access and enter info to — I have several categories, and I jump instantly to any of them just by typing the first few letters of the category. You can add whatever categories you want, and you can add and delete them at any time).

I use the section marks for each item. I also have a section I call (2) ARCHIVE where I paste items I no longer need in front of my face but may want to refer to at a later date. I have a section for (3) PROJECTS where I enter projects (with the date and time). Click two buttons and the view changes to a monthly calendar, or a weekly calendar, or a preview of the next seven days. Click two more keys and you're back at the TODO lists.

Flexpad is powerful and very quick. I downloaded an 88-page text research document last night to my Palmtop (single spaced in MS Word), and opened it with Flexpad; pressed two keys, entered a

search word, and in seconds I had a list of every instance of the word in the document. Click on any one and hit Enter, and you're at that place in the document. VERY SLICK, VERY FAST, VERY POWERFUL. The only thing I miss is the ability to use the clipboard to easily cut and paste to the HP Applications on the Palmtop. NOTE: You can cut and paste within a document in Flexpad, just can't copy something in Flexpad, then open the PIM Database and paste it there.

The S.U.P.E.R. Site has the shareware program, so you can drive the program around a bit, and kick the tires — and check it out for yourself.

Bill
Palmtop200@AOL.COM

Some Digital Cameras That DO Work with the Palmtop

Kodak DC20 — Works fine via LXDC and serial cable.

Kodak DC25 — Image transfer only via shareware DOS programs or Compact Flash transfer.

Toshiba PDC-2 — Works flawlessly.

Sony Mavica Line — Works great if you have a Drive 100 (which I do).

Any camera that stores images in .jpg and uses Compact Flash (e.g.; Nikon Coolpix 900).

Bill Childers
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User To User: HP 200LX vs. Palm vs. Pocket PC

By Hal Goldstein

Every day we get calls from customers wanting to buy new or used 200LXs. Sometimes they want as many as 100 units. Unfortunately, we no longer have any new HP 200LXs in stock and our supply of used units has also dwindled. If you're in desperate need of a previously-owned unit, try your hand at online bidding at www.eBay.com. Anticipate spending some money however. These rare units are in great demand. Many corporations continue to supply their employees with 200LXs to run custom DOS applications related to their business. We're working with several, possible sources to obtain a large number of previously-owned units, however, there's nothing finalized.

I've never seen or heard of such a demand for a discontinued device. The reason for the demand is obvious to any Palmtop user: there still is nothing that matches the HP 200LX size, battery life, flexibility, built-in software, and DOS capability.

I spoke to a knowledgeable HP person who insisted there just wasn't the demand to justify continuing the 200LX. Furthermore, he indicated that the older parts, particularly the screens, are getting more difficult and more expensive to obtain. I have no reason to distrust my source. However, I know that we could sell the 200LX for years and hope to be able to do so.

Palm's Success

Although HP pioneered handhelds, it is the Palm Pilot series of PDAs that has been the most successful. These small keyboardless devices synchronize easily with desktops and have become the choice of

many. The Palm's ease of use, small size, good battery life, great marketing and availability all contribute to its success. A further indication of Palm's success is that not only has the PDA captured the hearts of its users, the company that makes the PDA has captured the pocketbook of stock investors. Given the gold rush nature of the stock market, we shouldn't be surprised at Palm's success with its initial public offering (IPO). (See the sidebar for the details.)

Whither WinCE?

Where does that leave HP and all the other companies that have tied their success to the Microsoft Windows CE platform?

In a word, HP will be ready for the next step in the evolution of the handheld market. Palm has marketed its units to beginning users. There's every reason to believe that when these users want more, they'll turn to Windows CE. If Windows CE were a stock, I'd buy it today at a depressed price.

Industry pundits have declared Palm the winner leaving the Windows CE Palm-size PC on life support if not dead. Since Palm has between 75% and 80% of the palm size market share, the conclusion seems reasonable. As a result of its IPO, it has a lot of capital to spend on marketing and R&D. Furthermore, Palm is introduc-

ing a model with a color screen and is licensing its operating system to Sony, Handspring and others.

Place Your Bets

I would still like to take the Las Vegas odds and bet on Windows CE over Palm.

If you've ever played high-stakes poker, you know that the player with the biggest bankroll will often win no matter what cards the other players are holding. I'm betting that Windows CE will do well. The reason is simple: Microsoft must be victorious in the handheld device space to perpetuate its overall market position. Bill Gates knows this. That may be one reason he has stepped aside as head of Microsoft and has taken the position of lead product developer. It's sort of like going from casino manager to taking over a seat at the high-stakes, poker table. Watch out. Not only does he have a bankroll that would swamp the other players, he also has Windows CE 3.0 up his sleeve. He has a newly stated corporate mission: "Great software on any device, any time, any place." He knows how to play the game. Remember the Mac operating system vs. Windows, WordPerfect vs. Word, 1-2-3 vs. Excel, and most recently Netscape vs. Explorer. In each case, early versions of Microsoft products received poor reviews and a tiny market share. In



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Hal Goldstein (hal@thaddeus.com) is Publisher and Executive Editor of *The HP Palmtop Paper* and *Pocket PC* (formerly *Handheld PC Magazine*) and president of Thaddeus Computing. He has published, edited, and written for five magazines on portable computing since founding Thaddeus Computing in 1985. He lives with his wife, Rita, and sons, Thaddeus and Solomon, in Fairfield, IA.

Palm Computing's IPO

3Com (Nasdaq: COMS) spun off Palm (Nasdaq: PALM) as a separate company. Late in January, the underwriters teased investors with an original offer to sell the stock in a range of \$14-\$16 per share, with the stated intention of raising about \$345 million in proceeds. One month later the range was nearly doubled, and the night before the IPO the price was set at \$38 per share, guaranteeing proceeds to the company of \$874 million — 153% more cash than expected. Because institutional investors were already committed to lots of open market orders, Palm soared 281.6 percent over the offer price, opening at \$145 per share. That gave the company an instant, though transient, total of 3.3 billion. Palm reached a high of \$165. As of today (March 7) the stock is down to \$64, still almost 1.5 billion dollars raised.

One of the biggest winners in the spin-off is 3Com itself. On December 1 of last year, the company closed at \$40.46 per share. Since that time, investors, looking for a shortcut to acquire Palm shares, bought stock in 3Com to become “holders of record.” On March 2, 3Com closed at \$104.88 per share. After the offering, 3Com still owns 93 percent of Palm, but it has publicly stated that it is committed to severing operations with the offspring company turning over its Palm shares to 3Com shareholders within six months.

the “first few hands” Microsoft studied the market and took feedback from customers. In every case, at version 3, Microsoft produced a strong product and an effective marketing campaign. Microsoft also has partners with experience, prestige, R&D and marketing clout: Hewlett-Packard, Compaq, Casio, and Symbol to name but a few.

Windows Powered Pocket PC

Most of you are aware that we have a sister publication, *Handheld PC Magazine* that's devoted to Windows CE products. We've been given advance notice that the juggernaut is about to move. We're hustling to rework our advertising and editorial content to reflect the new marketing approach. The new name for the Win CE product line will be “Windows Powered Pocket PC”. Accordingly we'll be renaming our publication *Pocket PC*.

“Windows Powered” extends the Windows brand to millions of Microsoft customers. “Pocket PC” creates a new “PDA” category — one with no baggage attached. The name clearly states what the device is — a PC that fits in your pocket. Microsoft's campaign will evangelize the benefits of

having a computer in your pocket as opposed to having a simple electronic organizer. (This campaign should sound familiar to HP Palmtop users. It's too bad that HP didn't push this advertising approach to the limit.)

What is a Pocket PC?

A Windows Powered Pocket PC, due out late Spring, is a keyboardless device similar to the Palm based on the Windows CE 3.0 operating system. Built-in applications include Pocket Excel, Pocket Word, Pocket Internet Explorer, Pocket Outlook for e-mail, and Pocket Money. I have tested a pre-release version and Pocket Explorer does a surprisingly nice job of surfing. For data entry, the unit does a reasonably acceptable job of understanding letters when entered normally, or you can point to a keyboard that gets displayed on the screen. Microsoft will give its Pocket PC capabilities beyond that of a PIM, differentiating itself from market leader Palm through software. By adding basic office software such as Word and Excel, Microsoft is targeting business users, who can use the devices to stay up-to-date with the office. For consumers, Microsoft is bundling its eBook reader with its

ClearType technology, and audio player, which can play both MP3 and Windows Media player files.

These devices provide the ability to process e-mail (and attachments). Standard Word and Excel file formats will be supported by the forthcoming devices. That means that a file created on a desktop PC can be viewed, edited and saved by the devices without having to go through a translator. This will appeal to a lot of people who want software compatibility. The modern bells and whistles such as watching TV and listening to music on a Pocket PC will surely get the attention of gadgeteers.

My Choice: Still the HP 200LX

I like the HP Jornada 680 with its color screen and keyboard. I am also impressed with a prototype of the Pocket PC — the interface is intuitive and easy to use, unlike previous models. The built-in apps in both machines are starting to approach 200LX standards (in some ways better, in some ways not as good).

However, my handheld of choice remains the HP 200LX. I like using a keyboard which eliminates the Pocket PC from consideration. The Jornada 680 is still too bulky and heavy for my taste. Further, battery life on both machines is 8-10 hours. That means I have to remember to bring along and plug in a charger wherever I go. To me, this solution is not truly portable. Long live the HP 200LX.

Old Business: Backlighting

The latest is that I still have no news to report. Hard-to-get parts and other unexpected snafus have delayed the project. At this time, my best guess is that we will be able to start backlighting 200LXs in June for \$199.

One question that comes up often concerns the backlighting upgrade for users with bad screens. Unfortunately, we upgrade whatever screen is sent to us. If the screen is bad, that is if it has vertical lines or blank areas, it will have the same problems with backlighting. ■

Global Positioning Satellite Units and the HP Palmtop

A pilot comes down to earth and finds that GPS is just as great for getting around on wheels.

By Beverly Howard

I grew up in an aviation family and can even remember my first flight as a toddler in the mid-1940's, visually recalling that the plane was a twin-engined World War II Cessna, nicknamed "The Bamboo Bomber." Even before I started elementary school, I was serving as a navigator on cross country flights with my father.

In those early years, radio navigation aids gave directional information only. There was no way to get distances to and from any point. The best way to figure this out was to know exactly in which direction you were headed and exactly how fast you were traveling. From that information, along with your starting point and elapsed time in the air, you could figure out where you were, approximately. Getting direction information from two or more radio aids could then be used to confirm one's approximate position.

It was not uncommon for my father and me to climb above a solid layer of clouds and cruise for five hours or more. When we descended through the clouds we felt pretty good if we were within several miles of our calculated position.

Things Have Changed

Most recently the widespread availability of Global Positioning System (GPS) units has changed the

way I navigate both in the air and on the ground.

My early experiences in navigating have given me a real appreciation of these new tools. In short, they blow me away. I am having a blast playing and traveling with GPS technology. What also amazes me is the price for something as useful as a GPS unit. Today, the average person can walk into a sporting goods store, hand over \$200 and walk out with a palm-sized device that will locate itself anywhere on the planet, give or take 50 feet.

A Variety of GPS Units

Basically, GPS units "know" where they are on the earth by collecting signals from a constantly changing "cloud" of satellites that circle the earth in polar orbits. How they show you what they know determines the nature of a particular unit. There are currently three different types of GPS units.

1. Self-contained GPS units have all the electronics, the antenna and the display in one unit. They're small and the display, though readable, is small.



Top half of a standard TripMate is mounted to the stoplight on my pickup and powered by a cheap 12->5v converter so that all that is necessary is to plug in the serial connector to the LX or laptop. The bottom half of the TripMate contains only the battery holder and the top half has a rubber seal around the edge, so that drilling two holes in any smooth surface to match the 6-32 screws that are used to hold the halves together provides an instant, water tight roof mount. Photo by James Bennett

2. Mounted units consist of a master display unit inside a vehicle and an external antenna. Such a system might be installed on a boat, car or truck.

3. Units with no display capabili-



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Beverly Howard is a long-time user of HP Palmtops and other electronic devices that can be hooked to the Palmtop. To learn more about his use of digital cameras, visit his Web site at www.BevHoward.com.

ties pass along what they know to a computer that has special software installed. The software displays the information on a large screen, usually in the form of a point on a map.

Many, but not all, of the commonly available handheld units have serial ports that will let you hook them up to a computer.

The handheld units have the advantage of being very portable and, in most cases, they are weatherproof. On the other hand such units sacrifice flexibility and display capabilities. In addition the handheld units with displays cost significantly more than units with only a serial port. One manufacturer deliberately disables lower priced units so they won't work properly if you move faster than 90 mph. This is supposed to motivate you to purchase an "aviation capable" unit.

People have apparently been buying these devices not knowing how to use them. I would bet that most of the personal GPS units spend all but the first few days in a closet or drawer. They are great little units but most people have problems with the concepts of how to use them effectively. You do need to have access to maps and you need to know how to read a map. It also helps if you know some of the jargon of GPS navigation.

In this article, I will try to explain some of the terminology of GPS technology and describe the pros and cons of using a GPS unit with the Palmtop.

Latitude, Longitude and Waypoints

The first and most basic information that a GPS unit provides is position information in the form of latitude and longitude coordinates. For many people this is a totally useless piece of information unless they have a map with latitude and longitude markings and know how to read a map using this information.

The next concept is "waypoints" which really came into being with the advent of GPS. To best understand this concept, visualize a fisherman with a GPS unit who launches his boat in unfamiliar waters in the

early morning. He begins by capturing the location of the launch ramp as the first waypoint. Then he proceeds to find a great early morning fishing spot. When that plays out, he moves on and finds a second good spot, and then another and so on. At each good spot, the fisherman takes a moment to record a "waypoint."

At the end of a long day, with darkness falling, the fisherman is able to use his GPS unit to find his way back to the launch ramp. When the previously recorded way point is selected, the GPS unit then displays both the direction and distance from the unit directly to the selected way point, allowing the fisherman to return even if he was totally lost.

When the fisherman returns next week he can use the waypoints to return to the exact spots he marked to fish again even if there is no land in sight. This same concept allows hikers to enter a trackless wilderness and record a series of way points on the way in, then select "reverse course" and the GPS will post distance and direction for the hiker to reverse his course. At this point you can probably see the potential consequences if either the hiker or the fisherman had put total dependance on the GPS unit and the batteries went dead.

Moving Maps

The next step up the ladder involves learning about "moving map displays" This is where the handheld and computer units begin to part ways. It's also where the prices of the handheld units begin to climb as well. Some GPS units will show only numbers. Others will display a map as well. A cursor or crosshair appears on the map showing the position of the GPS unit on the earth. As you move around the indicator moves on the map to update your position. Most GPS units and software display your current direction and speed as well. In addition, if you have a waypoint selected, the indicator will also show the difference between your current direction and the direct path

toward the waypoint.

Because of the larger displays and storage options of modern laptops, much more GPS information can be displayed. Computers also let you have more options in how the information is displayed, processed and saved. Sure, a Pentium machine with a fancy display would be great but the HP Palmtop provides a platform that can significantly outperform many self-contained GPS units.

I currently use two computer-based platforms depending on the situation and resources. The most powerful platform consists of a laptop, Delorme's Street Atlas software and Delorme's Tripmate GPS receiver. On the laptop, with the GPS unit attached and running, the display reveals a full color street map with the tip of a moving, green pointer showing your exact position and direction. The software interface can be zoomed in or out with a single keystroke. You can start from a display that shows the entire United States and zoom in so that the display focuses on three or four city blocks.

The preferred mode of display is "Automatic Panning" that moves the map display as the pointer nears any edge. Delorme Street Atlas adds another dimension when you use its route generation capabilities. When GPS tracking is initialized, with a route in place on the map, position information activates voice commands that alert you to upcoming exits or intersections with verbal instructions on how to proceed. Initially, I thought the computer would be more of a distraction than an aid but after several short trips around town and a long trip out of town, I found that the distractions were significantly less than using a paper map.

First, the constantly updated display removed any surprises. I could glance at the display when convenient and know where I was on the map without searching. I found that as I approached cities or intersections where distractions would be a factor, I already had all of the information I

LXGPS: A Review

I missed the first announcement of the LXGPS program and I regret that. I had been busy using two other GPS programs on both the Palmtop and on a laptop while traveling cross country.

When I downloaded LXGPS version 1.5 from www.palmtop.net and installed it on my Palmtop I was impressed. The program is very intuitive and handles the Tripmate GPS unit transparently and flawlessly. For instance, I could turn off the Palmtop, disconnect the serial cable, come back an hour later, reconnect the cable, turn the power on, press "Monitor" and the program would reinitialize the Tripmate and get a reading in under a minute. The other two programs failed to do this.

Furthermore, the LXGPS program has a variety of customization options that none of the other Palmtop GPS programs offer. For example, in addition to on-map displays of waypoints, a course line to pre-picked waypoints shows on screen. Even the map scroll is controllable. You can enter a number that represents a percent of the screen's area. When the position marker reaches this percentage of the screen, the map will shift and the position marker will be in the center of the screen again.

With the logging options, it would be possible to build a recording tracker for a gravel truck company for under \$500 that would generate time and position proofs when windshield damage claims were presented. It would also be easy to import a wilderness map, put the Tripmate in a top pocket of a backpack and blow most of the handheld GPS units away on a hiking trek.

Finally, the cost! The author calls LXGPS copyrighted freeware but also indicates that it's "e-mail ware." You'll want to send him e-mail about your impressions and findings as part of the payment.

If you've got a Palmtop and access to a NMEA 0183 serial port GPS such as the Delorme Tripmate, don't let this combo go by.

Dealing with Maps

If you have a laptop with a color screen and the Delorme Street Atlas program, you're all set for GPS navigation. The whole operation is almost plug-n-play. On the other hand, if you want to use the Palmtop, you'll have to create your own black and white versions of the maps you want to use. You can begin by exporting the maps from Street Atlas. That's the easy part. Trying to get something that looks good on the Palmtop is time consuming and frustrating.

For example, if you capture a map on your desktop or laptop computer and load it into a program such as Paint Shop Pro, convert it to grey scale and then decrease the colors to 2 bits, you'll wind up with something that is unreadable. Red colored streets on a yellow background look like fuzzy lines on a fuzzy background. The trick is to zoom in on the map and mark all the yellow regions with the "penlight" icon. Then use the flood-fill paint can to color these regions white. Now try adjusting the contrast and reducing the colors to a two bit image. Paint Shop Pro will remember your settings and you can create a lot of maps with the same settings. (You might want to jot down the numbers for each setting in case you change the settings for another project. You can key in the numbers rather than using sliders and scroll buttons.) Note that you don't have to reverse the black and white colors of the map. LXGPS will do that for you automatically.

After tinkering with coloring programs for several hours, I was able to get a readable B/W map of most of Travis County, Texas (about 35 miles across). I started by setting the color display to 800 x 600 resolution and used the PrintScreen key to capture a map that would fill almost seven screens on the Palmtop. The resulting map included most of the major roads and streets in metropolitan Austin. When I captured the map, I also inserted two tiny diamonds at opposing corners of the screen, and copied the latitude/longitude down to the four decimal places of the seconds value of each of these. That really helps with the calibration of the map for use with the LXGPS program.

It's extremely important that you perform map calibration "by the book." There are several steps to follow and it's critical that you perform them in the correct sequence. If you don't, you'll either get no results or, worse yet, the LXGPS program will give you a "floating point divide" error and crash. On the other hand, if you follow the directions in the LXGPS documentation, you'll be able to calibrate the map quickly. The LXGPS calibration marker can move around the screen in large jumps or be fine-tuned to move one pixel at a time.

For me, the result of all this effort was mind boggling. The display accuracy was such that, on roads marked by two lanes, I could look at the Palmtop's display and tell on which side of the road I was located. I could watch as I approached an overpass and see the on-screen marker touch the overpass on the display. ■

needed before I arrived. Doubts about how to proceed were significantly reduced.

This didn't mean that I didn't get lost. The first long trip was on a route that I had driven years earlier. I was very pleased with how things had gone until I was leaving a small town. I remarked to my wife that the unit had been operating flawlessly all day but now it was showing us at the wrong place on the map. It took a few seconds for me to realize that the GPS unit and the computer were correct and I had missed a turn.

It immediately became clear how easy it was to spot such mistakes. But in this case we were several miles off course by the time I realized my mistake. Rather than backtrack to the missed intersection, I looked at the computer display and found the shortest and most efficient route to get back on course.

In the South Carolina coastal region the GPS unit has allowed me to explore new routes between familiar places. I don't think I will ever make another extended road trip without it.

For true portability, I can't beat using the HP 200LX along with the excellent LXGPS program and the TripMate GPS receiver. However there are some drawbacks. First, if you want a "moving map display" you'll have to generate all the maps and transfer them to the Palmtop. If you don't want to deal with maps, the LXGPS program will display your position, speed and direction as well as let you use way points. (See the sidebar for a review of LXGPS.)

Generating Maps:

Frustrating but Worth It

I use maps with LXGPS that I generate from the Delorme Street Atlas. Admittedly, it takes a bit of time and practice to convert the yellow background and red streets to a 1-bit black and white PCX graphic. However, when I manage to get the black and white pictures right, they really look good on the Palmtop.

The next step in the process

involves calibrating the maps for use with the LXGPS program. I start LXGPS and match two points on opposite corners of the map to their exact Latitude/Longitude coordinates. After this calibration step, the tracking on the maps is amazingly accurate. I can even tell on which side of a highway I am traveling using a 1280x1024 pixel map covering about 30 miles across.

In addition to automatic panning to track your position on maps that exceed the size of the Palmtop's display, you can configure LXGPS to set the point at which the panning occurs. This is something the Street Atlas program can't do.

Even though the Palmtop's display is better than those in most handheld GPS units, it has been my experience that the Palmtop's screen is too small to be used effectively while driving. It's also much less visible than any backlit display. In a car or boat, with sunlight hitting the display and warming it up, the contrast keeps changing and this makes the unit less useful.

However, if you are a minimalist, the only two necessary components are the Palmtop and the TripMate GPS unit. Both can run on their own batteries. It's feasible for a hiker to use both devices by placing the receiver in a backpack and the Palmtop in a coat or shirt pocket.

Logging Is an Added Bonus

The final mode of operation is "logging" which can be done while using other features such as the moving maps. When logging is started the Palmtop will open a disk file and repeatedly store time and position information in the file. If you want to know where junior goes when he borrows the car, put the Tripmate antenna on the roof and the Palmtop in the trunk. You'll know exactly where he's been. I say this facetiously but, on the other hand, a delivery service could use something like a TripMate/-Palmtop package that would cost around \$400. It could be used to analyze delivery routes as well as keep

track of a delivery person's position.

In reality, the concept and components have become so common that they are already showing up as options when you rent a car or buy a new car with the NorthStar system already built in. It's totally conceivable that, in the next couple of years, such units will be installed in pizza delivery signs clamped to the window of a student's car. They could be used to transmit verbal directions about how to get to the next delivery through the car's FM radio.

The Downside to GPS

The TV commercial that shows a guy walking around his house, with a GPS unit giving him his position, is a joke. GPS units must have a totally unobstructed view of the sky to function. Tree leaves, roofs, and other overhead obstructions will effectively block GPS signals. While you might get enough information to use a GPS unit to navigate downtown in a big city, you'll get the best results on an interstate somewhere in Texas. On a recent trip to South Carolina, I decided to travel the back roads. It was a beautiful drive with trees serving as a canopy overhead. The problem was that the GPS unit showed gaps in its tracking and logging. Tracking your walk around the outside of a house is not unreasonable... at one computer club meeting, I was able to demo the TripMate by walking around the library parking lot and have the pointer accurately track our position.

A lot of GPS users report that they are satisfied by simply placing the GPS receiver on the dash of the car, but, whenever possible, try and place the receiver or antenna on the roof or anywhere to increase it's view of the sky. In most cases, moving from the dash to the roof will double the number of satellites resulting in a corresponding increase in accuracy and reliability.

GPS also takes time to start up. When you take a new GPS unit out of the box and turn it on, it may take

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Extra Goodies On Palmtop Paper CD InfoBase

Software Bonanza and The HP Palmtop Paper in HTML

The Files in the BONANZA Directory have grown and multiplied over the past year. The total content measures 106 MB, with 7040 files in 511 directories. Here is a brief synopsis of what each of the 9 subdirectories contains.

!GEM! — 48 sub-subdirectories. GEM is an older operating shell. This directory contains all of the GEM software, drivers, etc., that we were able to find on the Web. Although we have not tested all of the applications in this suite, we've been assured that it works. Some of the drawing applications are actually quite good.

!SPECTRUM! — 22 subdirectories. If you want more games and don't mind experimenting with some of these oldies-but-goodies, then you'll get enough games to keep you going for a long time. Jump to the SPEC directory and read the SPEC.TXT file to get started.

123FILES — 29 subdirectories. Tips, tutorials, examples, etc., all dealing with the Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheet program.

ARTINT — 20 subdirectories. See the article on Artificial Intelligence in PTPHTML\47\47c0000f.htm for more info on some of the programs in this collection. There's even a database listing most of the files.

EDCHOICE — 175 subdirectories — 40 subdirectories are new for the 2000 InfoBase. A collection of programs that don't belong to any other category. Most of these programs have proved useful at one time or another...everything from bar guide (mixology) to the latest version of the Visual Editor, with LOGO program-

ming and project management in between. We've included many files that were featured in past issues of *The HP Palmtop Paper* but were too large to distribute on disk. These include EMTEX (a complete version of TEX for the Palmtop), a recent version of the 4DOS program, three large databases (in the \troisgdb directory). There are many other programs too numerous to mention.

EMULS — 10 subdirectories. Emulators for early Apple computers that "may" run on the HP LX. The emulators are offered "as is" — really, folks, we mean that! We have not tested them so we are not sure if they work or how they work. We have included them for those of you who long for the days of the AppleII. You probably know what these emulators are good for. Our challenge to you few old-hands: get these working and write an article about your adventure for *The HP Palmtop Paper*.

FREECOML — 8 subdirectories — 4 subdirectories are new for the 2000 InfoBase. The best of the bunch of formerly commercial, now free software may be MS Word 5.5. Maybe you'll like PC-File better. The Think-Tank Outliner is OK. DataPerfect is superb. These files are offered "as is" without any support from Thaddeus Computing, Inc.

LXFILES — these 17 subdirectories are a holdover from the 1999 CD InfoBase. They contain many programs written by Japanese programmers. We have not tried to update this collection. Your best bet is to try the programs as offered. If you like what they do, read the English ver-

sion of the documentation and see if there are any updates on the Japanese Web sites devoted to the HP Palmtop. These files are documented in the Nov/Dec 1998 issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper*. See either the printed or the electronic edition of this issue for instructions on how to install and use some of the Japanese software in this directory.

MATHMATH — Math and More Math — 42 subdirectories. Here, for the mathematicians, is all the best shareware and freeware available for the HP Palmtop. If you can find any more programs on the Net, let us know.

UBASIC — 11 subdirectories — This is one of the best kept secret programming languages around. It's good old BASIC with extended precision arithmetic. In some ways it reminds me of a mix of MSBasic with some of the coding techniques of Pascal or C. The HABER directory is a good tutorial to get you started.

Most of these files were gathered from CompuServe and the Internet over the past eight years. Many of them are no longer available online. We have not had time to test all the features of these programs other than to see that they run on the HP Palmtop.

We offer them "as is" WITHOUT any support. Most of the files contain their own documentation. Try contacting the authors of the software if something doesn't work.

There are enough programs in this BONANZA section to keep you exploring what your HP Palmtop can do for the next year, at least. As you

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HP Palmtop Tracks Battle With Prostate Cancer

Our Copy Editor's personal journal of his successful treatment of cancer and the role his HP Palmtop played in the process.

By Wayne Kneeskern

As Copy Editor of *The HP Palmtop Paper* for the past four and a half years, I read every article in each issue at least twice. I keep an HP 200LX at my desk to test the tips and how-tos in all the articles. I also use it for business phone numbers, appointments and to take the minutes at our company meetings each week. (Turns out I am a pretty good thumb-typer.) But until about a year ago I never found the need to use my palmtop in my personal life. The same was true for the OmniGo 100 I used for our *OmniGo World* magazine. And now I also have a HP 620LX Handheld PC for use when I edit our *Pocket PC* (formerly *Handheld PC Magazine*).

My situation changed in January 1999 when I was diagnosed with prostate cancer (PCa). When you are told you have prostate cancer, you immediately know two things: "I have cancer" and "I want it gone." After that initial response, I started thinking about and working through a lot of personal things. I enjoy writing and have kept journals before for self-exploration and personal study; so I decided now was the time to start my survivor's journal and keep the information on my trusty 200LX.

To make an intelligent decision on how to deal with the enemy within, I started to research the subject. I bought a couple of books on prostate cancer which gave me a lot of general information and also told me where I could go on the Internet to get the latest developments in fighting the

disease. There were also mailing lists to which I could subscribe. Our MIS manager at Thaddeus helped me set up my palmtop to access our ISP and, with a 14.4 fax/modem card and WWW/LX, go up on the Internet and check my e-mail. (Maybe someday I'll even get brave and do a posting myself.) While reading all this material, I used Memo on my 200LX to write down questions I would want to ask my doctor when I went for my next appointment. This would also make it easier for me at the appointment to just type in his answers for review later.

At the appointment with my urologist, Dr. McCoy, I listened to the available options. After discussing them with my wife and family, I elected to have a radical prostatectomy, which involves the complete removal of the prostate. This was done on February 15, 1999. I have included a sidebar summarizing my thoughts as a prostate cancer survivor for those who are interested (see page 13).

I found that NoteTaker and Memo on the 200LX gave me everything I

needed to keep my journal and also to record any other information I wanted to keep on prostate cancer. My Palmtop was with me all the time I was in the hospital, as well as while I recuperated at home. Whenever I thought of something I wanted to write down, I could pull out my Palmtop and open up NoteTaker. On my walks through the hospital corridors I would sit for breaks in a waiting area and write in my journal (Screen 1). And even now, a year later, I am writing this article on it while watching TV. It's amazing how long time-outs and halftime are during a football game.

Tracking medical expenses

The bills eventually started coming in, along with Explanations of Health Care Benefits from the insurance company. I set up a Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheet to track all the charges and payments (Screen 2). It was very interesting to see how many different providers I ended up having: physicians, hospitals, labs, X-Ray technicians and specialists to read the X-



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Wayne Kneeskern (wayne@thaddeus.com) is Copy Editor of *The HP Palmtop Paper* and Controller at Thaddeus Computing. He lives in Richland, Iowa with his wife Gert. They have two married children and 4 grandchildren who are the joy of their lives. Wayne is shown here with his newest granddaughter, Nicole.

Prostate Cancer: Things You Should Know

If you are a man 40 years old or older (or if you have a loved one who fits this description) I would like to suggest you make an appointment with your family doctor to have a PSA (prostate specific antigen) blood test taken along with a prostate cancer exam known as the digital rectal exam or DRE.

For years I scoffed at such an idea and made jokes about such exams. But shortly after turning 59 I decided to have it done. I had quit smoking on my birthday and wanted to get a clean bill of health heading into my last year before hitting the big 6-0.

When the nurse called and asked me to come back for a follow-up appointment with the doctor to discuss my lab tests, I thought I would be getting a talk about high cholesterol. But instead he told me my PSA results were a little high (4.1) for my age and recommended either seeing a specialist (urologist) or wait a couple of months and have another blood (PSA) test. I opted to see Dr. McCoy, who came down from Iowa City every other week to see patients. After he did another exam he suggested I come to his clinic for a biopsy. That meant a trip to Iowa City (55 miles away) and having a very uncomfortable needle biopsy procedure. A few days after the biopsy the call came from my doctor, "You have cancer." From that moment on my life changed in many ways. My journal grew as I tried to record my emotions over the following days. My wife and I went in and met with Dr. McCoy to find out what our options were. They varied from "wait and see," radiation treatments, seeding, to surgery. He was very good at presenting the treatment options in language we could understand. And he was



very patient, taking the time to answer all the questions I had accumulated in my 200LX before coming in. He made me realize how important it was to have not only a caring doctor but one who can explain things in simple terms and make us feel comfortable about what we would be facing. We discussed everything with our children and made the decision to have a radical prostatectomy to remove the cancerous prostate.

The surgery was a success; my recovery, to date, has been uneventful; my follow-up tests have shown no recurrence of the cancer. I will continue my various phases of recovery from the surgery, continue to learn how to deal with being a cancer survivor, and having exams and tests for the rest of my life. My life is changed forever; but I am thankful to still have a life.

You will hear people talk about how PCa is a couple's disease or even a family disease. My feelings are that this is only partially true. There are emotional effects on those that care for you. But, for me, it is a very personal disease that can't be fully understood by anyone who hasn't actually had to deal with it in his own body.

As a PCa Survivor I use the Prostate Cancer Awareness postage stamp on all my mail and do everything I can to help promote PCa awareness to those people I meet. And I take this opportunity to alert the readers of *The HP Palmtop Paper* about the important need for all men to have a prostate cancer exam and PSA blood test.

I would be happy to share my experiences and any other information I have on prostate cancer with you. You can e-mail me at iowayne@yahoo.com and you can find a lot of good information at www.cancerfacts.com. ■

Rays, anesthesiologists, pharmacies, and on and on. The spreadsheet was set up to show the following:

- Date (of service)
- Provider (of the service)
- Billed (provider's charges for the service)
- Provider Savings (the amount of the charges billed above what the insurance company will allow)
- Net Charge (amount the insurance company allows to be charged)
- Ins Payment (amount the insurance company paid the provider after allowing for patient deductible and co-insurance)
- Due (amount of deductible and

co-insurance the patient pays)

- Notes (description of services provided, etc.)

When I received an Explanation of Benefits from the insurance company, I would record the information shown for each procedure on the spreadsheet. A totals row at the bottom of the spreadsheet uses SUM formulas to add up each column. This gave me a running total of the amount columns. I also used the cell below the total cell in the Due column to put in a formula that would verify that the Billed Charges minus the Provider Savings minus the Insurance Payments equaled the amount Due. This was

also a way to make sure my data entry was correct. I can sort this spreadsheet by date of service to show a chronological record, by providers to put all the charges from each together, by any amount column to show them from high to low or vice versa, or most any other way I might want to look at it.

PhoneBook and Appointments

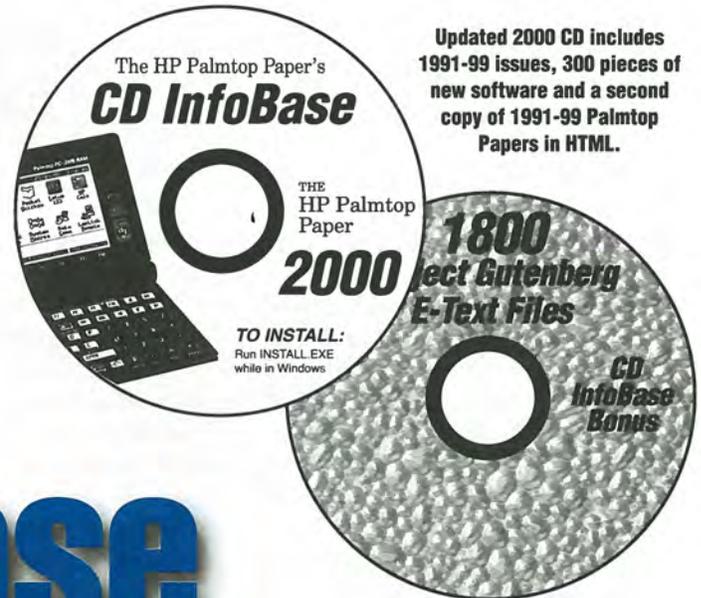
I used the Phone application to organize contact information for my service providers (names, addresses and phone numbers). It was very handy having them all in one place and always with me wherever I was.

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55 1991-99 issues of The HP Palmtop Paper*



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MicroREF DOS & Lotus 1-2-3 manuals



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3 Great Books!

Over 1800 Gutenberg e-text Classics and historical documents to read on your Palmtop using Memo or vertical reading software. Here are just a few:

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U.S. Census Figures Back To 1630
Sinking of the Titanic
The Raven, Edgar Allan Poe
Don Quixote, Miguel de Cervantes
Wizard of Oz, (other Oz books) L. Frank Baum
The Mysterious Affair at Styles, Agatha Christie
Gulliver's Travels, Jonathan Swift
Edison, His Life and Inventions
David Copperfield, Charles Dickens
The Constitution of Japan
Poems of William Blake
Robinson Crusoe, Daniel Defoe
Kidnapped, Robert Louis Stevenson
The Souls of Black Folk, W.E.B. DuBois

Myths and Legends of the Sioux
The United States Copyright Act of 1976
The Call of the Wild, Jack London
Walden, Henry David Thoreau
Uncle Tom's Cabin, Harriet Beecher Stowe
Flatland, Edwin A. Abbott
The Insidious Dr. Fu Manchu, Sax Rohmer
The Autobiography of Ben Franklin
Tom Sawyer Detective, Mark Twain
Son of Tarzan, Edgar Rice Burroughs
NAFTA, Treaty, Annexes, Tariffs
The First 100,000 Prime Numbers
Hackers' Dictionary of Computer Jargon
The Time Machine, H.G. Wells
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UTILITIES: View Word97 docs, large screen watch/timer, 2 speed-up phone/database programs, DOS App-manager-like file launcher, batch file extender, database/phone corruption repairer, computations within database, phone/database input/output translators, Lotus solver DOS extended help databases, help files for physicians, spell-checker, 200Buddy, thesaurus, more readable Palmtop font, MEMO-to-HTML converter, map-viewer, Newton keyboard driver, magnify phone/appt book

APPLICATIONS: Web file (HTML) viewer, powerful editor/speller, communications software, Internet browser, vertical reader for books and documents, fax software, tarot, astrology, all-in-one (phone, notetaker, appointment book, word processor) PIM software, paintbrush software, project manager.

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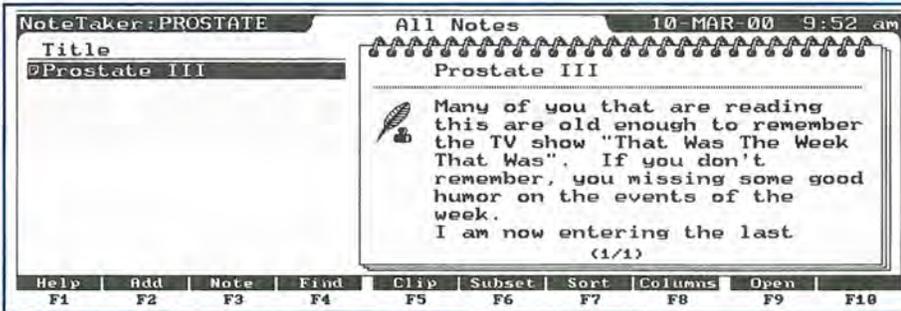
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Screen 1: Notetaker provided a perfect way to keep a journal.

The screenshot shows a spreadsheet window titled 'A1: [W5]'. The table has columns A through G. The data is as follows:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	Date	Provider	Billed	Provide	Net	Payment	Due
2/11	2/11	G T Bosek	17.00	0.00	17.00	15.30	1.70
2/11	2/11	Mercy Hos	9.15	1.92	7.23	0.00	7.23
2/15	2/15	Cross Med	265.00	30.00	235.00	211.50	23.50
2/15	2/15	Mercy Hos	126.95	30.47	96.48	86.83	9.65
2/15	2/15	Mercy Hos	101.30	24.31	76.99	69.29	7.70
2/15	2/15	Mercy Hos	1170.00	280.80	889.20	860.79	28.41
2/15	2/15	Phys Anes	1276.50	310.50	966.00	869.40	96.60
2/15	2/15	Uro Assoc	5115.00	2215.00	2900.00	2610.00	290.00
2/19	2/19	Martin Ph	16.09	8.97	7.12	0.00	7.12
2/02	2/02	Town XRay	72.00	0.00	72.00	64.80	7.20
2/23	2/23	Jeff Hosp	45.00	0.00	45.00	40.50	4.50

Screen 2: Spreadsheet to track charges and payments for medical expenses.

While I didn't have to worry about missing an appointment while I was in the hospital, there were plenty of them before and after my hospital stay. I used Appointments to keep track of these. I set each appointment up with an alarm that would give me plenty of lead time to make sure I wasn't late — I am from a small town and some of my providers were 15 to 55 miles away.

Supporting myself, helping others

My Palmtop helped me deal with this monster in many ways. But it has also helped others who face prostate cancer. I've attended PCa support group (called US TOO) meetings

since I was diagnosed. The group is a mix of people from those who have just been diagnosed to those who have survived it for a number of years. Many times their wives are there too. I am in the habit of carrying my Palmtop with me to these meetings. On occasion someone will ask a question about costs, doctors, hospitals, insurance or where they can go to get information. Usually I have many of the answers with me, in my 200LX. And of course I am always adding new information to continue in my fight for survival. ■

more than an hour to determine its current position. After GPS units are told their approximate position, they can generally begin giving position information in several minutes.

Finally, if you're using your GPS to navigate your way up the Mississippi river and the GPS's batteries go dead or the unit fails or the government decides to turn the system off because of a national crisis you'll be up a big creek... ■

Software Mentioned in the Article

Tripmate/Earthmate GPS Unit — has replaced the Tripmate unit mentioned in the article. Tripmate units may occasionally be offered for sale on eBay.com or other auction sites. Earthmate GPS units can be purchased separately or bundled with Street Atlas.

Delorme Street Atlas — v.7.0 for Windows and 6.0 for Macintosh. Street level maps for all points in the U.S.A. www.delorme.com/streetatlasusa/sa7win.asp Cost: \$44.95

Paint Shop Pro v.6.0 — from JASC Software. \$99. www.jasc.com or from various software retailers.

VuePrint v.7.6 — (Win9x/NT required). \$40. www.hamrick.com (Note: this is not the same as the free-for-personal-use program VueScan.)

Shareware/Freeware

LXGPS v.1.5 — available on this issue of *The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK* as well as on the Web at www.palmtop.net (the S.U.P.E.R. site.)

Extra Goodies on Palmtop Paper CD InfoBase *continued from page 11*

peruse the files and discover a program that interests you, please send us your reactions—the good, the bad and the ugly.

PTPHTML — The HP Palmtop Paper in HTML Format, suitable for viewing on the HP Palmtop itself with the HV Web browser.

This is the result of the efforts of a team of ten volunteers and a lot of extra work. The files in this directory contain all the information from *The*

HP Palmtop Paper over the past 8 years. We omitted the bonus issues of PC Card Review and Best Tips because they were either redundant or woefully out of date. The issues are numbered 0-48 and typically the first file in the subdirectories will contain a table of contents for that issue.

Be sure to read the Disclaim.htm file. Remember some of this information goes back 8 years. We don't remember all of what we published so

don't expect us to be ready to answer questions about an article or the whereabouts of one of the authors.

If you want to read an issue or two on your Palmtop, just copy all the files in an issue from the CD to comparable directories on the Palmtop. Load the first HTM file in the series into HV and you'll get the table of contents that will let you move back and forth in the issue. ■

Through the Looking Glass: An Old Hand Tries Some New Tools

Ed visits eBay.com for the second time and winds up with a WinCE machine and a custom database for the Palmtop.

by Ed Keefe

I had my first encounter with computing over forty years ago. It was such an intense and satisfying experience that I was hooked. Worse than that, I became a true believer. I believed that everyone should get hooked on computing. It was great fun.

I had a similar experience when I got my first microcomputer almost twenty five years ago. Shortly thereafter I joined a team of computing enthusiasts and formed the "Computer Literacy Institute." Our goal was to get educators enthused about using microcomputers. That lasted for two years. We soon realized that we couldn't turn everyone into nerds like us.

For the past twenty years I've tried, off and on, to get my wife, Helen, enthused about computing. She has resolutely refused. Whenever I've asked her if she would like her own computer she has replied: "Thanks, but no thanks. Three or four of 'those things' in the house are more than enough. If I need one of those things I'll use one in your office. Besides, if your growling at those things is any indication of what you think of them, I don't need that kind of aggravation."

In the past couple of years, however, her younger brothers and sister have acquired their own computers and have been sending her e-mail. Last month, she asked me to get her a computer and help her set up an e-



mail account. She stipulated that the computer had to be unobtrusive and easy to use.

I immediately thought of getting Helen an HP Palmtop, but I had just missed the window of opportunity. Thaddeus Computing was completely sold out of new Palmtops and used Palmtops are in short supply.

I thought about getting another Win98 or NT machine. My immediate response was "NOT!" I considered getting an Apple iMAC or iBOOK. Nice machines, but beyond our budget. How about a Linux machine? I had to be kidding myself. How about a Psion handheld? No: too small and too hard to come by. How about a Palm Pilot? That would be OK, but a

keyboard doesn't come with that machine. Finally, I considered a WinCE machine.

I asked Hal Goldstein and Rich Hall, the editor of *Pocket PC* (formerly *Handheld PC Magazine*), for their recommendation. They told me to look for an IBM z50, a subnotebook-sized machine that barely made it to market before IBM discontinued it. Retailers were dumping their inventory of z50's for about a third of the original list price. Again, I seemed to be too late. The retailers who showed z50's on their Web sites also indicated that they were out of stock or on back order.

A Visit to www.eBay.com

Call me old fashioned, but I've never done any business on eBay. I had looked at the Web-based auction site a year ago and was not impressed. This time I was impressed. What a difference a year makes!

I searched for "IBM z50" and found, to my surprise, that 83 people had one or more of these discontinued machines for sale. They were all brand new, in factory sealed cartons with a one-year warranty. Amazing!



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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

I set about bidding on one of these machines, but someone beat my bid in the last 15 seconds of the bidding period. I tried four more times using "robot bidding," i.e. letting eBay increase my offer automatically. Still no luck. Each time I lost by two or three dollars. Then I found a dealer who had two machines for sale in what is called a "Dutch auction". The machines had been sitting at \$250 for a couple of days with one day remaining on the auction block. I waited until 15 seconds before the close of the auction and slammed in a bid of \$350 and let the light-fingered bidders fight for the second machine. It was fun to watch the offers for the second z50 jump from \$250 to \$281 in the space of 15 seconds. According to the rules of the "Dutch auction" game, I only had to pay \$281 even though I had bid more than that amount. I don't know if this is the way you're supposed to play the game, but it worked.

A couple of days later, feeling somewhat traitorous, I accepted delivery of a WinCE machine, unpacked it, snapped in the batteries and turned it over to its new owner. Helen plugged it in, let the main battery charge for a couple of minutes and then turned it on. The next thing I heard was "Honey, come here, this thing doesn't work. It won't turn on. I pushed the ON button and the screen is still blank. The book says it's supposed to ask me some questions." It was easy to fix that problem. I pushed the switch on the back of the machine from battery to adapter mode and the screen came to life. I spent a few minutes playing with the machine to satisfy myself that there was nothing a user could do to mess up the operation of the computer. There were no system macros, no Pocket Excel macros, no Pocket Access VBA scripts, very few fonts in Pocket Word, few, if any, ways to set defaults or modify a program, no programming languages and absolutely no way to reformat the RAM disk. My reaction was that this was not my kind of a computer but it would be great for someone

who had never owned a computer.

The IBM z50 uses a trackpoint button in the middle of the keyboard to emulate a mouse or a touchpad. I tried it and decided it would take some getting used to. I didn't care for it but it might be ideal for someone who had seldom moved a mouse and had never touched a touchpad.

I turned the z50 back to its new learner and went back to work.

Five minutes later I heard: "Honey, come here, the little arrow thing keeps disappearing." Fifteen minutes later, after finding the "trackpoint" setup program, the "arrow thing" moved much more slowly but at least it didn't vanish in a blur and disappear off the right side of the screen.

Helen figured out how to start Pocket Word and began writing a letter. Half an hour later I heard, "Honey, come here. How do you know if you've saved a letter and how do you print it out?"

Sure enough, the shortcut command, CTRL+S, saved the document. However, when I tried using the toolbar's disk icon or the pull-down menu command, "File, Save", I got no indication that the file had been saved. I looked but I may have missed an hourglass indicator.

For printing, I decided to pop a PC Card into the z50, copy the file to it and take the PC Card to my laptop. I soon discovered that a Pocket Word document needs software on the laptop to interpret its file format.

So I tried saving the file again, this time as a Word97 document, but to no avail. The z50 informed me that the PC Card was corrupt. I thought WinCE machines could handle "hot-swapping" a PC Card. Maybe I was wrong or maybe the card was partially bad to begin with and it took a couple of disk-writes to go totally bad. Who knows?!

Of course the z50, like most WinCE machines, has no way to check a PC card or reformat it. So I took the card back to my laptop where Norton's Utility informed me that the card was indeed corrupt. Five minutes later,

the PC Card was "healed" and I'd managed to retrieve the document from one of the dozen or so files created by Norton's utility. Back I went to the z50 and tried again. This time the PC card worked and I was able to save and print the document.

Why not just take the WinCE machine to the printer? That's what I asked myself until I discovered that the optional printer cable costs \$50.

In the next couple of days I realized that the words "Honey, come here...", had changed. Initially, they carried the subliminal message "I need you." However, the words soon started to sound more like a visceral growl.

All I could think of was an experience from 15 years before when I bought a car with a manual transmission and tried to teach Helen how to drive it. I quickly admitted defeat and called one of my friends, a professional driving instructor, to take over the teaching duties. It cost me a couple of bottles of Scotch, but it saved the marriage. Five years later, after lots of complaints and a new clutch and then a new transmission, the car was gone. We're still happily married and driving a car with an automatic transmission.

For the past several days, there have been no more cries of "Honey, come here". Of course, the z50 has been sitting idle for the past couple of days.

Don't take me wrong. The z50 is not a bad machine. It's just that, with any new computer, there are bound to be some "growing pains." Climbing any learning curve is frustrating and I'll be the first to admit that our frustration has been abetted by one "WinCE newbie" trying to help another "newbie".

As for the IBM z50 itself, I definitely like the instant-on feature, the display (small but acceptable), the keyboard (excellent feel), the quiet operation (no disk whir, no fan noise). On the other hand, I wonder if WinCE machines in general are as confusing for beginners as this machine. Microsoft would like you to believe otherwise.

A Custom Auction Database For the HP Palmtop

by Bob Penick (bnj@iname.com)

What follows is a description of a database I developed to keep track of my online auction transactions.

In the tradition of the early computer "hackers", I'd like to offer this database to the rest of the Palmtop community. I have a hunch many people will find it a worthwhile application. When I first mentioned the database on the HPLX-L mailing list, I received 10 requests for it in 24 hours. I've never had that kind of response from any other posting I've made to the mailing list.

All I ask in return is that, if you come up with any improvements, you let me know so I can add the enhancements to my own version of the database. You can contact me at the e-mail address above.

Here's a list of the various fields in each record of the database along with a brief comment about the data that each field is meant to hold.

1: Item description — The description may be different than the one used on eBay.

2: Auction number — This is a unique number assigned by the auction site.

3/4: Date and Time the auction ends — I use Pacific Standard Time (PST) since eBay uses that as its clock and calendar. I try to synchronize my Palmtop's clock with the eBay clock. That's important for placing last-second bids.

5: Bidder ID's — Radio buttons for more than one ID (see Note #1 below).

6: Paid — Final cost, I don't include shipping charges.

7: Max Bid — The upper limit of a bid I've made.

8: Min Bid — The lowest bid I made.

9: Negotiated Price — This is a check box to note auctions completed off the auction site (Note #2).

10: Group — A category box to allow me to use subsets (Note #3).

11/12: Gave & Rec. — Check boxes to track feedback received and given.

13: Mailed Pmt. — Date field showing when I mailed payment.

14: Rec'd Item — Date field showing when item was received.

15: Seller ID — Seller's auction ID.

16: Email — Seller's email address.

17: Name — Seller's name.

18-23: Address fields.

24: Country — I only fill this in on auctions where the sell-

Auction.gdb Keeps Track of Bidding on eBay.com

er is outside the USA (see note #4).

25: Notes — Room for special comments about the auction (see note #5).

Note #1: I use two bidder ID's as "radio buttons" because someone might want to keep track of two ID's. That is, someone might want to bid and sell under different ID's. Similarly, spouses might have different ID's because of different interests but they would still want to track both sets of auctions.

Note #2: When an item doesn't get bid up to the seller's expectation, a so-called "auction reserve," the item doesn't have to be sold on eBay. The transaction may sometimes be completed via private negotiations. Occasionally, other people will contact the second highest bidder to offer a similar item. eBay and other sites discourage this practice but it still happens.

Note #3: I've left some of the category descriptors in the copy of the database so that you can get an idea how to use it.

Note #4: I placed this field at the end of the address section and even put it on the second page since I rarely use it. It is there if it's needed however.

Note #5: I also moved the Notes field to the second page because I remember reading (probably in the pages of *The HP Palmtop Paper*) that databases sort and find things more quickly if a Notes field is not on the first page.

Lastly, as with any Palmtop database, I can use the Smart Clip function to print a Comma Delimited Format file of selected records to disk. From there, I can bring the CDF file into a spreadsheet program where I can look at my auctions in different ways. I can sum the money I've spent over a certain period and other financial tasks easier there.

Some features you might want to add:

- 1: Check boxes to denote auction sites other than eBay.
- 2: A check box to track correspondence sent and received.
- 3: Check boxes to track payment. For example, if paid by check or money order and if paid by check then has the check cleared or not.

Getting Down to Business

For me, the most surprising part of this story has been my getting reacquainted with online auctions.

I've participated in several "silent auctions" around town and over the phone, e.g., when our public TV station is having its annual fund raiser, but I've never seen anything on the scale of what's happening on eBay. Equally amazing is the number of people who buy and sell items in several different categories. I wondered how they kept track of all their transactions. Sure enough, one of the members of the HPLX-L mailing list, Bob Penick, had the answer. He'd created an auction database for his Palmtop (See the sidebar for a description of this unique Palmtop application). Way cool! I plan to use this database the next time I go to an online auction.

I mention eBay.com as an example of the many auction sites on the Web. If you're looking for a backup or replacement unit for your HP Palmtop, one of these auction sites may be your only source for the time being. Be forewarned, however: the units sold on eBay tend to go for a hefty price. Several companies are grabbing up HP Palmtops and they all seem to have deep pockets.

Also, if you're looking for used, discontinued DOS software, be sure to check eBay or one of the other auction sites. (Of course, you'll also want to find out what's available at www.recycledsoftware.com.) Be sure to ask the seller if the software has been checked for Y2K problems. That may determine how much, if anything, you want to pay for an older, DOS program.

Until next time, Happy Palm-topping. ■

Software Mentioned in the Article

AUCTION.GDB in **AUCTION.ZIP** archive on this issue's *The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK* and on the Web at www.palmtoppaper.com

FINALLY! New Low-Powered 56K Fax/Modem For HP 200LX!



"I am connecting consistently at 45Kbps and higher. I'm sure that there will be some discussion about whether it's really that fast, but it definitely seems to be 3-4 times quicker than my 14.4 X-Jack. I am just amazed that the modem requires so little power and can run off the batteries of the LX for repeated online runs of grabbing e-mail. It's money well spent. The bonus is that you also get a cool modem for use with your laptop."

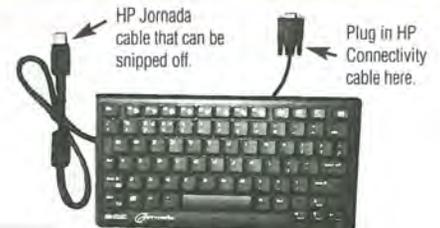
—Deputy Jeff Johns, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, jeffj@hiwaay.net

This is the FASTEST PC Card modem we've found to work in the HP 200LX. It also consumes the least power of any modem we've tested. We can't guarantee the actual speed on the 200LX because the 200LX and software is an older technology. However, independent testers have verified a speed of 45Kbps using D&A Software's WWW/LX and Rod Whitby's freeware LXTCP.

56Kbps Fax/Modem Card \$99.95 #56FM

HP (unintentionally) Creates

A Great Keyboard For The 200LX!



HP sells an external serial keyboard for its Windows CE HP 430SE Jornada Palm-size PC. That keyboard turns out to be an excellent, portable, touch-typeable input device for the HP 200LX.

The keyboard has a great feel — it's easy to type on. What's more with our proprietary software, its keyboard maps almost perfectly to the 200LX keyboard. A full set of function keys run across the top. There is a FN key plus an ALT key that doubles as the MENU key. You start built-in apps by holding down the Start Windows Key and pressing A for appointment, P for phone, etc.

We've added to the keyboard a second cable with a serial plug end. To use the keyboard, install our software into the HP 200LX and plug a standard 200LX connectivity cable into the serial plug.

You can also use the keyboard with an HP Windows CE device.

Keyboard \$139.00 #KEYB
HP 200LX Connectivity Cable \$39.95 #CCN

(Standard 200LX cable required for the keyboard)

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HPLX-L Connection

by Hal Goldstein

Many HP Palmtop users enjoy participating in the HPLX-L e-mail list that Al Kind, at the University of Connecticut, maintains on a nonprofit basis to serve the HP Palmtop community. In the e-mail list, 200LX users ask and answer questions, report software and Web site discoveries, and chat (although that is discouraged).

If you want to sign up to get on the mailing list, visit www.sp.uconn.edu/~mchem1/HPLX.shtml. Once you sign up, you will start receive 100s of e-mails a week about the 200LX. To post a message, all you have to do is hit "Reply" to any message from your e-mail program.

Most e-mail programs have a feature that you can apply to avoid your e-mail inbox being flooded. Simply have your program send all messages from the HPLX-L e-mail list to a folder that you designate. Then you can look through the folder at your leisure without interfering with your other e-mail.

There are many nuggets of interesting information in these e-mail posts. However, in practice, it may take a half hour of reading e-mail to uncover one or two pieces of golden Palmtop advice.

The purpose of this new column is to share some of the more interesting and useful pieces of information posted on the e-mail list. Except when someone's name and e-mail address are impor-

tant in the context of the note, we will not include it. We exclude names mostly for expediency as it can take a long time, if ever, to get someone to OK a comment for publication. However, thanks goes to both those whose posts we reprint and the entire e-mail community of 200LX users. We feel that printing this information is completely within the spirit of users sharing knowledge and experience with other users.

We have kept much of the informality of the HPLX-L in this column. That means, the language below is more "NetSpeak" than English. Therefore, for the purposes of this column:

- We will do minimal grammatical editing — just enough to make sure the point is comprehensible.

- We use common e-mail abbreviations (see the Glossary on page 27).

- We will do some (but not thorough) checking, so be careful. Take the comments as someone's opinion, not something definitive.

If you have questions about any of these, join the e-mail list! If a source for software is not given in the comment, click "Downloads" at www.palmtoppaper.com and search.

Ready? Here goes.

Filer Battery Drain

Q: Does running Filer cause extra battery drain?

A: I have done quite a few tests in the past with Filer, and its effects on battery current drain, the results of which are a little surprising as follows:

When entering System Manager from boot to Topcard, current = 35mA

1) Open Filer & current drops to 25mA (or 30mA if serial port is on)

2) While Filer is open, even if in background, current remains at 25mA

3) Close Filer & current increases to 70mA and remains there with any application open

4) Close Filer and all applications, sitting at Topcard, current increases to 80mA

5) Return to DOS, current drops to 35mA (serial port power off) or 40mA (serial port power on)

6) Reload System Manager current remains 35mA - cycle repeats. Alternatively, power off & on and cycle repeats.

To summarize, the serial port, when on, consumes an extra 5mA, to reduce current consumption, keep Filer loaded at all times.

PDP-11 Emulator on 200LX

Recently there was a posting on one of the newsgroups about running a PDP-11 emulator on the HP Palmtops, so I gave it a try. It works, at least as far as I could test it. It's not an operating system, but a system simulator that would allow you to load an operating system and software intended for a PDP-11.

Want to try it? It's called Ersatz-11 and you can find it at www.dbit.com where they offer it for unlimited personal/hobby use or sell it to commercial users.

Programming Languages on the HP 200LX

Q: What languages can I use to program the HP200? Python, Perl, C++, Java?? Does anyone have much experience with these languages on the HP200? I'm looking for a new H/PC and want one I can program. I enjoy this more than playing solitaire and do it for the same reason, to pass time while waiting around.

A: Well, Java is probably out, but the others should work, with a few notable exceptions.

1. Python: I haven't tried this myself, but I have heard of at least one person having success running a 16 bit port of Python on the LX.

2. Perl: Perl4 runs well on the LX. While not as advanced as Perl5 (and memory can be a bit tight at times), it is okay for small scripts or just trying out ideas. There is a version of Perl available from www.palmtop.net (in the SUPER section)

3. C++: As with Perl, the versions of C++ that run on the LX do not have the latest enhancements that the language offers. The only version of Borland C++ to work on the LX is BC++ 2.0.

4. Java: no ports that I know of. Probably won't be either.

People have other popular scripting languages running on the LX too — Rexx, and of course the Bourne shell.

Cut & Paste between Software Carousel Sessions

Q: What is the best solution for cutting and pasting between Software Carousel sessions?

A: I've found a solution to this problem. I'm using Clipvue & Exkey. First, the normal disclaimers. Backup your data. Use at your own risk.

My method is somewhat limited in scope. For the most part, the only program I need to use the system clipboard (outside of System Manager) is PalEdit. Generally I have the SM running in one SC session & PE in another. Here is how I've done it.

1) I installed Clipvue.exm (which will load/save the clipboard to c:_dat\clipvue.txt) to hotkeys Ctrl+F3

2) create 2 macros in exkey.ini

— exkey.ini —

[200]

; load c:_dat\clipvue.txt to SM clipboard

{Ctrl+c}={Ctrl+F3}{F2}{Escape}{Escape}

; save SM clipboard to c:_dat\clipvue.txt

{Ctrl+v}={Ctrl+F3}{F3}{Escape}

3) Run Exkey from autoexec.bat before starting SM (exkey -fc:_dat\exkey.ini)

4) Create 2 PalEdit Macros

; Ctrl+c Save selection to c:_dat\clipvue.txt

```
#2e03=#5d00#2e63#273a#2b5c#0c5f#2064#1e61#1474#2b5c#2e63#266c#1769#1970#2f76#1675#1265#342e#1474#2d78-#1474#1c0d#1c0d#011b#011b; Ctrl+v Insert file c:\_dat\clipvue.txt #2f16=#5c00#2e63#273a#2b5c#0c5f#2064#1e61#1474#2b5c#2e63#266c#1769#1970#2f76#1675#1265#342e#1474#2d78#1474#1c0d
```

The keys used are Ctrl+c to copy & Ctrl+v to paste. In System manager, it is necessary to get the data into the clipboard first (via Ctrl+Copy or smart clip) then execute Ctrl+c. The reverse is true for Paste. It is necessary to press Ctrl+v to get the Clipvue file into the clipboard prior to hitting Ctrl+Paste.

In PalEdit, I just use Ctrl+c/v for SM clipboard & Ctrl+Copy/Paste for PE's internal clipboard.

If anyone can think of a better method, I'd love to hear it.

DOS Database Software on HP 200LX

I've always liked PC-File very much. It goes way back and should be available on most DOS repositories. One search found version 6.5 at a Simtel echo: www.qdnet.pl. It appears that version 7.0 is the current offering at \$130 US. I've used version 5.01 for many years — there are some things it does better than the latest and greatest (!) Paradox. Version 5.01 runs fine on my DoubleSpeed 32MB 200LX.

PC-File for DOS is available on the 2000 CD InfoBase from Thaddeus Computing, Inc.

200LX and Digital Camera

I found a pretty nice freeware called photopc (www.average.org/digicam/) and I successfully control my camera (Agfa >E Photo 1280) with the 200LX. Apparently, photopc works with: Agfa (ePhoto line), Epson PhotoPC, Olympus, Sanyo, Nikon, Sierra Imaging, Toshiba (list on www.average.org/digicam/cameras.html). I started to write a user interface with LXBatch.

I have written a Web page about my experiences connecting my Olympus camera to the HP200.

<http://huizen.dds.nl/~kropveld/olympus.html>

The short story is that I use PHOTOPC to operate my camera. It works excellent. I have published some example codes (4DOS batch) on that page. The timer batch file I use very often on the field to take long series of pictures every so many minutes.

Last summer my Olympus hung up (read my previous technical problems on my page), and bought a NIKON 700. The other program CAMEDOS, www.butaman.ne.jp:8000/~tsuruzoh, refuses to communicate with Nikon cameras, but PHOTOPC runs OK.

One disadvantage: my HP does display the Nikon 1600x1200 pix JPEGs on my HP screen, but it is very slow!

Q: What do you do with the LX and digital camera exactly?

A: Bore relatives with pictures of the kids. Bore strangers with "real graphics" on my Palmtop. Bore my kids with my trip photos e-mailed to them via the LX while on the road.

All of the above are actually better done using my Omnibook 800CT, but I'm more inclined to leave it (and my camera) behind compared to the ever-present LX, which becomes something like my pocket photo album... a bit underpowered but still capable of inflicting pain and suffering on the unsuspecting.

A2: With my old Kodak DC-20 and LXDC, I was able to control the camera, use the 200LX as a timer to take group photos, view the pictures (not very well, but you could get a rough estimate of how it turned out), download pictures to the 200LX for additional storage on the road, etc. Now I have a SoundVision MiniCam 3209, which takes CompactFlash cards, so I can view the JPEG files with LXPIC and copy them to the Palmtop to free up space on the CF card. If a program was written specifically to control this camera over its

serial connection, like LXDC did with the DC-20, I could do neat things like change the shutter speed from the Palmtop, or even possibly display live video from the camera (though that would be pretty slow on the Palmtop, of course).

Running Connectivity Pack on 1000CX

If you run Cpack on 1000CX, you can connect 1000CX to PC with Cpack or Transfile. Procedure is as follows:

1. Install Cpack on 1000CX. Remove the line "CG.exe" on app200.bat of Cpack.
2. Run app200.bat on 1000CX.
3. Start filer of Cpack on 1000CX.
4. Run Cpack or Transfile on PC.

After these instructions, you can operate 1000CX almost same as 200LX. Baud rate must be the same for both 1000CX and PC. On FILER on 1000CX, push Alt + C and select remote settings. You can set up baud rate.

Predicting Tides

Nautical Software replied about Tides & Currents for DOS. \$79 (U.S., I presume) is more than I wanted to spend but I thought someone else might be interested. If their Windows software is any guide, it must be an impressive package.

I tried out Tide24.zip from <http://vancouver-web-pages.com/peter/index.html> and it seems suitable for my needs. I just need to know when tides will be high or low for river mouths when bushwalking on the coast, and the occasional hiring of a seakayak, so I know when mangroves are accessible. It runs quite happily on a double speed 200LX. It gave results very close to published tide predictions for Sydney and the east coast of Australia. Out of curiosity, I tried it for areas like Darwin and Thursday Island where tides do strange things. Rather than give an incorrect result, it refused to give any. I don't mean it stopped working. It just said it couldn't possibly work that out.

We still sell Tides & Currents for DOS, and it sells for \$79. If you would like to order a copy, please give me a call at (800)946-2877 and I can help you place an order. If you have any further questions, please feel free to e-mail me directly at josh@tides.com.

Josh Harman Nobeltec-Nautical Software www.tides.com

Encryption in MEMO

The encryption algorithm used with MEMO is different from the one used with the database engine, because the HPCRACK program that is able to decode the database passwords fails with MEMO. However, there is reason to believe that the encryption algorithm is not stronger than encryption with a 40-bit key: at the time the HP 200LX was released, the US Government wouldn't have allowed crypto products with stronger encryption to be exported without an export license.

Ulrich Boche

IRC/LX

Q: What Is IRC ? Why would I be interested in it? What do you do with it or use it for?

A: IRC is an acronym for Internet Relay Chat. By logging onto one of the various chat networks, you can chat in real time with others from all over the world on subjects ranging from quite tame to ones that make you blush with embarrassment.

IRC/LX appears to be a DOS port of ircII or BitchX with a splash of PAL programming thrown in for good measure. The source code for ircII is widely available and is the world's most popular IRC client. In today's world most people probably use mIRC or one of the other Windows clients, but the purist will still want to use either ircII or BitchX on a UNIX box.

One thing that is a possible problem with ircII are possible security flaws in source code and it is recommended that you compile it yourself. Since you are connecting to a network with IRC it is possible that people can hack your machine without your knowledge while you are connected. There are several ways of doing this and some are horrendous on mIRC. I am curious about the level of security provided by IRC/LX.

I have only played with IRC/LX a little since Saturday and since I only have the unregistered demo copy from the D&A web site, I am limited in really using it for any length of time.

Jeff Johns

Q: Are you using IRC/LX?

A: The short answer is that I have used it a little. It is kind of hard to get used to, especially being an ircII user. Although it is somewhat similar, it is different. It is quite frustrating to be on two channels at the same time. On ircII, it's quite easy to swap between all the active windows and to resize them. Also, there is a plethora of available scripts for ircII and since ircII is basically a DOS port that uses WWW/LX it would be nice to be able to use some of these scripts. One of the most popular scripts for ircII is the one that binds the <TAB> key so when you press it, it automatically messages the last person that sent you a /msg I'm still trying to figure out some of the different key assignments of IRC/LX. I haven't had a lot of time since I discovered that it was available to play with it. Does the registered version preface the user's domain name with WWW_LX? The docs, IMHO, leave a lot to be desired about the program and if someone isn't very familiar with IRC with a client such as ircII they will probably end up being very frustrated. Honestly, if improvements such as multiple, resizable windows will not be a future option and the ability to write scripts for the client are not implemented, I would be hard pressed to spend \$25 for it. This is just my opinion and other users may have other ideas and opinions. There is a program called VIPER that performs

Continued page 27

Tips, Traps & Techniques

More tips for both beginning and veteran users of HP Palmtops

Unless otherwise noted, Tips, Traps and Techniques are by Ed Keefe

General

Keep Your Palmtop in Tip-Top Shape

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. The toll-free U.S. number is (800/227-8164). The kit contains:

- 2 battery doors
- 2 backup battery trays
- 8 rubber feet
- 4 hinge caps
- 2 IR covers
- 2 metal ID plates (the ones you get engraved for the bottom).

3 replacement screws (added to original kit by customer request)

Fred Kaufman

Password Protection for HP 1000CX

The User's Manual for the HP 1000CX does not mention anything about password protection but it works the same as for the HP 200LX.

From DOS: type "password" and you are prompted to enter your password. (You can use a maximum of 12 characters from the first 128 ASCII characters. Note that the password is case sensitive.) After you enter your password type, for example, "password/A" to implement auto-lock.

The options are: 1. password/A to implement auto-lock 2. password/M to implement manual lock ("on+enter", hold down "on", press and release "enter") 3. password/D to deactivate password protection.

HP Calc

Special Keys for HP Calc (Basic: from the User's Manual)

In HP Calc the Z, X, C, V, B, N, M and L keys perform the

CORRECTION

In the Jan/Feb, 2000 issue of PTP, in the "Tips, Traps & Techniques" article, the tip about getting a Windows computer to release the serial port was incorrectly formatted. The correct formatting for those lines to be placed under the [386Enh] heading in the system.ini file in the windows directory is as follows:

```
ComBoostTime=5
Com1AutoAssign=2
Com2AutoAssign=2
Com3AutoAssign=2
Com4AutoAssign=2
Com1FIFO=1
Com2FIFO=1
Com3FIFO=1
Com4FIFO=1
```

There are nine commands, each of which must go on a separate line in the system.ini file.

Also, we inadvertently omitted the name and e-mail address of the "tip-master," John Vander Stel, jvanderstel@juno.com, who contributed this tip.

various functions printed in white below them. Here is a list of these key definitions and what they do.

(Z) (square root symbol) — Calculates the square root of the number in the calculation line. For example, if you enter 16 in the calc line and press (Z), the calc line displays the square root of 16 (4).

(X) (1/x) — Calculates the reciprocal of the number in the calc line. For example, if you enter 4 in the calc line, then

press (X), the calc line displays .25.

(C) (<>) — Exchanges the numbers in the X and Y registers, if you're using the RPN mode. If you're using the algebraic mode and the calc line contains an expression like 3/4, the C key will swap the numbers on either side of the operator, e.g., 4/3.

(V) (R + DownArrow) — Rolls the number from register #1 (register Y in RPN) into the calc line and puts the calc line number into register #4 (register T in RPN).

(B) (LAST) — In algebraic mode, this key copies the result of the previous calculation into the current calculation: in RPN it copies the value that was in the X register, just before a calculation, back into the X register (the calc line.)

(N) (STO) — Stores the number in the calc line to a designated memory register (i.e., stores the number in the calc line to a number key you designate). E.g., if you enter 3,452.78 in the calc line and press (N)(STO) 3, the number 3,452.78 is stored in the memory register #3.

(M) (RCL) — Recalls a number you stored previously (when you pressed (N)(STO)) from the register in which you stored it.

(L) (+/-) — Makes a positive number negative or a negative number positive. For example, if you press (+/-) while the number 118 is in the calc line, it changes it to -118. Pressing (+/-) a second time makes the number positive again. If you want to enter a number in scientific notation, e.g., 5.5 E-3, type 5.5 e 3 L. You'll see 5.5e-3 and when you press Enter you'll see 0.0055.

NOTE: There is no key for X^2 (X squared). As a "workaround" for this missing key, put HP Calc in RPN mode, and key in a number, press Enter and press * (times).

Lotus 1-2-3

Use Lotus 1-2-3 to do Time Arithmetic (Intermediate)

Although HP Calc has a routine to do Date Arithmetic (in Calc, press CTRL+D), it lacks an application to do Time Arithmetic. HP Calc does have a couple of functions that convert hours, minutes and seconds to decimal hours and back. However, to use the functions you have to use military (24 hour) time, i.e., 13.25 instead of 1.25 pm.

Lotus 1-2-3 is a better tool for subtracting one time from another or for finding what time it will be 15 hours and 15 minutes from now. There's even a way to use the Time key to enter the current time: something that can't be done in HP Calc. To see how this works, consider the following problems.

1) How many hours and minutes are there between 8:43 am and 3:55 pm?

2) If the current time is 4:07 pm, what time will it be 15 hours and 15 minutes from now?

To solve these problems open 1-2-3 and use Menu Worksheet Erase Yes to create an empty worksheet.

A. Use Menu Worksheet Column Column-Range Set-Width A1..C1 Enter 13 Enter to set the width of the first

three columns to 13.

B. Use Menu Worksheet Global Format Date Time 1 to set the whole sheet to display time as HH:MM:SS AM/PM.

C. In cell A1 type |T>>>>>>>>>> Enter (the first symbol is Shift \ which is next to the ESC key.)

D. Press Menu Data Parse F2 I and type A1..A20

E. Press Tab and type B2..B20 to set the input output ranges for data parsing. Press Enter twice and Quit.

F. Type '/DPG in cell D1 and press Menu Range Name Create \T Enter D1 Enter to create a named macro.

To see how this works, put the cursor in cell A2 and press the apostrophe (') and immediately press the Fn+Time key. Press Enter and then ALT+T. You should see the current time as a label in cell A2 and the time as a value in cell B2.

To solve the two problems type the following labels in cells A3 through A6: '8:43 am, '3:55 pm, '4:07 pm, '15:15.

Enter the formulas +B4-B3 in cell C4 and +B5+B6 in cell C6. (Don't forget the leading apostrophes nor the A.M. P.M. designators, unless you're using military time.) The value 12:00:00 will appear in these cells.

Now press ALT+T and you should see the answers: 07:12:00 AM and 07:22:00 AM in the C column. The "AM" in the first answer can be ignored since it represents a time interval. However the A.M. in the second result does have meaning: it's 7:22 A.M. the next day.

Try using different time formats. Some of the formats, such as HH.MM.SS, won't work but most of them will.

Tracking Multiple Timed Events in Lotus 1-2-3

As an extension of the above tip, here's another spreadsheet that will let you log the start and end times of a series of timed events (such as laps in a track meet).

1. Start with a blank worksheet and set aside Column A for a short description of a series of events.

2. Format Columns B and C (from row 2 through 21) as MENU Range Format Date Time 1 and use the command MENU Worksheet, Column, Column-range, Set-width, B1..C1, 13.

3. Format Column D (rows 2 through 21) as MENU Range Format Date Time 3 and use the command MENU, Worksheet, Column, Set-width, 10.

4. In cell D2, key in the formula +C2-B2 and then use the command MENU, Copy, D2..D2, D2..D21 (or as far down the column as needed.)

5. Label the columns by keying in the following labels in cells A1 through D1: 'Description 'Start 'End 'Difference

6. In cell F1, key in the macro, '@now~{EDIT}{CALC}~ and use the command MENU, Range, Name, Create, \S, F1..F1 to name the macro ALT+S.

7. Save the worksheet with the filename LAPS.WK1 in your Lotus directory.

8. To use the worksheet, key in descriptions for each timed event (e.g. the names of several runners in a marathon.) Position the cursor in cell B2. When the race

starts, press ALT+S. This will show the time in cell B2. If every runner starts at the same time, use the command MENU, Copy, B2..B2, B2..B21 (or as far down the column as is needed.) Otherwise, move the cursor to the appropriate cell in column B and press ALT+S when the runner starts. When the end of the race is near you'll have to be extremely quick to position the cursor in the appropriate row in column C and press ALT+S. This will put the End Time in column C and the time difference in column D.

Lotus 1-2-3 and Excel for Windows

If you develop a spreadsheet using the Palmtop's Lotus 1-2-3 program, you can use this same spreadsheet on a Windows-based desktop. Just transfer the spreadsheet to the big machine and use Excel to open the .WK1 file. I've found that many user-written Lotus macros will run under Excel: just remember to press CTRL+macroletter rather than ALT+macroletter.

If you develop spreadsheets in Excel and want them to run on the Palmtop, don't use the bells and whistles of Excel, i.e., color, different sized fonts, forms and buttons. Use the File, Save As... command in Excel and pull down the list of file types in the dialog box. Look for the file type .WK1. Excel will warn you that some information will be lost but you should be able to save a Lotus 1-2-3 file that will work on your Palmtop.

Entering Stock Prices in Lotus 1-2-3

Stock prices are typically given in terms of whole dollar amounts and a fraction, e.g., 61 5/16.

To enter the value in Lotus 1-2-3, you could key in 61+5/16 and press Enter. The value 61.3125 would appear in the target cell.

Here's another way to do the same thing. The advantage is that you can always see the fractional amount and the decimal equivalent.

Here's how to do this.

In a blank worksheet, press MENU Range Format Currency 0 and press Enter. Set the range to A1..A20 and press Enter. Use MENU Range Format Text, press Enter and set the range as B1..B20.

In cell C1 enter the formula +A1+B1 and then use MENU Copy A1 to A2..A20.

To enter stock values, just put the whole dollar amount in column A and the fractional amount in the B column. The decimal equivalent will appear in the cell in column C.

The trick involves setting column B to Text format. It might seem that you're adding a number to "text" but that isn't the case. In Lotus-speak, "text" means "view the underlying formula as a label rather than as a number."

This seldom used formatting command (MENU Range Format Text) comes in handy when debugging a worksheet. With a couple of macros you can toggle the text and value display of a range of cells. To see how this might work, enter the following macros in cells E2 and E4:

```
'/RFF2~B1..B20~ and '/RFTB1..B20~
```

Use the command MENU Range Name Create \N and assign the range name to cell E2. Use MENU Range Name Create \F and assign the range name to cell E4. When you press ALT+F and ALT+N you'll toggle the display of values in the range B1..B20.

Save a Keystroke or Two in 1-2-3

The usual way to copy a cell in 1-2-3 involves a lot of scrolling and losing your place. Here's a time-honored tip to avoid the nuisance features.

Say you want to copy the value in cell A1 to cell Z30 and have the cursor positioned in cell Z30 at the end of the operation. Do the following. Press F5(Goto) Z30 and press Enter. Use the command MENU Copy A1 Enter Enter. That's it.

Stop Watch

Stop Watch: Give It a Try

Whether you're timing the length of a presentation or how long it took you to run that ten kilometer race, try the Palmtop's Stopwatch function: it's pretty easy to use. Just press the CTRL+APPT keys and press F2 (Reset) to clear the clock. Press F4 to start the timer and F4 again to stop it. You'll see the time elapsed displayed to the 100th of a second. You could also use Stopwatch to time phone conversations, sales presentation or anything that you rehearse and that needs to fit into a given time slot.

DOS

Use Mode Command to Speed Up the Palmtop's Keyboard

You can speed up the Palmtop's keyboard response and increase the repeat rate when you hold down any key.

To do this use any method to get to the DOS prompt and type the command

```
MODE CON: rate=32 delay=1
```

Here is what the command is about.

Mode — Mode typically configures the parallel and serial ports, code pages and the display. In this instance you can change the "typematic" rate (the rate at which DOS repeats a character when the key for that character is held down). The typematic rate has two components: rate and delay. The syntax for the MODE command to set the typematic rate is:

```
MODE CON[:] [RATE=r DELAY=d]
```

CON — Refers to the keyboard.

RATE=r — Specifies the rate at which a character is repeated on the screen when you hold down a key. Valid values are from 1 to 32 and equal approximately 2 to 30 characters per second respectively. The default value on your Palmtop is 20. If you set the rate, you must also set the delay.

DELAY=d — Specifies the amount of time that elapses after

you press and hold down a key before DOS starts to repeat the character. Valid values for d are 1, 2, 3, and 4 (representing 0.25, 0.50, 0.75, and 1 second, respectively). The default value is 2. If you set the delay, you must also set the rate.

By placing the above command in your AUTOEXEC.BAT file, you can set the repeat rate to 30 characters per second and tell DOS to pause for 1/4 second before repeating the character.

The downside to speeding up the keyboard is that you will be pushing the Palmtop a little bit harder than before. You can expect to see a drop in the battery life.

I used the mode con speed trick in the past before getting a DoubleSpeed upgrade. It worked fine in certain applications (e.g. 1-2-3 and Memo) and not so well in other apps such as the database apps.

Tips for Time Calculations in Solver

Entering a time value in Solver depends on how you set your Time Format in SETUP. Assuming Format 1 (HH:MM:SS), then HH.MMSS would be the format in Solver. Solver has two time functions: HR() converts HH.MMSS to an hour and a decimal part of an hour. HMS() converts the fractional hour to hours and minutes. Also, remember that HP CALC uses military time not A.M./P.M., so use 14.53 instead of 2:53pm.

Solver handles time and degrees by converting them to a decimal format. This is made very simple in Solver's editor by selecting the CONV (F5) and then HR (F4). This yields a HR() with your cursor inside the parentheses. You then enter HH.MMSS, e.g. 15.3322 for 3:3322 PM, and the function converts to decimal format, e.g. 15.5561. When you finish a calculation and want to convert back to hours and minutes, select CONV (F5) and then HMS (F5), putting the decimal time within the parentheses.

Quicken

Pocket Quicken QIF Files

Quicken 8 for DOS has a few Y2K peculiarities, the main one being that for many inputs you can't put in a date in the format 01/10/2000. The program will tell you to "PLEASE USE DATE FORMAT MM/DD/YY." If you use 01/10/00 it does the same thing. It turns out you have to use 01/10'00. For some reason the apostrophe seems to indicate that it's 2000 or beyond. If you're trying to use Quicken 8 for DOS in conjunction with Pocket Quicken on the Palmtop, this may be worth remembering.

Fred Kaufman

How to Pack a Pocket Quicken File

If you delete transactions or accounts in Pocket Quicken, they are merely marked as deleted and left untouched in the .pdt file. There does not seem to be any pack function that will flush all deleted pieces out of the file. One solution to this problem is to export all transactions, accounts, categories and groups to .qif files, then create a new .pdt file and import everything back into the new file. Theoretically, this should not change the balances, as you can set them by manually creating them, rather than using the export/import procedure. NOTE: the import process is very slow. Depending on the number of transactions, you may wish to do it on a desktop.

Dennis Bell, Seattle

HPLX-L Connection

Continued from page 23

basically all of the same functions of IRC/LX but uses the WATTCP stack. The author never finished the software and never finished the /dcc portion of it. It is available at www.agate.net/~tvdog/IIRC. It's a shame the author is unreachable and that the source wasn't included with the beta release.

Lionel Zuckier, MD Nuclear Medicine

Albert Einstein College of Medicine

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HPLX-L GLOSSARY

SUPER — www.palmtop.net (click download at www.palmtoppaper.com).

HPLX-L — mailing list from whence this column comes.

LX — short name for the HP 100/200LX Palmtop Computer.

PE - Pal Edit — text editor preferred by many LX users. Available at www.dasoft.com.

FAQ — Frequently Asked Questions.

flame wars — personal attacks, followed by rebuttals, followed by free-for-all and taking sides, followed by peace-makers, followed by silence — everyone is burned out.

<G> Big Grin symbol — often misused, sort of like smiling while you take a jab at someone.

CF — CompactFlash RAM card. The postage stamp sized memory cards that are commonly used in cameras but are now available for use in the LX.

ATA Flash Card — the bigger PC Cards that can hold up to 440 MB of data.

CPack — the HP Connectivity Pack is a suite of programs that let you run the same software on your desktop as on your Palmtop, less Lotus, cc:Mail and Quicken.

Transfile — a Windows program that will let you transfer files back and forth from your desktop to the Palmtop. Search SUPER for it.

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Software on The HP Palmtop Paper ON DISK

March/April 2000

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'79 #GDEV

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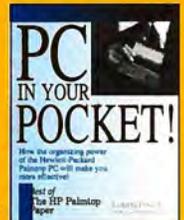
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