



# SPECIAL REPORT:

## Get More From Windows Mobile

*A selection of articles by Smartphone & Pocket PC magazine columnist Dan Hanttula*





## Create a Wireless Office Using Windows Mobile

(June 2008)

**W**hether you're a hardcore road warrior or a desk jockey who would simply like to access work documents from the neighborhood Starbucks, you can turn your PDA or smartphone into a fully functional wireless office. Of course, Windows Mobile comes with all the basics to access your e-mail and documents, but with a few quick upgrades, you can make your handheld a powerful wireless office that opens the latest Office documents, verbally screens your calls, records your ideas, and even lets you access information on your desktop computer when you're miles away.

### Create and read Office 2007 documents

Until now, Windows Mobile devices were not able to open the new XML-based file formats (.docx, .xlsx, and .pptx) introduced in the desktop PC version of Microsoft Office 2007. But with the new Microsoft Office Mobile 6.1 upgrade, users can open documents saved in the Office 2007 format (Fig. 1), and save new ones in that format. The software also features new functionality, like enhanced charting capabilities in Excel Mobile and the ability to display SmartArt and themes in PowerPoint Mobile (Fig. 2). But, for most users, the compelling feature will be the ability to work with Office 2007 documents if your company is already working with the newest version of Microsoft's Office suite.

Microsoft Office Mobile 6.1 is available for Windows Mobile 5 touch screen devices with a build number higher than 14847 (tap Start >Settings >About to find your build number) and all Windows Mobile 6 devices (touch screen and non-touch screen). The upgrade is available for free for some users, and you can find out if you're eligible by visiting Microsoft's Web site ([microsoft.com/windowsmobile/software/officemobile/upgrade.mspx](http://microsoft.com/windowsmobile/software/officemobile/upgrade.mspx)). Otherwise, you can purchase the upgrade at [handango.com](http://handango.com) for \$49.95 (search for "Microsoft Office Mobile").

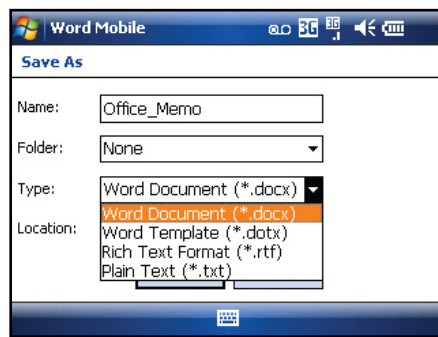
### Hire a virtual secretary

Another Microsoft application that will help you create a mobile office is Voice Command 1.6. This software uses voice recognition to respond to spoken commands that you give it. For example, saying "Call John Seabreeze at work" dials the work number listed for

that person in your Contacts list. Obviously, it's great to use this hands-free application while you're driving, but it makes navigating through the Windows Mobile interface much easier in any situation. For example, saying "redial" calls the last number you dialed, and "callback" dials the number of the last person who called you. This is much easier than

Voice Command will announce your appointment subject and location instead of the usual reminder sound that's played. You can even ask the software "What's my next appointment?" and it will respond with the corresponding information for your next obligation.

As its name implies, Voice Command lets you activate and control various features on



Figs. 1 & 2: Microsoft Office Mobile 6.1 allows you to save files in the Office 2007 format (left) as well as the ability to use SmartArt and Themes in PowerPoint Mobile (right).

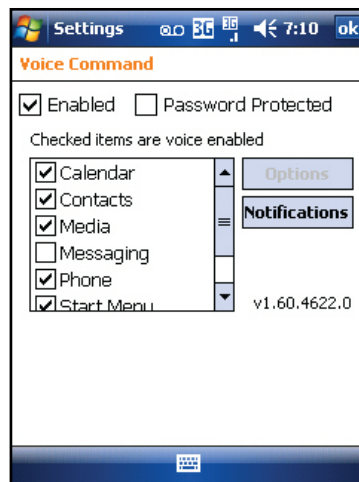


Fig. 3: Voice Command adds speech-activated functionality to many of the Windows Mobile applications.

opening the Phone application, tapping the Call History button, and tapping on the last person who called you.

Voice Command isn't just limited to phone features. The software also adds commands for the Windows Mobile Calendar application so that you can ask your device "What is my schedule today?" and it will respond by reading you all of the day's appointments in Calendar. And, if you set reminders for your appointments,

your device with spoken commands. You can not only launch any application by speaking the program's name, you can access features within the application. For example, speak the name of an album, artist, or genre to play it in Media Player Mobile. You can also say "play everything" to put your entire music collection into a playlist. If you hear an unfamiliar tune, say "what song is this?" to hear the name of the song and performing artist. You can also access your device's system tools to ask for the phone's signal strength, battery level, and time and date. Voice Command will even alert you when your phone's battery is getting low.

The software can act like a "virtual secretary" by announcing your incoming calls, e-mails, and appointment reminders. You can even set the software to read SMS messages aloud. And, the software can be configured to only speak during "free time" in your calen-

Dan Hantula has covered the handheld market for more than a decade, lecturing at PDA conferences, vertical market trade associations, and appearing on popular television series like TechTV's Screen Savers show. He created an entire curriculum of Pocket PC training classes for the Moore-Norman Technology Center and has published hundreds of articles, including guest pieces for ZDTV, CNET, Microsoft, Leo Laporte's 2003 Technology Almanac, and other print media and online news sources. In March 2001, he published his first book, the Official Hewlett-Packard Pocket PC Handbook by IDG Books. He is the Head of I.T., U.S. for Engel & Völkers ([engelvoelkers.com](http://engelvoelkers.com)), one of the leading European real estate companies serving exclusive buyers and sellers of residential, commercial, and yachting properties. He can be reached via e-mail at [danh@semperaptus.com](mailto:danh@semperaptus.com).

dar, so your new assistant won't disturb you during a meeting. Voice Command supports Bluetooth headsets, allowing you to access its features while your phone or PDA is stashed away in your briefcase, pocket, or purse.

## Get More from Voice Command!

You can configure Voice Command to only read e-mails aloud if they're sent as high priority messages. Set this feature if you're expecting a critical e-mail; when it comes in, Voice Command will read it aloud to you without any interaction on your part. This can be helpful if you'd like people to send you important updates while you're in meetings or while driving, but don't want to be disturbed with less important messages.

Voice Command 1.6 is priced at \$39.95 and is available for Windows Mobile 5/6 devices. (Note that it is built into some of the newer Windows Mobile 6 phones.) Installation requires 4 MB of storage memory and the program uses approximately 7 MB of RAM when its running. The U.S. version of the program is available for touch and non-touch screen devices. Currently, the French, German, and U.K. English version of the program are only available for touch screen devices. In addition, the Bluetooth feature requires a device with the hardware capability to route Bluetooth audio and implement Microsoft's Bluetooth stack. More information about Voice Command, as well as "Buy" links are available on Microsoft's Web site ([microsoft.com/windowsmobile/voicecommand/default.mspx](http://microsoft.com/windowsmobile/voicecommand/default.mspx)).

## Record ideas quickly, the instant you have them

Windows Mobile devices are great for jotting down thoughts, ideas, discoveries, and just about anything that comes to mind while you're on the go. Unfortunately, it isn't always feasible to pull out the stylus or use the slide-out keyboard to record a quick thought. Ideas can leave the mind as quickly as they come, so it's important to be able to capture them quickly and without much effort.

Note2Self instantly begins recording a voice note with a press of a hardware button that you define. This also causes the Note2Self main screen to pop up (Fig. 4), displaying the current recording time, and the file size of the recording. It also displays three soft buttons that allow stop the recording and send it to the e-mail address of your choice, stop and save the recording, or cancel the recording.

Note2Self also solves one of the biggest pet peeves I have with Windows Mobile. The built-in Notes application on touch screen devices features a voice record capability. However, recordings and regular notes are listed together, making it more difficult to find the recordings. In addition, I prefer to have the most

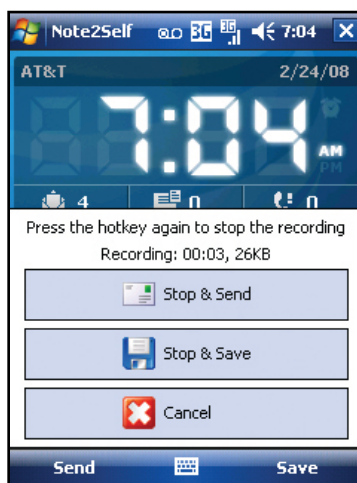


Fig. 4: Note2Self is a pop-up voice recorder that creates a voice recording you can e-mail or save with two quick key presses.

recent recordings displayed first in the list, and it's difficult to do this. On a Windows Mobile device, you can sort a file list by Name (the default), Size, Type, and Date. But when you sort by Date, it displays the oldest files first and the most recent files at the bottom of the list. You can display the most recent files at the top of the list by selecting the Date option twice. As you can see, too many screen taps are involved in the process. Because I have Note2Self set up to send recordings to my own Inbox, the most recent recordings always appear there at the top of the list! I open the message, listen to the note, take any necessary action, and then delete the message. Very efficient!

## Get More from Note2Self!

If you have an actual assistant to whom you dictate letters, notes, and other information, you can enter his or her e-mail address into the Note2Self configuration. When you click the "Stop & Send" button, all the recordings you make will go directly to the assistant for transcription. This can also be a great way to quickly send notes to your spouse, or a fun way to communicate between friends. To create a private note for yourself, click "Stop & Save" instead.

Note2Self can be configured to send the e-mails with voice recordings via ActiveSync, your wireless e-mail service, or the WebIS Note2Self Sending Service (an optional service available for a monthly fee). The program's configuration menu lets you set the e-mail address and create a custom Subject line to include with the voice recording file attachment. By default, the program saves the voice note as a .wav file, which is a more universal format. However, you can set the application to record in the .ogg file format to reduce the size of the files that are being set.

Note2Self is available from Web Information Solutions ([pocketinformant.com](http://pocketinformant.com)) for Windows Mobile 5/6 Standard (non-touch

screen) smartphones and Windows Mobile 2003 SE/5/6 Classic and Professional (touch screen) devices. It is very reasonably priced at \$9.95, and a free two-week trial version is also available. The WebIS Note2Self Sending Service is available for \$5 per month for users that do not have a wireless e-mail account and wish to send their voice recordings OTA (over the air). A Wi-Fi network connection or a cellular data plan is also required to send voice notes OTA.

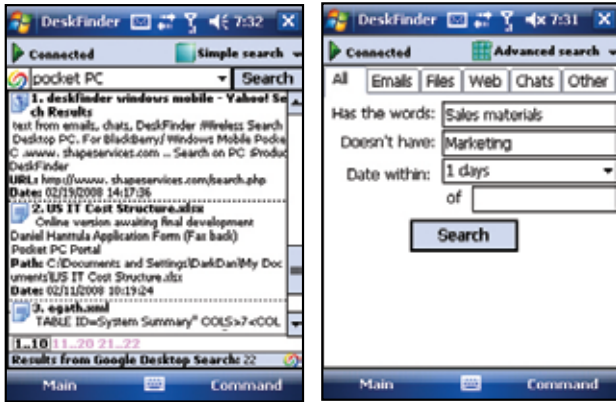
## Access data on your PC from anywhere

Have you ever saved a document on your office PC, gone home, and then realized that you needed it? If so, you'll be grateful for DeskFinder from SHAPE Services. This software works with Google Desktop (a free download) to let you use your Windows Mobile touch screen device to connect to your desktop PC, search it for files (Fig. 5), and download them to your handheld—from anywhere in the world.

When you run the installation program, it adds a desktop client to your PC, installs the DeskFinder application on your Windows Mobile device, and creates a "DeskFinder Service ID." The Service ID is a unique code that prevents other people from accessing the documents on your PC. For security, you can only perform a remote search of your PC from a handheld that was physically connected to your computer during installation. You can also password-protect the handheld application, which will help prevent unauthorized access to your PC if your handheld is misplaced or stolen.

The Search screen (Fig. 6) includes tabs for e-mail, instant messages, files (like Word and Excel documents), and your PC's Web page history folder. When the program returns search results, you can tap on any item to download the text or launch a URL (if the search result is a Web page). DeskFinder also includes an advanced search function that allows you to give more specific criteria to narrow the results or find a specific item.

DeskFinder for Pocket PC (touch screen only) is available for \$19.95 from SHAPE Services ([shapeservices.com](http://shapeservices.com)); a 7-day free trial is also available for download from their Web site. The software requires that Google Desktop (a free download available at [desktop.google.com](http://desktop.google.com)) is installed on the Internet-connected computer you wish to access. The DeskFinder PC software is available for Windows 98/ME/NT/2000/2003/XP. (I was not able to get the software to install on Windows Vista with Windows Mobile Device Center, but the company informed me they're working on a Vista-compatible version.) The mobile software is designed for Windows Mobile 2003 and Windows Mobile 5 devices. (It did not work with the wireless features of my WM 6 device.)



Figs. 5 & 6: DeskFinder provides a remote search to find any keyword (left) in e-mails, documents, Web history, and instant message history while the advanced search (right) lets you set more complex criteria to narrow your results.

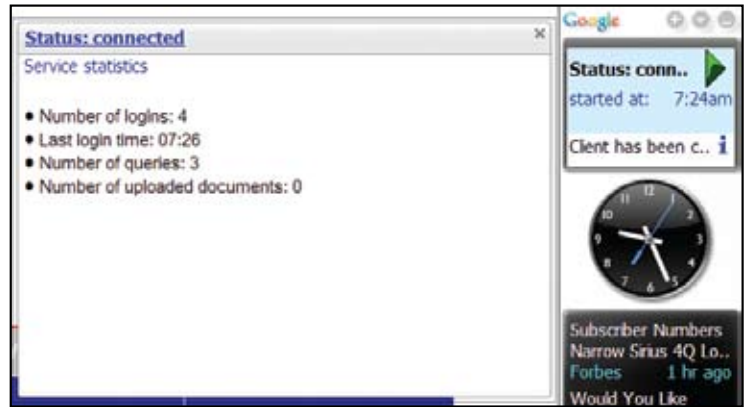


Fig. 7: The DeskFinder Google Desktop sidebar plug-in gives you detailed information on the connections made to your PC from a handheld device.

### Get More from DeskFinder!

Although the software's taskbar icon displays when a Windows Mobile client is connected to your PC, you can also activate the DeskFinder Google Desktop sidebar plug-in that shows the time the connection was established and other critical information about logins, queries, and document access (Fig. 7). To activate the widget, click on the DeskFinder taskbar icon, and activate the "Enable plug-in in Google Desktop sidebar" option.

### Want to "get more?"

Are you an expert in a particular Windows Mobile technology and want to share your knowledge? Have you ever felt like you're not taking full advantage of some feature of your handheld? In either case, send your comments to ([danh@semperaptus.com](mailto:danh@semperaptus.com) or [rich@smartphonemag.com](mailto:rich@smartphonemag.com)). We will try to make it easier to become a Windows Mobile power user! ■

## Protect Your Device from Thieves and Curious Onlookers

(Feb 2008)

One of the great advantages of a mobile device is also one of its chief weaknesses. Smartphones and PDAs are small enough to take with you anywhere. Their size also makes it easier to lose them, or have them stolen. You need to take some precautions to protect the data on your device, especially if you're an enterprise user and carry sensitive corporate information. Fortunately, there are a number of third-party software solutions available, allowing you to lock your device with a voice command, wipe it clean remotely if you lose it, and much more.

### Secure your device with your voice

Windows Mobile touch screen devices have password protection built into them, but using the feature can sometimes be challenging. For starters, it can be difficult to enter the password correctly using the on-screen soft keyboard. This is especially true if you have created a "strong alphanumeric" password with letters and numbers, and have to press the ALT key to enter the numbers. But with VoiceSecureIt from VoiceIt Technologies, these problems are solved. VoiceSecureIt requires a "voice print phrase" to gain access to your device. Each time you turn on your device, the pro-

gram's lock screen is displayed (Fig. 1) and a friendly female voice informs you that it is voice-secure enabled. Speak your passphrase and access is granted.



Fig. 1: VoiceSecureIt unlocks your device with your voice passphrase instead of a typed password.

The lock screen also has an Owner Information button that will display your name and a telephone number, a helpful feature that allows someone who finds your device to contact you. If you've caught a cold, or if you are in a noisy environment, VoiceSecureIt allows you to type in an alternate password.

The software is configurable, allowing you to deactivate the female voice that prompts you (making password entry much faster, but less impressive), and deactivating the feature that automatically repeats back your passphrase after you speak it. In addition, you can

have the software automatically prompt you for your password each time you power on the device, and disable Bluetooth until after the proper voice print phrase is spoken.

VoiceSecureIt 2.0 is available for Windows Mobile 5 and 6 devices for \$24.95. A 10-day trial is available at no charge from the VoiceIt Technologies, LLC Web site ([voiceit-tech.com](http://voiceit-tech.com)). The trial software can be sent directly to your phone via SMS or Web download simply by entering in your cell phone number.

### Get more from VoiceSecureIt!

If you want to obtain the trial version of VoiceSecureIt, but don't want to pay your wireless service provider to download the software OTA (over the air), simply follow these steps:

1. Enter your phone number on the VoiceSecureIt trial page and send the SMS to your phone.
2. When the SMS arrives, connect your WM device to your ActiveSync-enabled PC.
3. Open the message and click on the download link. Your device will use the Internet pass-thru feature to download the software using your computer's Internet connection.

### Put your device on lockdown

If you want to add serious security to your Windows Mobile device quickly and easily, look no further than Warden Security from Corsoft Corporation. This device protection application goes beyond a simple password screen by adding an innovative “remote lock” system that can secure the device and wipe the data even if your device is miles away.

A friendly installation wizard helps you set up a secure password (stronger passwords are longer and include both numbers and characters) and verifies your region, cell phone carrier, mobile phone number, and phone model. The software then registers your phone with the company’s online server and then goes right to work for you, protecting your system.

Warden Security replaces your standard password screen with a new uber-security system (Fig. 2). The system will automatically lock when any one of a half dozen criteria are met, like memory card removal, after a system reset, loss of cellular signal, and more.

My favorite lock screen feature is the button to call the owner. I believe that this feature alone will greatly increase the likelihood that your phone will be returned, since honest users will be able to reach you quickly and easily. The software also includes lock-screen options to call an emergency number, enter your own personal message, and display the date/time.



Fig. 2: The locked screen offers one-touch buttons to call the phone’s owner (you) or an emergency number.

But, believe it or not, the impressive password screen is just the beginning! Warden Security includes wireless features that can be set into motion by visiting a special Web site they’ve created (Fig. 3). If you’ve lost your device, you can remotely lock it. If you fear your device was stolen, you can wipe the data on it as well as any memory card in the device. The Professional Edition version even allows you to remotely encrypt data on a memory card so it won’t be useful if the card is inserted into another device.

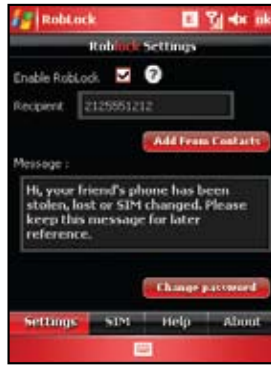


Fig. 3: Lock your device remotely and select options to delete data on the device or memory cards using a special Web site.

Warden Security is the answer to many of the biggest corporate data security problems handheld devices create. With the ability to remote-wipe sensitive data—including information on memory cards—this software is truly innovative. But what I am most impressed by is how well this software has been designed. Installation is easy and intuitive, the configuration process is clear and simple, and using the software is a breeze.

Warden Security is available directly from Corsoft ([lockmymobile.com](http://lockmymobile.com)) for Windows Mobile 5 and 6 devices with a screen width of 240 pixels. The Standard version is priced at \$24.95 and includes all of the capabilities discussed in this review. The Professional version costs \$39.95 and adds the ability to have your device remotely managed by your IT team.

### Send messages to another phone when your SIM card is changed

If your GSM phone is stolen, there’s a good chance that the thief won’t want to receive your phone calls anymore. So, the first thing the thief would do is change the SIM card (a tiny card inserted into the phone to tell the cellular network which calls should be routed to this mobile phone). When this happens, you can catch the thief red-handed if you installed RobLock from Dexterous Infoway Pvt Ltd.

When you launch the software for the first time, it records the unique ID number of your SIM card and allows you to register additional SIM cards (useful if you have business and personal SIMs, or if you share the phone with other family members who insert their own SIM card when they use your phone). Then, you load the application and enter someone else’s cell phone number (like your spouse or boss). When RobLock detects that an unauthorized SIM card has been inserted, it sends a text message to the cell phone that you entered during setup (Fig. 4). This message shows you the thief’s new phone number, and allows you to send text messages back to the phone to perform remote control functions.



Fig. 4: RobLock stores an emergency number that it will automatically text message when your SIM card is changed without your permission.

Perhaps the most innovative remote control feature of RobLock is the ability to send a command to the software to wirelessly retrieve your list of Contacts. This is incredibly useful if you don’t sync very often and your Windows Mobile device is your primary phone book. RobLock will respond by sending your entire phone book via SMS to the phone number you specify. And, once you’ve retrieved the information from your phone, you can send a special command to RobLock to delete specific things like contacts, text messages, e-mails, photos, or videos, or delete all of them at once with a single command.

RobLock is available for phone-enabled touch screen devices running Windows Mobile 5 and 6. The software is available for the very reasonable price of \$9.95, and a 3-day trial version of the software is also available on their Web site ([dexmobile.com](http://dexmobile.com)). ■

### Get More theft detection software for older devices!

Another SIM switching detection application is PhoneBAK from BAK2u Pte Ltd. Like RobLock, the software stores a list of all the SIM cards that you authorize to be used in your phone and asks you to enter numbers to be notified in case an unrecognized SIM card is inserted. Although it doesn’t have the remote information retrieval or deletion features of RobLock, it is available for Windows Mobile 2003/2003 Second Edition devices, as well as Windows Mobile 5 and 6 phones. It’s priced at \$24.95 and is available from the BAK2u Web site ([bak2u.com](http://bak2u.com)).



## Dashwire—Manage and Customize Your Windows Mobile Device via the Internet

(Dec 2007)

It's nice to have your personal information with you wherever you go, but there are some things that are easier to do on a PC. Whether you're working with contacts, viewing photos, or configuring your mobile device, tapping the screen and pressing small buttons can be a time-consuming drag.

Enter Dashwire, a new online service that creates a mirror image of the data and files on your Windows Mobile device, and allows you to interact with it using the Web browser on your PC. Text messages, your contact list, call logs, and even photos and videos stored on your phone are all available from your PC's Web browser (Fig. 1). Best of all, you don't even have to connect your mobile phone to your PC!



Fig. 1: Dashwire allows you to access critical information on your Windows Mobile phone, (like text messages, contacts, calls, and digital photos) through an intuitive Web-based interface.

### How it works

Dashwire works OTA (Over the Air) using your phone's wireless data plan (the same type of technology that allows you to surf the Web wirelessly). You install a small application on the Windows Mobile device, which connects to the Dashwire Web service and provides a "gateway" to all of your information. After you install the software, it makes an online backup of your contacts, photos, music, and videos, which would be invaluable if your device is ever stolen or misplaced.

Once the data is uploaded, you can view any of the items from your PC's Web browser, and any changes you make to the Web version will be copied back down to your mobile phone. This is a huge advantage for updating your contact information or other typing-intensive tasks. It also makes data synchronization faster because you don't have to wait for an entire sync to complete—you can simply make the edit to the information in the Web version and Dashwire syncs it with your phone.

### Taking communication to the next level

While wireless synchronization is a great feature, Dashwire doesn't stop there. Text messages received on your device are displayed on the "My Dashwire" page on your PC, and you can read, reply to (Fig. 2), delete, or forward them. This is great if you've left your phone in your car and want to be kept up to date on the wireless messages you receive.

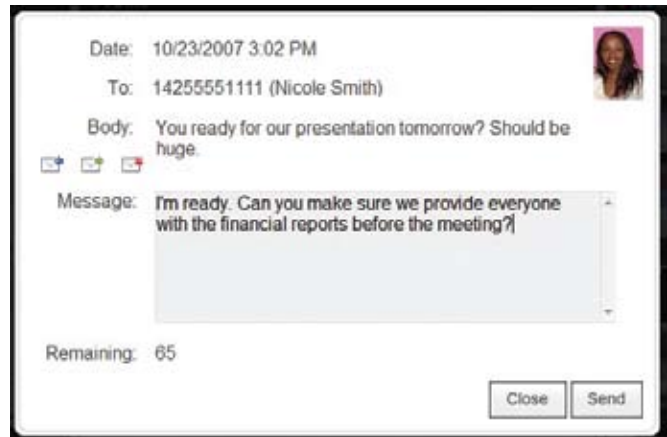


Fig. 2: Responding to a text message is fast and easy with the integrated SMS service.

In addition, your My Dashwire page features a call log which shows missed, dialed, and received calls. (In the near future, they will be adding the ability to listen to voice mail.) Although you cannot return phone calls from Dashwire's Web-based interface, there is a button to send a text message to people who have called you. It's a nice way to say "Sorry I missed your call" and continue the conversation with text messages using the Dashwire service.

Finally, you can create or change the speed dial buttons on your phone using Dashwire's Speed Dials pane. Clicking on any speed dial button brings up a data entry screen to enter a person's name and phone number. When you click Save, the new information will be copied down to your phone's speed dial pad.

### Making photo and video sharing fun and easy

When you install the Dashwire software on your mobile device, all of your photos and videos are copied to the Dashwire Web server. Once they've been uploaded, you can view them on your PC by double-clicking their thumbnail preview; the pictures can then be rotated with a second click of the mouse, which is easier than rotating them using the Pictures & Videos application in Windows Mobile.

While viewing any picture or video, you can e-mail it to a friend with a single mouse click. Your friend will receive a message with a thumbnail, and a link will take them to the Dashwire Web site to view the full-sized image. There they can comment on and rate the item (Fig. 3). To achieve the same effect before Dashwire, a user would have to synchronize the photo file to their PC, upload the photo to their personal Web site, create a Web page for it, and e-mail their friend or deal with all the hassles of trying to send e-mail with large file attachments that bounce back or end up in the junk mail folder. So it's easy to see one of the big advantages that using Dashwire on your Windows Mobile device provides.

Fig. 3: Friends can view your photos on the Dashwire Web site, rate them, and enter comments.



If you would like to share photos and videos, you can use the “shared page” option on Dashwire. Similar to a photo blog, this feature allows you to share your multimedia content with others, without having to send it as an e-mail attachment. Simply direct friends to your Dashwire Web page ([http://dashwire.com/\[YOUR USERNAME\]](http://dashwire.com/[YOUR USERNAME])).

Other Dashwire users can browse to your shared page, or you can use the Web site’s privacy settings to make the shared page viewable to yourself and selected friends. You can also choose whether you’d like all multimedia on your device to be displayed on your shared page, or just specific images and videos.

## Customizing your device

Although communications management is helpful and multimedia sharing is fun, Dashwire also allows you to change your phone’s ringtone and theme from your desktop. Although it doesn’t copy the ringtones or themes to the Dashwire server, you can change the default ringtone and Today screen theme on your Windows Mobile device. The Ringtone selection pane (Fig. 4) allows you to scroll through the list of audio files on your device, click Play (which actually plays the audio file on your phone, not on your PC), and select one to be used as the ringtone. Dashwire will change the setting on your mobile device without you ever having to lift a stylus!

Another customizing feature currently under development is the ability to change themes, as you can already do with ringtones. Dashwire even has plans to offer custom content for your device, which you can purchase and download directly from the Dashwire Web site and download directly to your device over the air. The company has a lot planned in this arena, and interested users should keep their eye on the Dashwire Web site ([dashwire.com](http://dashwire.com)) for more information.

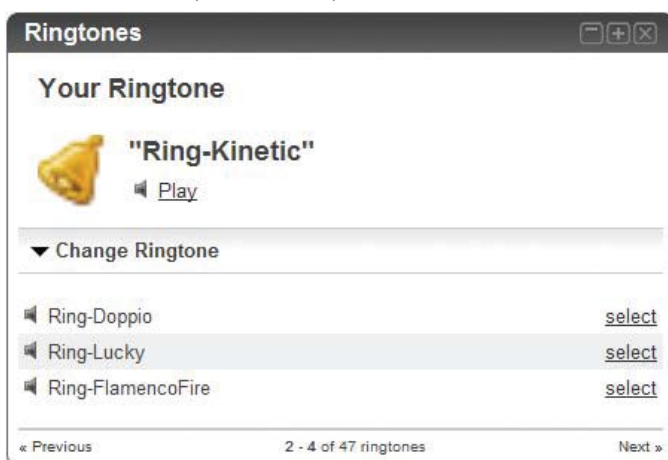


Fig. 4: The Ringtones option on the Dashwire Web site allows you to change the ringtone on your device without you touching it.

Even the My Dashboard page is completely customizable. Designed in the Web 2.0 format, you can drag and drop any of the components around to suit your needs. Each item on the page can also be minimized or expanded; for example, once you’ve set up your Speed Dial list, you

can minimize it so it’s out of the way. You can set up Dashwire to only display the features you want to use the most, or display all of them at once, on one big Web page.

## Get started with Dashwire

The Dashwire client software is approximately 600 KB and is available for Windows Mobile 5 and Windows Mobile 6 devices. The software is available at no charge and there are no monthly fees. Using Dashwire does require that you have a data plan with your cellular service provider. Because of the large amounts of data being transferred, you should probably get an unlimited data plan. Otherwise, you would be charged by the amount of data that is wirelessly transferred, and this could result in a considerably high fee.

### Dashwire can be obtained with a few easy steps:

- 1) Visit [dashwire.com](http://dashwire.com).
- 2) Click the “Try It!” button and enter your e-mail, mobile phone number, country, and phone model.
- 3) A text message will be sent to your device, containing a link to the software. Click on the link and follow the on-screen instructions to finish the installation.

After the installation, Dashwire will begin copying your information to their Web service. Smaller data files—including your contacts, call records, bookmarks, and text messages—will show up on your Dashwire page of your PC quickly. Larger data files—videos, photos, and Exchange server data—will take considerably longer. ■

## GET MORE FROM DASHWIRE!

Although it doesn’t really fit into any of the aforementioned categories, Dashwire also synchronizes your Internet Explorer Mobile Favorites. On your My Dashboard page, you will see a list of Web sites synchronized from your device and can click any of the hyperlinks to go to that Web page. The perfect usage scenario for this feature is to quickly jot down a URL into your mobile device that you see while on the go. Later, when you return to your desktop PC, the hyperlink will appear on your My Dashboard page and you can simply click it to visit it. On the other hand, users might want to enter longer URLs for mobile-friendly Web sites into the My Dashboard page so they’ll be copied down to their device without having to enter them using the phone keypad or on-screen keyboard.



## Get More from GPS by Sharing Your Location with Family and Friends

(October 2007)

**A** GPS receiver is a small device that can pinpoint your location almost anywhere on Earth via signals received from the U.S. Global Positioning System satellites. Some Windows Mobile devices have GPS receivers built into them. If yours doesn't, one can be added to it via an inexpensive accessory.

This article looks at a number of location-aware applications with "social" features that let your family and friends see your location and interact with you while you're on-the-go. For each of these applications, you'll need a "live" connection to the Internet via phone (get an unlimited data plan) or Wi-Fi hotspot.

### SportsDo: Share more than just exercise information

SportsDo from SportsDo LTD is the best example I've seen of the power of location-based applications. It's an exercise monitor that tracks your every move using GPS signals and converts this into useful information (Fig. 1), including the number of calories you've burned and distance traveled for exercise and diet purposes. You can select which specific activity you're partaking in (like jogging, biking, or skiing) and create custom screens (Fig. 2) that only display the minimal information required for that specific exercise.



Figs. 1 & 2: SportsDo uses GPS signals to translate your activity levels during sports into useful information like distance and calories burned (left) or offers a simpler screen with sport-specific information (right).

After you've finished your activity, you can upload the log to the SportsDo Web site. If your SportsDo account is set as "Public," other members can see the activities that you've participated in. If your account is "Private," then only the users that you invite (your "Buddies") can see your activities. The software also has the ability to display your current location, with the same public or private security features.

The SportsDo team also offers Web tools to help you integrate your SportsDo data into your personal Web site or blog. The embeddable map feature allows you to add a satellite, street, or hybrid map simply by pasting a piece of HTML code into any Web page. The company also launched an innovative RSS feed that publishes all activities on the site or lets you publish your own activities.

### Get More from the SportsDo RSS Feed!

The SportsDo RSS feed is an interactive list of all the activities recorded by SportsDo products around the world. By adding tags at the end of the RSS feed, you can customize the information that is displayed within the feed. The main URL for the RSS feed is [sportsdo.net/RssFeed.aspx](http://sportsdo.net/RssFeed.aspx) but, for example, if you only want to pull down "running activities" you can do so by entering [sportsdo.net/RssFeed.aspx?activity=Run](http://sportsdo.net/RssFeed.aspx?activity=Run) into your RSS reader.

The SportsDo Buddy feature provides a list of your friends who are currently logged into the SportsDo service with their Windows Mobile devices. This screen includes the direction (e.g. SW) and their distance (in miles or kilometers) from your current location. Your buddies who do not have the SportsDo or cannot access the SportsDo Web site can also receive your location by SMS text message at predefined intervals. You can also get "location packs" that contain Points of Interest for more than 65 ski resorts around the world.

Finally, any pictures that you take with your Windows Mobile device using SportsDo are automatically geo-coded so that the location of the photograph is saved in your SportsDo activity log.

SportsDo is packed with features and doesn't come cheap. The software alone is \$94.95 and a Silver Subscription is \$10 per month or \$100 per year. The subscription allows you to see all of your past activities online (instead of just the last ten), as well as granting you access to the My Buddies feature. Also, if you let your subscription lapse, then sign up again, your activities will be restored on the Web site. The Location Packs (for dozens of ski resorts worldwide) are available from \$5.95 to \$9.95 each. Finally, the company is also working on [TrackMe.com](http://TrackMe.com), which they describe as "a location broker for social networks and online media sites."

### GpsGate: Share your GPS data with other applications and your location with anyone

If you plan on running multiple GPS applications at one time and want to share your location information, you might want to take a look at GpsGate from Franson Technology AB ([franson.com](http://franson.com)). The software was originally designed to share location information available from your GPS receiver with multiple programs. So, for example, you could use the program to share info with a turn by turn mapping program and software that uses your current location to display nearby points of interest. But, earlier this year, Franson Technology launched an update that allowed users to share their current location (Fig. 3) with "buddies" invited to the Web site. The on-device software application has a no-frills interface, and you need to manually set up the connection to [GpsGate.com](http://GpsGate.com) in order to begin sharing your location. (Complete information on how to do this is available at [franson.com/gpsgate](http://franson.com/gpsgate).) However, what the software lacks in polish, it more than makes up for in stability. The application ran well in the background and seamlessly connected to my Bluetooth GPS system without any tinkering. GpsGate periodically transmits your location to the Web server (you set the time period), or whenever you've moved

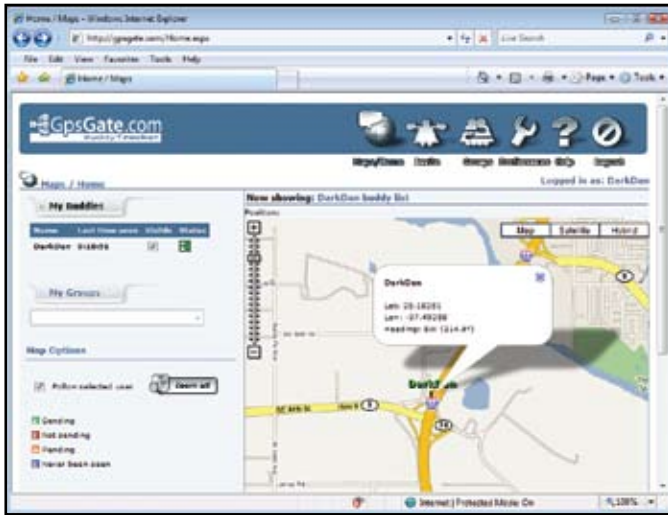


Fig. 3: The GpsGate.com Web site allows authorized people to view your current location and heading overlaid on a Google Map.

a specific distance from your last location (which you can designate in feet, yards, or miles).

GpsGate Standard has a 14-day trial version or is available to purchase for \$29.95 ([franson.com/gpsgate](http://franson.com/gpsgate)). The Standard version supports an unlimited number of applications to connect to the GPS, while an “express” version is available for \$9.95, which only allows you to connect two applications at once and does not allow you to send your location information to the GpsGate Web site.

## Get More from GpsGate!

When you create an account on [GpsGate.com](http://GpsGate.com), you will have the ability to create public or private “groups.” These groups are perfect for gathering people with the same interests. For example, you might make one group for your cross-country running team and another for your private pilot’s club. Now, on one easy Web site, you can track the location of all of your teammates.

## Navizon: Location detection and sharing with or without GPS hardware

Navizon started out as a Wi-Fi location service that would pinpoint your location using the names or “SSIDs” (service set identifiers) of wireless networks in your area. Based on the assumption that other users with GPS had previously “mapped” the area, it could create a reasonably accurate estimate of your location. With version 3.0, Navizon supports on-device mapping of your own location (Fig. 4) and your buddies.

Fig. 4: Navizon can pinpoint your location using GPS or Wi-Fi data.

Like the other applications, Navizon allows your friends and family to track you using a Web browser or on their Windows Mobile device. When viewing Buddies on the mobile device, Navizon features one-touch menu items to display their location on the map or call their phone. The software supports groups, so that you can easily manage several different sets of users and also includes a feature called Geotags.



Geotags are the 21st century equivalent of a thumbtack on a paper map. As you travel, you can mark any location with a Geotag and add a description, keywords, and even a related Web address. Once you’ve created Geotags (or downloaded a list of Geotags from the Navizon server), you can program Navizon to alert you as you approach each Geotag with a pop-up message, an alarm, or completely disable the feature so that you do not receive Geotag notifications. You can also review your entire list of Geotags and display one on the map, even if you are nowhere near the location. Geotags also appear on the Navizon Web site, where you can choose between viewing all members Geotags, or display a map with only Geotags you have created.

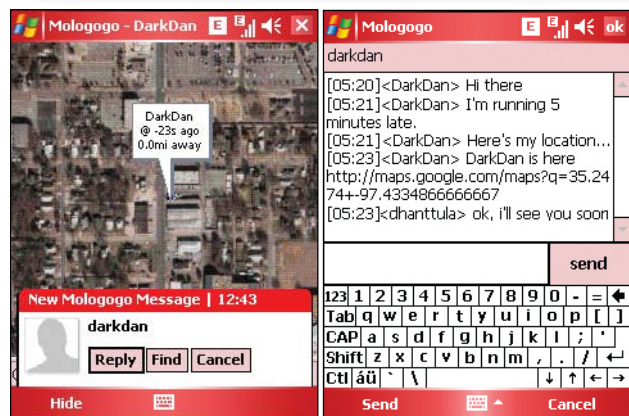
Navizon also includes a unique point of interest search feature. You can select one of four predefined categories (Club, Cinema, Pizza, or Taxi) and click the Search button. Navizon will display the closest businesses in that category and list the exact distance from your location, the company name, and the phone number. Selecting one of the companies and pressing the Menu soft key will give you options to call the location, display it on a map, or add it to your Contacts.

Finally, Navizon includes on-device turn-by-turn directions to any location. By typing in a street address, the software will show you the exact distance, provide an estimated time of arrival, and guide you to your destination using a text list of turn-by-turn directions, or by displaying the route on the map.

Navizon is free, but the Virtual GPS software (which will establish your real-time location if you do not have GPS hardware) is \$24.99. The software is available from [Navizon.com](http://Navizon.com), and a 15-day trial of the Virtual GPS software is included with Navizon.

## Get More from Navizon!

The Navizon software allows you to make Geotags with associated URLs. That means you can become a “virtual tour guide” by creating Geotags and linking to them from your own Web site, or the site of a company at that location. A great example would be to create a Geotag on the top of a mountain and link to a Web site containing photos that you took there, or link to a site with facts about the surrounding area.



Figs. 5 & 6: Mologogo displays your location on a beautiful satellite map (left) and allows you to chat with other users (right) running the software on their Windows Mobile device.

## Mologogo: Chat with friends and help them locate you

One of the most helpful applications is Mologogo, a program that includes an instant messaging application built into the location-finding software. So, once you’ve established your GPS location (Fig. 5) and added a set of buddies who are also running the Mologogo software, you can send them an instant message and include your location (Fig. 6).

The software updates your position on the map in timed intervals that you designate and also updates the Mologogo Web site with your real-time position, indicated with an arrow. Your recent locations (up to 100

“points”) are stored on the Mologogo site, and are also displayed on the map, which can be useful for tracking your direction of travel and where you’ve been. Mologogo also includes a rudimentary address lookup, which centers the on-device map on an address that you enter into the device.

Mologogo is free, but as the Java-based version of the software has seen more development progress than the Windows Mobile Virtual GPS software, it might not see as much future improvement as other applications in this review. Complete information on the application and a download is available at [Mologogo.com](http://Mologogo.com).

## Get More from Mologogo!

The chat feature in Mologogo is the perfect way to notify a friend that you’re going to be late. While you’re chatting, select Send on the Map menu and it will IM your exact location (displayed on a Google Map) to your contact. This way, they can see exactly how far away you are, and estimate your time of arrival.

## imov Messenger: The all-in-one IM application with location-based services

Although Mologogo allows you to chat with others, they too have to be running the Mologogo application. An alternative to this closed IM system is imov Messenger, an application that features an all-in-one IM system that allows you to log into your MSN Messenger, AOL Instant Messenger (AIM), Yahoo Messenger, and ICQ chat accounts. After you log in, imov Messenger attempts to ascertain your position using a GPS fix or by manually entered coordinates. Then, you can share your position with other users of the imov service or allow friends and family to track you on the mov Software locator site (Fig. 7).

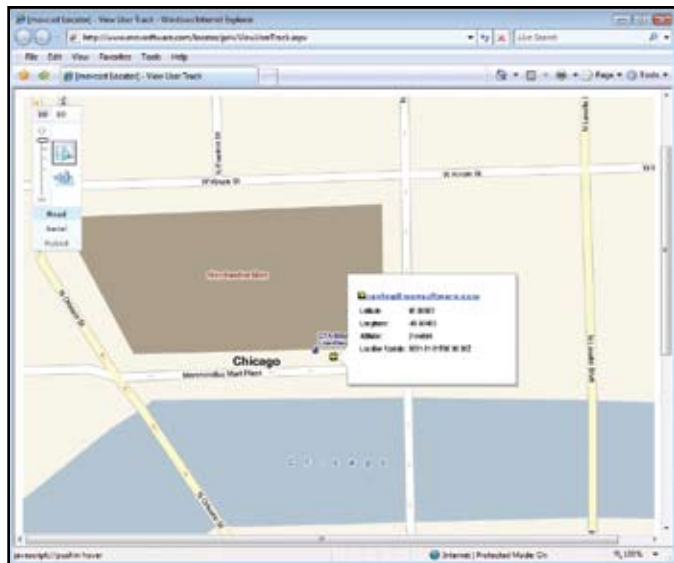


Fig. 7: The mov Software locator pinpoints the location of any user on your buddy list and displays their last reported GPS information including latitude, longitude, and altitude.

Unfortunately, the imov Messenger software launches Pocket Internet Explorer to display the locations of other users, instead of displaying maps and positions embedded in the applications (as nearly all the other software applications in this article do). It also requires PC users to create an account to see your position, so there isn’t a smooth way to quickly “IM” your position to friends on your normal chat lists.

The imov Messenger application is available in Basic (free) and Enterprise (\$19.95) editions. The Basic edition includes the all-in-one chat application, including the ability to send offline instant messages and encrypt your communications. The Enterprise edition adds the location-based services and the ability to chat with multiple users at once. More

information on the application is available at [movsoftware.com](http://movsoftware.com). The Basic edition free download is available at the *Smartphone & Pocket PC Magazine* software store ([smartphonemag.com/swstore](http://smartphonemag.com/swstore)).

## Get More from imov Messenger!

The chat feature in imov is perfect for the “chatty Cathy” user. You can keep all of your favorite Instant Message clients running and broadcast your position to trusted friends and family at the same time. If you run a lot of IM applications at the office, then this is the handheld social location-sharing solution for you!

## Livecontacts: Let others view your location on their Windows Mobile device

Livecontacts sports a super-cool interface with tons of features, but the performance from this application can be quirky. I was consistently disconnected from the service initially, and I experienced problems using it with my Bluetooth GPS in secure mode. Also, the software wasn’t able to map coordinates in the United States because of the negative longitudinal coordinates. However, I was able to fix my GPS connection issues by disabling the Secure Connection mode in Windows Mobile, and the developers released a fix for the longitude bug while I was still writing this article.

Once you get past the technical difficulties, you’ll find an amazing application. The software looks like your standard instant messaging application, and when you tap on a contact, you’ll see options to call, text message, or e-mail that person. But the most impressive feature is that, when you press the Livecontacts icon to the far right of a user on your list, their real-time location is highlighted on a map (Fig. 8).

Fig. 8: Tap on the icon to the far right of each user, and if that person is also using Livecontacts on a GPS-enabled phone, their location is displayed on a map.



Although on-device location finding is one of the most impressive features of Livecontacts, the company is also developing their own MSN Chatbot. By adding [webintegration\\_bot@hotmail.com](mailto:webintegration_bot@hotmail.com) to your MSN Messenger buddy list, you can send an instant message and receive the location of one or all of your Livecontact friends and view and update your settings.

Another exciting feature that is currently being developed is Livespots. This feature allows you to upload photos taken with your Windows Mobile device and “tag” a physical location.

## Get More from Livecontacts!

This application is the perfect software to use while traveling. Your friends and family can find out exactly where you are by visiting the Livecontacts Web site or pinging the Chatbot, and you’ll always have their up-to-date contact information in your Livecontacts address book (if they change their contact information on the Livecontacts Web site, it will automatically update on the Livecontacts application on your handheld). Plus, if you need to meet up with someone during your travels, simply ask them to install Livecontacts, and you can pinpoint their current location and quickly rendezvous!

Livecontacts is available at no-charge for Windows Mobile (as well as Symbian) devices from [Livecontacts.com](http://Livecontacts.com). The site will automatically send the application to your device by entering your phone number, or you can download the .CAB file and install the application manually on your device. Messaging, mapping, and tracking features require that

you (and people who wish to track you) set up an account, at no-cost, on the Livecontacts site. A "lite" version of the software, with the ability to track your friends is also available.

## Pocket CoPilot: Let family and friends see, talk to, and re-route you

The innovator in the area of social-focused location sharing has to be Pocket CoPilot, a turn-by-turn mapping system by ALK Technologies Incorporated ([alk.com](http://alk.com)). In April 2003, the company launched a feature called "CoPilot Live," which allowed drivers to share their vehicle location, send and receive text messages (Fig. 9), and even features the ability for other people to add a destination to the itinerary of the mobile user from an Internet-connected PC anywhere in the world. In the few years since then, ALK has made massive usability improvements on the CoPilot Live features and now they're working on the ability to send your location to your friends and family via SMS or MMS.

Fig. 9: Pocket CoPilot is a turn-by-turn directions application with the ability to receive and respond to text messages within the application.



When you send a message to a mobile user from your computer, you have the ability to enter a list of responses (as shown in the "what do you want to eat for dinner" message in Fig. 9). This gives the person who's driving a multiple choice list of answers which they can select simply (and safely) by tapping once on the screen.

In addition, friends and family whom you invite can log into the CoPilot Live Web site ([live.alk.com](http://live.alk.com)) and view the driver's exact position on a map, along with the destination they are traveling toward and the estimated time at which they will arrive at that location. Another unique feature about Pocket CoPilot is that it lets you create invitations that expire, so if you wish to invite a cousin to view your location for the next seven days while you're visiting their town, you can do so.

The software is available on CD (including street level maps for the entire continental United States) for \$149, or on a 2 GB miniSD card which will automatically install Pocket CoPilot when you insert it into your Windows Mobile device for \$199. I cannot praise ALK enough for the ease of installation using the miniSD solution and the added benefit it offers. More information on Pocket CoPilot is available on the ALK Web site ([alk.com/copilot](http://alk.com/copilot)).

## Navideo sends your location via e-mail or text message

One truly unique application is Navideo by Dr. Günter Guttroff. The software, which looks akin to a control panel on Star Trek (Fig. 10), has a unique "SOS" feature which sends your exact location to the auto repair club of your choice (currently only available in Germany). You can also send your location via text message to any phone or to any e-mail address by adding a friend or family member to the address book.

Unlike many other applications that display maps within the application, Navideo displays locations on a Google map by launching Pocket Internet Explorer. Although this is a detriment for mobile users, it is a benefit for users who receive their location via e-mail or SMS. They can simply click a link and see their exact location, and there's no need for them to register or log into a special Web site.

Navideo includes a number of advanced features, like the ability to auto-respond to location requests from other users, which means you can "ping" friends for their locations and the software will automatically reply with a message containing their coordinates. A special "Tar-

Fig. 10: Navideo combines a space-age GPS control panel with the ability to send your location to anyone via e-mail or text message.



get Finder" screen points the way to their exact location, and even includes distance and altitude information if their location is above or below yours (useful when climbing or descending mountainous terrain).

The application integrates with the TomTom mapping software, so many of the most common functions in Navideo are available from within TomTom, and any location that is sent to you can be converted into turn-by-turn driving directions. In fact, it's even designed to share GPS data with TomTom, so that you can keep both applications open at the same time. Additionally, if your friends are also running Navideo with TomTom, you can send them street addresses, and they'll be able to use it to navigate to that location.

There's also the Navideo Controller, which allows you to remotely manage several mobile units from your computer. It integrates with your Outlook profile to send and receive location information from the handhelds running Navideo. You can forward position information of one handheld user to another, which would be helpful for coordinating emergency teams who may not have time to send out updates to more than one handheld on their own. The desktop software also allows you to view location information in Mapquest, Google Maps, or Google Earth, and the company is working on a browser-based tracking solution that should be available by the time this article hits the newsstand.

The software is available in four versions: Basic, Plus, Pro, and Ultimate. Basic (free) is "handicapped" to be only accurate to within 100 meters of your actual location, only records up to 5 minutes of logs, and includes TomTom compatibility, Online Mapping, and the ability to send location messages to other users via the [navideo.net](http://navideo.net) Messaging service. The Plus version (approximately \$55 U.S.) improves the accuracy to within 10 meters, features logging for an unlimited period of time, and has all of the features discussed in this article. The Pro version (approximately \$410 U.S.) adds the ability to receive locations from "black box" GPS trackers from several companies including San Jose Navigation ([sanav.com](http://sanav.com)), Global Sat ([globalsat.com.tw](http://globalsat.com.tw)), and Innotec ([itdata.de](http://itdata.de)). The Ultimate edition features advanced reporting features including the ability to store any incoming position, which is most useful for police agencies using the "black box" GPS integration.

## Get More from Navideo!

The Navideo logging system includes the ability to tag a trip as "business" or "personal," enter comments, and even note who's driving. That makes this application perfect for creating mileage reports for business travel. Just enter the client or business purpose for the trip and Navideo takes care of the rest.

## VITO FindMe: Automated location information via text message

The newest entry into this category is VITO FindMe. The software adds a scrolling message to the Windows Mobile Today screen (Fig. 11) that alerts anyone who looks at the device that its location can be tracked. The scrolling message reads "VITO FindMe is installed. This phone can be located via SMS," and could provide a great theft deterrent.

Behind the scenes, VITO FindMe has a single setup screen that allows you to create any password you wish. When an SMS is sent to your phone containing the password, it will automatically send a response back containing the GPS coordinates of the phone. Two additional op-

Fig. 11: VITO FindMe is a Today screen plug-in that provides an automatic reply with the device's location.



tions allow you to password-protect the settings menu and to select an e-mail account on the device that will also send the location via e-mail.

VITO FindMe is available for free (by providing your e-mail address to receive an activation code) from VITO Technology ([vitotechnology.com/en/products/findme.html](http://vitotechnology.com/en/products/findme.html)). An unregistered version can be used to locate the phone three times before the device must be soft-reset.

## Get More from VITO FindMe!

Because VITO FindMe has the ability to respond to an SMS without any user interaction, it's a great way to locate your phone if it has been lost or stolen. Simply pick up a friend's handheld and send a text message to your phone with the password. You'll know where to find your phone by following the coordinates.

## Oops, I'm Late: Notify people when you're going to be tardy

Oops I'm Late automatically integrates with your Windows Mobile Calendar and looks up your next appointment. Using complex algorithms and other information you provide for each appointment, the software calculates what time you're likely to arrive at the destination and displays it on-screen (Fig. 12). Then, if the application thinks that you're going to be late, it will send a customized, pre-written message to the person that is waiting for you.

The software uses the Windows Mobile GPS Intermediate Driver (a feature built-in to Windows Mobile 5 and 6), which eases software setup and allows you to share the GPS data with more than one application at a time. However, this created some initial problems in getting the software to detect my Bluetooth GPS unit in Windows Mobile 5. (If you experience any problems, visit the Windows Mobile team's blog entry on this topic at [blogs.msdn.com/windowsmobile/archive/2006/06/07/620387.aspx](http://blogs.msdn.com/windowsmobile/archive/2006/06/07/620387.aspx). My problems were solved through their suggestions).



Fig. 12: Oops I'm Late displays your next appointment along with your distance and arrival time details, and allows you to set up a custom message to be sent to the person that is waiting for you.

## Get More from Oops I'm Late!

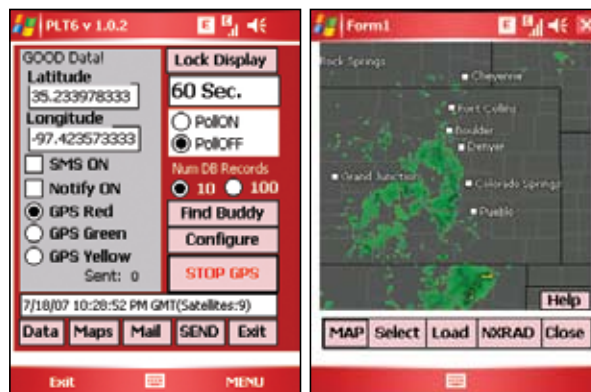
You can customize the message that's sent out to your contacts to include special fields, like the song that you're listening to, or how many missed calls are on your phone. The "internal field" that uses Oops I'm Late data is %ETA%, which sends the user your estimated time of arrival. In addition, you can display any of more than 150 Windows Mobile system fields. Simply add the field name (the complete list is available at [msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/library/microsoft.windowsmobile.status.systemproperty.aspx](http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/library/microsoft.windowsmobile.status.systemproperty.aspx)) inside this text: %SYSPROP<fieldname>%. For example, %SYSPROPTasksActive% will display the number of active tasks on your Windows Mobile devices.

Oops I'm Late requires the latest version of the .NET Compact Framework 2.0 and is available in three versions: Economy (\$34.99), Standard (\$69.99), and Professional (\$99.99). The Professional edition adds the ability to set a "default contact" who will receive a copy of all messages (such as a secretary) and the added option of being able to

e-mail messages instead of sending a text message. A 3-day trial version of Oops I'm Late Standard edition is available at [oopsimlate.com](http://oopsimlate.com).

## Perdiemco Location & Tracking: For GPS aficionados

If you're comfortable with more advanced applications, you might be interested in Perdiemco Location & Tracking. The application tracks your position on a feature-packed main screen (Fig. 13) and offers mainstream features like buddy tracking and sending your location via e-mail or text message. PLT also has a number of unique and exciting features, including location-based satellite weather maps (Fig. 14) and the ability to remotely activate and deactivate GPS tracking.



Figs. 13 & 14: Perdiemco Location & Tracking has a very complex main screen (left) but offers unique features like location-based satellite weather maps (right).

PLT starts out like most other applications. After completing setup, the system acquires your location from the GPS hardware and reports it to the Perdiemco Web site at pre-defined intervals. You can send your location to any cellular phone or e-mail in your Contacts application. PLT also allows you to see the location of your buddies or a group of PLT users, but unfortunately, you must use Pocket Internet Explorer and manually enter a device ID and PIN code into a Web form before you can see them. Desktop users can also see your location on a map by entering the same two fields.

Once you get past the basic location sharing services, you'll find a few pleasant surprises that make this application truly worth trying. Weather maps including satellite weather, rain in the past hour, total rain, and relative motion maps can be displayed within the application. Creating a "Geo-fence" allows you to draw a line on a map, and trigger an alert when the device crosses that line. Finally, various features within the PLT software can be remotely activated and deactivated by sending an SMS to the device along with your device's secret PIN code. For example, you can remotely turn on the GPS connection, activate real-time tracking, and disable the geo-fence monitor all via text messages.

PLT is available for no charge from [perdiemco.com](http://perdiemco.com) and the company is constantly adding new features. To check in on the latest software advancements added to the PLT application, visit [perdiem.typepad.com](http://perdiem.typepad.com).

## Get More from Perdiemco Location & Tracking!

The PLT application has one feature that none of the other software applications offer: geo-fencing. That is, you can set a perimeter and receive a notification when the user crosses that border. This, combined with the ability to remotely activate and deactivate GPS tracking, makes PLT perfect for helping to keep an eye on an elderly family member or notifying your friends when you get close to the bar where everyone is meeting up.