

SPECIAL REPORT Smartphone INSIDER:

Smartphone Insider provides the inside scoop on today's hottest smartphones, including strengths and weaknesses, problems and solutions, user feedback, news, and tips & tricks.

by Dan Hart & David Seagull

Palm Treo 700w/wx and 750

The introduction of the Treo 700w in January of 2006 marked Palm's first release of a Windows Mobile device. With it Palm included a customized Today screen that improved the usability of Microsoft's Windows Mobile 5 OS. Users now had the freedom of using a Pocket PC Phone Edition device that was optimized for one-handed operation. Frequently-done tasks such as searching Contacts or the Web could be performed quickly with the QWERTY thumb keyboard rather than having to navigate through menus using the touch-screen and stylus. In September 2006, Palm released the Treo 700wx, an updated version of the 700w that had an increase of 32 MB of RAM. January 2007 saw the release of the Treo 750, a GSM world phone version with a lighter, redesigned body and a softer feel. The 700wx is currently available from both Verizon and Sprint, while the 750 is available from AT&T. Unlocked versions of the 750 are available online from onthegolutions.com, simoncells.com, and other vendors.

Neither the 700w/wx nor the 750 have Wi-Fi capability. However, Wi-Fi cards can be purchased online.

Strengths

- Pocket PC Phone Edition device with an enhanced Today screen optimized for one-handed operation, including search windows that make it easy to find contacts and Web sites. Also offers hot key and speed dial functions.
- Added built-in phone features, including ability to immediately respond to a phone call with a text message and an automatic new Contact query if you receive a call from a non-Contact phone number.
- QWERTY keyboard for easy texting.
- Includes Microsoft Office Suite with Word, Excel, and PowerPoint Mobile.
- The 700w/wx runs on the EV-DO wireless broadband Internet network; the 750 runs on the 3G/UMTS networks world wide.

Weaknesses

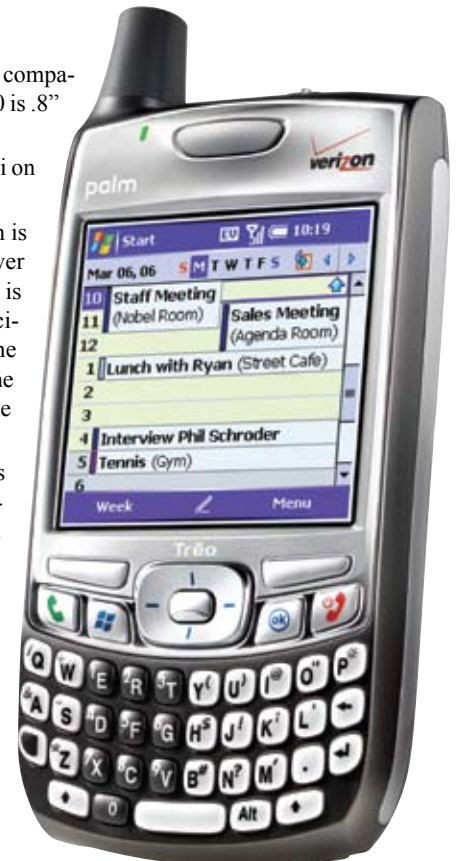
- Small screen with low resolution and slightly washed-out colors (2.5" diagonal, 240 x 240).
- The 700w/wx is relatively thick (.9")

and heavier (6.4 oz) than comparable Phone Editions (750 is .8" thick and 5.4 oz.).

- No integrated Wi-Fi on either device.
- The phone function is turned off when the power button on the keyboard is held down. It can be accidentally pressed when the device is held against the ear, causing the call to be dropped.
- The 700w/wx has no A2DP support for wireless music streaming to a Bluetooth headset (750 has A2DP support).

Limitations & Solutions

- With an actual viewing area of 1.75 x 1.75 inches, it's not hard to see why screen space is at a premium on the



700w

Treo 700 series. To help optimize the space, you can change a few of the settings. To help reduce the amount of scrolling required to navigate through e-mails and contacts, you can reduce the system text size by going to Start >Settings >System tab >Screen and tapping on the Text Size tab. Some users have also found that enabling the "ClearType" option (in the ClearType tab) helps the readability of the text. While browsing the Web, be sure to use the Full Screen option in Menu >View. This will add a half-



700wx

750

inch of vertical viewing space by hiding the menu, task, and address bars (simply press one of the soft keys and they will reappear). Also keep in mind that the Treo has the ability to scroll through and highlight links in any direction and open links with the D-pad and center button, so there is no need to use the stylus or scroll bars.

- Neither the 700w/wx nor the 750 have Wi-Fi capability. However, Wi-Fi cards can be purchased from various online vendors, including expansys-usa.com and shop.treonauts.com. The 700w/wx requires an SD card, while the 750 needs a miniSD card.

Tips & Tricks

- Minimize the currently open application and return to the Today screen by holding down the green Call button.
- Open the Task Manager to close any open application by holding down the OK button (or pressing Option + OK).
- Open the Search window by pressing Option + Left Shift.
- Open Calendar by pressing Option + Start menu.
- To open a program-specific menu in any program, press and hold down the center navigational button (this may not be available in some programs).
- Lock the keys and touchscreen by pressing Option + the red End call button. (Press End call and then the center button on the D-pad to unlock.)
- To respond to an e-mail with a phone call, press the green Call key when the e-mail is highlighted, and then press it again to verify the number and make the call.
- To toggle between accounts in Messaging, press left or right on the D-pad.
- Add more space to the Today screen by hiding the Lookup Field: go to Menu > Preferences > Hide Lookup Field. When set to hide, typing

any letter will cause the Lookup Field to be displayed. When you are finished typing, it hides itself again.

- To adjust camera settings in Camera, press right on the D-pad to increase or left to decrease the brightness. Press up on the D-pad to zoom in (2x) and down to return to normal view.

- To adjust the screen brightness, press Option + P.

Internet Explorer

- Access the address bar by pressing Option + Call button.
- To scroll the page up or down while skipping the links, press Option + up or down on the D-pad.
- To jump to the page bottom, press Option + right on the D-pad.
- To jump to the page top, press Option + left on the D-pad.

Odds & Ends

- Palm is offering a free Windows Mobile 6 upgrade for the Treo 750 (which can be downloaded at palm.com/us/support/downloads/treo750update/att.html).

- The download also includes a free upgrade that allows the 750 to work on an HSDPA network. HSDPA, the successor to the 3G/UMTS network, promises data speeds between 400-700 kbps.

- For more advanced users, a thread at TreoCentral (discussion.treocentral.com/showthread.php?t=139355) has a number of very useful hacks to enable extra functionality. This includes enabling the HSDPA radio, adding a CTRL key, and using the volume keys as scroll buttons. Before applying any of these hacks, however, make sure to do the appropriate research as to the potential side effects.

- Numerous online vendors sell cases and accessories for the Treo. Sites with a Treo-specific focus are: shop.treonauts.com, store.everythingtreo.com, store.treocentral.com, and treotiger.com. ■