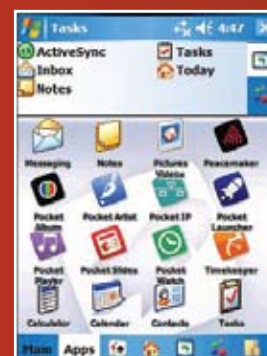
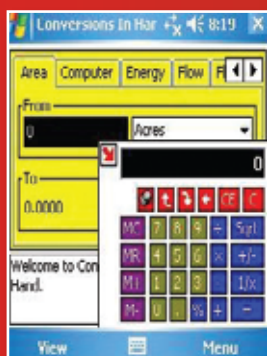
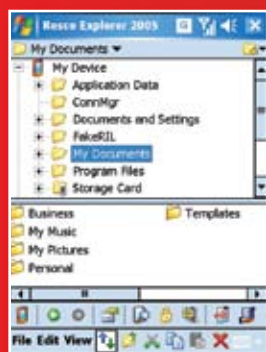


For **WINDOWS MOBILE** Users **SmartphoneMag.com**
SMARTPHONE
Stay Connected, Have Fun, Work Smart **& Pocket PC**
M A G A Z I N E

SPECIAL REPORT

Utilities



My **5** FAVORITE Windows Mobile UTILITIES

by **Clinton Fitch**
MVP-Mobile Devices

Over the past several years of writing software reviews for various Web sites and publications, I've discovered a handful of "must-have" utility applications. These applications have a wide range of uses, but the bottom line is that they either enhance the features of your device, make it easier to use, or make it safer. In some cases, they do all three! While these five programs are in no way exhaustive of the countless number of utilities available, they are the ones that I personally use and would recommend to any Windows Mobile user.

Spb Backup

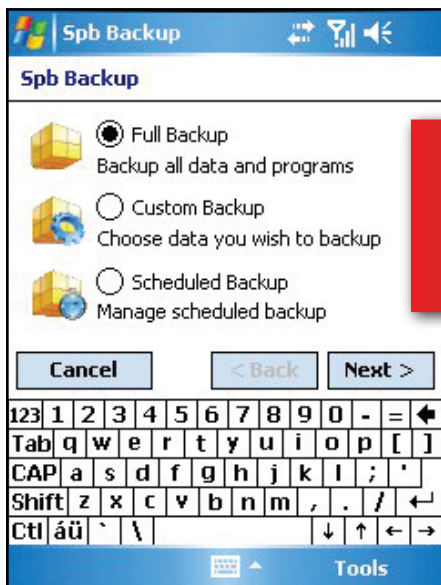
Backing up your data is one of the least glamorous activities you can perform—but also one of the most important. A backup lets you quickly recover from the loss or destruction of your device or a hard reset, allowing you to quickly restore vital contacts, appointments, etc. In addition, it's good to have a current backup on hand when you install new software on your device. That way, if the application misbehaves, you can easily restore the device.

All Windows Mobile devices come with ActiveSync, which lets you keep Contacts, Calendar, Tasks, and your e-mail synchronized with your desktop PC. In addition, most devices come with a basic backup utility built into the device, allowing you to save a complete system backup to a storage card. If your device does not have this utility, or if you want a more feature-rich solution, you should check out Spb Backup from Spb Software House.

Spb Backup was a finalist in past *Smartphone & Pocket PC* magazine Best Software Awards. Once installed on your Pocket PC, it allows you to create a complete backup of your device—which can include the information on your storage card(s)—and save it to any folder on your device, including folders on your storage card. These backup files can be compressed to reduce file size and encrypted to protect the information. The backups are actually executable files. To restore your device, simply find the backup file using File Explorer and tap on it. It will restore your device, even if Spb Backup was deleted because of a hard reset.

Many people are just too busy and often forget to back up their device. The most useful feature found on this program is Schedule Backup, which allows you to back up your device automatically, at specified intervals. I set mine to backup every Friday morning at 6:00 AM, a time when I know I won't be using my device and it is connected to its dock on external power. (Spb Backup will back up on battery power

Spb Backup offers enhanced backup capabilities to Pocket PCs.



Clinton Fitch is the owner and Senior Editor of Clinton Fitch (Dot) Com! (clintonfitch.com) and HPC:Factor (hpcfactor.com). He has been involved in the Windows Mobile community since 1999 and has written nearly 100 reviews during that time. By day, Clinton is a Voice Over IP Call Center engineer and lives in the Dallas, Texas area with his wife and two teenage children. He can be reached via e-mail at management@clintonfitch.com or Clinton@hpcfactor.com



but recommends that you have it on external power.)

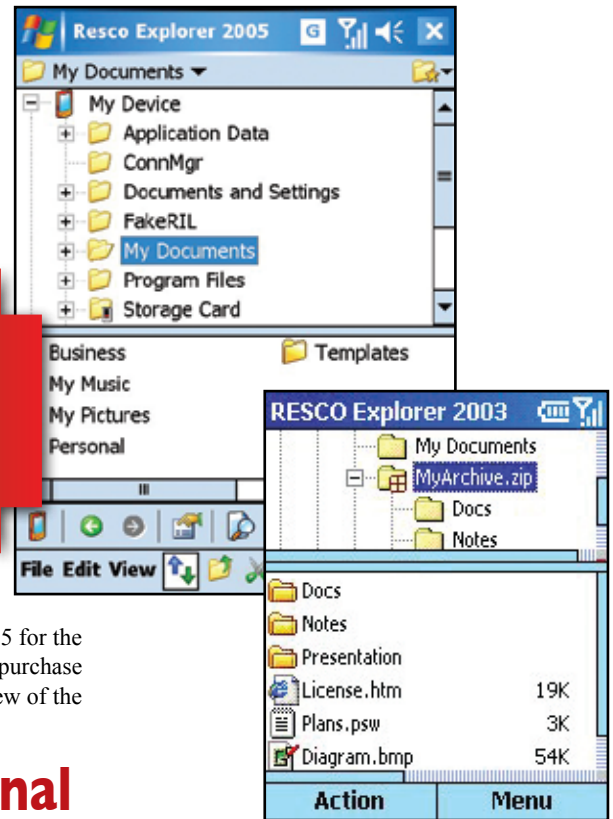
Spb Backup is available for \$19.95 from Spb Soft Warehouse (spbsoftwarehouse.com) and through other online retailers. For more information, visit the Spb Soft Warehouse Web site. You can read a full review on my Web site (clintonfitch.com).

Resco Explorer 2005

Every touch screen device has File Explorer built into it, and most non-touch screen smartphones have File Manager. These programs allow you to browse the file folders on your device, copy and delete folders, and more. Unfortunately, these are pretty basic programs that, at times, can be challenging to use. If you want a more feature-rich program, check out the winner of the File Management category in the 2007 *Smartphone & Pocket PC* magazine Best Software Awards—Resco Explorer 2005.

Explorer 2005 is the closest thing to the PC version of File Explorer available. You can display file properties, run program files, show hidden files, and more. It comes with a series of “add-ins” that let you zip and unzip archive files, browse and download files from FTP sites, edit your system Registry, and more. And because Resco Explorer 2005 is Windows Mobile 5 compliant, users of those devices can use the soft keys to navigate quickly and easily through the impressively functional menus.

Resco Explorer 2005 is \$24.95 for the Pocket PC (touch screen) version and \$19.95 for the non-touch screen smartphone version (Resco Explorer 2007 is now available). You can purchase it or find out more about it on the Resco Web site (resco.net). You can read a full review of the Pocket PC version of the program on my Web site (clintonfitch.com).



SOTI Pocket Controller-Professional

One of the key elements in the many software reviews I’ve written is the screenshot—a graphic displaying what the screen looks like when you run software, access a menu, etc. There are a number of screen capture utilities available for Windows Mobile, but none are as easy to use as Pocket Controller-Professional from SOTI.

To use Pocket Controller, the PC and Windows Mobile device must be connected via ActiveSync. After you’ve installed the program on both your PC and Windows Mobile device, launch the program from your PC and an image of the device screen appears on your PC’s desktop. You can not only save a screenshot of the device’s current display, you can completely control it from your desktop PC, opening programs, checking Contacts, and more.

In addition to the remote control and screenshot functionality, Pocket Controller allows you to create videos of a succession of screens. You could use this feature, for example, to create a short training video showing a new Pocket PC user how to set up the device, configure a connection, or just about anything else. You can also skin the device image displayed on your PC’s desktop to match the Windows Mobile device you are using. Finally, Pocket Controller offers a complement of system tools that allow you to display memory and CPU usage, view the processes running on your device, explore the files and folders on your device, and more.

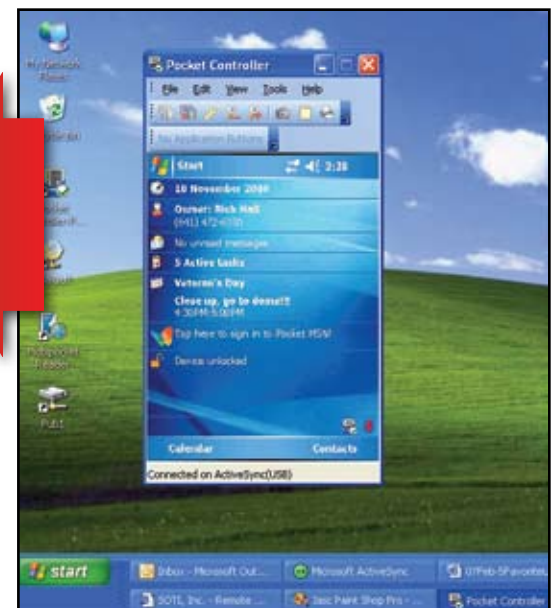
Because Pocket Controller allows you to use your PC’s keyboard and mouse to control your device, it is a great application for Windows Mobile users who spend a lot of time at a desktop PC.

SOTI Pocket Controller-Professional is priced at \$35.95 and works with touch screen or non-touch screen smartphones. For more information, visit the SOTI Web site (soti.net). My more detailed review of this product is available in the June/July 2006 issue of *Smartphone & Pocket PC* magazine (pocketpcmag.com/_archives/jun06).

Cambridge Computer’s vxUtil

I am a systems engineer responsible for computer networks at work, at my church, and at home. To keep them up and running, I need to be able to interact with any one of these networks wherever I am. In addition to my Pocket PC, the most vital tool on my virtual belt is vxUtil from Cambridge Computer.

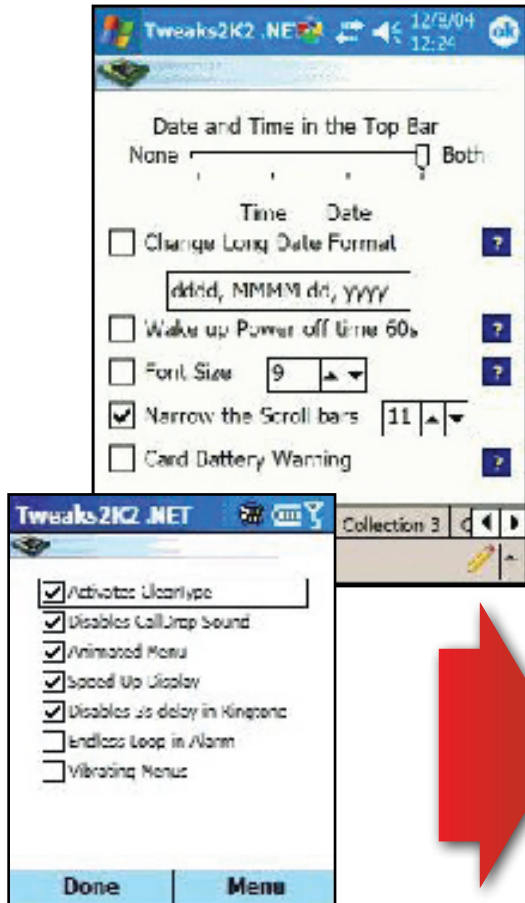
The vxUtil program is 15 tools in one, allowing you to ping IP addresses, resolve



Resco Explorer is an enhanced file explorer for Windows Mobile devices.

Pocket Controller-Professional is a great program for capturing screen shots and controlling your Windows Mobile device through your desktop PC.

SPECIAL REPORT... Utilities



Tweaks2K2.Net lets you make changes to the system Registry of the Pocket PC and Smartphone.

DNS, Trace Routes, do a WHOIS lookup, generate a password and scan open ports, and much more. Also, its built-in subnet calculator lets you plan your network's addressing scheme—big or small.

Even if you're not a systems engineer, vxUtil comes in handy. You can use it to test your device's wireless and GPRS/EDGE connections to verify connectivity and throughput. You can even set your device's clock to absolute time via the built-in Time Server application if you so choose. As you get more comfortable with the application, you will find yourself using it more and more.

The best feature of all is its price: vxUtil is FREE for personal use. You can download it from Cambridge Computer's Web site (cam.com/windowsce.html).

Tweaks2K2.NET

Tweaks2K2.NET is one of my favorite applications because of the sheer amount of things you can do with it. Based on the *Smartphone & Pocket PC* magazine Best Software Awards, I'm not alone in that thought. Tweaks2K2.NET won the "System Tweakers" for the Pocket PC category.

Tweaks2K2.NET is a collection of over 120 Registry "tweaks" for the Pocket PC (touch screen) and about 40 for non-touch screen smartphone. These tweaks let you change your System Font, allow you to connect to a Web site designed for Internet Explorer 6, display ClearType in Landscape mode, and much more. The smartphone version lets you unlock some of the registry keys that are locked by cellular providers, allowing you to change your Wi-Fi settings, your ringer delay, and how your phone accesses your provider's data network. Some of the tweaks in Tweaks2K2.NET only work on certain devices or with certain versions of Windows Mobile. As always, any time you are editing the registry of your device, you should be careful and have a backup. For the \$15.50 price tag (or \$12.99 for the smartphone version), it's worth the investment.

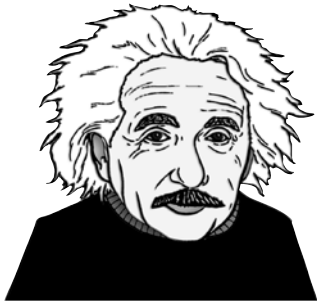
The beauty of Tweaks2K2.NET is that it lets you make these changes without having to edit the Registry code—a tricky process that's easy to mess up, with potentially disastrous results. Tweaks2k2.NET displays setup screens like those shown on the left. You simply check the desired options and it modifies the Registry for you.

For more information or to purchase the program, visit the Tweaks2K2.Net Web site (tweaks2k2.com). You can read full reviews of this program on my Web site (clintonfitch.com).

Over 1,000 utility programs available

My personal favorites are just a few of the many utility programs available for Windows Mobile devices. If you are interested in finding more, over 750 utilities are listed on *Smartphone & Pocket PC* magazine's online Encyclopedia of Software and Accessories (smartphonemag.com/_enc/encyclopedia.asp). For a look at the best of the best, check out the finalists and winners in the Utilities section of our 2007 Best Software Awards (smartphonemag.com/awards/nominees_wandf_2006.asp).

These five utilities are the ones that make my life and work a lot easier. Because our lives are different and because there are so many utilities available, your own list of favorites is most likely different from mine. E-mail Rich Hall (rich@smartphonemag.com) or myself (management@clintonfitch.com) your list of top five utilities. If you have time, write a sentence or two on how each one helps you. We'd love to hear how each of you uses your Windows Mobile device. ■



ASK THE EXPERTS: Best Utilities

Edited by Rich Hall

POCKET PC

CALCULATORS



1-Calc

omegaone.com

1-Calc has a cool display, it's easy to switch between different programs, and it can update currency conversion rates online. This is one of the best calculator programs to have. (Dan Goh) (Also available for Smartphone)

CoolCalc

applianmobile.com

CoolCalc is easy to customize and supports landscape mode. It also provides both complex calculators and simple versions with large buttons for easy operation without the need to use the stylus. I would like to see support for devices with thumb keyboards. (David Shier)

EngCalc(Full) - PocketPC Calculator

3grtech.com/product.asp

This is a fantastic full-fledged engineering calculator with almost every formula required in the engineering world. However, it takes a long time to load. (Dan Goh) It runs slowly, even on my 624 MHz iPAQ. (Ben Stanley)

Math Tablet

statsnow.net

This is a scientific/graphing calculator with an amazing number of features!

The documentation is outstanding as is the in-program context menu help. (Ben Stanley)

MyCalculator

spacetime.com

This free calculator comes with an excellent tutorial. It could be a top notch calculator program if more features were added to it. (Ben Stanley)



Pocket Calculus

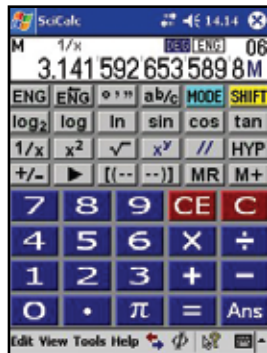
spacetime.com

This is an excellent scientific calculator with a nice GUI and great product support. (Rishad Alam)

RapidCalc

developerone.com

It's a great idea for a calculator, but could use more functionality. (Scott Logsdon)



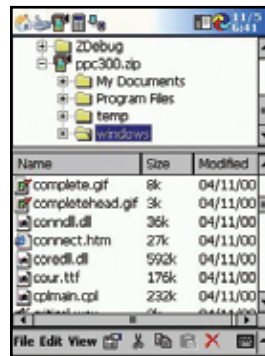
SciCalc

omega.com.pl

It was the only calculator I tested that

had a built-in conversion for MPG to L/100KM. It needs an RPN mode. (David Shier)

FILE MANAGEMENT



PE Explorer Suite

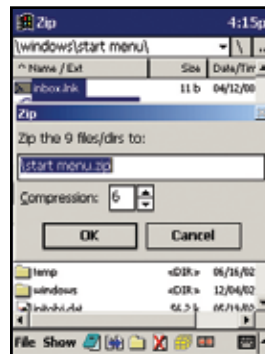
vieka.com

It includes all the capabilities of PE File Explorer, PE Zip Explorer, PE Encrypt, PE Ftp Explorer, and PE Net Explorer. It's extremely slow if ROM files visualization is enabled. (Gianni Carfagno)

ALL-explorer 3.1

all-locations.com

It has good network browser support. (Russ Terrell) The installation process can be difficult and cumbersome. (Jack Cook) (Also available for Smartphone)



Total Commander

ghisler.com/ce.htm

It has the ability to explore hidden and extended ROM, has a LAN/FTP/Reg-

istry browser, and all files are shown by default. (Alex Abraham) (Also available for Smartphone)

PPXplorer 2

shahabonline.com/ppxplorer

This is a powerful tool that combines explorer, ftp, network, registry, and a secure area where you can store valuable information and protect it with a password. (Alex Januschewsky) This (and other applications written for the

THE EXPERTS

Alex Abraham	modaco.com
Nate Adcock	home.comcast.net/~natestera
Rishad Alam	aximsite.com
Rob Borek	pocketpcvision.com
Gianni Carfagno	solopalmar.com
Amit Chopra	
Jack Cook	experiencemobility.com
Helio Diamant	pocketpcfreak.com
Jen Edwards	pocketgoddess.com
Rachel Eichen	aximsite.com
Andreas Erle	worldofppc.com
Meryl Evans	meryl.net
Joel Evans	geek.com
Vincent Ferrari	pocketpcthoughts.com
Clinton Fitch	clintonfitch.com
Jack Gilbraith	mobilegadgetnews.com
Bradley Gillett	dashsmartzone.com
Dan Goh	
Dick Grier	hardandsoftware.net
Carlo Guerrero	theunwired.net
Al Harrington	pocketpcmag.com/blogs
Tim Hillebrand	pocketpcmag.com/blogs
Steven Hughes	bostonpocketpc.com
John Hung	
Alex Januschewsky	mobilitynews.net
Bruce Keener	dkeener.com
Scott Logsdon	pocketnew.com
Matthew Miller	blogs.zdnet.com/mobile-gadgeteer
Eric Pankoke	polsoftware.com
Marc Pell	msmobilenews.com
Raj Pillai	pocketpcfaq.com/raj
Vijay Rathour	vijay555.com
Werner Ruotsalainen	winmobiletech.com
David Shier	bluetoothnews.com
Kamaldeep Singh	gadgetmix.com
Owen Smith	msmobilenews.com
Ben Stanley	pocketpcmag.com/blogs
Mike Temporale	mike.temporale.com
Russ Terrell	mozongware.com
Jim Turner	angelicthemes.co.uk
John Westfall	pocketpcthoughts.com
Alan Zaks	pocketpcmag.com/blogs
Amy Zunk	pocketanywhere.com

SPECIAL REPORT... Utilities

Pocket PC) requires too much stylus input; usability can be improved by assigning more functions to hardware buttons. (Alex Abraham)

Resco Explorer 2005

resco.net

It's the best file explorer in terms of features. Has a zip utility, encryption tool, ftp client, network browser, etc. (Carlo Guerrero) (Also available for Smartphone)

HANDWRITING

CalliGrapher 8.3

phatware.com

I like the Write Anywhere and Write Pad input methods. You can easily change the type of text you are inputting, as well. I like being able to preview the text in the Write Pad input panel before I submit it. When writing, the ink is very smooth and has much better handwriting recognition than other applications. It reads a mix of print and cursive well and also has a portable pop-up keyboard for those odd inputs. Occasionally, the input method doesn't show up when selected from the menu. The application may not always transcribe everything properly, and there's no way to preview text entered using the Write Anywhere option. It is not easy to access all the options in Write Pad. (Rachel Eichen)



PenReader

penreader.com

I like the orthographic analysis function, which combined with graphic analysis increases the quality of handwriting recognition. It also has lots of settings and nice form selector. However, it doesn't read cursive well; it's hard to manage the cursor; and had difficulty reading my handwriting. Also, I couldn't figure out a way to prevent the other languages from installing. (Rachel Eichen)

MAINTENANCE

CablInstl

s-k-tools.com

CablInstl is a free utility that lets you install Pocket PC programs into the specified folder instead of the default folder created by the standard installer. It occupies little storage memory system resources. (Nate Adcock)

MemMaid

dinarsoft.com

This is an efficient application for cleaning up and monitoring system usage and more. Looks good, works good, and it's intuitive. (Nate Adcock)



Pocket Mechanic Pro

antontomov.com

The interface and sound effects of this maintenance utility really shine, and it has good storage card functions. However, it needs more clean-up options and drill-down capabilities. (Nate Adcock)

SKTools

s-k-tools.com

This all-in-one maintenance tool improves speed, frees up memory, and has the features to keep your Pocket PC alive. (Alex Januschewsky) Needs better documentation/help... doesn't explain the features enough. (Nate Adcock)

SpaceMaker

dmdsoftware.net

It frees up space on your Pocket PC. The automation feature is nice, but it complicates the process of restoring an old backup file. (Ben Stanley)

Space Reclaimer

valkssoft.com

It has automated run options, actually cleans the Internet Explorer cache,

and has an easy-to-use interface. They could improve it by adding a scheduling feature, registry backup option, and the ability to remove duplicate items. (Nate Adcock)



Spb Backup

spbsoftwarehouse.com

This is the best backup-only solution out there. It's easy to configure and use. It's a must have tool if you need backup only! (Alex Januschewsky)

Sprite Backup

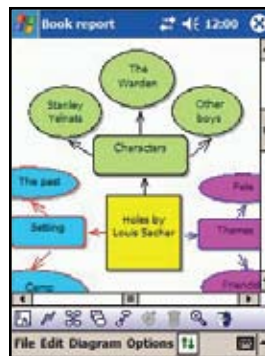
spritesoftware.com

It lets you backup/restore your device quickly. You can even reinstall applications after doing a ROM upgrade, and it will even work with a different model or device. They should add the option of backing up e-mail to an e-mail address or offline storage. (Steven Hughes)

Sunnysoft Backup Manager

sunnysoft.com

It lets you create self-extracting backups and has a desktop synchronization tool; I liked the tabbed interface approach. (Nate Adcock)



Inspiration for Pocket PC

inspiration.com

This has the most user-friendly UI of any program in this category. They need to include the ability to attach references to documents. (Ben Stanley)

Mind Mapping

insidemind.net

This is a simple tool, but you need to consult the user manual to figure out how to use it. (Meryl Evans)

Pocket Mindmap

pocketmindmap.com

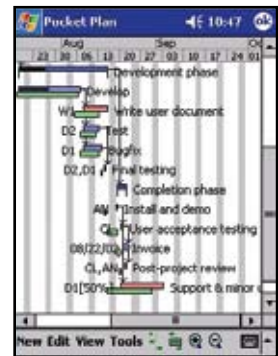
This is the most intuitive and usable product in this category. (Meryl Evans)

MISCELLANEOUS UTILITIES

Euro Coins Pocket Collector QVGA

albegor.com/press.htm

Euro coins are different from country to country. This program shows you every Euro coin and provides valuable information. (Alex Januschewsky)



Pocket Plan

twiddlebit.com

The best project management software I've seen for the Pocket PC. (Rishad Alam)

PocketDOS

pocketdos.com

This is a really great MS-DOS emulator. (Werner Ruotsalainen)

StyleTap

styletap.com

StyleTap is an easy to use program that lets you run Palm OS apps on your Pocket PC or Smartphone. If you want or need to run your favorite Palm app, it's worth the \$50 price tag. (Alex Januschewsky)

NETWORKING

PocketLANce

cresotech.com

It provides a less cumbersome way to manage LAN resources without using terminal services or some other emulator. (Amy Zunk)

SPECIAL REPORT... Utilities



vxFtp

cam.com

I like the tabbed local/remote browse interface. It's a decent Ftp client for the Pocket PC. (Nate Adcock)

vxUTIL

cam.com

This is a superb application that every network admin with a Pocket PC should have. The personal free edition is simply great! (Rishad Alam) Works as well, does as much as Wi-Fi Companion, and it's free! (Nate Adcock)

Wi-Fi Companion

socketcom.com

It makes Wi-Fi setup easy even for the most novice users; highly recommended. (Vincent Ferrari)

NOTES

DayNotez for Pocket PC

nataram.com

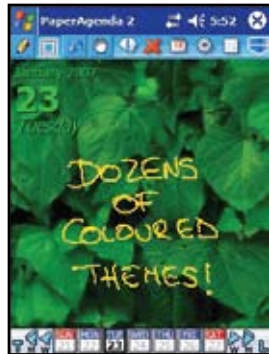
The categories feature makes the organization of notes a bit easier, and the ability to protect certain notes is welcome. DayNotez is easy to navigate, the ability to create templates for your notes is advantageous, and the ability to filter what notes are shown at any given time is also a plus. It would have been nice to be able to pick a specific location to place the database, not just a card. A "quick access" button to show private notes would also have been useful. (Eric Pankoke)

PhatNotes

phatware.com

PhatNotes is powerful, easy to use, and offers synchronization to Outlook or to the desktop PC version of PhatNotes. (Rob Borek) I liked the fact that you can attach images and sound files, and even link to other notes. The ability to export individual

notes or the whole notes database was nice. It would have been nice to be able to create your own categories. (Eric Pankoke) (Also available for Smartphone)



PaperAgenda

wolftech.it

I liked the user interface but did not like the fact that it limits you to one note per day. (Eric Pankoke)

PhatPad 2.0

phatware.com

PhatPad is a full-featured program that is intuitive to use—perfect for anyone who likes to doodle and jot quick notes. However, it's expensive for a note pad program. (John Hung) I liked the fact that you could attach a voice message to the note. (Eric Pankoke) (A viewer for PhatPad is available for Smartphone)



visNotes—Secure Memo

sfr-software.com

The graphical password feature used to protect your notes was interesting. I like the fact that you can use whatever image you want, and that it uses a three-tap combination for validation. Unfortunately, there's no backdoor on the password, so once I forgot my password I was out of luck. (Eric Pankoke)

Vsnotepad Classic 1.8

virtualspaghetti.com

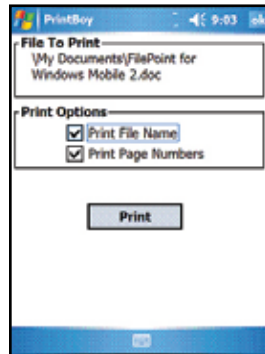
The interface is quite slick, but it appears that there's no way to clear a page other than deleting it. (Eric Pankoke)

PRINTING

ActivePrint

activeprint.net

This program lets you print to any printer available on your desktop. Printing is done when the device connects to the desktop via ActiveSync or a network connection. (Dick Grier)



PrintBoy

bachmannsoftware.com

It supports printer connections via serial, IrDA, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, and more. They need to add support for desktop queuing/printing via a proxy to use a printer connected to the desktop. (Dick Grier)

REMOTE HOST CONTROL

Desktop Rover Pocket PC Controller

neslosoftware.com

Desktop Rover allows you to control up to 32 computers (including Pocket PCs) with a single computer's keyboard and mouse. However, when I installed it to storage card, no shortcuts were added. A few items didn't seem reliable and may need a fix. (Nate Adcock)

GoToMyPC Personal

gotomypc.com

It works well on a Pocket PC; it's fast, reliable, and the screen scaling makes it possible to use with many devices. They should add file transfer capabilities to the Windows Mobile version. (Vincent Ferrari) The price is a bit high compared to other lower-cost services. (Jon Westfall)

I'm InTouch

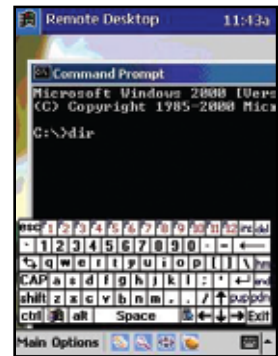
01com.com

It provides remote control of a desktop machine over the Internet via Internet Explorer. Installation of the Pocket PC client occurs the first time you log into your account using IE. This process is simple, but is not well explained. (Dick Grier) (Also available for Smartphones)

Laplink Everywhere 4 (LLE4)

laplink.com

It's easy to use and connect to remote PC services. They should provide more on-screen capabilities natively to the client-side, and all computer setup of items like secure VNC and RDP should be automatic or wizard-based. (Nate Adcock) (Also works with Smartphone)



Remote Desktop

pdutilities.com

This one lets you view your desktop from your Pocket PC wherever you are. However, it needs QVGA support. (Mike Temporale)

Pocket Controller-Pro

soti.net

Pocket Controller is a full-featured utility that controls the Pocket PC from a Windows desktop machine. It supports full VGA and Portrait/Landscape views and is compatible with WM 5 devices. The TaskManager tool is very useful. (Nate Adcock) (Also available for Smartphone)

z2 Remote2PC

z2software.com

It allows control and viewing of a desktop host machine over a network connection, including use over the Internet. A desktop client is also included. I think cleaning up the device user interface would improve the product. Connection over the Internet

SPECIAL REPORT... Utilities

is fairly complex as is the installation and product authorization process. (Dick Grier)

SCREEN CAPTURE

Pocket ScreenSnap

developerone.com

It's easy to take screenshots. Thumbnail view is helpful and nice. "Time-delayed" screenshots is a neat feature. It can only save the file in BMP format, though. (Kamaldeep Singh) Deleting screen captures is cumbersome; a tap and hold delete option is much better. (Raj Pillai)



ScreenShotCE

bendlin.info/en/Misc/ScreenShots/

It can save pictures in .jpg and .bmp format and can modify the save folder. You also have the option to put a date and time stamp on the screenshot. (Kamaldeep Singh) (Also available for Smartphone)

SnapIt

xoanan.com

It provides basic screen capture, but it's a bit pricey for the limited features. (Jack Gilbraith)

VITO ScreenCapture

vitotechnology.com

It's easy to use, and there's no button assignment required on the device, so full screen game shots can be taken. They should provide more image formats to save, though. (Raj Pillai) The install is a little awkward, as nothing installs on the Pocket PC until first capture. (Jack Gilbraith) Standard SE VGA support MUST be added, though. (Werner Ruotsalainen) (Also available for Smartphone)

SCREEN DISPLAY

DockWare Pro

iliumsoft.com

It allows you to run a screen saver

with your pictures and password protect your Pocket PC during runtime. (Nate Adcock) (Also available for Smartphone)

Nyditot Virtual Display

nyditot.com

I love landscape mode... very valuable. It's a powerful display tweak app for many uses when standard display is too limiting. I also like the hardware button mapped to previous for fast switching. (Nate Adcock)



SideWindow 1.01

innobec.com

This is a one of a kind program. I liked the ability to use my PPC as a second screen for my PC. (Russ Terrell)

WmMagnifer

adisasta.com

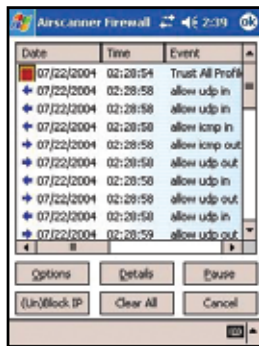
This is a slick product that magnifies any portion of the Pocket PC's screen; nice screen control tool. (Jim Turner)

SECURITY

1-Pass

omegaone.com

It has a flexible dual-method lock/unlock (keypad or hardware buttons) and a good feature set. I also like the Today screen plug-in items in the lock display. They should add a slide show of images capability. (Nate Adcock)



Airscanner Professional Security Bundle

airscanner.com

I liked too many things about this ven-

dor and product to list them all. However, they should add registry edit capability to registry viewer. (Nate Adcock) (AntiVirus also available for Smartphone)

Pocket Secure

totalpocketpc.com

A nice interface with resource usage indicators and lots of options to customize, an integrated PIX/Slide show option, and free online skins/pics. They should add some help file integration and multiple file selection for the slide show feature. (Nate Adcock)



visKey Pocket PC

sfr.de/english/index.html

I love the idea of using visual vs. alphanumeric passwords. I also liked the date/time and resource monitor options. (Nate Adcock)

SOFT KEYBOARDS

Fitaly

fitaly.com

This is a great input panel—nice and fast. They could improve it by including a calculator. (Scott Logsdon)

They could reduce the learning curve with some fun games and tutorials. (Tim Hillebrand)



Phraze-It

prevalentdevices.com

I couldn't go as fast as I would like with it. Should have a predictive engine to

save keystrokes. (Tim Hillebrand)

Resco Keyboard Pro

resco.net

This is a nice, solid keyboard that could be improved by adding a full-screen option. (Scott Logsdon)



TenGO

tengo.net

TenGO is the most powerful input tool because it uses the already familiar QWERTY layout and reduces it to six keys with a predictive engine. I had virtually no learning curve after reading the tutorial in two minutes. (Tim Hillebrand)

SPEECH

Fonix VoiceCentral

fonix.com

I was extremely impressed with the consistent quality of its voice recognition. I wish the volume levels were better, though. The difference between Voice Command and VoiceCentral is significant in my evaluation. (Jack Cook)

Microsoft Voice Command

windowsmobile.com

This is a superb application with excellent, user-independent recognition capability. However, it needs proper Bluetooth support and a low-power monitor mode like other non-PDA phones. (Vijay Rathour) There are some voice recognition abnormalities for those of us that have a distinct accent, but its performance remains relatively consistent. (Jack Cook)

VITO Voice2Go

vitotechnology.com

It has excellent app support and is versatile and clever. Macro usage is very helpful. It needs playback of text files and Web pages and more sup-

SPECIAL REPORT... Utilities

port for limited sight type use. (Vijay Rathour)

SYSTEM AND REGISTRY

HandyMenu

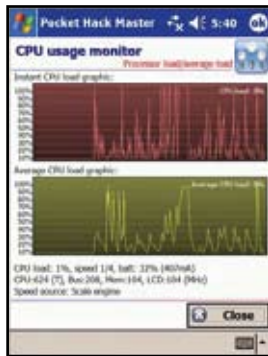
dinarsoft.com

It lets you quickly access frequently used utilities via drop-down menus and aids in switching between running programs. It even has an IP Helper. (Steven Hughes)

PHM Registry Editor

[Philippe Majerus](http://PhilippeMajerus.com)

It's simple, easy to use, and it's free! If you want to edit or just look at your registry, PHM Registry Editor should be all you need. (Alex Januschewsky)



Pocket Hack Master

antontomov.com

This is an absolutely terrific program that makes life easy. It simply works and works well! (Jack Cook) This great utility lets you overclock your device to speed it up or underclock it to conserve battery life. OMAP processor support would be nice. (Steven Hughes)

SKTracker

s-k-tools.com

SKTracker is an ideal tool for people who are interested in the changes a program applies to your Pocket PC. You can make snapshots of your Pocket PC before an installation and after and compare them. (Alex Januschewsky)

Tweaks2K2 .NET

tweaks2k2.com

It has over 125 tweaks for your Pocket PC that can be enabled with a simple check box without having to fiddle with the registry. They need to add support for devices with TI OMAP

processors. (Steven Hughes)

TASK MANAGEMENT



Pocket Launcher

conduits.com

I love the "tabbed" setup that organizes related applications in different windows. It provides an easy way of organizing all my applications on the Pocket PC for easy launching. (Carlo Guerrero)

HandySwitcher

dinarsoft.com

This task management is a great way to shut down applications and free up program memory. (Marc Pell) It's good that the installation uses a small amount of memory, but they need to provide more skin options and some additional icons. (Nate Adcock)

SBSH iLauncher

sbsh.net

This resource friendly Today screen plug-in occupies just 200 KB when installed and supports VGA and QVGA screens. (Kamaldeep Singh)

SKMenu

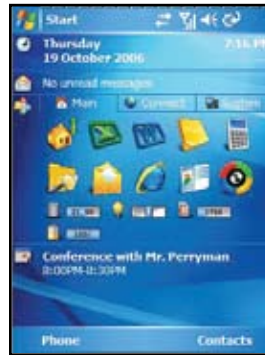
s-k-tools.com

This non-intrusive task switcher is feature rich and highly customizable. It includes screen shot capability, copy/cut/paste functionality, an SIP on/off option, a hardware buttons mapper, a call function, and more. (Tim Hillebrand)

SmallMenuPlus

tillanosoft.com/ce

I like the cascading windows, low resource usage, and the integrated look of the battery monitor. It could use more menu customization and provide skin choices. (Nate Adcock)



Spb Pocket Plus

spbsoftwarehouse.com

The graphics of Today screen plug-ins are nice and it has lots of features. The tabbed approach is especially handy, and I love PIE, the Explorer plug-ins. (Nate Adcock)

WisBar Advance 2

lakeridgesoftware.com

The cascading menus on this clean looking application are handy and fast, especially if you choose the "cache" option. I love how everything is automatic and I don't have to waste time configuring everything. They need to make it faster, though; it takes a while to load after a soft reset. (Jen Edwards) It occasionally has problems with a few third-party applications, forcing you to uninstall the offending app or WisBar. (Alan Zaks)

THEME CREATION/MANAGEMENT

CETuner 2005

penreader.com

This powerful utility lets you modify the fonts and colors used on the Pocket PC. It allows you to create and save custom schemes and modify them without have to use a PC. (Raj Pillai) Unfortunately, it doesn't support Windows Mobile 5 or 6. (Kamaldeep Singh)

Pocket Theme Organizer

lymadesign.com

This desktop PC application lets you organize your themes, preview them on the fly, renaming them if desired, and transfer them to your Pocket PC quickly. (Raj Pillai)

ThemeMaker M

thememaker.biz

This PC application has an image cropper/converter/re-sizing engine that is both SE and VGA compliant.

It is easy to use and also lets you set any system color, including Start menu and Today text color. (Werner Ruotsalainen)



Spb Extended Theme Generator

spbsoftwarehouse.com

It integrates nicely with the Pocket Plus Today screen plug-in. However, since it works as an extension to MS theme generator, there is no support for WM5. (Kamaldeep Singh) It does not convert the images; therefore, the images you pass to it should already be properly resized and cropped. Also it has absolutely no color setting capabilities. (Werner Ruotsalainen)

VITO Theme Editor

vitotechnology.com

It's easy to use and supports Windows Mobile 2003, 2003 SE, and 5. However, there's no support for VGA or square screens and no landscape preview. (Kamaldeep Singh)

TIME AND EXPENSES



TimeBiller

fannsoftware.com

Makes date entry easier, offers many different views, and generates a number of reports. They need to add a timer button and the ability to charge customers for expenses. (Helio Diamant)

Times Professional

comit.com.au

This is a complete software package

SPECIAL REPORT... Utilities

with a wide variety of features (many of which I will never use). It includes a desktop PC client. The setup process was complicated—the average user may have problems installing it. (Helio Diamant)

TimeTracker MX2

rfcons.com

It's still the top time and expense program out there. TimeTracker helps consultants (like me) keep track of all time and expense information. (John Hung) It's easy to use and is complete, but they should add a desktop client with report printing capabilities. (Helio Diamant)

TIME UTILITIES



SKScheMa (Schedule Master)

s-k-tools.com

A superb multi-functional scheduler for professionals; nothing else can compare with it for versatility. (Vijay Rathour)

TODAY SCREEN PLUG-IN



Battery Pack Pro

omegaone.com

This is one of the best Today screen plug-ins available. The addition of the "Power mini apps" in the latest version adds even more functionality. Performance was a little sluggish (even on my 624 MHz iPAQ with plen-

ty of RAM), and the "Power clean" function could be given a little more teeth. (Ben Stanley) (Also available for Smartphone)

Journal Bar

omegaone.com

It's an amazingly useful, beautifully presented, and well integrated application. It's quite expensive, though. (Vijay Rathour) The sheer range of information that this software can display is awesome. (Jim Turner)

Profiles for Windows Mobile

winmobileapps.com

This is a straightforward piece of software that puts the phone profiles on the Today screen—and it's free! (Jim Turner)



PocketBreeze

sbsh.net

This is a fantastic plug-in that displays PIM information on the Today screen. PocketBreeze has endless options and great developer support. (Alan Zaks) It allows the user to tailor the program to his or her particular needs. (Ben Stanley)

PocketWeather

sbsh.net

This program displays more information about the weather than I thought possible, and does so in a highly presentable manner. (Ben Stanley)

Spb Weather

spbsoftwarehouse.com

The program has a professional look and feel. The compact "multi-line" view is especially useful and does a good job of utilizing scarce Today screen real estate without sacrificing too much information. (Ben Stanley) I had problems with the automatic weather synchronization; sometimes it worked and sometimes it didn't. (Andreas Erle)

Spb Diary

spbsoftwarehouse.com

This highly configurable program allows variable Today screen layouts and easy access to data and applications via user-configurable taps. (Tim Hillebrand) It displays your e-mail, contacts, appointments, and notes beautifully on the Today screen. (Andreas Erle)



Contact-ing

birdsoft.net

Contact-ing displays contacts on your Today screen with pictures to represent them. This makes it easy to place calls quickly. (Marc Pell)

WeatherPanel

marsware.net

Displays updated weather information for up to six cities on your Today screen. The radar feature is fantastic! You can move the radar with your stylus, zoom in and out, and play a time loop. (Ben Stanley) It's a must-have if you're traveling or just want to know what tomorrow's weather will be. (Alex Januschewsky)

TV & STEREO REMOTE

RemoteControl II, v2.07

wincrosoft.de

It's a very customizable program; good for people who know exactly what kinds of buttons they want on their remote and for those who like to design their own skins. However, it's a little difficult for first time users to set up. (Rachel Eichen)

TV remote controller

pdawin.com

The interface is clean and simple, and the TV's response to the button presses is decent. However, there's no help feature built into the program and the setup, though manageable, was a bit cumbersome. (Eric Pankoke)

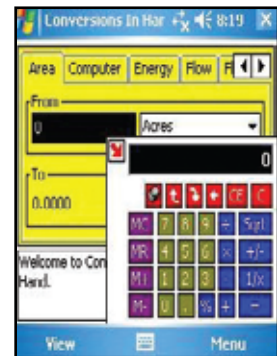


VITO Remote

vitotechnology.com

This was the easiest of the group to set up. There were enough keys on the main screen of the default setup to assign all the functionality I wanted. However, the number buttons seemed too sensitive, while the rest of the buttons provided only mediocre response. (Eric Pankoke)

UNIT CONVERSION



Conversions In Hand

burroak.on.ca

Conversions In Hand has one of the most effective user interfaces I've seen with Pocket PC applications. All of the conversions are immediately available on easy-to-find tabs, and the built-in calculator makes input quick and easy. (Al Harrington)



MxConverter

trancreative.com

The configurable display makes it

SPECIAL REPORT... Utilities

easy to show more or less detail for each item. However, it could use its own built-in keypad so you don't have to rely on the soft keyboards. (Al Harrington) It has a good looking, uncluttered interface, with loads of conversions. I love the additional calculator, and the install routine is the absolute best I've seen. (Nate Adcock) (Also available for Smartphone)

ConverterCE Pro

fannsoftware.com

It has a nice interface with a lot of calculations—pretty much all I would ever need. I like the listing of international dialing codes and the wind-chill calculator. (Bruce Keener) Changing between the categories is time consuming, and it's easy to get lost in the menus. (Al Harrington)

SMARTPHONE

CALCULATORS

ALL-calculator 1.1

all-locations.com

This is a full featured calculator that is easy to use and learn. (Clinton Fitch)

FILE MANAGEMENT

ALL-explorer 2.6 SPE

all-locations.com

This is a full-featured program, but it's not that easy to use. I didn't like the activation process. (Owen Smith) (Also available for the Pocket PC)



Resco Explorer

resco.net

This is the best file explorer out there, and it even includes a Registry editor. It could be improved by speeding up file browsing and adding support for dual-paneled browsing. (Alan Zaks) (Also available for the Pocket PC)

Smart Explorer

binarys.com

It has a cool quick details bar at the top, which displays information about the selected file or folder, but not much in the way of settings/configuration. (Mike Temporale)

Sprite Backup

spritesoftware.com

It's easy to use, intelligent, reliable, and robustly designed. (Carlo Guerrero) (Also available for PPCs)

NOTES

John Cody's Vnotes Pro

omnisoft.com

This application lets you create, label, and organize voice notes on your device. You can even set an alarm to play it back at a specific time. The append feature allows you to make one note and continue to add to it. I also like the fact that it does everything by voice. (Joel Evans)

PhatNotes

phatware.com

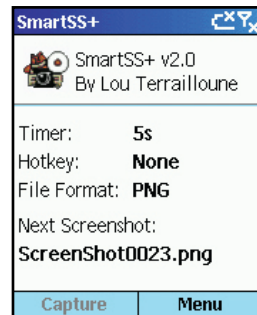
It has full functionality for text and voice notes, hierarchal organization, and hyperlink between notes. (Matthew Miller) If you have a QWERTY Smartphone, grab it. (Vincent Ferrari) (Also available for Pocket PC)

SmartphoneNotes

syncdata.it

It syncs perfectly with the desktop PC version of Outlook and allows me to take my notes with me. (Joel Evans)

SCREEN CAPTURE AND DISPLAY



SmartSS

louterrailoune.com

Simplicity is the best feature of this screen grabber. (Marc Pell)

Pocket Controller-Professional

soti.net

This is a superb desktop PC controller of your Smartphone. You can take screenshots, record videos of your screen, and enter data easily. (Marc Pell) (Also available for Pocket PC)

ThemeChanger

homepages.inspire.net.nz/~gambit/

This is a great utility that changes the Home screen themes on your Smartphone; it makes the more complex tweaks much easier. (Marc Pell)

ThemeMaker SP

thememaker.biz

I appreciate this program giving me the functionality to create Home screen themes for my Smartphone with ease. (Tim Hillebrand)

SYSTEM AND REGISTRY

Battery Pack Pro

omegaone.com

Displays battery, memory, and other useful information on the Home screen of your Smartphone. However, the program menu wasn't easy to use. (Amit Chopra) (Also available for Pocket PC)

PHM Registry Editor

phm.lu/products

This must-have application is intuitive and easy to use. It allows you to change the system registry on your Smartphone or Pocket PC so that it displays info and/or functions in a non-standard way. There are heaps of registry hacks and how tos available online, which you can use with this awesome piece of software to make the changes. (Bradley Gillett)



John Cody's Alerts! Pro Version 2.0

omnisoft.com

It supports scheduled profile switch-

ing, SMS, reminders, and so much more. However, it requires a lot of storage space to install. (Mike Temporale) This had the most complex setup of all the apps I ran. (Amit Chopra)

Tweaks2K2 .NET for Smartphone

tweaks2k2.com

Nothing can beat this program for automating the process of changing the Registry. (Carlo Guerrero) Some of the menus were confusing. (Mike Temporale) (Also available for Pocket PC)

TASK MANAGEMENT

Oxios Alarms

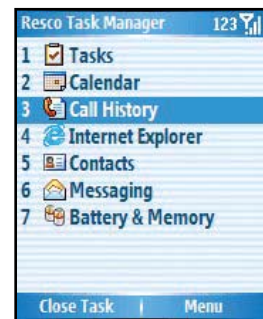
oxios.com

This application lets you set up to three independent alarms, which automatically vibrate when they come due if your Smartphone is switched to silent mode. (Jack Gilbraith)

SP Task Manager

binarys.com

This is the original and best task manager for Smartphones. (Owen Smith) This is a good task manager with battery and memory tracking capability. (Tim Hillebrand)



Resco System Toys for Smartphone

resco.net

This is a set of tools for battery, memory, and task management; it's a good value. (Jack Gilbraith) It has a nice graphical presentation. (Tim Hillebrand)

Xbar

xetranet.free.fr

Xbar is by far the best task manager ever conceived for Smartphone. (Tim Hillebrand) ■