



PDAs – What Are They Good For

Jon Trinder, University of Glasgow

j.trinder@elec.gla.ac.uk

pda-edu@jiscmail.ac.uk

www.jiscmail.ac.uk/pda-edu



UNIVERSITY
of
GLASGOW

Whats This All About Then?

- Overview and Definition of a PDA
- What they are good for?
- What are they not good for
- Some Examples of Applications
- Choosing a PDA

Overview

- A PDA is a computer based handheld device that incorporates personal organiser tools.
- A PDA has the ability to easily exchange information with a desktop computer.
- PDAs were originally designed to act as electronic equivalents of diaries and personal organisers, but most can now perform a variety of additional functions.
- A Smartphone is a combined PDA and phone in one unit

What a PDA Is NOT

- A replacement for ALL your Laptop uses
- A Small Tablet PC

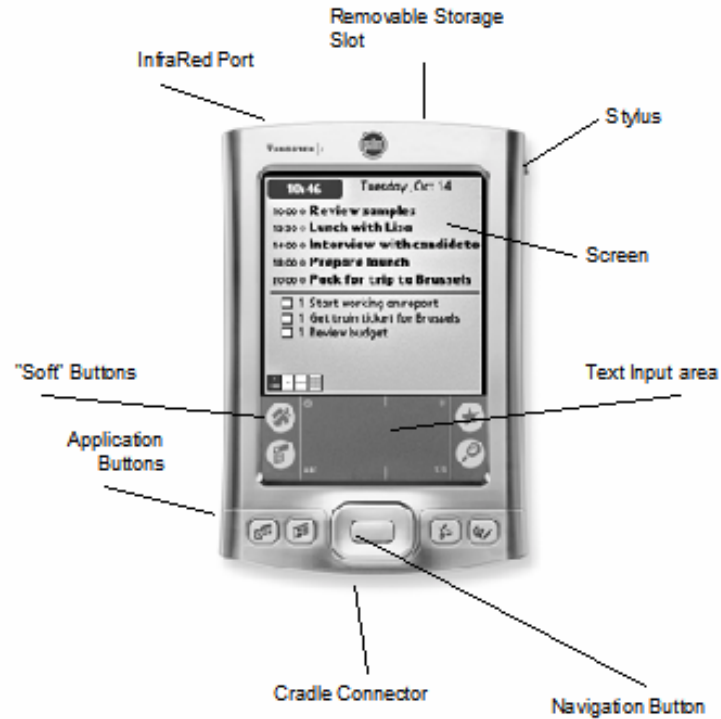
PDA's in Education

- *“Our team carried out a detailed study of how radiology is taught and practised. One clear finding was that trainees have very little spare time. They can’t take the time to sit in libraries or computer labs, and so any computer-based learning must fit into the gaps in their busy schedule - in the hospital, at home, when travelling - which means a personal and portable system.”* (Sharples, 2000)
- The immediate readiness for use has been highlighted by users in other studies, a typical student comment being a PDA is something that is *“unobtrusive and neat and that could always be ready at hand”* (Waycott et al., 2002)

Screens



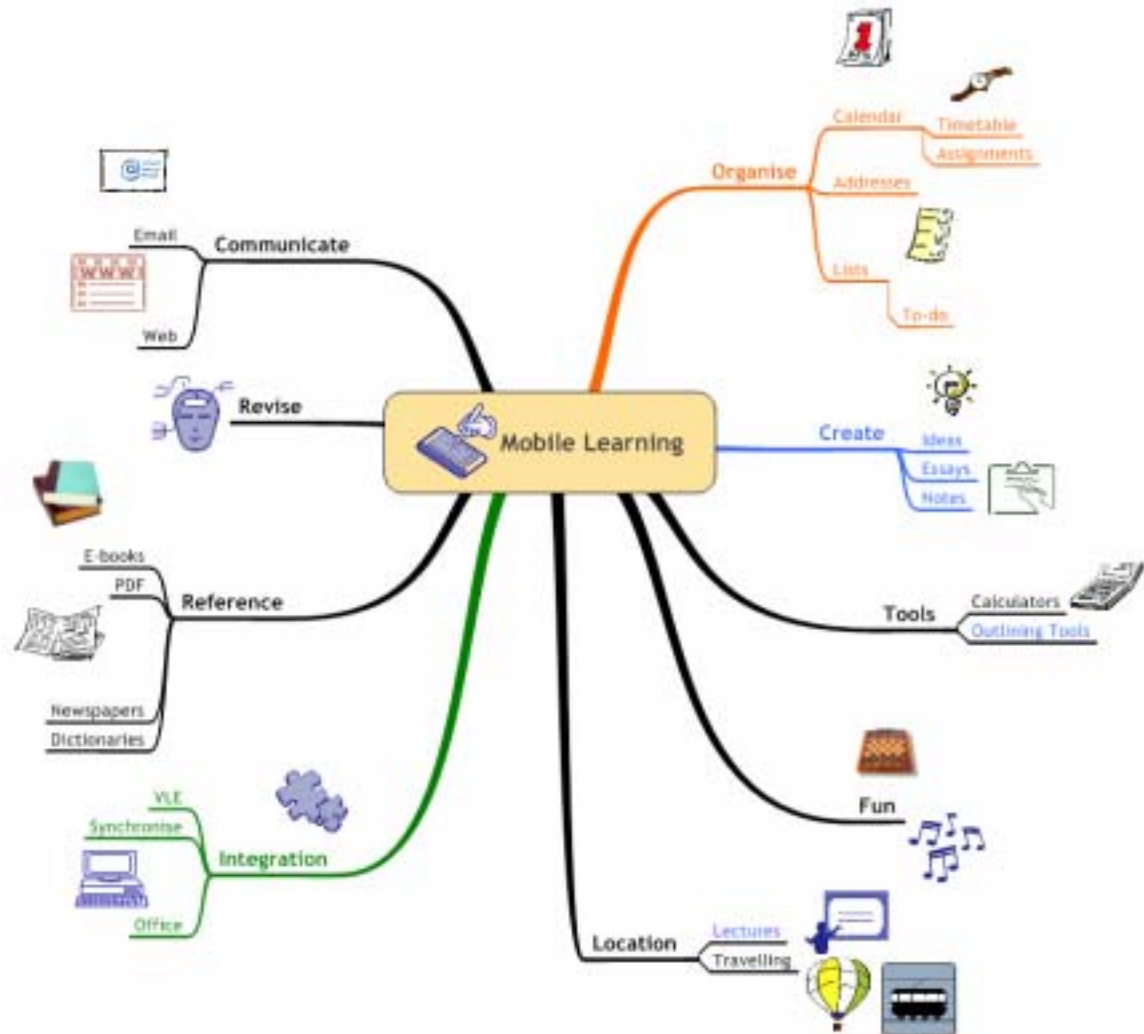
PDA Anatomy



Combination Devices



PDA Uses

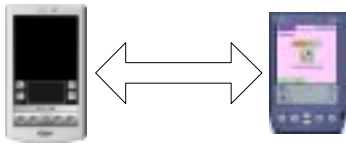


Connectivity and Communication

- Offline
- Wireless
- Via a Phone

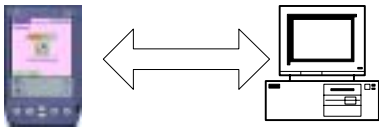
Beaming and File Transfer

Beaming of information and applications by Infra-red (or Bluetooth) is not limited to beaming between the same manufacture's PDAs. In many cases beaming may be a more flexible solution for exchanging files with a PC than HotSync.



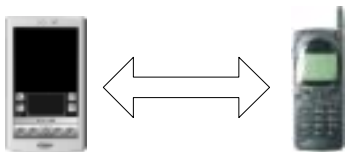
PDA-PDA

Exchange applications, data files, memos, appointments



PDA – PC,PC - PDA

Install Applications, text files, images, VCards



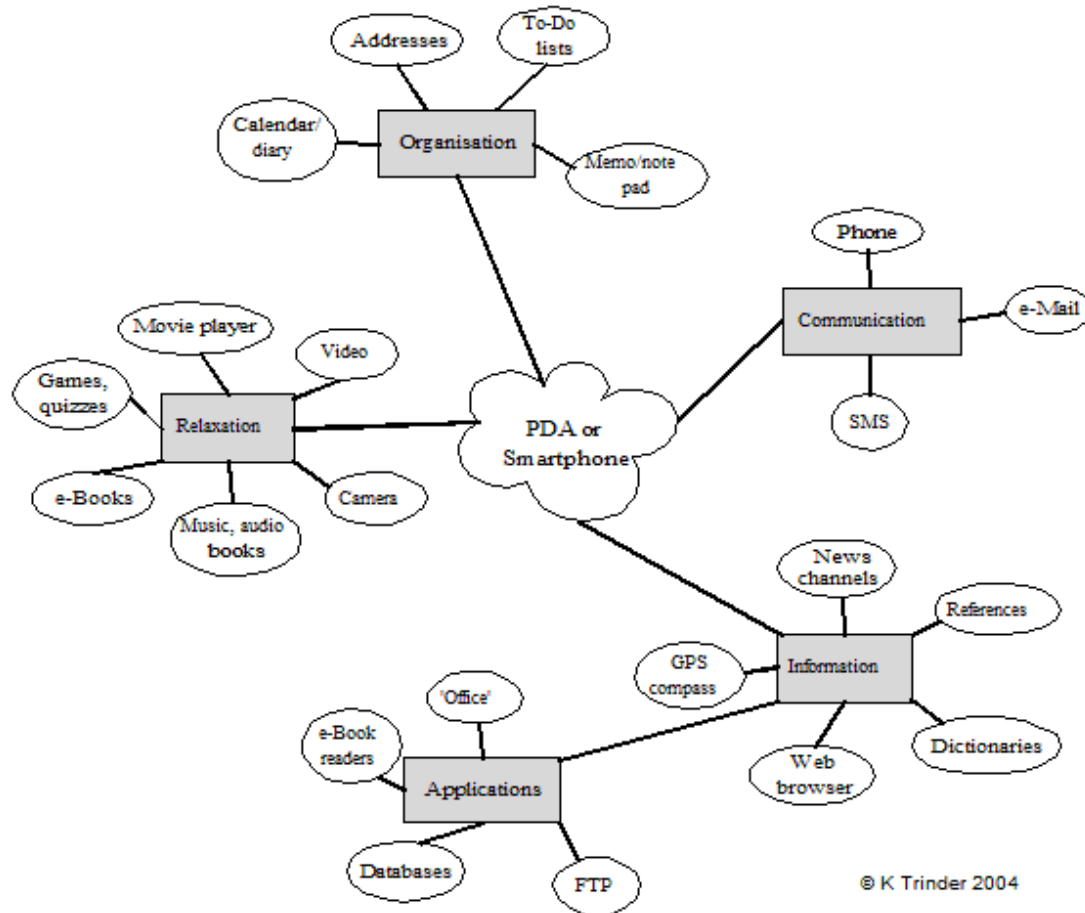
PDA – Phone, Phone - PDA

Exchange addresses, Calendar entries, VCards, images

Storage

- Internal
- Memory Cards

Application Areas



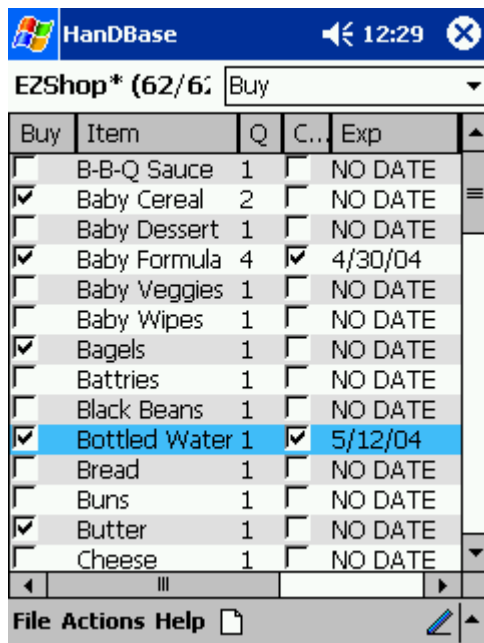
Software Choices

- There is choice!
- Companies actually give support
- The majority of applications are shareware (average cost \$5-\$20)
- There are also a number of high quality free applications

So....

- Good
 - Looking up information
 - Taking notes
- Bad
 - Entering lots of data

Databases



HandBase 12:29

EZShop* (62/6) Buy

Buy	Item	Q	C...	Exp
<input type="checkbox"/>	B-B-Q Sauce	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO DATE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Baby Cereal	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO DATE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Baby Dessert	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO DATE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Baby Formula	4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4/30/04
<input type="checkbox"/>	Baby Veggies	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO DATE
<input type="checkbox"/>	Baby Wipes	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO DATE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bagels	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO DATE
<input type="checkbox"/>	Batteries	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO DATE
<input type="checkbox"/>	Black Beans	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO DATE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bottled Water	1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5/12/04
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bread	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO DATE
<input type="checkbox"/>	Buns	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO DATE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Butter	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO DATE
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cheese	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO DATE

File Actions Help



Record 2 of 2

Address: 125 Hyde Street

Agent Info: M & A Corp.

First Seen: 11/11/2002

School Dist: Melboa District

Rent \$: 500

Lease Period: 1 year

Sq. Ft: 890

No. Floors: 4

No. Bedrms: 4

No. Baths: 2

Fireplace: Wood

A/C: Window units

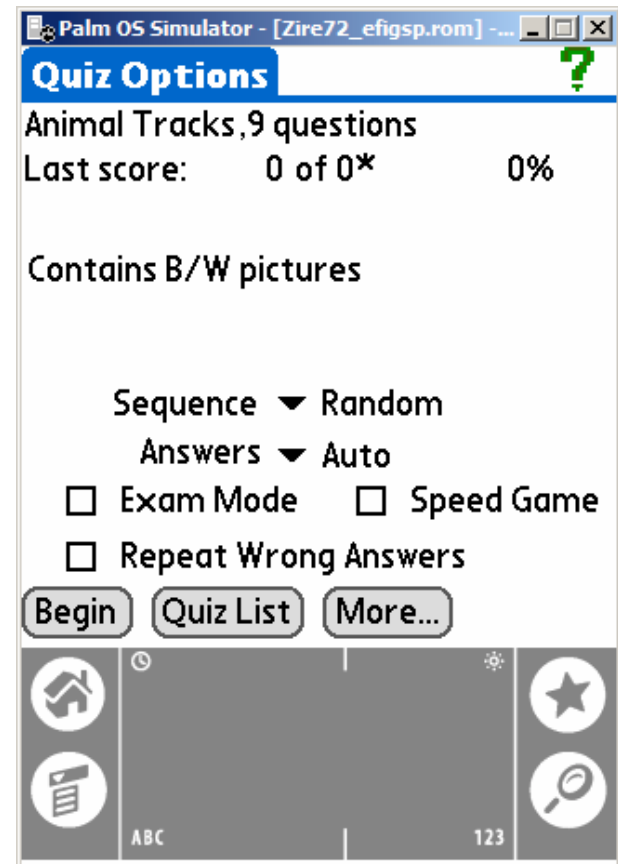
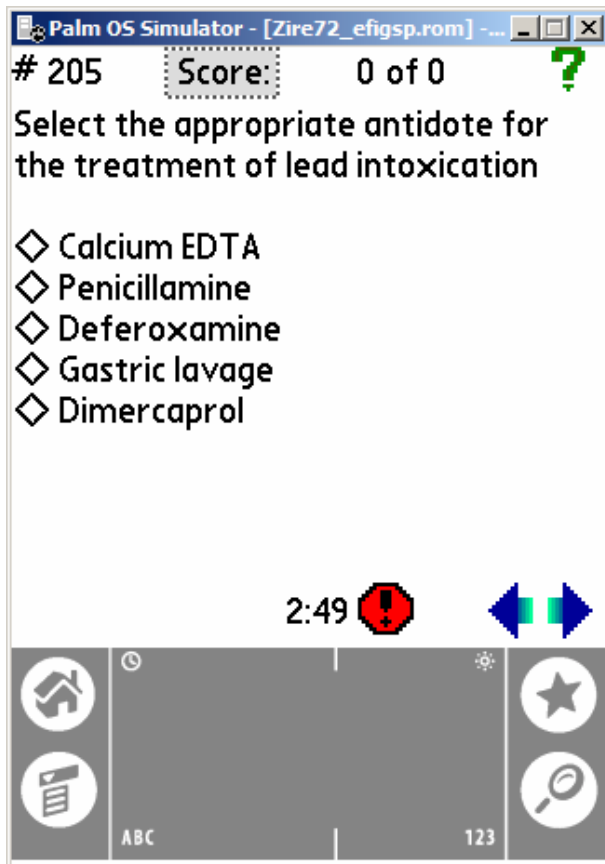
Heat: Radiated

Heat Fuel: Oil

Fridge: Yes

OK Cancel New

Quiz



Flashcards

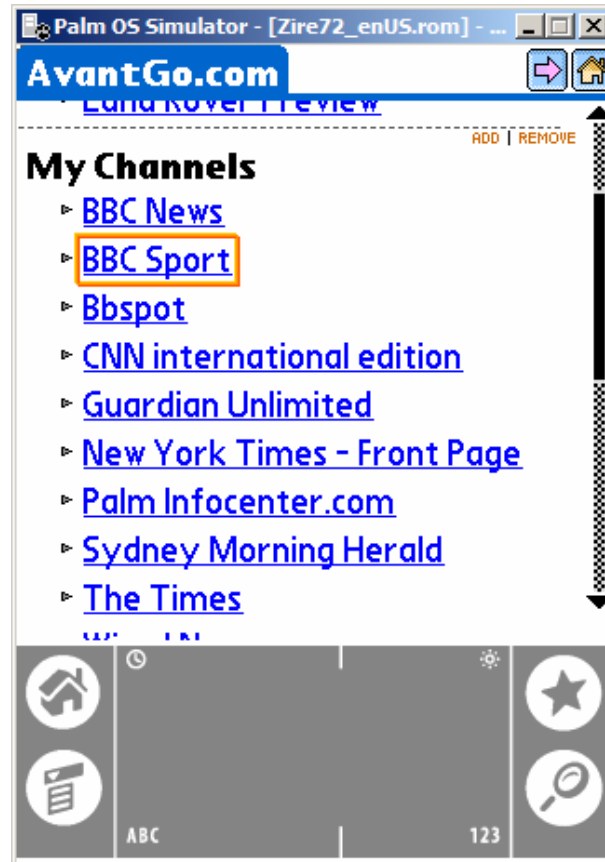
JTutor - MultiChoice Mode

What is the dysrhythmia that contains more than three premature ventricular contractions in a row, lasting more than 30 seconds?

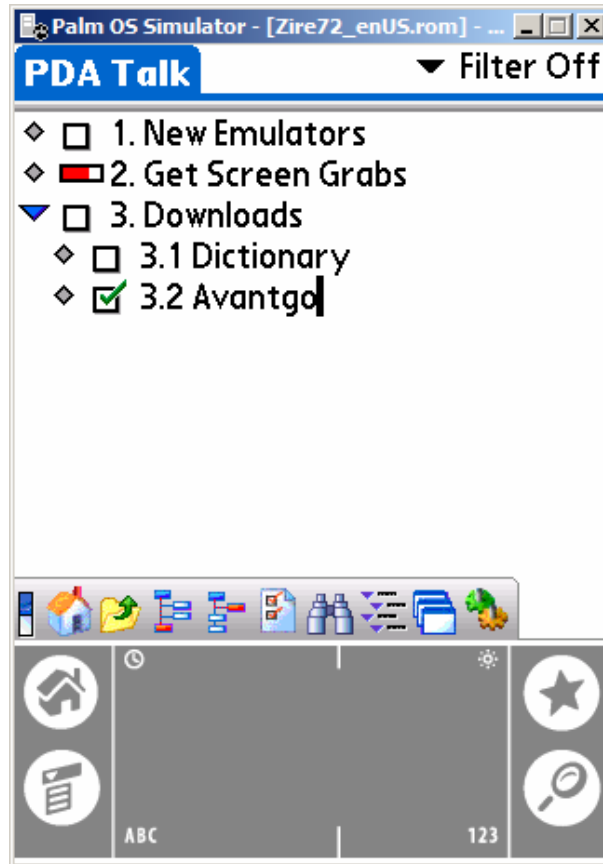
- 1 Junctional bradycardia
- 2 Asystole
- 3 Bradycardia
- 4 Ventricular tachycardia

www.land-j.com

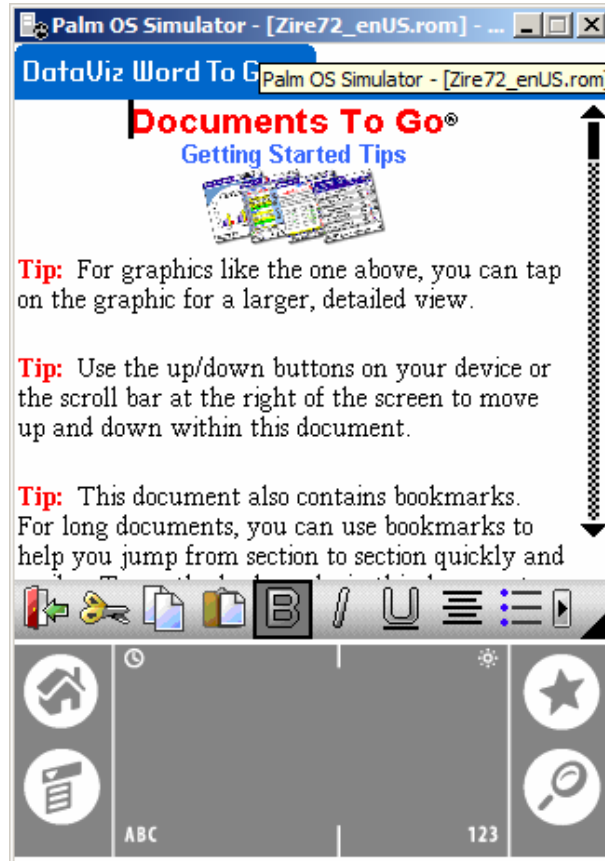
News Channels

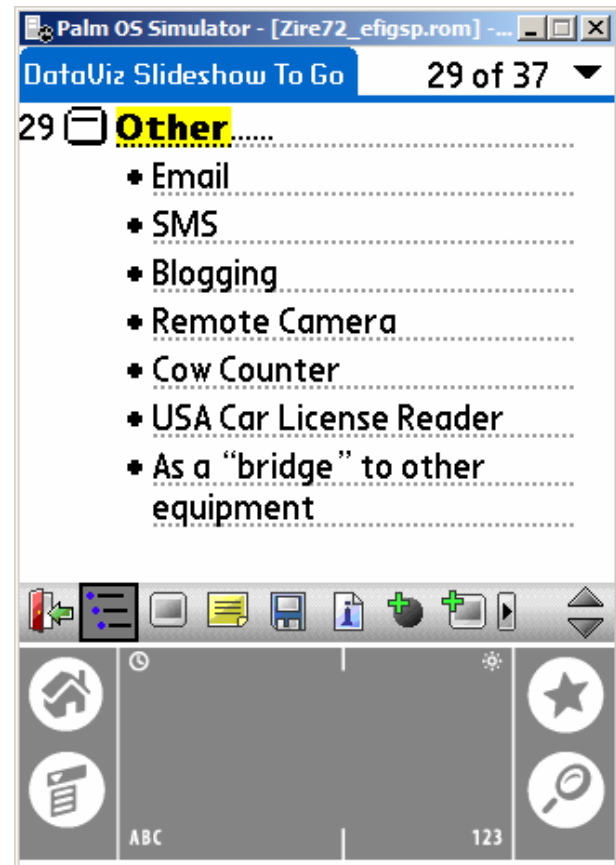


Outliners

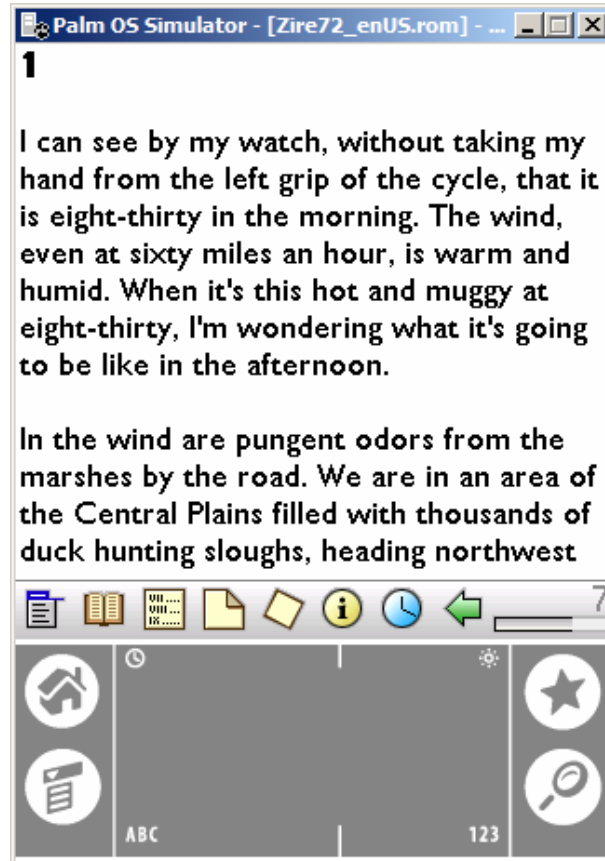


Documents





eBooks




Games



Autocad

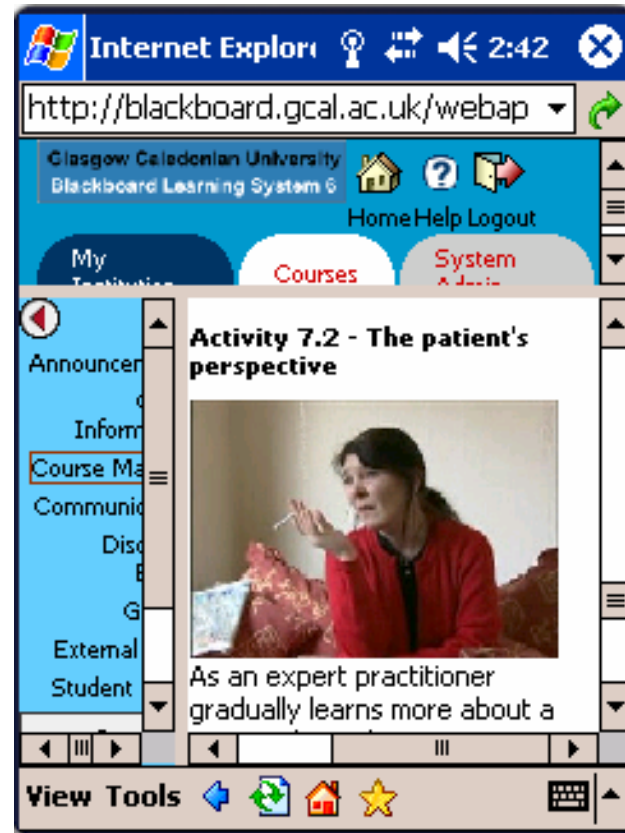
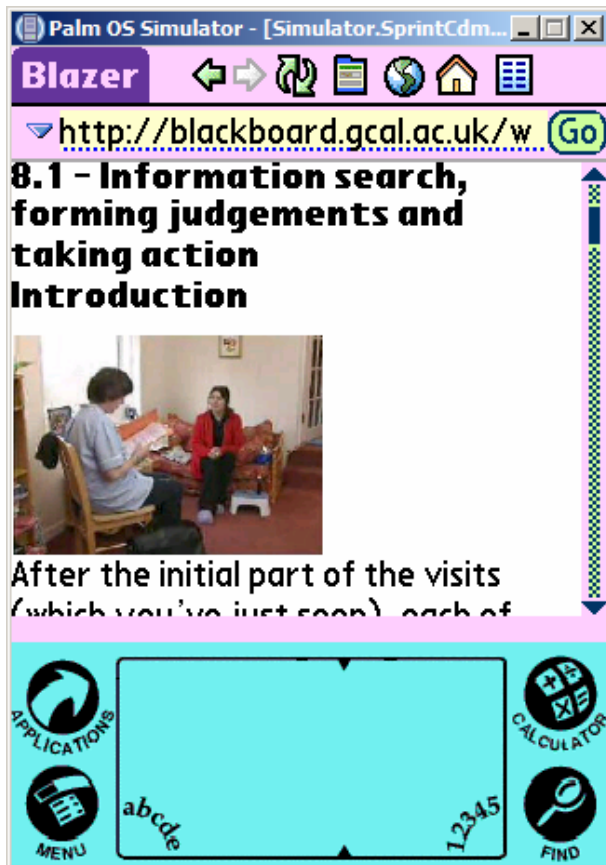


Steam Turbines

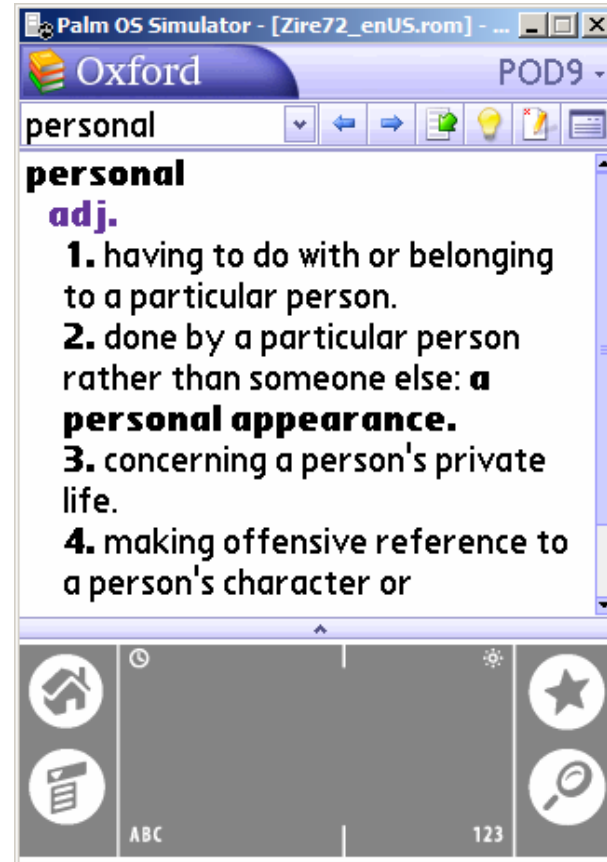
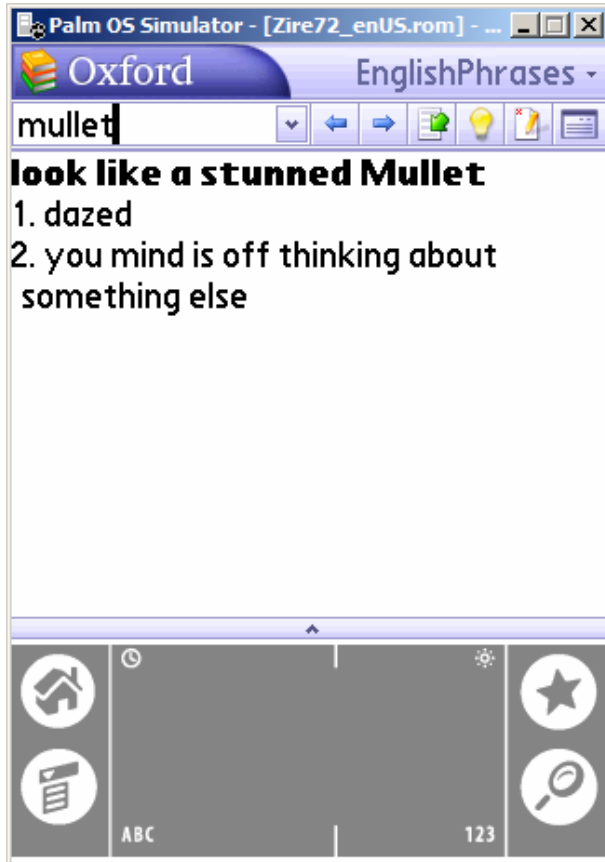
Steam Turbine Calculator			
	Inlet	Exhaust	
Press	650.000	50	PSIA
Temp	700.000	300.634	DegF
SpecVol	0.98355	8.77771	ft ³ /lb
Enthalpy	1348.73	1184.45	BTU/lb
Entropy	1.57754	1.67241	BTU/lbR
Quality	1.00000	1.00000	
Eff.	70.00	%	Flow 120000 lb/h
Theo. Rate	10.8421	lb/HP-hr	
Actual Rate	15.4887	lb/HP-hr	
Power	7747.56	BHP	<input type="button" value="CALC"/>

www.processacesoftware.com

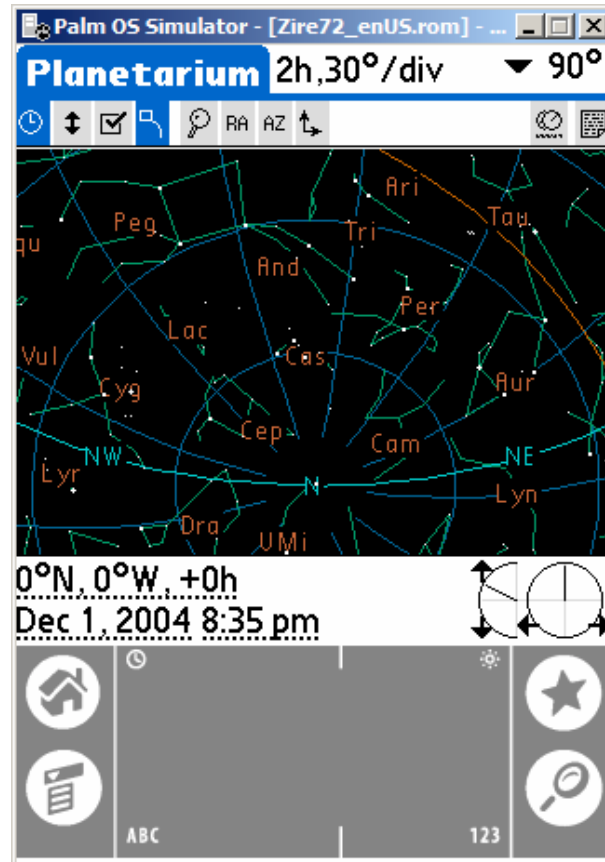
WWW Sites



Dictionaries



The Sky's the Limit....



Other.....

- Email
- SMS
- Blogging
- Remote Camera
- Cow Counter
- USA Car License Reader
- As a “bridge” to other equipment


Tour Diary

Explorica :: Tour Diary, Day 6 - Mozilla Firefox

←EXPLORICA→
TOUR DIARY™

Taylor France, Switzerland, Austria & Germany

August 4, 2004 - August 12, 2004



The Golden Roof..Innsbruck (click picture to enlarge)

Day 6: August 9, 2004
Day 6
Our journey through europe is really going well.... Switzerland and Austria really are different than anything we've ever seen. Mighty alpine sceneries and tiny neat villages really bring one back at the times when life was only in relation to the environment. Everything seems made to human size and that's hard to come these days.

SELECT A DAY

1	2	3	4	5
>	6	7	8	9

< previous day next day >


Done

Palm Software - Expert Guides - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Help

http://www.palmsource.com/expertguides/ palm expert guides


Getting Started Latest Headlines



What's your Interest?


For new users

- [Amateur Radio](#) **NEW**
- [Astronomy](#)
- [Aviation](#)
- [Careware](#)
- [Cigars & Liquor](#) **NEW**
- [eBooks](#) **NEW**
- [Emergency Preparedness](#)
- [Food & Wine](#)
- [Fun/Goofy](#)
- [Games](#)
- [Games: Interactive Fiction](#)
- [Genealogy](#)
- [Geocaching](#) **NEW**
- [Health and Wellness](#)
- [Home Management](#)
- [Japanese Content](#) **NEW**
- [Knitting](#)
- [Languages](#) **NEW**
- [Life/Time Management](#)
- [Movies/TV](#) **NEW**
- [Music Creation](#)
- [Parenting](#)
- [Personal finance](#) **NEW**
- [Pets and Animal Care](#) **NEW**
- [Reading](#) **NEW**
- [Regional Software](#) **NEW**
- [Religion: Christianity](#)
- [Religion: Judaism](#)
- [Religion: LDS](#)
- [Scouting](#) **NEW**
- [Scuba Diving](#) **NEW**
- [Themes and Eye Candy](#) **NEW**
- [Travel](#) **NEW**
- [Writing](#)



What's your Profession?

- [Anesthesiology](#) **NEW**
- [Author](#)
- [Dentistry](#)
- [Education: Students](#)
- [Education: Teachers](#)
- [Engineering](#)
- [Legal](#)
- [Medical Student](#) **NEW**
- [Medicine](#)
- [Pilot](#) **NEW**
- [Psychology](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Sales](#)
- [Technical Writing](#) **NEW**



What's your Task?

- [Browsers](#)
- [Budgeting](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Credit Card Processing](#)
- [Databases](#)
- [Dictionary/Thesaurus](#)
- [Emulators](#)
- [Instant Messaging](#)
- [Mobile Email](#)
- [Project Management](#) **NEW**
- [SMS/MMS](#)
- [Time Tracking](#)
- [Weblogging](#) **NEW**
- [Word Processors](#)

Legal Disclaimer: The software and hardware products listed in these pages were developed by independent companies not controlled by PalmSource. PalmSource can make no warranty or representation with regard to them, and assumes no liability for direct, indirect, consequential,

Institutional Considerations

- Office Applications
- You dont all Need to use the Same Platform
- Cameras

Software – Sites

Download Websites

- <http://www.palmgear.com>
- <http://www.handango.com>
- <http://www.freewarepalm.com>
- <http://www.freewareppc.com>
- <http://www.palmone.com>

News

- <http://www.brighthand.com>
- <http://www.pdanews24.com>

Choosing a PDA

Approach the task with an open mind and forget the normal PC wisdom of more being better – here less is often more!

Choosing a PDA

- Pick one up and try to use it, see how easy it is to perform specific tasks.
- Don't go for a machine just because it has more "features" than another one unless you not only need, but will actually remember how, to use these features.
- Is it quick and easy to access a particular feature? (e.g. try adding an appointment to the diary). How many menus do you have to navigate?
- Do you have to wait for the machine to do a task? (The dreaded hour glass symbol popping up.)

Batteries and Charging



Final Thoughts...

“Manifestly it is better to use simple tools expertly than to possess a bewildering assortment of complicated gadgets and either neglect or use them incompetently”

LTC Rolt, 1947