

Tony's Tips and Tricks for PDA's

Remember to Remember....

Make sure you include a nightly alarm reminder to put tomorrow's schedule on your device. This is also a good time to put in a reminder to recharge your battery.

Don't overdo the reminders....

People tend to be more responsive to a few important alarms (medications, appointments) than to constant niggling reminders. 5-8/day works for most people.

Don't make a spectacle of yourself...

Try a vibrating alarm for school and community device users.

To Graffiti or not to Graffiti....

Pocket PC's offer 4 different ways of entering text. Palm devices offer two. Users who don't like tiny onscreen keyboards and don't want to mess with graffiti-like languages can acquire an add-on portable keyboard (Targus makes good ones).

Use Add-on Software for Special Needs....

"Bug Me!" software for Palm creates a sticky note-style reminder alarm (you can draw directly on the screen) that eliminates several steps from the process of creating a data entry (\$19 at Handango.com).

Voice Alert software for Pocket PC sends a voice alarm and reads aloud your appointments as they come due (Fonix.com).

Simplify and Customize the PDA Interface....

You can easily create a customized home screen for Palm users. In the upper right corner, tap "All", then tap "Edit Categories", then tap "New". Create a new category given the user's name.

Once that's done, tap the digital clock in the upper left corner, then tap "Category". Go thru all the software on the category list and select those your user needs most. Select your new category for those items. Tap "Done".

Again, at upper right corner of screen, tap "All", select your new category, and now the screen will show only those software items that the user generally needs.

Don't Lose your Device....

You can attach "Key Finder" alarms to your device. I like the Sonic Keyfinder by HPI. It costs just \$4 and it glows and beeps insistently when you whistle.

Protect the Merchandise....

Otter Products, Inc. makes an Armor Box for your PDA that makes it watertight and almost completely shock-proof. www.otterbox.com.