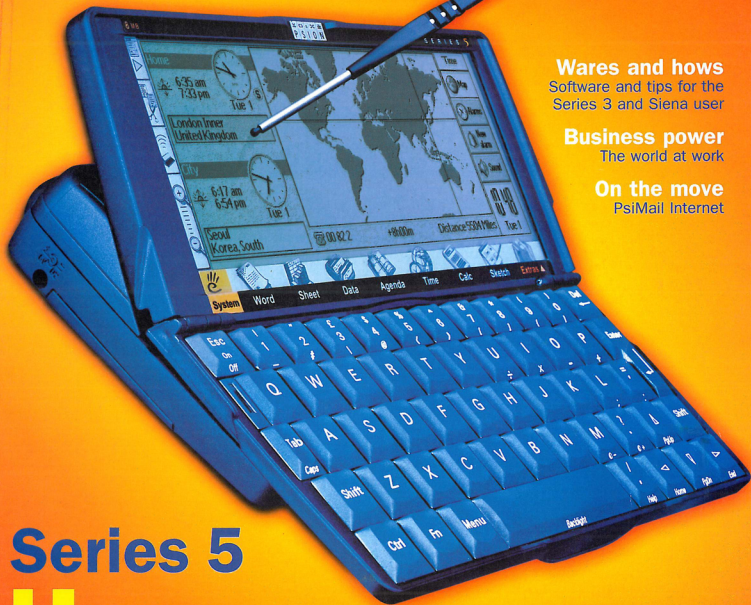


SUMMER 1997

# PSION USER

www.pSION.com



## Wares and hows

Software and tips for the Series 3 and Siena user

## Business power

The world at work

## On the move

PsiMail Internet

## Series 5

# live

the new mobile office from Psion



S Y S T E M S L I N K

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The new Series 5 revealed (p16)



A butler's best friend (p28)



Organise a busy schedule (p8)

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## Chairman's comment

The Series 5 represents a new generation of technology – the third generation in Psion's evolution. The Psion Organiser I and II are based on 8-bit technology, while the Series 3 – and the Workabout and HC industrial handhelds – are based on 16-bit microcomputers. The Series 3 is very powerful and is ideally suited to personal information management. However, the 32-bit Series 5 allows us to move into the 'gigabyte' scale in terms of capacity. It has the largest screen and keyboard of any handheld computer, plus great power, and yet it is still extremely portable. Software applications on the Series 5 integrate seamlessly with PCs and corporate networks. As you will see in this issue's Cover Story, the Series 5 sets a new standard for mobile access to information, and leaves the competition light years behind. Other products will also use this 32-bit technology. Smart phones are on track, while solid-state dictaphones and music systems are just a few years down the line. The future of mobile technology is in your hands.

David Potter, chairman, Psion plc

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# Psion and Java link-up

Psion Software is to incorporate the Java technology into future versions of the EPOC32 operating system. EPOC32 is the powerful environment at the heart of the new Series 5, and will be used in other mobile devices such as smart phones. Java, developed by Sun Microsystems company JavaSoft, is one of the hottest software 'movements' in the computer industry: it offers a way of gaining independence from the underlying technology of a given system.

Those who use Web browsers such as Netscape may have seen Java in action: a key feature is the ability to load a package of data and a mini-application, called an 'applet', from a remote location, and then run the program and view the results. With Java on a 'mobile office' platform, users will be able to connect to the Internet or to company networks and load only the relevant part of an application they need for a short period, freeing up more storage space on the Psion.

And crucially, software developers need write only one version of a system, as Java will run the program on any computer. And Java is not just limited to the Internet. Now that companies such as Psion have licensed the technology, there is likely to be a rapid growth of Java applications in many areas, particularly those where users need to connect regularly to networks, either in the office or on the move.

Psion's skill lies in implementing powerful computing solutions in handheld devices, a market tailor-made for Java. Apart from handheld computers, the emerging next-generation of 'smart' phones – where mobile phone users can see and manipulate data on a screen on their handsets – is ideal for the Psion/Java combination.

For information on development options currently available on Psion's EPOC16 and EPOC32 platforms, see p30.

## One number keeps a Psion busy

Psion UK and BT's Mobility Solutions Group (part of Britain's largest telecommunications company) have announced that they are to market a range of new telecommunications services. At the forefront is a multimedia messaging service, planned for launch later this year. The service will enable UK Psion users (linked by modem to a compatible GSM mobile phone or fixed phone) to send and receive faxes, short messages (SMS) and email via the Psion, and to control the routing of voice and fax calls using BT's OneNumber personal numbering service. Voice, fax and email messages would all be stored in a central system

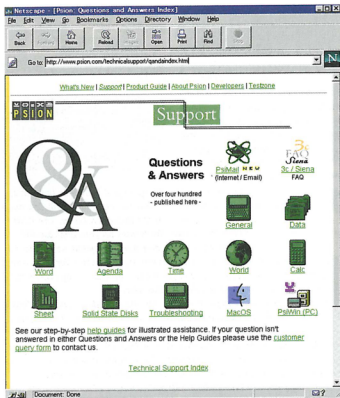
and 'fronted' by a single number. Users can then call into the system and request email and faxes to be downloaded to the Psion. Says Alastair Light, business development manager for BT's Mobility Solutions Group: 'We aim to combine BT's communications skills and Psion's computing skills to produce new applications which make the Psion even more powerful.'

BT logo with a stylized figure running.

## One hundred years of the electron

Visit the Science Museum in London and you may well spot a Psion Series 3c. Linked to a GPS navigation system to demonstrate how transport has been influenced by electronics, the Series 3c features in an exhibition to mark the centenary of the discovery of the electron.

Had it not been for J. J. Thomson's discovery in 1897, we would never have heard of televisions, mobile phones, CDs, computers, microwaves, satellites, digital watches and countless other gadgets that we take for granted today. The exhibition runs until April 1998.



## Web site expands

The Psion plc Web site (at [www.psim.com](http://www.psim.com)) now encompasses the whole Psion group. You can read the latest Psion news, or product information – including a full guide to the Series 5 and the new solutions from Psion Industrial. The site also contains shareholder news, a

links section, and more than 500 frequently asked questions.

● Another good source is PMN On-Line ([www.pmn.co.uk](http://www.pmn.co.uk)). This site has Psion news, links and a library of shareware. You can also subscribe to the printed edition. PMN: 54 Penwortham Road, South Croaydon, Surrey, CR2 0QS, United Kingdom.

## Pipe dreams

Where in the world would you go to see the world's largest cigar: nearly 6.5 metres of pure tobacco? This and other pipe smoking items can be found at the Tobacco Pipe Museum in Belgium, privately owned by Psion Series 3a owner Richard Thron, and also open to the public.

Thron is such a keen pipe smoker that he belongs to a pipe smoking club and regularly organises and participates in pipe smoking competitions throughout Europe. 'The object is to make three grammes of tobacco last as long as possible,' explains Thron. 'You get five minutes to put your tobacco in the pipe and another minute to light the pipe (with two matches). You then see who keeps their pipe going the longest.'

Thron uses his Psion Series 3a to time himself during competitions – his best time so far is two hours and 16 minutes – and to store a database of club members.



## Card sharp

How many business cards are stuffed in your wallet or strewn over your desk? You never know quite what to do with them, but can't bring yourself to throw them away. Now you can bring order to this unruly area of life using your Series 3a/3c or Siena, plus a solution from Corex Technologies, which has added Psion compatibility to its CardScan product.



CardScan scans business cards intelligently, classifying information such as name, title, company name, address, telephone and fax numbers, and email address, in the appropriate database fields. The data is then stored electronically in a rotary file format on your desktop PC.

Using the CardScan software you can perform quick searches and enter relevant information into an unlimited notes section for each entry. It even keeps a snapshot of the original card, including any handwritten notes that may have been written on the card.

Added functionality means that you can now download the text details to your Psion, which displays them within Data. 'Contacts are your business,' says Colleen Grady of US-based Corex, 'and the CardScan Psion solution gives you that information at your fingertips, wherever you are.'

CardScan is sold as a scanner and Windows-based software package, or as a standalone software for those who already own a scanner.

Corex Technologies: Tel: +1 617 492 4200. Fax: +1 617 492 6659. Web site: <http://www.corex.com>



## Museum piece

'My Psion Series 3a is invaluable in my work,' Wolfram Wach declares happily. Wach uses his Psion daily to organise and carry out guided tours through the Deutsches Museum in Munich, even storing scripts on the machine where detailed commentary is required.

Wach summarises the advantages: 'I use Agenda to keep track of my appointments, and the file function enables me to tailor individual tours to the requirements of each group. Because the Psion can be programmed on the move, I can make changes to suit the visitors as I go along.'

The Deutsches Museum is one of the largest technology museums in the world, and maps the development of science and technology throughout time to the present day.

## New buddy for divers

Recreational divers everywhere can now benefit from a reference guide designed especially to run on the Psion Series 3a/3c. Developed by Mobile Pages, Dlog (Digital Diver's Guide and Logbook) enables users to browse through a database of dive sites in the Red Sea, Florida, Cayman and the Bahamas, using the Mobile Pages search engine.

Users can also view pictures of wrecks or dive sites, add and modify entries in a detailed dive log, and plot the dive route on associated maps. The software can also be used to produce statistics from the logbook, either on all the entries or by dive site or dive buddy.

Telephone or fax Mobile Software on +44 181 906 0002. Email: [info@mobilepages.com](mailto:info@mobilepages.com). Web site: <http://www.mobilepages.com>

## Royal secrets

King Baudouin I of Belgium was considered a 'conservative' by his peers in royal circles. But after his death, the Belgian royal court noted he had a Psion among his possessions.

The machine was switched on in eager anticipation but, alas, this revealed nothing – the cunning King had password-protected his machine. Undeterred, the royal aides contacted Psion to ask whether it was possible to crack the King's code.

While mulling over how this could be achieved, the phone rang again and a voice at the end of the line asked that we cease investigations immediately and allow the King's secrets to remain with him in the grave.

So did the traditionalist King Baudouin have a secret life that he detailed on his Psion? Or had he simply smashed the high score in Solitaire? No-one will ever know the answer...

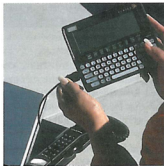


## Look, no modem

Mobile phone maker Ericsson has good news for Psion Series 3c users in the UK who want to link up to the Internet, browse the Web, or send and receive email on the move. The new Dataphone GS18 has a built-in modem, which means that you don't need to buy a PC card or external box modem; all you need is a cable to connect your Psion to the dataphone.

'Business users want a straightforward system of communicating that doesn't drain all the life from their palmtop,' says Dominic Badger, Psion Computers' marketing manager for communications products. 'This system allows you to link your phone and Psion easily without expensive and cumbersome PC cards or connectors.'

Selected UK retailers are offering the Dataphone GS18 as part of a bundle including a Series 3c, and a software/cable package called 'Mobile Internet and Messaging Solution'. For details, contact your Psion retailer, and watch for its introduction in other countries.



## Global reach

Travellers who want the latest in mobile communications can now link their Psion to a satellite phone and use it to send and receive data, faxes and email, anywhere in the world.

Inmarsat, international mobile communications service provider, promotes its portable Inmarsat-phone for use with the Series 3a/3c as part of its Mobile Office initiative. As the phone is a digital device, the Psion plugs straight in with no modem needed.

For more information, visit the Web site at: [www.inmarsat.org](http://www.inmarsat.org). The company has distributors in Europe and the US.

## Awards all round

The start of the new year could not have been brighter for Psion. In the UK's 1997 New Year's honours list, David Potter – founder, chairman and chief executive of Psion – scooped a CBE for his services to the British manufacturing industry.

Psion was also awarded the 1996 Royal Mail Award for Export Innovation. Its 43 per cent international sales growth in 1996, its extensive market research, and a worldwide network of partners all helped tip the balance in Psion's favour.



## The sky's the limit

Sailing enthusiast David Gibby is using his Series 3a to help find his way across the Indian Ocean.

Gibby joined the crew of the 60ft yacht *Blackadder* in Hong Kong in April, at the halfway point of the 1997 Round the World clipper yacht race. Eight yachts are taking part in the challenge, but only one has a Psion Series 3a on board.

'The astro-navigation software lets me tap in all the sextant readings and calculate the position of the boat on the earth's surface,' explains Gibby. 'It's easy to use and economic on batteries. Space is precious on a boat this size, and the Psion saves me from having to carry around lots of sheets of paper. It's ideal.' The yachts are now en route from the Seychelles to South Africa.

## Let there be light

If you have a non-backlit Psion and you often use your Psion in poor light conditions, then help is at hand. The new mini PCL 3 palmtop computer light from US manufacturer ASF Associates is designed especially for palmtops like the Series 3a/3c and Siena.

The mini PCL 3 is powered by three AA batteries and has a built-in jack which allows you to plug the light into an ASF AC or DC adaptor to save battery life. The unit is collapsible when not in use and comes with a removable diffusion filter, soft travel case and extra bulbs.

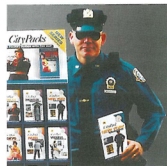
ASF: +1 516 868 3918. Web site: <http://www.std.com/asfl>



## Psion helps clean up

Campaigners for the Rosenheimer anti-drugs scheme 'Clean is in' are tackling the growing drug problem in this region of Germany, with the help of two Psion Series 3a computers and a Series 3c. The machines, provided by Psion Germany, are used to help organise briefings and other publicity events, record minutes and keep appointments.

The ability to transfer data to desktop computers is one of the main benefits, says Anton Flunger, co-ordinator of the anti-drugs scheme. In addition, the portable nature of the machines means that volunteers can use them in their daily work at any time, anywhere.



## Travel wise

Developer On-Board Info has launched software versions of the well-known AA Travel Guides, for the Psion Series 3a/3c and Siena. The Worldwide Travel Guide covers 22 leading cities around the globe, while the European Travel Guide has information on ten leading European cities. Each city guide includes background and practical information, itineraries and details of travel, sights, accommodation and restaurants. The Guides are available initially in English only. Call On-Board Info on +44 171 370 0307, or visit the Web site at: <http://www.on-board-info.com>



## Master stroke

Luke McShane, the young chess player sponsored by Psion and interviewed in the last issue of *Psion User*, has come one step closer to realising his ambition of becoming the world's youngest Grandmaster. Luke has now achieved International Master status, making him the world's youngest current holder of the title. So how did Luke celebrate? He started another tournament the very next day...

## En route to Europe

Psion Series 3a and 3c users across Europe can now find the quickest, shortest or preferred route to their destination using new software from Palmtop.

En Route runs on an English, French, Dutch or German Psion, and is available in the following geographical versions: Benelux; France and Switzerland; Germany and Austria. A version covering the UK and Ireland will follow soon.

The Map view displays what you would see on a road map, while the Table view shows driving instructions for the route. In the Split view, you can track your route on the map as you follow the list of instructions. Additional features allow you to add locations, and to use the device in conjunction with most GPS (Global Positioning System) units.

Palmtop can be contacted via email on: [palmtop@psion.com](mailto:palmtop@psion.com)

## Win a new Series 5

For the competition prize in this issue of *Psion User* we couldn't really provide anything other than a new Psion Series 5 - in fact, we've got three of the powerful handheld computers up for grabs.

All you have to do is answer the following three questions correctly - you'll find all the information you need in the article on the Series 5 on p16 of the magazine.

1. The screen size, in pixels, of the Series 5 is:  
A 480 x 320  
B 640 x 240  
C 480 x 160

2. Internal memory options are:  
A 1MB or 4MB  
B 1MB or 2MB  
C 4MB or 8MB

3. The new drawing application is called:  
A Sketch  
B Paint  
C Draw



For example, if you think the Series 5 has a screen size of 480 x 320 pixels, is available in 1MB or 4MB versions, and has an application called Draw, the answer would be: A A C.

Send your answers by postcard, not forgetting your name and address, to: Series 5 Competition, Psion User, Redwood Publishing, 12-26 Lexington Street, London W1R 4HQ, UK. One entry per household. The winners will be drawn on 19 September 1997.

Congratulations to the winners of the Siena competition in our last issue: Melissa McGuire of California City, US; Stefan Muller-Ruppert of Buchen, Germany; and Giles Nixon of Southampton, UK.

# Little wonder

# Siena

Golf, poker, chess, backgammon... We round up some of the items released for the Siena since its launch last autumn, games and all

At present, more than 30 quality commercial, shareware and freeware programs are available for the Siena. The first company off the mark was Purple Software, which launched *Siena Chess*, and *Siena Backgammon & Chinese Chess* (packaged as one product). These games have been redesigned from the versions that run on the Series 3a/3c.

Similarly, SW Systems has adapted *Tube*, its London Underground map and route planner, for the Siena. This includes all the features of the 3a/3c version, such as the database of places of interest.

The Siena has also sparked shareware authors into converting some of their programs for the smaller screen. Of course, all those games with fancy sound effects and painting programs which need the larger Series 3c screen are not suitable for conversion, but there are plenty of other applications which make excellent additions to the Siena. The secret of writing software for the Siena is to write a program that works well on the screen, complements the built-in applications and takes up minimum memory.

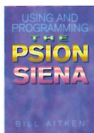
*Ultimate Poker* is a wonderful simulation of five-card poker, with the computer playing the other players – and your good self, struggling against the odds to avoid bankruptcy. If gambling isn't to your taste, try *Siena Dungeon*, a 3D maze game with animated monsters and lots of levels. Or Steve Litchfield's *Siena Golf*, with animated swings and full tournament play.

Moving on to more serious programs, *BankPlus* offers full bank account management, complete with standing orders, direct debits and look-ahead. *QuikCalc* allows you to log transactions for later import into the Quicken accounts product on a PC. *QuikNote* gives your Siena a note-taking program similar to Jotter on the Series 3c, and with *Siena TermIt* you can even dial into bulletin boards to pick up text-based email. Psion has released the Siena infrared printer drivers as freeware: these allow you to print via the infrared port to a compatible printer. These drivers are on Psion's Web site (<http://www.pSION.com>).

A one-man Siena industry is Ben Vaughan, who has no fewer than seven programs to his name. These include *Bio Base*, a biorhythm program that gives your emotional and intellectual state on a given date. If you're sceptical, Ben says Japanese car insurers give free monthly biorhythm charts to their customers because they believe it helps to reduce accident claims. He has also produced several games, including *Blackjack*. All the programs, which are also available for the Series 3a/3c, can be obtained on a PC disk by sending £5 or US\$10 to: B. Vaughan, 25 Upper Bevendean Ave, Brighton, East Sussex. BN2 4FG, UK.

To download software to the Siena from a PC, you need PsiWin for Siena, or you can use the separate SSD driver that plugs into the Siena. If all the extras leave your Siena short of memory, there are several file manager utilities around. 3TS is the pick of the bunch, as it's tiny and won't use too much of the memory it's designed to save.

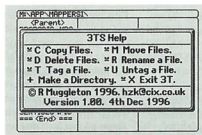
A full directory of Siena software is on the Web (<http://3lib.ukonline.co.uk>). To receive shareware by mail, see the details on p14.



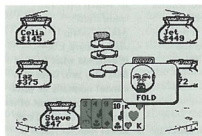
**Book mark**  
Capall Bann  
Publishing has  
brought out a  
beginner's guide

to getting the most from the Siena. Called 'Using and Programming the Psion Siena', the book also includes information for more advanced users. The 280-page publication contains many diagrams and examples.

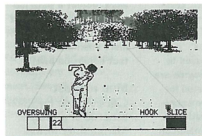
To order your copy, contact Capall Bann Publishing, Ringway House, Kelvin Road, Newbury, Berks, RG14 2DB, UK. Note that the book is available in English only.



Space saver: the 3TS file manager utility makes the most of the Siena's memory



Call my bluff: *Ultimate Poker* is just one of the many games available for the Siena



Out of the woods: with Steve Litchfield's *Siena Golf* loaded on your Psion, you can perfect your swing wherever you are



## Just in case

Reading the last issue of *Psion User*, you may have been amazed by the variety of cases available for the Series 3a/3c. Siena owners enjoy a similar choice, with several companies introducing smart cases for the new machine.

Vega Holsters sells wallets in a range of finishes including tan (bottom right) and antique leather oxblood (top left); these hold a Siena, two SSDs, three credit cards and notes. Systemslink has produced for Psion a deluxe leather case in blue (top right). Or if you prefer plain black, Widget Software sells a zipped leather Siena case (bottom left). Psion: contact your local distributor. Systemslink Two, tel: +44 1234 711220. Vega Holsters, tel: +44 1706 44177. Widget, tel: +44 1438 815444.



# Readers' response

Got a Psion tale that you're longing to share, a problem, or a handy hint for other budding Psion users? Drop us a line without delay, by letter, email or fax

## Diary dilemma

I was recently showing off my Psion to a friend, declaring that it gives me all the information that a diary can, and more. The smug response stopped me in my tracks: 'So when is Shrove Tuesday, or Easter?' I then had to admit that I hide an old-fashioned diary in my desk so that I can enter public holidays and other notable dates. So how about a solution? Surely you wouldn't want to be responsible for all Psion users turning up to work on a bank holiday?

Peter Milner  
Cambs, UK

**On-Board Info's Notable Dates and Events 1997** is an electronic diary which comes with details of public holidays and other notable dates. **Spotring, business and**

cultural events are also included. **The UK, US, France and Germany are covered.** For details, call +44 171 370 0307, or visit the Web site at [www.on-board-info.com](http://www.on-board-info.com)

## Language skills

Can I run German software on the English-language version of the 2MB Series 3a, or can the language used by the machine itself be changed?

Ano Sammer  
Vienna, Austria

**The language that a Psion Series 3a runs is determined during manufacture and cannot be changed. Properly written software will automatically sense the language of the machine it is being run on – Psion Money, for example, runs in German on a German Series 3a and in English on an English Series 3a.**

## Junior genius

I'm sure my daughter is one of the youngest Psion users around. She is fascinated by it, and not only manages to take it out of its cover, but also to switch it on. She hasn't yet cracked the password, but it wouldn't surprise me if she does soon (it's her nickname). Not bad for a 14-month old!

Wendy Fisher  
Norfolk, UK

## Novel creation

The scripting of my nationally distributed audio tape, *Bed Top Yoga*, was made so much easier by my Psion Series 3a. I wrote much of it while lying on my back in bed, and would take notes as I performed stretching exercises. There's no way my laptop computer could be held above my body as I moved between positions. Visit my Web site at: [www.stretch.com](http://www.stretch.com)

Carol Dickman  
New York, US

## Not very PC

In the Psion Scramble review in your last issue, you say that the program has 40 human-style

players, including: 'Homer Gates the computer operator with a rating of 20 (the average player would have a rating of around 140).'

Now just hang on a minute. I am a computer operator, and I'm neither thick nor lacking in a wide vocabulary. So to the deluded fool who wrote the software, I say: 'Leave us operators alone, and try to control your prejudices.'

Of course, I'll forgive you if you send me a free copy of Psion Scramble...  
J.E. Scott  
Yorkshire, UK

## A wearing problem

The lettering on the keys of my Psion is disappearing gradually. Wouldn't the introduction of engraved keys be an improvement?

Richard Russell  
Blantyre, Malawi

**The materials used to make the keyboards are chosen and tested for durability in the anticipated usage. Although the test is a simulation of real life, a few users have experienced some wear of the lettering. Work is underway to improve the keys.**

## File safe?

I wish to transfer files from my Psion Series 3a to a 1MB flash SSD. Will the files still be password protected if I then use the SSD in another Psion? And is there any such protection when files are backed up to a standard floppy disk, or can they be read by any other Psion to which they are transferred?

Michael Sadler  
Abergavenny, UK

**It depends what type of files they are. Data files cannot normally be password protected, but other files (such as Word and Sheet files, or Notes in Agenda) retain their password protection. Shareware does exist which allows you to password protect a Data file to some extent. Contact Steve Litchfield's 3Lib for more information (contact details on p14).**

## Mac connect

Can I connect my Psion Series 3a to my Apple Macintosh Performa? E. Zeimert  
Toulouse, France  
**Macintosh users have been able to do this using MacLink for the 3a.**





However, for even greater functionality, Psion has just introduced PsiMac, the equivalent of PsiWin for Apple Macintosh users. This allows you to connect to your Mac quickly and easily for file management and data backup. See page 12 for a full review.

### What modem?

I am interested in buying PsiMail, and will obviously need the PC Card Modem Adaptor and a modem. I would like to use the same external modem for both my Psion and my PC. Can you suggest a modem that would suit both purposes?

Steve Lyon

Middlesex, UK

You can connect your Psion to any Hayes-compatible modem, so it should be easy to find a modem that can be used for both purposes. For more on PsiMail Internet, see p22.

### OVAL on 3c?

What's the story with OVAL? My Series 3c doesn't have it and I can find no mention of it in the handbook.

Michael Schlueter  
Berlin, Germany

OVAL programs require support files to be present in the ROM of the machine in question. The Psion Series 3c contains these files. It is not possible to write a program in OVAL on the Series 3c itself: this process takes place on a PC using an integrated development environment. See p30 for more on OVAL and other development tools.

### Psion solution

My wife has had multiple sclerosis for the past five years, and the lack of control of her

hands means that she can no longer write or draw. This is particularly frustrating since before she became ill she was a graphic designer.

She now uses a Psion Series 3a and Canon bubblejet printer for all her writing. Finances are kept in order using Psion Money, and the Lloyds Bank electronic cheque book is also useful as she cannot write or sign cheques normally. Her unbearable love of Scrabble is even catered for now.

It's amazing just how quickly she took to using the Series 3a with no computer knowledge at all. It is now totally indispensable.

Stephen Hayward  
London, UK

### To have and to hold

When I got married last November, my faithful Psion was invaluable in the organisation and smooth running of the whole event.

It was especially useful when I came to deliver the much-dreaded bridegroom's speech. For someone who is unused to public speaking, the Psion was a real help, since it allowed me to have the whole speech to hand. Most importantly, the cheers it received when I took it out of my pocket helped reduce

the tension. What a life saver it proved to be...

Fady Boutros  
Oxfordshire, UK

### Mobile mistake

In *Readers' Response* of the Winter 1996/97 issue, you stated that airline travellers can use their Psion at any time during a flight, but should not use a mobile phone during take-off or landing. In fact, most airlines ban the use of mobile phones throughout the flight.

Peter Wilkins, Aviation Security and Airport Operational Safety  
Brighton, UK

**Note that many airlines also prohibit the use of any device during take-off and landing. If in doubt, ask.**

### SMS express

I have just purchased the Orange Messaging Link SSD to allow me to compose and receive SMS messages on my Psion Series 3a while connected to my Nokia Orange mobile phone. I am tremendously impressed with this software as it speeds up composition of messages in comparison with using the phone's keypad, allows me to store innumerable messages (the phone only stores five), and even provides a more accurate indication of battery condition and

signal strength than the phone's display. All I need now is for Orange and the other providers of digital mobile phone networks to enable cross-network SMS transmission.

David Watson  
London, UK

### Television appeal

As a camera assistant in the New Zealand television industry, I am keen to find out if any special hardware or software has been developed for television applications.

I have seen a Psion Organiser used as a time code logging device, whereby you can feed time code from a video camcorder to the Psion and store record start and stop times. Does anyone know of a similar application for the Series 3a?

Peter Kraan  
Auckland, New Zealand

Readers can write to *Psion User* magazine at 12-26 Lexington Street, London W1R 4HQ, UK. Fax: +44 171 312

2601. Or send email to: [psionuser@psionworld.net](mailto:psionuser@psionworld.net) We regret that we are unable to reply to all readers' letters individually. See the Contents page for details of the main Psion offices.

### Q&A

Here we answer some questions often asked about the Series 3 range.

**Will Series 3a software and peripherals work with the Series 3c and Siena?**  
Almost all software for the Series 3a will run on the Series 3c. However, applications designed for the Series 3a (or 3c) will not run satisfactorily on the Siena unless they were written specially to be compatible. Most Series 3a peripherals won't operate on the Siena or Series 3c, as the serial interface is now built in, so a different connector is needed.

**Can I use my Series 3a files on my new 3c? Or on the Siena?**

Yes, all of the Series 3a applications' files are supported on both the Siena and Series 3c.

**Can I transfer Siena files to the Series 3c, or vice versa?**

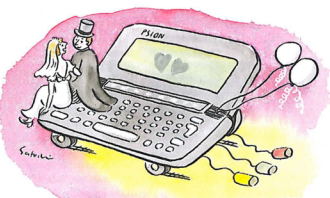
Yes, all of the Siena and Series 3c applications' files are compatible.

**Can I upgrade the memory of a 1MB Series 3c? At the moment upgrades are not offered, although it is likely Psion will introduce them in the future. Memory upgrades for the Series 3a are available.**

**Can I send and receive email on the Siena?**

It is possible using a shareware comms application, but the Siena wasn't designed for email. Opt for the more powerful Series 3c.

For answers to more technical questions, visit the Psion Web site at: [www.psimon.com](http://www.psimon.com)



# Time shifting

Juggling the commitments of a busy life can be made far easier with Agenda. Mark Whitehorn gives some tips on the many options available

Take the following ingredients: meetings, travel plans and conference dates, plus hair appointments, visits to the dentist, commitments to chauffeur offspring to and from football on Wednesdays, and otherwise forgettable birthdays. All these can be tossed lightly into one Psion Agenda file, but the salad which results can often look a little unappealing — even if it does go some way towards helping you order your life.

Despair not. There are several ways of classifying your activities and creating order out of the potential chaos. The simplest of these is to run two different Agenda files: one for work-related meetings, the other for private appointments.

Like most other Psion applications, Agenda is capable of running multiple files concurrently. The first usually closes automatically when you open a second file, but you can keep the two on tap. With one Agenda file open, choose the second Agenda file on the System screen and press the *Shift-Enter* keys together instead of just the usual *Enter*. (You can configure the key combination that enables this trick from the main System screen by pressing *Menu* and choosing *Set Preferences* from the *Special* section of the menu bar, as in screenshot 1.)

Moving between two Agenda files is easy. Simply press the Agenda application button while viewing one of the files. If you have more than two files open, pressing the application button cycles through all open files. The Psion does not need to run multiple 'instances' of the Agenda

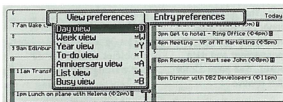
application when you have several files open, so the extra load on your machine's memory is minimal.

Depending on what you find helpful, you could have separate Agendas for activities at work, at home and when travelling — or even more if it suits you. The advantage is that you can easily see in which sphere of your life your commitments lie. The disadvantage, of course, is that you could end up taking the dog to the vet in one life while in another you are meeting the managing director of the Frankfurt office.

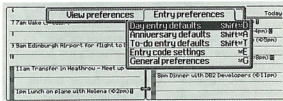
Agenda is amazingly configurable. To look at the range of options on offer, press the *Menu* key, go to *Special* and choose *Set Preferences*. You'll have access to two lists: *View preferences* and *Entry preferences* (screenshots 2 and 3).

Looking first at *Day view* in *View preferences*, you'll see there are seven configurable options; these let you set everything from the types of entry allowed, to whether overlap bars are displayed (giving you a graphical clue that two appointments overlap; see screenshot 4). Other views have their own preferences; a little time spent experimenting with these will help you to get the most from Agenda.

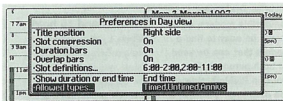
The options under *Entry preferences* are equally configurable. There are eight *Day entry defaults* which can be tweaked to your own specification, and under *General preferences* you can set the *Startup view* to that which you use most regularly, among other things.



Screenshot 2: the list of views for which many preference settings can be made



Screenshot 3: preferences can also be set for the way entries are made for each view



Screenshot 4: the Day view preferences. Note there is a duration bar showing at the bottom left of the screen

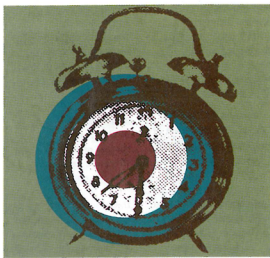
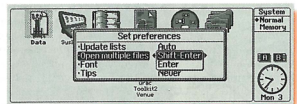


ILLUSTRATION: ANDY MARTIN



Screenshot 1: setting the *Shift-Enter* key combination to switch between multiple Agenda files

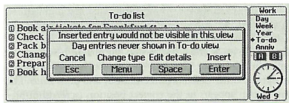
## Things to do

The To-do list feature which the Agenda offers can also be pressed into service as a time management tool. Within a To-do list you can store, say, pre-meeting commitments, and prioritise entries and cross them out as they're dealt with. This is especially satisfying for those of us who add things to a list just so we can then cross them off...

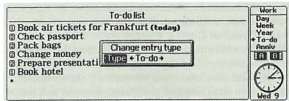
You can have multiple To-do lists within a single Agenda file. Again, lists for work and home are obvious, and maybe one for work-related notes made on a foreign trip and another for your offspring's clothes size, so the Pittsburgh Penguins ice-hockey shirt you bring back for junior does not look like an outside nightie when he puts it on.

You can copy items from an Agenda file into a To-do list. This is invaluable if, say, you're planning to attend a conference and want to note the fact in a To-do list, as you'll need to arrange currency, find your passport and so on.

To copy an Agenda entry, put the cursor on it, press the *Pision-C* keys together (or choose *Edit, Copy Entry* from the menu), and move to the To-do view using the *Diamond* key. Next, position the cursor where you wish the copied entry to appear and press *Pision-I* (or *Edit, Insert entry* from the menu). A dialog box appears which tells you that the inserted entry wouldn't be visible in this view, and offers to let you change the entry type; all you have to do is set the correct entry type to *To-do* using the *Menu* key (screenshots



Screenshots 5/6: if you are copying Day entries into a To-do list, you need to change the entry type...



...after pressing *Menu*, just select *To-do* as the entry type, and your Day entries can go straight into the list



Screenshot 7: setting up the list of views that you can move to when pressing the *Diamond* key

5 and 6). Entries in a To-do list can also be copied into Agenda: the copying process works just like the transfer in the other direction.

## Entry codes

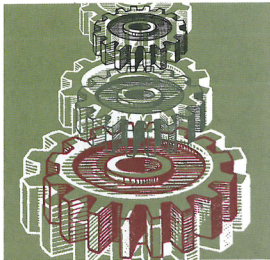
Pision Series 3c and Siena users can also use entry codes. These add a letter code to Agenda entries which you can then use to produce a list of all meetings, home activities or whatever else you've chosen as your codes.

This could be used as an alternative to multiple Agenda files, as you can always filter out and view certain types of entry. You can define your chosen entry codes by pressing *Menu*, choosing *Special* from the menu bar, then *Set preferences, Entry preferences* and *Entry code settings*. When storing a new entry, you simply add the relevant entry code. Pressing *Tab* when you've selected *Current code* displays a list of codes. The Series 3c comes with several predefined codes, such as B for birthday and M for meeting.

For those running synchronisers, which keep PC and Pision diaries in step, don't forget that you can also set entry codes as 'open', 'restricted' or 'private', depending on which details you want mirrored on a personal computer (which may also be networked).

If you're the owner of an earlier Pision, you could think about a code of your own to mark items as completed, rather than crossing them off. This can be useful when keeping track of a two-stage process; if, for instance, you often request quotations from companies, a single asterisk following an entry could show that the request has been submitted, with two asterisks meaning that the quote has been received. Entries with the asterisk character can be located using the Search facility. You could also use entry codes like this, changing from one to another to signify different stages.

In Agenda you have the ideal time management tool. A little experimentation with the above techniques will soon identify the best approach for your own particular style of working.



## Diamond options

It is useful to know that you can set up the number of views available by pressing the *Diamond* key to reflect the way in which you use Agenda. If you never use the year view or the anniversary view, for example, you can remove them from the *Diamond* list.

To do this you simply go to the menu, click on the *Diamond* option and then on *Set up Diamond list*. A window opens in which you can choose the views you wish to be visible (screenshot 7). Setting this up with a reduced set of views allows you to cycle more quickly to the one you want.

And you can use the short cut keys to move between views (such as *Shift-Pision-T*, pressed together, for the *To-do list* and *Shift-Pision-L* for the *List view*).

# Group practice



**It's easy to give the System screen on your Series 3 or Siena a good clear out by grouping icons together logically. Mark Whitehorn explains how it's done**

Psion users are spoiled for choice. The range of applications available is so vast that there just has to be something for everyone. You may not need the program that calculates 'way points' for gliders, nor the one which converts kilowatts to centijoules, but there is still the chess game or the Web browser or the calorie calculator or the...

The only disadvantage, as so many of us have found, is that each must-have application adds yet another icon to the System screen. My insatiable appetite for software could have led me to drown in a sea of icons. True, I can use the Psion-Z key sequence (press keys simultaneously) to zoom

them to a smaller size, but with dozens of icons on my Series 3c (the maximum is 100), that doesn't help much.

To help solve the problem, Psion developed a mechanism for grouping icons together. This is similar to the groups found in Microsoft's Windows, only neater. The Psion version allows you, without even opening the group, to see and access documents which are being run by the programs within the group.

## Creating groups

Suppose you decide first to group the standard applications (Data, Word and so on) together and remove their 'normal' icons. Removing the normal icons may seem a little drastic, but the object of the exercise is to reduce the accumulation of icons on the System screen. There's no need to worry (and I'll show you how to reverse all the changes that we make), but you may still want to do a full backup before you start, just in case.

Assuming this is done, go to the System screen and move the highlight to the position where you want the group to appear. In screenshot 1, I have positioned the highlight so that the group will appear as the left-most icon on the screen. Then press the *Menu* key, go to *Special*, and select *Create new group* (Psion-G). When the dialog box appears, type the name for the new group (such as 'Standard'), accept the other defaults (screenshot 2) and press *Enter*. The new group appears in the correct position (screenshot 3).

The group appears in the System screen, but so far it is empty. With the highlight still on the new group, press the *Space* bar to open it and press the *Menu* key, go to *Apps*, and select *Install standard* (Psion-J). The dialog box which appears lists all the standard applications; use the cursor keys to cycle through them and choose the one you want, then press *Enter* (screenshot 4).

You can add as many as you want, selecting their position using the lower part of the dialog box, as in the screenshot. I've installed four icons, and screenshot 5 shows that each lists its own data files and emboldens those in use, just as normal. Press *Escape* to close the group, and you can see it on the System screen once more (screenshot 6). Highlighting the group and pressing the *Space* bar will open the group again and allow you to reach the icons and their associated files in the normal way.

However, the group icon has a list below it which comprises the files associated with the programs included in the group (screenshot 5 again). You can use any of these to access the relevant file, without even opening the group. Simply highlight the name of the file and press *Enter*. If an application has multiple files open at the same time, then all of the open file names are shown in bold. If any application within the group is currently closed, then the name of that application is shown instead.

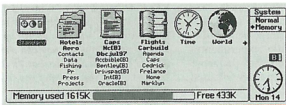
ILLUSTRATION: ANDY MARTIN



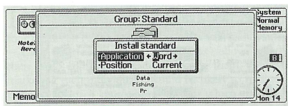
**Screenshot 1:** highlighting the left-most icon to select the position for the new group



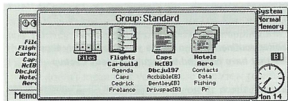
**Screenshot 2:** Psion-G calls up this box. Here I have half typed 'standard' as the new group name



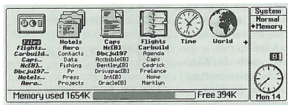
**Screenshot 3:** the new group appears. Now you need to select applications to put in it



**Screenshot 4:** use the Space bar to open the group, and Psion-J to install applications within the group



**Screenshot 5:** here's the new group with four standard applications installed



**Screenshot 6:** the group icon shows a list of the files which its applications are holding open

an American friend described as 'valuable screen real-estate'. You can use exactly the same method for grouping together whatever icons you desire. Perhaps you want to put all your games into one group, all the navigation programs into another, and so on.

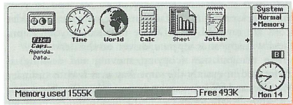
#### In reverse

Suppose that you don't like groups, or you want to move icons around – from a group to the system screen, or between groups. I'll show you how to reverse the steps we have just followed.

First, to reinstate the original icons on to the System screen, place the cursor where you want the icon to reappear, press the *Menu* key, go to *Apps* and select *Install standard* from the menu, and choose the application you want to place on the system screen. *Voilà*, it appears.

To delete an icon from the group, simply open the group and follow the same instructions as you would to delete an icon from the system screen.

Finally, to delete the group itself, close the group, ensure it is highlighted in the System screen, press the *Menu* key, go to *Apps* and select *Remove* from the menu. You don't



**Screenshot 8:** having removed icons, the screen now has a rather more 'sleek' appearance

have to remove the icons from the group beforehand. This ability to delete and install icons also allows you to move icons around on the System screen itself, so that you can place your favourite icons on the left of the screen.

Note that throughout this exercise I have always duplicated an icon before deleting one of the copies but this isn't essential. An icon is not the application itself, simply a pointer to it. You can remove icons from your screen to reduce the clutter, and then reinstate them if needed.

And you can also add your own icons to make your Psion even more personal. The Toolkit software reviewed on p13, and shareware too, can give you a wide range of icons that will add a new look to the system screen.

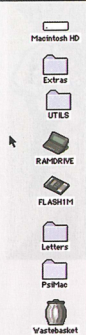


**Screenshot 7:** you can now remove application icons. Note I have also closed files in the new group



# Mac to the future

8:27 am



**Desktop look:**  
note the Psion icon in the menu bar and the special icons for SSDs

It's no coincidence that PsiMac, the latest addition to the Psion Series 3 and Siena software line-up, shares a similar name with its Windows counterpart, PsiWin. After all, they perform almost identical functions: namely file transfer, file conversion and backing up of your Psion. But although basic functionality is similar, PsiMac users will be pleased to learn that their version is as advanced as the Windows tool and is very easy to use.

For several years now, Macintosh users have been able to transfer data between their Psion and their Mac using the 3Link cable plus a Macintosh version of the Psion Link software. Rather like the current release of PsiWin, the original Macintosh software used a file-manager style interface, with which you could transfer files between your Psion and a Macintosh.

The release of PsiMac represents a fundamental change of direction in file transfer software, making this type of interface entirely redundant. Instead, the package integrates fully with the Mac desktop – becoming, in effect, an extension to the system, and presenting the files on your Psion as though they were files on your Macintosh.

Once connected, a Psion icon appears on your desktop, as though it were another disk drive attached to your Mac. Click on it and the familiar Mac-style file and folder icons are revealed. If SSDs are installed in your Psion, these will appear as separate 'drives' on the desktop.

File manipulation (copying, moving and deleting) is performed in exactly the same way as it is with ordinary Mac files and folders – using drag and drop. To delete files, for example, you simply select the files in the Psion folder that you want to delete, and drag them to the Trash icon.



**Backup routine:** PsiMac allows you to copy only those files that have changed for regular, speedy backup

Because there is no new interface to learn and the file management techniques used by PsiMac are instantly familiar, users will easily master this new package.

As with PsiWin, PsiMac also carries out file conversions transparently, during copying or moving operations. All the major file formats are supported including Microsoft Word, Excel and ClarisWorks.

The ease of use theme also extends to the configuration of the connection between the Mac and your Psion. PsiMac automatically adjusts the connection speed to match your Psion. This should ensure a connection whatever the Psion serial port is set to. And if you've accidentally set a really slow speed, PsiMac can be set to prompt you to pick a faster one. To assist configuration, a Psion icon sits next to the process manager icon on the main menu bar and it is from here that the PsiMac configuration options are set.

Like PsiWin, PsiMac also offers fast, one-click backing up of your Psion: when you connect to the Mac, you are prompted to backup any files changed or created since a date of your choosing. And using the PsiTools option, you can backup the internal drive or an SSD at any time.

**Roger Gann**

*PsiMac runs on Macintosh computers (and compatibles) running System 7 or higher, and works with both the Series 3 range and the Siena. The package comprises software on a Mac disk plus a cable for connecting your Series 3c or Siena to your Macintosh. Series 3/3a users with a 3Link cable can buy a software-only upgrade. The software is available in the second half of 1997 in a dual English/French package. Contact your local distributor for details, and see also Psion's Web site ([www.psi.com](http://www.psi.com)).*



**Utility set:** PsiTools offers easy selection of operations, including a disk compression option

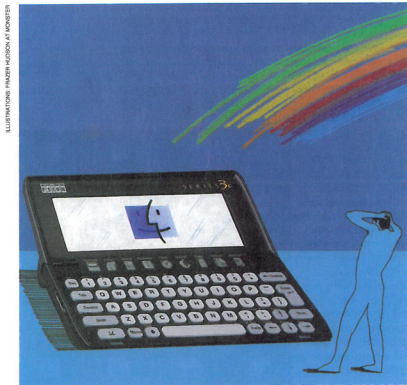


ILLUSTRATION: FINNERTH MICROSOFT BY MONSTER

# Mix and match

Following the success of ToolKit 1, Purple Software has brought out ToolKit 2, a new box of tricks comprising four elements: FileView, IconBox, DataSafe, and SysInfo.

These four tools are unrelated 'box fellows' in that there is no common thread connecting them. However, marketing each individually would be likely to result in a price tag for each approaching that for which all four are offered in ToolKit 2. Even if you want only one, the price is very fair; if you want two or more, it's excellent value.

## FileView

FileView's primary function is to enable you to view large text files (also see *Shareware* on p21 for information about text readers). A restriction of Psion's Word application is that it cannot manage text files larger than about 40KB; FileView increases this to a massive 1.5MB.

This doesn't mean that you can use FileView to edit or create documents; as the name suggests it is a file viewer. However, FileView does allow you to read massive files (even entire books) that you have imported to your Psion. You move around the large file with the usual keys, and a vertical scroll bar shows your whereabouts. You can select text (whole lines only) and, using Bring, transfer it into another document. If this document happens to be in Word you can then, of course, edit the text.

Another feather in FileView's cap is that it lets you recover deleted entries from a Psion Data file (these continue to exist until you compress a file). If you accidentally delete an entry, you can use FileView to display a table of deleted entries, which can then be selected and undeleted.

## IconBox

IconBox is a library of icons, which you can dip into when you want to change the icon and surrounding border associated with an application. There are two sets of built-in icons to choose from: the default set with icons composed of a 32 x 32 matrix of dots, and a second set

which uses a 48 x 48 matrix. The icons in the first set fit neatly inside the various borders, but the second set looks best without such additions.

IconBox allows you to change the icon for any application that supports multiple files, and for any list or group.

## DataSafe

DataSafe creates an archive of any file or files on your Psion,

and should interest those whose backup system is not all it could be. The archive is a single file containing copies of the files you specify. You can archive individual files from anywhere on your Psion, plus groups or whole directories of files - including, if you wish, any sub-directories below a specified directory.

With each file you can store an absolute path, a relative path (when the file is extracted it can only be placed relative to the current directory), or no path (extracted files are placed in the current directory). You can also use file verification to ensure that an exact copy of each file is made. DataSafe can compress files as they are archived and you can add password protection.

When updating an archive, a useful feature allows you automatically to add files which have been altered only since they were last archived. You can extract single files from an archive, or mark a group of files for extraction.

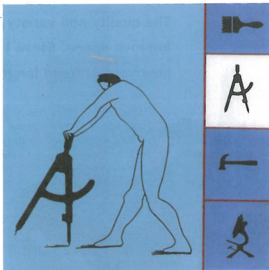
## SysInfo

SysInfo displays exactly what's going on at a low level inside your Psion, and is by far the most 'techie' of the components. Uncovering the many mysteries of memory handling, the manual explains how the Psion allocates memory, and defines such terms as data segment, stack and heap. Memory usage can be viewed graphically, and you can see how hard your Psion is working when undertaking a given operation. SysInfo also shows a list view of all processes running, with their status and priority.

The stuff SysInfo tells you is nothing you need ever worry about if you don't want to. It's a programmer's tool with a vengeance, so if you're a programmer wanting to know whether your software is efficient in its use of system resources, it's right up your street. Normal mortals need never approach its icon.

## Mark Whitehorn

Purple Software's ToolKit 2 runs on a 512KB Series 3a/3c, and is available in English, Dutch, French and German. Call your local Psion dealer for details. Or contact Purple Software: Tel: +44 171 387 7777. Fax: +44 171 387 1188. Web site: [www.purplesoft.com](http://www.purplesoft.com)



	FirstName:	LastName:	Dept:	Mark1:	Mark
2	Freddy	Mascovitch			
3	Brians	Hoods			
4	Freddy	Mascovitch	Biology	56	65
5	Sarah	Jones	Civil	45	65
6	Henry	Billinggate	Civil	45	46
7	Helen	Baylis	Biology	76	67
8	Harry	Swalls		54	56
9	Eric	Wellington	Civil		

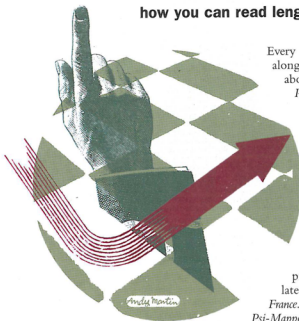
FileView allows you to look at the entries that have been deleted from (or amended in) a Data file



Prepare for take-off: IconBox is a fun application that allows you to change application icons

# Wares and hows

The quality and variety of Psion Series 3 freeware and shareware continue to improve apace. Steve Litchfield highlights some of the latest releases, and shows how you can read lengthy documents and even classic books on your Psion



Every so often a game comes along that you get excited about. David Godfrey's *Palabra* word game has all the ingredients of a classic: the idea is to present you with a set of 10 different word puzzles to work through. Each is fun to play and well presented. As you move along you accumulate points, depending on how well you're doing.

*Palabra* is a shareware program, as is my own latest release, *Psi-Mapper/France*. This does for France what

*Psi-Mapper/GB* does for Great Britain: provides an electronic map of the country with overlays such as hotels, parks and museums. *Psi-Mapper/France* is, of course, in French.

There are a number of utilities which give Series 3a owners the 'Series 3c feeling'. I liked the impressive *BusyView*, a Series 3a program that gives Agenda the Busy view of the Series 3c. If you haven't seen this yet, it displays one month at a glance with all appointments blocked in so you can tell immediately when you are free. Although not completely integrated with Agenda, it's close enough not to be a problem, so if you feel you'd like this feature and haven't yet upgraded to a 3c, this is the utility to look for. In a similar vein, *QuickNote* and *Memopad* both aim to give the Series 3a the Series 3c's Jotter application – somewhere to note down quick items when there isn't time to open a new Word document.

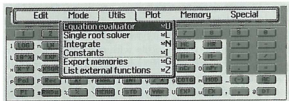
You may already have heard of John Boyce's *JBDATA*, the Series 3a database replacement which provides a list view and comprehensive searching options. This has now been upgraded to v1.5 and is becoming an essential extra for many Series 3a owners. Again, it gives the Series 3a the Data power of the Series 3c – and the even better news is that it's totally free. Also free is *Calc3a*, a comprehensive scientific calculator and equation solver.

They said it couldn't be done. *PsiZIP* is a full Psion version of the industry standard *PKZIP* package, and is a major programming achievement for its author, Serge Shestopalov. You can now archive and compress files and directories just as easily as your PC-owning counterparts.

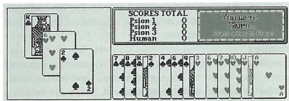
*Subway* is a freeware London tube route finder, which copes effortlessly with complex routes and conditions. And finally, there's *Hearts*, a well-implemented Psion version of the popular card game. Games addicts beware.



**Busy times:** *BusyView* for the Series 3a gives you Psion the same view as the one that comes with the 3c



**Number crunching:** *Calc3a* is a calculator and equation solver for those who know their tans from their sines



**Good deal:** *Hearts* is a well-implemented version of the popular card game. Beware the penalty cards

## Shareware essentials

Unlike commercial software programs, typically sold by dealers or in shops, shareware is usually uploaded by its author onto bulletin board systems and other dial-up services, or distributed on floppy disk or CD-Rom. You can then download the software and try it out. If you like it, you're obliged to pay for it; if not, you simply erase it. And some programs – known as freeware – are completely free.

Most Psion shareware programs take only seconds to download, and you can download files to a desktop computer first and then transfer them to your Psion using *PsiWin* or *PsiMac*. You'll also need a program to decompress shareware that has been compressed; these files usually end in '.ZIP'. You can download most programs from Steve Litchfield's Web site (<http://3lib.ukonline.co.uk>), or from the Psion forum on CompuServe. Alternatively, you can get details of Psion shareware by sending a loose first-class stamp plus stamped addressed envelope (or International Reply Coupon) to 3-Lib, 22 Grays Crescent, Woodley, Reading, RG5 3EN, United Kingdom.



## Reading up – and down – on your Psion

Keeping the text of whole books on your Psion is an idea which is not immediately obvious, but is certainly appealing. It means you can have thousands of classic books at your fingertips without lugging a heavy book around, and you can also carry the text of lengthy reports or manuals.

The Psion screen is very readable and has other advantages that a paper book cannot offer. For example, you can 'bookmark' as many places in the text as you wish, or search the text for a particular string of characters (to find, say, a favourite passage or particular reference). And the Psion's display can be zoomed large or small or even rotated by 90 degrees as in the screenshot.

In addition, there is a program available as shareware, Barry Childress's Reader, which allows you to read compressed versions of your chosen text – this can halve the disk space needed. Some Psion owners carry around the entire text of the bible on a single SSD. Childress supplies a tool that runs on a PC which lets you create your own compressed files, and there are also directories of public domain

texts already precompressed in the special '.TCR' format that Reader uses.

But the clincher for me is that any information in text form can be compressed and browsed under Reader. Novels, specifications, reports and program manuals can all can be reduced to a file you can load onto your Psion.

Reader is available from the usual shareware sources as READER23.ZIP and includes the special TCReader compression utility. Electronic books can be found on Compuserve in .TCR format in the Psion forum, in generic text format in the STUF0B forum, or there are many sites on the Internet. Good starting points are: <http://www.awa.com/library/omnimedia/links.html>  
<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/books.html>  
Project Gutenberg, which started the electronic text movement, is at: <http://www.promo.net/pg/>

Note on copyright: the 'rule of thumb' for when works go out of copyright is: published at least 75 years ago in the US, or published 50 years after the author's death in other countries.

The Time Machine, by  
Herbert G (George) Wells  
(1898)

I

The Time Traveller (for so it will be convenient to speak of him) was expanding a reconditio matter to us. His grey eyes shone and twinkled, and his usually pale face was flushed and animated. The fire burned brightly, and the soft radiance of the incandescent lights in the files of silver caught the bubbles that flashed and passed in our glasses. Our chairs, being his patents, embraced and caressed us rather than submitted to be sat upon, and there was that luxurious after-dinner atmosphere when thought roams gracefully free of the trammels of precision. And he put it to us in this way—marking the points with a lean forefinger—as we sat and lazily admired his earnestness over this new paradox (as we

*Back in time: books such as those written by H. G. Wells are out of copyright and freely available*

## Home run – and double top

For all you baseball fans we thought we'd slip in a mention for Diamond Score, a commercial program for recording baseball and softball statistics. It allows scoring of more than 100 statistics for offence, defence and pitching using simple menus. Diamond Score's developer, ProCreations, has a Web site at <http://www.imal.com/stores/procreations>. Dart3a, available as shareware, is a scoring package – perfect if you want to record your sharp-shooting, or if your subtraction skills need a backup.

The screenshot shows the 'Diamond Score' software interface. At the top, there are menu options: Game, Team, Export, and Special. Below these are buttons for 'Setup New Team' and 'Update Team/Players'. A scorecard is visible with columns for LF, LC, RC, P, 2B, and RF. Below the scorecard is a table of statistics for a game between Steve and SBI.

	Steve	SBI	Bill	Sets
best of 7	88	581	426	75
1B	58	183	355	123
2B	188	97	232	171
3B	97	85	61	53
HR	54	32	8	8
Runs	85	32	8	8
Legs	54	32	8	8
best of 5	54	32	8	8
Total :	Steve has 32 points left			

Top: setting up Diamond Score. Dart3a, meanwhile, includes a statistics section for your lifetime scores

## Top 25 shareware packages\*

- 1 Psi-Mapper/GB Geographical information system
- 2 S3aBank Home accounts suite
- 3 ReadCIS Off-line reader for CompuServe
- 4 Plan Project management system
- 5 Monthvu Adds a month view to Agenda
- 6 Fairway Golf game
- 7 Reader Text reader
- 8 Con3a Unit and currency converter
- 9 QuikNote Jotter-style note taker
- 10 Backgammon Backgammon game
- 11 S3aTask To-do manager
- 12 S3aFuel Car economy tool
- 13 Draw Drawing and painting package
- 14 BusyView Busy/month view on 3a Agenda
- 15 S3aInvest Investments manager
- 16 BankPlus Bank account manager
- 17 WebCIS Text access to the Web through ReadCIS
- 18 Faxit Fax software
- 19 DP Bank Bank account manager
- 20 Lotto3a Lottery analyser/checker
- 21 S3aHome Home inventory system
- 22 Ultimate Poker Poker simulation
- 23 S3aExp Expenses manager
- 24 OPP Extension to OPL compiler
- 25 LogIt Time logging and billing system

(\*Based on number of registrations as of 21 April 1997)



# Series 5 -

**The Psion Series 5 makes its debut as the most powerful handheld computer on the market. Designed specifically to meet the needs of the mobile professional who wants to access PC-style applications on the move, the Series 5 sets the benchmark for the 'mobile office'**

**T**he Psion Series 5 brings a new generation of powerful, portable computing to the increasing number of workers who need to access and manage business and personal information on the move. The Series 5 is revolutionary in three ways: laptop-style hardware, desktop-quality software and seamless communications. This approach makes it unique among today's handheld computers. If you need to keep your information with you wherever you are, you'll want to look at the Series 5. Overleaf, we provide a tour of its main features. But first, an overview of the key elements of the new computer.

## **What's inside**

The Series 5 uses a new generation of 32-bit Psion technology, which offers sophisticated office applications thanks to a very fast processing speed, more memory and a new operating system. The Series 5 comes in two memory versions: 4MB and 8MB.

## **Screen**

As soon as you open the Series 5, you notice the large screen, the largest available on any handheld computer (full VGA in width, 640 x 240 pixels). The screen allows you to display applications and data in a similar way to those on your desktop PC, so you can move easily between the Series 5 and PC. What you can't tell straight away is that the screen is also touch sensitive: using the pen that is tucked inside the Series 5 - or your finger - you can choose menu options, run programs or even draw pictures on screen without touching the keyboard.

## **Keyboard**

The keyboard looks like those found on much larger computers, and offers the 'professional feel' that you need to be able to touch-type at speed. It's a patented Psion design, and again is a first for the handheld computer category: no other handheld offers this 'laptop style' keyboard, with no gaps between keys and a large 'vertical travel' for the keys.



live



### Size and case

Overall, the Series 5 is only slightly larger than the Series 3c, and weighs only a little more (tipping the scales at just 354g). The remarkable aspect of the design is that the keyboard slides forward as you open the case – but even then the overall 'footprint' is about the same as the Series 3c.

The case also has an infrared communications port, and doors that open to reveal the battery compartment (twin AA size), backup battery, serial communications port and a slot for Pison's Series 5 Memory Disk, a new type of storage technology based on the CompactFlash standard.

### Software

With the larger screen size, touch-sensitive screen and increased processing power, the look of the System screen and the applications on the Series 5 is radically different from the Series 3c. The overall concept is very much like a desktop PC running the latest software, but you have the added flexibility of using the pen – or your finger – to

navigate around files and applications. The Series 5 has office applications with the look, feel and functionality of PC software. Both Word and Sheet allow you to take your word processor and spreadsheet files with you anywhere – and the integration capabilities between them are excellent. You can, for example, cut and paste a chart made with Sheet directly into a Word document. As standard, you get all the other applications you would expect to find on a Pison (such as Data, Agenda, Word and Time), but there are many new features. There's also a new Sketch application, plus Record, Spell, Comins, OPL and more.

### Docking

Compatibility with a desktop PC is a crucial requirement for mobile office users. Using PsiWin 2.0, the Series 5 offers effortless connection to your PC – and seamless integration – because the Pison appears as another computer in Windows Explorer. PsiWin 2.0 is included with the Series 5; all you need to do is set the required preferences for operations such as backup of data, and synchronisation of your Agenda with PC applications such as Schedule+.



## Series 5 – a quick tour

OK – you're sitting in front of a new Series 5, it's opened up and ready for action. Press the On key and up comes the main screen. Exactly what you can see depends on the preferences you set: in the picture above we are showing a number of the System screen options switched 'on', but you can choose not to display these if you prefer. On the right hand side of the screen, you can see a set of 'buttons' that relate to file management and overall controls, and below them the clock.

On the left is a title bar showing the name of the file folder you are currently displaying (in this case, the main 'documents' folder), and a letter matching the disk drive where the folder is located (the main internal memory is drive 'C'). In the main body of the screen are the folders and files, which relate to the applications you have loaded on your Series 5.

You can choose to see the date that files were last altered, and the amount of space they take up. A name in bold tells you that a file is currently 'loaded'.

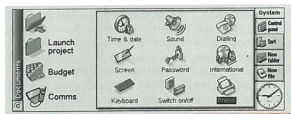
Under the screen you have the touch-icons for the applications, just like on the Psion Series 3. And to the left,



**Menu options: one touch displays a pull-down menu; similar flexibility is available in all applications**

there are more options: the 'plus' and 'minus' magnifying glasses allow you to zoom in and out at the touch of the pen, the communications symbol allows infrared transmission, the scissors enable quick cutting, copying and pasting of data, while touching the top arrow opens a pull-down menu for selecting system and application options.

This last choice is very important: at the touch of the



**A Control panel gives you immediate access to options that configure your Series 5**

pen, or your finger, you can see all the menu options relating to an application, in the same way as you see menus on the Series 3. But using the pen or your finger gives you far speedier access to many more options, and the larger screen also allows you to display menu bars and tool bars all the time as you write a document using Word, say, or create a spreadsheet using Sheet.

In fact, everything you see on and around the screen is selectable by touch. And everything can also be selected from the keyboard – so you can adapt your working style to any combination of pen, finger and key presses.

On any main System screen showing files, a single touch selects the file; another press 'launches' the application. If the application is already loaded, a single touch takes you

straight to the place where you left off. The touch screen and pen combination also allows you to draw pictures and signatures in the Sketch application, and apart from using the pen to select menu items, you can use it to move scroll bars in applications such as Sheet (should you choose to display the bars). You can also use the pen to select text for, say, underlining or deleting, and you can even drag and move items such as dialog boxes around the screen, so you can see details underneath.

All in all, you'll find the Series 5 remarkably easy to use – it really does build on the features that have made the Series 3 such a success.

## Office applications

The applications that really set the Series 5 apart from other handheld computers are the so-called office applications that are most often used on desktop computers: Word and Sheet. With the Series 5, you can transfer your word processor and spreadsheet files to a handheld computer (from a PC) without losing the power or functionality of the desktop environment.

The Series 5 word processor is compatible with Microsoft, Lotus and Corel formats, and comprises a full range of formatting options, plus the ability to 'embed' spreadsheets and pictures – and even sound recordings. Embedding means taking items created within other applications and incorporating them directly in the Word application, and it is a principle that works throughout the applications on the Series 5.

Creating a new Word document is a simple matter of loading the program and typing in your document – while the two tool bars give you immediate access to formatting commands (such as choice of font and italics) and also to printing, spellchecking and embedding graphs and sketches created in other applications. You can define your own style 'gallery', add bullet lists and add pagination – all the things you can do as a matter of course on a desktop PC.

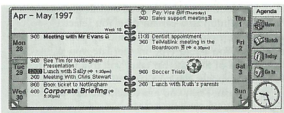
Sheet also uses this PC-style philosophy, giving you options to format and calculate spreadsheets much as you would in a package such as Excel: indeed, it is also com-

patible with Microsoft, Lotus and Corel formats. Sheet gives you the usual formatting options, such as fonts, shading and borders; more than 100 statistical, financial and other functions; and a full range of 2D and 3D charts.

## Agenda

The core personal information management applications, Agenda and Data, are the next features that many people will look at. When you load Agenda, you see your preferred Start-up view: Day, Week, Year, Anniversary or To-Do. In all views, you'll see that the pages are 'turned up' in the bottom corners – touching these corners turns the pages.

Adding an entry is easy – you just touch on a day to position the entry, touch again and a box appears asking for details. Once the entry is there, you can select it again in the same way – and you'll find a wide range of other options from an additional selection box, including the ability to set the style for the entry (such as font), alarms, and synchronisation with a diary on your PC.



The Week view in Agenda. The toolbar on the right enables quick access to common functions

## Desktop connectivity

The Series 5 comes with PsiWin 2.0, which provides instant compatibility with desktop PCs running Windows Explorer. PsiMac, software for connecting to a Macintosh, is also available as an option (see p12).

The connection works at high-speed: data transfer is up to 115.2kbit/s, and when you start the link the Series 5 appears as a computer on your PC's desktop. You can drag and drop files between Series 5 and PC drives or folders, and they are automatically converted to the right format for you.

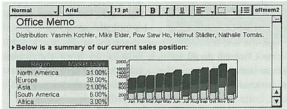
The converter library makes your Series 5 compatible with a wide range of PC applications, including:

- Microsoft Office Word for Windows
- Excel
- Schedule+
- Lotus SmartSuite
- Ami Pro
- Lotus Organizer 2.1
- WordPerfect for Windows
- Quattro Pro
- Corel Office

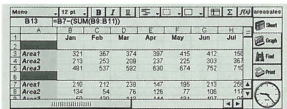
You can synchronise your Agenda files with Lotus Organizer and Microsoft Schedule+. Conflicts and deletions are kept in a log on both the desktop PC and on your Series 5 for you to review.

You can also backup all your Series 5 files onto your PC or local area network and easily restore files and folders. PsiWin 2.0 automatically detects when you connect a Series 5 and can be set to undertake routine tasks such as backups.

Finally, an application called PsiOn Print allows you to print directly from your Series 5 to any printer connected to your PC or network using TrueType fonts.



In Word: the toolbar allows you to style your text, and you can embed items such as graphs created in Sheet



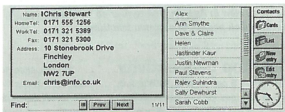
The Sheet application has all the tools you would expect from a PC program such as Excel



PHOTOS: DOUGLAS FERRIER

It's easy to embed items from other applications into an Agenda entry. A few pen touches take you to other applications, and you can choose from a voice note, a Word memo, a drawing made with Sketch and even a Sheet item.

Another good example of speed and flexibility is when you want to jump to a certain date. You select Go to, displayed on the right of the screen, and up pops a box with today's date. You could type in the date you want, but a double touch of the date bar takes you to a month display, and further touches can take you to either a three-month or year calendar. Then you just touch the day you want.



The Card view in Data. Note the main entry is currently selected from the list on the right

## What is CompactFlash?

The Series 5 has a single slot for extra storage, provided by Psion Series 5 Memory Disks. These are tiny, low-power solid-state disks that can pack in an amazing amount of data. Initially, they are available for the Series 5 in 2MB, 4MB and 10MB options, but the standard is projected to reach 100MB or more in the future. The cards are based on a new CompactFlash memory card standard.

## Data

The Data application allows you to view entries either individually (Card view), or as a list (List view). Because of the generous screen size, Card view also enables a partial list of names to be displayed – using the pen, you can instantly choose to display the full details for any entry, and the scroll bar gives you access to the entire database. A Find option is also displayed on screen.

An important feature of Data is the ability to add your own labels to the database, and to specify the type of data that you can enter, such as text, number, date, or just 'yes' or 'no'. You can easily build up your own database applications in this way. Data also has powerful sorting options for putting your database in order. You can even embed pictures – such as CD covers – into entries.

## Other apps

The first thing any new Psion owner usually does is set the time, date and 'home' city. The Time application gives you a full world map, with details for both your home city and one other location – just touching the map shows you the location and local time. The clocks can be changed from analogue to digital at a touch of the pen, while alarms and sound options can be selected from the touch panels on the right hand side of the screen.

The other applications on the main button bar are Calc (which gives you the choice of a desktop or scientific calculator) and Sketch, where the pen really come into its own. With Sketch, you can write your signature, draw pictures and create diagrams such as maps. Included is a library of icons, such as road elements (crossroads and the like) and various pictures (cars, arrows, and even a pint of beer).

Also on the main button bar is an icon labelled Extras – touching this pops up further application choices, including a communications tool, spellchecker, the Record voice recorder and sound player, and a 'bombs' game.

And the last feature we have space for in this quick tour is the Control panel, which is selected from the main System screen. This provides quick access to settings such as the time and date, sound, printing, communications, password, battery information and so on.

There's more – much more – to the Series 5, and we'll explore it further in the next *Psion User*.



Using Sketch, you can create and edit pictures and diagrams – and even write your signature

## Key points about the Series 5

- The Series 5 will be available in these language versions: British English, American English, German, French, Dutch, Italian, Swedish and Spanish.
- Software available this year includes email, Web browser, fax, PsIMac and a number of third-party applications such as Berlitz, route planning, financial calculator and various games.
- At the heart of the Series 5 is Psion's EPOC32 'architecture', a powerful combination of software and hardware that uses an ARM710 processor. The built-in applications fit on a 6MB ROM, and the Series 5 has two RAM memory options, 4MB or 8MB.
- The screen on the Series 5 can display 640 x 240 'pixels' – that's full VGA width. It is high resolution (0.21mm 'pitch'), and there is also a backlight.
- The Series 5 comes with a simple upgrade routine for importing Agenda, Data, Word, Sheet and Jotter files from your Series 3 or Siena.
- Battery life is about 30 hours on twin AA size batteries.
- Voice notes can be made with the case closed, by using the record, play/stop and rewind buttons built in to the side of the Series 5. About 16 minutes of sound can be stored in 4MB of RAM.
- Development languages and tools available at launch include OPL and C++. Java will be available later. A full emulation of the Series 5 is available on a PC.
- The Series 5 is compatible with the PC Card Modem Adaptor and Travel Modem.

# Going for gold

What looks like a credit card and packs in more 'bangs per buck' than any other mobile communications device? Psion Dacom's Gold Card range, which has now gone 'global'

**P**C Card modems are among the smallest, neatest and most powerful pieces of communications technology to hit the market. Armed with one of these tiny miracles, travellers have the potential to communicate from wherever they happen to be, using a Psion or a notebook computer.

Unfortunately, the regulatory frameworks of the different national telecommunications organisations have been slower to catch up. But with Psion Dacom's Gold Card Global, users have, for the first time, a PC Card modem which meets the approval requirements of every major telephone operator. Special 'Country-switching software' configures the modem to suit local requirements in seconds.

Gold Card Global works worldwide with land-line and wireless networks – the wireless capability includes GSM and digital personal communication networks. Switching between countries is done easily using a new Windows utility called EasySwitch: you select the appropriate country icon, and the modem is then ready for action.

However, taking a modem across borders can be like driving a train across a continent with different track widths in each country. Each needs a different adaptor to connect to a land-line, so travellers also need to take the correct phone socket connectors with them.

Using the GSM network, of course, no land-line connection is needed: you simply buy the kit that matches your phone. (GSM network operators have 'roaming' agreements to allow you GSM phone to cross borders seamlessly.) So with the combination of a notebook or handheld computer, Gold Card Global modem and GSM phone the traveller is now truly mobile in those countries covered by GSM networks. And the area of the world not covered is shrinking fast.

There's another feature that makes Gold Card Global particularly neat. Most PC Card modems have a 'lump' in the cable, containing data access electronics. Psion Dacom has integrated this in the modem, providing direct connection from the card to the phone socket.

The company has also launched an upgraded version of Gold Card Network, which combines a modem and Ethernet network capability. Some business travellers may need to work on local area networks in their own and other offices, so Gold Card Network provides network connectivity, as well as being a modem which can be upgraded to work with a GSM phone.

And this product does two things at once: users can have network access and a land-line or GSM connection simultaneously. They can also connect to local area networks remotely: all the leading remote access products are supported.

Meanwhile, the Psion PC Card Modem Adaptor provides connectivity between Psion Series 3a/3c and most Gold Card modems. Users can simply take the Gold Card out of a notebook PC and use it with their 3a or 3c, using the same phone cable. Psion users can use the Gold Card with PsiMail Internet or other comms tools.

Both the Gold Card Global and the Gold Card Network support features such as GSM data compression, which will be available on GSM networks later this year. The cards provide users with 33.6kbits/s data and 14.4kbits/s fax transmission, as well as 2MB of flash memory – enough to accommodate new features by 'flash upgrading' direct from your computer.

Psion Dacom also plans to supply phonebook manager software in the future, for selected mobile phones. This will allow users to store personal phonebooks, and enables telecoms managers to standardise and download the company phone directory, ensuring that everyone has the most up-to-date version.

The appeal of the Gold Cards is further enhanced by the fact that they are the only PC Card modems to have received Nokia's 'OK' accreditation. This means they have passed the same tests as Nokia's own equipment and are approved for the worldwide market.

Gold Card modems are available from a wide range of outlets. For information on the Web, see [www.psiindacom.com](http://www.psiindacom.com); or call Sales Support on +44 1908 261686 and request a Psion User Info Pack.



One for all: the Gold Card Global requires only the correct mobile phone kit to give it GSM capability as well as land-line and fax



## Credit points

- The Gold Card Global is a type II PC Card, the standard widely used for modems. Type II cards are just 5mm thick.
- The Gold Card Network, with V.34, GSM, fax and Ethernet on one card, is the first in a new generation of multifunction products.
- Although small, the Gold Card is a complex piece of technology: each card may have up to 600 solder joints, for example.
- The Gold Card Global is certified for use in more than 20 countries including the US, UK, Germany, Australia, France, Japan, and US. Psion Dacom support centres are also located in many countries.
- GSM upgrade packs are available for Gold Card modems made since September 1995. These consist of a flash memory upgrade, software licence and GSM phone cable. Packs are available for nine GSM phones, including Nokia, Alcatel, Panasonic, Mtra, AEG and Nortel.

# Internet on tap

With PsiMail Internet, you can use your Series 3a or 3c for email and Web browsing. We show you how it works and list the communications options

In the last issue of *Pision User* we described PsiMail Internet, a product for connecting Series 3a and 3c users to the Internet. Well it's out now in all major markets, and looks set to become the electronic mail package of choice for on-line Pision users.

PsiMail Internet is in the same product family as PsiMail 'corporate', Psi's package for linking mobile users into company networks running systems such as Lotus cc:Mail. With PsiMail Internet, you can send and receive email using the Internet service provider of your choice, so you can reach anyone who has an Internet account – whether they're at home, in the office or on the move. You can also browse Web pages. Note that PsiMail Internet works with 'full' Internet accounts that have TCP/IP access: if in doubt, consult your service provider.

Also offered is access to PisionWorld, an Internet service which offers a quick and easy way of getting on-line should you not already have a suitable Internet account, or if you want to switch service providers. (See the panel below for more details.) To show you how to get on-line, we've used PisionWorld as an example.

PsiMail Internet comes on floppy disk and is easy to install using PsiWin: on a PC, you just run the Windows PSETUP program, which has step-by-step instructions. PsiMail Internet runs best on a 1MB or 2MB Series 3a/3c,

but you can use a 512KB 3a by copying the program onto an SSD. If you install all the options, you'll have four programs: Setup, Mail, Web and Tools. Before you can start, you need to run Setup to establish the communications options for the service provider.

Setup has a 'Wizard' that guides you through this process. It already contains information for connecting to PisionWorld, but also allows you to enter details for other Internet service providers. You need to enter the name and dialling details of the provider, the protocols it uses, your login and password, plus a few other details.

For PisionWorld, the Wizard lets you select a local call number from a range of cities and countries, including most major US and European cities. Because PisionWorld is hosted by CompuServe Network Services, international access is excellent, and in countries such as the UK, you can use one national number at local call rates from any location.

## What is PisionWorld?

PisionWorld is an Internet service hosted on Sprynet, which is a separate Internet service run by CompuServe.

The PisionWorld service can be accessed from many countries via a local-rate phone call. Three subscription packages are available, which are all billed to your credit card in US dollars. There is no VAT to pay. The options are:

- Three hours a month, \$4.95 (then \$1.95 per hour).
- Seven hours a month, \$9.95 (then \$1.95 per hour).
- Unlimited access, \$19.95 a month.

For more information on accounts, call the UK CompuServe Pision help desk: +44 117 927 5107. Sprynet US: +1 206 957 8998. Sprynet's Web site is at: [www.sprynet.com](http://www.sprynet.com)



The Setup screen: the Wizard guides you through the settings you need to get on-line



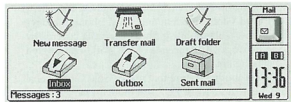
Paris match: PisionWorld has access numbers for most major cities built into the Wizard's template

You are then asked to choose between a 'fixed' or mobile connection. In other words: will you be using a normal phone line or a mobile? You can also enter dialling prefixes (such as '9' if you're dialling via a switchboard) and charge-card information. Next, you enter your modem details. Finally, you are asked for the communication settings, such as the speed at which the modem works. On the Series 3a/3c, the 'default' settings in Setup should work fine.

Now you're ready to go on-line. If your modem is plugged in correctly, you'll be taken to PisionWorld to enter subscription details. You can also choose your own mail 'alias', such as 'pisionuser'. PsiMail Internet rechecks the connection and allows you to identify any errors that might occur. Then when the Setup procedure is complete, you can choose the Connect option to go on-line at any time – and once connected, you simply choose Mail or Web from the System screen.

## Global mail

The Mail application allows you to send and receive email. It works by maintaining an Inbox and an Outbox, which are updated every time you choose the Transfer mail option. You can prepare a new message off-line, file it to the Outbox, and go on-line only for the time it takes to transmit the message and receive any incoming messages to the Inbox.



The Mail application allows you to prepare and manage all your messages on your Pision





You can also file copies of all the messages you've sent in the Sent mail 'filing cabinet', keep messages you've not yet completed in the Draft folder and create archives for messages you have received.

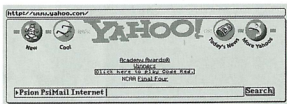
Mail offers a flexible way of adding an email address to your messages. By choosing the Free-form addressing option, you can type in a person's name (or any email 'alias') and the corresponding Internet email address - Psimail Internet automatically adds this to your address book. If you receive an email message from someone who's not already in your address book, there is an 'Add sender to address book' command that does this automatically. If you are sending a message to someone who is already in the address book, you select Address message, and you are taken straight to your address list.

Attachments, such as Word or Sheet files, are also easy to send with a message, and you can even use the Psion spellchecker and thesaurus, if you have them, on your messages, which should go some way to improving literacy in cyberspace.

There are several other important options in Mail. One is the ability to set a limit on the size (in KB) of incoming mail, so you don't run out of space on your Psion. There are others that we don't have the space to describe here: you'll find that the Mail application is a very powerful addition to your Psion armoury. ►

Date: 14/04/97 12:56	Mail
Priority: Normal	Inbox:
Received: No	Or aft
Attach: HOME.PIC,198.P1~HOME.PIC	Sent
To: Peter Thomas	Internet
CC: Caroline Pieter	*Pics 1
Subject: Screenshot	1 1 1
Message:	1 1 1
Hi Peter, here is the screenshot of Psion's home page, as promised.	1 1 1
Best regards, Psion User	1 1 1
	Mon 14

**Creating a new message: the recipients can be added directly from your address book**



On the Web at Yahoo, one of the most popular search sites. The underlined items are links

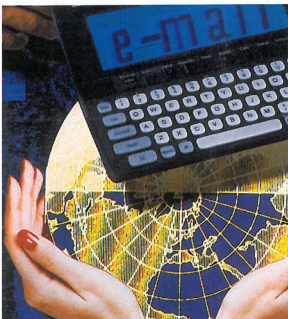
## Web browsing

The separate Web application allows you to visit any site on the World Wide Web and view many of the images on the pages, as well as the text. As an example, see the screenshot of the Yahoo Web site above: most of the images are on view, while the underlined text items are the links you can jump to. Simply pressing the Tab key moves from one link pointer to the next; pressing Enter takes you to the linked page. Web page images do take more time to download, so initially the Web application is set with 'image retrieve' turned off, but can be turned on at any time.

At the top of the screen, you can see the Web address: pressing the Diamond key allows you to type in new addresses. And once you are at your desired site, you can of course add it to a bookmarks list, just like on a full-scale Web browser. When you connect to the Internet and select a site to go to, you see a progress 'report' at the top right of the screen, showing connection and download status.

And finally, for technical aspects of the Internet, the Tools application has a choice of options including a facility for checking the communication between your Psion and other computers on the Internet.

*PsiMail Internet runs best on a 1MB or 2MB Series 3a/3c, and can also run on a 512KB 3a from SSD. It is available in English, with German and French versions to come. For frequently asked questions, visit: [www.pSION.com/technicalsupport/qandaindex.html](http://www.pSION.com/technicalsupport/qandaindex.html) PsiMail Internet pages are also at: [www.pSION.com/psionworld/](http://www.pSION.com/psionworld/) And for help with connecting to Internet service providers, see also: [ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Jochen\\_Siegenthaler/](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Jochen_Siegenthaler/)*



## Making a communications choice to get on-line

As a Psion user, you can now choose from a comprehensive range of communications options to keep in touch on the move. Here's a brief summary of the technologies and equipment.



### Modems

There are two special modems designed to work with the Series 3a or 3c. The 3Fax is a 2,400 bits/s modem only for the 3a; the Psion Travel Modem is a 14,400 bits/s modem for the 3c. Both modems also support fax (the 3Fax comes with fax software; for fax software for both the Series 3a and 3c, see below).

You can also choose from a wide range of high-speed PC Card modems, such as the Psion Dacom Gold Card (see p21). To use these with your Psion, you need the PC Card Modem Adaptor (pictured), which has its own batteries to power the modem (you can also plug in a power supply). The Modem Adaptor is available in both Series 3a and 3c versions, but note that the 3a is limited to a speed of 19.2kbits/s (the 3c works at speeds up to 56kbits/s). Any Hayes-compatible modem can be linked to a Series 3 via the serial port. On a Series 3a, use the 3Link cable and a 'null' modem adaptor. On the 3c, use the new PsiWin cable, again with null modem adaptor; these are available from Psion.



### Mobile phones

You can connect digital phones to your Psion and use PsiMail Internet for email and Web browsing. You can also use a feature of most GSM networks called SMS (or Short Messaging Service); this is a low-cost and reliable way of sending messages to other mobile users.

The type of phone and modem combination you can use depends on your local mobile network operator. In Europe, phones made by Nokia and Panasonic can be connected to a Series 3a or 3c using the Psion Dacom Gold Card modem, upgraded with the appropriate GSM kit for your phone. The kit comes complete with software and connecting cable – simply use Psion's PC Card Modem Adaptor.

Note that if you just want to use SMS, kits comprising software and cable are available in most countries. A modem is needed only if you want to connect to the Internet, or to corporate email systems.

In some countries, you can also use the new Ericsson Dataphone with the Series 3c. This combination does not require a separate PC Card modem: a cable links the phone straight to the 3c (see also p3).

In the US, Psion and GSM service provider Powertel have announced Palmtop Messenger, software that runs on the Series 3c for SMS communications.

### Fax

PsiFax is the latest fax solution from Psion for use with the Series 3a and 3c. It allows you to send faxes over land-line or GSM phones, and can be integrated with any Psion application that can print. You can use fax numbers in your Data address book, and keep a record of all the faxes you've sent.

### CompuServe

Don't forget you can still send Internet email via CompuServe's text-only service, and the popular ReadCIS shareware program gives you an excellent method of using CompuServe's facilities. To connect to CompuServe, you can use the Comms software that comes with the 3a/3c, or freeware utilities.

### PsiMail 'corporate'

This version of PsiMail allows business users to connect to Lotus cc:Mail and Microsoft Mail corporate networks. If your company network has an Internet gateway, you can use this as another way of sending Internet email.

# Business User

More on [www.pSION.com](http://www.pSION.com)

## Sweden

### Fare conduct

The 19 million passengers travelling on SJ Persontrafik, the Swedish national railway, can now enjoy a new range of on-board services from conductors, thanks to the PSION Workabout.

As well as giving customers reliable information on train schedules, conductors can now use the Workabout – which is connected via mobile phone to the central booking system – to issue tickets for both current and future journeys, and to collect fares. A magnetic card reader, integrated with the ticket printer, means that passengers can pay by credit card as well as cash, and the conductor can even accept payment in foreign currencies.

At the end of each shift, the conductor transfers the data stored in the machine to a central computer system.

'The Workabout was the only handheld computer that could meet our specifications for size, weight and the ability to operate with SMS (Short Message Service),' explains Tony Nyde'n, the SJ executive responsible for on-board data.



**Conductors on the Swedish national railway use the Workabout to check timetable information, sell tickets and check seat availability**

The greatest benefit, he says, has been improved customer service. In addition, the railway has gathered more detailed information about its customers and has seen an increase in fare revenue. Future plans include using the system to sell

refreshments, and to count passengers. Furthermore, the railway may use the SMS link to update the central computer system after every transaction – thereby eliminating the need to upload information at the end of each shift.

## Germany

### Bearing fruit

A fail-safe quality control system is vital to any fruit merchant who has a good reputation to maintain – after all, nobody likes biting into a bruised apple. When Cologne-based fruit merchants Grelinger, Haeszy & Heep needed to implement a comprehensive and rapid system of control for incoming and outgoing produce, they turned to PSION for help. Working with software associate MSS, PSION GmbH developed a customised solution for quality control on the PSION Workabout, which can be

used either in store or at the appropriate foreign port.

The fruit merchants' inspector uses the Workabout to record delivery details such as the item number, port, name of ship and name of producer. This can be done using either abbreviated codes or selection lists. The



data is then either printed, or relayed to the control centre via modem for input into an inspection report based on a spreadsheet.

And there is another benefit provided by the new system. The international nature of the fruit merchants' business means that they needed the ability to produce inspection reports in different languages. No problem: the information within the report is automatically translated into the native language of the producer in question, and can be faxed over for immediate reference.

## Psion Workabout

The Workabout has revolutionised mobile handheld computing in commerce and industry. Its exceptionally high specification, rugged design and cost effectiveness enables organisations to put desktop computing power in the hands of their mobile workforce, at a cost that has previously been prohibitive. Now IP54 approved, the Workabout range has 256KB and 1MB memory options, and there are several models to suit different applications. The Numeric Workabout is a numeric keyboard version with enlarged keys for easier data collection. The Workabout Wand and Workabout Scanner feature an integral bar code wand and laser scanner respectively for one-handed auto-identification tasks (see also article on p29).



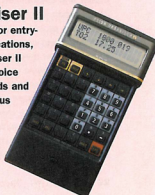
## Psion HC

The HC is a robust, modular range of multitasking computers, supporting a wide range of peripherals. Memory choices range from 128KB to 512KB; and file formats are DOS compatible. Weatherproof versions are available, and units with a built-in radio modem allow remote data transfer.



## Organiser II

Designed for entry-level applications, the Organiser II offers a choice of keyboards and screens, plus a memory of either 32KB or 64KB.



**Czech Republic****Criminals beware**

Border police in the Czech Republic are using the Psion Workabout to keep track of people and vehicles entering and leaving the country.

Each Workabout holds an 8MB SSD containing more than 160,000 records of stolen cars and wanted people. The data on the SSDs is updated daily via a central computer system, and can be retrieved by users in seconds. An easy-to-use interface allows police to work with the machine after minimal training. Feedback from the field has been very positive and applications for use in other parts of the force are under development. 'There are currently about 350 machines in use,' says Michal Herbstus at Point X, Psion's distributor in the Republic, 'and we expect to roll out a similar number this year.'

**Germany****Fast forward**

Fortras forwarding agents throughout Germany are fitting 2,300 short-haul vehicles with a mobile radio, Workabout, barcode reader and customised software. The solution, designed by PAS in Herdecke, provides the agents with voice and data communications between their lorries and the control centre.

Osnabrück-based Hellmann has also used the system for six months. It provides the company with real-time access to delivery data, and allows despatch agents and customers to obtain data.

**Pests' days are numbered**

When you manage 15 glasshouses the size of a football pitch, it can be difficult to chart the development of pests on your crops. But nurseries can now use a new package comprising an Organiser II running customised software, and Windows PC software. The Emerald ICM software is available in several language variants and has been developed by Hedon Salads. Says managing director, Tom Salmon: 'The package is a breakthrough in crop management. Nurseries usually record pest populations on paper, and this makes the identification of trends time-consuming and difficult. Logging data on a Psion and downloading it for analysis makes much more sense.'

**Australia****Synchronising to Novell's GroupWise**

A synchroniser product for linking Psion Series 3a/3c and Siena to Novell's GroupWise system has been announced by Australian company Advansys. LinkWise 1.1 works with the GroupWise 4.1a or 5.0 Windows client (16-bit version), and is the first product of its type to offer appointment synchronisation between a handheld computer and the Novell system.

'LinkWise and the Psion put the power of Novell GroupWise scheduling in the palm of your hand,' says Gregory Bell, managing director at Advansys. With this announcement, Psion users can now have a choice of synchronising with three group

calendar systems, the other two being Microsoft's Schedule+ and Lotus Organizer.

LinkWise 1.1 is distributed globally using the 'trialware' concept. A fully functional, 30-day trialware copy of LinkWise 1.1 can be downloaded from the company's Web site.

Users can order LinkWise registration keys via email, fax or mail. The company is also preparing to release a 32-bit version of the software. Advansys - tel: +61 2 9968 2991; fax: +61 2 9969 7651; Web: <http://www.advansyscorp.com> Psion and Novell will be launching a marketing initiative for the LinkWise product in Europe this summer.

**Netherlands****Made for meters**

More than a quarter of Dutch households will have their gas, electricity and water meters read using a Workabout following the introduction of a new Psion-based solution for the utilities sector.

Prisma, which was developed by Psion Nederland, is a comprehensive information system based on Lotus Notes. The system comprises job management and scheduling software modules - which run on desktop computers in the office - plus meter reading and data collection modules which run on the Workabout.

The new solution was introduced when it became clear to the utilities that market changes required a more efficient approach to meter reading. Ten utility companies in the Netherlands adopted the Psion-based solution after a task group was set up to identify what should replace the existing systems for collecting data.

Explains Fred van de Blezen, IT manager at utility provider Nutsbedrijf Amstelland:

'Critical factors which helped the Psion solution come out top include its industry-standard hardware, plus the ease of use of both the Workabout and the office-based modules.

'The flexibility of the system allows us to change the way we work and adapt the software accordingly without a high outlay.'

Amstelland was the first company to implement the Prisma solution, and has been using Workabouts since last September. The system interfaces with the company's Windows NT server and is capable of uploading and downloading two weeks' worth of information to and from the Workabouts with minimal delay.

'A high level of service and support is vital,' says Van de Blezen. 'We needed to work with a company which was constantly re-evaluating the solution and refining it where necessary. Feedback from our engineers so far has been extremely positive.'

## United States

## Newspaper chase

Single-copy sales (sales of newspapers sold through outlets as opposed to home delivery) are notoriously difficult to track. Or they were until US company DMS/Plus Automation devised a delivery tracking and routing application to do just that.

Based on the Workabout, the Single Copy System keeps track of the number of papers sent to each location on a delivery route, plus the number of returns. Data gathered on the route is uploaded to a central system, and can be used to print reports and invoices.

Newspapers already using the system include the *Chicago Tribune*. Says Bob Thomas, single copy operations manager for the paper: 'Instead of having sell-outs in one area and surplus copies in another, we can analyse the data and allocate copies



where they are needed. We've never had this information in the past.'

DMS/Plus Automation specialises in designing handheld computer solutions. Gregg Green, president and system developer, says the Workabout was the ideal platform because of its cost and flexibility. 'We now plan to develop a home delivery system,' he says.

DMS/Plus Automation. Tel: +1 954 340 7318. Fax: +1 954 340 7449. Web site: [www.singlecopy.com](http://www.singlecopy.com)

## United Kingdom



## Psion Industrial

Psion has formed a new company, Psion Industrial, to focus on the design, manufacture and support of handheld terminals and mobile enterprise systems for commercial and industrial applications. Last year, Psion Software and Psion Computers were also set up as separate, wholly owned companies. Based at a new HQ near Abingdon in the UK (see above), Psion Industrial is the final part of Psion's global reorganisation. For more details, see <http://www.pSION.com>

## Stock in trade

Psion Industrial has an expanding product portfolio that includes the following new products.

● **Workabout Wand:** This is designed for barcoding reading applications such as order entry, package tracking, inventory and asset management. The new Workabout features an integrated barcode wand which reads all the main barcode symbologies; these are automatically detected and decoded by the Workabout.

● **Workabout Scanner:** This integrated barcode scanning computer uses the latest in laser scanning technology and is ideal for various barcode reading applications in manufacturing, transportation, healthcare and retail. The head is adjustable, enabling the user to set the angle to the most comfortable level for the task in hand.

● **Multiple Docking Station:** This docking facility for the Workabout range provides two-way communications with a host PC and intelligent battery management. The device holds up to four terminals and can be linked via a chaining cable to enable up to 16 handhelds to share the same PC communication port simultaneously.

● **V-Comm:** The V-Comm range of modules provides a vehicle-based power and communications interface for the Workabout and HC ranges. Ideal for tracking vehicles, products or people on the move, the range offers optional mobile solutions incorporating GPS (Global Positioning System) and VDA (Vehicle Data Acquisition).

Psion Industrial - tel: +44 1235 831010; fax: +44 1235 443010.



*Safely docked: the Psion Docking Station provides a berth for Workabout and HC handheld terminals. Up to 16 terminals can be linked together*

## Hong Kong

## Taking out speedy insurance policies

Under a contract valued at more than HK\$2.5 million, Psion is supplying Hong Kong insurer AIA with 1,000 Series 3c's running customised software.

The insurance quotation software (IQS), developed for AIA by SMP Pte, will enable insurance agents across Hong Kong to produce policy proposals on the spot - detailing coverage, premiums and projections - without needing to return to the office for computer printouts.

According to Daniel Sol, marketing director of SMP, it takes only a few seconds to do most calculations. 'Projections can be presented to clients at maximum speed with a keystroke,' explains Sol. 'Even a novice can master the software in 15 minutes.' IQS is already in use by around 1,000 agents in Singapore.

Adds Singapore-based insur-

ance agency manager Steven Lim: 'The combination of the Series 3c and IQS is a huge boost for sales. With access to more information right at their fingertips, our agents can give fuller presentations to clients and can conclude sales more quickly.'

AIA is the latest in a string of insurers worldwide to adopt the Psion platform for insurance quotation software. Last year, Psion provided Prudential UK with 7,000 Series 3a's, saving the insurer £320 million in the first year alone. Another major application is running at Royale Belge, Belgium's second largest insurance company.

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## France

**Fit for the road**

*Inspecting a vehicle and taking notes at the same time isn't easy. It's often dark, dirty and dusty and forms inevitably end up covered in grime.*

*This isn't a problem for the 1,200 technicians working for Centre Auto Sécurité. CAS is one of five companies authorised by the French government to carry out the mandatory inspection of vehicles that are more than four years old, and tests more than ten million vehicles annually.*

*After more than four years experience with the Psion Organiser in its 500 testing centres, CAS is upgrading to the Workabout with its robust construction and increased data capacity.*

*Once the technician has entered a vehicle's details, the Workabout guides him or her through the test procedure. At the end of the inspection, the data is sent to a desktop PC which produces a report, an inspection certificate and an invoice.*

*'The Workabout is dustproof and waterproof, and is tough enough to withstand the rough handling it receives during an inspection,' says M. Laiter, director of CAS.*

*The level of accuracy has significantly improved throughout the inspection process, Laiter reports. Technicians are 'delighted' to have replaced their clipboards and paper with a lightweight computer.*

*Moreover, the ability to transfer data directly to a desktop PC has eliminated the errors arising from manual data entry, and allows inspections to be completed more quickly.*

*Sandro Massina, director of the Drancy technical centre, adds: 'We handle more than 6,000 vehicles annually. The Workabout has become indispensable in our drive for greater efficiency.'*

*CAS is now looking to use the Workabout in other applications.*



PHOTO: DANIEL BILLOU

**You emailed, sir?**

Some stereotypes never change. Picture a typical English butler: the straight-cut black suit with tails, silk gloves and a silver tray. In short, the last person you'd expect to see using a palmtop computer. But for Welsh butler John Thomas, life wouldn't be the same without his Psion Series 3a.

'I know it's not exactly in keeping with a butler's image, but I'd be lost without my Psion,' explains Thomas, a butler of eight years and now the head of his own training school for butlers and household personnel in Buckinghamshire, England. 'I use mine daily to make appointments, write class notes, or send and receive faxes.'

So hooked is Thomas on his Psion that he has written it into his syllabus, in a bid to encourage trainees to use the technology. 'Apart from training students how to clean silver, lay tables and serve food, I also introduce them to the advantages of owning a Psion,' he says.

'Being a butler requires an immense amount of organisation,' Thomas continues. 'You are in charge of the entire household and all the staff. That means keeping a tight record of all their details, their schedule and the day-to-day jobs, as well as planning future engagements. It's crucial that all the information is easily accessible, and the size and weight of the Psion make it perfect for this task.'

The ability to keep an up-to-date stocklist is one of the Psion's main benefits, says Thomas. 'It's a butler's responsibility to know, at the drop of a hat, how much wine is in the cellar or if there is enough silverware to cater for a large dinner party. The Psion gives you access to that information at the press of a button. It's invaluable.'

Travelling butlers also benefit, he says. 'Many employers like their butler to accompany them if they go away. When I'm on the road I take my pocket modem; that way I can send and receive faxes, and keep in contact with my staff. I also surf the Net to keep abreast of the latest issues: tips on cleaning shoes or a new way of looking after hats, for example. I'm never alone with my Psion.'

'I've even been known to take it to bed with me, to tap in some last-minute notes,' he laughs. A butler's work is never done.

## United Kingdom

**Calling all cars**

Businesses with a large fleet of cars can now pinpoint the location of every car and communicate with the salesforce using a new two-way data and tracking system.

Designed by MIDAS Data Communications, TARDIS (or Tracking And Real-time Data Information System) uses GPS (Global Positioning System) technology to provide vehicle tracking, and RAM and GSM mobile data communications.

TARDIS comprises three components: a vehicle-mounted Workabout and antenna, a data communications network, and a PC-based command and control station. Information gathered from satellites on the exact position of each car is relayed back



to the base-station PC running the TARDIS program linked to a small radio receiver.

The system uses Microsoft's AutoRoute Plus or Trackview as the basic map but this can be overlaid with other databases as required.

Text information sent from the base station is displayed on the Workabout's screen, and an acknowledgement is automatically sent back.

TARDIS can also be used with the Workabout's optional barcode reader or swipe-card interface for applications which require automatic, real-time proof of delivery.

MIDAS Data Communications.  
Tel: +44 1923 854747.  
Fax: +44 1923 852170.

# Identification *parade*

Barcoding and other auto-identification technologies are widely used to increase efficiency and reduce the risk of error. Nick Langley explains the business benefits and how Psion can help

To most people, the word 'barcode' conjures up pictures of supermarket checkouts and stock taking in warehouses. But regular readers of *Psion User* know that there is much more to the technology than this, from logging patient medication doses in hospital to tracking deliveries throughout their journey – and logging weapons held by local forces in Bosnia.

Barcoding is just one of a group of technologies known as 'Auto-Identification'. Other forms of Auto-ID include: Radio Frequency Identification (RF/ID); the magnetic strips used in credit and debit cards; and smart cards. Auto-ID enables operators to log data much faster and more accurately than they could using manual methods. Did you know that a human operator typically makes one error in every 300 keystrokes? A barcode reader can reduce this error rate to just one in every three million.

Another benefit of the technology is that the information recorded is immediately available in a computer usable form. The use of Auto-ID in point of sale or stock management, for example, means that staff have an up-to-date picture of the inventory. The risk of taking customer orders when no stock is available – or of turning orders away when stocks do exist – disappears. Retailers can use just-in-time re-ordering to keep stock levels down, with minimal risk of running out.

Psion and its resellers supply several peripherals which enable Psion's industrial computers to read barcodes and similar forms of encoded data. Psion has also launched dedicated versions of the Workabout for this class of application. The new Workabout Wand and Workabout Scanner feature an integral contact barcode wand and a laser scanner respectively. Both devices can read the most widely used barcode languages (or 'symbolisms').

Different types of Auto-ID reader suit different working environ-



ments. Where items are stationary, handheld contact scanners or wands (which are the cheapest kinds of reader) are suitable. These must be held close to the barcode.

Handheld non-contact scanners can be used where many items need to be read, at variable distances (for example, in stock taking). Where no line of sight exists between the reader and the information to be read, RF/ID technology can be used in conjunction with Psion devices. These technologies – a kind of remote barcode – are commonly used in transport and distribution.

Programmable radio tags are attached to vehicles, pallets or even animals; these can also be used as 'smart badges', providing individuals not only with identification, but also authorisation for access to parts of a building. Unlike barcodes, the data stored in the tags can be updated or re-programmed. The data is picked up by a smart device, such as a handheld computer.

Using the building blocks supplied by Psion and resellers, customised solutions can be provided for user organisations of all sizes.

Sage Data Solutions of Ontario, Canada is perhaps one of the leading vendors of off-the-shelf Auto-ID applications for the Psion platform. Sage offers solutions for the Organiser and HC, but concentrates on the Workabout, with solutions already available for the Workabout Wand.

In the UK, Paradigm Technology offers a range of barcode solutions for the Psion including Questor, a user-configurable data collection system for the Psion Workabout and HC. Paradigm also publishes a booklet called *Barcodes: The Practical Guide*.

For more information on Sage Data Solutions, Paradigm Technology and other Psion-based Auto-ID solutions, call the Psion Industrial Commercial team in the UK. Tel: +44 990 134976. Alternatively, you can email: [Ind-Sales@psion.com](mailto:Ind-Sales@psion.com)

## Auto-ID in use

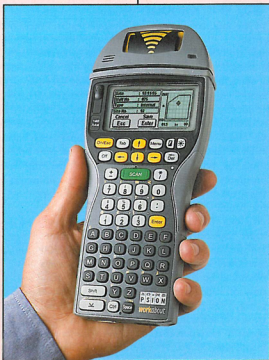
*Psion data terminals are used in hundreds of Auto-ID applications around the world. Retailing, distribution, manufacturing, patient care, document management and animal husbandry... the list goes on. Here are just a couple of examples:*

● **US-based Allied Signal Laminate Systems** uses HC110s during the manufacturing process to monitor the usage and availability of raw materials, and to oversee shop floor activity.

The HCs, fitted with radio frequency modules, collect barcoded data from the shopfloor and transmit it over the air to a radio transceiver connected to a networked desktop PC.

● **Employees of Urban Outdoor Trans Ad**, which looks after 70,000 posters in subways and on buses in Toronto, Canada, use the Psion Workabout to scan barcodes on the frame of each ad site. Ads going in and out are scanned, and information uploaded at the end of each shift to a central system. Sales staff are then able to advise clients which ads have been delivered.

The new Psion Workabout Scanner combines the power and ruggedness of Psion's successful Workabout with the latest in laser scanning technology. It is ideal for a wide variety of non-contact barcode reading applications in manufacturing, healthcare, transportation and retail





# Language skills

The number of development tools for creating mobile applications on both the 16-bit and 32-bit Psion platforms is growing. We report on the options

## Psion Software

The development of the software side of Psion's computers now lies with Psion Software. The company, based in London, specialises in operating systems, applications and software development tools for ROM-based computers – mobile devices where speed and power of execution need to be concentrated in a small space. Psion Software was formed in 1996 in order to enable Psion to license its operating systems to other manufacturers. This means that EPOC32 could soon appear on smart phones, communicators, mobile network computers and all manner of handheld devices. This offers developers a tremendous opportunity.

Applications don't appear like magic on the Psion range of handheld computers and industrial terminals. Around the world, there are teams and individuals who use Psion's programming tools to develop and maintain the thousands of software packages that are now available for the Psion Series 3c, 3a, Siena and Workabout. Now, the launch of the Series 5 on Psion's new 32-bit architecture heralds a new generation of mobile solutions using even more powerful development tools.

The introduction of the Series 5 provides a good focus for an overview of the programming options for Psion developers. The Psion world now divides neatly into those handhelds that use the EPOC16 16-bit architecture, such as the Series 3c, 3a, Siena and Workabout, and those that use, or will use, the new 32-bit EPOC32 environment.

The key difference between the two architectures is that EPOC32 is designed to provide the power and functionality needed for the latest mobile applications on both handheld computers and new 'intelligent' devices such as smart phones.

EPOC32 also supports a pen-based interface, and its 32-bit capability allows large amounts of data, including pictures, to be manipulated easily by programmers and users. And it shares with EPOC16 the ability to run many applications simultaneously – just like the latest desktop PCs.

## EPOC16 – Series 3c/Workabout

EPOC16 also offers a choice of sophisticated development tools, which we look at first.

**OPL.** The OPL language is built in to Psion Series 3c, 3a, Siena and Workabout computers. It is easy to learn, and if speed of development is important, it provides a quick way of getting an application up and running. OPL programs can be written directly on a Psion, or on a PC using Psion's software development kits.

**C.** The C language provides a more powerful tool for writing faster programs that occupy less space on all EPOC16 machines. Although C provides considerably more options, it does require a skilled programmer, and development can be carried out only on a desktop computer, again using a choice of software development kits available from Psion.

**OVAL.** The OVAL language is a recent addition to the EPOC16 tools family. It provides an environment similar to Microsoft's Visual Basic, so the many programmers familiar with this language will find a quick 'learning curve' for rapid development. OVAL development kits also need a PC to run on, and applications can be created only for the Series 3c and Workabout (version 2 ROM), not earlier Psion EPOC16 computers. In a recent *BYTE* magazine review, OVAL helped put Psion into pole position when compared with the development environments for Windows CE, GEOS and Pilot machines (see *BYTE*, April 1997).

These are the main current tools for EPOC16, and there is comprehensive documentation, examples and professional application support available from both Psion and its partners. Later this year, Psion will also deliver an EPOC16 development tool set for **Oracle Mobile Agents (OMA)**, following the recent technology announcement between Psion and Oracle. OMA provides a messaging platform for mobile workers: the software relays instructions to office-based systems and sends the results back to the handheld computer. OMA can operate over a variety of networks, including cellular, radio and dial-up lines.

## EPOC32 – and the Series 5

The new Series 5 is available with support for the OPL language. Like the Series 3, this is built in to the Series 5, but it is a more powerful implementation, and includes enhanced database tools, and support for new Series 5 features such as the touch-sensitive screen.

Also available is the **C++** language, again with a full range of programming support tools. This will be the language of choice for professionals who need to develop the very powerful and speedy applications that the new computer can run.

In addition, Psion has announced an important technology agreement for the EPOC32 architecture. The company has licensed **Java** from JavaSoft (a subsidiary of Sun Microsystems) and will port this innovative operating environment to the Series 5 and other future computers running EPOC32. For more on the importance of Java, see the news story on p2.

More details about these development tools are available on Psion's Web site ([www.psiion.com](http://www.psiion.com)) and on Psion Software's site ([www.softuware.psiion.com](http://www.softuware.psiion.com)). Psion has developed many corporate mobile solutions for organisations – contact your local Psion office for more information about development options.



## Development summary

### EPOC16 – Psion Series 3c and Workabout

- OPL** Easy to learn language for rapid application development
- C** Sophisticated language for compact code and faster applications
- OVAL** Rapid application development language for programmers familiar with Visual Basic

### EPOC32 – Series 5

- OPL32** Powerful version of OPL for rapid application development
- C++** Language of choice for professional program development





# Global report

Psion computers are used in many valuable and challenging projects around the world. We continue our regular look at the extra benefits of portable power



TIGER THREAT

## Tiger task force

*Rising wildlife crime and illegal poaching mean that tiger species across the world are moving rapidly towards extinction. In an effort to help combat this sad decline, the Indonesian Forestry Department – with the help of the Sumatran Tiger Project – monitors and assesses the population of this rare species of tiger.*

*Project workers in the field are often separated from each other in remote and difficult jungle locations, for long periods of time. In these conditions, they rely on a Psion Series 3a and GPS navigation system for co-ordination and safety. Team members also use the machines for recording field data; indexing photos and identifying tigers; writing reports; and downloading information from infrared-activated remote cameras. Data is later sent to a central database.*

*Says Neil Franklin, field co-ordinator: 'The Psions have been our constant companions in thick swamps, on the highest peaks, in the thorniest jungles, on patrolling speedboats, on the back of elephants, in tree-top safe houses, and around the campfire at night.'*

## Tourist trail

*In 1868, General Sir Robert Napier led a British Indian Army to Magdala on a successful mission to rescue 60 European diplomats and missionaries held captive by the Emperor because of a supposed slight by Britain.*



*Now the Scientific Exploration Society has sent an expedition to this remote part of Ethiopia, travelling by jeep, mule and on foot. The primary object was to produce a guidebook to the area in the hope that increased tourism will help a poor region. The 15-strong team used two Series 3a's to compile and store pre-expedition research, check accounts and log details of native wildlife. Says team member Patrick Larkin: 'The Series 3a's worked without fault in temperatures of up to 105°F and endured dust, grit and several cups of tea. I even managed to write a few lengthy memos while on the back of a mule.'*



## Building for the future

*It's Catch-22. The children of poor families in rural Uganda have little chance of improving their standard of living without education. But most families can't afford the cash to pay for their schooling, or to lose their labour from the fields. Says Maria Nnalongo, a mother living in the Mubende District: 'I had to give up sending my children to school because each child had to take a hoe, have a school uniform, and pay 5,000 shillings a term for school lunches. On top of this, they had to walk eight miles to the nearest school.'*

*Now thousands of children like Maria's will have a practical alternative, thanks to ACTIONAID. Along with local authorities, the charity is making non-formal education available in the District. Centres are being built, teachers trained, management groups from the community established, all with funds donated by Psion. Children from poor households will soon be able to receive literacy and vocational training near their homes, at low cost.*



## Crazy Caper

*Most people deciding to attempt the 45,000-mile overland journey from Cape Horn in South America to the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa would not choose an 85cc moped as their mode of transport. But Adam Paul has set off to do just that on a Honda C90, which has a top speed of 40mph and is widely used by pizza delivery firms.*

*It will take Adam around two and a half years to complete the trek, which crosses 30 countries and will include hundreds of miles along the Trans-Siberian railway track and 300 miles across the desert of the Sudan. He will write a book about his travels while on the road – appropriately titled *Life in the Slow Lane* – using a Psion Series 3a.*

*Adam hopes to see his name in the *Guinness Book of Records* for being the first person to complete the Cape to Cape journey overland. His Honda C90 could also win the acclaim of being the smallest motorcycle to have been ridden around the world.*



# Boxing clever

**Lennox Lewis, WBC World Heavyweight title holder, takes time out from training for his next fight to talk to Amy Wislocki about boxing, books and his Series 3c**

**W**hat does your average champion boxer get up to between fights? Fast cars, women and Caribbean holidays may come to mind.

However, you're more likely to find Lennox Lewis surfing the Internet or helping out at his college in London than sipping Malibu on a sun-drenched beach.

'The Lennox Lewis College was set up to help disadvantaged kids,' explains Lewis. 'They get a chance to learn new skills - such as decorating, mechanics or studio production - in the hope that this will enable them to get a job or set up their own small business. Having been a problem kid myself, I hope I can show them what you can achieve if you are prepared to work at something.'

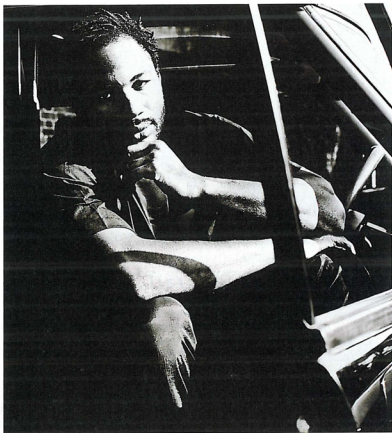
Lewis's next goal is to win the WBA Heavyweight title after it has been contested by Mike Tyson and Evander Holyfield. Who would he rather fight to win the title? 'My aim is to unify all the belts,' he says, 'and I'll fight whoever is necessary to get there.'

This determination is reflected in Lewis' tough regime. 'For eight weeks prior to each fight I get up at 5am and go for a ten-mile run. After breakfast I go to the gym and then work with the speedball and heavy bag. Lunch is followed by more gym work and sparring, and then after dinner I might play chess, watch TV or read. I'm in bed by 9pm. As for my diet, I eat pasta, rice, chicken and lots of fruit and vegetables - all prepared by my Mum!

'When I've got time to relax, I like to hang out with friends, play pool, listen to music and read,' continues Lewis. 'Generally, I read autobiographies or philosophy, and someone recently recommended *The Celestine Prophecy*, which I may get into when I'm next in training camp.'

Lewis is also a keen user of technology and has a computer with CD-ROM, which is hooked up to the Internet. 'I'm fairly tuned in and learning all the time,' he says enthusiastically.

Favourite among his equipment is a Psion Series 3c, which travels with him everywhere. 'I use my 3c all the time - it's invaluable,' explains Lewis. 'I record all the data I need for when I'm in training camp, and on a personal level it's great for telephone numbers,



MIKE PICTURES

## Title holder

- Started boxing at the tender age of 12, and reached the quarter final of the Los Angeles Olympics just six years later in 1988.
- Won titles for Canada at the 1986 Commonwealth Games and the 1988 Seoul Olympics.
- Awarded the WBC Heavyweight Championship in 1992 after Riddick Bowe relinquished the title. He then won it again last February, this time from Oliver McCall.
- Has been victorious in 29 of his 30 fights.
- Prays before every fight. 'I don't subscribe to a particular religion, but I pray before a fight to help my concentration and focus.'

addresses and a daily diary.' But doesn't he have trouble using the keys with such big hands? 'No, my fingers are very nimble.'

Lewis has always refused to sign with famous boxing promoter Don King, and has endured several court disputes in his bid to get a shot at the WBA title. 'Like all sports, there is far too much politics in boxing,' says Lewis. 'But I'm more than happy with my team and I see no reason to change a winning formula. Unfortunately, when there's a lot of money at stake, greed rears its ugly head.'

Despite the politics, boxing still plays a valuable role, he believes. 'I think that more boys should be encouraged to take up boxing as a means of channelling their aggression. In so-called bad areas, it shows boys what can be achieved with commitment and self-discipline.'

So what sacrifices has Lewis had to make for his success? 'Total commitment to the goals I hope to achieve means that there will be no marriage or family for me until I finish fighting,' says Lewis, who's 31. 'I'll then be able to enjoy my family and devote time to them.'

Does he ever think about what he would have done instead of boxing? 'I'd probably have played basketball professionally instead,' says Lewis. Nice to have the choice...

**AA**

# World Travel Guides

## Would you go abroad without your Psion?

Travel Companions provide comprehensive travel information without the added weight of guide books. Based on the popular AA CityPack series (2 million copies sold since launch in 1996).

- Background on the city and its inhabitants
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On-board info user's selection of dates and events

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Year 2001	• United Kingdom (UK)
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Palmtop magazine review says it all: "a super-slick piece of software that no serious PC-owning business user should be without ... of equal interest for purely recreational purposes."

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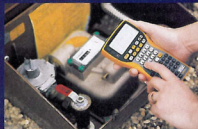
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Corporate Solutions



# DISCOVER THE POWER OF PURPLE

*With more than a decade's experience of programming for Psion platforms, the Purple Software name has become synonymous with quality mobile computing solutions. Take a look at four products from the ever-growing range...*

## Cyclone - 3a/3c/Siena

This 3 1/2 inch floppy drive unit provides a portable, low-cost solution to off-line storage and back-up. Powered by batteries or mains, the drive uses standard, low-cost PC floppy diskettes. Back up files speedily and at a fraction of the cost compared with flash SSDs. The unit comes complete with Purple Software's renowned File Manager software and a built-in connecting cable.



*Information about your diskettes instantly obtainable.*

## Graphics Deluxe

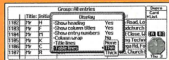
Purple Software's popular graphics programs, *DrawIt*, *OrgChart* and *FloChart* have been re-released in this new, value-for-money compendium. These three vector-based drawing applications include graphics printing support, full text editing, a mouse-style pointer to aid drawing navigation, a large range of shapes, line styles & thicknesses and the ability to insert pictures imported from a PC. In-place text editing ensures that text always fits within the chosen shape and built-in intelligence ensures that logical connections are maintained when charts are edited.



*Edit charts without losing logical connections.*

## DataView Pro

Fully compatible with the built-in database, DataView Pro has set the standard in database technology on the Psion platform. The application greatly enhances the Data functionality of the Series 3c, including single and multi-level sorting, powerful search facilities, flexible column displays, mail merging and advanced printing of cards, lists and data onto industry-standard Avery labels. Many Psion 3c users continue to upgrade their database management by acquiring DataView Pro.



*Customise your display using the many options available.*

## Toolkit 2

Four different powerful applications on a single SSD or floppy diskette. This value-for-money tool pack includes an icon library to customise your system screen, a utility to archive (to a single file), encrypt and verify data files, a utility to discover how your Psion really works by analysing its internal processes and a viewer to read large text files as well as undelete deleted database records.



*Choose from the wide selection of icons included.*

These and other Purple Software products are available from quality Psion dealers and distributors, for further information, please contact:

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