

microsoft.public.pocketpc: Re: What should I buy?..Palm vs PPC?..PLEASE ALL HELP ME!

## Re: What should I buy?..Palm vs PPC?..PLEASE ALL HELP ME!

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Date: 19 Feb 2004 07:46:14 -0800

"Rich Cantrell" <[rich@threewayzone.com](mailto:rich@threewayzone.com)> wrote in message  
news:<OHqYrlh9DHA.888@tk2msftngp13.phx.gbl>...

>

> *SUMMARY AND MY QUSETIONS:*

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> *Note: I can afford any of them so its not the money.....I just dont know  
> what to buy?*

> *Example: HP Ipac 2215, or a higher model of the Ipac?.....or.....the  
> Sony UX-50?*

Really depends on what you *\*want\** to do with your PDA, and *\*how\** you use your PDA.

In overall, the ppc (ipaq) have a more powerful OS, better flexibility, and expandability. On the Palm, you will have more software to choose from, with many small software "fine tuned" to a particular task, like specialized Database software, logging software or calculator program for example. Software on the PPC tends to be more powerful, with a wider application scope, or in other words more "desktop-like". I usually prefer the palm way as in mobile usage I prefer very specialized tool with a user interface exactly fitted to what I'm currently doing, instead of a more general tool that require more UI interactions to specify what I want to do. There is no miracle: when you have a set of 100 functions or options instead of 10, you have to cluster them in menus and dialog boxes and the user has to navigate in the "feature space" before being able to do actual work. This is adequate on a static workstation, but not on a PDA in my opinion.

The API of Windows CE, and the user interface is derived from a desktop OS (Win3

2), and makes porting existing code easier. PalmOS usually require a complete re-write from the developer, and thus provide the opportunity to design explicitly for the PDA platform and its specificities, like saving screen space and taps.

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A simple example is the scroll bars: they waste so much useful space on windows CE!

A third aspect is energy: both PPC and current palmOS devices eat up battery energy pretty fast when using the device aggressively (mp3 playback etc.), but in my experience PalmOS tends to live a lot longer on light use (PIM applications). I like the idea of a device that can survive my negligence in forgetting to charge it every two days. Like my cell phone, bringing my device in short trip forgetting to get my charger is common. In such cases, I know that I can't trust the iPAQ if it is not 100% charged!

However, the iPAQ are a great development platform, to prototype new applications for mobile usage. There is everything: bluetooth, wifi, JVM support, the free eVC environment for native developements, etc. The OS is multitask and multithreaded, with thread priority support which makes it better for some application like real time GPS mapping, and some applications like Tomtom navigator show the superiority of this platform for that. The 2215 with support for both CF and SD is a great device for this application.

In summary, if you your priority is power and flexibility, get a PPC. If you want a set of very fine tuned applications, simple and elegant, with great PIM support (I find outlook and pocket outlook frustrating is practical use), chances are that a Palm will be better.

Hope it helps

P.