

Re: Pocket PC OS verges on being crippleware

Source: <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/PocketPC/microsoft.public.pocketpc/2005-01/0260.html>

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Date: 01/03/05

Date: Sun, 02 Jan 2005 21:05:40 -0500

Could you please summarize your QUESTION for the newsgroup?

David H

Nightdrive wrote:

- > *Before I start, I will state that I really like my iPaq hx4700. Fantastic*
- > *screen, WiFi. Browsing the net anywhere in the house is a huge leap forwards*
- > *from my old Palm m500 with AvantGo.*
- >
- > *However...*
- > *I am really disappointed by the quality of the built in applications. They*
- > *appear to be intentionally stripped down apps to appease the developer*
- > *community. As a developer myself, I'm not opposed to other people making a*
- > *living from writing good software, but as a user, it would nice if some*
- > *decent functionality was built in, out of the box.*
- >
- > *Notes in particular is appalling, it looks like a demo app you'd see in a*
- > *programming book. Where are categories? Why can't I change font size of the*
- > *listing? Could I have a preview pane?*
- >
- > *The calendar is useful, but fairly basic, and has such poor support for the*
- > *VGA screen that HP include Pocket Informant. Unfortunately, although some*
- > *features look great in VGA (calendar), it is so advanced that it has a*
- > *fairly sharp learning curve. Without looking into the manual, I've no idea*
- > *how to use the Notes feature – it seems to have been written without regard*
- > *for any of the standard UI elements present in the built in applications. It*
- > *seems to be designed to provide the maximum number of bullet points in a*
- > *feature list, instead of doing the basics correctly.*
- >
- > *I understand that due to memory constraints, not all features can be build*
- > *into all applications. Every user has different requirements. As such, I'd*
- > *rather see the OS shipped with LESS software, and have the choice of*
- > *downloading FEATURE RICH, WELL DESIGNED versions of the apps I use the most.*
- > *Maybe use a point system like www.ipaqchoice.com*
- >
- > *Personally, I'd go for the following:*
- > *Notes – with categories, and ability to use a tree (outline) structure if*
- > *required. Link to tasks*

microsoft.public.pocketpc: Re: Pocket PC OS verges on being crippleware

- > *CHM Viewer – very useful for those C# books*
- > *Newsgroup reader – so I can rant anywhere!*
- > *Contacts – very minimal, may even use Notes if search is good enough*
- > *Calendar – VGA support, and ability to set default settings for new*
- > *appointments (I would set all to 'Private' as default, as my work calendar*
- > *has to be shared)*
- > *...And I wouldn't expect to have to pay \$9.99 -> \$49.99 for each*
- > *application – for the privilege of such basic functionality. A points*
- > *system, where you get free points (and buy more if required) which would*
- > *allow me to 'purchase' these approved, consistent applications from*
- > *Microsoft, without spending weeks sifting the wheat from the chaff.*
- >
- > *Or alternately, provide us with decent apps to start with.*
- >
- >
- > *Comments, flames welcome. Suggestions for good commercial software which may*
- > *fit my requirements also welcome. This is a general gut feeling about my*
- > *first 2 weeks on Pocket PC. I expect more posts with specific questions for*
- > *you all in the near future.*
- >
- > *Happy mobile computing!*
- >
- > *Greg Woods*
- >
- >
- >