PalmLink

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COLLABORATORS

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NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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Chapter 1

PalmLink

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Amiga connects to the 3Com Palm Pilot v0.6ß

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WARNING: THIS IS A BETA RELEASE

If you don't know the meaning of these

words, do NOT use this software.

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1.2 Introduction

I N T R O D U C T I O N

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Once upon a time, a close friend of mine showed me his new Palm Pilot

Personal. I was impressed of this cute little thing. The only drawback

was the missing IR interface, so I decided not to buy one yet, and

finally I forgot it again.

Then, in the March issue of a major German computer magazine, I read

about 3Com's announcement of the Palm III. The Palm III has an IR

interface built in, so it was the stuff dreams are made of. :-)

I got more and more curious about the Palm Pilot series, the existing

large software pool, its hardware and its operating system. I found

out that the Palm Pilot is a kind of 'Amiga lite'. It has an 68000

core. Even more, the Palm Pilot outperforms a native Amiga 500 due to

its 16MHz clock. The PalmOS is lean and has preemptive multitasking. I

still wonder why there are only a few Amiga users who know about the

Palm Pilot. It is an "Amiga" that you can put in your pocket and have

it around you wherever you are. ;-)

Of course, the Amiga is not supported by 3Com. The only chance we

had until now was to buy the MacPack and run it on ShapeShifter, or

to use all the free Un*x sources on NetBSD. Both solutions are not

very satisfying.

So I had a very close look at the freely available pilot-link source by

Kenneth Albanowski (thank you very much, Kenneth). Anyhow, I disliked to

do just another Un*x port. They are slow, memory consuming and require

the ixemul.library. In other words: they suck a big deal, compared to

native Amiga applications. (Of course, they are still better than

nothing. ;-)

So PalmLink is not just a Un*x port. I wrote it from the scratch new,

with a new (and partially unconventional) concept and use of AmigaOS

features.

Well, time is my worst enemy, so I have to limit my working on PalmLink.

I'd like to write a nice GUI, add all the conduit programs of the original

3Com software, and so on. Even more, I'd also like to have a developer

environment for the PalmPilot. Since both the Amiga and Palm Pilot use

the same processor, this would be fun. But I just have no time for this,

so I hope that other programmers will share this Pilot dream with me.

Richard Körber

1.3   Requirements

R E Q U I R E M E N T S

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PalmLink requires:

· AmigaOS 2.04 or higher, and at least 1MB of RAM. If you have

large files on your Palm Pilot, then you must also have more RAM

on your Amiga, since all files are cached in RAM. I also suggest

to use a harddisk.

· 68020 or higher (no FPU or MMU). Sorry, 68000 is not supported!

· A 3Com Palm Pilot Personal, Palm Pilot Professional or Palm III

with PalmOS 2.0 or better. PalmOS 1.0 is not supported. The

required workarounds would be implemented rather quickly, but

there are more important things. Anyhow, if you use PalmOS 1.0,

you should consider to send me a mail and ask for support.

· A serial interface the Palm cradle is connected with. The serial

port must be able to use 8N1 at 9600 baud. It may also support

higher rates up to 57600. If you use the internal port, I suggest

to use the 8n1.device for better performance. BaudBandit.device

should work as well, but this is untested.

1.4   Copyright

C O P Y R I G H T

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Please read the following parts carefully.

If you do not agree to these Copyright notes, you must delete this

archive and all related files.

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COPYRIGHT

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NOTE: You accept the following terms by starting the software,

even for a test drive only.

PalmLink is Copyright © 1998 Richard Körber. All rights reserved.

You only have the right to use the software, but no rights on

the software itself. Disassembling, resourcing and all other ways

of reverse engineering is forbidden.

For the example source codes the GNU General Public Licence applies.

A copy of the GPL should be part of this packet. Note that the GNU General

Public Licence only applies where explicitly mentioned. All other files

(as e.g. the library itself, or this documentation) are NOT under GPL!

MAILWARE

PalmLink is MailWare . You are allowed to use the packet without

paying a fee or similar to the author. You only have to send me a short

e-mail. Of course I would appreciate a small donor! ;-)

DEVELOPERS

Public Domain and FreeWare developers are allowed to use PalmLink for

free.

Commercial Developers (including ShareWare developers) must send me

a free copy of the software that uses PalmLink, as well as all updates

and upgrades that uses PalmLink. The software must be registered to me

and must be fully functional.

COPYING

You can copy the packet as long as it remains entire and unchanged.

You are allowed to compress the packet using a customary compression

software (as lha, lzh, lzx, dms). You must not compress single files of

the packet (e.g. PowerPacker or Imploder).

DISTRIBUTION

You must not exceed an usual price on the market for your working

and material. This means a maximum of 5 DM (or the equivalent amount

in other currencies) for disks and 35 DM for CD-ROMs containing a PD

software collection.

I explicitly permit the distribution via AmiNet, Meeting Pearls

and other well-known PD series.

I explicitly forbid 3Com to advertise with the existence of this

software.

LIABILITY

You are using the program as it is, with all flaws, and on your

own risk! I grant no warranty for the software meeting a special

purpose. This software may cause financial damage or harm people.

This software could also:

· change, delete or invalidate data on your Palm Pilot

· destroy the Palm Pilot, the cradle or the Amiga

· void the warranty of the Palm Pilot

Please consider this anytime. If you have important data on your

Palm Pilot, make sure to backup it using original 3Com software.

LIMITATIONS

You are not allowed to use this software and its results

· for fascism or military purposes, including the transfer

of appropriate software and data

· if your Palm Pilot contains sensible data, or if people's

life or property relies on the Palm Pilot

· if you do not agree to the copyright note

In this case you must delete the software and all related,

transferred, received and generated files immediately!

COPYRIGHTS AND TRADEMARKS

3Com, Palm Pilot, Palm III and HotSync are Trademarks or Registered

Trademarks of 3Com respectively, see http://www.3com.com . 3Com was

formerly known as US-Robotics.

Amiga is a Trademark of Amiga International GmbH.

All other copyrights and trademarks are held by their owners.

1.5 Installation

I N S T A L L A T I O N

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The document is not completed here. Just a quick guide:

-> libs To your system's LIBS:

-> developer A developer should know where to place them

-> examples Only interesting for developers

-> PalmLink.guide To where you collect good documentations ;ˆ)

-> PalmTransfer To C: or any other directory within Shell path

-> PalmTime To C: or any other directory within Shell path

1.6 Usage

U S A G E

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The document is not completed here. Just a quick guide:

PalmTime

Sets the Amiga time to the Pilot time, or vice versa:

PUT/S Change the Pilot time to Amiga time

GET/S Change the Amiga time to Pilot time

SHOW/S Shows the Pilot time

DEVICE/K Serial device to use (def. serial.device)

UNIT/K/N Unit of this device (def. 0)

MAXBAUD/K/N Maximum baud rate to use (def. 28800)

PalmTransfer

Makes backups of your Palm Pilot databases, or installs new software

BACKUP/S Backup the database (DIR)

If a database entry was not changed compared

to the backup, it will not be read. If a

database has been deleted from the Pilot,

its file will be deleted as well.

RESTORE/S Restore a backup (DIR)

Put all database files back to the Pilot.

Also, see FAQ .

INSTALL/S Install a file (FILE)

Installs a .prc or .pdb file. If the database

does already exist, it will be deleted.

MERGE/S Merge a file (FILE)

Installs a .prc or .pdb file. If the database

does already exist, it will be merged.

FETCH/S Fetch a database (NAME)

Read a database to a .prc or .pdb file.

DELETE/S Delete a database (NAME)

Deletes a database from the Pilot

LIST/S List all databases

A list of all databases in RAM and ROM

PURGE/S Purge deleted records

Remove all deleted records from Pilot RAM

DIR/K Backup directory (if required)

(DIR): The directory for the backup files

FILE/K Filename (if required)

(FILE): Name of a .prc or .pdb file

NAME/K Database name (if required)

(NAME): Name of a database entry of the

Pilot (case sensitive!)

DEVICE/K Serial device ("serial.device")

UNIT/K/N Serial unit (0)

MAXBAUD/K/N Maximum baud (28800)

Examples:

Backup Pilot data using 8n1.device

PalmTransfer BACKUP DIR Work:PilotArchive SD=8n1.device SB=57600

Restore the backup on duart.device unit 1

PalmTransfer RESTORE DIR Work:PilotArchive SD=duart.device SU=1 SB=57600

Install a new program

PalmTransfer INSTALL FILE Work:PilotSoftware/demosoft.prc

Delete a database entry

PalmTransfer DELETE NAME "ExampleDB"

List all database entries

PalmTransfer LIST

1.7 MailWare

M A I L W A R E

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MailWare? This program works fine, so why should I write a mail?

I made PalmLink MailWare for a simple reason: time.

I have a job that consumes a lot of this valuable resource, so I have

to plan those hours I get for my hobby carefully. If there are only a

few people using PalmLink, why should I invest lots of time for this

project, when I could also work on another Amiga project where more

people benefit?

So, if you send me a mail, I know that there is somebody out there who

needs PalmLink and enjoys better Palm support for his Amiga. Your mail

is very important, and very welcome!

You don't need to write whole novels! Something like "Hi, I'm John Doe,

and I'm using your PalmLink!" is sufficient.

Also, if you don't dare to use PalmLink because it is beta software,

write that you will surely use it if it isn't beta any more.

If you don't have E-Mail access, then ask somebody who has, or send me

a small postcard.

The future of PalmLink is depending on YOU. Every mail counts.

So, just write me !

1.8 Address

A D D R E S S

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You can reach me through one of the following ways:

E MAIL

Use e-mails if ever possible. My address is:

shred@eratosthenes.starfleet.de

richard.koerber@koeln.netsurf.de

Please do not send mails larger than 40KB without prior permission.

If you should have serious trouble reaching me, check my web page for

other e-mail addresses.

SNAIL MAIL

If you do not have an e-mail account, you may also write a snail mail.

Include a preformatted floppy disk and sufficient stamps if you want to

get an update this way!

Richard Körber

Hornstraße 20

51465 Bergisch Gladbach

Germany

WORLD WIDE WEB

Updates are available through my web page. URL:

http://koeln.netsurf.de/~richard.koerber/

http://shredzone.home.pages.de

I hope to launch the Palmiga Project soon, see URL:

http://palmiga.home.pages.de

SUPPORT BBS

You can also get the latest update from my official support BBS

Eratosthenes in Germany.

Number: +49-228-239522 (V.34, ISDN)

Login: SUPPORT (no password required)

Board: /SUPPORT/SHRED

Please note that even though the BBS is also to use in English,

the main language is German.

PRETTY GOOD PRIVACY

If you feel that way, you may also use PGP (note that the use of

PGP is restricted in some countries). My PGP public key is attached

below.

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Type Bits/KeyID Date User ID

pub 1024/3D5D331D 1997/01/08 Richard Koerber <shred@chessy.aworld.de>

-----BEGIN PGP PUBLIC KEY BLOCK-----

Version: 2.6.3i

mQCNAjLTMucAAAEEAOMY/3jzWBFV2Annpc6/VPhZQqF81btsqjyRR670uOELH+iO

PXkrXX7IEo1vtNbKAc/MKDkcn2p4g5159yK2OoZkoqFsCs1JXzFLVfAM41tvaNG0

RTibFJAYCZ03umli5q4EtCj1DCMMeZGzmyAO9mpfuyIC+k6qu/NEvrU9XTMdAAUR

tChSaWNoYXJkIEtvZXJiZXIgPHNocmVkQGNoZXNzeS5hd29ybGQuZGU+iQCVAwUQ

M0R4IfNEvrU9XTMdAQGe5gQAizTK/KmKymt5GtQQL1PW7m7tmZYBqglwtbSf7RBF

fnntdkyeTQvRlbfjSAKjMYD0ZV34JtjMPJrRifIF6J6abSMQ1xT8IrEpyV8JrRcW

Tjb4YEz+qEqo0Pj+l/87fqez1vUpTz19C5R5KNqHBk7/icCBGKuoLGtAmR6oifj4

PKc=

=GI6y

-----END PGP PUBLIC KEY BLOCK-----

1.9   FAQ

F A Q

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Why should I write a mail?

See MailWare .

I always get a 'bad baud rate' error. What can I do?

Your serial device is not able to generate the baud rate that was

suggested by the Palm Pilot. Try to lower the maximum baud rate

that is used by PalmLink. A maximum baud rate of 9600 should work

in any case.

I have some problems with installing Pilot files or restoring backups.

BlitzBlank seems to be the troublemaker. Remove it from your WBstartup

or startup-sequence. This is advisable, anyhow, since the BlitzBlank

startup code is rather buggy.

On restore, some files fail with error code 9

This means that the file does already exist and is not replaceable.

Just ignore this error.

1.10 History

H I S T O R Y

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V0.6beta (21. 6.1998)

· First release

· Still beta, please be careful! Before you use PalmLink, try

to make a backup of all Palm data using an original 3Com

software, or be prepared to lose all your data.

1.11 Credits

C R E D I T S

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I wish to thank all those people (in no special order) :

I also want to credit:

3Com for their Palm Pilot

Kenneth Albanowski for pilot-link (a packet for Un*x). It helped me

a LOT, though my library was written from the scratch new.

Frank Wille for PhxAss, the best FreeWare assembler available

Dietmar Eilert for his great Editor GoldEd

And of course, I want to thank all my beta testers! :-)

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\\ // -- Amiga - Cow inside --

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