

Crash!

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Software is never as stable as you wish it to be. So even on small computers like your PalmOS-based PDA, you may encounter crashes. These are not in blue, but equally annoying message boxes with information like “Fatal Exception”, “MemoryMgr.c, Line: 4365, NULL handle” and so on.

Depending on how much 3rd party software you install or how many beta versions and experimental software you are using, you may see crashes quite a lot.

Not only does a crash interrupt your work and potentially erases your last input, you are also facing additional problems, where *Crash* is going to help you.

1. Often the reset button in the crash dialog does not work. This means that you need to unscrew your stylus for a reset pin or, with some devices, that you need to find a paper clip. Additionally, you will have to access the back of your device, which requires that you remove the Palm from its case.

⇒ Using *Crash*, you will not have to reset your device manually in these situations. Rather, *Crash* will automatically initiate a reset after a small timeout. No more frantic searches for a reset pin. No more the need to remove your Palm from its case.

2. A crash can happen while you are away from your Palm. At night, some software products are doing housekeeping (re-ordering alarms, making backups, etc) and a crash at 3am will mean that your Palm is on until you find it the next morning – hopefully before the battery has drained completely.

⇒ Using *Crash*, the device will reset automatically and afterwards the usual auto-off timeout applies. This means that your Palm won't be on much longer but a few minutes even if there is a crash during the night. No more battery draining if a crash happens while you are away.

3. Stress. A crash can be really frustrating.

⇒ Using *Crash* will make the experience a bit less annoying. While it cannot prevent the crash itself, an image will be displayed before the automatic reset is taking place. *Crash Pro* also allows to use different images and to create your own images.

Legal

Crash is © 2000-2002 Daniel Seifert, © 2003 79bmedia GmbH.

We put every effort into making sure that *Crash* works reliably, and we are not aware of any bugs or problems in *Crash* that are not listed in this manual. Nonetheless, due to the application's nature, we need to point out that you use *Crash* on your own risk.

Crash is freeware and can be used without registration. You may distribute *Crash* any way you like, provided that all files (including this manual) are distributed together and unmodified, and provided that you do not charge any fee to the recipient.

System requirement

This version of *Crash* supports all PalmOS 3 and PalmOS 4 devices. Additionally, the following PalmOS 5 devices are supported:

- < Palm TungstenT, T2, T3, C and Zire 71 and 21
- < Sony Clié NX60, NX70, NX73, NX80, NZ90, TG50, UX50, TJ25 and TJ35
- < Garmin iQue 3600
- < Tapwave's Zodiac
- < Treo 600

If your PalmOS 5 device is not supported, please check our website for a new version or contact us at crash@79bmedia.com.

Installation

Crash is available in different languages. Install the language version of your choice (i.e. crash-pro-english.prc) by double-clicking it and it will be installed with your next HotSync.

If you are updating *Crash* to a newer version, please make sure to disable the previously installed version of *Crash* on your handheld before updating, otherwise the new version will not be installed. The same applies when you want to remove *Crash* from your handheld.

If you are updating from *Crash* 1.3, please make sure you remove *CrashLog* from your handheld. *CrashLog* is now a part of *Crash Pro* and using the *Crash* 1.3 version of *CrashLog* will damage the preferences of *Crash* 2.x, as the internal data format has changed. Therefore, *Crash* 2.x will refuse to be enabled while *CrashLog* is installed.

Usage



After installing *Crash*, a new icon will be added to your launcher. Launching *Crash* will open the main screen, where you can enable/disable *Crash*, access the settings or the menus. *Crash* will stay enabled after a crash or a soft reset.

Settings

In the settings screen, you can define how many seconds (5 or 10) after a crash the automatic reset should take place. The default value is 10 seconds. During this time, *Crash* will display an image. *Crash Pro* offers a user-defined timeout plus customizable images.

Debug Menu

In the Debug menu, two test crashes can be activated. These were added so you can see *Crash* in action any time you like and to see the differences between a crash with *Crash* disabled and enabled.

Logging

The logging feature is only available in *Crash Pro*, and allows to keep a log of all crashes (including time, error message and application name) and soft resets.

Supported crashes

A 'crash' by definition is *a sudden, usually drastic failure* of hardware or software. A crash can have several symptoms/results:

1. An error message is displayed (like the bluescreen on your Windows-PC) and a soft-reset is initiated after the error is acknowledged by the user. This means that the PalmOS has discovered that the application or the system is not working correctly. *Crash* acts upon this kind of crash.
2. The system freezes or soft-resets. This kind of crash cannot be handled by *Crash*. In case of a soft-reset, it is already too late for *Crash* to display anything. In case of a frozen system, the problem is either the processor being halted (in which case *Crash* cannot be executed either and a manual soft reset is required) or an endless loop. Technically speaking, an endless loop should not be considered as a crash as it might be by purpose (lengthy calculation, etc).

Please keep in mind that *Crash* will only act upon crashes that produce an error dialog (a.k.a. fatal exception). It is technically impossible to intercept crashes causing a soft reset, crashes causing the system to freeze or to intercept endless loops.

Known bugs / problems

On PalmOS 3.x and PalmOS 4.x, no problems are known. The core function of *Crash* used on PalmOS 3 and 4 is identical to *Crash* 1.x which has been in heavy use for almost three years without any bugs.

On PalmOS 5, *Crash* has been tested extensively. The beta test has shown that there may be very rare occasions where empty fatal exception dialogs are displayed which are not intercepted by *Crash*, requiring a manual soft reset. This behavior is harmless and almost never happens.

Contact

In case of questions regarding, please contact crash@79bmedia.com in either English or German language. We will reply to your mail within one business day.



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