Storage FAQ

Introduction

So you've got a Pocket PC, Handheld PC or Palm-size PC and you want to know more about storing information on it. This FAQ covers common issues and solutions for using internal and external storage.

Where Can I Store Stuff?

When you first got your device, you probably noticed that you can store information on it right away. Well this information is stored in internal ram. You can add a CompactFlash or PC Card flash card to store data and programs as well. The CompactFlash or PC Cards appear as Storage Card in the device.

External PC Card, CompactFlash Card or MultiMedia/Secure Digital Card

The PC Card, CompactFlash card or MultiMedia or Secure Digital Card is a separate area to store both programs and data. The programs and data are not compressed before being stored. You can store much larger files on the external storage. There is 2 types of storage available, flash and hard disk. Most users do not notice a significant reduction in the battery life of their device when using a flash card. The hard disk storage is very large and economical. You can get hard drives up to 2 GB in size for PC Cards and 1 GB for CompactFlash Cards. Hard disks require much more power than flash. The lowest power hard disk from IBM requires approximately 250 ma so your battery life will be diminished greatly. The MultiMedia Card or Secure Digital Card are much slower than CompactFlash or PC Cards since the data is written in a serial fashion to the card.

Using External Storage

Please note that external storage does not expand the amount of ram you have available to run programs. You can use external storage to install applications if you choose Storage Card when you install them using ActiveSync's Add/Remove Programs. If you want to move programs from internal ram to external storage, you should uninstall them and then reinstall them while selecting Storage Card as the destination. For all external storage, you should create a directory called My Documents in the root of the disk. This directory is merged with the My Documents in ram when you view the My Documents directory on the device. Some programs do not search directories other than My Documents so this may be crucial to your ability to maximize the external storage.

Conclusion

Now you have a better idea of where you can store programs. There is a great difference between internal and external storage that you should consider when you decide what you need or want to do with your device.

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