

Mobile Computing

by Chuck Horowitz

On the road, again

The holidays are over and everything has quieted down to a dull roar. I now have time to check over my Christmas presents to see how much of my wish list has been fulfilled. I guess I'm going to have to wait a little longer though, no one gave me the items on my wish list.

One of my wishes was for a longer battery life for notebooks, and Electrofuel, Inc. has come up with a "SuperPolymer Lithium-Ion" rechargeable battery. The PowerPad 150 is a flat battery that weighs 2.2 pounds and can power a typical notebook from Toshiba, IBM, Compaq and other manufacturers for up to 15 hours or more. Prices start at \$199 for the PowerPad 150. Electrofuel can be contacted at 416-535-1114 or www.electrofuel.com.

IBM Corporation (Armonk, NY) has DB2 Everywhere 1.1 for PDA's. DB2 Everywhere 1.1 can be downloaded from IBM's Web site. The program supports 3Com's PalmOS 3.0 and 3.1 and Microsoft Windows CE 2.0. Support will be forthcoming for Psion's Epoch-32 OS. DB2 Everywhere 1.1 comes with some sample applications and Query By Example, which can be used to query or modify database tables. During the installation, you input the directory that you want the program to install in, and which machine you have, a PalmOS or WinCE device. While you can download DB2 Everywhere 1.1 from IBM's Web site for free, Mobile Connect, which you will need to integrate with, is not free. IBM can be reached at 800-426-4986 or www.ibm.com.

Check the November issue of Mobile Computing & Communications for an article on software for the PalmOS, by Tracy Epp. The article has information on 102 applications and some Web sites where more information and software can be obtained.

Seiko Instruments USA (Torrance, CA) has the DPU-3445 printer. This printer is Windows CE/95/98 and PalmOS compatible and has RS-232 and IR interfaces. Small enough to fit in your briefcase (along with your Palm or CE device) this printer can be of value to many of you Road Warriors. Seiko can be contacted at 800-553-6570 or www.seikoprinter.com.

Iomega Corporation (Roy, UT) now has a 250MB Zip, USB drive. The Zip USB works with PCs or Macs with a lightweight USB cable. There is a PCMCIA interface available that makes the drive useable in notebooks. The 250 also reads the 100MB Zip disks so it will be compatible with the Zip disks you may have stacked up at home or in the office. Iomega can be reached at 800-697-8833 or www.iomega.com. You can now buy direct from Iomega online at specials.iomega.com/X?/6978-10558555/direct2.

The Pentium III notebook has arrived. Hewlett-Packard Company (Palo Alto, CA) makes the OmniBook 4150 with a 500MHz Pentium III processor, 128MB of RAM, 8MB of Video RAM, 256KB of external cache, a 10.7 Gigabyte hard drive, 1 14.1 inch active-matrix screen, a module for a floppy or 4X DVD-ROM drive, a Lithium-Ion battery, a 16-bit Sound Blaster Pro-compatible sound system, two Type II or one Type III PC Card slot, an integrated pointing stick and touchpad pointing device, all standard ports,

including USB, docking and audio-in and out. The total weight with the AC adapter and the CD-ROM drive is 7.6 pounds. The suggested price for this unit is \$4,099. Hewlett-Packard can be contacted at 800-752-0900 or www.hp.com.

In the December issue of Mobile Computing & Communications, Rich Malloy has an article entitled "The Annual Notebook Triathlon." Ten Pentium II notebook computers are run through their labs. This time the entrants are: Gateway's Solo 9300CX; Acer's TravelMate 723TX; Dell's Latitude Cpi R400GT; Panasonic's Toughbook 71; IBM's Thinkpad 600E; NEC's Versa LX; Micron's TransPort Trek 2; Compaq's Armada 1750, HP's OmniBook XE2 and Fujitsu's LifeBook E380. The Gateway took first place, the Acer, second, and the Dell, third.

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