

Pocket PC

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Not to be confused with DIP Pocket PC, Poqet PC, ZEOS Pocket PC, or Pocket computer.

"P/PC" redirects here. For other uses, see PPC.

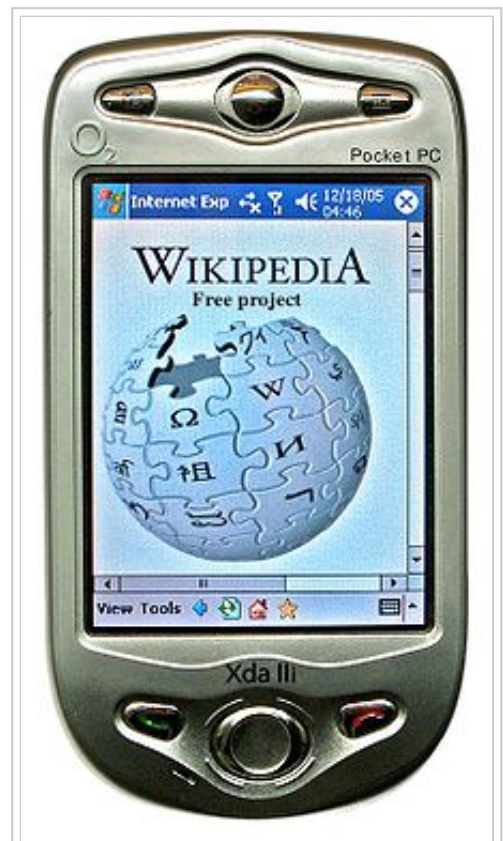
A **Pocket PC (P/PC, PPC)**, also known by Microsoft as a 'Windows Mobile Classic device', is a hardware specification for a handheld-sized smartphone or personal digital assistant (PDA), that runs the Windows Mobile operating system. It has some of the abilities of modern desktop PCs.

As of 2010, thousands of applications exist for handhelds adhering to the Microsoft Pocket PC specification, many of which are freeware.^[1] Some of these devices are also mobile phones. Microsoft-compliant Pocket PCs can be used with many add-ons such as GPS receivers, barcode readers, RFID readers, and cameras.

In 2007, with the advent of Windows Mobile 6, Microsoft dropped the name Pocket PC in favor of a new naming scheme. Devices without an integrated phone are called Windows Mobile Classic devices instead of Pocket PCs. Devices with an integrated phone and a touch screen were called Windows Mobile Professional devices and devices without a touch screen are called Windows Mobile Standard devices.^[2] In 2010, even Windows Mobile devices were discontinued in favor of Windows Phone devices.



HTC Universal



O2 XDA III

Contents

- 1 History
- 2 Operating system versions
 - 2.1 Windows Mobile 6.5
 - 2.2 Windows Mobile 6.1
 - 2.3 Windows Mobile 6
 - 2.4 Windows Mobile 5
 - 2.5 Windows Mobile 2003
 - 2.6 Windows CE 3.0
 - 2.6.1 Pocket PC 2000
 - 2.6.2 Pocket PC 2002
- 3 Vendors
- 4 See also
- 5 References
- 6 External links

History

The Pocket PC was an evolution from prior calculator-sized computers. Keystroke-programmable calculators which could do simple business and scientific applications were available by the 1970s. In 1982, Hewlett Packard's HP-75 incorporated a 1-line text display, an alphanumeric keyboard, HP BASIC language and some basic PDA abilities. The HP 95LX, HP 100LX and HP 200LX series packed a PC-compatible MS-DOS computer with graphics display and QWERTY keyboard into a palmtop format. The HP OmniGo 100 and 120 used a pen and graphics interface on DOS-based PC/GEOS, but was not widely sold in the United States. The HP 300LX built a palmtop computer on the Windows CE operating system, but not until the form factor and features of the Palm platform were adapted that it was named the Pocket PC.

Prior to the release of Windows Mobile 2003, third-party software was developed using Microsoft's eMbedded Visual Tools, eMbedded Visual Basic (eVB) and eMbedded Visual C (eVC).^[3] eVB programs can usually be converted fairly easily to NS Basic/CE.^[4] or to Basic4ppc.

According to Microsoft, the Pocket PC is "*a handheld device that enables users to store and retrieve e-mail, contacts, appointments, tasks, play multimedia files, games, exchange text messages with Windows Live Messenger (formerly known as MSN*

Messenger), *browse the Web, and more.*" (src: microsoft buyersguide) (<http://www.microsoft.com/mobile/buyersguide/educateme/default.asp>)

From a technical standpoint, "Pocket PC" is a Microsoft specification that sets various hardware and software requirements for mobile devices bearing the "Pocket PC" label.

For instance, any device which is to be classified as a Pocket PC must:

- Run Microsoft's Windows Mobile, Pocket PC edition
- Come bundled with a specific suite of applications in ROM

Note: the name Windows Mobile includes both the Windows CE operating system and a suite of basic applications along with a specified user interface

- Include a touchscreen
- Include a directional pad or touchpad
- Include a set of hardware application buttons
- Be based on an ARM version 4 compatible CPU, Intel XScale CPU, MIPS CPU or SH3 CPU. (As of the Pocket PC 2002 specification, ARM-based CPUs are required.)

The Pocket PC/Windows Mobile OS was superseded by Windows Phone on February 15, 2010 when the latter was announced at Mobile World Congress that year. No existing hardware was officially supported for a Windows Phone 7 upgrade. Additionally, not a single one of the thousands of apps available for Windows Mobile would run unaltered on Windows Phone.

Operating system versions

Main article: Windows Mobile

Windows Mobile 6.5

The first Windows Mobile 6.5 device was first shown on September 2009. Leaked ROMs surfaced in July 2009 for specific devices.^[5] The generic ROM images for Mobile 6.5 are also available as part of the officially distributed and freely

Several phones running Windows Mobile 6.1 can be updated to Windows Mobile 6.5.^[7]

Windows Mobile 6.1

Microsoft's current Windows Mobile release is Windows Mobile 6.1, and one of the major changes from Windows Mobile 6 is the introduction of instant messaging-like texting.^[8] Windows Mobile 6.1 was built upon Windows CE 5.

Windows Mobile 6

Microsoft's Windows Mobile 6, internally code-named 'Crossbow', was officially released by Microsoft on February 12, 2007. Mobile 6 was still based on Windows CE 5 and was effectively just a face-lift of Windows Mobile 5. With Mobile 6 also came Microsoft's new naming conventions and devices were no longer called Pocket PCs: devices with no phone abilities were named Windows Mobile Classic, and devices with phone abilities were named Windows Mobile Professional.

Windows Mobile 5

Windows Mobile 5 for Pocket PC was based on Windows CE 5 and contained many fixes and improvements over Windows Mobile 2003.

Pocket PCs running prior versions of the operating system generally stored user-installed applications and data in RAM, which meant that if the battery was depleted the device would lose all of its data. Windows Mobile 5.0 solved this problem by storing all user data in persistent (flash) memory, leaving the RAM to be used only for running applications, as it would be on a desktop computer. As a result, Windows Mobile 5.0 Pocket PCs generally had more flash memory, and less RAM, compared to earlier devices.

Windows Mobile 2003

Main article: Windows Mobile 2003

Windows Mobile 2003 consisted of the Windows CE.NET 4.2 operating system bundled with scaled-down versions of many popular desktop applications, including Microsoft Outlook, Internet Explorer, Word, Excel, Windows Media Player, and others.

Windows Mobile 2003 Second Edition added native landscape, square screen and VGA support as well as other fixes and changes to those features already present in the original release of Windows Mobile 2003.

Windows CE 3.0

Pocket PC 2000

Pocket PC 2000 was launched April 2000, and ran Windows CE 3.0. Pocket PC 2000 featured a mobile version of Microsoft Office, a chief feature being the ability to password-protect Excel files.

Pocket PC 2002

Pocket PC 2002 was launched October 2001, and was powered by Windows CE 3.0, as with its predecessor. Some Pocket PC 2002 devices were also sold as "Phone Editions", which included cell phone functionality in addition to the PDA abilities.

Vendors

Pocket PCs are manufactured and sold by several different companies; the major manufacturers include HP (under the iPAQ and now defunct Jornada brands), Toshiba, Acer, Asus, Dell (under the now defunct Axim brand), Fujitsu Siemens, E-TEN, HTC, and ViewSonic. In Mid-2003, Gateway Computers and JVC announced they would release Pocket PCs, but the projects were discontinued before a product was released. Prices in 2003 ranged from around US\$800 for the high-end models, some of which are combined with cell phones, to \$200 for low-end models. A \$100–\$200 model was rumored to be released within 2004 or early 2005, although the lowest price for a just-released Pocket PC never went under \$300. Many companies ceased to sell PDA's by 2003–2004 because of a declining market. Major companies such as Viewsonic and Toshiba stopped producing new Pocket PCs.

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