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Personal Information Companion

FranklinCovey's popular paper time-management system goes digital on the Tablet PC in **TabletPlanner** ($170 street). You can manage tasks, appointments, notes, and imported files. More than most, this application makes the case for switching to a Tablet PC.

TabletPlanner has a straightforward interface with graphics that resemble FranklinCovey's paper-based information management system. You can display appointments in daily, weekly, or monthly views, and you can enter two virtual pages of notes for each appointment. On our wish list for the next version: an alarm feature to notify you of appointments.

The task list displays on the main menu with a column for entering gestures to represent task priorities based on the FranklinCovey method: completed, forward, deleted, delegated, and in process. Uncompleted tasks automatically forward to the next day, which saves you the task of manually changing their dates. This handy feature worked fine in testing.

Notes are stored behind their own tabs and organized by the date created. In addition to the Calendar and Notes tabs, you can create different-colored category tabs for all your topics, such as trips, clients, meetings, and shopping lists. This is a simple customization tool, and it lets you configure your information management system in a way that matches your organization system. We love that all the information in TabletPlanner—whether text-based or handwritten—is searchable.

TabletPlanner also takes advantage of the format with the new E-binder. This feature lets you import files from other applications with a simple print command. For example, you might want to store a copy of your PowerPoint slides behind a meeting tab, a spreadsheet document behind a project tab, or a PDF of your flight itinerary behind your travel tab.

An inspirational quote imbedded in TabletPlanner—"All truly great thoughts are conceived while walking around"—is a fitting argument for using this product with a Tablet PC.—MJ

TabletPlanner
Street price: $170. FranklinCovey Co., 800-819-1812, www.franklincovey.com.
●●●●

TabletPlanner has a Writing Assistant window for capturing and manipulating handwritten input.

and roam with the ST4000 using built-in 802.11b. As in the other tablets, there's a FireWire port; it also has three (not the usual two) USB 1.1 ports. Our test unit came with a 20GB hard drive; you can upgrade to 40GB for just $100.

Fujitsu clearly has done its homework with this design. The 10.4-inch screen is well placed in the 3.2-pound unit, providing a balanced feel to both left- and right-handed users. And unlike the other tablets we tested, this mod-el doesn't get too hot even after long use. It also delivered the best battery life on our test: 2 hours 50 minutes.

The ST4000 comes with the basic Tablet PC applications and one of the coolest add-on drawing apps we've seen: Alias Sketchbook. It's a terrific value and a solid performer in real-world use.

Fujitsu Stylistic ST4000
Street price: $2,300. Fujitsu, 877-372-3473, www.fujitsupc.com ●●●●○

HP Compaq Tablet PC TC1000

The design team at Compaq pushed the envelope with the HP Compaq Tablet PC TC1000 ($1,800 street), at-taining generally good results but with some drawbacks. This unit is certainly one of slim convertible. On the down-side, using it on your lap in that configuration is uncomfortable at best (it feels tippy, and the screen is at an almost unusable angle).

The TC1000 is powered by a 1-GHz Transmeta processor. In the early sample we received, the processor was not yet opti-mized for Tablet PC, so we couldn't judge how well it will perform with ink-intensive tasks (and we don't give it a rating).

HP also broke from the pack with its choice of digitizer. The company wanted to go with a glass screen, claiming that it would be a more durable writ-ing surface over time (the others use polysilicon). To do so, how-ever, the maker had to use a non-Wacom digitizer, in this case a model from Finepoint. The ac-curacy of the digitizer is okay, but

Toshiba Portégé 3500
This is the ideal solution for those not ready to commit