

Utah Valley PAF Users Group RootsWorks: PDA's for the Genealogist



Beau Sharbrough

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Why would I want a gadget?

- If you have to ask, maybe you don't.
- Reference
 - Genealogy
 - Flight times, etc

Why would I want a gadget?

- Navigation
 - Maps
 - Routes
 - Traffic
 - Finding the hotel

Why would I want a gadget?

- Communication
 - Email
 - Web
 - Calling

Why would I want a gadget?

- Creating sources
 - Maps
 - Photos of gravestones and other places
 - Movies of people

What's a PDA?

- A Personal Digital Assistant. This is a handheld computer.
- They can be used in genealogy to
 - collect research,
 - look up information,
 - work as a PC replacement for basic office applications, and
 - as an organizer.
- Don't let the size fool you - these are serious machines.

Basics

- Forget the keyboard. You enter information by transferring it from another computer, by scribbling in "Graffiti," or by pecking at a virtual keyboard.
- They're all in color now.
- "Beaming" is sending addressed, business cards, and appointments wirelessly, using an infrared port.

Palm vs PocketPC

- There are two "operating systems" used for PDA's: Palm and Pocket PC.
- Palm started the game, and Microsoft, as usual, wants in.
- If you use a Mac, and like PDAs, you won't be using a PocketPC.

How much and how big?

- Chevy. \$200 and less. These are great for note-taking, phone numbers, and appointments. Your basic organizer.
- Buick. \$400. These are good for running PDA applications, like Office, and genealogy programs.
- Cadillac. \$600 and up. Wireless. Lots of memory. Better add-ons. Bigger screens.

Get a bigger memory card –

- Amazon has a 1GB Secure Digital (SD) card for \$21.88. (\$12.99)
- 2GB for \$50 (\$19.48)
- There are bigger ones (4 GB \$40.98)

Peripherals Accessories

- GPS. A PDA is not too big to be used as a combination compass and map. They are good for walking trips.
- Camera. Built in cameras and add-ons have exceeded a megapixel.
- Storage. There are generally expansion slots for more memory. And soon, hard drives.
- Chargers. You will want a couple of these.
- Modems. They make them with phones in them now – mine is Cingular.
- External keyboards. For that long plane trip when your laptop battery can't keep up. They make virtual and they make mechanical ones.

Genealogy Programs

- All have a PC part (a computer program) to read GEDCOM, some read others. It creates a PDA compatible file.
- Hotsync downloads the file.
- The PDA side (a computer program) uses it.
- Some allow updates and changes, that can be uploaded – the Personal Reference Boundary.

Reference Boundary

P
h
o
n
e
#
s

I update stuff on this side of the boundary

**My desktop
genealogy**

Encyclopedia

I don't update stuff on this side of the boundary

Dictionary

My pda genealogy

[http://www.consumersearch.com/
www/computers/pda-
reviews/reviews.html](http://www.consumersearch.com/www/computers/pda-reviews/reviews.html)

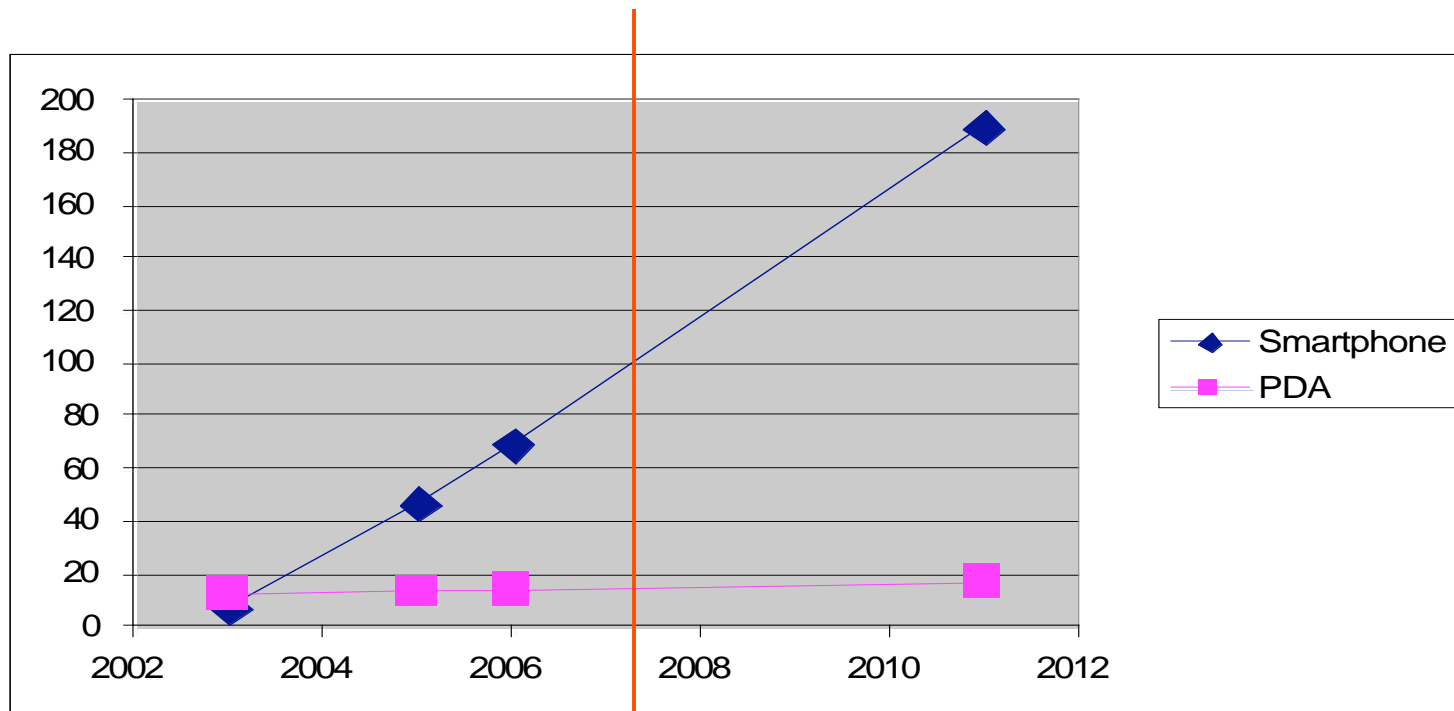
List of PDA Manufacturers

- Siemens
- Garmin ique
- Rim blackberry
- Palm Treo
- Palm Tungsten
- Palm Zire
- Iphone
- Nokia
- Dell
- HP / compaq ipaq

<http://www.palminfocenter.com/news/8564/gartner-pda-report-for-q1-2006/>

Smartphones pass pdas

- <http://www.c-i-a.com/pr0306.htm>



PDA Gen software

- http://www.moss-fritch.com/pda_software.htm
- http://genealogy.about.com/od/software_handhelds/
- <http://mobilegenealogy.com/>

Now see the tree