



Sibo World



Welcome to this the first in a regular feature titled 'SIBO World'.

SIBO is the name given to Psion's 16 bit operating system that powers the MC200/400, Series 3, Sienna and Workabout range of Psion computers.

The Series 3, the most popular range of SIBO powered devices, includes the 3 Classic, 3a, 3c and 3mx. This very article is composed on a 3mx!

For those of us who have seen the light SIBO is the Operating System of choice for Psion machines.

Although SIBO is commonly placed in the development chain of the Psion OS (Operating System) ie; 8 bit classic, 16 bit SIBO, 32 bit EPOC & Symbian and beyond, it should be looked at as a independent OS in its own right, such as Linux or Mac's OSX.

So that's the intro over, please email me tom@psioncomputer.com if you have any ideas or input for this section. Until the next issue, I look forward to SIBO World domination.

Tom Good.
tom@psioncomputer.com

The Alternative!

SIBO production and sales are in a very healthy state indeed.

POS (Pinnock Organiser Services) have said that they will keep producing new Series 3mxs for as long as there is a market, and I believe there will always be a market.

Actually when I say 'new' that's not strictly accurate from a legal point of view, because they are not made in a Psion factory they have to be labeled 'factory reconditioned', although when I purchased my 3mx as far as I was concerned it was brand new.

Psion lovers who over the years have moved from SIBO to EPOC, plagued with screen problems, disillusioned by betrayal are now looking for a non Microsoft alternative. "Palm, Palm, it has to be Palm"! The cry goes up, but hold on a moment.

The Palm Operating System is a good one no doubts. Its got plenty of software for it that I have to pay for on top of the purchase price, but does it come complete with an Office suite out of the box? No.

Palm, like Symbian, offer great smart phones, but I don't want a Smart Phone.

Is there a pocket sized Palm device 32 with a great keyboard for real work? No.

My budget is around the £120 mark for a PDA with Word Processor, Database and Spread Sheet, will I get good quality [or any in fact -Ed] Palm PDA for that money? No.

This Journal is for Psion users, so I'll stop all this Palm talk and let's go back to our sorry EPOC user!

The following comparison between a 3mx and 5mx is designed to both help and guide our EPOC user towards a genuine alternative to Palm and Microsoft. It may lure a few existing Palm and Microsoft users back to Psion, we can only hope!

HARDWARE - The Screen.

The screen on the 3mx is slightly smaller than on the 5mx as the 3mx has a slightly smaller form factor all over.

The 3mx is also not touch sensitive. If you are used to operating a Psion via the screen and stylus this new method of controlling your PDA may at first seem a little odd.

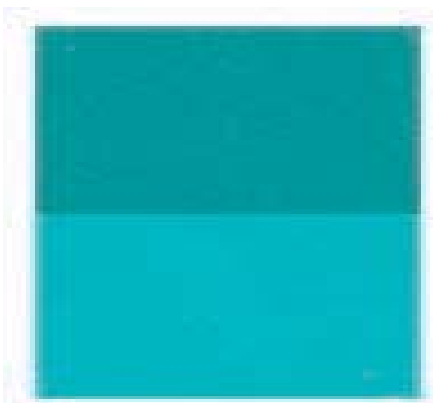
The menu systems on a 3mx are packed full, choosing to display as many options as possible, as opposed to the 5mx which

uses a more 'nested' menu approach.

The advantage to the 3mx approach is that virtually all commands can be accessed via keyboard shortcuts. Once you've started to use this control method, you'll find your operating your 3mx much faster than you could ever operate your 5mx.

In order to make a 5mx touch sensitive a touch sensitive layer is placed in front of the screen. This seems to have the effect of blurring and dulling the 5mx display. The 3mx display in contrast (forgive the pun) is sharp and clear.

The next photo was taken in a darkened room with a 3mx and 5mx next to each other. I cut two squares out of each screen and have positioned them next to other to make the difference more obvious.



As you can see the 3mx is at least twice as bright as the 5mx. Plus the 3mx doesn't emit that horrible high pitched whine that comes from the 5mx when the back light is switched on.

HARDWARE - The Keyboard.

Don't think I'm having at bash at the 5mx just for sake of it, I'm not. I'm just trying to point out a few areas where the 3mx is better than the 5mx. However when it comes to the keyboard I'm on to a loser!

Lets face it, the keyboard on the 5mx is quite superb. The best, even today, on the market.

The 3mx keyboard has smaller, rounder keys than the 5mx's almost Laptop keyboard, although it is far, far superior to these tiny smart phone keyboards. It is possible to type at the 3mx keyboard in the normal desk-bound manner, although the 'two thumb' approach proves a brilliant and fast way of typing and holding the organiser at the same time.

The photo of the keyboard is actual size, so it should give you a good idea of the 3mx's proportions.

HARDWARE - Ports & Memory Slots.

The RS232 connection is the same as that on the 5mx, so your existing lead will work perfectly (as will PsiWin of course, but more of that later).

The 3mx also has an infrared port, but like all Psion computers, no USB. Memory. Well like a fish growing in proportion to its tank size the same could be said of memory. The 3mx has 2mb of memory, but not all of this is usable for running programs, 512kb is set aside for that.

The 3mx uses SSD cards as the 5mx uses Compact Flash cards. SSD tend to be Psion branded and can be quite expensive if you look at them per Megabyte. However going back to our fish scenario, 3mx programs tend to be tiny compared to 5mx programs, although still delivering the same functionality.

There are two types of SSD card, Flash & RAM. Flash are solid storage units, not relying on a back up battery but deleted files on such a card still take up the storage space on the card. To regain lost storage space you have to format the little chap.

RAM Cards are battery powered and have a fast write/access time, although once the battery has run out on the card (takes years) its game over. So things to remember about 3mx storage;

1. Storage cards are only storage space, you can't run a program in the extra memory space they give you. The amount of programs you are allowed to run at any one time is limited to the RAM set aside by your 3mx for that purpose (512k) and of course the size of the program.
2. Store record and data files that you don't access on a super regular basis, but wish to keep safe on a Flash SSD.
3. Keep applications and files you access often on a RAM SSD.



HARDWARE - Screen Keys

As with the 5mx, the 3mx has a series of keys that give you instant access to the Psion's main programs.

These buttons once pressed launch the associated program.

HARDWARE - Case

The Psion Series 3C has a soft rubber style casing.

Apparently Psion prepared this in readiness for an EU directive restricting the use of solvent based paints.

The water based coating the 3C was covered in soon started to peel and rub off.

This directive never came into force and Psion and, with the release of the 3mx, returned to a more stable paint job.

The case colour and paint type of the 3mx is almost identical to the 5mx.

Next issue - SOFTWARE.





Business is sweet with Business Suite!

Do you want to;

organise your customers,

manage your documents,

record your expenses,

chase quotes and invoices,

manage your stock,

calculate profits,

integrate your diary,

**record meetings & telephone
calls,**

schedule call backs,

**and create word document with
mail merge?**

All this can be done with one superb suite of programs that are fully integrated; Business Suite.

The best news is still to come, it's free!

Business Suite by Chris Nicholson contains a fully featured contact management program, document manager, expense & fuel manager, stock control program, & profit calculation program. All these elements are seamlessly interconnected, and can be searched using John Boyce's excellent Jbsort.

You can download a copy from <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/chrisnicholson1/bussuite.htm>

Business Suite's author will then email you a registration code upon request. Once downloaded, install Business Suite as described in the attached readme.txt, and then off you go!

Control Centre

In this first tutorial we'll look at the main 'control center' of Business Suite; Contact Manager and Document Management.



Contact Manager guides you through all the modules of Business Suite, interconnecting contact details where necessary.

In the second part of this tutorial we'll take a close look at the Stock Control, Profit Calculations and Expense Management.

I wouldn't want you to think that this software can only be used by Business People, it is very versatile and can be moulded to be useful in many situations.

To demonstrate this versatility this tutorial looks at managing a darts tournament at a Gentlemen's club!



The Drones Club

The downloaded ZIP files includes a .txt file that tells you how to install the software.

Once installed you are presented with a empty contact management database.

The first stage is to mold this to your own devices. Select File - New File - Top Level Contact File - yourfilename.odt. In my example case this will be drones.odt.

The file then looks exactly the same, but you'll notice in the top right hand corner the file name has changed to your file name. Next stage press PSION - L.

This opens up an Update labels dialogue box, the first label to be changed is the Main ID label. This is the most important label and will be used in many areas of the database, including sorting, so think carefully about the information you wished to be stored in the Main ID.

For me this will be Club Member. You can then edit any one of the 21 labels for your own devices. Fields 1 to 9 are filled in for your with suggested names, 10 to 12 are absent for some reason, 13 is email and 14 to 21 are Spare.

Custom Fields

The Drones Club, as the club I'm looking after is called, has a few custom fields that need to be changed. Please see screen shot. PIC1

Contact Club Mem Initial	Update labels		Drones ♦List Address Contact Fri 11
	•Label 14 •Label 15 •Label 16 •Label 17 •Label 18 •Label 19 •Label 20 •Label 21	Subs Due Darts Tournament? Notes. Spare 4 Spare 5 Spare 6 Spare 7 Spare 8	



Label 2, the default for this is Contact, becomes Member Status (normal, honorary, senior or staff). Label 14 (Spare1) becomes 'Subs Due' etc.

member of our club; Bertie Wooster. His member status is senior and an entree to our Darts Club Tournament.

See following screen shot.

Press PSION - E to add a new contact.
Our first contact is the most famous

Contact Manager		Bertie Wooster		Drones	
Member Status		Senior Member		List	
Title				♦Address	
Address		Berkeley Mansions		Contact	
Address					
Town		London			
County					
Postcode		W1		Fri 11	
Country		England			

Time to enter some extra members and staff of the Drones club, the following table gives their status;

Name	Member Status	Darts Tournament Entree
Bertie Wooster	Senior	Yes
Tuppy Glossop	Normal Normal	Yes
Ginger Winship	Normal Normal	Yes
Rogers	Staff	No
Tom Travers	Honorary	No



Contact Manager		Drones
Club Member	Member Status	◆List Address Contact
Bertie Wooster	Senior Member	
Tuppy Glossop	Normal Member	A B
Ginger Winship	Normal Member	
Rogers	Staff	Fri 11
Tom Travers	Honorary	

Pressing the Diamond Key moves you from the list view pictured, Address details and extra contact details.

I, as club organizer, wish to send Tom Travers a letter thanking him for agreeing to referee the darts tournament.

So I select or highlight his name in the list view, press Psion - Shift and K, and enter the file name ref.wrd.

Tom Traver's address and current date are then merged into the new word document.

Tom Travers Honorary Brinkley Court Gloucestershire England Fri 11 Jun 2004 Dear Lord Travers,	Ref ◆Normal Outline A B Fri 11
--	---

Once saving & closing our new Word document Business Suite asks us if we wish to Link the file to Tom Travers contact information. I press enter to say Yes.

I wish to store and manage all my Darts Tournament documents in one place, so with Tom's record still highlighted I

press PSION - N and select 'Document file', and call this Document file or store 'Darts'.

This file is now 'linked from Tom Travers', Psion - E lets me add a new document to this document management program. I want to attach my Word file 'Ref.wrd' to the program.

The program asks me I wish to view the file, I don't, and then I add a file description 'Tom's Thank you'.

Document Manager		Linked from Tom Travers	Darts
Description	Type	File name	Business Suite A B Fri 11
Initial record		Deleted	
Toms Thankyou	W	REF	

Concept

The concept behind this Document Management is you can build up a file of Documents relating to a project. You can add a Word, Spreadsheet, Data or Expanded file to the Document. An Expanded file is another Document Management file attached to the current one.



Selecting the file you wish to view and pressing the right cursor key opens the file.

If you remember earlier the program asked if we wished to link the ref.wrd document to Tom, we selected Yes. Because I want to keep all my Darts documents in one place and interrupted the programs method this link has been broken.



To re-establish this link with Tom, I highlight his name in the Contact Manager List screen and press SHIFT-PSION - L. This opens up a screen where I can link a Contact File, Document File (as we've seen that can contain many types of file types such as Word or Sheet that can be project related), StockIT File and BusCalc File, both Business Suite's own files.

To see linked files for a contact, select the Contact in the main List view and press the right cursor key.

If you wish to link a single Word, Spreadsheet or Data file to contact, select the contact and press W for a new or existing Word file, S or D for Spreadsheet or Data. Next time you press W, S or D with that contact selected the matching file will open. To delete or edit these files links again press SHIFT-PSION-L.

See screen shot.

Pressing PSION - H takes you back to the Drones main database, and from the main Contact Database pressing PSION - O and then 'Document file' you can open the project Document file your interested in, which is DARTS in our case.

Now the referee is in place I want to write letter to all the other members who are entered in the tournament.

To do this I press Diamond until the Various view is on screen and I can see if a member is in the Darts Tournament.

Contact Manager	
Club Member	
Bertie Wooster	
Tuppy Glossop	
Ginger Winship	
Rogers	
Tom Travers	

Edit link for Tom Travers	
Word	REF
•Sheet	No link
•Data	No link
•Contact file	No link
•Document file	DARTS
•StockIt file	No link
•BusCalc file	No link

Drones	
♦List	Address
Contact	
A	B
Fri 11	



Contact Manager		Bertie Wooster		T	Drones
Subs Due		Jan 2004			Address
Darts Tournament?		Yes			Contact
Notes.					♦ Various
Spare 4					
Spare 5					A B
Spare 6					
Spare 7					Sat 12
Spare 8					
Tag List		Linked from Ginger Winship			Contag
Member			Membership Level		♦ List
Ginger Winship			Normal Member		Address
Tuppy Glossop			Normal Member		Contact
Bertie Wooster			Senior Member		
					A B
					Sat 12

Those members who are, I tag. To tag an entry you press PSION - T. If an entry is tagged a capital T appears next to the contacts name.

I then move to List view and press SHIFT - PSION - R, the program asks me which Contact Database I wish to view, I select Drones and my tag list for those member I wish to send letters to appears.

Please note that the first time you use a tag you will need to update the field names (PSION - L). Actually this new tag list is a separate file that has been set up and can be saved as a new contact file.

This tagging is a very useful feature, and as with searching can work across multi-

ple contact databases. For instance if I wish to add a second club membership records to my Psion I can.

Bertie Wooster valet is called Jeeves and he is a member of the Junior Ganymede Club. If I press PSION - H to get back to the Drones database, and then press PSION - N to create a new file I'm given a few choices.

Jeeves

There are two types of Contact File; Top Level Contact File or Expanded Contact File. Top Level Contact file is a fresh contact file, Expanded Contact File copies the field names etc across from the open file. As both Contact files a gentlemen's clubs and will share similar field names I select Expanded Contact File.



The new contact files opens and I enter Jeeves as a club member, in the notes I record that Jeeves is Bertie's valet.

Returning to the Drones contact file (PSION - H) and moving to list view I press SHIFT-PSION - F to find all and enter 'Bertie' as my search criteria. Bertie is found in both the Drones and Junior contact databases.

It is then possible to tag both Bertie's and Jeeves's records, and via Rebuild Tag List (SHIFT - PSION - R) I can then select to view the tag lists from both databases on one screen. You could then, if you wish, save this tag list as a new contact file.

This relational database feature is very useful. You can link as many contact

log this meeting, or rather confusingly 'Contact' as Business Suite calls this meeting.

If you go to Business Suite General Preferences (PSION - Q and then Enter), there is an option to Log all contact to master file and Log individual contact to file. The darts tournament is only a small affair to I'll just have one master contact file and not individual ones (although you could have both).

Rogers

I highlight Rogers name and press PSION and the - key. Please note you could press PSION - Dial, the Psion would then call the telephone number you have logged for the contact before moving on to record the call.

Tag List		Linked from
Member	Membership Level	
Bertie Wooster Jeeves	Senior Member	

Contag
◆ List
Address
Contact



Sat 12

files, or any type of file actually, as you like. For instance you could create a Company File, and link this to 'Contacts for that Company' file for each Company record.

Returning to our Drones contact database, I've speaking to Rogers about the menu for the Tournament and I wish to

I record my conversation in the Contact Details field, and then enter the amount of time I spoke with Rogers. Business Suite then asks if I wish to record an action in regard to my conversation with Rogers. I do, so select yes and record the action details for my organizing for the menu to be printed. Business Suite then asks if I wish to include this action into



my Agenda file, again I say Yes.

Business Suite then brings up a dialogue with Rogers name already included for me, I add a few details after his name and press enter. The following three screen shots show this process, including

the contact and action details for Roger (highlight Rogers name and press N). You can also view a full contact log if you wish.

Contact Manager		Drones
Entry details		
•Company	Rogers, organise menu printing.	
•Date	14/06/2004	
•Type	Timed Entry	
•Start time	08:00 am	
•End time	09:00 am	
•Alarm	No	
		Sat 12

Sun 13 June 2004		Agenda
6	2	♦ Day
7	3	Week
8	4	Year
8am Rogers Print Menu	5	
(⇨9am)	6	A B
9	7	
10	8	Sat 12
11	9	
12	10	
1		

Contact		Drones
Club Men Bertie Tuppy Ginger Rogers Tom Tr	Last contact details	
	Date	12/06/04
	Duration	5 minutes
	Note 1	Spoke about menu. Agreed no Sprouts.
	Note 2	No notes to view
	Next action details	
Date	14/06/04	
Note 1	Organise Menu Printing	
Note 2	No notes to view	
		Sat 12

In the next issue I'll organize what stock
and how much to charge for the meal that
is to accompany the Darts Tournament!





The Old Psion Software Curiosity Shop looks at odd software from the massive SIBO vaults that has been lost a long the way!

This issue we've dusted down a program entitled 'Cupid'.

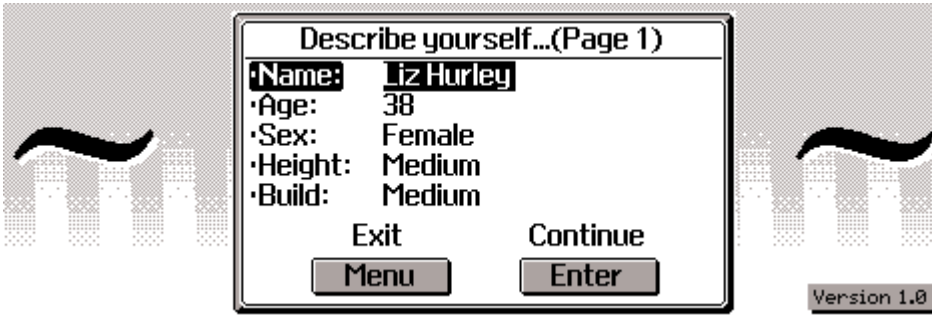
Cupid, written by Andrew Webb is a sort of dating database if you like.

The idea behind it is users of the software enter their personal details, and once com-

pleted upload their file to author.

The software author gathers all these personal files together and then re-issues the new expanded database to the subscribers or members of 'Cupid'.

The 'describe yourself' asks your preference or likes on a number of subjects including personal appearance and age, reading, movies, sports, animals, gardening, fashion, weight lifting (!), ice skating, art, cooking, religion (spelt religion in the program), music, dancing, drinking, theatre etc



Describe yourself...(Page 1)

•Name: **Liz Hurley**

•Age: 38

•Sex: Female

•Height: Medium

•Build: Medium

Exit Menu Continue Enter

Version 1.0

Once you receive your database back the program compares your details to the other members or 'clients' as the program prefers to label them.

You can, or should I say should have been able to search, compare and list the other clients on the database, but these features were never added.

Perhaps the most telling aspect to the software, or should I say reason behind the software is the readme.txt that accompanies it. The author seems to have recent-

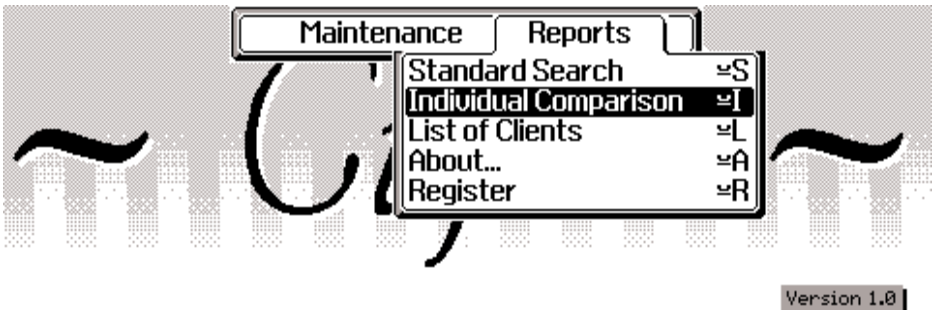
ly split up with his girlfriend and his cunning plan of getting her back is the creation of this program!

It would interesting to find out if he ever achieved this, perhaps he married her, who knows?



The software is a charming piece of loves young dream gone a bit pear shaped!

I've reproduced the readme.txt below, if Andrew Webb ever reads this he'll probably hide his head in shame. I hope not!



Maintenance Reports

Standard Search ≡S

Individual Comparison ≡I

List of Clients ≡L

About... ≡A

Register ≡R

Version 1.0



Why I Wrote Cupid...

Well, there was this girl... I went out with her for a few months and I fell in love. (YUK!)

She broke up with me and I just didn't know what to do.

I had dumped all my friends when we started getting serious and now I was left with nothing.

So faced with lots of spare time on my hands, I took comfort in the loving care offered by my S3a. Sad! I know.

Why am I telling you all this? Well, I thought I'd use this opportunity to sound off a bit:

- 1) Never trust Women - Women leave you.
- 2) Never trust Men - Men always do something to make women leave them.
- 3) Never trust Yourself - You just don't know what you're capable of.

And Finally...

This program is dedicated to Lyndsay.