

Letters...

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Thank you for producing a good "fanzine" for us Psion fanatics. I'm sure future issues will be progressively even better.

Personally (but just personally) I'm not terribly worried that Psion have left the market or that EPOC handhelds are effectively an obsolete platform. A selfish view would be "I'm all right, Jack". I've already got two 5mxs, a 3a and a 3c and I'm going to get, and use, more Psions, enough to outlast me.

If Psions were still made in bulk and became popular some fool would probably ruin it all. But it's a pity they're not still made in bulk by many peoples' standards (OK, mine too) and I'm glad the POS are carrying the flag. Maybe there'll even be development, the kind of development I want.

The Psions aren't perfect but they are very useful, and the 3a/3c/3mx are more powerful than most people think. The built-in networking of the SIBO machines and emulators may be unique - it seems to be unknown on any other handheld. Environmental extremes also seem to bother SIBOs less than they bother other systems. They were the only ones that could be used in the high Himalayas - sure they shut down when they got too cold but they *didn't* crash. They just carried on when they got warmer - they unfroze!

My 3c can do all I need from a handheld and more (though mountain-climbing is not one of my hobbies). The 5mx has more software available and more memory

but, realistically, it's not actually better, just different (and maybe more modern). It can effectively "Cruise the 'Net" but the Mac is better. The eMail client suits me better than many.

That's it really.

I'm disabled now (please sympathise with someone who needs it more - I'm recovering) but before I carried my 3a everywhere. Now I carry my 3c and a 5mx. I use the 5mx and will as long as I can but if I'm hospitalised again the 3c will be my companion.

My old 3a ran for several *years* without crashing, with no reset and only on batteries. I expect the 3c to be even better. The 5mx is only good compared to non-Psions (but it's very good indeed then).

So why should I migrate from Psion to expensive beasts with very short battery life that are vulnerable to all sorts of nasties? My earlier Psions will probably outlast me, colour I only really want on my desktop (though a series 7/netBook will be nice). A fancy word-processor - if you're a commercial user who travels a lot then maybe - but I'm not. It would be nice to have more sophisticated spreadsheet and database programs but I only really need an address book and a diary (can anything yet equal Psion's Agenda?).

I need a shopping program (and if I weren't disabled I'd really want one anyway) and I do use the OPL programming facility but I don't actually need it. All I need I need on a small battery machine I can use in Sainsbury's, in the pub, in the woods and (maybe) in hospital. All I want is the same plus a little desktop stuff.

Perhaps I'd feel the same about another portable system if I were familiar with that, I honestly don't know. I certainly have a friend who regrets Apple not persevering with his love, the Newton. He now has a Palm.

But my disability means my handwriting is indecipherable. Though I use the 5mx pointer I need a real keyboard. Windoze can fall over with no warning for

no apparent reason as can most OSs - but it seems to do it much more often. Linux may be a good bet except - I'm already familiar with SIBO/EPOC.

So I'll stick.

Happy days,
Phil.

"Everybody should believe in something.
I believe I'll have another drink."