

New Productivity Software



PSIROM and PSIROM-X

Juan J. Villacorta has released two new software tools for EPOC Palmtops called PsiROM and PsiROMx.

Traditionally Psion have produced palmtops with their Operating System burned into ROM chip that it is fixed and cannot be deleted or edited.

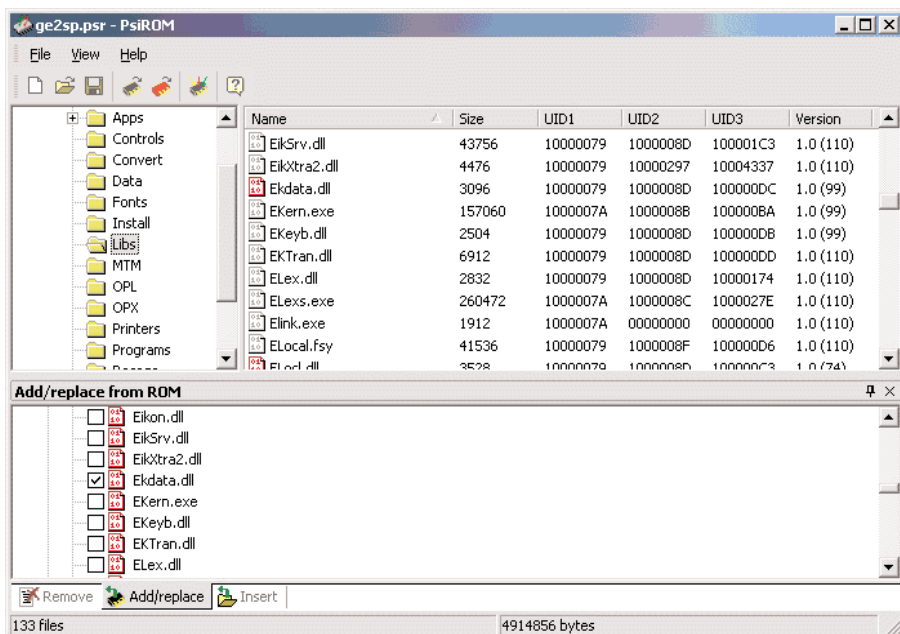
However with the release of the 5mx Pro, netPad and netBook, Psion decided to put the OS in a RAM section reserved for the purpose (although the OS put into the RAM is still called a ROM image).

The advantage of this is a custom Operating System or Operating System with language variants can be loaded easily on to the device.

When I first bought my netBook it came with a CD ROM that would allow you to modify the EPOC OS before loading it onto the machine (the other method is loading the OS onto the netBook via a Compact Flash card).

This CD ROM based custom install allowed your to remove certain applications from the RAM you preferred not have, such as Bombs or Record. However in my experience every time I loaded the OS on the NetBook via this method the touch screen on the machine would continually freeze.

PsiROM allows the editing of an existing ROM image and uploading of that image to your device. This allows you for instance to purchase a German 5mx Pro, edit an English



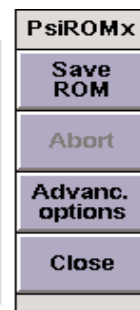
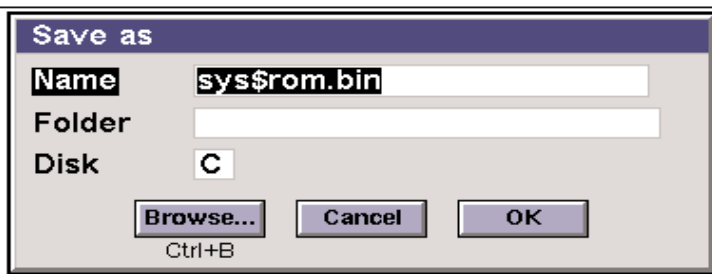
version of EPOC (see the screen shot for an example of the detail you can go on to during the editing process) and upload it to the machine, turning your German 5mx into an English one.

PsiROMx works in the other direction by extracting the ROM image from your machine, this could be then uploaded to another machine via PsiROM.

So far PsiRom only works with the 5mx Pro, however NetBook and netPad versions will be released shortly or may have been released by the time you read this.

Both are freeware and available from available from;

<http://gtm.tel.uva.es/xtep/en/index.htm>



XEDA

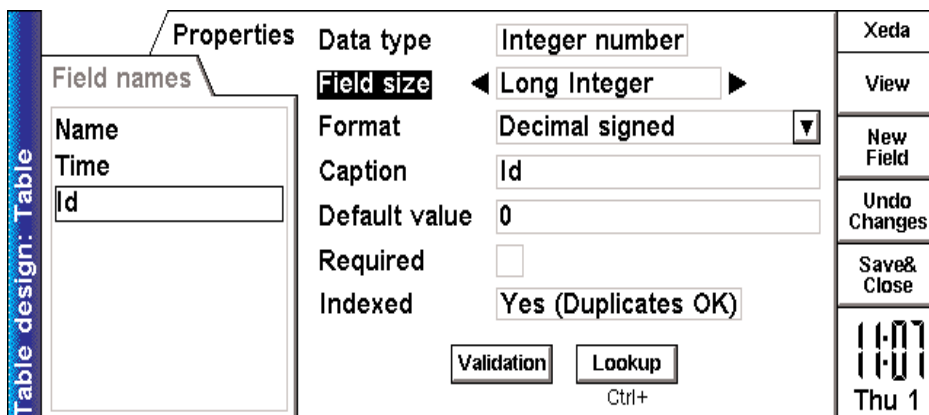
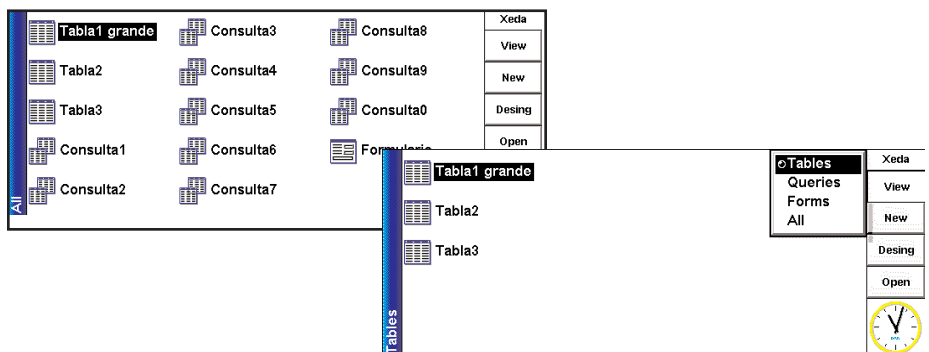
Juan is also at work at a Microsoft Access like database package for the Psion EPOC range called Xeda (Extended Data) with the following planned features;

Multiple relational tables
Microsoft Access like interface
Design of tables and relationships between tables
View and edition of data as table (grid) and/or form
Queries and forms advanced editor

Advanced queries and extended SQL support (including calculated fields, multiple tables and groups)
Import/export from .mdb files (Microsoft Access) integrated in PsiWin

From the screen shots it looks very exciting.

I've been in touch with Juan but he has no beta release yet, but watch this space for more info about PsiROM/x and Xeda.



Secure Drive

Secure Drive from Symbian Wave is a new Drive Mapping utility that allows super-secure encryption of data.

Symbian Wave (www.symbian-wave.com) are authors of very high quality commercial grade software. Symbian Wave write software in C++ which allow very fast and seamless integration in the EPOC5 native operating system which is also written in C++.

Freeware software from Symbian Wave includes AlarmPlus, ResetPlus, Moon Clock and zExe which is a excellent Application compression utility which can save you

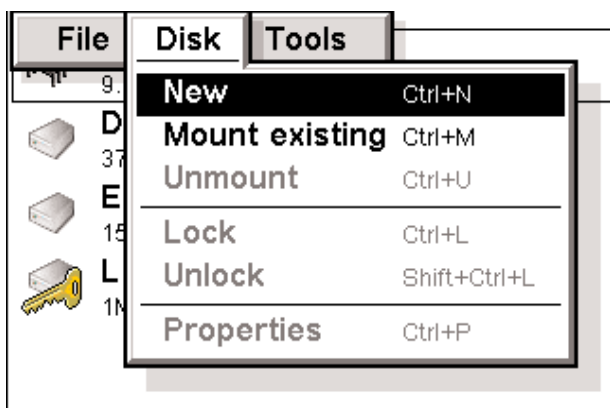
Megabytes of space!

Commercial software with a trial period includes Task Manager and now Secure Drive.

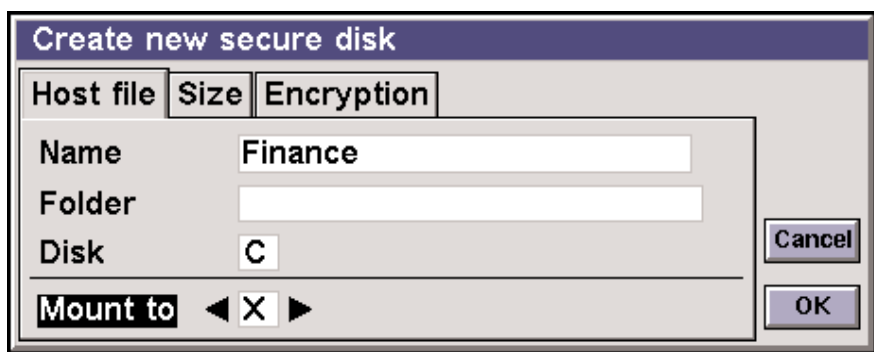
Drive Mapping is assigning a drive letter to a folder. Drive letters are useful for subdividing a large hierarchical tree of folders, plus Drive Mapping also allows encryption of these virtual drives.

To illustrate how Secure Drive works we will create a secure disc drive for our financial information.

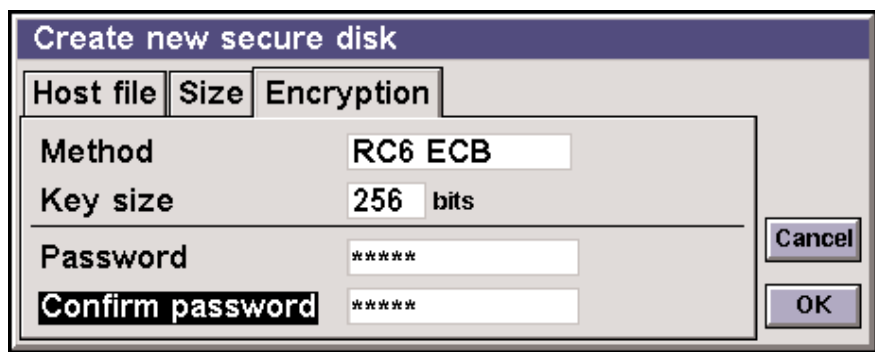
From the main Secure Drive application we create a new Disc.



Call it Finance and give it a drive letter name of X.



I would like to keep this information secure so I give it password. Once my new drive has been created it can be worked with just as a normal drive can be, for example your D: Compact Flash drive.

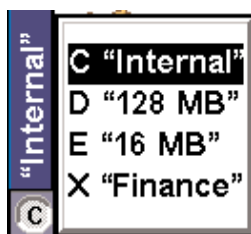


Our New Disc displayed in Secure Drive.



X: [Finance] (C:\Finance)
1M of 1M free

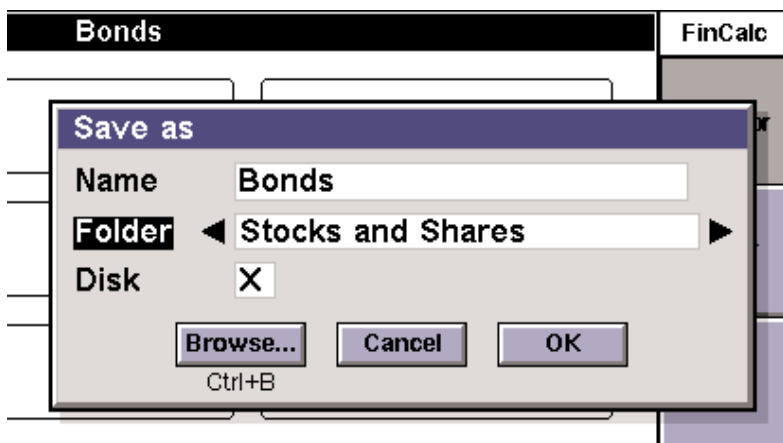
Access X drive via the normal System screen.



Creating a new file on the X drive.



Easily saving a file to my new folder on the X drive.



You can then either lock the file via a 'hot key' or have your Psion lock it at start up.

Disk 'X' is locked



Secure Drive lets you set the size of your virtual disc and the size of the cache Secure Drive uses to speed up your system.

EPOC stores Email information to all new drives on your system, if you remove Secure Drive without restoring this information from your new drive you will have problems with losing your email data. Secure Drive warns you and instructs you how to prevent /this.

Secure Drive is a unique, fast and highly polished application and for the right group of people could prove invaluable.