

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



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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

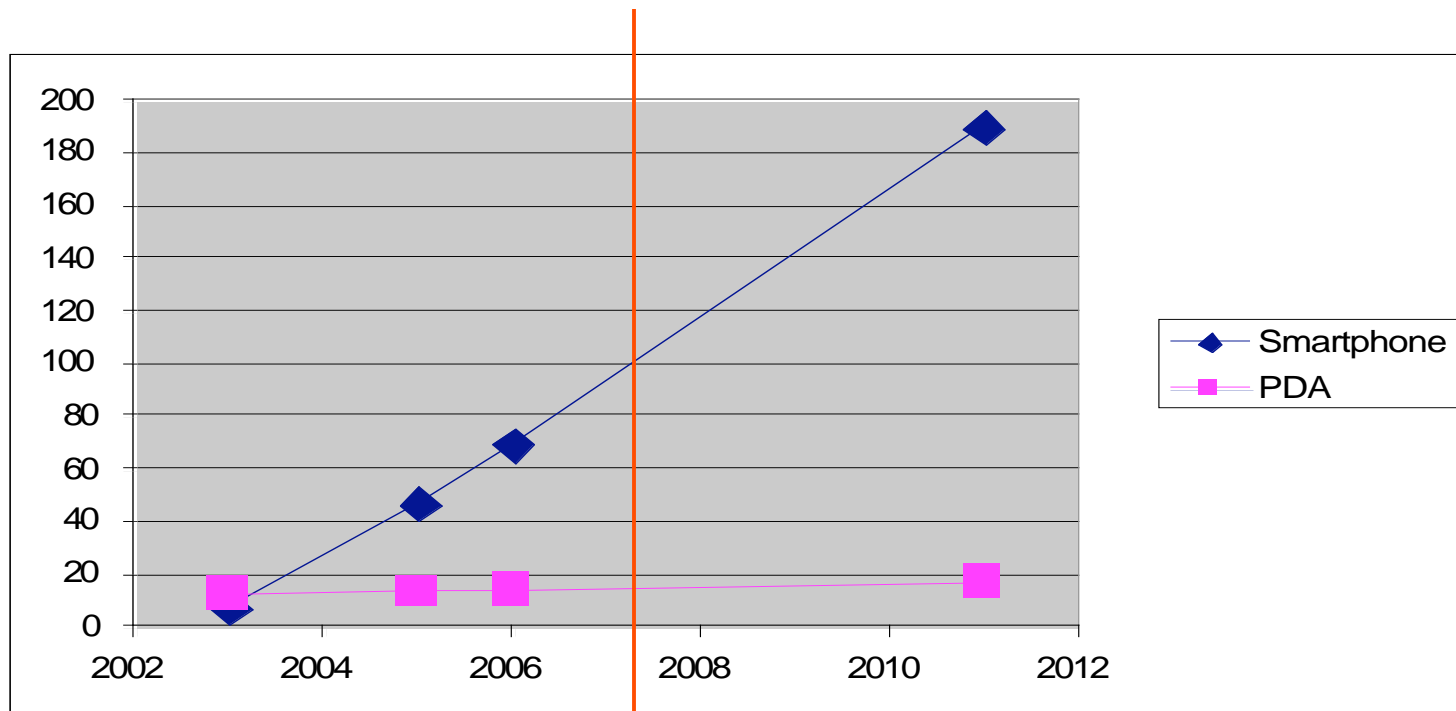
- Siemens
- Garmin ique
- Rim blackberry
- Palm Treo
- Palm Tungsten
- Palm Zire
- Iphone
- Nokia
- Dell
- HP / compaq ipaq

<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://www.moss-fritch.com/pda_software.htm)
- [http://genealogy.about.com/od/software\\_handhelds/](http://genealogy.about.com/od/software_handhelds/)
- <http://mobilegenealogy.com/>

Now see the tree