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1. Janam XP Series PalmOS Barcode Scanners

There is a new name in the barcode scanning handheld arena, and it is generating a *lot* of excitement! Janam Technologies announced its new XP Series handhelds in November, shipping now. The XP20 mono screen and XP30 colour units run PalmOS Garnet 5.4.9 on modern rugged hardware, aimed squarely at the Symbol PalmOS scanner replacement market. The Janam units are compatible with barcode apps written for Symbol PalmOS scanners, including SatForms 5.2 and higher applications. They also have state of the art hardware features like Bluetooth, WLAN, non-volatile memory, mini-SD card slot, numeric keyboard option, field-upgradeable 2D scanning option, and more. There's a full slate of accessories like multi-slot cradles, extended batteries, and so on like you would expect for enterprise class devices. We've been working with both the XP20 and XP30 for a couple months now, and have to say that we are very impressed! Find out more at the Janam Technologies website: http://www.janam.com

2. Socket Announces New Handheld, New Name

Socket Mobile, Inc. is the new name for Socket Communications, following a January announcement that they plan to introduce their own line of business class handhelds. Socket has been a long time manufacturer of mobile device peripherals such as barcode scanners, Bluetooth, WiFi & ethernet cards, GPS, modems, serial port cards, etc., that work with Windows Mobile and PalmOS devices. They plan to target a segment of the handheld device market in between the consumer and enterprise ends of the spectrum, which they call the business class. They have yet to release the full specs or product photos, but we know this much so far: they will run the Windows Mobile 5 OS, have both CF and SD slots, and will have both Bluetooth and 802.11g WLAN. See more on the Socket website: http://www.socketcom.com

3. SatForms Software & Documentation Updates

Several new extensions have been released or updated since Satellite Forms 7.0 arrived in October. New & updated extensions available for download in the Software Updates & Patches section of the SatForms website include:

- **Google Maps for PalmOS** provides an interface from your SatForms app to the free Google Maps app, for detailed interactive maps, turn by turn directions, integrated search results, and satellite imagery
- **CommitDatabase for PocketPC** enables you to commit PocketPC PDB database changes to storage on command
- **ScreenSize for PocketPC** gives you the current screen size on the PocketPC device, and fires an event when the size or screen rotation changes, allowing your app to adapt to the screen changes on the fly
- **SocketScan for PalmOS** has been updated for compatibility with the new Socket laser SD scanner card

In addition, a new **InkHelper** extension for PalmOS and PocketPC is nearing completion, which will provide several handy functions to convert and transfer ink images on the handheld. The Satellite Forms KnowledgeBase has also been updated recently with several new & updated articles, including topics such as the new bundled runtime engine option for PocketPC PDB applications, a new freeware PocketPC installer creation tool, a new ActiveSync 4.x registry fix, using the Windows Mobile PocketPC emulator, and more.

4. Handheld Industry Tidbits

- Aceeca has lowered the price of their laser barcode equipped Meazura (ID::VERIFI BCS2) down to US$599 including a 128MB CF memory card for backups, with a $70 option to add Class 1 Bluetooth as well
- An RFID reader module for the Meazura is available from New Zealand company EditID, complete with a 256MB CF memory card; an extension for it is in development
- Palm has discontinued the LifeDrive Mobile Manager device (the only PalmOS device to feature a hard drive)
- As part of its trademark ownership transfer agreement with Palm Inc., ACCESS (formerly PalmSource Inc.) announced it is renaming the Palm OS to Garnet OS
- Palm Inc. signed a multimillion dollar perpetual license agreement with ACCESS in December granting them Palm OS Garnet source code rights, plus the ability to use Palm OS Garnet together with other system technologies
- Garmin announced in December that they've discontinued all of their GPS enabled PDAs, except for the newly introduced PalmOS powered iQue 3000

5. Power Tip: Emulator or Remote Control?

Many developers regularly use the PalmOS Emulator, PalmOS Simulator, and Microsoft Device Emulator to increase their development productivity during the design and testing phase, for application support, for easy capturing of handheld screenshots, for group presentations, and more. Another option is to use handheld remote control software to display and interact with a real connected device via your PC screen, keyboard, and mouse. Microsoft offers the **Remote Display Control** free as part of its PocketPC Power Toys. PalmOS remote control commercial tools include PDA Reach from JuneFabrics, TapSmart HandShare from MobilityWare, and mDesk Pro from MotionApps.

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