

OpenQM on a PDA

QM users can develop and deploy applications for hand held PDA devices running either Windows Mobile 5, 6 or the older Windows CE.

By bringing the world of multivalue databases to PDAs, QM opens a new market for personal computing applications, whether they be totally stand alone or the mobile component of a corporate system.

The PDA is the truly portable computer of the future. Our demonstration “washing machine repair man” application is typical of the market that we expect this to fill. Using the PDA, the service engineer logs his arrival at the job, selects details of all parts used from the database and, on completion of the job, has an instant invoice for the customer including time charges and details of the work carried out. On return to base, he transfers the details to the company’s main system and downloads the jobs for the next day.



What can it do?

The PDA version of QM is essentially a single user version of the full QM product. It has support for outgoing network connections (including QMNet) to provide easy synchronisation with the main database server. Data files and compiled application programs are totally compatible with other QM platforms.

Although the user interface is essentially character mode, program interfaces allow control of the keyboard display and detection of stylus taps. Standard QM menus are extended to allow the stylus to be used to select actions and it is easy to integrate similar mechanisms into application software. Whilst the PDA is a single user environment, QM retains support of locking for QMNet and also to minimise changes to applications that are ported from multi-user environments.

Installation and Development

Like most PDA software, QM is installed by executing an installer program on a Windows PC whilst connected to the PDA. Upgrades require no more than running the installer for the new version. All existing application data will be retained.

QM itself resides in the Program Files directory on the built in flash memory. Applications would typically be installed on a separate removable flash memory card.

Although the standard QM software development tools are present on the PDA, it is more likely that applications would be developed on a desktop or laptop system and then transferred to the PDA.

Telnet and GUI

QM on a PDA supports a single incoming telnet connection, either locally or over a network. Used with the PDA version of the Winnix terminal emulator, this allows construction of GUI style applications.

Licensing and Support

The PDA version of QM is licensed in exactly the same way as the other platforms. Users can opt for free upgrades for either one or ten years and can transfer their licence if they invest in a new PDA during that time.

Support is provided by the dealer or directly from Ladybridge Systems on either a pay per incident or pre-paid basis.

Specifications

Runs on ARMV4 and ARMV4I architecture devices under Windows Mobile 5, 6 or Windows CE.

Small memory footprint - approximately 300 kb excluding application requirements.

Approximately 1Mb required on system flash memory.

No additional software required.

Single user, no phantom processes.

Full support for hashed files with alternate key indices and triggers.

TCP/IP sockets.

Application printer output to files for later printing via a desktop system.

Features of server product not supported on PDA:

Incoming serial port connections

User administration commands (not applicable to PDA)

Online help

SH and OS.EXECUTE (no shell process on a PDA)

Multi-user diagnostic tools : HSM, PSTAT

Printers are not supported by the PDA versions of Windows without third party software