



REVIEWS

Clockworks 1.03d

Reviewer: *Elliott C. "Eeyore" Evans*

Posted: 7/1/98

<p>ClockWorks Batt: 2.47V</p> <p>Wednesday 98.7.1</p> <p>2:02⁴⁶ PM</p> <p>▼ London [GMT] 7:02 pm Wed 1998.7.1</p> <p>Alarm: 9:30 pm Wed 1998.7.1</p> <p>Stopwatch Timer</p>	<p>ClockWorks Stopwatch</p> <p>Wed 1998.7.1 2:04 pm</p> <p>Elapsed Time 00:00:24.91</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Split Time</th> <th>Lap Time</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1 00:00:03.75</td> <td>00:00:03.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 00:00:05.54</td> <td>00:00:01.79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 00:00:12.60</td> <td>00:00:07.06</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 00:00:24.32</td> <td>00:00:11.72</td> </tr> </table> <p>Clock Timer Lap Reset</p>	Split Time	Lap Time	1 00:00:03.75	00:00:03.75	2 00:00:05.54	00:00:01.79	3 00:00:12.60	00:00:07.06	4 00:00:24.32	00:00:11.72	<p>ClockWorks Timer</p> <p>Wed 1998.7.1 2:05 pm</p> <p>Time Remaining 07:11:54</p> <p>Normal Repeat</p> <p>World Time 7:05 pm Wed 1998.7.1</p> <p>Clock Stopwatch Reset</p>
Split Time	Lap Time											
1 00:00:03.75	00:00:03.75											
2 00:00:05.54	00:00:01.79											
3 00:00:12.60	00:00:07.06											
4 00:00:24.32	00:00:11.72											

RATINGS	
Quality	☹ ☹ ☹ ☹
Geekness	☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

At A Glance

Description Three kinds of chronometry for your palmtop

Size 29 KB

Location <http://slate.cyg.net/~aball/>

Price \$7.00 to remove startup delay

Clockworks contains three functions that allow you to measure time in three different ways. For measuring the time of day, there's a "Clock" function. For measuring the time between a start and a finish, there's a "Stopwatch" function. For measuring the time between now and a deadline, there's a "Timer" function.

The main functionality of Clockworks is not what sets it apart from, say, a digital watch. What sets it apart are all of the extra touches that make Clockworks a pleasure to use. For instance, all time displays are in large, easy-to-read fonts. The clock function also displays time and date for a second time zone, that you can choose. Icons in the upper right show you when another function is active in the background. Buttons to start and stop timers are actually large portions of the screen.

In addition, some features make this application a "must have." Clockworks can disable the auto-off feature of PalmOS so your chronometer is always visible. Clockworks can reset your system clock at the beginning and end of Daylight Savings. The alarm can be set to "silent" and flash the backlight instead of making noise . . . and

there's still more I haven't written about!

Clockworks was basically the first application I ever bought for my PalmIII. I find it so indispensable that I have set my "Calculator" button to start Clockworks instead. If measuring time is important to you, get Clockworks.

Ratings Defense

I have not found any replicable bugs in Clockworks. Sometimes I will encounter some minor display bugs, however, which makes me hesitant to give this higher than 4 Geekheads.

If digital watches are geeky, and PDAs are geeky, combining the two is extra-special super-geeky: 5 Geekheads.





REVIEWS

QED 1.28

Reviewer: *Elliott C. "Eeyore" Evans*

Posted: 7/1/98

butts of dove cigarettes, Guinness Stout fermentation dregs, uranium mill tailings, muffler cores, monosodium glutamate, nitrates, nitrites, nitrotes, and nitrutres, nutrites, natrotes, powdered pork nose hairs, dynamite, activated charcoal, match-heads, used pipe cleaners, tar, nicotine, single malt-whiskey, smoked beef lymph nodes, autumn leaves, red fuming nitric acid, bituminous coal, fallout, printer's ink, laundry starch, drain

RATINGS	
Quality	
Geekness	

At A Glance

- Description** Doc file editor/viewer
- Size** 13 KB
- Location** <http://www.visionary2000.com/qed/>
- Price** \$23.00 to remove nearly constant nagging

There are several Doc file viewers out there already, and you might question the necessity of yet another. QED is definitely different, though, and some of its features make it worth looking into. Especially since it weighs in at only 13 KB.

First of all, you can edit the Doc files. The other Doc viewers I've seen are notably missing this feature. While large scale editing of documents is impractical on the Pilot in general, it's useful to be able to rename files and fix minor errors without having to go back to the source file on your desktop.

Another stand-out feature is the variable column width. Other Doc viewers limit you to the 160 pixel width of the screen, but QED allows you to use a virtual screen up to 800 pixels wide. This allows you to quickly scan down the left edge of a wide document (e.g., some source code) without having to deal with those long lines being wrapped. Crazy as it may sound, I think that the 800 pixel limit is still somewhat constraining. I'd prefer to turn off line wrapping all together.

Some features I find useful in other viewers are missing in QED. Tapping the screen to scroll up and down is convenient when reading a long file. Autoscrolling is also helpful. While I realize that some of these features are not part of the primary goal of QED,

these limitations prevent me from using QED as my one true Doc viewer.

I find QED to be very well conceived, but poorly designed. The author has chosen to design a new set of controls and interface elements (which is geeky-cool in theory) but these elements wind up being difficult to use (which is uncool). For instance, the dialog that you use to change the name of the file forces you to enter your new title from scratch and does not allow you to copy/paste the current name. The navigational buttons at the bottom of the screen are powerful, but having to hit a 6x12 pixel rectangle to accomplish something is very difficult, especially when the next rectangle over does something different. The ability to set viewing options by file is great, but the absence of the ability to set the default set of options is frustrating.

If you need a large document editor, not just a viewer, I still recommend trying this out. For use merely as a viewer, however, I can't really justify registration. I look forward to future versions, however, as I think the core concepts of this program are great.

Ratings Defense

While I've yet to find a bug in QED, the design issues I state above prevent me from giving this program higher than 3 Geekheads for Quality. It's simply difficult to use as intended.

Real geeks need programs that edit, not just programs that view. For this reason I feel obligated to rate the Geekness of QED highly, at 5 Geekheads. Its usefulness dealing with source code is also a plus. Also, "difficult to use" is not a criticism real geeks care about.





REVIEWS

TinySheet 1.20b

Reviewer: *Elliott C. "Eeyore" Evans*

Posted: 6/29/98

Tiny Sheet		Icehouse Tournament					
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1		G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	Sum
2	Jake	12	6	23	14	16	71
3	Ruth	24	21	8	17	15	85
4	Elliott	28	29	24	26	27	134
5	Daniel	18	25	19	9	22	93
6							0
7							0
8							0

=sum(b4:f4) Cell
 Page (Left Arrow) (Right Arrow)
 (Done) (Det) (Del) End (Up Arrow) (Down Arrow)

RATINGS	
Quality	
Geekness	

At A Glance

Description A small spreadsheet application

Size 55 KB

Location <http://www.pilotgear.com>

Price \$10.00 voluntary payment after 30-day free trial

When setting out to build a complete collection of standard software tools for my Pilot, one of the things I labeled "essential" was a spreadsheet. I recently did some research and thought I had found that the only available spreadsheet was a \$50 piece of commercial software with no demo version. Later, while researching under "Calculators," I found TinySheet.

TinySheet is not an ambitious product. It supports simple spreadsheets of up to 26 columns and 99 rows. It supports 31 mathematical and numeric functions, and automatic entry of series information. Cut and paste work intelligently, with automatic formula updating. Data import and export is handled through the memo pad. That's about it; that's all it does.

Serious spreadsheet users will miss some of the whizzier features supported by desktop software, and probably supported by that \$50 thingy; however, TinySheet is not attempting to be all things to all people. For \$10 you will get a spreadsheet that does most of what an average person needs. If you don't need multiple worksheets, syncing with Excel, or a big price tag, take a look at TinySheet.

Starting from scratch, I was able to create a spreadsheet to keep track of scores and

calculate player ratings for a gaming tournament I'm going to next week. If you're reasonably familiar with spreadsheets, you should have no problem learning to use TinySheet. The documentation is minimal, but adequate to get you oriented.

Ratings Defense

TinySheet gets 3 Geekheads for Quality, not because it's minimal, but because there are some bugs that you will probably encounter, and some things don't work as they should. For instance, resizing columns is cumbersome, and attempting to use the Graffiti command for it uncovers a minor display bug. Scrolling horizontally a page at a time really scrolls you two columns at a time, so if you have made your columns much skinnier than the 69 pixel default it takes some time to move over.

I gave TinySheet 3 Geekheads for Geekness because, let's face it, this is a spreadsheet. It's an essential tool, like a pencil, and it works. Nobody expects to be excited by a spreadsheet, and this one was never intended to be chock full of whiz and bang.

Don't let these ratings discourage you, though. TinySheet is all the spreadsheet I will probably ever need, it is free to try out, and is cheap to register. I recommend it.

