



CARDLOCK VENDING

LOGGING DATA
CARDMASTER TO PALM PILOT



Using Palm Pilot

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LOGGING DATA FROM A CARDMASTER TO A PALM PDA

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Before you begin

You will need:

- 1) A PDA model "Palm OS". The one used to test was an "**M130**" purchased from Staples for \$189.00. It is pictured below:



- 2) You should log on to <http://www.markspace.com/products.html> and in the second column of software products there is a program called "Online". It is described as a "VT100 Terminal Emulator, Data Logger, and Serial Debugger for Palm OS". You can purchase it for \$30 or download an evaluation version good for 50 log-in attempts.
 - a. You will need to load this to the Palm PDA as you would any other Palm program. The instructions with the Palm are more comprehensive than we could offer here.
- 3) You will need a DB-9 to Palm cable. Some of these are offered at <http://www.markspace.com/datacord.html> but the one we used to test was purchased from CompUSA was manufactured by Sakar is Item #17147 and sku 2133117147. It cost \$29 but has a "Y" that allows polling to either USB or 9 pin serial. It is pictured below.



- 4) You will need a null modem adapter available at any Radio Shack, Comp USA or similar store. One is pictured below (top of next page left) and most are 9 pin male X female. One Best Buy store did not know what we were asking for so make sure it is a "null modem".
- 5) You *may* need a gender changer. The one here (top of next page right) was used for this test and is male X male. For the extra dollar get both male X male *and* female X female!

Service Bulletin - CardMaster to PDA devices

Polling CardMaster with Palm



Let's review what we have:

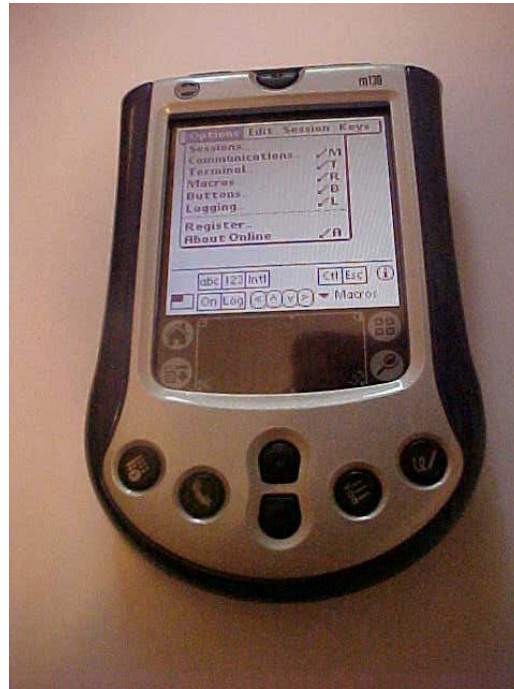
- 1) The PDA we tested was a Palm m130. Others will work. We also tested a Palm VII. We have not tested PDAs working on Windows CE.
- 2) The "Online" program gives the PDA a terminal emulation program. In your computer this function is served by HyperTerminal but here we need to install the capability. There are several out there but this one worked for us.
- 3) The cable is needed to get the data from the CardMaster to the PDA and is made by several people but fundamentally our critical need is to adapt the Palm to the 9 pin serial connection on CardMaster.
- 4) The null modem is required to line up the pins for the right communications within serial communication.
- 5) The gender adapter may be needed to make the cable and null adapt to the outside 9 pin serial connection on the CardMaster (see below).



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Setting the communications in "Online"

- 1) Launch the "Online" program on the PDA.
- 2) Tap the menu bar "just below the "little house" on the PDA (lower left beside the graffiti writing surface. It will bring up the menu shown.



- 3) Tap the "communications" menu (second on the list).
- 4) It will bring up the communications settings which should be as follows":
 - a. Method: Serial
 - b. Port: UART2 HotSynch
 - c. Baud: 9600
 - d. Data Bits: 8
 - e. Parity: N
 - f. Stop Bits: 1
 - G. Handshake: none

(These are slightly different than in HyperTerminal since we had to "work around" the fact that "Online" does not support the space parity that we usually use.) This configuration is shown on the top of the next page. The actual terminology on your PDA might be slightly different.

- 5) Click OK

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Next step – setting up the whole assembly!

- 1) Connect all the parts and pieces so it will look like the picture below:
 - a. Our USB connector is loose and unused and is tucked behind the DB-9 connector. The sequence here is:
 - i. Gender changer connected to Cardmaster.
 - ii. Outboard is null modem adapter.
 - iii. Cable is outboard of null.
 - iv. Palm adapter goes into PDA.



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Logging Data:

- 1) Launch "Online" and click the ON button as in the picture below:



- 2) Enter an "R" (remember that it must be an upper case "R").
 - a. You will get a "Power Up" message as you would on a laptop.
- 3) Enter a "P" to enter the password. Factory setting is MASTER in upper case.
- 4) Turn on "log" directly to the right of the "on" shown at the stylus above.
- 5) Enter whichever command you wish at the colon ":" prompt. "A" or "B". "A" is all transactions, "B" is "since last marked".
- 6) You will see the transactions come into the PDA. When complete tap the "log" again to end logging.
- 7) "Mark" the transaction if you wish as if using Hyperterminal.
- 8) Check the Memo Pad in your PDA to see if the data is there. If not, see "Rocks and Shoals" below. This is not necessary but it IS comforting.
- 9) Disconnect the PDA and cable.

Transferring the data to your computer

- 1) This may vary as some folks log to the Palm Desktop and others log to Outlook or other programs.
 - a. In this instruction we will assume you are logging to the Palm Desktop.
- 2) HotSynch your PDA to the Palm Desktop and open the Palm Desktop. Choose the Memo icon on the left side of the screen (see top of next page). This version of the Palm Desktop is 4.0.1. You will note that you can "preview" the data on the right side of the screen.

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- 3) Create a folder to put the data in. We used Windows Explorer and a folder called CardMaster Log. (Remember where you put the folder).
- 4) Go to the Palm Desktop, RIGHT CLICK on the file you want. Select COPY.
- 5) Open the Note Pad in desktop/laptop Windows by going to START→ALL PROGRAMS→ ACCESSORIES→NOTEPAD.
- 6) Hit CTRL-V (or any other way you paste) and it will put the file in the notepad.
- 7) Save the Notepad file by using FILE→SAVE. It will give it a .txt extension by default and you should direct it to the folder you created.

You may now follow the instructions for processing data to another program such as Excel that the factory has previously provided. This is named "Polling to Excel" and is an undated document

Potential Error Situations

During our test of this we were delayed because the PDA was occasionally used previously with a keyboard. If you suspect this is the case it could cause a "port error" that has to be cleared by "disabling keyboard"

The Palm OS has both a Note Pad and a Memo Pad. You will find your data in the Memo Pad on the PDA but (confusingly) we are asking you to paste it to the Notepad on your laptop or desktop.

Remember that the buffer in a PDA is not without limitations. It seems that polling to a Palm with "Online" should be limited to around 125 transactions. We strongly prefer you download 100 transactions at a time and set a marker then download another 100 etc.

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