Higher Performance – and Lower Prices !

Two new flagship models - the LZ and LZ64 - have set new performance standards at the top of Psion's Organiser II range.

Both models are available immediately in the UK from most existing Psion retail outlets and export versions will be available later this year.

At the top of the range, the LZ64 is available with 64K of internal RAM (random access memory) and is priced at £189.95, while the LZ with 32K of RAM has a retail price of £149.95. Both new models will accept Datapaks of up to 128K giving the LZ64 a total online storage capability of 320K.

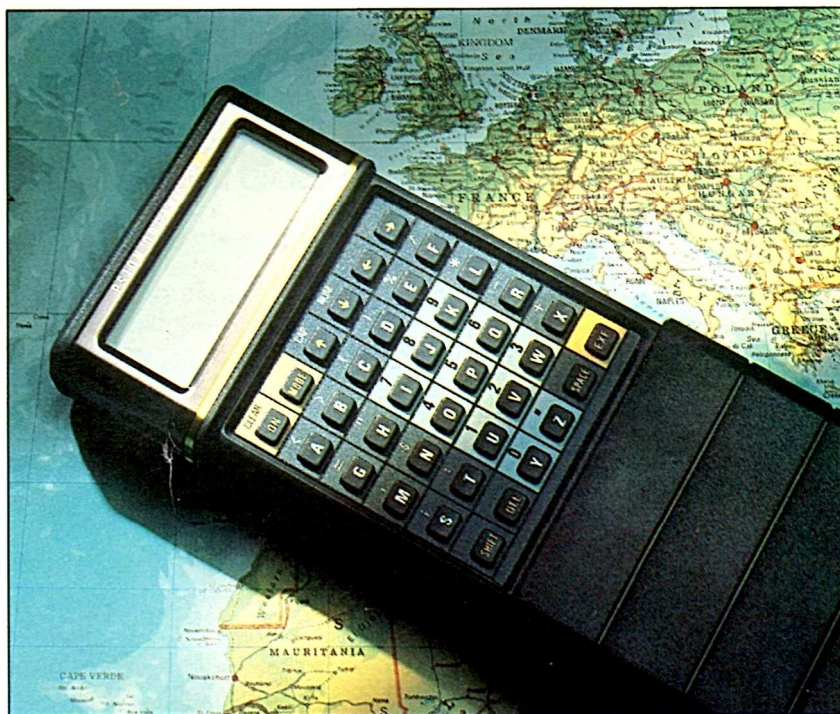Key new features shared by both the LZ and LZ64 include:

● Four line 80 character screen
● Daily or weekly at-a-glance diary with appointment slots at 15 minute intervals and an optional alarm
● Sophisticated free form Notepad facility which can be password protected
● Automatic cross referencing and alphabetical sorting of multiple files and notepads and "wildcard" search clues
● International dialling codes and world time for 400 cities in 150 countries

WIN AN LZ, page 12

LZ features in detail, page 16

More new products, page 2

At the UK launch, Psion also announced a reduction in UK prices for existing XP and CM models - £109.95 and £79.95 respectively - with the aim of taking these new products into new consumer market sectors.

In addition to the new software features already mentioned, several existing applications have been significantly enhanced. The clock now includes a Stopwatch which records in increments of 0.05 seconds and will provide laptimes in addition to a Timer which counts back in minutes and seconds to zero.

Statistical functions and percentages have been added to the calculator and password protection allows the user to encrypt important data such as cash card numbers so that no-one can decode the information without the correct password. Finally, OPL has been developed further by Psion to make it even more powerful.

In this issue

Note from the Editor ✍️

With the continued expansion of the Psion Group of companies, many new developments have taken place since the last issue of Psion News.
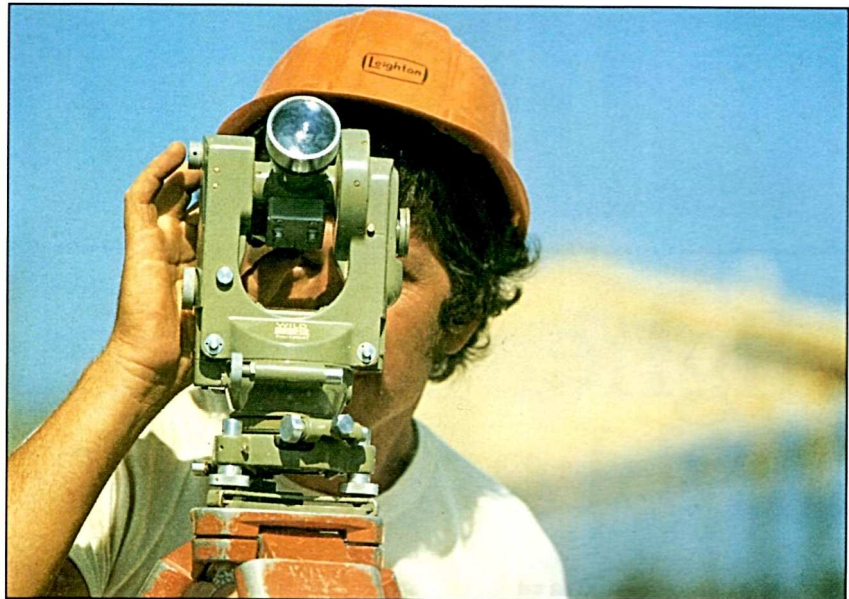
They include the acquisition of a new subsidiary, Dacom, who specialise in data communications, and the launch of important new models in Psion's hand-held range for both personal users and the corporate systems market.

Probably the most exciting of recently announced product developments has been the new LZ and LZ64 models. Sales and Marketing Director Peter Norman had this to say at their launch:

' These two new Organiser models represent a significant extension and a continuing commitment to our existing product range. We are determined to further enhance our position as European market leader in hand-held computers.

Psion led the world in technological development by being the first company to offer substantial computing power in the palm of your hand. Now we've broken new ground again in combining double the memory with double the software in an identical package.

We're also upgrading our software packages to run on both two and four line machines. '

Psion's new P350 will meet the needs of specialist users such as surveyors

Massive Memory

A significant addition to the Psion range of hand-held terminals has been developed for the corporate systems market.

The Psion P350, which has 96K RAM, enables users to totally customise the machine and its applications and is particularly well designed to meet the needs of corporate customers for dedicated applications requiring large amounts of RAM, such as data logging.

Like all of Psion's corporate hand-held terminals, it is designed to run with the user's own pre-recorded application software and handle a wide range of user-specific functions.

Rampaks of up to 32K, and Datapaks or Program packs up to 128K are accepted. This gives the P350 maximum online storage of 352K.

The keypad of the P350 provides the user with a full set of alpha, numeric and punctuation keys. Each machine carries a unique customer serial number.

The P350 can be used with any of the peripherals in Psion's corporate product range, such as the Comms Link interface to give RS232 communications at up to 9600 baud, AC Mains adapter, Bar code reader interface, Magnetic Card reader interface and Psion's Printer II (with optional magnetic card swipe).

As the leading European manufacturer of hand-held computers with an installed base of more than 300,000 machines, Psion is committed to further expansion of its corporate product range.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

With the announcement of Psion's new LZ models, which can display up to 80 characters and four lines of information, the company has also released new versions of Comms Link, Spreadsheet, Spellchecker and Formulator. Prices remain unchanged and all four products will operate on both two and four line machines.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

A Pure Gem of a System !

Two national retail chains have turned to Psion hand-held computer systems to provide faster and more accurate stock control.
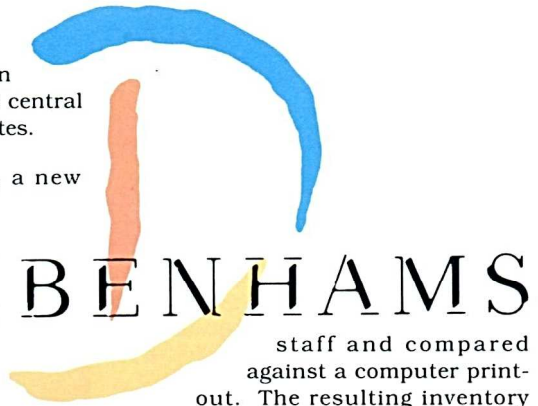
At each point of sale in the jewellery department of Debenhams stores, a Psion POS200 is used in conjunction with the latest Hewlett-Packard bar code reader to scan the tiny bar-coded labels and record details of any purchases and returns.

All the product details are stored onto Datapaks which are returned to Debenhams head office twice a week for processing. The information is uploaded via a Psion Mark III Copier to an IBM PS/2 and then merged into the Debenhams central sales and stock system updates.

For CIRO Pearls Limited, a new inventory control system based on Psion's model XP hand-held computer has helped reduce the time taken for the annual stock-take by two thirds.

CIRO Pearls Ltd operates a chain of 53 stores in the UK and Ireland. Until this year, every item in each branch was individually tagged and checked manually by the branch staff and compared against a computer print-out. The resulting inventory lists were then sent back to Head Office and manually keyed into the company's IBM System/36 computer.

The process not only took a considerable time, but also led to manual errors in checking and transferring the data to the IBM computer.

❝ **Totally reliable ...** ❞

- CIRO

The ideal solution has proven to be a Psion hand-held terminal containing specially-written stock control software on a single 64K Datapak. Each branch uses this with a second Datapak holding existing stock records for that branch. Staff update the records by simply entering the appropriate product code. The hand-held immediately validates this, together with the selling price and the quantity actually in stock.

At CIRO's head office, the information is loaded via Psion's Mark III Copier from the Datapaks into an IBM PC connected to the System/36 host.

" The Psion system has proved itself totally reliable and has enabled us to complete stocktaking for all branches in a matter of a few weeks, " commented John Phelan, CIRO's corporate manager for Group Information Systems. " Our branch staff are delighted at how easy the hand-held computer has been to use. That's been reflected in an error rate of less than two per cent in all the stock data sent back. "

Better stock control in Debenhams' jewellery department

3

Timesheet Time Saver

No-one likes paperwork. Now, over 1000 British Telecom maintenance engineers in London's largest BT district, Southern London, have a better solution.

They are using Psion P250 hand-held computers to log details of their daily activities, reduce paperwork and streamline operations.

Previously, each engineer was required to manually record details of his daily maintenance jobs such as time spent travelling to the premises, type of product to be repaired, steps taken to repair the fault and time taken to complete the job.

Back in the Finance Department, staff had the unenviable task of deciphering over 3,500 time sheets a week with no way of checking the accuracy of information that had been recorded other than referring back to the engineer.

Now, using their hand-helds and a specially written program called CIPHER, the engineer is able to record these details quickly and accurately. The program itself prompts for all the information required. Engineers also keep a product code database in the hand-held, for quick reference purposes.

Each week the Datapaks containing the relevant information are returned to Head Office for uploading via a Psion Mark III Copier to a P.C. for automatic integration into the B.T. accounting system.

According to a district engineer "The maintenance engineers have had to face a gradual increase in paperwork over the past few years. Not only was this taking up too much of their time but it also meant that mistakes were likely to creep in and papers could get lost.

"With the introduction of this easy to use hand-held computer, there was an immediate improvement in the quality and efficiency of maintenance reporting".

Keeping records on the move.

Organised fun at the Fair !

Traditional market barrows and the latest computer technology...they go hand in hand at Chessington World of Adventures !
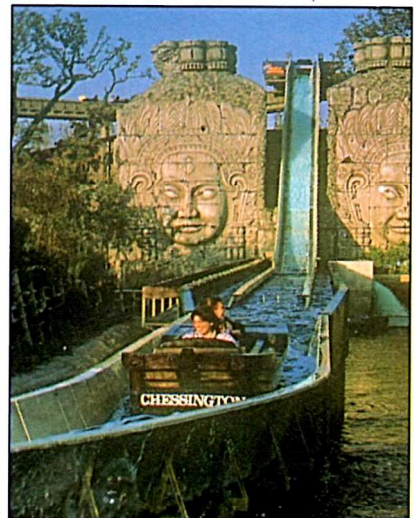
With up to 13,000 visitors a day, the operators of one of Britain's top theme parks needed to expand beyond their original nine shops selling gift and novelty items to include five barrows spread around the park. Barrow staff put their takings straight into cash bags, and at the end of the day stock would be manually counted to calculate how much money should have been taken.

Peter Selinger, merchandise manager at Chessington commented "We wanted to find an inexpensive and more accurate method of keeping track of sales and cash takings. The

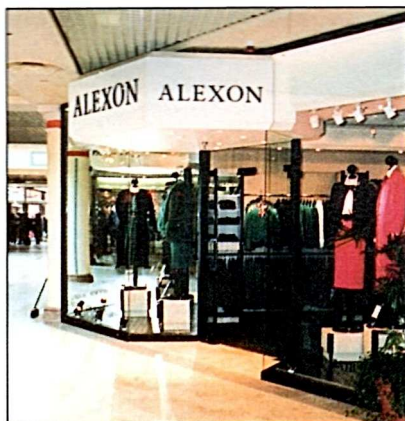Psion Organiser was the perfect, portable solution."

Each day the sales staff are given a coded and priced stock list. Now, when a sale is made, specially written software from systems house Softa and Company allows the user to enter the stock code together with the number of units and the Organiser displays the price and calculates the amount of change to be given.

At the end of the day, all the information held on the Organiser is transferred to a database held on a personal computer via a Psion Comms Link. From this, reports can be produced itemising the quantity and value of sales, barrow by barrow, together with a list of cash takings.

Psion's technology helps Chessington keep sales on track.

Stylish mode

Select ladies fashion retailer, Alexon, with over 160 concessions in the UK alone, is dressing up its sales operation.

Over 50 of the Alexon concessions are now using a Psion Organiser II loaded with application and communication software developed by Riva Systems together with a barcode reader and a Riva modem.

The software captures a variety of information including multiple and single sales, staff sales, delivery in, inter branch transfers, stock adjustment, line and category enquiry, and stocktaking both line by line and by category.

At the end of each day, the concession manager plugs the Organiser into the modem and all the sales and stock information is transferred to the central mainframe where it is amalgamated into the existing system. The software also allows the branch manager to send messages to Head Office.

Prior to installation of the Organiser, weekly sales data would be collected from each concession and delivered to Head Office in a security van. A costly exercise. On arrival the information would be keyed into a central computer, a process which was both time consuming and prone to inaccuracies.

Grant Niles, information systems manager at Alexon is delighted by the success of the scheme and commented "The system is saving the Company both time and money in addition to eliminating errors. Furthermore, we are able to generate sales updates and stock movement reports within 8 hours which is a great help in terms of merchandising and planning."

Alexon are currently installing the systems at a rate of 20 UK concessions a month and intend to expand the system into Europe and North America in the near future.

Plugging into the latest fashion.

A new lease of life

Lloyds Bowmaker

One of the fastest growing areas of the economy is the finance sector and companies such as Lloyds Bowmaker are increasingly turning to technology to help them keep pace.

A subsidiary of Lloyds Bank PLC, the company's Corporate Finance Division decided to replace their conventional "rate book" after Mike Nicholas, Operations Controller at Lloyds Bowmaker, tested the Psion Organiser hand-held computer with a program he had developed.

In the past, Account Managers within the division needed to use the rate book - pages filled with complex tables - to assist them in providing clients with a variety of financial quotations, often involving extremely complex calculations.

Now, using their Organisers, the field sales force can carry out complicated lease calculations quickly and easily. In fact, the sales people like their Organisers so much they also use them as a handy way of storing their personal data.

A further facility will shortly be available to the team in respect of their Instalment Credit products which will save making several telephone calls just to produce a single calculation.

Mike Nicholas is delighted. He commented "We chose the Psion Organiser II because of its ease of programming. It has made an enormous difference to both the speed and accuracy with which our managers can produce quotations ".

Life in the Fastlane

A new high performance modem from Psion subsidiary Dacom can cut data communications costs by up to 75 per cent.

Fastlane is the first modem complying fully to the international V32 communications standard to break through the £1000 price barrier. It offers data transmission rates up to eight times faster than the V22bis standard used by conventional dial up modems.
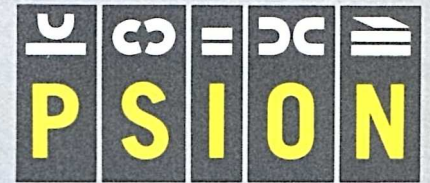
For example, the transfer of a desktop publishing file to a remote site for typesetting would take three to four minutes using a normal V22bis modem. Fastlane reduces this time to just 30 seconds, saving around three-quarters of the telephone costs incurred.

Fastlane also saves money for companies using private lines for data communications. It requires only a two-wire circuit, rather than the more expensive four-wire version required by conventional leased line modems and offers superior performance.

If the private line should fail, Fastlane automatically switches to the public telephone network to ensure continuity of data transfer. Communication is automatically restored to the leased line once the service has been re-established, eliminating any unnecessary call charges.

Efficient data compression and advanced error correction techniques further increase the effective speed of the modem. Add to this the ability to handle both synchronous and asynchronous data, and Dacom's new modem allows just about any system from a humble PC to a mighty mainframe to send its data down the Fastlane.

More and more of Psion's corporate customers are combining their portable computing equipment with data communications.

To meet this demand Psion acquired Dacom Systems Ltd, a UK market leader in the supply of data communications products, principally dial-up modems. The company now operates as an independent subsidiary of the Psion Group.

" It is our opinion, " said Psion Chairman and Managing Director Dr David Potter, " that data communications is a key and growing sector of the microcomputer market-place.

" Dacom is well positioned to exploit the growth of this sector in the UK

Bridging

A range of new modems has been developed by Dacom to overcome the unique problems in transferring data across a cellular radio network.

Each of the two UK networks consist of a number of independent radio "cells" transmitting over a limited area. Calls made on the move are then automatically switched from one cell to the next, with a minimal 300 millisecond break in transmission occurring as the call is handed from one cell to another.

Such a short break does not affect voice transmission but can cause major problems when data is to be sent. The problems of signal noise and fading, common to any radio-based service, can also corrupt data or cause loss of transmission.

Natural partners

DACOM

through its current and future product base and its wide customer base. Psion's existing European distribution network will help to exploit and expand the markets for Dacom products on the continent.

" In addition, Dacom will broaden the Group's product range, " Dr Potter added.

Eight years old, Dacom was founded by Vaughan Roberts and John Bohn. Dacom's initial business was the distribution in the UK of data communication products manufactured by suppliers in the United States.

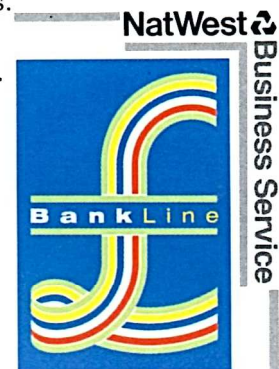The company is best known for its range of dial-up modems, which allow computers and other terminals to transfer data between one another using the public telephone network. Also included in Dacom's product portfolio are leased line modems and multiplexers for corporate data networks, data PBX for local data switching and modems operating with mobile telephones over the Cellnet and Vodafone networks.

Dacom has been responsible for the design, development and manufacture of a number of innovative data communications products.

Among the company's customers are many leading microcomputer manufacturers who are supplied with custom-designed internal modems that are incorporated into their own products.

the cellular gap

Dacom's new range of Bridge and Span modems incorporates an error-correcting protocol to overcome these problems, allowing, for example, telexes and electronic mail messages to be sent and received on the move.

Additionally, representatives calling on customers can receive up to the minute information on stock levels, delivery schedules and account details; urgent orders can be placed directly onto a mainframe computer, ensuring immediate action.

The small 7in x 3.5in x 1.2in size and weight of the Bridge modem makes it ideal for use with portable computers in a mobile environment. The compatible Span modem is used at the fixed end of the link.

At the office end, the Span modem is connected to a PC or mainframe computer and the public telephone network. It includes the commonly-used V22 data communications mode enabling it to be used with conventional modems over dial-up lines.

For further information about Dacom products, contact:

Dacom Systems Limited
26 - 27 Heathfield
Stacey Bushes
Milton Keynes
MK12 6HR
United Kingdom

Open all hours

National Westminster Bank PLC is the first major clearing bank to offer a specially tailored software package, NatWest BankLine, which will provide account details direct to their customers' offices even outside normal banking hours.

NatWest
BankLine
Business Service

As an optional extra to the package, Nat West will supply a Dacom modem to establish the telephone link enabling the customer to keep in regular touch with account balances, to carry out transfers between his own NatWest accounts, check transactions into and out of his account and order statements, cheque books and paying-in-books. Customers can send messages to their branch, obtain details of standing orders and direct debits and look at account information on up to ninety-nine nominated accounts.

The modem dials the bank automatically after the customer has keyed in his private password on his own personal computer. As soon as the password is verified by the NatWest computer, the data is transmitted direct to the customer's PC.

Once the information has been received it can be stored in the personal computer, allowing the account holder to build a complete record of transactions passing through his bank accounts.

Access to the Bank's computer is not limited to banking hours. It is available from 7.00 am on Monday morning right through to 10.00 pm on Saturday evening.

Fresh start to the day

No-one likes withered flowers. Commercial flower growers rely on speed, efficiency and accuracy to guarantee the daily delivery to florists' shops arrives in perfect condition.

To help ensure the freshest possible start to each day, the largest Co-operative of flower growers in Denmark has picked the Psion Organiser II and a software system for sales vans, developed by Sysmatic.

Vans carrying out the daily delivery of fresh flowers now take on-the-spot orders for the next day by entering details and relevant invoicing information directly into their Organisers.

When the round is completed, each driver then transfers the day's sales details together with next day's orders held in the Organiser to his main depot via a communications modem.

Routes for the following day are then planned at the depot and deliveries prepared so they can be ready for the van's arrival, minimising the waiting time and speeding the despatch of the fresh-cut flowers to the local retail outlets.

In the light of this success, systems have been developed for other trades such as the textile and food industries.

Spectrum Colour Library

Support for refugee workers

While the industrialised Western world now takes the daily help from desktop computers for granted, international relief agencies have to work in places where there are neither desktops nor power points to plug in a PC.

The United Nations Border Relief Operation (UNBRO) is finding the Psion Organiser II, equipped with a 64K Datapak, an invaluable tool for recording details of trucks supplying water to refugee camps along the Thai-Kampuchea border. The data is then transferred via a Comms Link to a personal computer at the UNBRO office in Aranyapratet so that the water suppliers can be paid.

Other UN agencies working along the border are looking at the possibility of using the Psion Organiser II.

Keeping on course

A comprehensive database of navigational information for private pilots and flying clubs has been developed in Sweden for use with the Psion Organiser II.
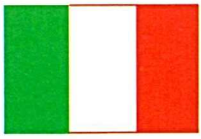
The software provides detailed coverage not only of Swedish airspace, but also of Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom with information such as airports, radio beacons and principal landmarks.

The pilot keys into the Organiser II the names of the departure airfield and the destination, together with estimated aircraft speed, wind speed and wind direction. In response, the Organiser provides flight information on the course to steer, landmarks that should be observed along the way and calculates the time at which each landmark will be passed.

All this information can be updated during the flight, with the Organiser automatically reassessing the accuracy of the navigational information it is providing.

Help for heart surgeons

At the University Hospital in Genoa, monitoring of patients undergoing open heart surgery is being helped by use of the Psion Organiser II.

During delicate and extremely complex bypass operations, a great variety of vital information about the patient must be continuously recorded and monitored.

Specialised computer-aided monitoring systems are extremely expensive and require custom heart-lung machines. Common practice is to record variables such as oxygen consumption and body temperatures on handwritten sheets every five minutes - and it can take around two minutes to check and write down a complete set of values.

Now all this information is keyed directly into an Organiser II in as little as 20 seconds.

The Psion Organiser also compares the values given for the patient against known ideal values for different levels of body temperature, calculates variances and automatically prints out the results via the in-built RS232 port.

Additional information - such as drugs administered - can also be captured on the Organiser II. At the Genoa hospital, all the data from the hand-held is then transferred directly to a PC for further analysis, eliminating possible manual errors in re-entering the data.

The resulting database of recorded cases is now being added to so that a comprehensive picture of each patient's status and overall trends is built up.

Pulling down the Iron curtain

Over the last 12 months, the greatest area of growth for Psion has been in international markets, where sales now account for 40 per cent of the company's turnover.

The company is continuing to expand its worldwide distribution network. Two new distributors behind the Iron Curtain were recently signed up to sell Psion products in Hungary and Poland.

The new Hungarian distributor, Trigon, has already been busy translating brochures and manuals for the local market, and signing up the main computer dealers in Budapest, the country's capital city.

Trigon will be placing their main emphasis, however, on corporate sales. One of the major state suppliers of spare parts - Autotechnica - has already adopted the Organiser II for stock control purposes.

Due to a shortage of new cars in Hungary, spare parts are vitally important. As parts are sold by Autotechnica, a bar code reader

New technology meets old world charm in picturesque Budapest.

attached to the Organiser is used to scan the codes and track the sale of spares.

The information is then transferred from the Organiser II to a personal computer. This system is currently under trial at one Autotechnica branch and , if successful, will be introduced at the company's 59 other outlets.

In Poland, the principal opportunity is seen within the consumer and retail markets.

New distributor Polbrit have already introduced the Organiser II to one of the two largest state owned companies, Baltona. They in turn distribute a wide range of consumer goods throughout hard currency shops, representing approximately 100 outlets in Poland.

Polbrit are also keen to develop the software side of the potential Polish market and to provide their own value-added services to consumers.

Fax is no fiction

A new modem that allows a Psion Organiser II to send faxes via an electronic mail service has been developed in the United States. Telexes or electronic mail messages can be received as well as sent.

The modem effectively allows the Organiser to transfer files, text and programs over ordinary telephone lines.

It simply plugs into the Organiser's top slot. It is Hayes compatible, has autodial and autoanswer facilities and an integral speaker to indicate dial tone and connection to a remote modem.

The modem will transmit and receive data at either 0 - 300 bps or 1200 bps.

Also developed in the U.S.A is an impact printer that similarly attaches to the top of the Organiser II.

The printer has an in-built interface for direct connection of bar code wands, magnetic swipe readers and laser scanners.

When the printer is plugged into the Organiser, Psion's Comms Link software is automatically loaded, enabling the unit to communicate directly with other RS232 devices.

The impact printer uses plain 2.25 inch calculator paper. The paper roll is safely protected within the casing and can be changed in seconds.

Printing can be across either 24 or 40 columns per line. Print speed is 16 characters per second.

Note: Both products are currently only available in the U.S. For further details, please contact Psion Inc. at: **118 Echo Lake Road Watertown CT 06795 U.S.A. Tel: 203 274 7521**
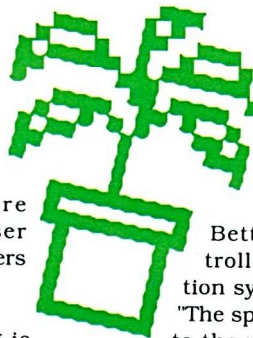
Psion goes green

Princeton Nurseries in New Jersey have turned over a new leaf to keep track of their stocks of plants and shrubs.

Princeton's nursery is laid out in blocks which are coded alphanumerically in their mainframe computer system. On stocktaking days a personal computer provides the Organiser II with information from the central database as to which plant varieties are growing in selected bloc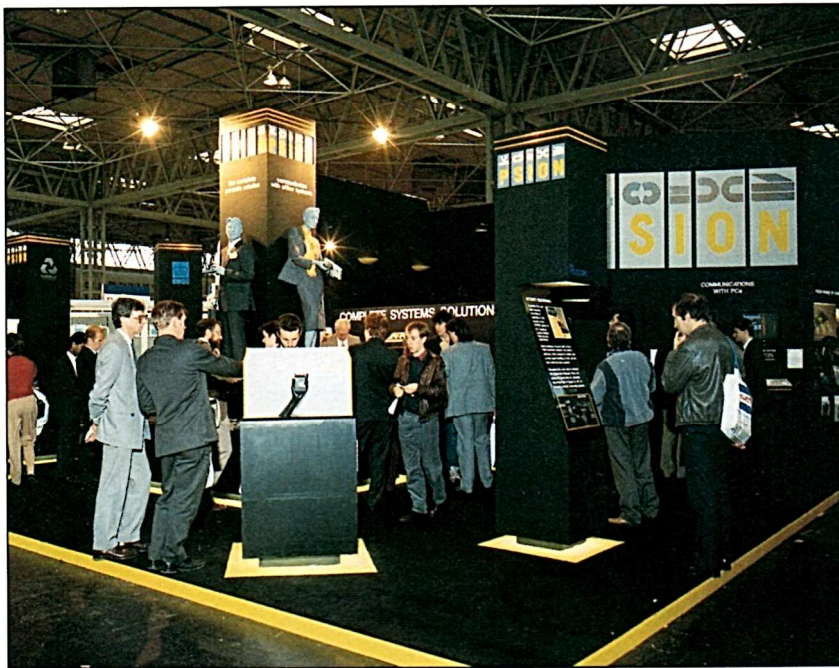ks. Out in the nursery, the number of trees, shrubs or small evergreens of each variety in the block are entered on the Organiser together with their diameters to indicate growth.

Once the day's counting is completed, the Organiser is taken back to the office and connected to the personal computer where the data is transferred and verified for obvious errors. The PC database is then uploaded to the mainframe with the whole process taking less than five minutes.

Betty Ritter, Princeton's controller, treasurer and information systems manager comments, "The speed is astounding compared to the written method and what's more, the Organiser enables us to maintain more accurate records of saleable stock with less work and in less time."

Pillar talk

Many of Psion's corporate customers, including household names such as British Telecom, Nat West and Debenhams, rely on Psion to provide complete portable data systems.

Psion's stand at this year's Which Computer Show highlighted several of these custom applications.

The entire Psion range of corporate hand-held terminals were on display. Demonstration systems could be seen working in conjunction with the latest barcode readers - used, for example, in stock control applications - with magnetic card readers and a variety of other peripherals.

Third party products

NAME & TEL NO.	PRODUCT NAME	DESCRIPTION
Consumer:		
Cubsoft 6 Okeover Rd Salford Manchester M7 OJX 061 792 2871	XBASE Version 2.0	Database - fast sort and print. Diary Manager - copy and move
Interair Aviation Ltd Hanger 62C Northside Bournemouth International Airport Dorset BH23 0202 581300	Airnav	Complete navigation package for private pilots
Silvertree Engineering Ltd 62 Sussex Avenue Isleworth Middlesex TW7 6LB 01 560 8538	Paralink	Parallel (Centronics) printer interface for Organiser II
Systemslink Ltd Incon House Stilebrook Road Olney Bucks MK46 5LL 0234 711220	Surveyors Valuation Software	Development appraisal valuations and valuation tables
	Businessman	Business financial information. Ratios and Balance Sheet production
	Linkup	Allows an IBM PC compatible computer to emulate a printer
	Printer Case	High quality padded soft black leather.
Monad International Ltd 121 London Road Knebworth Hertfordshire SG3 6PF 0438 815232	Convert	Currency, metric, dates, numbers, duty free
Mackay Language Software 41 Kensington High Street London W8 5ED 01 937 2077	Spanish Prakpak	Business Phrase Book teaches before - and helps when - you travel
	Music Prakpak	Teaches you which note is which on the piano or keyboard
	Biopak	Is this your day? Emotional, Physical an Intellectual Biorhythms

NAME & TEL NO.	PRODUCT NAME	DESCRIPTION
Consumer:		
Camel Systems Ltd 213 Liverpool Road Islington London N1 1LX 01 609 5760	Golf Scorecaddy	Records golf course and score. Displays leaderboard, calculates golf handicap
Christopher Burton 40 Lennox Road Gravesend Kent DA11 OER 0474 365206	Zip Software	Range of programs which add extra facilities to your Organiser
Industrial:		
Dencomp Computers 4 Fairhaven Avenue Whitfield Manchester M25 7QG 061 766 2132	Quick-Calc	Adaptable fees and patient charges for Dental Surgeons
Micro-Retailer Systems Ltd 84 Mill Street Macclesfield Cheshire SK11 6NR 0625 615375	Fruit and Veg	Data capture for retailers at market and in the branch
Quality Technical Services 55 Ridgacre Lane Quinton Birmingham B32 1EL 021 422 0941	Hearing Protector Selector	Calculates attenuated sound from a library of over 140 hearing protectors
Silvertree Engineering Ltd 62 Sussex Avenue Isleworth Middlesex TW7 6LB 01 560 8538	Datalogger	Logging and other customised hardware interfaces
	Meter Reader	Collects readings from commercial utilities, downloads to PC
Overseas:		
Viker Data AB Box 181 S43323 Partelle Sweden 010 46 31 44 7700	GEODOS	Advanced surveying, plotting, DFX-transfer digitizing, totalstation connection

LZementary, my dear Watson!

This issue's competition offers the exciting chance to win the very latest model in Psion's Organiser II range - the LZ64. To win, you will need to turn detective and unscramble a cunning code devised by the Editor.
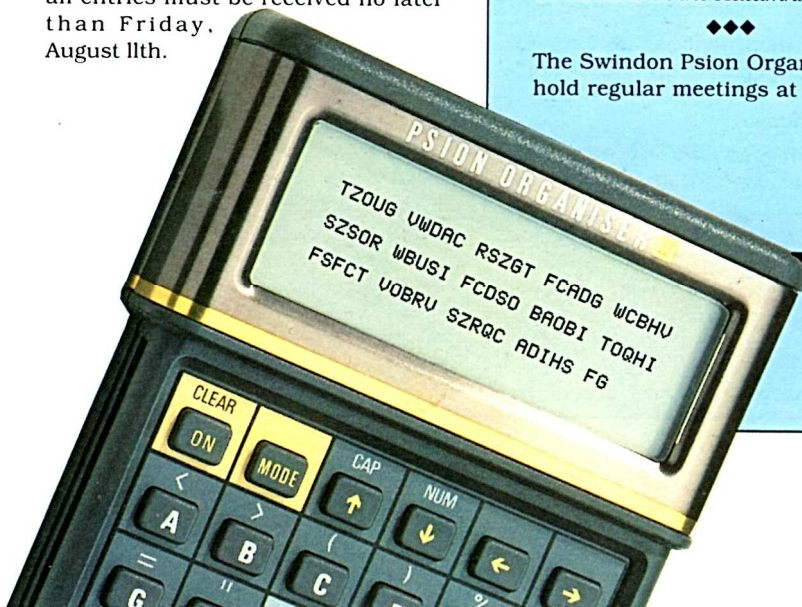
The new LZ models feature a sophisticated Notepad facility that uses passwords to store important information in code.

WIN AN LZ64

The sophisticated computer encryption techniques used by Psion make it literally impossible for protected data to be deciphered without the password. But at least the Editor's own encryption techniques, while pretty challenging, can be beaten.

We would like *you* to turn Sherlock Holmes and unscramble the Editor's coded message displayed on the Organiser below. Tell us what the secret message is by writing to Psion plc, FREEPOST 3, London W1E 1EZ and include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Overseas entries should be sent to the address on the back page.

The first correct solution to be drawn out of the deerstalker after the closing date will win a brand new LZ64! The judges decision will be final and all entries must be received no later than Friday, August 11th.

News in brief

The Psion Organiser has won an award in Spain! Both Psion and its Spanish distributors, BCN International Computer S.A. were presented with a certificate acknowledging the Psion Organiser II as one of the leading products in the computing sector during the year. The prestigious award is presented annually to 100 companies by "Actualidad Economica", the leading economic magazine in Spain.

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Psst...Don't say a word, but...the Government is issuing MI5 agents with Psion Organisers. Well, at least that's what's happening in a six part TVS drama entitled "Rules of Engagement" to be screened in the Autumn. It is a powerful thriller about Gorbachev, NATO, a top British Government official and, of course, his mistress. That's all we can give away at the moment so watch your TV screens in the Autumn.

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The Swindon Psion Organiser Group hold regular meetings at 7.30 pm on the first Monday of each even-numbered month at 14 Belmont Crescent, Old Town, Swindon, Wiltshire. For further information, please contact Jeremy Holt on 0793 617444 (daytime) or 0793 619664 (evening).

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Now the Psion Organiser II can not only be held in the hand - it can control one, too. Psion has donated an Organiser to Andy Smith, a Research Associate from the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Loughborough University to help control an experimental robot arm. The Organiser and robot form part of a three year contract towards Andy's PhD.

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HMSO

Public sector, please note! If you are planning to purchase one or more Organiser IIs for the Civil Service, Psion is a bona fide supplier to HMSO.

TZOUG UWDAC RSZGT FCADG WCBHU
SZSOR WBUSI FCDSO BAOBI TOQHI
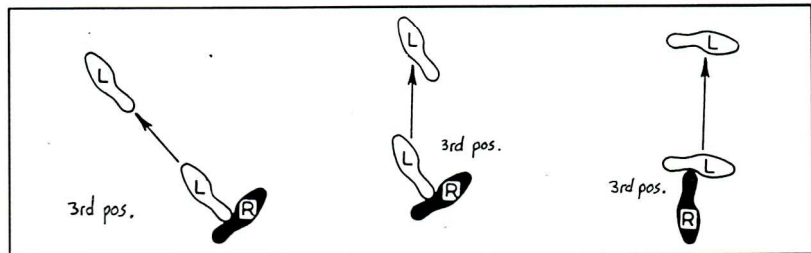FSFCT VOBRU SZRQC ADIHS FG

With around 75,000 items of film and video material in their libraries, Thames Television need to make sure the right material is on the move to the right place at the right time. Psion Organisers with a bar code wand attached help them do just that, reading the bar codes for both despatch notes and receipts. The bar coding not only helps minimise the time-consuming task of entering details of each item on the move, it has reduced misdirections, too.

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Hospital pharmacists up and down the country are finding the Psion Organiser II an invaluable stock control and drug accounting aid.

With each ward keeping its own supply of barcoded drugs plus a barcoded list of types and quantity of drugs required, the hospital pharmacist needs to make a daily visit to each to ensure that sufficient stocks are maintained. The pharmacist attends the ward with his Organiser and barcode reader, supplied by Codeway Limited and can obtain the requisite information either by swiping the barcoded list or the remaining drugs held in the ward cupboard. The information collected is then downloaded ward by ward via a Psion Comms Link into a minicomputer stationed in the pharmacy and a picking list is produced specifying the drugs required by each ward.

The process, aptly named Ward Stock Top-Up and the system, devised by JAC Computer Systems, save an enormous amount of time and ensure that stocks of drugs never run low.

More Datapaks to be won !

Our thanks to all those Psion Organiser II users who have written in with original uses and innovative applications for their Organisers.

The response has been overwhelming. We have therefore decided to give away two 32K Datapaks in this issue - and we'd like you to keep telling us of the original and varied uses to which your Organisers are being put.

We will continue to publish the best of the letters we receive - and will give away a 32K Datapak for each letter we print.

This issue, Mr Mel Mace from Gosport tells us he has been using his Psion Organiser II XP to trip the light fantastic! He writes:

Dear Editor,

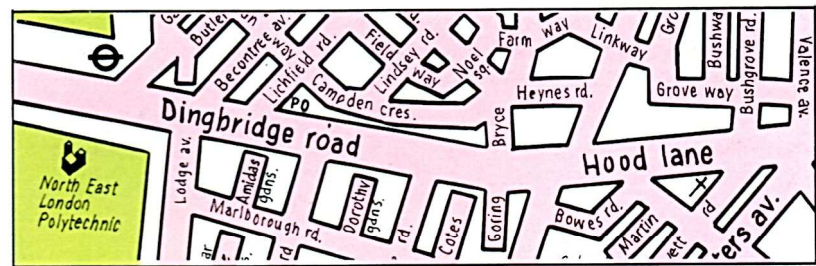*Many thanks for issue 6 of the excellent Psion News.*

I have a somewhat novel use for a Psion XP.

I am a very keen modern sequence and old tyme dancer. As there are some 53 new dances per year to learn, I find my Psion a very useful aid.

I use a Harvester Database Pack and a 32K Rampack to keep a list of the moves in each dance. There are usually 16 bars per dance and I find that by breaking them into 4 bar sequences and using recognised abbreviations, I can recall and easily read the dance script. At the year end I then transfer them to a 16K Datapak.

Yours faithfully

Mel Mace

London minicab driver Mr Mr G Reynolds also uses his Organiser to keep moving, although in a rather different fashion !

Dear Editor

I am a mini cab driver in East London and use my Psion Organiser II to assist me in my work.

I have all the fares to areas in London and Outer London, from my base, programed into my Organiser. The areas are pinpointed by railway stations so if someone wants to know how much it is to say, Uxbridge, I can tell them in a matter of seconds. If the area is Outer London, my Organiser will also tell me the road number to that area.

Yours faithfully

G Reynolds

Tech Tips and Programs

All the technical tips and programs in this section of Psion News will work perfectly with all Organiser II models, both on a 2 line screen and using two lines of a 4 line screen.

Comms Link developed to run under Unix

A version of the Organiser II Comms Link has now been ported to the Unix operating system.

The work was done by an Organiser fan in the Computer Science department of the University College of Wales, who developed a version to run under the SUN implementation of Unix 4.2BSD on a SUN 3/60 workstation.

Although Psion will not be selling or supporting this software, Psion's technical support department (whose telephone number is on the back page) can provide details of distribution arrangements and costs to interested software developers.

One current restriction of this Unix version of Comms Link is that communication via a modem is not supported, although it may work on some systems.

Formatting a 32k Rampak

It has come to our attention that users of Rampaks require a fast and simple method of erasing all data stored on the pack.

The following procedure may be used to format a 32K Rampak:

```
FMTRAM:
REM This Program will Format a 32K Rampak
LOCAL A%(11),A,G%
TOP::
CLS : AT 1,1 :PRINT "1=PACKB   2=PACKC"
AT 1,2 :INPUT A
IF A<>1 AND A<>2 :GOTO TOP:: :ENDIF
T::
CLS :PRINT "FORMAT Y/N"
G%=GET :IF G%<>%N AND G%<>%Y :GOTO T::
ELSEIF G%=%N :STOP
ELSEIF G%=%Y :ENDIF
A%(1)=$4F37
A%(2)=$3F62
A%(3)=$3225
A%(4)=$0D36
A%(5)=$4F36
A%(6)=$30C6
A%(7)=$013F
A%(8)=$6131
A%(9)=$334F
A%(10)=$3F62
A%(11)=$3900
USR(ADDR(A%()),A)
```

WARNING: THE PROCEDURE ABOVE CAN ONLY BE USED TO FORMAT A 32K RAMPAK.
DATAPAKS OF ANY SIZE WILL BE CORRUPTED IF YOU ATTEMPT TO FORMAT THEM IN THIS WAY.

Using peripherals with Rampaks

If you need to plug in any other peripherals such as the Comms Link or Mains Adaptor while a Rampak is in the machine, you should do the following:

1. Switch off the Organiser.

2. Remove the Rampak.

3. Insert the peripheral device.

4. Insert the Mains plug - if you have one - into the peripheral device.

5. Switch on the Organiser; this dissipates any power surge.

6. Switch off the Organiser.

7. Insert the Rampak.

When you need to remove a peripheral device, switch off the Organiser and remove the Rampak first.

Keeping a check on Telephone calls

With new programs for all models in the Psion Organiser II range remaining one of the most popular features in Psion News, we are giving details in this issue of a suite of three procedures to help you keep track of your telephone calls. The procedures enable you to log your calls and then view calls that you have made.

The operation is selected from a menu.

The first procedure "LOGGER" gives you the menu where you can either log a call or view calls made.

The second procedure is "VIEWCALL" and allows you to view any calls made.

The last procedure is called "LOG-CALL" and allows you to log the call.
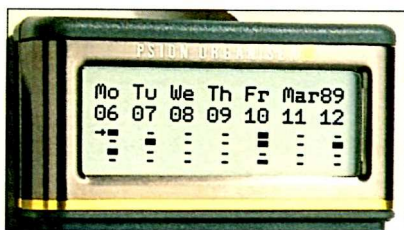
```
LOGCALL:
LOCAL k%,h%,m%,s%,sec%,start$(8),swof%
ESCAPE OFF
IF NOT EXIST("A:LOG")
  CREATE "A:LOG",B,date$,t$,comment$
ELSE
  OPEN "A:LOG",B,date$,t$,comment$
ENDIF
swof%=PEEKB($7C)
POKEB $007C,0 :REM no auto turn off
B.t$="00:00:00"
B.date$=DATIM$
start$=RIGHT$(DATIM$,8)
h%=0 :m%=0 :s%=0 :sec%=SECOND
DO
   IF sec%<>SECOND
     BEEP 1,100
     sec%=SECOND :s%=s%+1
     IF s%=60 :s%=0 :m%=m%+1
         IF m%=60 :m%=0 :h%=h%+1
         ENDIF
     ENDIF
     B.t$=REPT$("0",-(h%<10))+NUM$(h%,2)+":"
     B.t$=B.t$+REPT$("0",-(m%<10))+NUM$(m%,2)+":"
     B.t$=B.t$+REPT$("0",-(s%<10))+NUM$(s%,2)
   ENDIF
   AT 1,1 :PRINT "Started:";start$
   AT 1,2 :PRINT "Time:    ";B.t$
   PAUSE -1 :REM save battery
   k%=KEY
   IF k%=1
      GOTO exit::
   ENDIF
UNTIL k%=13
CLS
PRINT "Comments "+CHR$(63)
TRAP INPUT B.comment$
IF ERR=206
  GOTO exit::
ENDIF
CLS :PRINT "Saving..." :APPEND
exit::
CLOSE
POKEB $007C,swof% :REM restore auto turn off
ESCAPE ON
```
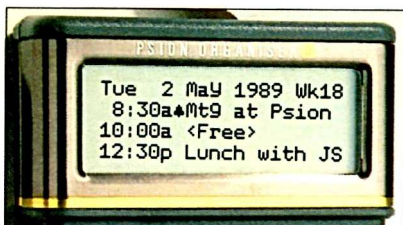
```
LOGGER:
LOCAL m%
m%=MENU("Logcall,Viewcalls")
IF m%-0
  RETURN
ELSEIF m%=1
  logcall:
ELSE m%=2
  viewcall:
ENDIF
```

```
VIEWCALL:
LOCAL k%
TRAP OPEN "A:LOG",B,date$,t$,comment$
IF ERR :RETURN :ENDIF
DO
  k%=DISP(-1,"")
  NEXT
  IF k%=1
    RETURN
  ENDIF
UNTIL EOF
AT 1,1 :PRINT "NO MORE ENTRIES"
PAUSE 25
RETURN
```

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What's new on the LZ?

Psion's exciting new LZ models, announced on page 1, contain a host of new software features. Here are the most significant:

DIARY

The diary initially provides an instant graphic guide to an entire week's appointments. A single screen shows all days of the week, with each day divided into four timeslots. The times represented by the slots can be tailored to suit personal schedules and a solid block occupying a slot indicates that a diary entry has been made.
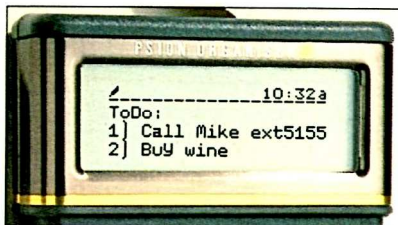
By selecting any particular day, a new page with appointment slots at fifteen minute intervals showing details of each entry together with selected start and finish times is shown. Entries can be moved and "pasted" into new slots, or multiple copies made for regular appointments.

CALENDAR

The calendar, which goes up to the year 2155, shows the current month and is a useful way of checking dates. Selecting any date from the calendar takes you straight to the diary page for that day.

NOTEPADS

Notepads are the ideal place to keep lists of things to do, telephone numbers, a record of expenses, and so on. You can create as many separate notepads as you need and protect sensitive information with a password that actually scrambles the data so that it is unreadable without the correct cipher.

Each notepad has its own calculator. Notepad entries can be automatically numbered, ranked in priority or sorted alphabetically.

When you create extra notepads, you can give them different names and then insert these names in the main menu. That way, you can go straight from the top level menu into the appropriate notepad.

XFILES

All Organiser II models can SAVE information into a database, and FIND it again by searching against any given clue, such as part of a name or telephone number. For users requiring a more sophisticated database, Xfiles allows you to set up any number of extra database files. Records in multiple files can be automatically sorted and also printed.

A separate option allows you to search for information through ALL the Organiser's filing systems: a systematic pass through all data files, programs, the diary and notepads.

WORLD DIALLING CODES AND TIMES

The Organiser can give you the correct international dialling code and the current time in any of 400 major cities worldwide. All you have to do is select WORLD from the main menu.

You can use the cursor keys to browse backwards and forwards through different cities, use SET to change your current location and FIND to look up the dialling code from that location to any major city in the world. You will also be told the current time in that city.

Just start typing the first few letters of the city you want to check, and a matching city and country will be displayed on the screen.