

## 1SRC Podcast 208 Script

Hello Everyone and welcome to the 1SRC Podcast, I'm your host Alan Grassia, and this is show 208 for Saturday, April 18, 2009. Glad to have you along for the ride this week.

Ok, on this week's show we'll be talking about what has been swirling around in the Palm Pre rumor mill. I also want to spend a few minutes talking about Palm's Touchstone charging base for the Pre. And for this week's Windows Mobile Minute, I've managed to get my hands on a Sprint edition Treo Pro and I'll have my initial thoughts for you later on in the show.

Now, without any further delay, let's grab a can of Diet Coke, and let's cover this week's Palm news.

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I'd like to start this week's show off with some additional information about Classic, the Palm OS emulator for webOS devices. In the last week, MotionApps, the developer behind Classic, has updated their Classic FAQ with some more detailed information. The reason why I wanted to bring this up, is because the new information clears up some of the issues that I raised in last week's show.

You will recall that I said that Classic was based on Palm OS 5.2H, a Handspring version of the Palm OS. And we all know what happened to Handspring - it was acquired by Palm. Palm OS 5.2 is an old build of the operating system, and in last week's show, I wondered if that would cause some problems for applications running on Classics that were developed to run on Palm OS 5.4.9. In the Classic FAQ, MotionApps writes:

“Q: Which of the existing PalmOS devices are closest to Classic in terms of features?”

A: During development of Classic we strived for compatibility with Palm Centro smartphones. Thus, certain features that may be available on other PalmOS handhelds are not supported in Classic (like screens larger than 320x320 pixels, DIA input API and some other rarely used APIs). Of course, this doesn't mean that you will be limited only to applications that are designed specifically for Centro: majority of existing PalmOS apps are device-agnostic and will run on any PalmOS system, including Classic.”

The FAQ also says that when you run Classic, it will access a dedicated folder in the Pre's memory space that will be used to simulate a real SD card. The implementation is so complete, according to MotionApps, that you can go so far as to instruct Palm OS by way of the Card Info application to format the faux SD card and it will. (I don't recommend doing that, but you can. The contents of the folder on the Pre will be erased.)

MotionApps has also stated that Classic will not be able to use the Palm HotSync Manager. The HotSync ID icon that has appeared in some screenshots of the Pre is a simple utility that comes with Classic that can be used to set your HotSync ID from your Palm OS device in Classic.

Another interesting point is the section hardware integration points between Classic and the hardware it is running on; in this case, the Pre. MotionApps writes:

“Q: Will Classic integrate into the webOS device hardware and to what extent?

A: The ability of Classic to integrate with underlying hardware is limited. This means that Classic will not be able to access Bluetooth, wireless modem (phone radio), GPS, light sensors or accelerometer (nor the IR port – because there isn't any on Pre). One exception to this is the network access which is fully supported.”

So it looks like you will be able to get Internet access in Classic assuming that the Pre is in a cellular or Wi-Fi coverage area. What this also means though, is that there will also not be

access to the built-in camera, or other accessories, again, like Bluetooth GPS pucks. The good news is that since the Pre and webOS have a much, much better implementation of these services, there is a greatly diminished reason for Motion to build in support for, or Palm to write APIs for, these things. Trust me. After a short while, you will only want to use the new webOS applications and hardware features of the Pre. Palm OS, PDAs, the Treo, and the Centro will be remembered fondly. But the future is webOS.

And thank God, no more Blazer! Blazer is the name of the Palm OS web browser that was built on a very old version of the NetFront browser framework from ACCESS. Motion says that Blazer will not be included with Classic. And why should it? I'm sure neither Palm nor MotionApps wants anything to do with ACCESS at this point. And besides, the native browser that comes as part of webOS is light years ahead of Blazer. If your Palm OS application makes a call to Blazer, Classic will pass that call off to webOS and the webOS browser will launch.

You can read the full Classic FAQ on the MotionApps blog at:

<http://motionapps.blogspot.com/2009/04/classic-faq.html>

I'll have a link in to the FAQs in this week's show notes.

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At the top of the show I promised that I would talk about some new details about the Palm Pre. It looks like we're getting closer to a release date. PreThinking.com received a tip that accessories manufactures are receiving Pre devices for testing. The tip apparently came in from Ludle.net. Aside from a photo showing the Pre flanked by a white Centro and a 3G iPhone, the tipster passes along the following information:

- The screen is less scratch resistant than the iPhone - better stock up on screen protectors

- The stock back plate/battery door is more scratch resistant than the iPhone, but you should expect a lot more finger printer to be visible
- The Pre has gone into mass production

That last one should be whipping up all the Pre fan boys and girls into a frenzy. I'll have to get in touch with Jimmie Geddes over at GadgetsOnTheGo. We go through this every time Palm launches a new phone on Sprint. We tend to get a little crazy with the Palm new phone OCD. I'll have to call him and "Pre" arrange the details for our new phones.

You can read the full article over at PreThinking.com:

<http://www.prethinking.com/home/2009/4/16/palm-pre-available-from-chinese-accessories-wholesaler.html>

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Now that we've talked about Classic, webOS, and the Pre, I want to turn our attention to the Touchstone wireless charging dock for the Pre.

According to an Engadget tipster who provided a screen grab from the Sprint inventory system, the Palm Touchstone dock is going to run us a cool \$70. That is a lot of dough to fork over after spending what some believe will be \$250 - \$300 for the Pre with a new two-year contract or extension. Are you willing to shell out \$70 for a Touchstone charging base? I'm on the fence. I think that I'll go with the stock USB to wall adapter route for the first few months and then pick up a Touchstone later on from a cheaper source like Amazon. I liked having a cradle for my Palm PDAs and Treo smartphones. I'd be kidding myself if I said that I won't buy a Touchstone.

The final price is going to be a major factor for me. I don't have a dock for my iPod or iPod touch. The main reason why I don't? I didn't want to spend the \$50 for the universal dock and Apple remote. Now, if I didn't spend \$50, will I spend \$20 more for the \$70 Touchstone dock? I honestly don't know. I've gotten use to charging up my gear with their USB to wall adapter cables. My Treo 750 and 755p charge up that way. So does my BlackBerry Curve and my iPod touch. If -- ok when -- I get my Pre, I'm sure I'll be OK with charging it from the wall too.

What do you think? When you buy your Pre, will you also buy a Touchstone charger too? Be sure to drop by this week's podcast discussion thread and vote your mind.

I'll have a link to the full Engadget article, which includes the screen grab, in this week's show notes.

<http://www.engadget.com/2009/04/13/touchstone-dock-for-palm-pre-to-run-69-99/>

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Hello everyone and welcome back to the 1SRC Podcast, I'm Alan Grassia

All right, for this week's Windows Mobile Minute, I'd like to share some of my impressions about Palm's latest Windows Mobile Treo smartphone, the Sprint edition Palm Treo Pro.

The good folks at Palm have sent over a demo unit for me to take out for a test drive. No, I don't get to keep them. Yes, if I want one, I'll have to buy it myself.

My first impression of the Treo Pro is that it is light and thin. To give you some perspective, it is a little bit lighter than my Treo 750 with it's stock battery, and about half as thick. For as much as I like the soft touch paint that Palm has used on some of their devices, the Pro's outer shell is a glossy finish. Yes, it looks amazing in person, but it picks up finger prints very easily.

Physically, the screen is the same size of that of the Treo 750, but the Pro's flush mount screen just looks larger. What is better on the Pro versus the 750 is the 320x320 resolution screen. It looks crisper and the fonts are very easy to read on the bright display. I may end up getting a Treo Pro just for the screen. It really puts the 240x240 screen on the Treo 750 to shame.

The keyboard on the Pro is very usable, but the keys are more flat than dome shaped as they had been on previous Treo models. You'll also notice right away that the hardware buttons just below the screen are gone. These are the dynamically assigned buttons whose functions change depending on what application you are currently running. On the Pro, there is a bar that runs along the bottom of the screen which has soft buttons that you tap with your finger to activate. I really like this layout over the older hardware button solution that was used on the older Windows Mobile Treo smartphones: the 700w|wx, 750, and 800w.

I haven't downloaded or read the Pro's User Guide yet, so I don't know how to open the battery door just yet, so I haven't checked out the battery or loaded a microSD card into the card slot. What I did find, a feature I like a lot, and more importantly, I know how to use, is the ringer switch.

The Treo Pro comes with Windows Mobile 6.1 Professional. To be more specific for the gearheads that might be listening today, the Pro has 6.1 Professional, which is Windows CE OS 5.2.20765, Build 20765.1.4.4 -HA! Take that. The jump from Windows Mobile 6.0 to 6.1 isn't all that big. Yes, there are some nice features, including the new Communications Manager. But I really think you are going to like the improvements in Pocket Internet Explorer. It still looks like PIE 6.0, but the rendering is better and you use the d-pad to move a mouse pointer around the screen rather than the blue halo effect that was used on previous Palm Treo smartphones. If you have used the browser on a BlackBerry before, they you know what I'm talking about.

I received the Treo Pro on Thursday evening, and I'm still making my way through the device. You will be happy to hear that the Treo Pro does ship with Pocket Office 6.1 installed, the same

version that is available on the Treo 750, so you won't have to relearn the Office suite on the Pro. What is different on the Pro, that isn't available in the Treo 750 ROM is Adobe Reader LE 2.5. If you are running the stock software on the Pro, having Reader LE is a good thing. It is a good thing because you don't have to download anything else. That said, if you're like me, I've stopped using Pocket Office and have started using DataViz's Documents To Go Premium edition. Hey, I'm a Palm OS guy, and hold habits die hard, OK?! Ok. Interestingly though, I haven't been able to find a download for Acrobat Reader LE on the Internet. I'm not sure what that is all about. I'll have to do some more digging.

I'll have some more follow up information on the Sprint edition Palm Treo Pro before I have to send this one back.

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All right, I think that will do it for this edition of the 1SRC Podcast. I hope that you've enjoyed this week's show. Don't forget to stop by [SmartphoneFanatics.com](http://SmartphoneFanatics.com) and subscribe to the enhanced 1SRC podcast feed so you can see the companion images for the podcast and chapter markers for easy navigation. From all of us here at 1SRC, I'm your host, Alan Grassia. Until next week, thanks for listening.