

tools of the trade



Instant Power PDA Charger



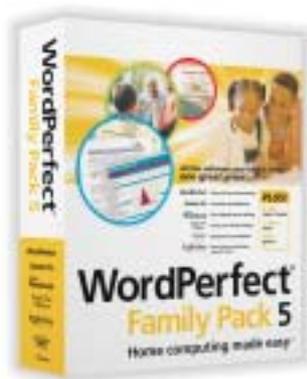
Graphire3 Pen Tablets

Writing Tools

The new **Graphire3** pen tablets from **Wacom** come in two sizes (4" x 5" or 6" x 8" active areas) and three colors (Sapphire Blue, Pearl White, and Graphite Gray). The tablet, pen, and mouse give you a better way to work on digital photos, paint or draw, sign your name, use handwriting recognition, and even edit Word and Excel documents with a pen. The mouse and pen are pressure sensitive, cordless, and don't require batteries. The new, larger tablet with a 6" x 8" working space still fits in a standard briefcase for those who want to take its document markup and sig-

nature capabilities with them. There's a transparent cover for tracing pictures, diagrams, and illustrations. The pen has 512 adjustable pressure-sensitivity levels and can be used to sign documents with Apple's Inkwell and Microsoft's Office XP. You can use Adobe Acrobat to mark up documents with digital ink, and there's an eraser at the top of the pen that functions just like a normal pencil eraser—except it doesn't wear out. The pen has DuoSwitch™ buttons that can be programmed to run a favorite program without the mouse, and the pen stores in a tray at the top of the pad. The mouse is ambidextrous and has a scroll wheel. Three programs are included with Graphire3: Adobe® Photoshop® Elements 1.0, Painter™ Classic by Corel®, and penPalette™ LE by nIK multimedia®. www.wacom.com

WordPerfect Family Pack 5 is a great alternative to loading a full-sized office suite on your home computer. There are eight applications in this home computing suite beginning with WordPerfect 11, the classic word processing program that handles business and home writing tasks. Quattro Pro 11 is the spreadsheet program, and the remaining five applications more closely fit into home computing needs. McAfee® Home Virus Scan 7.0 offers protection against hostile programs that may arrive by e-mail or on a disk, and Aladdin Systems' iClean® offers online pri-



WordPerfect Family Pack 5

vacuity protection. Enhanced Task Manager keeps projects and files organized, and digital photo editing is made possible with Corel PhotoBook. Encyclopedia Britannica® 2003 Ready Reference™ is included for homework and general report writing, and you can create a family tree with the Genealogy.com Family Tree Maker® software, which is also included. www.corel.com

Instant Power™ disposable PowerCartridge packs provide up to three charges for PDAs that are away from home and their cradle/recharging bases. Based on a zinc-air technology, the Instant Power batteries are built with Electric Fuel's 3300 mAh, 1.4V cells. The cells are set in plastic cases that contain holes to allow air access to the cells, and, until they are unpacked, they are good for several years. Once opened and exposed to the air, they

Co-opting the Hacker Culture ◆ Michael Castelluccio, Editor

■ WITHIN THE SPACE OF A MONTH, there have been arrests of computer programmers in London, Iasi, Romania, St. Paul, Minn., and Sacramento, Calif. The charges vary, from breaking into a *New York Times* database of social security numbers to releasing the Blaster worm, but a common denominator appears in the headlines and text. All the young men arrested are hackers. At least, that's the moniker hung on them by the journalists covering the busts. What's left out of the stories is the sad reversal of what a hacker really is or, rather, what they once were. At this point in the general degradation of the term, it would probably come as a surprise to most

Americans that hackers built the Internet, they made the Unix operating system what it is, and they make the World Wide Web work. So explains Eric Raymond, author of the *New Hacker's Dictionary*. A half-dozen years ago, *Wired* magazine defined a hacker in its Style Book as: "Skilled computer programmer or engineer who loves a techno challenge—especially one that involves accessing and manipulating another individual's or corporation's computers. *Not* synonymous with 'computer criminal' or 'security breaker.'"

Unfortunately, the worm and the term have turned, and those who once were known as crackers have been

continued on next page

will last about three months and will provide three charges on a typical 700-900 mAh rechargeable battery. When connected to the exhausted rechargeables in a PDA, cell phone, or even digital camera, the pack provides energy for operation while charging the battery, so there is no wait. The basic unit includes the zinc-air power cell and a connector. When you deplete the cell, you dispose of it and keep the connector to use with new cells. Instant Power also has an In-car Charger Adapter for the cigarette lighter connection in your car.

www.instant-power.com

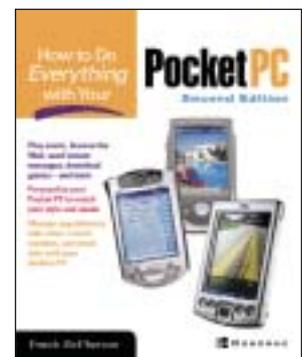
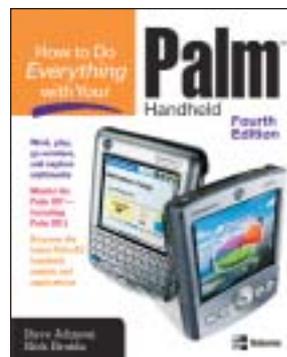
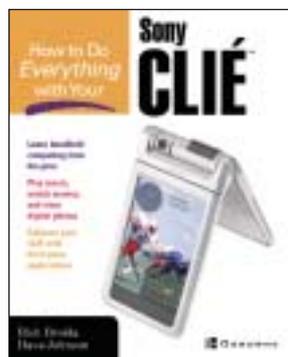
McGraw-Hill's Everything Series

Generally, there are two kinds of user manuals—

those provided by the manufacturer and those written by enthusiasts. The manufacturer's manuals are more likely to be loaded on the CD and are the combined effort of the techies, marketing people, and legal department at the device's original home. The manuals published by the book companies are likely to be more complete, more colorful, and much more fun. So it is with the **How to Do Everything** series from McGraw-

Hill/Osborne publishing. The group that covers the PDA includes *How to Do Everything with Your Palm Handheld, ... Your Pocket PC, ... Your iPAQ Pocket PC, ... Your Zire*, and ... *Your Sony Clié*. The authors have more than just a passing interest in the devices they write about. Rick Broida and Dave Johnson, who collaborated on several of the books, are downright dedicated to their handhelds. Broida founded *Handheld*

Computing magazine, and Johnson is the editor of *Handheld Computing Mobility* magazine. The books are complete and thoroughly cover the basics, but that's only the beginning. What the authors have learned from their own experience about the flexibility of these amazing computers, the best accessories, programs, problems, and solutions are the reasons for getting a copy that covers your PDA. osborne.com



The McGraw-Hill PDA Series

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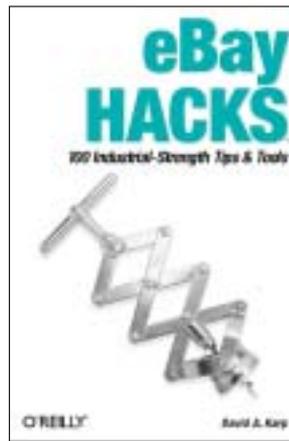
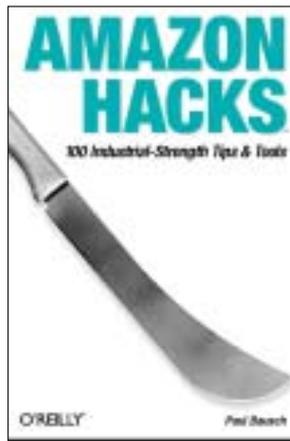
renamed hackers in the popular press. Today, if you ask someone to name the most famous hacker in America, you might get the ex-con Kevin Mitnick as an answer. Computer historians like Raymond would likely cite someone like Linus Torvalds, the creative force behind the Linux operating system, as a hacker celebrity. Or Eric Allman, author of Sendmail, the first Internet e-mail program. But with the kind of cachet that vandalism and crime have in popular media, few know about the creators—more are familiar with the destructors.

Some History

Originally, the verb “to hack” meant to work on a project, and someone could produce good (clever) hacks or bad (shoddy) hacks. The hacker culture can be traced back to MIT. In his book *Hackers*, Steven Levy uses the year 1961 to mark the word’s genesis, and he claims it was first used in the MIT Tech Model Railroad Club. The group got its first PDP-1 computer that year and soon began programming tools and routines, and a slang and culture grew up around its efforts. According to Eric Raymond, the train club formed the nucleus of MIT’s Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, a world-class center for AI research in the 1980s.

Next, a “hacker ethic” evolved with six hallmark characteristics. According to Levy, MIT’s hacker culture was based on the following:

- ◆ Access to computers should be unlimited and total. Always yield to the hands-on imperative!
- ◆ All information should be free.
- ◆ Mistrust authority—promote decentralization.



The newest titles in the series cover two of the most successful businesses on the Internet, *Amazon Hacks* and *eBay Hacks*. Each book offers 100 tips and tools for making the most of your buying and bidding on the sites.

Amazon.com will pay you part of its selling price if you refer the customer to their site from your own Web page. The

- ◆ Hackers should be judged by their hacking, not bogus criteria such as degrees, age, race, or position.
- ◆ You can create art and beauty on a computer.
- ◆ Computers can change your life for the better.

Not exactly an outlaw manifesto. Of course, from the beginning, there were computer vandals who preferred notoriety, but they weren’t hackers. They were called crackers or, when they were sneaking onto telephone networks, phone phreakers.

Vestiges

It’s probably only a matter of time and newsprint before the word hacker devolves to only one meaning, and that negative. But among those who agree with the ethic, hacking still goes on. In fact, one of the most important computer presses, O’Reilly, has created a series of books based on computer hacks, that is, hacks as “tools, tips, and tricks that help users solve problems.”

The general audience for the books are power users and code writers. In the publisher’s words, “A hack is not knowing which menu to select. If you can find it in the standard documentation, then it’s not a hack.” These are not in the Books for Dummies section; they are “industrial-strength tips and tricks”—in other words, hackers’ books.

ASP code for a link to Amazon’s site is included in the *Amazon Hacks* book. After setting up the link, you can then hack the hack with refinements like letting your visitors add your items directly to their Amazon shopping carts, or you might want to add a co-branded checkout. The code is in the book.

Because of its phenomenal growth, many small businesses are “opening up an outlet” on eBay’s auction pages. The *eBay Hacks* book offers advice on everything from the politics that work on the site to advice on how to manage the transactions and keep books. How to accept PayPal payments, protect your copyright, obtain sales records, spruce up the text with basic HTML coding, create a 360-degree view of your items, monitor the community that is buying and selling, sell overseas—it’s all done in short, clear hacks, 100 of them. And if you’re just a user, there’s plenty of practical advice, including how to manage the eBay search engine and how to bid more effectively.

So there are hackers still “creating art” and “changing our lives.” It would be nice if they got a little more press and if the reporters expanded the vocabulary back to what it was without having to resort to phrases like “white hat hackers” and “black hat hackers.” ■