

RamDisk for Palm version 1.0

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Introduction

What is RamDisk? If you've used PC Desktop since the good ol' days, you would probably know what RamDisk is. It partitions a storage block in main memory and treat it as a disk device. RamDisk is a virtual disk that allows for temporary storage that's extremely fast. It is mainly due to the fact that there is no actual hardware I/O operation but merely memory transfer. People use RamDisk to boost the application performance since the real hard disk is a lot slower. However, the drawback is that once the power is shut off, all the data stored in main memory is gone. Therefore, the data stored in RamDisk is lost as well.

Using RamDisk on Palm devices has a whole new meaning than on PC Desktops. Since the power on Palm is almost never shut off (unless the batter power is gone), you can enjoy the benefit of RamDisk without its draw backs. **PalmRamDisk** helps in the following ways:

File Duplication:	You can finally copy files from one memory card to another using just one Palm device. Treat PalmRamDisk as intermediate media. Use file managers, such as Mcfile 2.0, to transfer files to PalmRamDisk , then to other memory cards.
File Storage:	Ever forgetting to bring that important memory card with you? Store important document files on PalmRamDisk , and never have to worry about forgetting which memory card to bring with.
Memory Savvy:	Unlike RamDisk on PC Desktop, PalmRamDisk doesn't pre-allocate a chunk of memory. It only acquires memory when the amount of data it stores increases. Thus, it doesn't hold up the memory for other applications to use. When the data in PalmRamDisk is not needed, or the memory occupied by it is to be needed, simply release the memory. PalmRamDisk will free the memory it occupies. Not even a soft reset is needed to be done.
Easy Backup:	Simply use any file managers to copy the PalmRamDisk image file to memory card to back up the entire content of the disk.
Improved Speed:	PalmRamDisk is up to 4 times faster than real memory cards. If you find some application is slow on file operation, give PalmRamDisk a try.

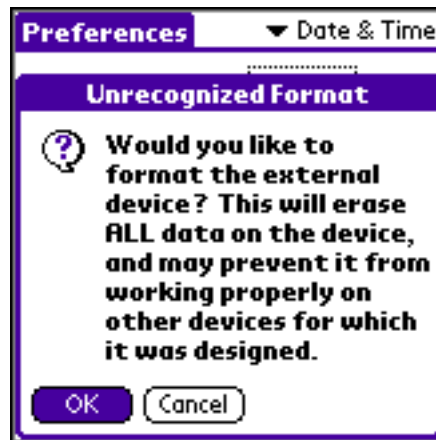
Save Trouble:	Having more than one memory cards not only confuses you which cards have what contents, but would also make it very easy to loose them when on the run when switching cards. Use PalmRamDisk to minimize the number of memory cards you have to bring along. Admit it! You are more cautious on whereabouts of your Palm device than your memory cards.
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Using **PalmRamDisk** is just a good and convenient way to help you using your Palm devices.

PalmRamDisk Installation

To install PalmRamDisk, simply do the following steps:

1. Install both **RamDiskDrv.prc** and **RamDiskPnl.prc** to your Palm device using HotSync. When ask for a soft reset, select Reset button.
2. After soft reset, it would ask whether to format the external device. It is to initialize the content of the ram disk. Select OK button.



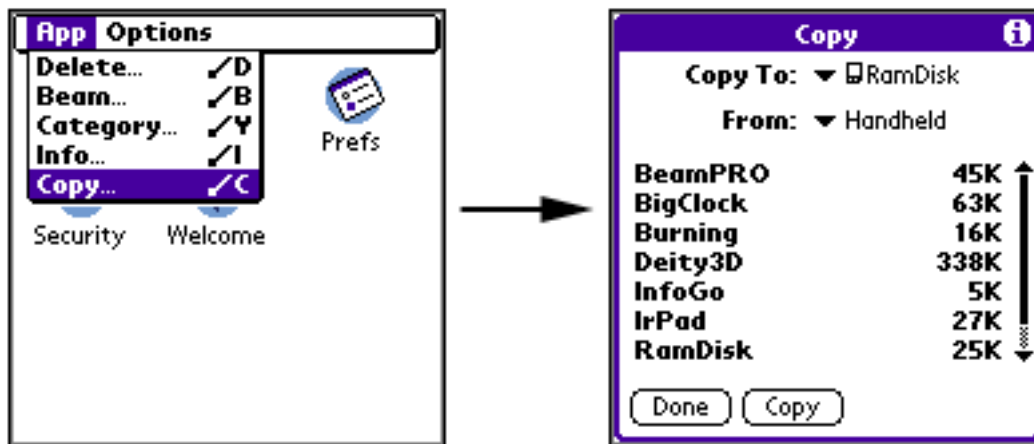
3. Soon after format is done, goto Launcher. There will be a new disk device under the category menu.



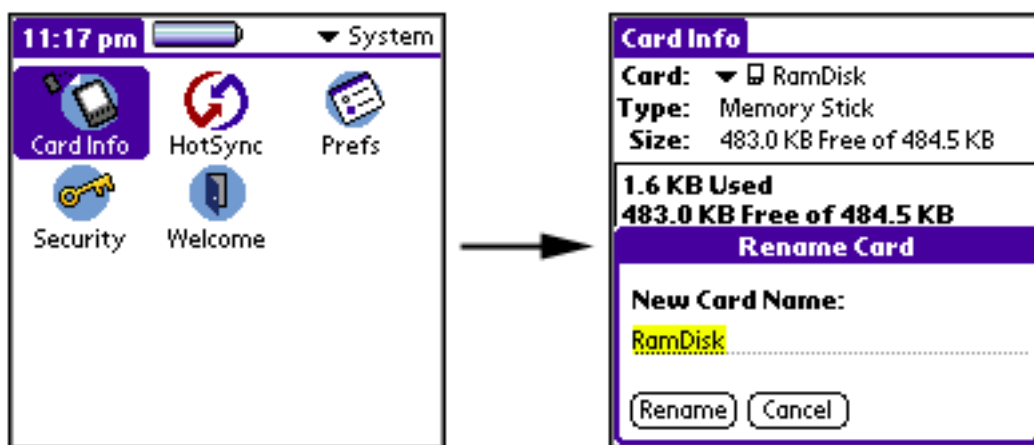
Using PalmRamDisk

PalmRamDisk can be used exactly like a real memory card. You can use Launcher to copy files to it, view its information using Card Info, launch applications from it, and, best of all, use 3rd party file manager to utilize it.

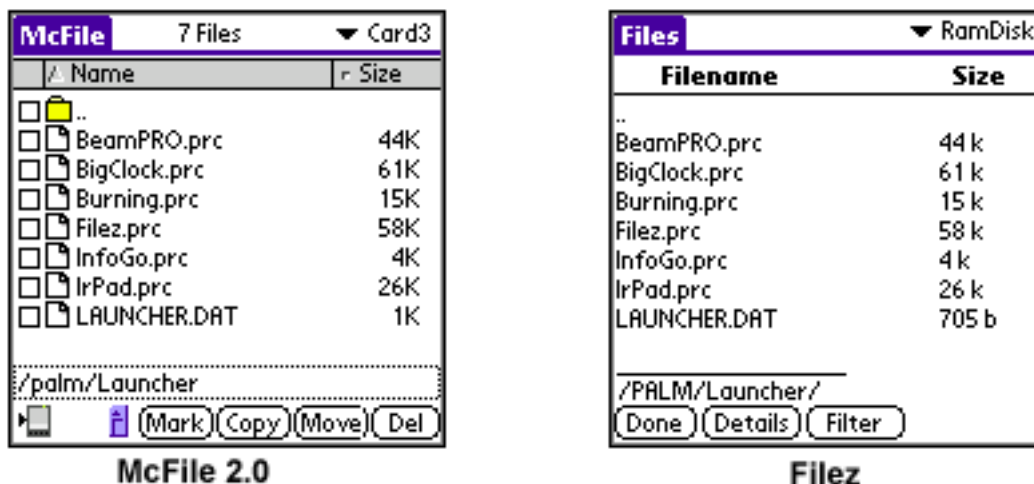
Use launcher to copy applications to PalmRamDisk



Use Card Info with PalmRamDisk

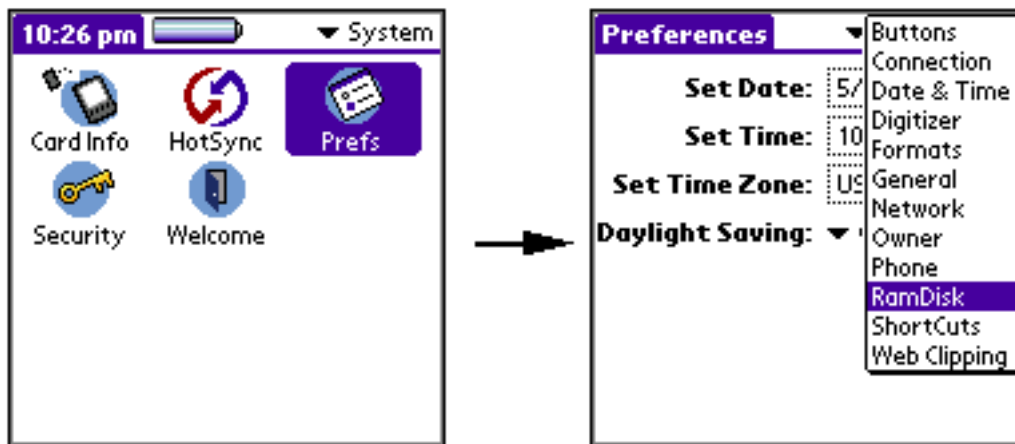


Use 3rd party file managers with PalmRamDisk

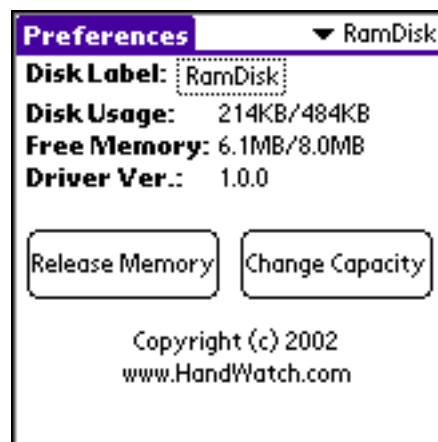


RamDisk Prefs Panel

RamDisk Prefs Panel is where you can customize ram disk properties. It can be found at PalmOS Prefs System Panel, under RamDisk pull-down menu.



This would bring up RamDisk Pref Panel. There are many options in the panel.

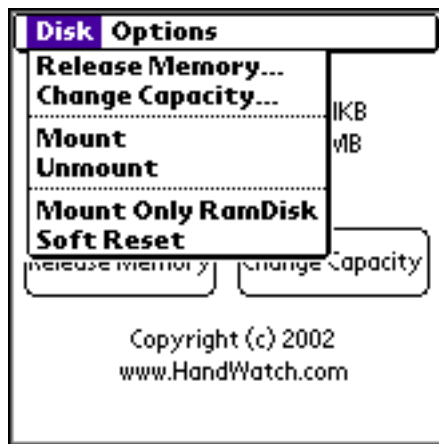


Buttons/Labels:	
Disk Label:	Show disk label. Tap on the name to change the name of the disk.
Disk Usage:	Shows current size/max capacity of RamDisk
Free Memory:	Shows free memory size/total memory size of main memory
Driver Version:	Shows RamDisk driver version.
*Release Memory:	Minimize the memory usage by erasing the content on ram disk.
*Change Capacity:	Change maximum RamDisk capacity. The total data size stored on ram disk will not exceed the capacity even if there is more free memory.

***Note:** Perform this operation will erase the data in RamDisk.

Menus:

Disk Menu:



*Release Memory:	Minimize the memory usage by erasing the content on ram disk.
*Change Capacity:	Change maximum RamDisk capacity. The total data size stored on ram disk will not exceed the capacity even if there is more free memory.
Mount:	Mount RamDisk.
Unmount:	Unmount RamDisk. For uninstallation and upgrade purpose.
Mount Only RamDisk:	Unmount all other memory cards and mounts only RamDisk. This is for applications that are only single-card aware.
Soft Reset:	Performs a soft reset.

***Note:** Perform this operation will erase the data in RamDisk.

Options Menu:



About RamDisk:	Shows About Dialog Box.
Register:	Register PalmRamDisk by entering Unlock Key.

Uninstall/Upgrade PalmRamDisk

Because RamDisk remains active at all time it's being used, its driver is being held busy. This makes the driver to be locked by the PalmOS system. To upgrade, or to uninstall, the driver, it has to be deactivate first. To deactivate the RamDisk, do the following steps:

1. Goto RamDisk Prefs Panel.
2. Select Menu->Unmount. RamDisk prompts a dialog saying it is ready to be updated via HotSync.
3. To upgrade RamDisk, simply perform HotSync now.
4. To uninstall RamDisk, goto Launcher and delete RamDisk.

Troubleshooting

The application I want to use isn't multiple-memory-card aware. How to make use of RamDisk?

There are many applications that are not multiple-memory-cards aware. If an application isn't written specifcly for certain kind of memory card, you can 'fake' RamDisk is the only memory card available in the system. Simply do the following:

1. Goto RamDisk Prefs Panel.

2. Select Menu->Mount Only RamDisk.
3. To re-mount all memory cards available, simply perform a soft reset by select Menu->Soft Reset.

The application I am using is not running correctly when RamDisk is active. Can I temporarily deactivate RamDisk?

Applications that are not multiple-memory-cards aware may have problem handling more than one memory cards. To temporarily deactivate RamDisk, simply unmount it. When RamDisk is needed again, mount it to make it available.

Contact Information

For any suggestions and bug reports, please send the email to
handwatch@handwatch.com

For latest version on **PalmRamDisk**, please visit HandWatch web site at
<http://www.handwatch.com>

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