

"Talent does what it can; genius does what it must." - Edward George Bulwer-Lytton

QuickQuotes

ScaryBear Software

Quality Applications for the Pocket PC Devices

User's Guide

Version 1.6

Introduction

QuickQuotes is a Today Screen plugin which displays a background image on your main Today Screen with a quote or saying. You can configure QuickQuotes to change the quotes and/or background image every day, every hour, or even every 15 minutes. In addition, QuickQuotes is very customizable, allowing you to add in your own images and your own quotes.

Useful applications:

- Daily quotes and/or affirmations
- Daily jokes
- Learning vocabulary words on a daily basis
- Displaying pictures of friends, families, or vacation spots

Installation

Note, QuickQuotes is designed for the Pocket PC devices running the 2002 and 2003 OS. It will not work on the older 2000 OS devices.

The installer program for QuickQuotes is contained in the [quickquotes.zip](#) file, which you downloaded from either our web site (www.scarybearsoftware.com) or another online vendor's site. Running the installer program called [quickquotes_install.exe](#) on your Desktop PC will install the necessary files on your Pocket PC device when you make a valid ActiveSync connection between your device and Desktop PC. A soft-reset of your device after the installation procedure is required to ensure that the software is loaded into your device's active memory.

Registration

By default, QuickQuotes will be installed as a trial version, which will expire after 14-days from the original installation date. To permanently activate QuickQuotes on your device, you'll need to purchase the software to obtain a valid 12-digit reg key code number. Entering this code number in the "About..." tabbed screen in the QuickQuotes settings panel will convert the trial version of the software to the full version. Where exactly to put this 12-digit code number will be discussed later in this document.

Features

Below is a general list of features for the QuickQuotes Today Screen Plugin:

- Can display .bmp, .jpg, and .gif image files
- Fully customizable quotes and image files
- User-defined time intervals for changing quotes
- Can rotate through background images
- Today Screen window automatically resizes to fit quote and/or background image
- Compatible with Landscape mode
- Can accommodate the background "skinning" feature of the Today Screen
- Compatible with the Pocket PC 2002 and Mobile 2003 OS devices

Usage

QuickQuotes is very easy to use. Basically, a small item window is placed on your Today Screen with a quote or affirmation displayed in italics text (Figure 1). Quotes are read from a selected quote file which is stored in the QuickQuotes install directory (`\Program Files\ScaryBear Software\QuickQuotes`). The background image and text color displayed can also be customized by the user.

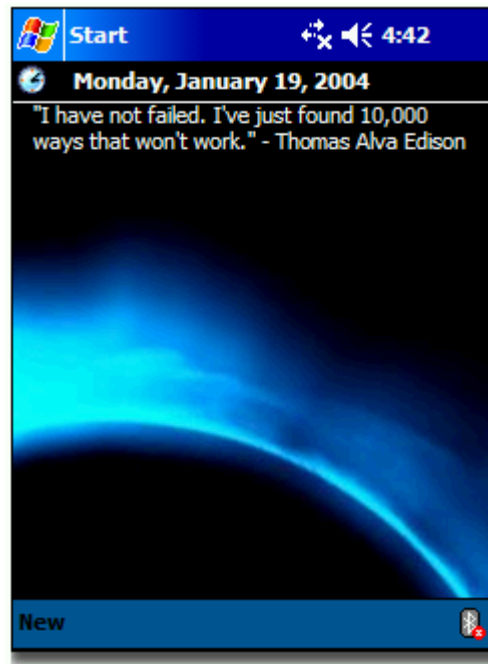


Figure 1
QuickQuotes on the Today Screen

To make custom changes to the display, start by bring up the Today Screen's Settings panel ([Start Menu->Settings->Personal->Today](#)) and check the QuickQuotes entry (Figure 2). Tapping the "Options" button will bring up the QuickQuotes Options panel (Figure 3) where you adjust certain settings for the QuickQuotes display.

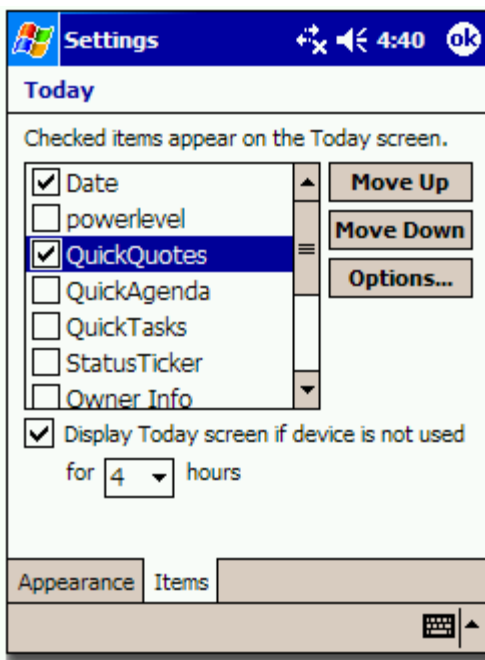


Figure 2
Today Screen Settings

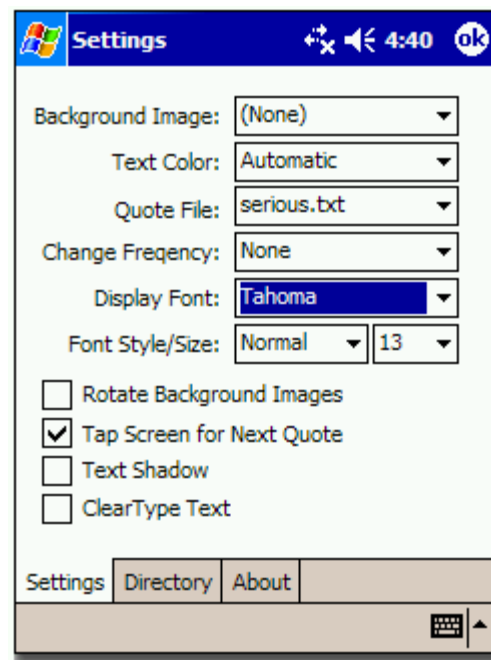


Figure 3
QuickQuotes Settings Panel

Background Image - Allows you to select a background image for the QuickQuote Display. The selectable images are simple bitmap files stored in the QuickQuotes install directory. Details on how to create your own background images will be described later in this document. QuickQuotes can read and display .bmp, .jpg, and .gif files.

Text Color - Allows you to select the color for the quote text. The "Automatic" setting will pick up the text color based on certain conditions found in the selected bitmap background file (to be discussed later).

Quote File - Allows you to select a simple text file containing quotations for display. Selecting "None" will cause QuickQuotes to not draw any text to the screen.

Change Frequency - Allows you to specify how frequently you would like to change the displayed quote. You can select every 15 minutes, 30 minutes, every hour, every 8 hours, or every day.

Display Font – Defines what available font to use for the displayed text.

Font Style/Size – Defines the font style and size to be used for the displayed text.

Rotate Background Images – Checking this option will rotate the background images whenever the quote changes.

Tap Screen for Next Quote - This option allows the user to change quotes by merely tapping on the QuickQuotes window.

Text Shadow - This option is a feature which draws a shadow for the quote text on the screen. For example, Figure 4 and 5 shows the difference between the standard text display and a shadowed text display. In some cases, using the shadow option will enhance readability.

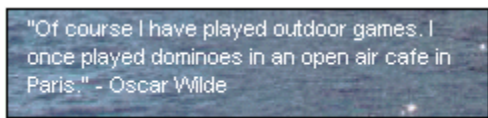


Figure 4
Without shadow option

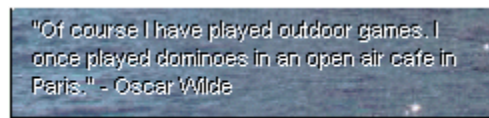


Figure 5
With shadow option

ClearType Text – This option will draw the displayed text on the screen using the ClearType option, which can improve the readability on some devices.

In the "Directory" tabbed screen, you can select which folder your bitmap and quote files are stored in. Simply navigate to the folder where you want to retrieve the quote and bitmap files, and tap the "Change" button to use it (Figure 6). Finally, the "About" tabbed screen shows the version number of the plugin and has an entry box for entering a valid 12-digit reg key code number to fully activate the software.

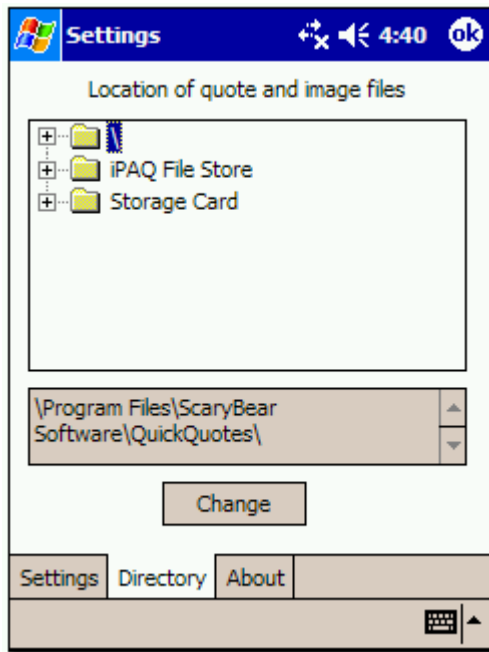


Figure 6
Selecting an input folder



Figure 7
About Screen

Creating custom QuickQuotes quotation files

The quotes displayed in the Today Screen window are read from the specified quotation file. These files are stored in the QuickQuotes install directory, and are very easy to create using a simple text editor. If we look at a typical quotation file, it would have the following format:

An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
Ben Franklin
If a man does his best, what else is there?
General George S. Patton
(and so on)

The first line consists of a single quote (all on one line), followed by the author of the quote. This process is repeated for as many quotes as you want. As an example, you can examine the supplied "serious.txt" quotation file found in the QuickQuotes install directory.

Following this format, you can create a custom quotation file using a text editor on your Desktop PC (e.g., NotePad) and copy the file over to the QuickQuotes install directory using the File Explorer option from your main ActiveSync control panel.

Pre-Built Quotation Files

Additional pre-built quotation files can be downloaded from this web site:

http://www.scarybearsoftware.com/ppc_qq_quote_files.html

There are currently 5 different category of quotations available, in addition to an Italian version of some quotes.

Creating custom bitmap background image files

The selectable background images used by QuickQuotes are simple bitmap images which can be created using Microsoft Paint or PaintShop Pro Desktop PC programs. Figure 6 shows a typical bitmap image. The size of the image needs to be 240 pixels in width, and approximately 100 pixels in height. If you're using very long quotes, you may need to bitmap images with greater than 100 pixels in height. If you are using your Pocket PC in "Landscape" mode, you can use bitmap images wider than 240 pixels.



Figure 8
Typical bitmap image file

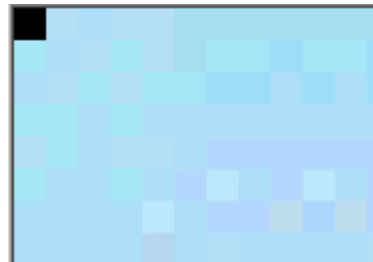


Figure 9
Zoomed in upper-left corner

The "Automatic" setting for the text color selection will examine the chosen bitmap image file and use the color of the upper-left most pixel. Figure 8 shows upper-left corner of the bitmap image shown in Figure 9 (zoomed in) and you can see that the upper-left most pixel is black, therefore QuickQuotes will use black for the color of the quote text.

In addition to use standard .bmp files, you can also use .jpg and .gif files as well.

Uninstallation

If you have a need to uninstall QuickQuotes from your system, you can use the standard "Remove Programs" utility provided on all Pocket PC devices. Once you go through the removal process, you'll be asked to do a soft-reset of your device to remove the QuickQuotes plugin from active memory.

Final Comments

Upgrades to QuickQuotes are always free, and can be downloaded from our web site at www.scarybearsoftware.com. Your existing valid 12-digit reg key code will also activate any future versions. If you'd like to be notified of future updates to QuickQuotes, you can sign up for the ScaryBear Software Newsletter from this link: <http://www.scarybearsoftware.com/newsletter.html>

Supplemental: How to copy user created FlashIt input files to the Pocket PC device

Below is detailed instructions on how to create your own input file, and how to copy it from your Desktop PC over to your Pocket PC for the FlashIt application.

If you want to create your own questions/answer files, you can do so using NotePad on your Desktop PC as shown in Figure 10 below.

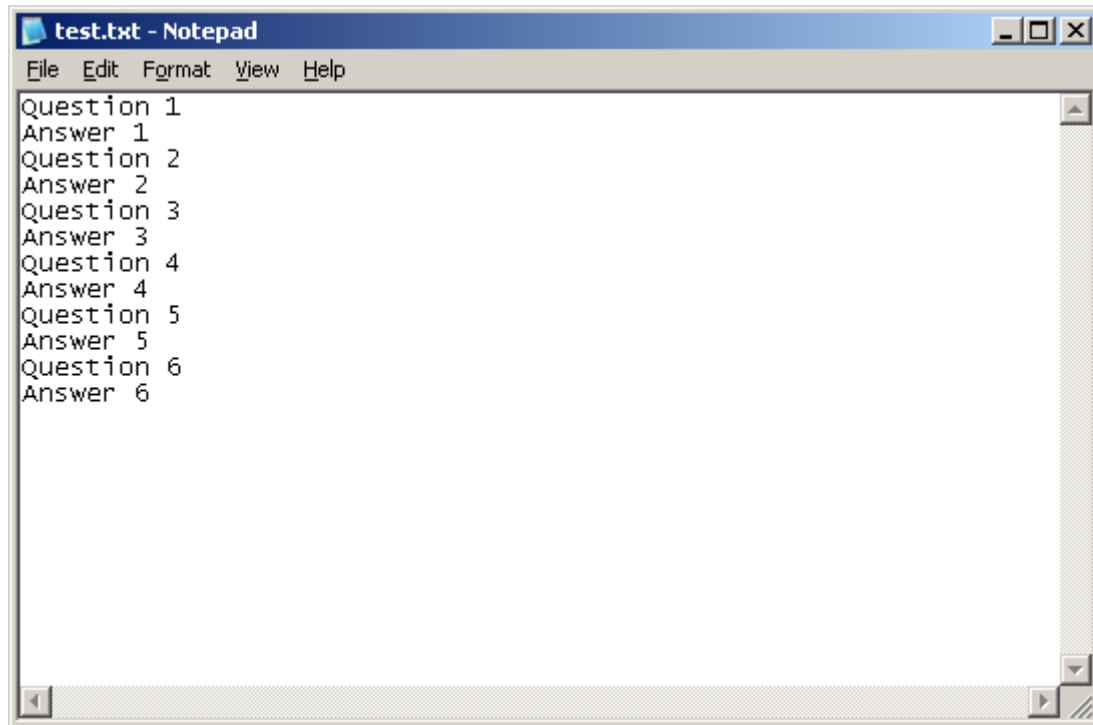


Figure 10
Using NotePad to create an input file

Here, we have a file called "test.txt" which contains 6 questions each followed by an answer. I will save this file to my Desktop PC in the "C:\tmp" folder as shown in figure 11.

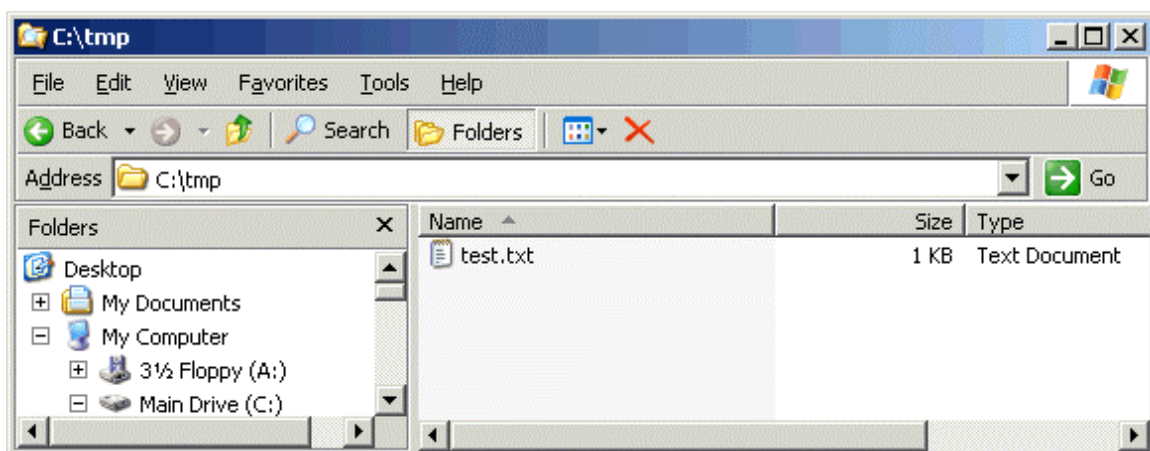


Figure 11
File Explorer on the Desktop PC

Now, I want to copy the file "test.txt" from my Desktop PC over to my Pocket PC device, and put it in the correct folder for FlashIt to see. So, from the ActiveSync panel on my Desktop PC (figure 12), click the "Explore" button at the top the window.

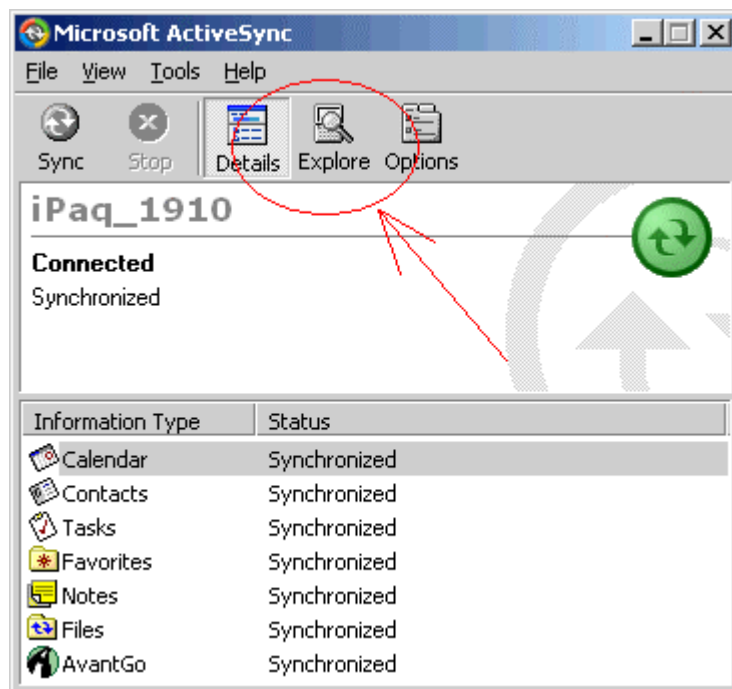


Figure 12
Starting File Explorer from the ActiveSync panel

Clicking the Explore button will bring up the File Explorer application on the Desktop PC as shown in Figure 13. In this File Explorer, you should see an icon labeled "My Pocket PC" (or something similar). Click on this icon to go to the main folder on your Pocket PC device. You should see something like Figure 14.

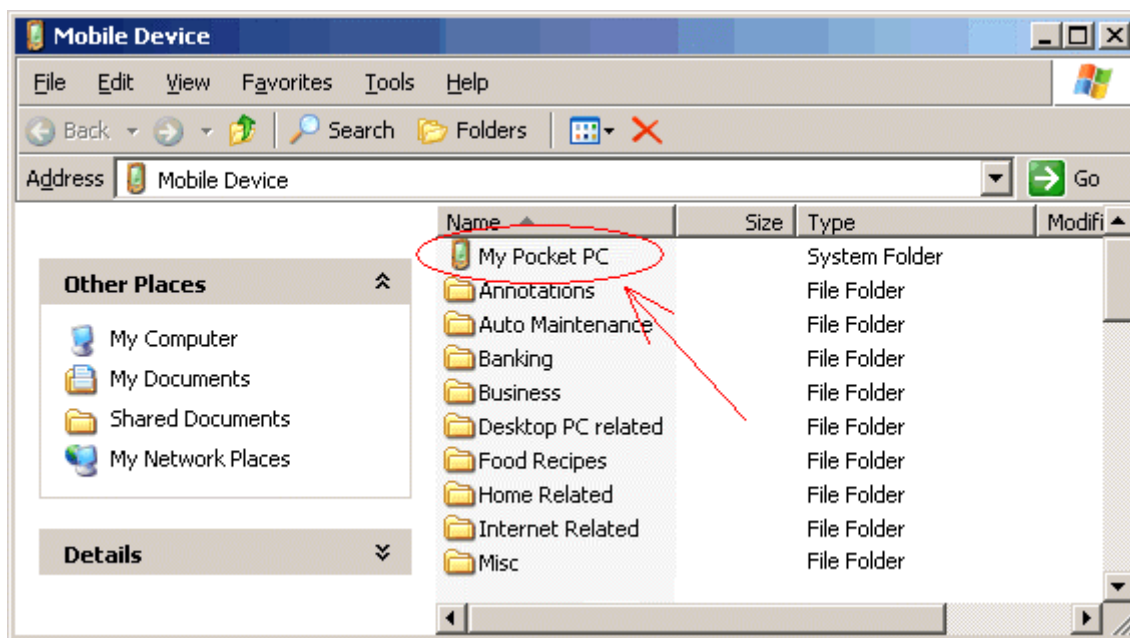


Figure 13
Using File Explorer to view files on a connected Pocket PC device

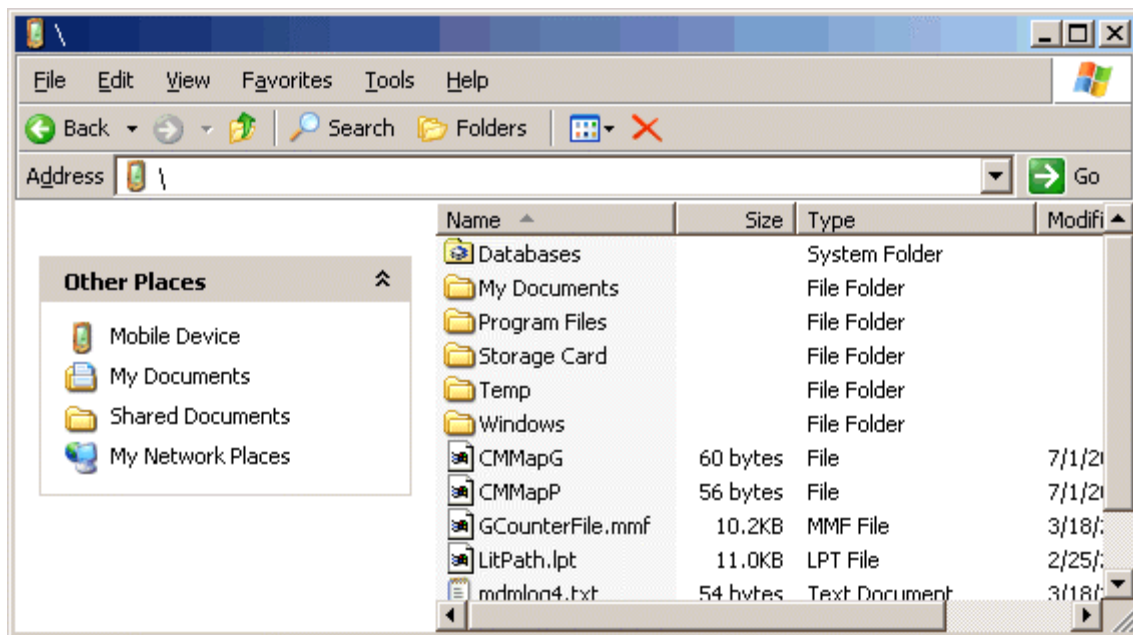


Figure 14
Files on Pocket PC device

Now, start clicking on the folders in the File Explorer application until you get to the location shown in figure 15, which is where the FlashIt program is installed (by default).

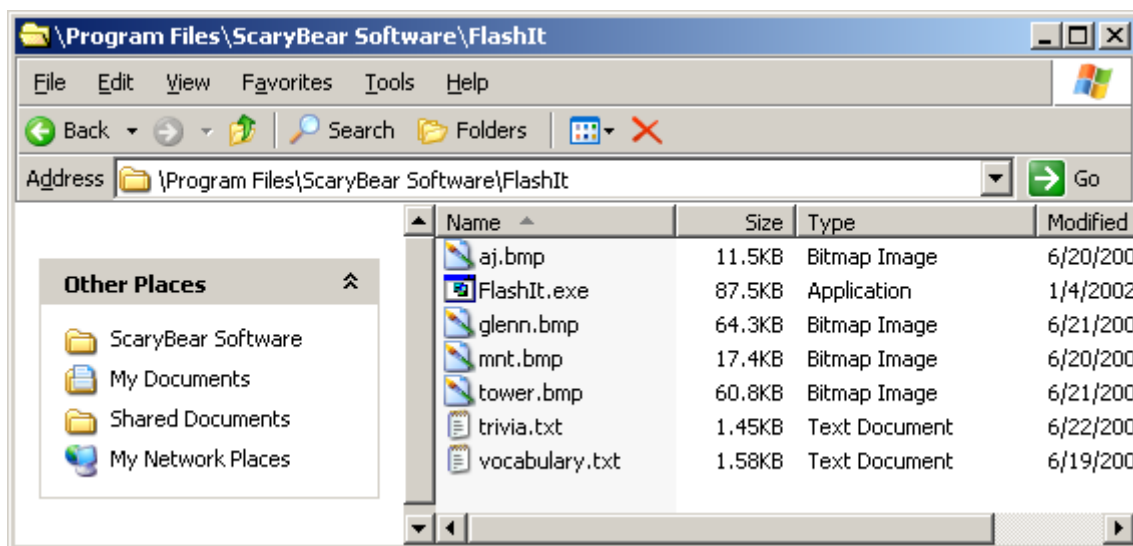


Figure 15
FlashIt install folder on Pocket PC device

You should be the `\Program Files\ScaryBear Software\FlashIt` folder on your Pocket PC device, and you should see all the files listed in Figure 15. If you don't, then you need to adjust your File Explorer settings so you can see **ALL** the files in this folder. For instructions on how to do this adjustment, please see this web link:

<http://www.scarybearsoftware.com/support.html#G08>

To have FlashIt "see" the example test.txt file I created in the first step, I need to copy it from my Desktop PC over to this folder location on the Pocket PC device. You simply drag the file from the window as shown in figure 11 to figure 15. Once you do that, you should see something as shown in figure 16 below.

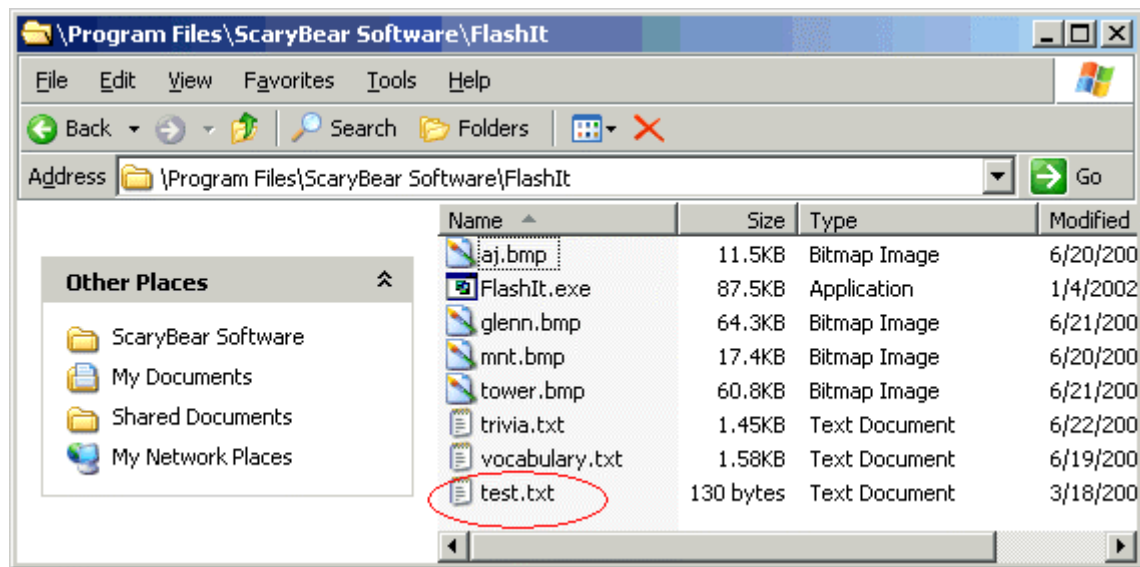


Figure 16
Test.txt input file on the Pocket PC device

Now, if you start up FlashIt on your Pocket PC device, you should only see two files as shown in figure 17.

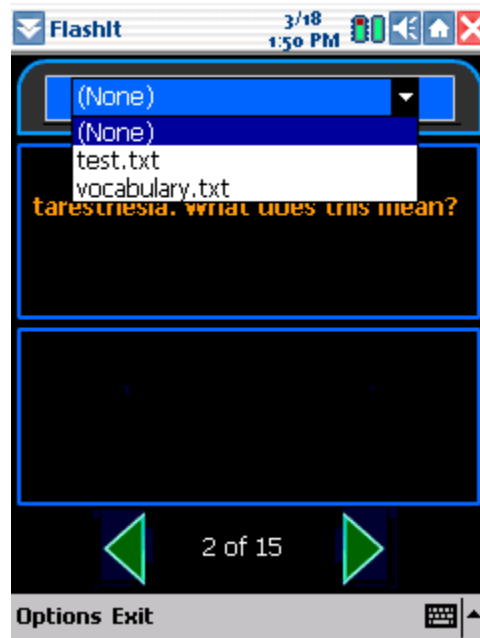


Figure 17
Selecting input file

If the FlashIt application is still in "Trial version" mode, you are only allowed to view 2 input files. "Test.txt" and "Vocabulary.txt" are the two files displayed because they are the first two in the FlashIt install directory (alphabetically). If you purchased the full version of FlashIt and entered a valid 12-digit reg key code number into the About screen as shown in Figure 7, you should be able to see all the available input files as shown in Figure 18.

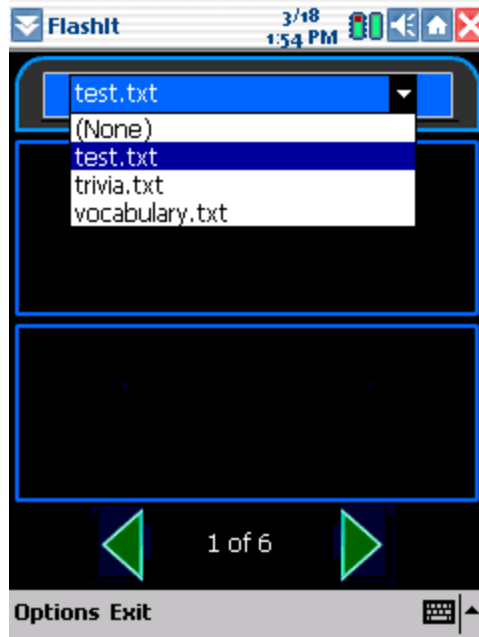


Figure 11
Viewing all available input files

If you are in "Trial Version" mode, you can still select a user-defined input file by first deleting the two sample files (trivial.txt and vocabulary.txt) from the location shown in Figure 16, and copy your new input file to that location. Now, if you start up FlashIt you should only see your new input file.

If you purchase FlashIt and have the full version, you can have as many input files as you want.