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🟧 May 16th, 2004, 11:39 PM   #1

edeab220
T|T3 runnin'

Join Date: Oct 2002
Location: South NJ
Posts: 2,476
🧍 Ⓨ

PocketView - Chatopus v1.2

PocketView - Chatopus v1.2

Instant Messaging has become a staple of life, especially the life of the normal teenager. Instant messaging is free, and all that is needed to "talk" with your friends is an internet connection. Today, there are more and more people who own PDAs which can go online and these people want to stay in contact with their friends and family using their favorite IM program. For a few years, the only program available for the Palm OS was AIM for Palm OS, and you can only use AIM to talk with friends and family that have a screen name on AIM and AOL. Today, there are many more choices. We have the same AIM for Palm OS; we now have Yahoo Messenger for Palm OS, and now we have **Chatopus**, an IM client which takes instant messaging very seriously. But, with all the IM clients available for the Palm OS, does **Chatopus** provide a trustworthy IM client for use on your handheld?

INTRODUCTION

Chatopus v1.2 is an IM client for the Palm OS, allowing you to talk with your friends and family on almost any IM network. **Chatopus** uses the Jabber IM network to contact people on other networks, like AIM or Yahoo. Because **Chatopus** uses the Jabber network, you need to sign up for a Jabber screen name. You could do this in a few different ways, either you can host your own Jabber server or you can sign up for a Jabber screen name on another server, like Ryhmbox. You would need to set up your Jabber screen name before you start using **Chatopus**. **Chatopus** DOES NOT allow you to set up a screen name within the program itself.

Ellis AIM	▼ Unfiled
Aaron	
aim.tipic.com/registered	
Ali	
Dave	
Elfyn	
Ellis	
Felixdd	
Grace YM	
Grace YM2	

Because of the limitations of the Jabber network, when you sign on to your other IM account (ie. AIM), it does not import your buddy list that currently exists on your IM account. As a result, you would need to manually type the screen names that you desire to be on your Jabber buddy list. This is but a small limitation for such a useful program.

PROGRAM FEATURES

The program is very easy to understand once you get everything set up. The initial setup once you start the program is very simple and straight to the point. It tells you want you need to do and it specifically tells you that you need a Jabber screen name.
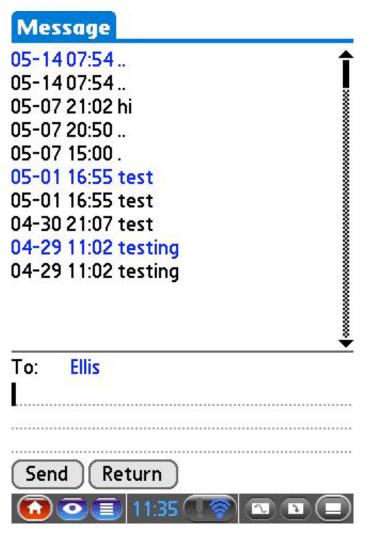
Once everything is set up, you'll need to add everyone on your buddy list to whom you want to talk to. Remember, the Jabber network does not automatically import your buddy lists from other networks.

One great feature that I've found was the remembrance of the older conversations. **Chatopus** automatically saves conversations with people so that if you want to continue a conversation or read over what you said, you can easily do that by tapping on the name and it will show you all former conversations.

Message

05-14 07:54 ..
05-14 07:54 ..
05-07 21:02 hi
05-07 20:50 ..
05-07 15:00 .
05-01 16:55 test
05-01 16:55 test
04-30 21:07 test
04-29 11:02 testing
04-29 11:02 testing

To: Ellis

Send   Return

Chatopus remembers old conversations

Like all other IM clients, you can create groups where you can store all your people. For example, if you have a lot of family members that you want to contact, just add their screen name to your buddy list and create a group just for your family.

Like the other IM client for the Palm OS currently available, **Chatopus** has the option of running in the background. So if you exit the program while you are still signed on and you receive a message, the device will alert you that you have received a message. This alert will appear in the same place that your alarms appear in.

Yet, like all good programs, there are some down sides. Once you get everything set up, it was hard for me to figure out what was next. Did I have to say I was available before I could talk to people online? Initially, it was very confusing, but the more you use the program, the more you understand it. In addition, the

interface is just plain white. I believe in colorful programs, so there could have been a few more colors so that the program would have a more welcoming feeling, but this is not all that important.

Add Contact

Contact ID:

Nickname:

Group: ▼ Unfiled

OK | Cancel | New Group...

Adding people to your buddy list is very simple

Talking to people is plain easy. Tap on the name, write something in, and talk. The IM interface is very easy to understand. You'll be able to send and receive messages in the same window. The IM interface actually looks like the AIM IM interface that the Palm OS version has.

In addition, I would like to add that **Chatopus** supports HiRes+ and WideRes, so that if you have a Tungsten|T3 with the compatibility apps installed, you will be able to use **Chatopus** in both portrait and landscape mode.

Sadly, I have been having many problems with AIM. No matter what Jabber server I use, it doesn't want to sign me on to AIM 75% of the time. Sometimes I can get online with AIM, but with my four weeks testing this program, there has only been three times where I have been able to sign on to AIM successfully.

As a side point, I would like to congratulate the devloper of this program for updating this program almost as regularly as ZLauncher was being updated. From the time I started this review to the time this was posted, there was about four revisions to the program.

CONCLUSION

Instant messaging has become a staple in many people's lives. It allows them to talk to their friends and family over the internet in real time, only paying for the internet connection. They don't have to worry about the amount of minutes they

use talking to their friends and family. Having an IM client on your PDA that has an internet connection is something very useful. You can stay in contact with all your friends and family on the go. **Chatopus** is yet only one of the IM clients available for the Palm OS, but it is one of the best. It allows you to talk to people on various networks, may it be AIM or Yahoo or something else. It is easy to learn, and can be very fun. Let's hope that **Chatopus** just keeps on continuing to improve and at the same time keep the simplicity of the program.

PROS:

Simple interface
Easy to set up once you get into it
Easy to talk to people
Runs in background

CONS:

Could improve aesthetics of program
Could include a help file on the device
Confusing right at the start
Other misc. Jabber limitations

Rating: ⭐⭐⭐⭐½

Reviewer: Ellis D. (edeab220)
Developer: Tony Cheung
Price: $14.95
Website: **Chatopus**.com
_____
Current combo: Nokia 3650 w/ Tungsten T|3!
"To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world."

Support PocketLoft and the Daily Gadget!

June 24th, 2004, 11:08 AM   #2

asiayeah
Registered User

Join Date: May 2004
Posts: 1

Latest version is now 1.31

Chatopus is constantly improving. The latest version is now v1.31.

Changes since v1.20

Audible Alert (with Palm OS 5 enhanced audio)
SSL support
...etc

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-- PocketLoft (Underline)

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