



<http://palm.nanika.net/>



# PCPilot for PalmOS

## Version 1.0.1

Designed and written by Patrice BERNARD

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## 1 Introduction

PCPilot is a simple tool that lets you remotely control a PowerPoint slideshow or your media player on your PC, from your Palm device.

### Prerequisites:

- ✓ A PC running Windows version 98 or later, with a network connection or a Bluetooth interface;
- ✓ Microsoft Powerpoint (version 97 or later), Windows Media Player (version 9 or later) and/or iTunes for Windows (version 7 or later);
- ✓ A Palm device with PalmOS version 4.0 or later with a network connection or a Bluetooth interface.

### ⚡ Attention

*PCPilot has not been tested with MS Vista and MS Office 2007.*



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### 3 Installation

The program comes in a zip file. Use `WinZip` (or any equivalent software) to open it and extract its contents. You will get the following files:

- ◆ `PCPilot.prc`: program for PalmOS (English version only);
- ◆ `PCPilot.exe`: program for Windows (English version only);
- ◆ `PCPilot.pdf`: the user guide you are just reading.

Use the regular installation feature on your PC (Palm Desktop / QuickInstall) to install the Palm file (`PCPilot.prc`) on your device. Do not forget to perform a *hotsync* to actually install it. Please check your device user guide for more details on third-party program installation.

By default, the program has no category. You may use the “Category” option in the Palm launcher menu to file the program in the category of your choice.

Copy the Windows executable file (`PCPilot.exe`) anywhere on your hard disk (a subdirectory the `Program Files` directory would be a wise choice) and create a shortcut in the Start Menu or on you PC desktop for easy access.



## 4 Uninstall

In order to uninstall the Palm program, you should use the “delete” option in the Palm launcher menu on your device (see your user guide for details).

To uninstall the Windows program, delete the executable file (`PCPilot.exe`) and any shortcut you may have created.

If you want to completely clean-up your system, you should also delete the `HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\PCPilot` registry key (using `regedit` for example) but this can be dangerous and leaving the key in the registry does no harm.



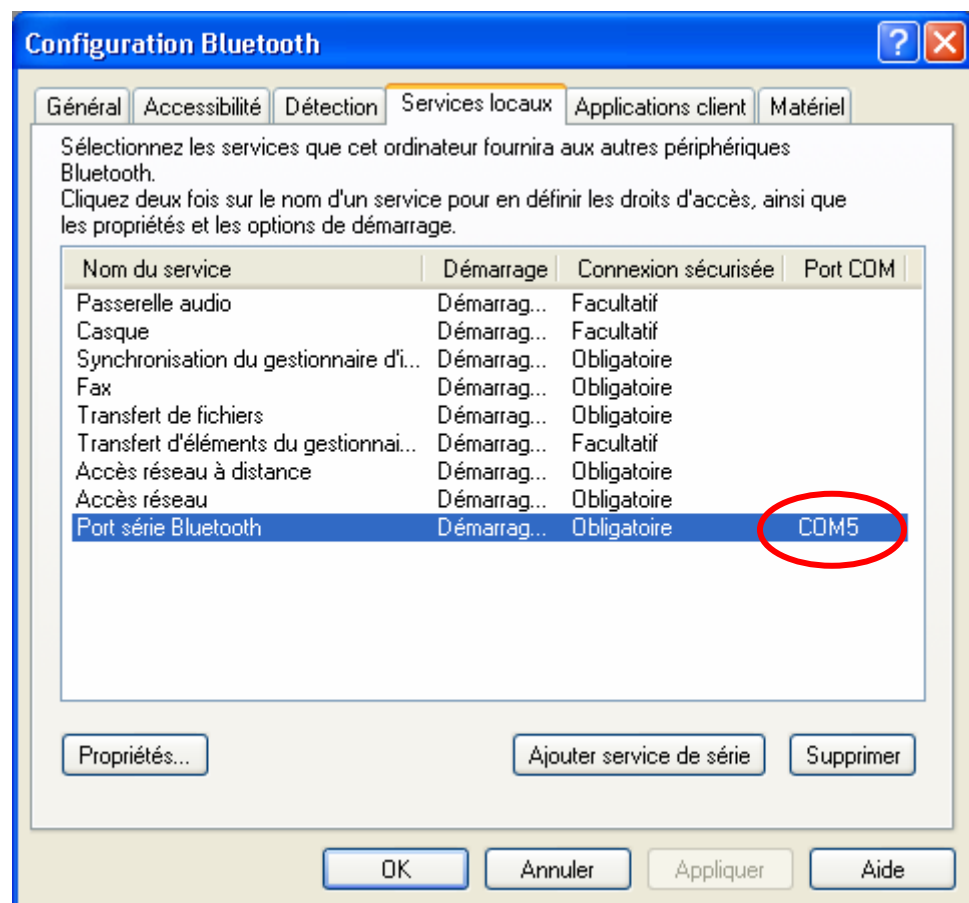
## 5 Running PCPilot

### 5.1 On your PC

#### 5.1.1 Preliminary for a Bluetooth connection

Before you start PCPilot, you have to find the serial (COM) port provided by your Bluetooth interface.

For example, if you have the Widcomm drivers, right click on the BT icon in the Windows tray (bottom right of the screen) and select “Advanced configuration”. In the configuration screen, select the “Local services” tab:

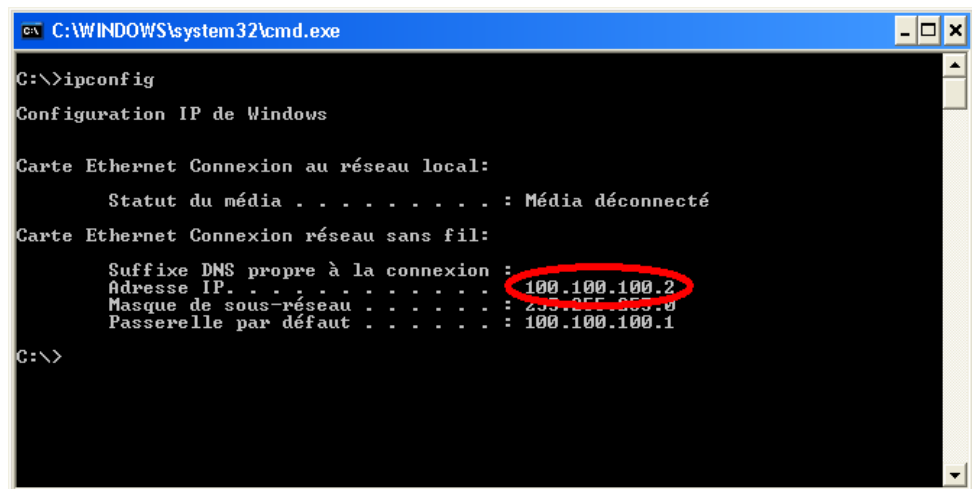


Remember the exact name of the port that appears next to the “Bluetooth serial port” entry (COM5 in the example).



### 5.1.2 Preliminary for a network connection

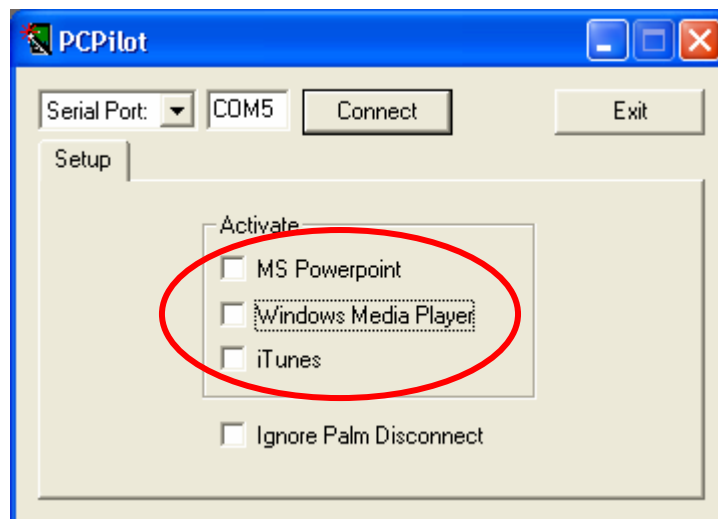
In order to run the PCPilot over a network connection, you have to know your PC's network address. A simple way to find it is to open a command line box in Windows: select "Run..." in the "Start Menu" and enter "cmd" then hit OK. In that box, type "ipconfig":



Your IP address is displayed (100.100.100.2 in the example).

### 5.1.3 Running the program

You may now launch PCPilot, using the shortcut you have created at install time or with a double click on the executable icon:

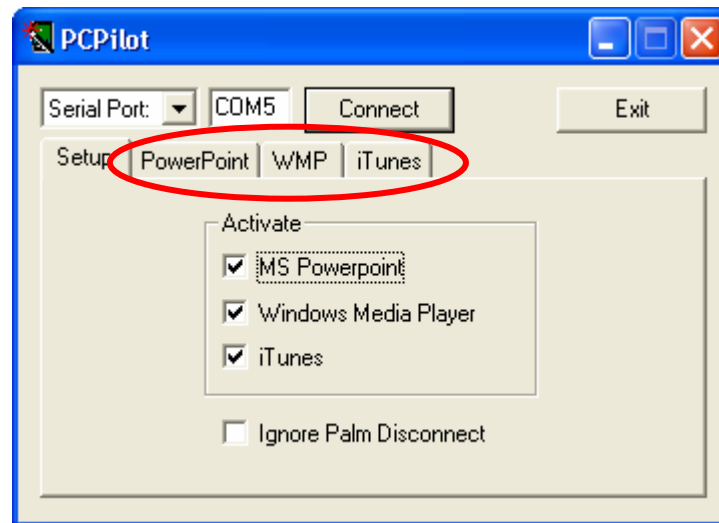


Here you have to select which application(s) you want to control with PilotPC. Of course, the corresponding program (with the right



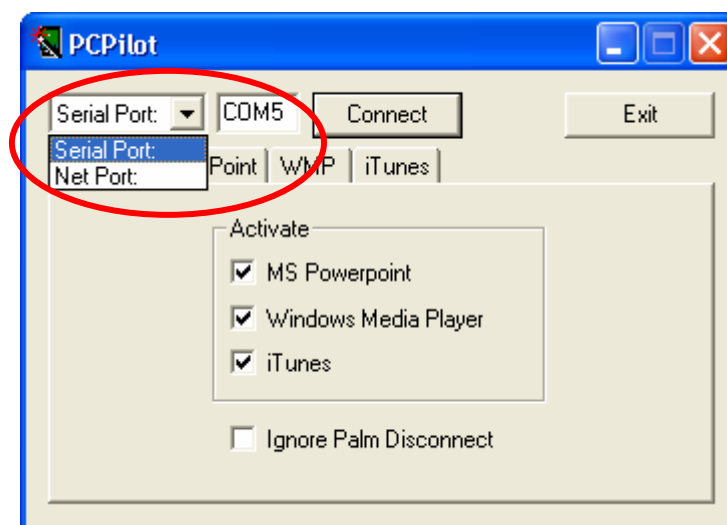


version) must be installed on your PC for anything to work. For each box you check, a new tab will be created:



*You selection will be saved for the next time you run PCPilot but remember the creation of each tab may take a while...*

Now it's time to select your connection mode:



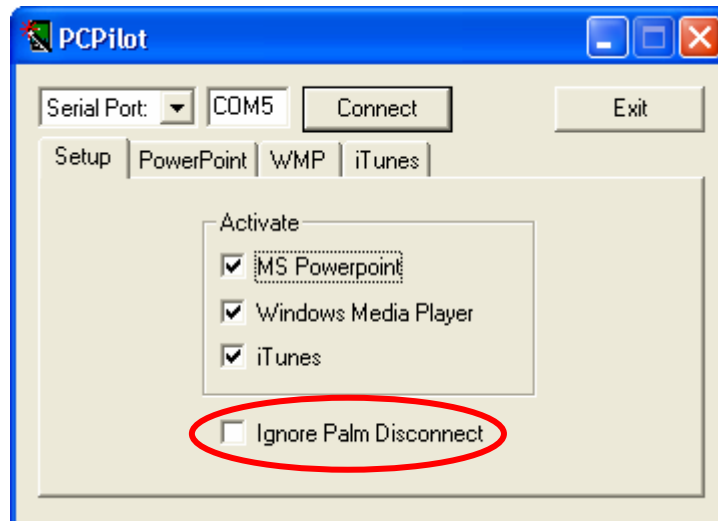
Choose "Serial Port" for a **Bluetooth connection**. In the text field, enter the serial port name you got just before (COM5 in the example).

Choose "Net Port" for a **network connection**. In the text field, you may enter the IP port to use (6363 by default, you should not change it, except if it is already used on your configuration).



*Your selection and entry will be saved and restored each time you run PCPilot.*

The last option on the screen is “Ignore Palm Disconnect”:



By default, when you quit PCPilot on your Palm or when your device is turned off, the PCPilot window is reactivated on your PC and the running application is switched to the background. If you check this box, nothing will happen on the desktop when the connection is lost with the Palm. This is useful if you want to keep WMP or iTunes running full screen even when turning off your Palm.

Click on the **“Connect”** button, a brief waiting message is displayed. When the connection is OK, the “Connect” button is deactivated. If you get an error message:

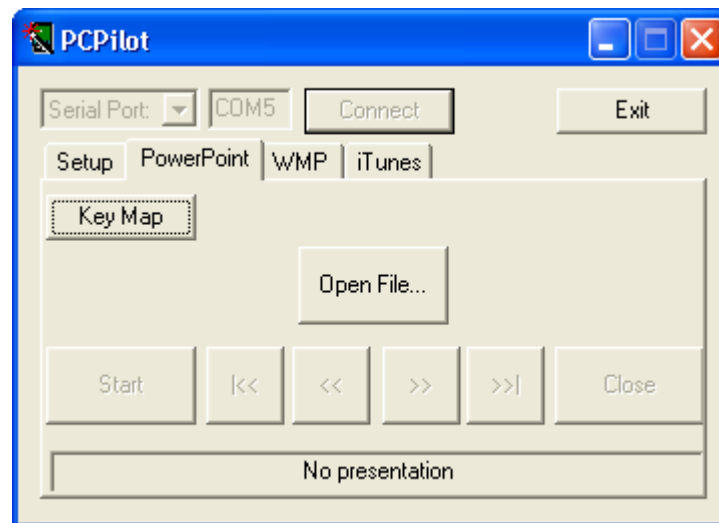
- ✓ Check that you entered the right serial port (Bluetooth connection);
- ✓ Try using another IP port (network connection);
- ✓ Stop any program that may currently use the Bluetooth interface. PCPilot tries to deactivate the Bluetooth interface for the Hotsync program (if it is activated), however you may stop it as well, just to be sure.

You are now ready to configure PCPilot to control one of the programs you have chosen.

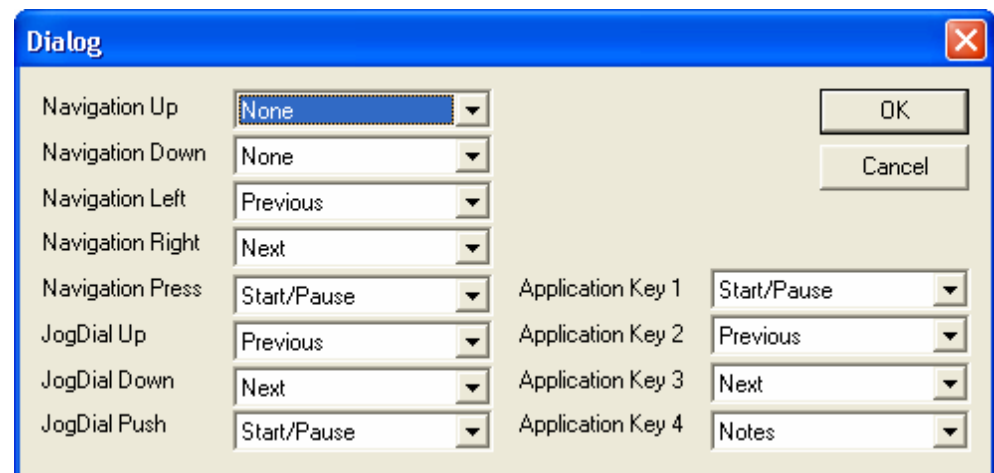


### 5.1.4 Controlling MS Powerpoint

Switch to the “Powerpoint” tab:



The “**Key Map**” button opens a window to configure how the hardware buttons on your Palm will map to the available commands in PCPilot:



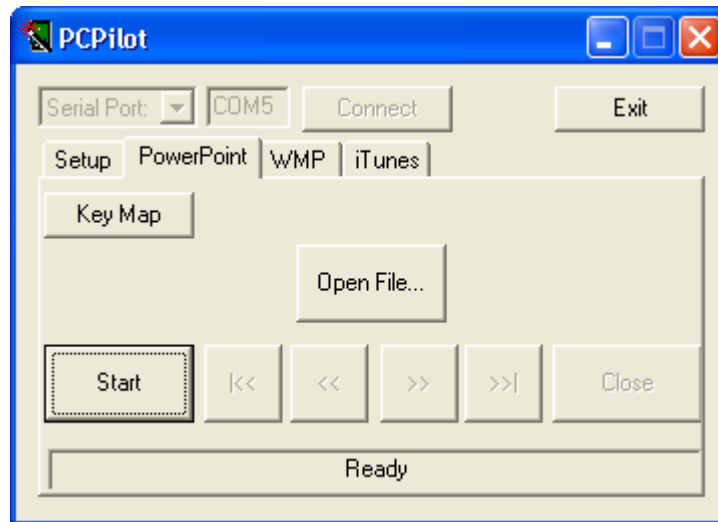
In this dialog, you can select the command to run for each possible hardware button on a Palm. The default configuration should satisfy most users. Click “OK” to save your settings and “Cancel” to return to the program.

Back in the “Powerpoint” tab, hit the “**open**” button: in the standard file dialog, select the PowerPoint presentation you want to run.

**⚡ Attention**

*The program does not check the type of the file you opened: ensure it is a valid PowerPoint file or be prepared for weird behaviors!*

After you have opened a file (it may take a while), the “Start” button is activated and the status message tells you the slideshow is ready to run:

**Powerpoint is now ready to be controlled from your Palm!**

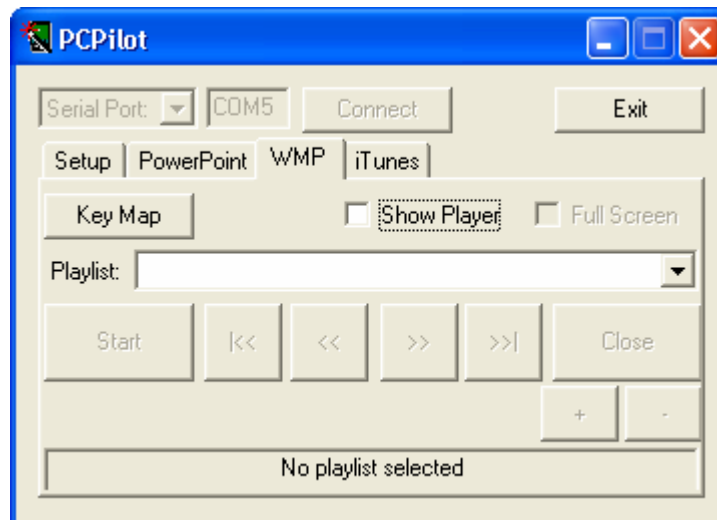
However, if it is the first time you run PCPilot, you should proceed with a little test of your Windows setup by clicking on the “Start” button, which should launch the slideshow. If not, you probably have an incompatible version of PowerPoint...

You can “play” with the command buttons and verify that everything runs fine. The buttons and the information text are the same as on the Palm program, it makes a good opportunity to learn its features.

### 5.1.5 Controlling Windows Media Player or iTunes

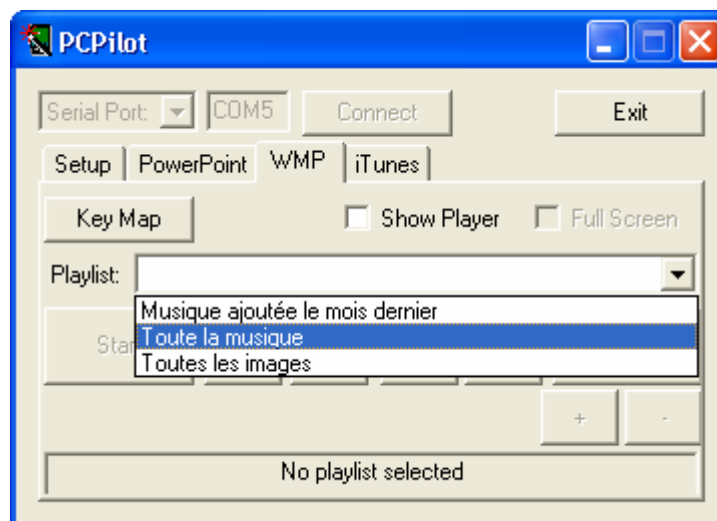
The configuration for Windows Media Player (WMP) or iTunes is almost identical. The differences will be highlighted where necessary.

Switch to the “WMP” tab:



The “**Key Map**” buttons works as on the Powerpoint tab (see above for explanations). The only difference is that you will not find a command to display the speaker notes for the media player.

As you'll guess from the status message, the first thing you have to do here is to **select a playlist** (*iTunes always remembers your last playlist, you are not required to make a selection*):

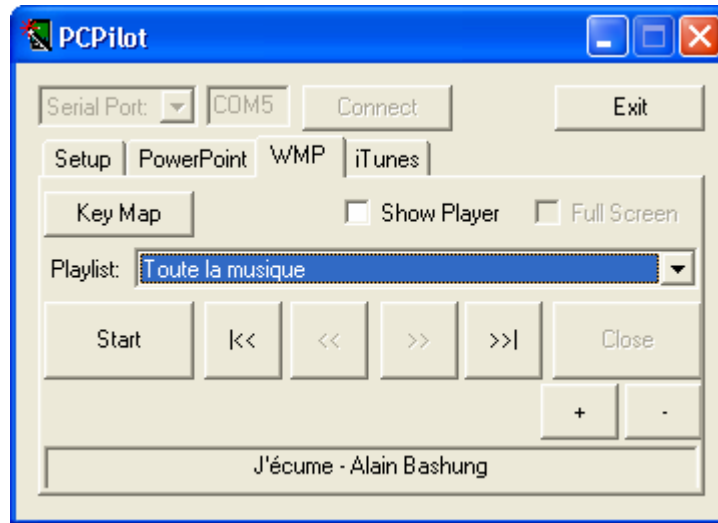


The list does not show empty playlists and it is automatically refreshed in case of a change (for example if you insert a CD) while PCPilot is running.

Once you have selected a playlist, the control buttons are activated (according to the current status of the player) and the status message shows the next track (*iTunes does not default to the first*



*track of a playlist before beginning to play, the message will therefore remain empty):*



As with the “Powerpoint” tab, you can play around with the controls to test your setup (the “+” & “-” buttons control the sound volume).

### **WMP (or iTunes) is now ready to be controlled from your Palm!**

The “Show Player” and “Full Screen” buttons control how the player is displayed when under the control of your Palm.

When the Palm connects to PCPilot on Windows, the PCPilot dialog is minimized. If the “Show Player” box is checked, the media player is displayed on screen as well. If, in addition, the “Full Screen” box is checked, the player is shown full screen.

#### **⚡ Attention**

*However, remember that WMP can run full screen only during playback.*

## **5.2 On your Palm**

To run the Palm program, tap on its icon:



### **5.2.1 Configuration**

The first time you run PCPilot on your Palm, you have to configure the connection to Windows. The setup screen opens automatically:



**Connection**

☐ Allow auto-off

☒ Auto-connect on start-up

**Bluetooth**

No device Connect

**Network**

Host: .....  
Port: 6363 ..... Connect

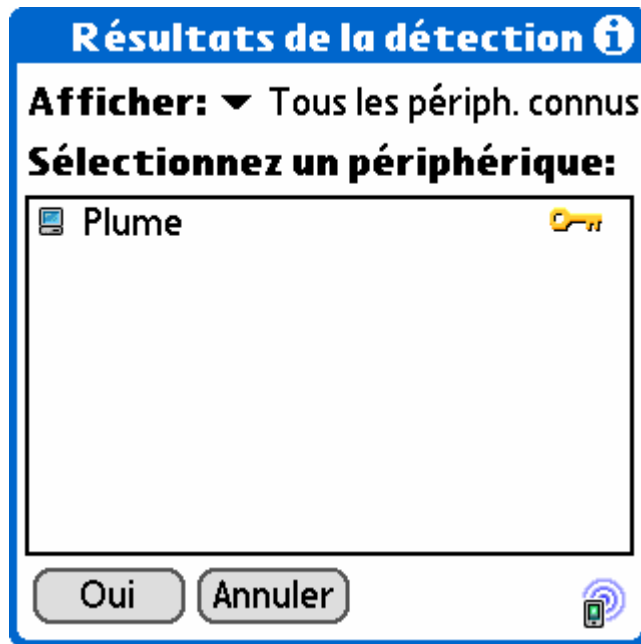
OK Cancel

It offers 2 **general settings**:

- ✓ “Allow auto-off”: if unchecked (which is the default) your device remains on as long as it is connected to the PC, otherwise the Palm goes to sleep after its normal timeout (as defined in the preferences). However the connection will be restored automatically when you turn it on again.
- ✓ “Auto-connect on start-up”: if checked (which is the default) the program will try to connect every time you run start it, otherwise the setup screen will be opened.

The rest of the screen lets you connect to the PC either through a Bluetooth or network interface (you must select the same as on PCPilot for Windows, of course). Only the interfaces available on your device are activated (in the above example, Bluetooth is not present).

For a **Bluetooth connection**, tap on the “device” box (it displays “No device” by default) and select your PC in the available Bluetooth neighbors:



Only PCs are listed in the list (you may have to configure your PC Bluetooth interface for this type) and press the “Yes” button.

⚡ **Attention**

*If necessary, you should first “pair” your Palm with your PC to allow any communication. Check your Bluetooth interface and/or Palm user guide for details.*

Once the PC is selected, press the “Connect” button and wait for the Palm to connect (you will see a progress dialog during this process).

For a **network connection**, simply enter your PC network address (as identified above) or name and the IP port you have entered in PCPilot for Windows. Press “Connect” and wait for the connection to be established.

⚡ **Attention**

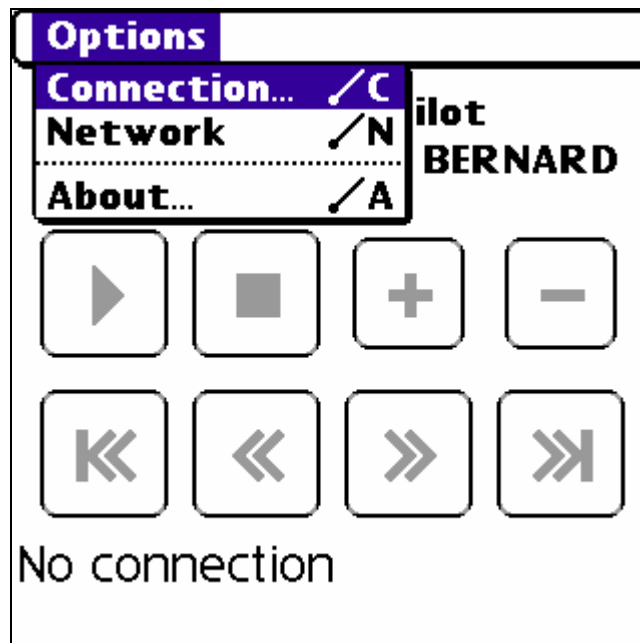
*This configuration requires that your Palm has a network connection available. I WILL provide NO support for any network-related issues.*





All your preferences will be saved for the next times you run PCPilot, including the network address and port or the Bluetooth identification of your PC.

You may change your preferences at any time with the “Connection” entry in the “Options” menu:

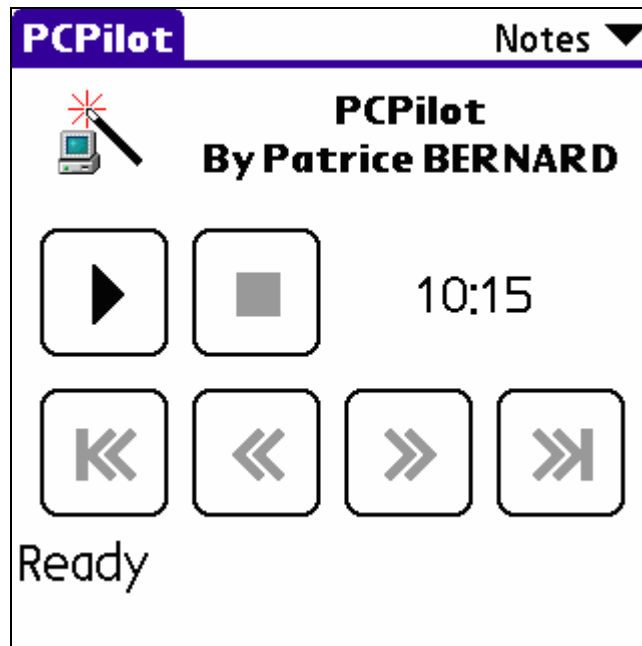


The “Network” entry in the menu gives direct access to the “network” preferences panel of your Palm.

### 5.2.2 Controlling a Windows program from your Palm

Here, we will describe only how to control Powerpoint from your Palm. Controlling WMP or iTunes is essentially the same except for a few differences we will highlight below.

After the connection is established, PCPilot’s main screen is displayed:



As you can see from the message at the bottom of the screen, the slideshow is ready to run (and the “Start” button is activated).

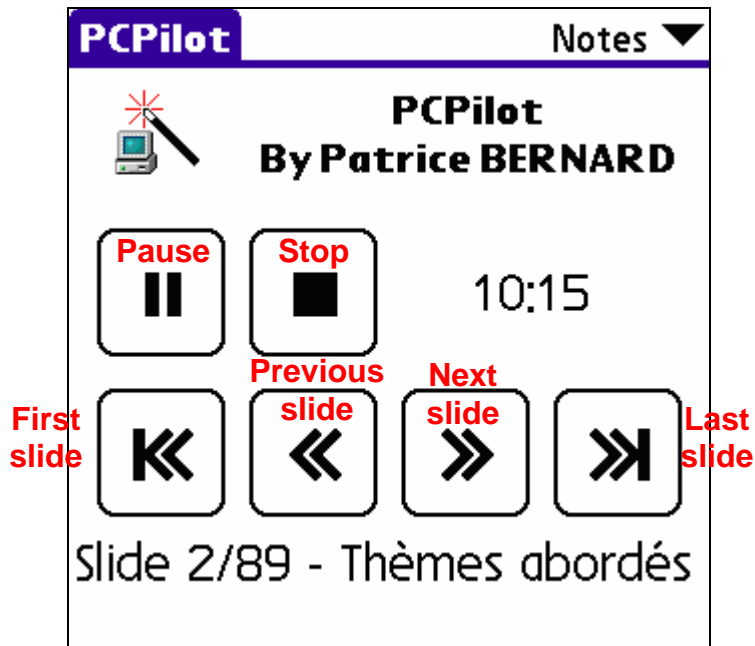
The current time is displayed on the screen (“10:15” in the above screenshot) to help you control your presentation timing.

**⚡ Attention**

*If no connection has been established with the PC or with a running program (Powerpoint, WMP or iTunes) on the PC, the message will say “No connection”.*

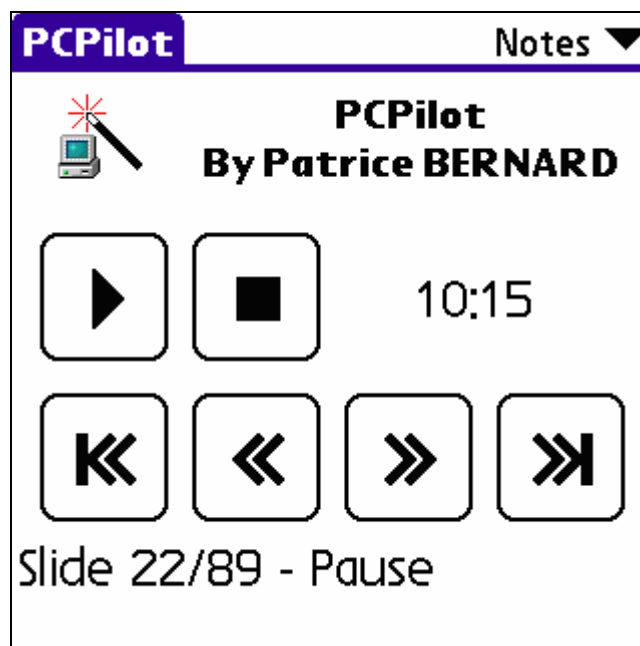
*Other messages may tell you that no slideshow is opened (for Powerpoint) or that you did not select a playlist (for WMP).*

When the connection is established and a slideshow is ready, press the “Start” button and use the other command buttons (or use the hardware keys you have configured in PCPilot for Windows) to run the slideshow:



The status message displays the slide number and its title (if available). It is automatically scrolled if too long to fit the space for the status message.

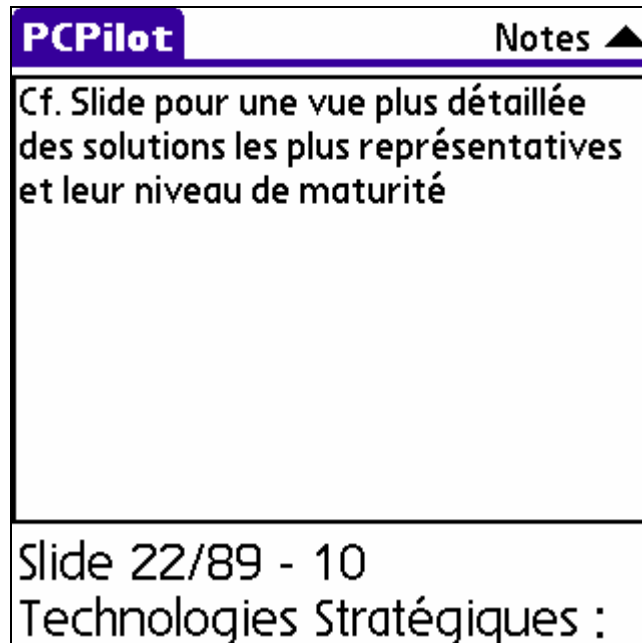
If you press the “Pause” button, the screen on your PC is erased (black) and the button turns to a “Restart” button (also notice the status message):



The buttons are “contextual”. For example, when you reach the end of the slideshow, the “Next” and “Last” buttons are deactivated.

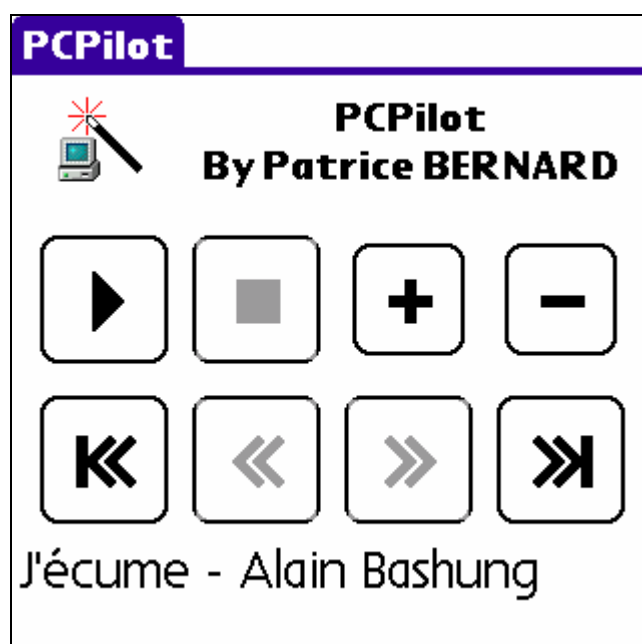


Use the “Notes” control (or the hard key you have configured on the PC) to display the speaker notes instead of the controls (the hard keys remain active when in this mode):



If the text for the notes is too long for one screen, you may scroll it with the “up” and “down” keys of your Palm (it is not advised to map these keys in Powerpoint mode).

In “media player” mode, the screen is slightly different:





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The current track title and author are displayed in the status message, there is no “notes” control and two buttons (labeled “+” and “-“ let you control the sound volume).



## 6 History

Version	Date	Changes
1.0.0	01/01/2007	Initial release
1.0.1	09/22/2007	Display time on slideshow Option to ignore disconnect

## 7 Known issues

We have had reports of a complete hangup on the PC when using some BlueSoleil Bluetooth drivers. No solution has been found yet.

## 8 Support

I provide limited support for PCPilot.

If you experience any problem running the program, first check this user guide and ensure you follow the instructions.

If that does not solve your issue or if you simply want to send me a word of thanks, you can send me a message at [metro@nanika.net](mailto:metro@nanika.net).

For any bug report, please include the following information:

- ✓ The hardware you are using (PC, Palm device);
- ✓ The operating system you run on your PC (Windows version) and on your Palm;
- ✓ The PCPilot version you use (use the “Information” option in the Palm launcher menu to get the version number);
- ✓ A complete description of the steps leading to the problem.