

Software For Palms & Pocket PCs

A Few Must-Have Mobile Apps

PhatWare CalliGrapher 8.1

Better Handwriting Recognition

\$39.95 • PhatWare
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Many Windows Mobile users appreciate the Transcriber function that translates their handwriting into text. Unfortunately, this functionality is prone to errors if you don't write clearly. If you're writing is unrecognizable by the Transcriber because it looks more like a child's scribbles than legible text, a more powerful handwriting recognition program may be just what you need. One such package is PhatWare's CalliGrapher 8.1 (\$39.95; www.phatware.com).

CalliGrapher can recognize a variety of handwriting styles, including cursive, print, or mixed. In addition, CalliGrapher offers a spell checker for all applications and a PenCommander utility that lets you create and run commands by writing

the word and drawing a circle around it. For example, you can append your signature to a letter by writing **sign** and drawing a circle around it. Another feature of CalliGrapher is that it will automatically calculate the answer to a written equation that ends with an equal sign.

CalliGrapher incorporates the ability to disable some "styles" of letters as a method for improving the recognition quality. In addition, the CSA (CalliGrapher Statistical Analyzer) improves handwriting recognition quality the more you use it. It does this by learning your writing style and then making appropriate adjustments.

The CSA automatically runs in the background whenever you use CalliGrapher. To further improve recognition accuracy, you may want to

disable a few of the "styles" associated with particular letters using the Letter Shapes Editor. This tool is located within the toolbar of the Write Anywhere and Write Pad toolbars. Tap each letter to see an animated writing pattern and select the frequency with which you use that variation: Often, Rarely, or Never.

Anyone with particularly messy handwriting is more likely to have an appreciation for CalliGrapher than are users who are already perfectly happy with the Windows Transcriber functionality. That said, some of the additional features of CalliGrapher are quite handy even for those with perfectly legible writing.

