

**TechnoFeature™**

Practice management and technology articles written by experts.

## Top 12 Treo Programs for Lawyers on the Go

By Bryan M. Sims

### INTRODUCTION

Of all the tools and gadgets I have owned, my Treo 650 ranks as one of my favorites. By making use of some readily available Palm programs, I have also made my Treo into one of my most useful tools. Some of these programs I have used for years with different Palm devices, others I have used for only a few months. Regardless of length of use, each of the below programs has made it to my list of top 12 Treo programs.

### 1. BACKUPBUDDY

Palm's HotSync software works fine to synchronize your contacts, calendar, etc. However, it does not back up all of the applications and information on your Treo. [Backup Buddy by Blue Nomad](#) (\$19.95) backs up ALL of the information on your Treo. I purchased this program immediately after I dropped and broke my first Palm device and had to reinstall all of my programs and replace some lost data. Since that time, this program has saved my bacon on several occasions.

### 2. POCKET TUNES

I have yet to find a great MP3 player for my Treo. [Pocket Tunes from NormSoft](#) (\$19.95), while not perfect, has the fewest drawbacks of any that I have used. It seems that commercial radio is about 50% commercials. I had grown increasingly frustrated over this fact until I finally completely abandoned commercial radio and now I listen to podcasts while driving. Sure, I could have bought an iPod to do that, but why have a converged device if I have to carry a separate MP3 player? My Treo, in combination with Pocket Tunes, works just fine for me as an MP3 player and I don't know what I would do if I had to go back to listening to commercial radio.

### 3. CARD EXPORT

I found this program just a few months ago and I don't know how I survived without it. [Card Export by Softick](#) (\$14.95) shows the SD card in my Treo as a disk drive to my computer. This means that I can easily add files to the SD card in my Treo without having to sync or needing a card reader. As a great bonus, I can use my Treo as an SD card reader. This means that when I travel I can use my Treo to download pictures from my digital camera's SD card.

---

By making use of some readily available Palm programs, I have made my Treo into one of my most useful tools.

---

### 4. EREADER

For several years I have read books on my Palm device. [eReader from Palm Digital Media](#) is simple, easy to use — plus, it's free. I can't ask for more than that. I love eReader because it enables me to keep several different books with me at all times. This is particularly useful for those situations when you are sitting around waiting for something to happen. If you have ever considered reading books on your Treo, I encourage you to try it and to try it using eReader.

### 5. GOOGLE MAPS

Google's latest offering in its attempt to achieve world domination is the [Palm version of Google Maps](#). This free application enables you to easily retrieve Google Maps on your Treo. As is typical for a Google product, it is simple, elegant, and

*(Continued on next page)*

does what it is supposed to. This is a great way for those of us without a GPS to check for directions or locations when on the road (but not while driving, of course).

## 6. DOCUMENTS TO GO

The combination of my email fax program (which sends me my faxes in PDF format) and [Documents to Go from DataViz](#) (\$29.99 to \$89.99) enables me to review faxes no matter where I am. It also gives me the ability to edit Word, Excel, and PowerPoint files. This means that when I am traveling I can review documents and faxes without having to take my laptop with me. I certainly would not want to write a brief on my Treo or review a huge document on it. However, it works great for a quick check of a document.

## 7. ROADSYNC

I use [RoadSync by DataViz](#) (\$49.99) as my email program. It has a variety of different settings that enable me to control how and when my mail is retrieved. Changing the settings is easily done on the fly. Additionally, unlike other programs, RoadSync neither messes with my calendar nor causes my Treo to crash. I have tried a few different email programs and this one works best for me.

---

Documents to Go enables me to review faxes no matter where I am.... without having to take my laptop with me.

---

## 8. RINGO PRO

I will be the first to admit that I do not get much productivity out of [Ringo Pro from Electric Pocket](#) (\$29.95). However, I love the fact that I can use any MP3 on my SD card as a ringtone. It works simply and easily. I can also easily set different ringtones for different people, different phone numbers, or different groups of people. I also love the looks that I get when my phone suddenly starts playing a song.

## 9. SPLASHID

I have way too many account numbers, reward card numbers, frequent flyer numbers, passwords, Web login names, etc. to remember. [SplashID by Splash-Data](#) (\$29.95) gives you a place to put all of that information in an easily retrievable, secure form. The program enables you to create different categories of information to help sort and find information. I have categories such as efilling logins, bar association memberships, hotel membership, overnight delivery account numbers, Web logins, etc. By using categories I can easily find the information I need and I do not have to worry about forgetting it. Best of all, I can enter the information on my computer and then sync it to my Treo. This application is absolutely invaluable to me. I cannot imagine how I survived without it.

## 10. SPLASHPHOTO

I hate carrying a large wallet around. As a father, however, I am expected to carry photos of my children with me at all times. [SplashPhoto by SplashData](#) (\$29.95) enables me to do this. It easily imports photos, and reduces them for display on the Treo screen. The program stores the photos on my SD card, thus enabling me to carry around as many photos as I want. I can also easily change or update the photos. As an added bonus, Splash-Photo displays these photos when my Treo is in its charger. Therefore, I have a digital picture frame in addition to a device full of photos.

## 11. VOLUMECARE PRO

I have always thought that the maximum volume on the Treo was too low. [VolumeCare Pro from GoTreo Software](#) (\$19.95) gives you the power to increase the maximum volume for the handset, wired headsets, and the speakerphone. It also enables you to increase the volume pickup for your microphone. The only drawback to this program is that it does not work with Bluetooth headsets. A great feature of VolumeCare is that you can customize your settings so that different programs have different default sound levels.

*(Continued on next page)*

## 12. WORLD CLOCK

World Clock from Palm comes installed on your Treo (or at least it did on mine). However, most people do not make use of it. The program not only displays the various times around the world, but it also works as an alarm clock. I use this regularly as my alarm clock. This is very convenient for traveling. One piece of advice, however, is to make sure that you do not have your Treo set on vibrate when you are planning on having it work as an alarm clock.

## CONCLUSION

If you have a Treo or other Palm device and don't use one of the above programs or a similar program that performs the same function, you are not getting the full power out of your Treo. You've made the investment in your Treo — leverage it to make it the most useful, productive tool that you can. What's on your Treo?

Copyright 2007 Bryan M. Sims. All rights reserved.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bryan Sims is a Partner at Thompson, Rosenthal & Watts, LLP, where he concentrates his practice in the areas of commercial litigation and civil appeals. Before entering private practice, Bryan worked as a law clerk for Illinois Supreme Court Justice S. Louis Rathje. Bryan is a Cum Laude graduate of Wheeling Jesuit University and a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Bryan has spoken on legal technology issues for both the Illinois State Bar Association and the Chicago Bar Association. He was named the 2005 TechnoLawyer of the year. Bryan's blog can be found at [www.theconnectedlawyer.com](http://www.theconnectedlawyer.com).

Contact Bryan:

E: [bsims@trwlawyers.com](mailto:bsims@trwlawyers.com)

### About TechnoFeature

Published on Tuesdays, *TechnoFeature* is a weekly newsletter containing in-depth articles written by leading legal technology and practice management experts, many of whom have become "household names" in the legal profession. Most of these articles are TechnoLawyer exclusives, but we also scour regional legal publications for superb articles that you probably missed the first time around.