

CE.NET vs Pocket PC

Pocket PC:

Pocket PC platforms are developed using Windows CE 3.0.

Unlike CE.NET this software platform was designed for **Consumer PDAs with a specific hardware configuration**. The Pocket PC platform includes standardized interface, applications, and hardware to ensure software compatibility.

In other words, all PDAs' that carry the Microsoft Pocket PC logo must work with all associated hardware, and software in exactly the same manner.

In addition Microsoft licenses all PDAs.

CE.NET:

Windows CE .NET is a **customizable, real-time embedded operating system** that delivers a high degree of flexibility along with rich configuration and application options for a broad range of embedded devices.

OEMs use Windows CE.NET to design platforms and customize applications to maximize the user's experience with the OEMs product.

WindowsCE.net is the most robust system used in network technology today, and offers a stable open programming architecture for very rapid development times and scaleable compatibility. Because WindowsCE.net is designed for enterprise applications, mobile device can be securely and efficiently supported and managed from remote locations, just as a wired network is managed.

CE confusion:

There is often a bit of confusion in the Windows embedded world about the difference between the following platforms -

- Pocket PC
- Pocket PC 2002
- Windows CE 3.0
- Windows CE.NET.

Windows CE is the core Operating System. It has gone through several versions since inception, but the versions that ADS has built for products are 2.11, 2.12, 3.0, 4.0 and 4.1.

CE.NET: Starting with version 4.0, Microsoft began calling it CE.NET, so both version 4.0 and 4.1 are considered to be CE.NET.

The confusion lies in the concept of a *Platform*. A platform is simply a custom implementation of Windows CE based on an adaptation kit from Microsoft. It is typically provided only to large-scale hardware manufacturers like HP, Compaq, Sony and the like. The Pocket PC, for example, must be purchased directly from Microsoft and has large volume and time commitments to get consideration (usually more than 25,000 devices per year for at least 3 years).

Corporate Headquarters
PO Box 1209
Mt. Gilead, NC 27306



International Sales Office
2500 Port Malabar Blvd.
Palm Bay, FL 32905

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What is Compact Framework:

The .NET Compact Framework is a subset of the .NET Framework that is designed to run on resource-constrained devices, providing support for managed code and XML Web services. The .NET Compact Framework greatly reduces the development cost of writing applications and services that run on handheld devices. Because the .NET Compact Framework is a subset of the .NET Framework, developers already using it to write desktop and server applications have all the necessary skills to write applications for handheld terminals.

Key benefit of using .NET Compact Framework:

One of the biggest barriers to writing device applications today is that most devices require developers to learn different APIs and use different programming tools than they would use for desktop applications. Because the .NET Compact Framework uses the same .NET Framework programming model and the same Visual Studio .NET development tools that developers are already using on desktops and servers, it greatly reduces the cost of developing device applications and increases developer productivity. These gains, in turn, enable companies to use smart devices in new ways that enhance their business. The .NET Compact Framework is also the only mobile development platform with native support for XML (Extensible Markup Language) Web services.

CE.NET Bullets:

- Not licensed by Microsoft, and is open to all developers.
- Through the use of XML and Web services, complete control of the application and terminals can be managed over a WWAN by IT staff. This is a valuable feature for fleet terminals data that must be changed, uploaded, or downloaded daily.
- XML and Web services as part of the .NET Framework allow developers to create smart client software. With this and Microsoft's comprehensive set of technologies for Web services, data can be moved between the corporate and field systems even if they are built on different platforms.
- Using Microsoft's Windows Server 2003 and the .NET Framework, the highest levels of Web based security can be maintained.
- A feature of .NET allows configuration for seamless roaming between an 802.11 network and a WAN. (Note: This could be accomplished in MAT 204 with a 802.11b PCMCIA card internal, and a CDMA flash card in the external slot.)
- Bluetooth is now supported by CE.NET, for use with cell phones, printers, and Bluetooth enabled LAN access points.
- Voice over IP between any two IP enabled devices.
- CE.NET employs Internet Explorer 5.5, latest Microsoft browser

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