Customizing and Personalizing Your Treo

Smartphones and handheld computers are unique among electronic devices, in that you typically carry them with you everywhere you go. Similar to a wallet or purse, the contents of a smartphone are different for every person. You'll probably want to personalize your Treo so that it reflects your own personal style and image. Or maybe you just want to personalize it to include your owner information in case it's lost and you want to make sure it can be returned to you. If style isn't a good enough reason for you to tweak settings on your Treo, maybe a more utilitarian approach will interest you—you can customize many features on your Treo to satisfy the way you work and use the device. This chapter shows you how to do all these things.

Make the Most of Keyguard

The debate continues to rage on about the benefits of flip phones versus nonflip phones, which leave the keys exposed. Flip phones have the enormous benefit of protecting keys from accidental key presses. Of course, the drawback is that you have to flip open the phone every time you want to use it. The problem is that often you'd like to quickly look at the screen without having to flip open the phone. I won't claim to have an answer to the flip versus nonflip debate, but Palm clearly took a side when it designed the Treo family of devices as nonflip devices.

Because Treo devices are nonflip, you have to consider protecting the keys from accidental key presses. Fortunately, the Treo includes a standard feature for solving this problem. I'm referring to Keyguard, which is a feature that locks out the keyboard whenever you turn off your device. Keyguard locks out not only the keys, but also the touchscreen. When Keyguard is turned on, only a certain key sequence unlocks the keyboard and touchscreen. More specifically, you have to
press the Power/End button followed by the Center button to power on the device and unlock the keyboard and touchscreen.

Most Treo devices are configured at the factory to automatically turn on Keyguard when you power off your device or when it powers itself off after a period of sitting idle. This Auto-Keyguard feature is worth checking in case it isn’t turned on for your device or you want to alter the way it works. To fine-tune the Auto-Keyguard feature, follow these steps:

1. Press the Application button to open the main application screen.
2. Press the P key to jump near the Prefs application, and then navigate with the five-way navigator to select the Prefs application.
3. Press the Center button to launch the Prefs application. The Preferences screen appears and displays several options for tweaking device settings.
4. Navigate to Keyguard on the Preferences screen under the General heading, and press the Center button to open the Keyguard Preferences screen, shown in Figure 3.1.
5. To activate the Auto-Keyguard feature, set the Auto-Keyguard option to something other than Disabled. The remaining options allow you to fine-tune locking the keyboard when you power off the device. If you want to avoid an automatic key lock when your device sits idle for a few seconds and automatically powers off, select 5 Seconds After Power Off or 30 Seconds After Power Off. Otherwise, set the option to When Power Is Turned Off.

You might have noticed a related setting in the Keyguard Preferences screen for controlling how and when the touchscreen is disabled. For example, you can set the touchscreen so that it’s automatically disabled when a phone call comes in or when you’re on a call. The idea behind these settings is to prevent you from accidentally answering a call by touching the screen and to prevent your face from accidentally being interpreted as a stylus tap if it brushes against the touchscreen during a call. Both settings can be useful if you find yourself accidentally hitting the touchscreen when managing phone calls. On the other
hand, disabling the touchscreen while on a call prevents you from accessing onscreen buttons via the stylus, which can be a bit limiting if you like using the stylus.

**Figure 3.1**

The Keyguard Preferences screen includes an option for setting the Auto-Keyguard feature.

If you enable Keyguard and you elect to lock the touchscreen when an incoming call arrives, the Phone/Send and Power/End buttons are still activated on an incoming call. In other words, Keyguard doesn't lock out the two phone buttons, which makes sense, given that you wouldn't want to have to unlock the keyboard to answer or ignore an incoming call.

If you'd like even more control over disabling keys on your Treo, you might consider using the third-party application TreoGuard, by geakware software. This application enables you to customize key locking, including the volume keys, which you might find handy. TreoGuard has other useful features, such as allowing you to automatically turn the wireless radio on and off at certain times of the day to conserve battery power. To learn more about TreoGuard, visit the geakware website at http://www.geakware.com/treoguard/.

**Secure Your Treo with a Password**

Although the word “lock” was used quite a bit in the preceding section on the Treo keyboard, you don't lock the keyboard or touchscreen for security purposes. However, there is a way to lock your device for security purposes, and you should strongly consider taking advantage of this feature. I'm referring to a device password, which can be
Chapter 3

Customizing and Personalizing Your Treo

In addition to the keyboard/touchscreen lock and the password lock, your Treo recognizes one other type of lock. I'm referring to the phone lock, which allows you to lock out access to the wireless radio on your device. Chapter 7, “Using Your Treo as a Mobile Phone,” explains exactly how to lock the phone part of your Treo.

used to prevent access to your device. The idea is that you create a password for your device and then lock the device; no one can use your device without entering the password.

Your Treo takes the password notion a bit further than most mobile devices by also allowing you to flag certain pieces of data as private, in which case the device password is required to view or edit the data. This is a useful way to separate the general security of device access from the specific security of data access. You can configure the security settings to completely hide private data until the password is entered or to just mask the data. The difference in these settings is subtle but important because private data doesn’t even appear to exist until you enter the password.

Regardless of how far you want to take the private data security issue, I encourage you to at least experiment with using a password to secure your device against unwanted access. Here are the steps you need to follow to establish a device password:

1. Press the Application button to open the main application screen.
2. Press the S key to jump near the Security application, and then navigate with the five-way navigator to select the Security application.
3. Press the Center button to launch the Security application. The Security screen appears (see Figure 3.2) and displays a password option, an Auto Lock option, and a setting for determining how private records are displayed.

![Security Screen](image)

**Figure 3.2**

The Security screen includes options for establishing a device password and locking the device.
4. Tap the **Password** box to create a password for your device. The Password screen appears, prompting you to enter a password and a hint for remembering the password (see Figure 3.3).

![Password screen](image)

**Figure 3.3**

The Password screen prompts you to enter a password and a hint to help you remember the password later.

5. Enter the password and hint, and then tap the **OK** button. A password verification screen appears and prompts you to enter the password again. Enter the password again and tap **OK** to finalize the password setting.

The password is now set, but it won't actually go into effect until you lock your device. In other words, your device must be locked explicitly to take advantage of password protection, unless you want to use the Auto Lock feature. Auto Lock enables you to set your device so that it locks itself automatically under certain circumstances, such as when the device is powered off, at a predetermined time, or after a predetermined amount of idle time. To set the Auto Lock feature for your Treo, follow these steps in the Security screen:

1. Tap the **Auto Lock Device** box to access the Auto Lock settings. Before you are shown the settings, you must enter the password for the device (see Figure 3.4). Tap the **OK** button after entering the password.
You must enter the device password before accessing Auto Lock settings.

2. After successfully entering the device password, the Lock Device screen appears with several options for the Auto Lock feature (see Figure 3.5). The different Auto Lock settings have to do with how and when you want your device to lock and require a password for re-entry. The default value of Never results in the device never auto-locking, and the On Power Off setting results in the device being locked every time it’s turned off or powered off when idle. The next two options allow you to auto-lock your device based on time—either an exact time of day or an elapsed amount of time that the device sits idle. Any of these settings can work for you, but I find the After a Preset Delay setting to be my favorite; I set the delay to 30 minutes, as shown in Figure 3.5. After selecting your setting for the Auto Lock feature, tap the OK button to accept the change.

3. Back in the Security screen, if you’d like to test the device lock, tap the Lock & Turn Off button. A screen appears prompting you to confirm that you want to lock and turn off your device. Tap the Off & Lock button to proceed to lock your device and turn it off.

4. Now turn your device back on by pressing the Power/End button followed by the Center button if the keyboard is locked. You then see the System Lockout screen, which prompts you for the device password before allowing you into the device (see Figure 3.6). Enter the password and tap the OK button to access your Treo.

Tip: I find that having to enter a password every time I turn my device on is a bit of overkill, yet I don’t like having to remember to lock it. So I recommend setting the Auto Lock feature to activate after a certain amount of idle time or based on a certain time of day when you’re typically finished using the device, such as 8:00 p.m. Keep in mind that the idle approach is generally safer than the time-of-day approach because your device will likely stay unlocked until the specific time of day rolls around.
FIGURE 3.5

The Lock Device screen offers several approaches for auto-locking your device.

FIGURE 3.6

The System Lockout screen prevents device access unless you enter the device password.

Now that you've learned most of what the Security screen has to offer, I might as well tidy things up and finish telling you about the only remaining option. This option, called Current Privacy, enables you to specify how private data is displayed on your device. This private data, also known as private records, can be anything you want—you can flag any record on your device as being private. In doing so, you're saying that you want access to the data to be limited and require the device password to be entered to view or edit the data.
The Current Privacy option has three possible values: Show Records, Mask Records, or Hide Records. With the Show Records setting, private records can be viewed but can't be edited until the device password is entered. The Mask Records setting results in the records being visible only in the sense that you know they exist; any content associated with the records is masked so that you can't see it. The last setting, Hide Records, results in private records being invisible until you change the security option to one of the other settings.

One interesting note about the Current Privacy option is that it applies to all the data on your device. In other words, you can't selectively mask private data for one application and hide private data for another. All data marked as private falls under the single setting you apply to the Current Privacy option. You learn more about flagging individual pieces of data as private when you explore individual applications in more detail. For example, in Chapter 5, “Managing Treo Contacts,” you learn how to mark a contact as private.

**Set Owner Information**

Although entering owner information might not seem all that important right now, it's a critical step in personalizing your Treo. If you suffer the unfortunate fate of losing your coveted Treo, the owner information might be all that connects the device to you. Granted, you can always try the trick of calling your own smartphone, but even this might not work if you have set the device so that it automatically locks and prevents access. The simplest and safest way to help improve the odds of recovering a lost Treo is to enter your contact information so that it's displayed prominently when the device is locked. To set the owner information, follow these steps:

1. Press the **Application** button to open the main application screen.
2. Press the **P** key to jump near the Prefs application, and then navigate with the five-way navigator to select the Prefs application.
3. Press the **Center** button to launch the Prefs application. The Preferences screen appears and displays several options for tweaking device settings.
4. Navigate to **Owner** on the Preferences screen under the Personal heading, and press the **Center** button to open the owner preferences. You can use the Owner...
Preferences screen to view and edit the owner information for your device. The owner information is likely empty on your device if you've never set it before.

5. You can enter as much or as little owner information as you'd like, but make sure to enter enough information for someone to be able to get in touch with you if he or she finds your device. Figure 3.7 shows an example of how you might enter owner information for your Treo. When you're finished entering the owner information, tap the Done button to confirm the changes.

6. Make sure to test the owner information and make sure it all fits on the screen when the device is locked. To do so, simply lock your device by opening the Security application and tapping the Lock & Turn Off button. You then have to tap Off & Lock to confirm the device lock. Now power on your device, and you should see the new owner information in the System Lockout screen (see Figure 3.8).

![Figure 3.7](image-url)

Use the Owner Preferences screen to enter owner information that can be used to contact you if your lost Treo is found.

With your owner information nailed down, you're ready to move on and customize the power settings for your Treo so that you can max out each battery charge.
Chapter 3

Tweak the Power Preferences

Your Treo includes a couple of power settings for maximizing each battery charge based on how you use your device. More specifically, if you don’t mind your device turning off after a short period of idle time, a change to the Auto-off feature can help save some battery charge. And if you don’t use the infrared receiver much to receive beamed data, you might consider turning it off as well. You can always turn it on if someone needs to beam you something. Of course, if you beam information back and forth on a regular basis, it’s well worth the small battery drain the infrared receiver incurs.

The power settings for your device are entirely personal, and you may or may not decide to deviate from the default settings. To tweak the power preferences, follow these steps:

1. Press the **Application** button to open the main application screen.
2. Press the **P** key to jump near the Prefs application, and then navigate with the five-way navigator to select the **Prefs** application.
3. Press the **Center** button to launch the Prefs application. The Preferences screen appears and displays several options for tweaking device settings.
4. Navigate to **Power** on the Preferences screen under the General heading, and press the **Center** button to open the power preferences. The Power Preferences screen provides access to a couple of power options for your device, as shown in Figure 3.9.

---

**Figure 3.8**

*The new owner information is displayed in the System Lockout screen so that someone who finds your lost device can get in touch with you.*
The Power Preferences screen presents two power settings that you can customize to help reduce the drain on the battery.

5. Because the screen eats up a fair amount of battery life, decreasing the Auto-off time can help reduce the toll on the battery. Options for the Auto-off After setting include 30 Seconds, 1 Minute, 2 Minutes, and 3 Minutes. If you don't find the 30 Seconds option too annoying, it's the optimal setting for maximizing battery life.

6. To turn off the infrared receiver, select Off for the Beam Receive setting. If you decide to make this change, just remember that you'll need to manually turn on the infrared receiver when you want to receive beamed information from someone. However, you can always beam information to someone, regardless of the Beam Receive setting.

7. Tap the Done button to accept the changes to the power preferences.

You might be a little surprised that there aren't more power preferences to set for your device. However, keep in mind that a lot of power management boils down to using your Treo efficiently, as opposed to relying on the device to force you into certain habits. To brush up on some practical ways to take battery life management into your own hands, see “Preserve the Treo Battery” back in Chapter 2, “Performing the Treo Essentials.”
Adjust the Brightness and Screen Settings

Another handy way to prolong the life of your Treo battery is to reduce the screen brightness. Of course, this option isn't always practical. Being able to use your device is certainly more important than trying to preserve its battery. However, if you're in a dimly lit place and can get away with a dimmer setting for the screen, by all means turn down the brightness and save some battery charge. To quickly adjust the screen brightness up or down, follow these steps:

1. Press the Option key followed by the P key. The Adjust Brightness screen appears, as shown in Figure 3.10.

![Figure 3.10](image)

The Adjust Brightness screen displays a slider control for increasing and decreasing the screen brightness.

2. To adjust the screen brightness, just press the Left and Right buttons on the five-way navigator.

3. Tap the Done button to accept the changes to the screen brightness.

The brightness level is not the only customization you can make to the Treo screen. Another important tweak you might want to consider is the default font size, which is changed on an application-by-application basis. More specifically, you can specify the font size for the Calendar, Contacts, Memos, Messaging, and Tasks applications. However, I have to admit that I use the phrase “font size” rather loosely. In reality, you get to choose between only two different sizes.
and whether you want the font displayed in a regular or bold typeface for each size. This results in a total of four font options for each application. As an example, follow these steps to change the font size for the Contacts applications:

1. Press the Application button to open the main application screen.
2. Press the C key to jump near the Contacts application, and then navigate with the five-way navigator to select the Contacts application.
3. Press the Center button to launch the Contacts application.
4. Press the Menu button and scroll over twice to the Options menu. The first menu item, Font, should already be selected, so press the Center button to issue the menu command and open the Select Font screen, shown in Figure 3.11.

![Select Font Screen](image)

**Figure 3.11**

*In the Select Font screen, you can change an application font to one of four different sizes and weights.*

5. Press the Up button to highlight the currently selected font/weight. To select a different font/weight, press the Left or Right button until you reach the desired setting.
6. Tap the OK button to confirm the font change for the application.

Don't forget that font changes apply only to the application in which you made the change. To alter the font setting for other applications, you need to open each individual application and repeat the previous steps.
The last screen customization worth looking into is more decorative than practical, yet it’s still something you’ll want to consider changing. I’m referring to the color theme for your Treo, which is much like the desktop themes that are popular on desktop and notebook computers. The Treo is a much simpler device than a full-size computer, however, and therefore the color theme setting for your device is simple. In fact, Treo themes are responsible only for establishing the colors used on your device, nothing more.

You select a theme by name with no regard for any other details, such as fonts or wallpaper. To change the color theme for your device, follow these steps:

1. Press the Application button to open the main application screen.
2. Press the P key to jump near the Prefs application, and then navigate with the five-way navigator to select the Prefs application.
3. Press the Center button to launch the Prefs application. The Preferences screen appears with several options for tweaking device settings.
4. Navigate to Color Theme on the Preferences screen under the Personal heading, and press the Center button to open the color theme preferences. The Color Theme Preferences screen consists of a long list containing theme names (see Figure 3.12).

![Figure 3.12](image)

You can select a different color theme for your Treo from a large list of predefined themes in the Color Theme Preferences screen.
5. To select a new color theme, press the Up button followed by the Center button to activate the theme list, and then press the Up and Down buttons to move between themes. You can also just tap each theme with the stylus. The cool thing about the color theme list is that you see the change immediately when you select a theme in the list.

6. Tap the Done button to confirm the color theme change for your device.

In case you’re wondering, it is indeed possible to change the wallpaper for your device. However, wallpaper is unique on Treo devices because it applies only to the Phone application.

Select Wallpaper for the Phone

Although you don’t dig deeply into the Phone application until Chapter 7, “Using Your Treo as a Mobile Phone,” changing the phone’s wallpaper is too cool of a personalization to wait until Chapter 7. Keep in mind that wallpaper applies only to the phone, and even then you have to specifically set the phone so that it displays the wallpaper instead of the familiar Dial Pad view. So before changing the wallpaper, follow these steps to change the phone’s view so that it displays the current wallpaper instead of the Dial Pad:

1. Press the Phone/Send button to launch the Phone application.

2. Press the Menu button and scroll over twice to the Options menu. The first menu item, General Preferences, should already be selected, so press the Center button to issue the menu command and open the General Preferences screen.

3. Tap the Show Dial Pad setting and change it to Show Wallpaper. The small preview image next to the setting changes to show the wallpaper (see Figure 3.13).

4. Test the wallpaper by tapping the OK button and returning to the phone. The wallpaper should now appear instead of the Dial Pad. To view the Dial Pad, just start dialing a number by using the number keys on the keyboard.
You use the General Preferences screen in the Phone application to change the phone's view to show wallpaper instead of the Dial Pad.

Changing the phone's view to show wallpaper instead of the Dial Pad is neat, but I'm sure what you really wanted is to change the wallpaper to an image of your own choosing. This change is much easier than you might have thought. In fact, if you have a picture you've taken recently with the Treo's digital camera, I encourage you to try using it as wallpaper. Just follow these steps:

1. In the Phone application, press the Menu button and scroll over twice to the Options menu. The first menu item, General Preferences, should already be selected, so press the Center button to issue the menu command and open the General Preferences screen.

2. Next to the Show Wallpaper setting is a small preview image of the wallpaper. Tap this image to select a new image for the wallpaper from the Select Picture screen, as shown in Figure 3.14.

3. After selecting a wallpaper image, test the wallpaper by tapping the OK button in the General Preferences screen and returning to the phone. The wallpaper now appears instead of the Dial Pad (see Figure 3.15). To view the Dial Pad, just start dialing a number by using the number keys on the keyboard.
Figure 3.14

The Select Picture screen shows all the pictures stored on your device and allows you to select one of them for wallpaper.

Figure 3.15

The new wallpaper now appears on the main phone screen.

The wallpaper for the phone isn't the only image customization you can make for your Treo, but it's certainly the easiest. You can also customize the splash screen that appears when you turn the mobile radio on and off on your device. However, this customization isn't as simple as tapping to select an image. In fact, you have to install new splash screens for the phone as you would install a full-blown application, using the Palm Desktop software. To find out more about how to install custom phone splash screens, visit the Dialer Patches page on the Shadowmite website at http://shadowmite.com/p-f.html.
Customize the Application Buttons

Just above the main keyboard on the Treo you'll find a series of application buttons that give you speedy access to some of the more commonly used standard applications. For example, the Calendar button launches the Calendar application, and the Messaging button launches the Messaging application. You can use the Option key with these buttons to launch additional applications. The “Launch Applications” section in Chapter 2, “Performing the Treo Essentials,” detailed exactly which of these buttons and combinations launch which applications. However, you don't need to flip back to that chapter because you can access this information directly on your device. In fact, you can customize the application buttons to launch any application you want. To do so, follow these steps:

1. Press the Application button to open the main application screen.
2. Press the P key to jump near the Prefs application, and then navigate with the five-way navigator to select the Prefs application.
3. Press the Center button to launch the Prefs application. The Preferences screen opens with several options for tweaking device settings.
4. Navigate to Buttons on the Preferences screen under the Personal heading, and press the Center button to open the application button preferences. The Buttons Preferences screen consist of two columns of settings that show the applications launched by each button as well as the Option key plus the button (see Figure 3.16). In addition to customizing the buttons, you can use this screen to help remember the functions of application buttons.
5. To change an application button setting, just tap the application next to the button and change it to a different application. For example, I use the Contacts application much more than World Clock, so I set the Option + Calendar button combination to launch the Contacts application, as shown in Figure 3.17.
6. Tap the Done button to confirm the application button changes for your device.

You might have noticed a HotSync button in the Buttons Preferences screen in the lower-right corner. What could the HotSync synchronization application have to do with application button customization? The relationship between the HotSync application and the application buttons has to do with the HotSync button on the Treo Multi-connector cable used to connect your device to a desktop computer. The
Multi-connector has a button that acts as an application button for the HotSync application. Typically, you press this button to launch the HotSync application and synchronize your device, but you can change this button to launch any application you choose.

![Figure 3.16]

*The Buttons Preferences screen enables you to customize the applications launched by the buttons.*

![Figure 3.17]

*The World Clock application is changed to the Contacts application for the Option + Calendar button combination.*

I'm not entirely sure why you would want to change the application button on the Multi-connector cable to launch a different application, but the option is there if you choose to use it. To change the application this button launches, tap the HotSync button in the Buttons Preferences screen, and then change the Cable setting to an application of your
After tapping OK to accept the change, you can press the HotSync button on the Multi-connector to launch the application.

Choose, Create, and Download Ring and Alert Tones

One of the first things most people want to tinker with when they get a new phone is the primary ring tone. And unfortunately, most of us have to suffer through this tinker- ing when that person's phone rings in public with a loud and obnoxious ring tone. I'm not a big fan of loud and annoying ring tones, even if they sound neat when you first set them, but that's another issue. By all means, feel free to set your Treo to ring however you want; just try not to forget that often you aren't the only person who has to listen to your phone ring.

Seeing as how Treo devices are much more than phones, the concept of a ring tone is much broader when it comes to your Treo. There are tones that apply to many events other than phone calls. In fact, the Phone, Calendar, and Messaging applications have their own distinct set of tones that can be customized to your liking. As an example, the Phone application supports the following different tones:

- **Known Caller**—An incoming call from someone listed as a contact or favorite
- **Unknown Caller**—An incoming call from someone not listed as a contact or favorite
- **Roaming**—An incoming call when you are roaming outside your home mobile network
- **Voicemail**—An incoming voicemail message arriving
- **Service**—A service warning, such as moving into or out of your home mobile network

As you can see, you can use these specific tones to determine the nature of an incoming call based solely on the ring tone. To customize these tones for the Phone application, follow these steps:

1. Press the **Phone/Send** button to launch the Phone application.
2. Press the **Menu** button and scroll over twice to the **Options** menu. Navigate down to the second menu item, **Sound Preferences**, and press the **Center** button to issue the menu command and view the Sound & Alerts Preferences screen.
3. Make sure **Phone** is selected as the current Application, and then tap the **Tones** box. The different tones supported by the Phone application are displayed, along with the specific settings for each tone (see Figure 3.18).
In the Sound & Alerts Preferences screen, you can access each tone supported by the Phone application.

4. To change one of the tones, tap the pick list to the right of the tone. For example, to change the Known Caller Tone setting from Alarm Flute to Blues 12 Bar, select **Blues 12 Bar** in the pick list (see Figure 3.19). You hear a preview of the ring tone when you select it, which makes it easier to choose a new tone. By the way, if you’d like to record your own custom voice tone, keep the Sound & Alerts Preferences screen open and continue reading!

Changing tones for applications is certainly useful, but using your own custom tones is more interesting. You can create your own voice tones or download musical tones online. You create a custom voice tone by recording it directly into your device’s microphone. So, as an example, you could create a “tone” of your own voice saying “Incoming call!” To create your own custom voice tone, follow these steps:

1. From the Sound & Alerts Preferences screen in the Phone application, tap the **Manage** button in the lower-right corner. The Manage Sound screen appears, as shown in Figure 3.20, and displays a list of the tones available on your device.

2. You can tap any of the tones in the list to listen to them (or navigate through the list with the **Up** and **Down** buttons and press the **Center** button to listen to a tone).

**Figure 3.18**

In the Sound & Alerts Preferences screen, you can access each tone supported by the Phone application.

**NOTE**

You might have noticed the No Sound option in the main tone list. This tone is completely silent, which seems strange until you consider that it can be used to quiet a certain event tone. Although you might find a need for the No Sound tone in the Phone, Calendar, or Messaging applications, it primarily comes into play for silencing the caller ID ring tone of a contact. You might not realize that you can assign unique ring tones to contacts. For example, maybe you have friends who call too much, and you don’t want to be bothered with an audible ring every time they call. Just set their caller ID ring tone to No Sound, and the problem is solved. You learn how to set caller ID ring tones in the “Assign a Caller ID Ring Tone and Picture” section in Chapter 5, “Managing Treo Contacts.”
Changing a ring tone is as easy as selecting the new tone from a pick list.

You can view all the tones on your device and record new tones in the Manage Sound screen.

3. To record a new tone, tap the **New** button. The Recorder screen appears, as shown in Figure 3.21.

4. You can see in the figure that the Recorder screen includes a huge Record button (red dot). Tap the button to begin recording a new sound. When you're finished, quickly tap the button again.
The Recorder screen allows you to record a digital sound that can be used as a device tone.

5. After you record a sound, the Recorder screen changes to the Playback screen. You then have a chance to play the sound, re-record the sound, cancel the recording, or accept the recorded sound. If you need to re-record the sound, tap the **Re-record** button and try again. When you're satisfied with the sound, tap the **Done** button to accept it.

6. The last step in creating a new tone (sound) is to give the tone a name, which you do in the Edit Tone screen shown in Figure 3.22. Make sure to enter a name that clearly describes the tone so that you can identify it in the pick list of tones. Tap the **OK** button to finish creating the tone and return to the Manage Sound screen.

Creating a voice tone is fun, but maybe you aren’t terribly excited about listening to yourself every time your phone rings. If so, you might want to consider downloading additional musical tones to beef up the default tones already stored on your device. Fortunately, lots of websites offer MIDI tones for download. Unfortunately, many of those sites are extremely aggressive with pop-up ads and other adware annoyances. So I took the liberty of assembling a small list of MIDI tone websites as resources for finding and downloading new tones. Here goes:

**NOTE**

Voice tones are stored in a different format than normal Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) musical tones. For some reason, Palm limited caller ID ring tones to MIDI tones, so voice tones won’t work as caller ID tones. To learn how to set caller ID ring tones to MIDI tones for specific contacts, please refer to Chapter 5, “Managing Treo Contacts.”

**Tip**

The Edit Tone screen also includes a Delete button used to delete tones. If you need to delete a tone after creating it, select the tone in the Manage Sound screen, and tap the **Details** button to open the Edit Tone screen. Then tap the **Delete** button followed by **Yes** to confirm the deletion.
In addition to downloading MIDI tones from the Web, you can also email MIDI tones, beam them back and forth between other Palm devices, and transmit and receive them wirelessly via Bluetooth.

### NOTE

- **MIDI Database**—http://www.mididb.com/
- **MIDIRingTones**—http://www.midiringtones.com/
- **Mike Oldfield’s Tubular.net Ring Tones**—http://tubular.net/midi/

#### Figure 3.22

*The Edit Tone screen prompts you to specify the name of the newly created tone.*

#### Manage Sound

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tone Type</th>
<th>Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Sound</td>
<td>4.0K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Sound</td>
<td>0.2K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playful</td>
<td>0.5K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ringing Loud</td>
<td>0.2K</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Edit Tone

**Tone Name:**
- Whistling

[OK] [Cancel] [Delete]

#### Tip

Voice and MIDI tones aren’t the only types of sounds you can use as event tones on your Treo. The Treo 650 also supports Wave sounds, which are popular on Windows systems. You can download a Wave file (.wav file extension) from a website or email it to your device and integrate it as a tone. Your Treo automatically recognizes a Wave file as a sound and prompts you to store it in the tones database when you download it.

By all means, feel free to carry on the search for MIDI tones further than this list, but you should be able to find a few useful tones from these sites. As an example, I found a tone for the theme song of the old television show *Quincy*, which is one of my favorites. After you find a tone, you can download it directly onto your device. In other words, you need to use your device to browse to the sites I just mentioned, and then tap the link for a specific MIDI tone to download it to your device. In reality, I recommend using your desktop or notebook PC to first browse the sites and listen to MIDI tones because it’s usually much easier to get around the sites on a larger screen. However, after you isolate a tone, follow these steps to download it to your device:

1. Press the **Option** key followed by the **Phone/Send** button to launch the Blazer Web browser. If you’ve changed the Option + Phone/Send application button combination, you can also navigate to the Blazer Web application on the application screen and launch it.
2. Tap the address bar on the Blazer Web browser, and enter the address of the MIDI website containing a tone you’d like to download. Tap the Go button to open the site.

3. If necessary, navigate to the page on the site that contains the MIDI tone you want to download. Tap the link for the MIDI tone to begin downloading it. Figure 3.23 shows the Quincy.mid link highlighted as I begin downloading the file. Your device might display a warning prompt to make sure you want to download the file—tap Yes or OK to confirm that you want to proceed.

4. The Download screen prompts you to clarify where you want the file to be stored (see Figure 3.24). Make sure the Save To setting is set to Sounds, and tap the Yes button to continue.

5. Next, you are prompted for what you want to do after the download finishes—you can save the file or save and open the file. Go ahead and select Save and Open so that you can make sure the file is what you wanted (see Figure 3.25).

6. Before the new MIDI tone is actually stored to your device, you must give it a name. The Confirm Name screen prompts you to enter a name for the tone (see Figure 3.26). The tone may or may not have a meaningful name by default, so make sure to name it appropriately so that you can quickly identify it in the main tone list.

**Figure 3.23**

*The first step in downloading a MIDI tone to your device is to follow the link to the MIDI file on a website.*

Tip

If you have trouble finding the equals sign (=) when entering the TreoBits Ring Tone Web address, it’s located as an alternate character for the pound symbol (#). So press Option+B to insert the pound symbol, and then press the Alt key to access a pick list containing the equals sign.
Customizing and Personalizing Your Treo

Figure 3.24
The Download screen prompts you to specify where to store the MIDI file on your device.

Figure 3.25
After downloading a MIDI file, you can specify that you’d like to both save and open the file.

7. The tone is downloaded, which should take only a few seconds because most MIDI files are relatively small. The MIDI tone download process ends with the Manage Sound screen, which shows the new tone as part of the main tone list. From here, you can tap the tone to listen to it, or tap Details to change its name or delete it. Tap the Done button to exit the Manage Sound screen. Keep in mind that you need to return to the sound preferences for each application you’d like to associate the tone with.

As I mentioned earlier, the Calendar and Messaging applications also support custom tones for events related to those specific applications. Chapters 6, “Getting Productive
with the Calendar, Tasks, and Memos,” and 9, “Communicating with Text and Multimedia Messages,” explore these applications in more detail, including the application events with which you can associate tones.

**Figure 3.26**

Naming a downloaded MIDI tone is the last step in making the tone ready for use on your device.

**Take Control of Your Treo’s Volume**

You’ve probably already figured out that the Volume button on the left of your Treo provides a quick way to adjust the device volume. If you haven’t used this button yet, try pressing the top and bottom of it to adjust the device volume up and down, as shown in Figure 3.27. Press the Side button just below the Volume button to accept the volume change.

Although the Volume button provides a relatively fine degree of control over your device’s volume, another hardware control affects the volume more dramatically. I’m referring to the ringer switch located on the top of the device just to the right of the infrared port. The ringer switch acts as a mute button, allowing you to completely turn the device’s speaker on and off with the flip of a switch. The ringer switch is an easy way to mute your Treo quickly when you’re in a movie or some other place where a noisy device would be an unwelcome nuisance.

Although the Volume button and ringer switch are certainly useful, I don’t consider them to be Treo customizations. There are some volume customizations that you can make, however. To do so, you must revisit the familiar Sound & Alerts Preferences.

**Note**

I didn’t cover the topic of creating your own MIDI tones because it’s a fairly involved process that requires some knowledge of music. If you’re interested in learning how to create MIDI music, you’ll want to look into MIDI-composing software for your PC, such as Myriad’s Melody Assistant. To learn more about Melody Assistant, visit the Myriad website at http://www.myriad-online.com/.
screen from the previous section. Follow these steps to tweak the volume settings of your Treo:

1. Press the **Phone/Send** button to launch the Phone application.

![Image 1](image1.png)

**Figure 3.27**

*The Volume button on the left side of your Treo allows you to adjust the device volume quickly.*

2. Press the **Menu** button and scroll over twice to the **Options** menu. Navigate down to the second menu item, **Sound Preferences**, and press the **Center** button to issue the menu command and view the Sound & Alerts Preferences screen.

![Image 2](image2.png)

3. Tap the **Application** option and select **General** from the pick list. The general sound preferences appear, as shown in Figure 3.28. These preferences distinguish between the overall system volume level and the volume level of games, with the idea being that you might not want game sounds to be as loud as normal system sounds.

![Image 3](image3.png)

4. If you'd like to change the relative volume level of the system and games, change the values for the **System Volume** and **Game Volume** settings. The possible values for these settings can range from Off (minimum volume) to 4 (maximum volume).

5. When you're finished with the general sound preferences, tap the **Application** option and select **Phone** as the application. Then make sure the **Volume** box is highlighted, not Tones. You'll notice a few settings related to the ringer switch, as
shown in Figure 3.29. More specifically, the Sound Mode On settings go into effect when the ringer switch is on, and the Sound Mode Off settings apply when the switch is off (device muted). The main thing to note about these settings is how the default values result in the device vibrating only when the sound is off. You can easily change these settings so that the device never vibrates or always vibrates. You can also change the Alert Volume setting to raise or lower the volume of all alerts when the sound is on.

![Preferences](image)

**Figure 3.28**

*Using the general sound preferences, you can alter the volume level of the system separately from the volume level of games.*

6. When you're finished altering the phone volume settings, tap the **Done** button to finish and exit the preferences.

You probably didn't realize you have so much flexibility in adjusting and customizing the volume for your Treo. The good news is that the default settings might work well for you if you aren't sure about making changes. You can always return to this discussion and change the settings later if you decide that you don't like the volume and vibration settings for a certain application.

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**NOTE**

The Calendar and Messaging applications have the same volume and vibration options as the Phone application. The values of these settings vary from application to application. To access the volume and vibration settings for the Calendar and Messaging applications, just select each application from the Application pick list in the Sound & Alerts Preferences screen.
FIGURE 3.29

With the phone volume settings, you can specify the volume level and vibration settings for your device based on the ringer switch.

A Few Other Interesting Treo Customizations

You might be surprised that not every Treo customization has to do with tweaking software settings. In fact, I've run across a few interesting customizations that have nothing to do with the Treo OS or applications. These customizations involve making subtle changes to the physical device to help prolong its life or improve its usability.

You've probably already considered a case of some sort to help protect your Treo. Everyone has an opinion as to what kind of case is ideal for protecting a device yet allowing quick access. I won't attempt to weigh in on the case debate simply because it's such a personal choice. What I will weigh in on, however, is an issue somewhat related to cases: screen protectors.

A Treo screen protector is a thin clear film that you apply over the surface of your device's screen to help prevent scratches and, in some cases, eliminate glare. You have a few different options for Treo screen protectors, such as a transparency sheet that you cut to fit or a commercial screen protector with an antiglare coating. If you're the kind of person who enjoys tinkering and solving your own problems, you might want to try a nonadhesive transparency sheet before spending the money on a commercial screen protector. If you decide to consider a commercial screen protector, following are some options to consider:

- TreoCentral Screen Protector—http://store.treocentral.com/content/accessories/15-43—28.htm
- Martin Fields Screen Protector—http://www.overlayplus.com/
• **BoxWave ClearTouch Anti-Glare**—

All these screen protector options will likely serve you well in terms of extending the life of your Treo’s touchscreen and helping keep it clean.

Another interesting customization I heard mentioned by a Treo user involves the pesky little plug that connects the AC charger into the Multi-connector cable (or directly into your device). The plug on the AC charger is very small and square, making it difficult to tell which way it should be oriented when plugging it into the Multi-connector or your device. A little raised arrow on one side of the plug identifies the side of the plug that should face upward. The customization involves placing a small dab of white correction fluid or light-colored paint on the arrow to make it more easily visible. This allows you to quickly determine the correct orientation of the plug without having to pull out your magnifying glass!

**Summary**

Although you might certainly find settings and features for your Treo that you continue to refine and change over time, this chapter gives you a head start toward making your device suit you better. Whether it’s fine-tuning the Keyguard feature, locking down your device with a password, or customizing the application buttons to fit your work style, you found out in this chapter that the Treo can be molded to meet each person’s unique needs. You continue fine-tuning your device throughout the remainder of the book as you explore various Treo applications in more detail.

Part II of this book, “Managing Personal Information with Your Treo,” focuses on desktop synchronization and managing contacts, events, alarms, tasks, and memos.