

The Pen is Mightier...

Pulse Smart Pen Offers Users an Easy Way to Make Notes Digital

One common frustration I see with people who go paperless is the thought that they need to switch their data entry from a pen and paper to a keyboard. The Pulse SmartPen bridges that gap from analog to digital by offering the ability to take notes using the SmartPen and special paper, which converts your notes into a digital format for uploading to the computer. The included software, LiveScribe, stores, organizes and transforms your notes to other popular formats such as Adobe Flash files, PDFs and screen grabs as jpeg files. With an additional piece of software (\$29.95) LiveScribe can even convert your notes to Word format.

The SmartPen also includes a publishing tool that allows you to upload your notes to the company's web server, or to your own. I've used the LiveScribe pen for providing my CCIM students with solutions to their homework problems. One such example can be found at www.toddclarke.net/?p=507s.

In addition to capturing the "ink" from your writing, the SmartPen has a built-in voice recorder—a great tool for meetings. I've seen fellow commercial real estate professionals pull open their LiveScribe notes and replay the audio and notes from previous meetings to provide clarity on particular issues.

The SmartPen also offers a number of fun and curious tools from a built-in calculator, where it solves the answers and reads them out loud, to a musical piano. You can also print your own paper from most hi-resolution printers. Software developers are currently adding new tools and programs, so look for this platform to grow in the future.

The SmartPen comes in two models—1 gigabyte and 2 gigabyte, either of which is more than you will need. When you drop the pen in its charging station/dock connector, it automatically uploads your notes to the computer.

Prices start at \$129 for the 1 gigabyte and \$169 for the 2 gigabyte, and the pen can be found online, or in Target or Best Buy stores. For more information about the Pulse SmartPen with LiveScribe software visit www.livescribe.com.



THE PULSE SMARTPEN EASILY CONVERTS WRITTEN NOTES (ON SPECIAL PAPER) TO A DIGITAL FORMAT FOR YOUR COMPUTER.



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READ TODD CLARKE'S TECHNOLOGY BLOG AT WWW.NMAPARTMENT.COM/TECH.