

WINDOWS MOBILE (PPC)

SPB Mobile Shell **£15.00**

More information: www.spbsoftwarehouse.com

The **SPB Mobile Shell** is one of those products that you can tell has been created with great care and attention to detail, presentation and functionality. Its aim is nothing less than to completely overhaul the way in which you use your Phone Edition Pocket PC – and to a certain degree it succeeds entirely.

At its heart it is a launcher app, with big, finger-friendly buttons that enable you to navigate the common functions of your system while on the move. No longer do you need to reach for the

stylus to make a call or locate a contact. When you press the Windows button, the SPB menu will pop up and present you with your application's categories such as Organizer, Multimedia and Internet. You can then drill into each category to see the apps. The 'Now' soft button displays the SPB Now screen. This screen also displays when the device wakes up, and shows a beautifully rendered analogue clock, the weather and battery life, plus counts for your email, SMS and missed calls.

The Today screen is also modified with a new item. This item features expandible icons that display world time and alarms, weather and your most commonly called contacts.

All settings are 100 per cent configurable, enabling you to get it working exactly to your needs. SPB Mobile Shell is a worthy addition to your standard Windows Mobile Pocket PC.



Verdict 8 A hugely impressive and innovative new idea

JAVA

GMail Mobile **Free**

More information: www.gmail.com/app

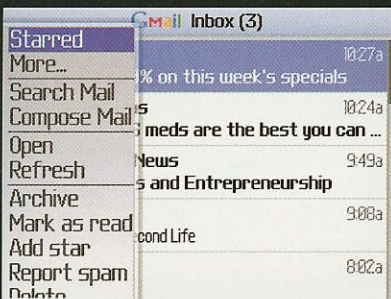
I love my **GMail**. There is nothing like 2.5GB of free email storage that is easily accessed using a web browser. While you can access GMail using your mobile device's web browser, it's not as easy to use as the full desktop experience. To address this, Google created a J2ME GMail thick client that really takes the

experience of GMail on a mobile device to the next level.

All the regular GMail functions are present and correct, such as adding a star, reporting an email as spam, archiving an email, and many more all just by popping down the menu.

The GMail client will automatically check for email and download it in the background, and it even provides the same type-down functionality when you start typing a name into the To field.

You can see the attention to detail which makes this a great extension to your GMail mailbox.



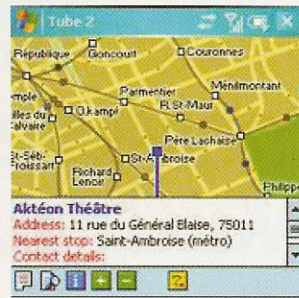
Verdict 10 Pretty much essential for all GMail users

ALL PLATFORMS

Tube 2 Paris **£9.17**

More information: www.visualit.co.uk/store.htm

Visual IT has a history of creating maps for mobile devices, and this is no exception. The Paris Touristic application features the Paris Metro overlaid on a street



peppered with touristic information. You can choose your own route, and the app will animate your route, indicating where you are. You can also click on a station and see info about the nearest metro station. **Well designed software for the traveller's treat**

WINDOWS MOBILE (PPC/SP)

Resco Pocket Radio **\$10.27**

More information: www.resco.net/pocketradio

Resco Pocket Radio is not an FM tuner for your mobile device. It's better. It's a streaming MP3 and Ogg Vorbis player. As long as you have a decent



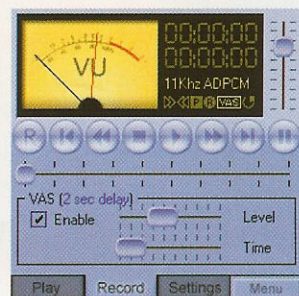
mobile or wi-fi connection, you can stream the music. There are a lot of stations, but you can filter them down to your own. Better yet, you can schedule the radio to play at a certain time. It'll save the recording on your mobile device or its SD card. **A handy add-on, but be sure to keep an eye on your battery**

WINDOWS MOBILE (PPC)

Virtual Recorder

More information: www.clickapps.com

Virtual Recorder allows you to record audio right on your Pocket PC. Let's say you want to interview someone and you don't want to carry a recorder. The means of recording them – this app



the challenge. You can record at the lowest quality 8KHz, or all the way up to the highest 44KHz ADPCM code. One of the features of the app is the ability of the recorder to stop recording when it hears a certain amount of audio has been recorded. You can fade it in or out, and you can also set a volume level. **An unusual program, but a more powerful PDA**