



iLiad eBook

Updated: 3-21
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MobileRead Forums

MobileRead Week in Review: 03/13 - 03/20

Been away? Fear not! Here is your chance to check out what appeared on our frontpage this week:

E-Book General - News

- [Kindle for Mac now available](#)
- [Sony offers to re-upgrade PRS-500s with battery issues...](#)

E-Book General - General Discussions

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Book Club April 2010 Book Club Nominations

Help us select the next book that the Mobile Read book club will read for April 2010.

The nominations will run through Mar 26.

Voting (new poll thread) will run for 5 days starting Mar 26.

Book selection category for April per the "official" club opening thread is:

April 2010

Humor

In order for a book to be included in the poll it needs **THREE NOMINATIONS** (original nomination, a second and a third).

How Does This Work?

The Mobile Read Book Club (MRBC) is an informal club that requires nothing of you. Each month a book is selected by polling. On the last week of that month a discussion thread is started for the book. If you want to participate feel free. There is no need to "join" or sign up. All are welcome.

How Does a Book Get Selected?

Each book that is nominated will be listed in a pool at the end of the nomination period. The book that polls the most votes will be the official selection.

How Many Nominations Can I Make?

Each participant has 3 nominations. You can nominate a new book for consideration or nominate (second, third) one that has already been nominated by another person.

How Do I Nominate a Book?

Please just post a message with your nomination. If you are the **FIRST** to nominate a book, please try to provide an abstract to the book so others may consider their level of interest.

How Do I Know What Has Been Nominated?

Just follow the thread. This message will be updated with the status of the nominations as often as I can. If one is missed, please just post a message with a multi-quote of the 3 nominations and it will be added to the list ASAP.

When is the Poll?

The poll thread will open at the end of the nomination period, or once there have been 10 books with 3 nominations each. At that time a link to the poll thread will be posted here and this thread will be closed.

The floor is open to nominations.

Official choices each with three nominations:

Sony offers to re-upgrade PRS-500s with battery issues...

Mobileread member kilohertz53 reports that sony sent him the following email offering to fix the battery life issues on his upgraded Sony PRS-500 for free again and they pay shipping. Here is the letter he received:

Dear PRS-500 Reader(TM) Owner,

Thank you for allowing us to update your Reader to be compatible with our new and improved Reader(TM) Store. As a result of this update, you may have experienced diminished battery life with your PRS-500. This was an unintended side effect. Part of the benefit of using a device like the Reader is the superior battery life and we would like to ensure that you continue to enjoy this key advantage. To this end, we have developed new firmware that will resolve the issue. Unfortunately, this will require you to send your Reader back to us again. We realize this may pose another inconvenience for you but we hope you will accept our sincerest apologies and allow us to repair your Reader.

What do I need to do?

Due to the nature of the work required, you will need to send your PRS-500 Reader back to the Sony Service Center. We have already taken steps to send a pre-paid box to you in which you can pack your Reader with as little hassle as possible. Sony will pay the postage and have your Reader back to you promptly.

If you do not receive a box, have changed your mailing address or have any questions please call: 1-877-552-7669 or visit <https://eservice.sony.com/webrma/web...0&purchaseDate> to print a pre-paid UPS label to mail back your Reader in your own packaging.

Please keep in mind this issue only affects PRS-500 units that have previously been updated by Sony. We apologize once again and will include a \$10 coupon for the Reader Store when we send your Reader back to you.

*Sincerely,
The Reader Team*

I'm not sure what more you could ask for... other than the original fix not having the problem of course.

BOb

Hands on with Alex Ereader

Looks kind of cool:

```
">" type="application/x-shockwave-flash" wmode="transparent"  
width="425" height="350">
```

The one thing I don't like: the page turning buttons looks awfully small. I wish I had bigger page turning buttons on my Kindle and this one is even smaller.

Kindle for Mac now available

<http://amazon.com/kindleformac>

Pocketbook 302 Review & Videos

So I just posted the [second part of the Pocketbook 302](#) review over on my blog. Here are an excerpt:

Quote:

The Pocketbook 302 is just coming on to the market, and I was lucky enough to get one of the first review units. This is part 2 of the review. I posted the [first part of the review](#) last week, and it has a fair amount of detail. If you haven't read it yet, you should. This part will cover entirely different material. Also, you might be interested in the [hands on videos I shot](#).

My Opinion

I'm putting this section first, rather than last, because I think I spent a little too much time pointing out the flaws of PB302. I like it. I could easily see having one as my main e-reader. It's the first dedicated e-reader that I've seen that really lives up to the term e-reader. Most every other device is just an ebook reader; the PB302 is more because it has an RSS Reader and a browser. These features are slightly flawed, yes, but they are features that you can't get on any other e-reader without a hack (Nook, Iliad). (The Kindle doesn't count because in most countries you can't use the browser).

In my opinion, the only ebook reader that can compare with a PB302 is a (hacked) Nook. I've thought about this for some time, and I can't say that one is clearly better than the other. This is great news for the PB302; it costs \$80 more. I think I would go for the PB302 myself; I prefer its hardware design.

continued [here](#)

Any feedback would be appreciated.

Forum Changes in place

We are happy to announce that the forum changes are in place. This pass at forum changes was mainly for the device sections. The goal was to maintain what was working and fill in some missing areas.

To start with there is now a "General Discussions" section. This section was created for those discussion which were about e-books and e-book reading but didn't really fit into a device or software thread. These threads usually ended up in the "News and Commentary" section. You will also see the "News and Commentary" section was renamed to simply be "News" to focus it a bit more.

You will see there is now one category where all E-Book Reader device sections will be found. This includes dedicated devices such as the Kindle and the Sony and non-dedicated devices such as the iPad and the eDGe. The devices are listed in alphabetical order to make them easy to find.

There is a new "More E-Book Readers" section to discuss dedicated e-book reader devices for which there is no section. And grouped under that section are many device specific sub-forums. As discussion in the generic "More" section about a new or coming device become popular a new sub-forum can be added. We value all participation no matter what device you use but we needed a way to keep the forum list from becoming very long and daunting.

In addition the "Other Devices" section is now named "Alternative Devices" for discussion of Netbooks, PDAs, Smartphones etc. Once again, this incubation area will be watched carefully and device or OS specific sub-forums may be created for more popular devices or software.

The very good news is we added the following device sections:

BeBook
enTourage eDGe
iRiver Story
Onyx Boox
Plastic Logic Que

Spring Design Alex

We hope that these changes make everyone happy and will be responding to new forum section request more swiftly since the new organization easily allows it.

Thanks for your patience while we planned all this out. We do appreciate it.

Please enjoy.

Forum Changes on the way

Over the next week or so starting today you will be seeing some changes in the forums sections. We are reorganizing things in order to make sure there is a place to discuss all your topics, favorite devices and books.

If you see that a forum is missing or closed the messages are in the process of being moved to another section.

So, what's happening? Here are some hints:

To start with the two Sony threads and the two iRex threads will be merged together and device prefixes will be added to the section. This has proven itself to work well in the new Sony section so it will become a common fixture in all of the device sections where it makes sense.

We will also be collapsing some of the sub-forums into their parents to simplify forum navigation and prevent that deer in the headlights feeling of what sub-forum you should use for a trouble shooting question about an accessory.

I'm sure it will make you happy to hear that there will be several new device forums and a General Discussion area so those types of discussions won't dilute the News section.

We have been working very hard on the new layout and I want to thank all the members that have helped us. Your ideas were all taken seriously and considered important. I wish we could make everyone 100% happy but some ideas just conflicted with others.

So, please pardon our dust while we remodel... It should be well worth it.

MobileRead Week in Review: 03/06 - 03/13

Have something interesting to say about e-books or mobile computing? Join our forums and share your view on topics like the ones discussed at MobileRead this past week...

E-Book General - News and Commentary

- [Read an E-Book Week 2010 is on!](#)
- [CeBIT Video: 1cross Tech Android e-reader combo](#)
- [Archos 5 Review](#)
- [Pocketbook 360 Review & Hands on Video](#)

Pocketbook 360 Review & Hands on Video

I have this review that I'd like to share. It was written by MR member Roger108, and I think it pretty accurately describes the PB360. You can find it over on [my blog](#). Here's an excerpt:

The Pocketbook 360° eReader – Lean, Light, Beautiful and Blazing Fast
Quote:

Ebook readers have been arriving in ever greater tidal waves over the past few years, some loaded with features, others barely able to perform as ebook readers. This January when I began my search, I was looking for one feature, the ability to read books easily, without eye strain. I have no desire to divide my mind with music or the internet while reading.

So when my ivory colored Pocketbook 360° appeared before my eyes—lean, light, and beautiful—I had a feeling that it would be a perfect fit. In fact, being the size of a CD case, and weighing a mere 5.3 ounces (half that of the Kindle or Nook), it fit perfectly in my pocket.

I also shot a couple hands on videos with my new camera. You can watch them [here](#).

FBReader 0.10.7 for DR800

EDIT 20100313: new package, both DR800S and DR800SG should work now. Same instructions. Thanks for the help.

Hi,

FBReader 0.10.7 for iRex DR800S

Last update: Wed Mar 10 23:37:08 2010

This is a compilation of FBReader e-book reader for iRex DR800 e-readers. There aren't much things changed from the original sources, a customized toolbar and some new icons.

Random notes:

- This package is based on version 0.10.7
- I've tried 0.12.7 but it was too slow, this version is really fast
- Don't know if it works on DR800SG, but I expect it should do

Steps to install:

1. enable SD card folders browsing (look for the dr.ini file hack in mobileread forum)
2. connect device to your computer using the USB cable
3. create a folder "/Programs" in SD card root
4. copy the contents of this compressed file there.

You should have something like:

SD card

/Programs

_fbreader (directory)

FBReader.desktop (file)

/other_things

Steps to use:

1. Navigate to SD card -> Select Programs folder -> tap on FBReader icon
2. Click on preferences and change some settings as default configuration

is not suitable for e-readers. F.e. I've changed:

- margins to 10, 10, 0, 4
- font size (in "styles" tab): to 8
- indicator: I like the "old style"

- key bindings. Tip: click on "Action for key" and press the bar to show available actions

3. Take a look at "_fbreader/share/FBReader/default/toolbar.xml" file if you want to change the buttons/actions shown in the toolbar

Enjoy,
Iñigo Serna

Attached Thumbnails

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Attached Files

[FBReader-0.10.7-dr800-v2.tar.gz](#) (1.63 MB)

Archos 5 Review

I just posted a [review of the Archos 5 tablet](#) over on my blog. Here are the highlights:

Quote:

I've been wanting to add an Android device to my collection for some time now, but I had to wait until I had the funds to spare. The Archos 5 was released last fall in the US and Europe. It's your usual MID with a 4.8" screen, 8GB flash, Wifi, Bluetooth, and a microSD card slot. It also has excellent media abilities (Archos has been making media players for quite a few years now.)

...

My Recommendation

I would not go out of my way to get an Android tablet as an ebook reader. TBH, I would avoid them entirely. It is not nearly as stable or nor as feature rich as either Linux or Windows Mobile. Also, it doesn't offer as many apps as either Linux or Windows Mobile. Android isn't ready yet; it's still in its infancy. And frankly, it was meant to run phones, not tablets. There's a reason why the only authorized devices are phones; that's what it's designed for.

continued [here](#)

CeBIT Video: 1cross Tech Android e-reader combo

<http://1crosstech.com> is showing a cool looking combination of a 6" e-ink e-reader on one side, with a 3.2" HVGA Android LCD on the other side, and also with a touch panel keyboard input and a whole bunch more hardware features.

Released at: ARMdevices.net

Read an E-Book Week 2010 is on!

Read an E-Book Week has begun for 2010, and this year promises to outdo all previous years by an order of magnitude. Rita Toews has been working her butt off, interviewing for periodicals and blogs, contacting and drawing in new participants and promoters and twittering until her fingers are hoarse!

As the list of partners and promoters of e-books has grown, the number of participating authors and publishers has increased enormously. On Smashwords, over 3,000 authors will participate in the promotional event. Blio, QBook, Diesel E-Books and Sylvan Dell Publishing have joined most recently. The event has been mentioned as far away as Poland and England and as close to home as the Huffington Post. And the exposure to e-books being created by the soon-to-be-released iPad is drawing even more interested parties in.

This is your chance as well, to get out there and promote e-books to those who may not have tried them, or wonder what the hoopla is all about. If you have a reading device, show it off. If someone has questions about how and where to buy, elucidate them. If someone is looking for new reads, tell them about some of the independents you've discovered, or the classics you've rediscovered, through e-books. And, of course, find some new authors and reads of your own!

For more information about REBW10 and what you can do, visit www.ebookweek.com.

MobileRead Week in Review: 02/27 - 03/06

Here it is again, our weekly roundup! Enjoy!

E-Book General - News and Commentary

- [Video of Sagem Wireless capacitive touchscreen 6" e-reader](#)
- [Freescale CPU with E Ink controller](#)
- [Pocketbook 302 first impressions - hands on video](#)
- [CeBIT Video: Hanvon WISEreader N618](#)
- [CeBIT Video: Asus DR-900](#)
- [CeBIT Video: Hanvon 8" touchscreen e-reader prototype](#)
- [CeBIT Video: Gigabyte EB10 Android e-ink e-reader](#)
- [Reading on Android](#)
- [CeBIT Video: Interview with PocketBook about the new 601, 302/602 and 603](#)

E-Book General - Reading Recommendations

- [March 2010 Mobile Read Book Club Vote](#)

iLiad Thoughts and Applications

iRex Reader 1000

Details are starting to emerge about iRex's new reading device lineup.

There will be 3 10.2 inch devices. One base model, one with the touch screen, and the third with wifi, bluetooth, and 3g.

This is exciting news. I've always wanted the iLiad to be a little bit bigger. I mostly use mine for business purposes (notes in meetings, reading documents, etc). A bigger screen will be great for a paper alternative. Especially if the device will be able read more documents natively.

It'll be interesting to see the device and user interface. I assume they're going to use the same software for the touchscreen and non touchscreen versions. Maybe they will have more buttons and a scroll wheel like the kindle, or maybe use context menus like the cybook. Time will tell.

I do know for sure that I intend to buy the top level unit with all the bells and whistles. I'll have to start saving now though... I do intend to keep developing and porting for the platform. This is going to be an exciting time.

A quick overview of what we know:

- Name: iRex Reader 1000
- 10.2 Inch Screen
- eBook (Mobipocket?), PDF, Word, and html support (probably others)
- Stylus input (wacom?)
- 60-70 hour battery life
- 3 Versions
- Base - \$650
- Touch Screen - \$750
- Touchscreen + Bluetooth, Wifi, and 3G, \$850
- 16 levels of greyscale

First Midori/WebKit iLiad Beta Release

I've created an early beta release for my port of the WebKit based Midori internet browser.

There are quite a few bugs that need to be worked out before it's ready for the average user, but it works well enough as a tech demo.

You can see some screenshots below:

If you'd like to try it, you can download the first beta here: Midori Beta 1

You will need developer access on your iLiad to launch it. You'll also need to start an internet connection with another script.

Building a better web browser

I don't know why, but I've decided I really want a good, working, web browser on the iLiad. Maybe it's Kindle envy, maybe I spend too much time porting when I should be working, who knows.

WebKit seems to be all the rage these days. They have builds of it for just about every platform, and the iPhone has really brought it into the mainstream. So my goal is to port WebKit to the iLiad and provide a useful interface for browsing.

- It must be able to use the pagebar to page up and down.
- Screen refreshes must not be obtrusive, and should be responsive. (Native refreshes only, no hacked libX11)
- Support for Bookmarks and Recent URL's.
- Easy to install package that can run from anywhere.

WebKit is compiling now. Next, I'll build Epiphany and use the webkit core. As long as that goes smoothly, I can work on refreshes and the rest of the application. Wish me luck...

Edit: I think I found a better front end than Epiphany. Midori is much smaller and more light weight than Epiphany. It should be able to do everything required and be relatively quick on the iLiad.

I had Midori up and running with the Webkit backend, but nothing would display because WebKit was made to work with gtk 2.8, and the iLiad has 2.6. I believe I've found a patch, so I'm recompiling (takes about 2 hours on my dev pc). Hopefully I should have an early working application soon....

Finally!: Integrated FBReader 0.8.14 with ePub and Registry Support

It's been about 6 months since my last port of FBReader. The talented FBReader developers have done a lot. The most important addition is the support for ePub books. You can view the full changelog at FBReader.org.

I, myself, have done a lot of things different for this release as well.

- I've removed the FBReader toolbar, and thus, disabled the internal library.
 - This was mostly done to speed up porting time. With the library removed, much less needed to be done to the code of the program to port it.
 - All refreshes are done internally. No hacked libX11 is used!
- By default, FBReader will add supported file extensions to the registry
 - This makes FBReader act like any other viewer on the iLiad.
 - FBReader settings and configuration will be saved to /mnt/settings so a software update should not erase them.
- The installer no longer requires a memory card, and will be installed to internal memory.
 - The internal memory of the iLiad has 7.8MB free after installing FBReader. It should not interfere with anything else installed internally.

Based on a support thread I made, file extensions supported are:

- chm
- rtf
- oeb
- opf
- epub
- fb2
- tcr

Because the toolbar is gone, most of the important functions can now be accessed by the hardware buttons:

- Upper Left/Quit Button
 - Will cancel out of TOC screen, and will quit when inside the book.

- Page Bar Forward
 - Short Press
 - Next Page
 - Long Press
 - Redo
- Page Bar Backward
 - Short Press
 - Previous Page
 - Long Press
 - Undo
- Up Arrow
 - Short Press
 - Previous TOC Section
 - Long Press
 - Increase Font Size
- Dot or "Enter" Button
 - Short Press
 - Show Table of Contents
 - Long Press
 - Rotate Page
- Down Arrow
 - Short Press
 - Next TOC Section
 - Long Press
 - Decrease Font Size
 -

Installation of this is simple. You'll need firmware 2.12 and Developer Shell access. Unzip the file, and copy anywhere on your iLiad. You will need to restart your iLiad when it prompts you. After you've restarted, you can delete the installation directory.

There will be no icon to run FBReader, you'll need to select a book from the contentlister with one of the file extensions listed above.

Supported books will have a valid icon.

You can find the release and discussion at MobileRead: <http://www.mobileread.com/forums/showthread.php?t=20490>

iRex Moving Forward with Community Project

You may have seen [a post on the iRex forums](#) about community development.

Basically, iRex is trying to open up the iLiad as a development platform similar to that of the [Nokia Tablets](#). Nokia's internet tablet platform is very popular because of the great documentation Nokia provides, the openness of the platform itself, and the ease that users can download and install new programs on their tablets. I'd like to see the same thing happen to the iLiad.

In the [most recent post by Karel](#), he's asking for those willing to take a more active role in the proposed community to email him. I have done so, and plan to help bring this community to life. Right now, iLiad development is unorganized, and difficult for a new user to get into. Hopefully, with iRex's help, we can overcome that.

I'm going to lay out a few things that I think the iLiad and community need.

- Installation
 - Right now, it's very difficult for a user to install a 3rd party application. They have to request shell access, find the program they want to install. Download and unzip it, then run it on the iLiad. This can be confusing, and can cause many problems along the way.
 - There could be a few ways to solve this. The new community can have a page with tested and working applications. The user can sign into that page with their myIrex username/password, select the application and have it downloaded via the IDS.
 - Or, there can be a program like that on the iPhone, where the application connects to a list of feeds and displays a list of available apps to the user with a one-click installation method.
 - Lastly, there's the more crude, but effective method of supporting ipkg through the contentlister. The user downloads the ipk from a website, copies it to the iLiad, and it installs with a single click.

- ■ All of the above methods would require some intervention from iRex, either with the website, or changes to the internal software.
- Adding new viewers
- ◦ There needs to be a better way to add and remove new viewers and supported formats to the contentlister. Right now, one needs to use a sed script to modify the registry. This can be prone to errors and removing afterward is very difficult.
- ■ I think that new directory for "Plugins" should be added.
- The package installer can copy an xml (or any other file) into that directory with the extension supported being the file name.
- Inside the XML file, the program that is used to read the file will be listed, along with the icon to be used.
- ■ For epub for example.
- \mnt\settings\registry\plugins\epub.xml

epub.xml:

```
<viewer>/usr/local/bin/FBREADER</viewer>
<icon>/usr/local/share/icons/epub.png</icon>
```

- ◦ It could be as simple as that. This way, if you have two different programs that support epub, you can overwrite the existing configuration with that of the new program. This wouldn't change the registry in any way, and if an error occurred, the contentlister could ignore the plugins directory the next time it launched.
- Screen Refreshes!
- ◦ Right now, the biggest problem with porting any application is getting the screen refreshes. If this could somehow be made easier for developers, I think that the iLiad would have an influx of new applications available for it. Could this be added to GTK within the iLiad? This way the application would work as normal, and GTK would refresh when everything was done being painted.
For the end user:
- Documentation, Code, Website enhancements
- ◦ This new site is going to need to be well organized and provide lots of information. I can think of a few things it'll need.

- - A way to track ongoing ports and their status
 - A bounty system for users to request new applications
 - Documentation on internal iLiad functions
 - Open source the UI components, ContentLister, note application, browser app, etc

This is just a small list. I think that there's a lot of potential for the iLiad that's not being realized. I hope this new initiative can solve that.

FBReader port coming along nicely

My port of FBReader 0.8.10 is coming along very nicely. I've decided to go ahead with the limited functionality idea in order to speed up porting, and make it act more like a native iLiad application.

You can see what's happening in the screenshot below:

FBReader is shown reading and epub book downloaded from feedbooks.com.

As you can see, it have FBReader start in full screen mode. This hides the unnecessary toolbars.

It gives you a status indicator, page count, and clock that will updates as you turn the page. Right now, it takes about 2.5 seconds to refresh. This is a little better than the older version. I'm hoping to increase the speed even further.

There are a few functions that can be used with key shortcuts:

- Upper Left Button: Closes FBReader
- Page Forward/Backward
- Up & Down arrows short: Increase and Decrease Font
- Dot Button: Go to the beginning of the document
- Up & Down arrows Long Press: Next and Previous Table of Content Section
- Dot Button Long Press: Open Table of Contents

There are a few things left to do before I can publish the port. I'd like to save the configuration to /mnt/settings so that it won't be lost when you perform an OS upgrade. Also, I need to create and test the installation package. I've reduced the file size enough so that it can easily reside on the internal memory (I think the package takes up about 2.5MB, I may be able to shrink it further).

I'm thinking about preparing a short video demonstrating FBReader and the FeedBooks.com iNewsStand application. These two programs really show off the iLiad's potential and flexibility.

Idea: FBReader - Limited iLiad Edition

I'm getting ready to start my port of FBReader 0.8.10 with epub support. I can easily get this working on the iLiad, however I want to speed up the screen refreshes by using only native refresh calls. The problem is that in order to get these refreshes to work in the options dialog and FBReader library, a lot of time consuming manual test & check work is required.

I had a thought about limiting the features of FBReader and making it look and act more like a native iLiad viewer. I think that if I completely disabled the top navigation bar, set the appropriate key bindings, and forced the user to launch all books directly from the contentlister, it would actually significantly decrease the amount of time it would take to release the port.

I know that some users do like the Library function of FBReader, but for those who don't know or need it, this would be an ideal solution. I may also be able to decrease the size of the binary and libraries, to allow it to be installed on the internal memory of the iLiad.

I need to get Shell access back, and do some testing. But unless I hear too many complains, I'm going to go forward with this (at least until I can devote more time to a full port).

New Years Status Update

I haven't been active very much on my blog or the forums recently, but I'm still around.

It's been crazy at work and home the last few weeks. I haven't had a spare minute to do any porting in a while. Rest assured, I still plan to release a new port of FBReader with epub support. However, getting time to do it has been pretty difficult. All should calm down by next week, so hopefully I can put in some real effort in then. I might try to time it with the 2.12 software release. ;)

How to Un-Brick your iLiad

So you've gotten brave with programming on your iLiad. You like to dig into the internals and write some scripts. Maybe for [automatically downloading comics](#) or an [MP3 Player from the contentlister](#). But something went wrong, and now your iLiad won't boot. Don't worry, it happens. I've had to reflash a few times myself. As long as you have firmware 2.11 and the developer package from iRex, you should be able to recover from most problems.

I should note that I said should. There are some things you can do to your iLiad that could cause problems that the reflash option won't fix. The most important, is working with the embedded flash. This includes the boot loader and the waveform. Flashing these (you must use a special command), could cause your iLiad to be unusable. But other than that, you should be fine to replace the Kernel, Initrd, and the root filesystem.

So lets get started. Here's what you need to perform a reflash:

- A Compact Flash (CF) card. Other types of cards simply will not work. They're cheap, and easily obtainable. Go out and buy one.
- You will need to have firmware 2.11 with the Developer Package requested from iRex's site ([See this post for details](#)).
- The [cf-card-contents.zip](#) file from the attachments link on your [MyiRex account page](#).

Alright, so you've followed the [instructions on getting the developer package](#), and you want to be sure that you are able to reflash before you break anything. Here's what you need to do.

1. Make sure your iLiad is powered off, with nothing on the screen.
2. Hold the connect button in the upper right hand corner of your iLiad.
3. While holding the button, press the power switch on the bottom.
4. Count to Five while continuing to hold the button.
5. Release the connect button.

You should see the boot image appear. After a second or two, the whole screen will flash white, and it will start to boot normally. Congratulations! Your iLiad is able to be reflashed. You should have no fear for working in the root filesystem.

Now, let's go through the steps you'll need to actually perform the reflash.

1. Unzip the cf-card-contents.zip.
2. You should see a folder called "images" and a file called "config.txt"
3. Copy these to the root of your memory card. (Not inside any other folders)
 - For example. If on your windows computer, your memory card is drive "E:", you should have E:\images and E:\config.txt
4. Unmount your memory card and insert it into your iLiad.
5. Make sure your iLiad is powered off, with nothing on the screen.
6. Hold the connect button in the upper right hand corner of your iLiad.
7. While holding the button, press the power switch on the bottom.
8. Count to Five while continuing to hold the button.
9. Release the connect button.

You will see it going through steps that are very similar to updating the firmware on your device. It will reboot at the end and bring you back to the main screen. Performing this method, you shouldn't lose any of the files on your internal memory. But it's always good to make a backup just in case.

You can find [more detailed information in this pdf](#). But the above guide should help most users who need to unbrick their iLiad.

So you want to try your first 3rd party program?

So you just got your brand new iLiad, or maybe you've had it for a while but have grown comfortable enough that you'd like to install one of the community applications. Below, I'll detail a step by step guide on how to setup your iLiad to install a new application to it.

First, a few notes: You've paid a lot for your iLiad and you don't want to break it. This fact alone prevents a lot of people from trying out new programs. There is good news though. If something should happen while installing or running an application. You should be able to restore your iLiad. You will need a compact flash (CF) card. I recommend anyone who's planning to install community applications to buy a CF card. You can pick up a 1 Gigabyte card at any electronics store for under \$30 US. You should place all of your applications, along with the files needed to do a reflash should anything go wrong.

This guide is extremely detailed. It's actually a lot easier than it looks.

With that out of the way, lets get started:

1. The first thing you will need to do is connect to IDS. To do this, you will need either a wired, or wireless network connection.
 1. Create an IDS profile here: <https://myirex.irexnet.com/user.php/createuser>
 2. Fill in your e-mail address in the field and click on 'Send'.
 3. You will receive an automatic e-mail with a password in your e-mail inbox.
 4. Take your iLiad and enter your e-mail address and the password you received into the 'iLiad Settings'.
 5. Create a (wired or wireless) network profile on your iLiad using the Wizard.
 6. You can now connect to the iDS by pressing the connect key on your iLiad for 2 seconds.
2. Once you see your iLiad connect, it should tell you that there's either nothing to download, or it will install any updates it finds.
3. Now you will need to sign up for the developer package. This will give you the ability to run programs, and will also program your iLiad with what you need to reflash it from a CF card in case something goes wrong.

1. To sign up for the developer package visit this page:
<https://myirex.irexnet.com/user.php/developer>
 - If you've successfully connected to IDS in the past, your MAC address should appear in the "Select MAC Address" drop down box.
 - If it does not appear, verify your email address and password in the settings screen on your iLiad, and connect to the IDS again.
2. After you have selected your MAC address, click "Send Developer Package".
3. Now, connect to the IDS on your iLiad. You should see a message saying "Downloading Developer Package".
4. After it installs, your iLiad should automatically reboot.
4. Now that your iLiad has rebooted, it should start up like normal, but you won't see anything different. You'll need to try to install an application to make sure it worked.
 1. The first program you should try to install is mrxvt.
 - This is a terminal application. Similar to a DOS prompt on a windows computer.
 - I like to test with this program because it doesn't require anything special other than the developer package to run.
 2. Download mrxvt in [this thread on the MobileRead forums](#).
 3. You will need to unzip the download on your computer. Windows XP and up has zip functionality built in. If you need an unzipping program, I suggest [7zip](#).
 4. Once you have unzipped the program, you should see a folder called "mrxvt".
 5. Simply copy this folder to the internal memory or CF card on your iLiad.
 6. Browse to the correct directory from your iLiad, and select the line that says "mrxvt: Command Shell".
 7. If all went well, it should open up a terminal along with your keyboard. If you don't know anything about linux, I suggest you click the "X" to close it, or type "exit" and hit enter.

So now you have shell access, and you've run your first application. Many apps use the unzip and run process of installing. However, others are more complicated and include an installer. This is the case with a

popular 3rd party viewer I've ported called FBReader. I will walk you through the installation of this.

1. Download FBReader from this thread on the MobileRead forums.
2. Unzip it, and copy the folder called "fbreaderinst" to the Compact Flash (or other flash memory) card on your iLiad.
 - For FBReader, and other installers, it's important to use a CF card, USB key, or MMC card. If you install it to the main memory of the iLiad, you may run into problems with the screen refresh.
3. On your iLiad, browse to where you have copied the installer. You should see an item called "Install FBReader". Select it.
4. It will take a little bit of time to install. At that time, you will see the green light flash, and the bars moving across the bottom. After it is installed it will tell you "FBReader has been installed".
5. You can safely delete the "fbreaderinst" folder on your iLiad.
6. Now, to run FBReader, browse to the "Programs" directory that the installer created on your memory card. Inside there, you will see a launcher for FBReader. Simply select it, and it will start.
7. Here, you can use the FBReader library to add books, or if you prefer, install the FBReader Registry Modifications to open books directly from the contentlister (aka the way you open PDF's and Mobipocket books).

Hopefully you now understand how to install 3rd party programs on your iLiad. In my next post, I will cover reflashing your iLiad in case something goes wrong and your iLiad won't boot.

Feel free to comment, and let me know if there are any confusing areas or things that need to be improved upon.

Thanks for Visiting

I just wanted to express my shock and amazement that I actually have people to regularly read this blog. According to Google and FeedBurner, I have about 40 visitors a day, and 65 people who subscribe to this via an RSS feed. They're small, modest numbers I know. But surprising to me nonetheless.

So my question to you is: What would you like to see more posts about? General iLiad information? More technically informative posts? Status updates and future plans? I generally only post when I have something big, but if you want more updates, I can do that too.

Days between firmware releases

It's been pretty quiet over at iRex lately, so I started to wonder. How long has it been since firmware 2.11 was released? It seems like forever. So I decided to make a spreadsheet that details the amount of time between all of the firmware releases. It's definitely on an upward scale, but I think the releases have gotten better and better.

Palm Applications on the iLiad

A post on Mobileread got me thinking, having the Access Palm platform on the iLiad would be probably the greatest killer app. Not only would you have full PIM support with sync capability, but you would immediately have access to the vast world of Palm applications.

It's already been setup for the Nokia tablets. (<http://www.access-company.com/products/gvm/>).

Since both products are Arm/GTK based, I don't think it'd be too much of a stretch to port it to the iLiad. The problem is that I've been unable to find the source for the Garnet VM used on the Nokia's.

I've also tried to compile the older PalmOS emulator used for developers. However, I've run into some issues as it uses the FLTK toolkit.

I may try to contact the Access company to see if they are willing to share their sources...

Minimo Installer

I realize that I've neglected my blog for a while. I thought I would update it with some posts I've made. I get a bit of traffic from Google and places other than MobileRead, so it may help the people who stumble here.

If you want to surf the web on your iLiad, I think the best way to do it is with Minimo. It's a Mozilla based web browser that uses a rendering engine similar to Firefox. It comes pre-installed on your iLiad, but is locked down in such a way that you can't surf the web with it by default. I've made some changes to the chrome files (the user interface), added a launcher, a modified libX11 to perform screen refreshes, and some connection manager scripts. It works well enough so you can view full web pages on your iLiad. Javascript is a little slow, and you may sometimes run into a "script not responding" error. But if I tell it to continue, it'll usually load just fine.

You can download the installation package and see some screenshots here: <http://www.mobileread.com/forums/showthread.php?t=15448>

Things you can do with your iLiad

This is a [post](#) I made over at MobileRead. Some people may read my blog, and not visit there.

The following is a list of everything you can do on your iLiad. This includes stock functions, and things made possible by third party apps from the community. Hopefully this list will continue to grow as we get more developers interested in this platform.

1. Reading

1. Formats you can read

■ PDF

1. Zoom in and out of PDF's. Allows you to view documents not formatted for the iLiad's screen
2. View PDF's in Portrait and Landscape mode. Also helps viewing documents
3. Follow Hyperlinks and move back and forward
4. Scribble on any PDF document. You can later [merge the scribbles on your desktop](#).
5. [Bookmark](#) specific pages inside a PDF.
6. [Automatically zoom and browse PDF's that are in column format](#). Helpful for technical articles.
7. Use [gestures](#) to perform various [functions](#) inside a PDF.
8. Read in [full screen](#), without the bottom tool bar.

■ Mobipocket

1. Read [DRM](#) protected and non DRM'ed Mobipocket books.
2. Increase the font size of text within a mobipocket book.
3. Look up words in a [dictionary](#) while you're reading.
4. Browse a book by the table of contents

■ HTML

■ TXT

■ [Unencrypted LIT files](#).

- Microsoft Word documents, RTF documents
 - Microsoft Excel Files
- 2. Supported by FBReader (Registry Installer)
 1. Increase and decrease font size
 2. Read in Full Screen mode
 3. Have a clock displayed on the screen while reading
 4. Search within a document
 5. Browse table of contents
 6. Organize a Book library
 - RTF
 - CHM
 - OEB
 - OPF
 - FB2
 - TCR
- 2. Other Media
 - JPG
 - PNG
 - BMP
 - 2 Audio Playing Applications Support: Content Lister Based & Graphical Application
 - MP3
 - OGG
 - WAV
 - MOD
- 3. Internet Connectivity
 - Surf the Web using Dillo or Minimo
 - Download new comics daily.
- 4. Play Games
 - Chess
 - Mahjongg
 - Interactive Fiction
 - Sudoku. Also available at Feedbooks.com
 - GnuGo (in text mode)
- 5. For Developers and Linux geeks
 - Open a terminal on the iLiad

- Install an SSH server and have it automatically started at boot
 - Browse the file system on the iLiad and move files around.
 - Use the iLiad as a Wacom tablet on your Linux computer.
6. Security store your passwords and keep them updated with your PC, Mac, or other mobile devices.
 7. Keep a Calender, Contacts, and Todo List on the iLiad.
 8. Edit simple text files and programming source code.
 9. Connect a USB Keyboard to your iLiad
 10. Use as a Compact Flash and MMC/SD card reader for your PC.
 11. Automatically download and upload files to and from your networked Windows computer with the companion software. (On Mac's and Linux PC's with Samba too).
 12. Take screenshots of running programs on the iLiad.

Happy Day!

I've got my iLiad back! It was at UPS for the last 5 days because support forgot to put the address on the shipping label (it only had my name, city, state, and zip).

It's charging and updating the software now.

The screen looks better than I remember when I first got it. The whites are very white, and the shades of grey are much more defined. I really couldn't be happier with it at this point. :)

Reading Microsoft Lit files on the iLiad

I've completed a script that will allow you to read Microsoft .Lit (Reader) files on the iLiad. It uses my port of [convertlit](#).

Basically what will happen, is you copy the .lit file to your iLiad. You will select it from the contentlister like you would a PDF or any other document. When you do that, it will launch my convertlit script. It will explode the lit file into an OEB, and automatically create the manifest.xml with the Author's name and title of the book. It will even use the cover art embedded in the lit as an icon in the contentlister.

After that, you will need to delete the lit file yourself (I won't do it, in case something went wrong), and open the OEB with FBReader.

I've tested this with a few example LIT files I've found online. I haven't, however, tested with a DRM5 file as noted in convertlit's help document. If anyone has one of these types of files and would like me to test, I'd be happy to do so.

iRex's Community Blog

Following in the footsteps of Dell and Google, iRex has created a corporate blog.

I think this is a great idea, as it allows people to get further insight into the company and learn about things they wouldn't otherwise. As long as it's updated on a regular basis, this could be a very good thing. Especially for keeping an open dialog between the company and it's customers.

They've also added me to their blogroll, so I wanted to thank them for that as well.

I ♥ iRex!

So I got this email today:

Dear Mr. Boeglin,

Thank you for your email.

I would like to inform you that we replaced your battery. The device has been repaired and was send to you on the 11.09.2007.

Your repaired device has been send to the following address:

Kind regards

Technical Support Centre
iRex Technologies

They didn't mention the screen repair, but since that was the main issue on the ticket, I'm sure it was reolved since they did not say otherwise. I had shipped my iLiad last Wednesday, after it was already in the mail, I emailed iRex support asking them to look into my battery issues. I've only been able to get ~6 hours on a charge, and never receive the low battery warning. I expect to receive my iLiad today or tomorrow. With a new battery and a screen that doesn't have burn-in or excessive ghosting, it'll be like a brand new device!

I just wanted to say thanks to iRex for their great support! This is the second time it's been sent to them (first was a brick that was my fault). Both times I've had great communication and fast shipping. I know some haven't had as good of luck as I have, but I have only praise for them.

Waiting for my iLiad

Things have been pretty quiet on the iLiad front for me lately. Right now, my iLiad is at iRex's repair facility because of Screen Burn and Excessive Ghosting. I wanted to get it taken care of before my warranty is up in December.

I do have some things in the pipeline that will be pretty cool. I'm helping port and test the Feedbooks Downloader. There were a few font issues, and it needs a status bar, but overall it's a very cool program and will add a lot of functionality to the iLiad.

I'm also working on porting the updated version of FBReader with support for the .epub standard. In addition, I'll be modifying the installer so that you can open up supported books directly from the contentlister.

AbiWord and Gnumeric will be updated as well with an installer and Contentlister support.

There should be a lot of excitement after the 2.11 release.

Minimo on the iLiad: Part 2

It seems that compiling Minimo for the iLiad wasn't necessary. In early firmware versions, you could use the standard Minimo installation to browse the web. Although, you didn't have your own address bar or navigation buttons. Further on, iRex patched their code to prevent this. I was digging around in the firmware today when I found the launch mozilla script. After setting Minimo to use the modified libX11 and replacing the included chrome templates with that of another Minimo release, I was able to get a working web browser.

There are still a few things that need to be done before I can release it. I have to test whether or not it can function in a non-standard directory (so that it can run from the compact flash card). I also need to work out screen refreshes. Right now it does a full refresh every time the page loads. This can get annoying. I should be able to get it to work with a partial update. It's very cool to have a full featured browser on the iLiad. I can now check Gmail on the go.

For ongoing discussion, click: [here](#).

PDA Functions for your iLiad. Calendar, Contacts, Todo List

I've ported GPE Calendar, Contacts, and Todo for the iLiad. Since they share so many libraries, I've included them in a single package. GPE does not have any sync abilities that I'm aware of, so you won't be able to keep it updated with your PC. But, it's a step in the right direction.

It's a standard installer, unzip it to your memory card, and run on the iLiad.

Cross Posting from: <http://www.mobileread.com/forums/showthread.php?t=12861>

Comic Strip Downloader

I've created a comic strip downloader for the iLiad. It uses the site <http://high5.net/comic/> to download the day's comics.

There are two versions of it.

Automatic Daily Downloader

Manually Initiated Downloader

The Automatic version is for more advanced users who have the unbricking package. It uses cron to setup an automatic daily download. With this version, as long as your iLiad is connected to the internet at 8am, your comics will be ready for you.

The Manual version is for the Average Joe. When you select the program, it will check to see if it's updated today. If it has not, it will automatically open the connection manager, and download the day's comics. When finished, it will open FBReader and display the comic page. If it has already downloaded, it will simply open FBReader with the comics.

Whichever you use, it's a very cool way to read comics and show off some of the potential of the device.

Preparing for Developer Unbricking

With the release of general developer unbricking coming soon, I've started to prepare packages for many apps. From here on out, all of my packages will be released as ipk's with a shell script installer. I've finished Abiword, including a script to modify `er_registry`, to allow you to open Microsoft Word documents directly from the contentlister. I'm working on Gnumeric now, and will update the FBReader package with the registry hack as well.

Pretty soon, anyone with the developer package and unbricking support will be able to open almost any document they'd like on the iLiad. These are going to be some pretty exciting times.

Compiling Minimo

I'm currently compiling Minimo for the iLiad. It's a pretty long process, been going for an hour so far. With any luck, I'll have a web browser that will work with the modern web.

More updates to follow.

Edit: An update

I was unable to successfully run minimo on my iLiad. I believe it kept segfaulting on me. I've put this project to the wayside, and I'm working on another project. More details to follow.



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