
Earthcomber Releases Movies On The Move

Thursday, 29 June 2006

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Palm Treo owners can now spot theaters and showtimes by how close they are to the person scouting for a movie, thanks to the first GPS-enabled movie guide offered in the US.

"Movies on the Move," a free download for Palm OS and Windows Mobile-powered handheld devices, is available on Earthcomber, a website that provides mapping and local data as well as personal navigation software.

The detailed listings of movies, showtimes and theaters are now part of the local information that comes with maps for every region in the United States. The guide itself, which carries reviews, descriptions and images of the movies playing, is an additional download for high-capacity devices. It is also free.

Earthcomber's show listings cover nearly 5,400 theaters and 30,000 screens.

"Real, up-to-date movie listings are one of the handiest things you can put on a PDA or your smart phone," said Jim Brady, Earthcomber's founder and president. "What makes Movies on the Move different is they all show up in order of how close to where you're standing."

"Putting movie listings out for free is also a huge departure from the 'try-then-subscribe' services," Brady said.

Earthcomber's patented software uses GPS (Global Positioning Service) if available on the phone or other device. If the phone or PDA doesn't have a real GPS signal, Earthcomber still provides GPS-simulation by allowing a user to tap the screen to mark their current location. Then all of each user's personal interests appear by proximity.

"That really beats figuring out what zip code you're in and doing repetitious searches on a mobile web site," Brady said. "Plus, you can look for movies at the same time you're looking for all the rest of the things you're interested in – coffee shops, Wi-Fi hot spots, stores, ATMs, bars, whatever."

The "Movies on the Move" service is updated nightly and typically provides detailed information on approximately 400 movies per day, ranging from current box office hits to single screens showing obscure titles. The guide itself requires 1.5 to 3 megabytes of storage space, and includes movie synopses, actor and director credits and full reviews of popular titles,

along with many photos.

The guide may be stored on a memory card for older devices, though it is not required – show times and theater listings are independently loaded into downloadable map and data sets from Earthcomber.