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IBM announces the new Thinkpad X Series Ultraportable Computer

The Go-Anywhere, Slim and Lightweight IBM Notebook Computer Delivers Heavyweight Performance

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RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. - 11 Sep 2000: . . . IBM today announced the ThinkPad X Series, the ultraportable notebook computer designed to provide workers on the move with a better experience in extra-thin and extra-light mobile computing.

The X Series notebooks are slimmer than a deck of cards (about one inch thin), and lighter than a half-gallon of milk (travel weight starting at 3.1 pounds) and feature a 12.1-inch TFT thin film transistor (TFT) display.

These small, light and full-featured systems exemplify IBM's legendary ThinkPad heritage and expertise -- including innovative design and industry-leading technology, combined with enhanced ease-of-use and connectivity solutions -- in a single product. Optimized for today's mobile users, the new ThinkPad X20 is packed with powerful performance capabilities for personalized e-business computing.

New Product Line

With today's announcement, IBM has now completed a major transition of its award-winning ThinkPad line under new designations that more clearly define the mobile solutions that satisfy specific customer needs. The X Series indicates an extra-light, extra-small ultraportable notebook computer for users who are extremely mobile. Earlier this year, IBM announced the T Series for users who need a thin and light high performance notebook computer for frequent travel; the A Series for users who want an alternative to a desktop computer; and the i Series, for growing businesses, students and individuals who want the quality and style of a ThinkPad notebook at the most affordable price.

"The new ThinkPad notebooks are designed to dramatically improve the overall user experience," said Fran O'Sullivan, general manager, IBM mobile computing. "Customers are demanding that notebooks designed for the mobile worker be thin and light, embrace the latest advanced technologies, and connect seamlessly to other digital devices. The ThinkPad X Series gives our customers all that and much more."

Commonality across ThinkPad commercial product lines means that customers, especially in enterprises, can now interchange a variety of devices -- including port replicator and docking solutions, Communications Bay Mini PCI cards, UltraPort connector solutions, memory and power adapters -- across the ThinkPad T, A and X Series lines.

The new ThinkPad X20 also offers a compact flash slot for use with devices such as IBM's innovative new 1GB Microdrive. As the need for mobility continues to drive usage of multiple devices, the compact flash form factor is gaining increasing acceptance as a peripheral of choice for technologies ranging from memory to communications. By incorporating the compact flash slot, the X20 provides users with a seamless way to transfer information between devices such as digital cameras and handheld information devices.

ThinkPad X Series models are powered by Intel Mobile Pentium III processors (at 600MHz) -- a special version just for ultraportables that runs at a lower voltage geared to enhance the on-the-go user experience -- or Mobile Celeron processors (at 500MHz).

Wireless Options

For wireless LAN connectivity, an optional industry-standard 802.11b LAN PC Card, as well as the Access Point base station, are available today. Bluetooth wireless technology options, including a PC Card (available in October) and a device for the UltraPort connector (planned availability fourth quarter), will simplify short-range device-to-device connectivity.

"Surging demand for ultraportables is occurring on the heels of design enhancements that offer more flexibility to mobile workers," said Randy Giusto, vice president of mobile and desktop research at IDC. "Commonality of options is now the mantra of enterprise buyers, and users are demanding support for new technologies such as compact flash, new media types, and wireless technologies such as Bluetooth and 802.11."

Consistent with IBM's Edge-of-the-Network (EoN) strategy, an initiative which helps customers take advantage of e-business solutions by delivering products that are end-user optimized and easy to use, ThinkPad X Series models feature:

Titanium composite construction to protect the X Series from the wear and tear of travel

A one-button link to Access ThinkPad and the ThinkPad Assistant* for the information users need to set up, learn about and enhance their notebook, including a link to the new ThinkPad Community Web page (ibm.com/thinkpad/community) and an on-system user's guide

The legendary ThinkPad keyboard with the patented TrackPoint* pointing device

A ThinkLight* keyboard light on top edge of display that allows for work in low-light conditions

An easy open cover that enables users to open and close the ThinkPad X Series with one hand

A new, lightweight UltraBase* X2 media slice, allowing mobile workers to take advantage of media and storage devices on the road

Pricing, Availability, Service and Support

The ThinkPad X Series models are available September 12. Prices range from \$2199 to \$3099, and the systems are available preloaded with either Microsoft Windows 98 or Windows 2000.

The ThinkPad X Series, along with the rest of the ThinkPad family, offers a broad range of functionality for companies of all sizes as well as individuals. The notebook computers are available directly from IBM via the Internet at www.ibm.com/thinkpad or via phone at 1-888-SHOP-IBM. The new ThinkPad notebooks are also available through IBM business partners.

Options by IBM offers a wide range of accessories and upgrades designed to work with the ThinkPad X Series. For a complete list of options, visit www.ibm.com/options.

IBM offers personalized Web-based support, a three-year limited warranty and 24X7 toll-free hardware support during the warranty period.

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