

IBM ANNOUNCES FLAGSHIP THINKPAD T SERIES MODELS

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New Notebooks Combine Expanded Security Features, Wireless Capabilities

IBM today announced new high-performance ThinkPad T Series models with security features designed to protect corporate data and e-mail, as well as integrated wireless solutions for highly mobile users.

The company is leading an industry charge to develop technologies that allow highly mobile workers to wirelessly and securely connect to corporate networks from anyplace at anytime.

The ThinkPad T23 is the first notebook computer to offer a powerful security chip subsystem that enhances authentication, strengthens access control and protects information. The IBM Embedded Security Subsystem offers Smart-Card-like features at a fraction of the cost and supports all industry standards. This innovative security technology gives users peace of mind by providing an extra level of protection for e-mail and files that travel across the Internet.

Wireless communication using the 802.11b standard, is increasingly being deployed in corporate, travel and campus environments where mobile workers need fast access to their local area networks from ThinkPads and personal digital assistants. Security being a prime concern to these users, IBM is in the unique position of offering the embedded security subsystem to combine with Virtual Private Networking. This offers ThinkPad users much more secure 802.11b communication using standard tools and technology.

The new ThinkPads are also the first in the T Series to offer integrated wireless 802.11b capabilities. Select models of the T23 feature a dual antenna system built into the display cover for increased signal strength, allowing individuals to move around while they stay connected to the network. The 802.11b radio is fully integrated into the T23 via mini-PCI so users no longer need a PC Card and cumbersome "bump" antenna for wireless LAN applications.

Wireless models also come with V.92 ready modems and 10/100 Ethernet fully integrated. Additionally, the optional Bluetooth PC Card or UltraPort Module from IBM can be used with the T23 for short-range personal area network connectivity.

New Usability Features

IBM today also introduced ThinkPad Access Connections, a 'point and click' application that gives users real-time information on network connection status. The application also manages multiple network connections and locations on the same ThinkPad, making for easy management of wired and wireless networks on the road, at an airport, hotel or at home.

"The new ThinkPad T23 represents proof of concept for many of our most advanced mobile technologies,"

said Rick McGee, vice president of marketing, IBM Personal Device Brands. "But more importantly, it reaffirms IBM's commitment to delivering products that take the worry and effort out of key technologies like wireless networking and security."

IBM 48GB Travelstar hard disk drives will be available for the first time in the new ThinkPad T23. The Travelstar boasts the industry's highest capacity in a notebook drive and features new media technology, dubbed "pixie dust," introduced by IBM earlier this year. At 5400 RPM, the Travelstar is also the fastest notebook drive on the market and is available on select models of the T23.

"In the so-called 'post PC world' computer manufacturers will have to offer more than just a product to their customers, they will have to deliver the services and support as well as the know-how that make the computing experience easier," said Alan Promise, notebook analyst for IDC. "Security, wireless and migration are issues that IT managers are currently making decisions on for the coming years. The fact that we are seeing these technologies implemented in new products is a reflection of manufacturers' awareness of these user issues."

IBM is also introducing new ease of use features into the T23 that will soon become standard across the ThinkPad and NetVista lines. In addition to ThinkPad Access Connections, the new T23 will offer new back up and restore features such as disk-to-disk recovery tools and a hidden partition on the hard drive that allows users to restore their disks in the drive becomes corrupted. IBM is also introducing new migration tools that allow data to be easily transferred from an older computer to a new T23.

About the ThinkPad T23

At 2.18kg and 1.3 inches with a 14.1 inch XGA or SXGA+TFT display (varies by model) the T23 is lightweight, yet powerful. The T23 will offer the latest Mobile Intel Pentium III Processor-M, featuring SpeedStep technology with speeds up to 1.13 GHz (superscript: 1). The new graphics chipset improves 2D and 3D performance and offers twice the video memory of previous ThinkPad T Series notebooks.

Customers can choose between a 15B and 48GB hard drive (a 30GB hard drive is available as an option) and all models come standard with 128MB of memory, expandable up to 1GB. A 6-cell lithium ion battery offers more than three hours of battery life, depending upon model. All standard ports are included, as well as an additional USB port and S-video out for expanded multimedia capabilities. The T23's Titanium Composite top and bottom provides up to three times the strength of standard ABS plastic while maintaining a thin and light design.

Making life easier for IT staff and managers, the T Series uses the same ThinkPad Port Replicator and ThinkPad Dock, wireless solutions, Communications Bay Mini PCI cards, UltraPort connector solutions, storage memory, power adapter and UltraBay 2000 devices as models in the X and A Series.

Through the innovative ThinkPad UltraPort connector, a port on top of the display edge, users have access to additional optional features including the Bluetooth UltraPort Module from IBM for short-range wireless networking; the IBM UltraPort Camera II for digital image capture; the IBM UltraPort Digital Array Microphone for recording speech, using IBM ViaVoice Professional voice recognition software; and

the IBM UltraPort Compact Flash Reader which gives users easy access to CF media like the IBM 1GB Microdrive.

Pricing, Availability, Service and Support

ThinkPad T Series models are generally available now. Worldwide availability varies by country. Prices range from \$2,279 to \$3,959 (superscript: 3 - UK pricing to be confirmed). All prices quoted are Web list price. All models come preloaded with Microsoft Windows 98 or Windows 2000 Professional.

The IBM 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/pc/uk/buydirect or via phone at 0800 169 1458. The new ThinkPad notebooks are also available through IBM business partners. IBM's Family of PC Services is a comprehensive portfolio of services tailored for the PC environment and emphasising IBM solutions. These services, which range from free technical support to complex asset management, were created for individuals and large enterprises alike. The services, when integrated with IBM's hardware and software, deliver customised IT solutions.

IBM's renowned service and support are now even more convenient with the ThinkPad Button; a one-button link to Access ThinkPad and the ThinkPad Assistant. Users can find the information needed to set up, learn about and enhance their notebook, including a link to the new ThinkPad Community Web page at <http://www.ibm.com/pc/us/thinkpad/community> and an on-system user's guide. IBM offers personalised Web-based support, a three-year limited warranty (superscript: 4) on all T Series models and 24x7 toll-free hardware support (response times may vary) during the warranty period.

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

About IBM

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About IBM PCD

A leader in terms of performance, technology and service, IBM's Personal Computing Division (PCD) designs, manufactures, markets and finances industry-standard personal computers for individuals and businesses of all sizes throughout all sectors of activity. PCD's award winning PC line up has been recognised for its quality, design, ease-of-use, performance, manageability, durability

and reliability

About IBM ThinkPad

IBM ThinkPad continues to help lead the way in delivering enhancements, innovations and solutions that have shaped and defined the mobile computing industry. To date, more than 13 million ThinkPad notebooks have been shipped. Since the launch of the ThinkPad 700C in 1992, these acclaimed notebook computers have been lauded as design and engineering models, winning nearly 750 industry awards. ThinkPad notebooks have been trusted for use in some of the world's most extreme settings, including space shuttle launches, altitudes more than 17,000 feet above sea level and on the open seas.

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1. GHz only measures microprocessor internal clock speed; many factors affect application performance.
2. Weight includes battery and travel cover; weight may vary due to vendor components, manufacturing process and options.
3. Price does not include tax or shipping and is subject to change without notice. Manufacturer's warranty applies to non-IBM products.
4. For terms and conditions or a copy of IBM's Statement of Limited Warranty, call 1 800 772-2227. Battery covered by a separate, one-year limited warranty.

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