High Capacity, Small Size: The T1000XE - The New Toshiba Baby

Düsseldorf, Germany,
Monday 12th February

Toshiba today announced the launch of a new unique notebook-sized computer. The new T1000XE is barely bigger than an A4 note pad, yet includes many of the most up-to-date developments in laptop computers. The T1000XE weighs only 2.7kg and measures 310 x 254 x 44.5 mm, but still comes equipped with a 20 MB hard disk, full-sized keyboard, excellent back-lit screen and the advanced power saving features which are now becoming standard on Toshiba portables.

Although one of the world's smallest computers, the battery powered T1000XE has the hard disk capacity to provide mobile professionals with all the programs and data they need to do business while out of the office. Though small on the outside, it is definitely larger than its competitors on the inside. MS-DOS and LapLink file transfer software are factory-installed in ROM and it has a 1MB standard memory expandable to 3MB. The Intel 80C86 processor runs at a fast clock speed of 9.54 MHz adjustable to 4.77 MHz. Then of course there's the 20MB hard disk. The T1000XE can also be equipped with a modem for long distance communications.

The unique feature of the T1000XE is the abandonment of an internal diskette drive. Toshiba reasons that a 20 MB hard disk, equal to 10,000 pages of information, is more than sufficient for mobile use. Without an internal diskette drive, weight is reduced and users are freed from the burden of carrying around numerous floppy disks. The use of LapLink for transferring data between computers is not only easier but faster, too. An external 3.5" 1.44 MB diskette drive is available, providing users with a means to install new software, an activity that almost exclusively takes place in the office. In the words of a Toshiba (spokesman - insert name here), "Our experience indicates that an internal diskette drive is rarely used in applications outside of the office and thus only represents extra weight and space which we have used for other advanced features to make computing both simpler and more comfortable."

But the lack of an internal diskette drive doesn't just improve the T1000XE's portability, there are technical advantages too. The T1000XE is the ideal computer for creating a controlled software environment. By only allowing software to be loaded centrally by experts, each machine is limited to carrying out the tasks assigned. Security is enhanced because only the MIS manager decides what software is on each machine. Efficiency is increased as each computer can only be use for its designated purpose; safety of data is increased by reducing the chances of a virus attacking from unauthorised programming.

Toshiba recognises that in everyday use perhaps the two most important features of a computer after its capacity and speed are the keyboard and the screen. Toshiba has therefore paid special attention to these. Thus while some manufacturers compromise the keyboard to achieve space savings, the T1000XE comes with a full 84 sculptured key standard keyboard layout including 12 function keys which provide maximum compatibility with the latest software and avoid awkward key combinations. All keys are the same size as on a standard desktop, with excellent tactile response and arranged in a logical manner. Additionally, the keyboard benefits from the overall slim design of the T1000XE which provides the ideal distance from the working surface for cramp-free typing.

The crisp display of the screen results from Toshiba's leading knowledge in thin liquid crystal displays. The T1000XE uses the latest back-lit Supertwist LCD technology and is highly legible in

a wide range of lighting conditions. The display features double-scan CGA compatible graphics, as well as Toshiba graphics, with a resolution of 640 x 400 pixels. Its surprisingly large size, 19.5 x 12.5 cm (7.7" x 4.9") means the user can view a full 80 characters of text in 25 lines.

Portability, though, is not just weight and size. To be truly portable a laptop must also be independent of mains power. The T1000XE has all the latest technology helping to extend battery life and thus enhance portability. Toshiba's unique AutoResumeTM mode allows batteries to be changed without leaving the programme. It automatically saves data before the power runs out. When the user then attaches another battery or power supply, the T1000XE restarts at exactly the same point - no data loss, no reloading. The MaxTimeTM Power Management system saves power by putting the display and hard disk to sleep when there's a pause in the action. At the next key stroke these automatically spring back into action.

The compact, light batteries can be recharged in the machine or using the optional quick charger. They are also easily removed and replaced with one hand, and extras can of course be bought separately. The power adaptor/charger also automatically senses what voltage the local electricity is and adapts the computer accordingly. And if users are worried about power draining away due to accidentally switching the computer on while in the briefcase, they'll like the special safety feature built into the closing latch which prevents this. These features have become standard on Toshiba notebook-size computers, and are the result of Toshiba's market experience as the leading supplier of portable computers world-wide.

Yet Toshiba engineers have not only designed an advanced notebook-size computer; the T1000XE is characterised by the meticulous attention to detail which customers have now come to expect from the market leader. Seven LED's indicating keyboard and power status can be seen when the cover is closed; the convenient opening catch can be operated with one hand; and to stop the T1000XE sliding around on slippery surfaces it has small rubber feet. This user friendliness and slim stylish design are recognisable hallmarks of Toshiba laptops.

Appended: Technical Summary

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Specifications

Processor
 Intel 80C86TM
 9.54 or 4.77 MHz

Memory
 1 MB RAM standard
 Up to 3 MB
 LIM/EMS 4.0 standard
 LapLink and MS-DOS 3.3 in ROM

Storage
 20 MB (25 msec) hard disk
 External 3.5" 720 KB/1.44 MB diskette drive (optional)

Display
 Supertwist back-lit high-resolution LCD
 640 x 400 pixels
 Very slim

Graphics Adapter
 Toshiba graphics mode (640 x 400 pixel)
 Double-scan CGA compatible

Interfaces
 Parallel port for printer or external diskette drive
 RS-232C serial port
 External 3.5" diskette drive port

Expansion
 Dedicated modem slot

Keyboard
 Sculptured full-size 84 key keyboard
 12 function keys
 Integrated numeric keypad
 Dedicated cursor control keys
 Status LED's

Operating System
 MS-DOS 3.3 in ROM
 MS-DOS 4.01 (optional)

Size
 310 x 254 x 44 mm (WxDxH)
 (12.2" x 10" x 1.8")

Weight
 2.7 kg (5.9 lb.)

Power Supply
 Runs up to 3.5 hours on one replaceable, rechargeable

Nickel Cadmium battery
Autosensing 100-240V AC adapter for world-wide usage

Power Saving Features
AutoResumeTM mode for instant restart
MaxTimeTM Power Management:
Auto power off for modem, hard disk, and display

Options
Carrying bag
1 or 2 MB memory expansion cards
External 3.5" 720 KB/1.44 MB diskette drive
External 5.25" 360 KB diskette drive
Internal Hayes-compatible modem (where approved)
Quick battery charger
Extra battery packs