

Lenovo ThinkPad X60 Tablet

WELL BUILT AND WITH ASTONISHING BATTERY LIFE TO BOOT. IT'S PRICY BUT DECENT VALUE.

When it comes to laptops, it's hard to find a brand that's more instantly recognisable than ThinkPad. Since IBM's PC division was bought by Lenovo more than two years ago, there's been no sign of a dip in the quality of the systems arriving on the market, and the original ThinkPad X60 (July 2006, page 44) is a case in point. When we first reviewed it, we praised its excellent screen and build quality and declared it our alternative A-List choice to the cheaper Dell D420.

Apart from the tablet hinge at the base of the screen, and the fingerprint reader's relocation to the bezel of the screen, there are no cosmetic differences between this and the original X60. This means you still get the gratifying experience we've come to expect from ThinkPads. Typing is a pleasure thanks to the solid keyboard, and the good build quality of the previous versions has survived the transition to tablet PC - the X60 Tablet will easily withstand the knocks that a road-going laptop can expect. Even the tablet hinge feels suitably rugged, and we appreciate the bidirectional catch that allows you to clasp the touchscreen



► ...but battery life extends to over nine hours.

to the keyboard in either laptop or tablet mode.

The only aspect of the X60 not to carry over to the X60 Tablet is the screen itself. Whereas previous versions had excellent LCDs, the Desktop isn't so bright here. The 1024 x 768 panel is also slightly grainy, and our image quality tests revealed poor

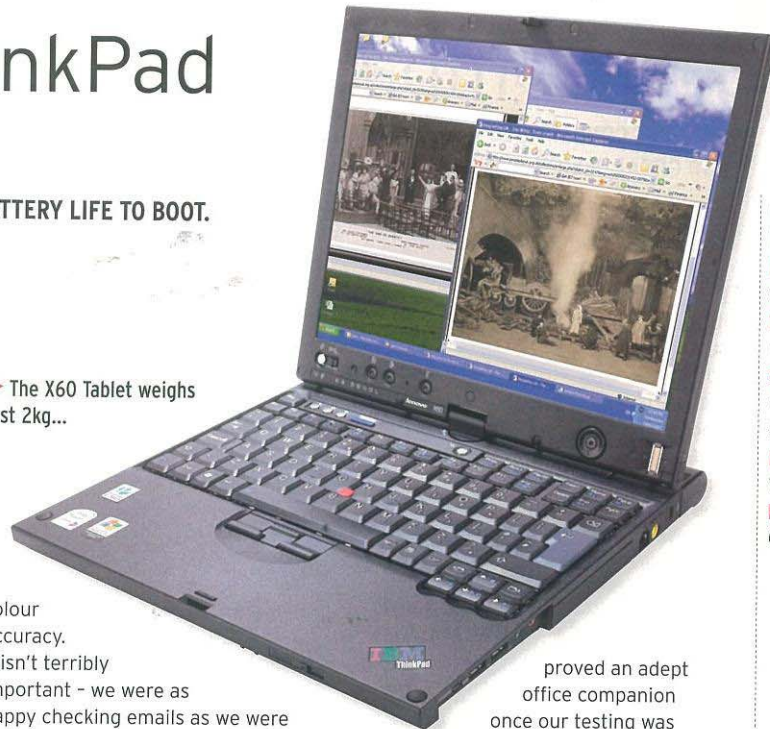
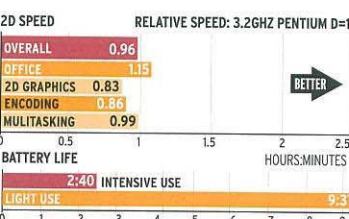
► The X60 Tablet weighs just 2kg...

colour accuracy. It isn't terribly important - we were as happy checking emails as we were watching a film - but look elsewhere if you plan to carry out serious photo work, for example.

While the screen isn't the best, the touchscreen capability is excellent. It's responsive, sensitive without reacting to the lightest of touches, and the stylus is a digitiser, which means that the tablet features of the X60 are used to the full. And, at 2kg, the X60 is still light enough to hold in the crook of your arm for note-taking or use in the field (note that the version of the X60 Tablet with a smaller battery weighs 1.7kg).

Battery life is great too: we began our light-use test at 6:10pm in the evening, and the X60 Tablet finally ran out of steam at 3:50am the following morning - well over nine-and-a-half hours. Intensive use is hardly less impressive at 2hrs 40mins.

The Intel Core Duo L2500 at the heart of the X60 Tablet has a clock speed of 1.83GHz, and with 1GB of 667MHz RAM it was able to fly through all manner of applications. It raced to an overall score of 0.96 in our benchmarks, and the X60 Tablet



proved an adept office companion once our testing was done, getting through large spreadsheets, documents and emails with ease. We even managed to get some video editing in.

Storage is ample. The 100GB hard disk is plenty for applications and documents, although it will show the strain under large media collections. There's no optical drive either. In fact, the only removable storage on the ThinkPad X60 is an SD card reader, and even that isn't compatible with SDHC (Secure Digital high-capacity) cards.

The X60 Tablet boasts the well-respected ThinkVantage software, providing a range of security and configuration tools. The fingerprint reader on the bottom of the touchscreen is complemented by a TPM 1.2 chip inside, and ThinkVantage can quickly take care of virtually any task, from power management to system troubleshooting.

The touchscreen, 512MB more RAM and 40GB more hard disk space add a reasonable \$440 to the price. Nonetheless, in spite of offering great design and performance, it's simply too expensive to affect the A-List.

Dave Stevenson

LABS VERDICT

PERFORMANCE



FEATURES & DESIGN



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SPECIFICATIONS

1.83GHz Intel Core Duo L2500; 1GB 667MHz RAM; 100GB hard disk; Intel GMA 950 graphics; 12.1in 1024 x 768 touchscreen; 802.11a/b/g; Gigabit Ethernet; 56K modem; fingerprint reader; TPM 1.2; 3 x USB; mini-FireWire; D-SUB; Type II PC Card; Windows XP Tablet PC Edition; 3yr C&R warranty; 274 x 267 x 33mm (WDH); 2kg