

RuggedPCReview.com

If it's rugged, we review it and write about it

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We're making it easy to compare rugged products

Here at RuggedPCReview.com we've finally done something we've meant to do for a long time. We created an easy way to compare products side-by-side:



[Compare rugged handhelds](#)

[Compare rugged tablets](#)

[Compare rugged notebooks](#)

These comparison tools already contain hundreds of rugged, semi-rugged and durable products, and we're adding more every week. This way customers and interested parties can quickly learn about rugged products and make their decisions.

As always, a big thanks to our industry sponsors [Advantech](#), [Motion Computing](#), [Getac](#), the [Handheld Group](#), [Juniper Systems](#), [MobileDemand](#), [Samwell](#), and [Winmate Communications](#) for making RuggedPCReview.com possible!

Case Study: Rugged tablets at Mount Everest Base Camp



When a Duke University team of researchers set up shop at the Mount Everest base camp at 17,650 feet to study the mystery of human survival in low oxygen environments, they

entrusted their data to MobileDemand xTablet T7200 rugged tablet PCs. Under very trying circumstances, the tablets worked just as expected. [[See Case Study: Computers in High Altitude Expeditions](#)]

Dell Latitude E6430 ATG: State-of-the-art semi-rugged

ATG stands for "All Terrain Grade" and at Dell that means "semi-rugged." The 14-inch Dell E630 ATG, while based on the company's consumer Latitude E6430 models, is a good deal tougher and more durable with its spill-resistant



keyboard, port covers, shock-mounted hard drive and LCD, and a sturdy magnesium base. Best of all, ATG customers get all the same state-of-the-art technology of the standard E6430 models, and that includes a large variety of 3rd gen Intel Core processors. [\[See description, analysis and specs of the Dell Latitude E6430 ATG\]](#)

Fujitsu Stylistic Q572 -- They've been making tablets for over 20 years, and it shows

Fujitsu has been a pen computing and tablet pioneer for over 20 years, and that know-how shows in their Stylistic Q572 business-class tablet. The 10.1-inch WXGA (1366 x 768 pixel) IPS anti-glare display is bright (400 nits) and uses the N-trig DuoSense capacitive multi-touch and active pen combo. There are dual cameras (720p front, 1080p and 5mp stills rear), SD and Smart Card slots, and solid state storage up to 256GB. The Q572 is powered by an AMD Z-60 APU that includes AMD RADEON HD 6350 graphics, and runs either Windows 7 or Windows 8. [\[See description, analysis and specs of the Fujitsu Stylistic Q572\]](#)



Motorola Omnii XT15f -- Creating rugged handhelds specifically for use in freezers

Motorola Solutions introduced the Omnii XT15f, a special "freezer and condensation-rated" version of the Psion Omnii XT15 rugged handheld. Since the temperature extremes and condensation issues when working in and around freezers can affect displays, touch screens, keypads, battery life and longevity, the XT15f includes a variety of frost-free and heating technologies that address those issues. [\[See description, analysis and specs of the Motorola Solutions Psion Omnii XT15f\]](#) and [\[How Motorola Solutions made two mobile computers condensation- and freezer-proof\]](#)



GammaTech Durabook SA14: Affordable semi-rugged high-performance laptop

Where do you go if you want a notebook with the performance and technology of the latest consumer laptops, but one that's also tough and rugged while still being affordable? The new Durabook SA14 from Gammatech is such a machine. There are compromises in ruggedness (it's only semi-rugged), but you do get your choice of Intel 3rd-gen Core processors, lots of connectivity, a wide-format 14-inch 1366 x 768 pixel display with high-bright and touch options, and even an optional Blu-ray optical drive. [\[See description, analysis and specs of the Durabook SA14\]](#)



DLI 7200 -- A 4.3-inch Windows/Android tough and rugged procap point-of-sale PDA



Point-of-sale applications usually reside on fixed station terminals. What if you could use those same Windows POS apps on a handy rugged PDA? Impossible? Not with the DLI 7200, an Intel Atom Z670-powered sturdy PDA that runs full Windows 7 (or Win 7 Embedded or POSReady 7) on a 4.3-inch 480 x 800 pixel capacitive touchscreen and can even be equipped with a RFID/magnetic stripe reader module. But there's more:

the DLI 7200 can also run Android. [[See description, analysis and specs of the DLI 7200](#)]

Honeywell Dolphin 70e: And another stylish multi-talented ruggedized enterprise PDA

With hundreds of millions of sleek, elegant, high-tech smartphones out there, Honeywell saw great potential for a more durable more rugged version of those devices, one that in Honeywell's words "marries the size, style and usability of a consumer device with the reliability and longevity of a traditional rugged handheld." The result is the Dolphin 70e Black, a stylish 7-ounce multi-talented ruggedized enterprise digital assistant that runs Android or Windows Mobile. [[See description, specs and analysis of the Honeywell Dolphin 70e](#)]



Lenovo ThinkPad X230t: They still make them, ThinkPad convertible notebooks

Yes, Virginia, it used to be IBM that made the ThinkPads before they sold the business to Lenovo, and the first ThinkPads some 20 years ago were just that, pads, and not notebooks. It was only when pen computing failed to catch on that ThinkPads became laptops. But IBM and then Lenovo never really gave up on tablets, and the current Lenovo ThinkPad X230t is the latest in a long line of convertible laptops. It looks big and heavy now compared to Lenovo's sleek IdeaPads, but it has plenty of power, is very reasonably priced, and exudes a timeless elegance. [[See description, analysis and specs of the Lenovo ThinkPad X230t](#)]



Fuji FinePix XP200: It's for when you need a really tough camera on the job

Almost any job in the field benefits from image and video documentation, but integrated cameras aren't always up to the job, and smartphones are too fragile for the field. Enter the US\$299 Fuji FinePix XP200, a 16mp camera with a



5X optical zoom and WiFi that can also shoot 1080p HD video at 60 frames per second. Best: it's IP68 rated, totally water- and dust-proof, freeze-proof, and can handle drops from almost seven feet. [[See description, analysis and specs of the Fuji FinePix XP200](#)]

RuggedPCReview Blog: Rugged notebooks: challenges and opportunities

We've been working on setting up our new rugged notebook comparison tool over the past few weeks. So far, the rugged notebook tool, where users can compare the full specs of up to three rugged notebooks side-by-side, has far fewer entries than our comparison tools for rugged handhelds and rugged tablets. Why are there only relatively few products out there, and what is the overall rugged notebook situation? [[Read more...](#)]

Other cool stuff we reviewed:

RuggedPCReview also examined and described the [VT Miltope's RPDA-1](#), the [2nd gen Handheld XRW](#), the [DT Research DT398](#) and [DT307](#), the [Motorola Psion VH10f](#), the [QSI QTERM-G58](#), the [Janam XT85](#), the [Logic Instrument Fieldbook A2](#) and also their [Fieldbook B1](#), the [Xplore iX104C5-M2](#), the [Datalogic Skorpion X3](#), the [Catchwell CW31](#), and the [Motorola MW810 R2.0](#). Among lots of other rugged gear.

And... various industry happenings, thoughts, oddities, and contemplations

Sadly, we had to bid farewell to a long-time leader in the rugged computing field, Itronix. Parent General Dynamics decided they did no longer want to be in that business. So, [Itronix RIP](#). A meeting with the folks from the Handheld Group was much more upbeat, and we wrote about it in [Handheld: Pursuit of a vision](#).

In closing, here's the benefit of what we learned in the past few months here at the RuggedPCReview lab:

- Just as most have upgraded to 2nd and 3rd gen Intel Core processors, here already comes the 4th generation, and it uses a new socket.
- The tablet boom continues unabated. And it looks like Samsung is for real.
- Juniper Systems in Utah celebrated its 20th anniversary. Congrats!
- We thought Windows RT had a chance, but now it doesn't look that way.
- Almost all review units we get still use Windows 7. Will Windows 8.1 change minds?
- We thought Panasonic was just hedging its bets with their G1 Windows tablet. We were wrong. It rocks!
- We remain VERY bullish on the market for ruggedized handhelds and tablets. But they must cleverly leverage users' thrill with all those hundreds of millions of tablets and smartphones.

Stay rugged! And consider signing up as an industry sponsor of RuggedPCReview.

Conrad

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