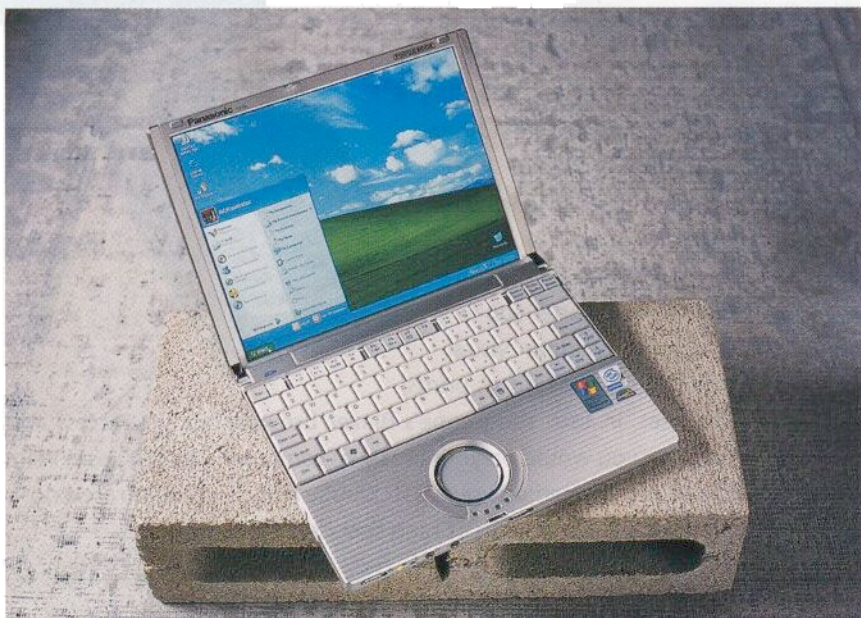


# executive edge

A special look at the future of mobile devices. Compiled by Martin Lieberman



## Easy Rider

Panasonic's Toughbook is an ideal travel companion

As with many modern professionals, there are times when Executive Edge feels like he is always on the road — or in the air, as the case may be — getting little of his work done at a desk in the office. But thanks to innovations in mobile devices in recent years, it has become less of a concern.

Case in point: Panasonic's new Toughbook T1 (\$2,119; [www.panasonic.com/toughbook](http://www.panasonic.com/toughbook)). The 9.5-by-7-by-1-inch T1, weighing just 2.4 pounds, is one of the smallest fully functional notebook computers. It fits neatly in a briefcase or travel bag and sits perfectly on a tray table with room to spare. And like other devices in the Toughbook line — known for rugged durability — the T1 can handle a rough time. Although not as “fully ruggedized” as other models like the CF28 (which can withstand all environmental stresses), the T1 will hold up on impact from a fall off a desk. You may not want to take it on a hike, but wherever you do use it, it will perform like a pro.

The T1 comes with full wireless capabilities that other Toughbooks lack. It has a dedicated mini-PCI that is compatible with most popular wireless cards. (The CF28 model, on the other hand, includes a GPS option in exchange for such wireless capabilities.)

Panasonic's T1 lets professionals stay productive wherever they are. But no matter which model of the Toughbook you choose to take along, it will be packed and ready to go.

## DOWN TO THE LAST WIRE

How wireless is your wireless? When you consider the number of mobile devices you use — your laptop, cell phone, and PDA, and all the power cords, adapters, and chargers they require — suddenly they are not so wireless. The Wire-Free Electricity Base from MobileWise ([www.mobilewise.com](http://www.mobilewise.com)), which ranges in price from \$30 to a hi-end \$200, provides the juice your devices need, without all the wires. Just place your MobileWise-enabled device on the Base and it is charged. The Base can power multiple devices at the same time.

“The Wire-Free Electricity Base system may completely change the way portable devices can be charged, and promises to completely separate the charger from the device in the mind and actions of the user,” says Alix Paultre of *Electronic Products* magazine, which named the Wire-Free Base a Product of the Year. MobileWise is currently working to incorporate its technology into new products. In the meantime, you'll be able to buy an adapter chip to use the base with any device.

— Kate Van der Kloot



APRIL 2003 CONTINENTAL 19