

Panasonic recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Tablet PC Edition

TOUGHBOOK®

Computers for the Outside World™



Toughbooks in action Pole Position at Toyota



With racing at Le Mans and world championships at international rallies under their belt – the Japanese automotive manufacturer Toyota has a long and successful history in international motor racing to look back on. But the greatest challenge is the elite division of motor sports: Formula 1. Panasonic Toyota Racing has been in charge of developing the entire Formula 1 program since 1999. The complete racing vehicle is built in Cologne, at the headquarters of Toyota Motorsport Operations. More than 600 employees work on continuing the Toyota Motorsport success story at the 30,000 square-metre site. Development and production of Formula 1 cars is extremely high-tech and unthinkable without computer support – just like racing itself. The Mobile PC's need to be able to take a lot of pressure which is

why Panasonic Toyota Racing use the ruggedised Panasonic Toughbooks. They are mainly used during test series and races, directly on the racing car itself: to input or read out calibration data from the car's controlling electronic unit. The data is transferred to the network for analysis after every round the car drives. Every driver and his vehicle are looked after by a team of race engineers.

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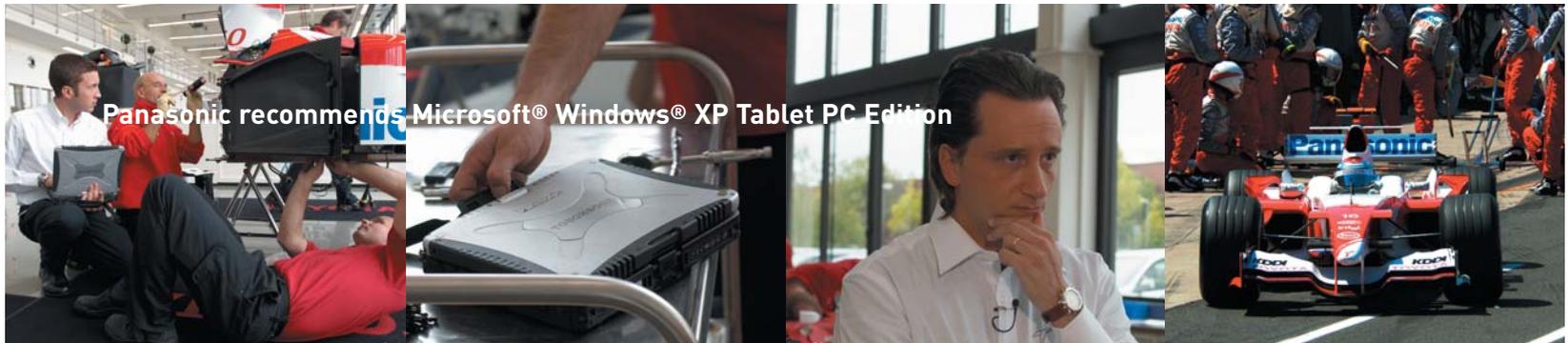
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Toughbooks in action

Clear victory for robust notebooks

The use of computers at Panasonic Toyota Racing makes tough demands on the hardware. The Panasonic Toughbook models CF-51 and CF-18 match up to every demand, as they are extremely robust and insensitive thanks to their special construction. That means they meet the basic requirement for tools for vehicle engineers, who always work in varying weather conditions. But the Toughbooks aren't just exposed to high humidity, extreme heat and rain – they are also confronted with strong vibrations when the cars are started. With 19 races around the world plus test sessions, that calls for a reliable notebook. "From 45 °C and 90% humidity in Malaysia to 4 °C in the winter test runs

in Barcelona, the CF-18 is the perfect hardware under diverse weather conditions. Even the heavy rain in Brazil in 2002, when everything got soaking wet, there was no problem for the CF-18," reports Gianluca Pisanello, one of Jarno Trulli's race engineers.

Winning performance

For Panasonic Toyota Racing's head of IT, outstanding vibration and shock resistance and fast computing power were top priority when selecting the Mobile PC. The Panasonic Toughbooks CF-51 and CF-18 meet these requirements: the hard drive surrounded by shock-absorbing material is housed in a stable metal casing – keeping the notebooks vibration-resistant. The casing is manufactured from impact-resistant magnesium alloy; all ports are sealed against dust or moisture.

As Toyota's engineers mainly have to read a larger number of diagrams and graphics on the notebooks, they had high expectations of the graphics card memory and the screen. "The CF-51 is the ideal solution for us, because it's reliable and easy to use, and the screen fulfils our requirements. The graphic card memory is also large enough and the computing power is really good," comments Dominik Größchen, group manager of the Panasonic Toyota Racing IT office. The two Toughbooks feature a display surrounded by dampers, with low-torsion magnesium alloy and high screen resolutions, guaranteeing optimum

readability. In the tablet position, the CF-18 "convertible" notebook is ideal for use in the pit lane, as the test engineers can simply enter data by hand.

Faster across the finishing line: with WLAN

The Toughbooks' all-round suitability is completed by integrated Intel® Centrino® mobile technology. "Anyone who travels knows the problems of a cable connection to the Internet. With wireless LAN there's no physical connection and no adapter to lose. Intel® Centrino® Mobile Technology definitely helps our staff to save time and makes them easier to reach," Dominik Größchen describes. The IT specialist was convinced by the Toughbooks' robust quality, helping them to fulfil the highest demands. "Our objective was to use long-life notebooks for measurement and applications in vehicle development. The Toughbooks' long battery operating times guarantee efficient use, wherever they are."



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