

# Toshiba Portégé R200 Wins PC Magazine Editors' Choice

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By Cisco Cheng

## **BOTTOM LINE:**

The Toshiba Portégé R200 lightens your load while letting you stay immensely productive on the road. If you travel often and need to keep up with work back at the office, you'd be remiss not to check out this system. And you'd be toting the sleekest notebook out there.

## **PROS:**

Supersleek and light design. Improved battery life. New security suite. Fingerprint reader.

## **CONS:**

External optical drive.



## **EDITOR RATING**



It's as if Toshiba melted all its expensive silverware and draped it around the body of its latest lightweight R200 ultraportable. This luxuriously thin, silver-clad beauty barely tips the scales at 2.7 pounds (system weight). Like its predecessor, the R100, the R200 is just 0.7 inches thick, practically the size of a legal pad. Best part: It has a comfortable, full-size keyboard. There's little not to love about the R200, which is why it flies away with our Editors' Choice for ultraportables.

The R200 makes some much-needed improvements to the hardware. For example, 512MB DDR2 memory is now standard for optimal performance. Toshiba also moved to Intel's next-generation Centrino solution, including a 1.2-GHz Pentium M 753 ULV processor and the Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 900 GM (128MB shared). Sweetening the pot is a 60GB hard drive, enough for some serious storage.

SYSmark scores were slightly better than those of our most recent ultraportable Editors' Choice, the IBM ThinkPad X40, which hasn't been upgraded to the latest Centrino parts. (The recently announced IBM X41 will have updated components. Look for our review in the next couple weeks.) Battery life also has been improved significantly over the R100's: The R200's battery went from a 17-Wh battery to a 41-Wh battery. Consequently, BatteryMark test scores improved from 2:07 (hr:min) to 3:32, a 60 percent improvement. If you opt for the second battery pack, you'd add about 5 hours more and incur only a minimal weight gain.

Toshiba steps up security, implementing its EasyGuard suite on the R200. Similar to IBM's ThinkVantage suite, EasyGuard offers the Trusted Platform Module (TPM) hardware security chip. Though they work similarly, IBM's solution is a little bit easier to configure and manage. Toshiba also integrates a fingerprint reader to safeguard precious passwords. In addition, a built-in accelerometer guards against sudden motion that could affect your hard drive, similar to IBM's Active Protection. And Toshiba offers a diverse set of software utilities that let you do everything from configure your wireless to manage your battery life.

The R200 is built for connectivity as well. Toshiba includes the Atheros Super G wireless and Bluetooth 2.0 with EDR (Enhanced Data Rates), though there are currently few devices available to take advantage of the claimed increased speeds (up to 3 Mbps). Other features include two USB ports, a VGA port, and an SD slot. The R200 lacks a built-in optical drive, though an external optical drive is optional.

The Toshiba Portégé R200 not only lightens your load, it gives you what you need to be immensely productive on the road. If you travel often and have to keep up with work back at the office, you'd be remiss not to check out this system. And let's not forget, you'll also be toting one of the sleekest systems around.

BENCHMARK TESTS						
High scores are best. Antialiasing/Anisotropic filtering ▶	Processor	Weight (lbs)	BATTERY TEST Business Winstone 2004 BatteryMark (hr:min)	BUSINESS APPS Sysmark 2004 Office Productivity	MULTIMEDIA APPS Sysmark 2004 Internet Content Creation	SYSmark 2004 Overall
<b>Toshiba Portege R200</b>	Pentium M 753 (1.2Ghz)	2.7	3:32	91	109	100
<b>IBM ThinkPad X40*</b>	Pentium M 718 (1.3Ghz)	3.2	5:56	84	105	94

\* Reported for comparison.  
Red denotes Editors' Choice

^ IBM ThinkPad X40 is tested with 8-cell Li-Ion battery. Toshiba Portégé R200 is tested with 6-cell Li-Ion battery.

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