



In 1992, IBM launched new series of notebook computer - the **ThinkPad**. Businesses and consumers began to favour small, self contained, "go-anywhere" computers. "Why limit yourself to working at your desk?" The ThinkPad was IBM's answer to this exploding niche. ThinkPads featured a Track Point pointing device to eliminate (or at least reduce) the need for an external mouse. The ThinkPad was an immediate success for IBM. The model 340 you see here is an early ThinkPad c.1994.

In addition to being the 'Year of the ThinkPad', 1992 also marked the formation of the "IBM Personal Computer Company". Designed to operate as separate entity within the IBM, its mandate was to focus on efficient development and delivery of consumer PC's and related products. Their goal was to move product from concept to manufacturing and shipping in six months or less.

In November of 1993, an IBM ThinkPad (model 750) flew aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavor during the mission to refurbish the Hubble Space Telescope. This was hailed by IBM as the first space flight of a modern notebook computer. Also In 1993, IBM introduced a pen notebook.

In 1994 IBM introduced the first notebook with an integrated CD-ROM to help users deal with mass amounts of data. By 1997, ThinkPads were equipped with integrated DVD-ROM drives, enabling users to take advantage of high-quality full motion video. In 1998, "thin and light" notebooks became the rage. IBM introduced the ThinkPad 600 which became the best-selling IBM ThinkPad notebook of all time, and still holds that glory today

Subsequent ThinkPad firsts have included lighting to illuminate the keyboard in dim environments and a 'docking station' to ease user difficulties while moving between the desktop and the open road. In the year 2000, integrated wireless networking became available on select models. Also, several new models were designed and released as full desktop replacements.

In 2001 IBM introduced the TransNote, which was designed to combine functions previously served separately by paper, ink and a mobile computer.

Recent achievements in ThinkPads include IBM's 'Embedded Security Subsystem', to help safeguard user data. Another new feature, called the "Active Protection System" was designed to monitor/predict machine movements, in order to prevent damaging blows to an unprepared hard disk.

2003 saw 20 millionth ThinkPad produced, which IBM totes as "more than any other notebook brand". ThinkPads have been used extensively across the U of S campus.