

FREE PHONE CALLS! Skype's CEO Speaks Out

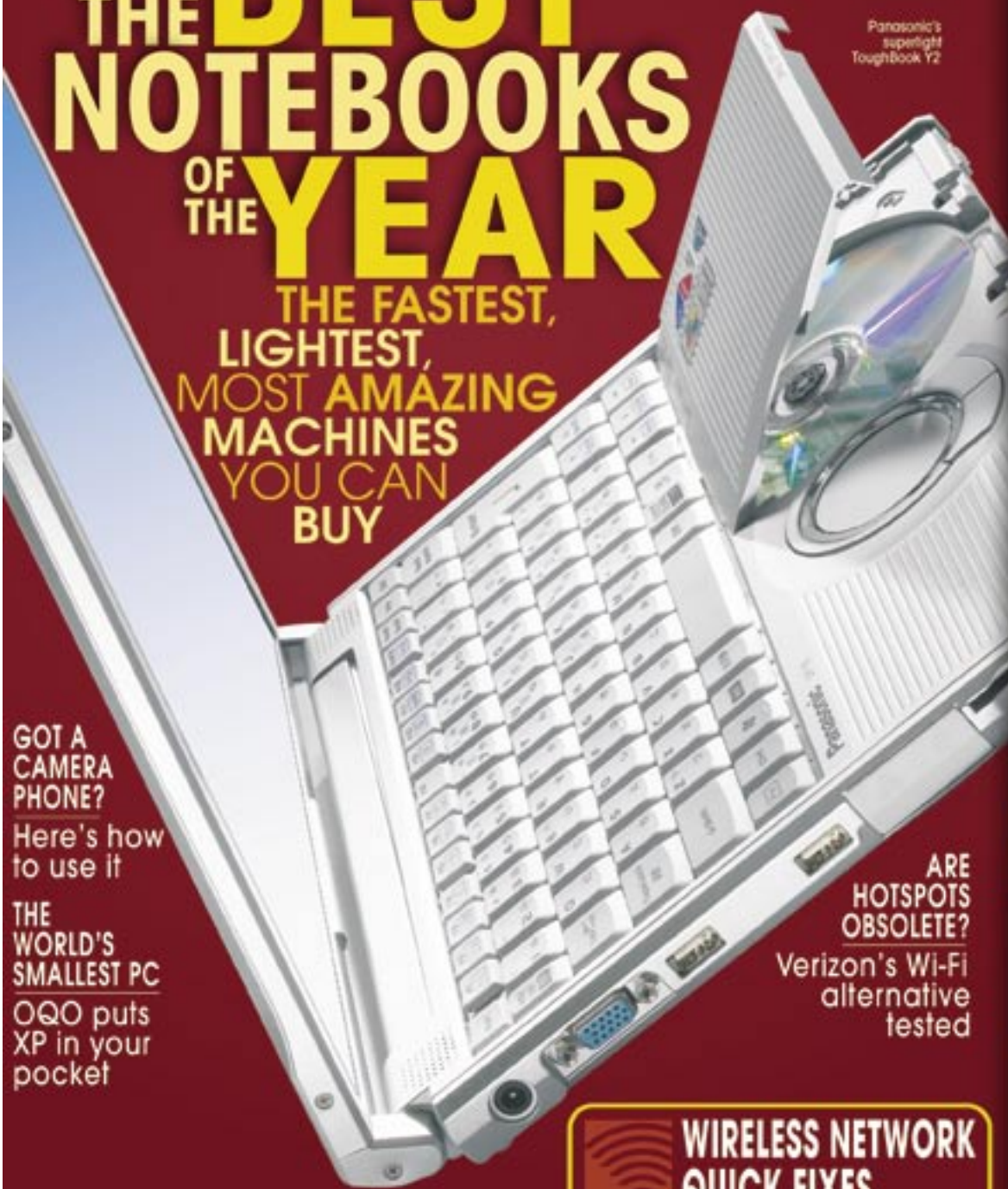
LAPTOP

MOBILE SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINESS & LIFE

THE BEST NOTEBOOKS OF THE YEAR

THE FASTEST,
LIGHTEST,
MOST AMAZING
MACHINES
YOU CAN
BUY

Panasonic's
superlight
ToughBook Y2



GOT A
CAMERA
PHONE?

Here's how
to use it

THE
WORLD'S
SMALLEST PC

OQO puts
XP in your
pocket

ARE
HOTSPOTS
OBSOLETE?

Verizon's Wi-Fi
alternative
tested



WIRELESS NETWORK QUICK FIXES

Troubleshooting common problems
for the most popular routers

50 GREAT GADGET GIFTS

\$5 to \$45,000



BEST

OF THE YEAR

by Mark Spoonauer

We came, we saw, we tested. After inspecting dozens of laptops over the last year, we can say with confidence that this year's crop has truly upped the ante for mobility. Just like in the desktop world, the processors keep getting faster and hard drives keep getting fatter, but it's the sheer diversity of portable choices out there that should excite buyers.

Today, laptop excellence comes in many shapes and sizes, from barely-there 3-pound ultraportables to larger-than-life 10-pound entertainment centers. There's also a host of compelling new features, like glossy widescreen displays, TV tuners, and DVD burners. The difference between a standard notebook and a standout one can even be something as simple as being able to listen to music or watch a movie without having to boot into Windows.

The vast majority of laptops that land in our labs every month perform well. These machines blow us away, each in their own way.

Behold the notebooks that rocked our world in '04.

BEST

LIGHT AS AIR

Panasonic Toughbook Y2

With this improbably light, amazingly long-lasting semi-rugged notebook, Panasonic has done the impossible. Even though the Y2 boasts a 14-inch display, its magnesium alloy body tips the scales at just 3.4 pounds. Seriously, the first time we picked this laptop up, we wondered whether Panasonic left out the components, which include a plenty-fast 1.3-GHz Pentium M, 256MB of RAM, and a DVD/CD-RW drive that pops open to the right of the circular touchpad, just like a portable DVD player.

The Y2's feather-light weight makes its 6-plus hours of battery life all the more incredible. And, when you also consider that the hard drive is shock-mounted to protect your data and that the display is outdoor-readable so you can surf the Web in the park, you'll happily lay down the extra cash for this ultimate road warrior machine.

\$2,675; www.panasonic.com

TOUGHBOOK®

Computers for the Outside World™



toughbook Y2

Wireless, 14.1" LCD, Integrated Combo Drive



- Full Magnesium Alloy Case
- Shock-mounted HDD
- 14.1" LCD
- 3.4 lbs. Lightweight, Ultra-thin Design
- Integrated DVD-ROM/CD-RW
- Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology



CPU

- Intel® Pentium® M Processor LV 718:
 - 1MB L2 cache
 - Processor speed 1.30GHz
 - 400MHz FSB

STORAGE & MEMORY

- 256MB SDRAM (DDR) standard, expandable to 768MB (PC-2700 memory is required)
- 40GB HDD
- Combo Drive (DVD-ROM/CD-RW) standard

DIMENSIONS & WEIGHT

- 1.3"/1.8"(H) x 12.2"(W) x 9.6"(D)

DISPLAY

- 14.1" 1400 x 1050 SXGA anti-glare TFT Active Matrix Color LCD
- External video support up to 1600 x 1200 at 16,770,000 colors
- Intel® 855GM integrated video controller max. 64MB (UMA) VRAM

WIRELESS LAN

- Intel® PRO/Wireless 2200BG network connection 802.11b+g

WARRANTY

- 3-year limited warranty, parts & labor

INTERFACE

- External Video D-sub 15 pin
- Headphones/Speaker Mini-jack Stereo
- Microphone/Line In Mini-jack
- USB 2.0 (x2) 4 pin
- 10/100 Ethernet RJ-45
- 56K Modem RJ-11

SOFTWARE

- Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
- Setup, Diagnostics, On-line Reference Manual, Adobe® Acrobat® Reader

1.800.662.3537

panasonic.com/toughbook

Panasonic ideas for life