

RuggedPCReview.com

If it's rugged, we review it and write about it

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Who has the rugged systems crystal ball?

There has never been as much opportunity for rugged mobile technology as today. And also never as much uncertainty. On the one hand, with hundreds of millions using consumer smartphones and tablets, there's more demand than ever for ruggedized, more durable versions of handhelds, notebooks and tablets. On the other hand, how much can they cost before they are considered too expensive? What operating platform should they use? Windows? Android? Should they incorporate new technologies such as capacitive multi-touch? Or the sleek style of consumer products?



Lots of questions, and possibly many answers. At RuggedPCReview.com, we keep track of every detail and every trend. So that you can, too.

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Motion CL910: Competent Windows 7 tablet now twice as fast



Motion updated their Motion CL900 tablet to CL910 status. It's an ultra-mobile, durable 2.2 pound tablet with a 1366 x 768 pixel 10.1-inch screen for those who need or want to use Microsoft Windows 7. It has an outdoor-viewable LCD that

offers both the ease-of-use of projected capacitive multi-touch and the accuracy of an active pen. With a new dual-core Atom N2600 CPU and other tech updates it's almost twice as fast as the predecessor CL900 model.. [\[See full review of the Motion CL910 tablet\]](#)

Handheld Algiz 10X: Tough 10.1-inch Windows tablet

A speedy high-resolution 10-inch tablet for those who need Windows on the job, wherever that may be. The Intel Atom N2600-powered Algiz 10X weighs under three pounds, and carries on Handheld's tradition of offering interesting, versatile mobile computers covering every conceivable part of Handheld's target markets. [See what we thought of the [Handheld Algiz 10X](#)]



MobileDemand xTablet T1200 -- Windows 8-capable fully rugged 3rd-gen Intel Core i5 tablet

What to get for jobs that need a high-performance, fully rugged tablet computer that can also run Windows 8? The MobileDemand xTablet 1200 rugged Tablet PC fits the bill with a 10.4-inch 1000 nits AFFS+ resistive multi-touch display, Intel third gen Core-i5 power, very long battery life, and extensive onboard connectivity ranging from legacy RS232 to USB 3.0 to 3G and 4G LTE WWAN. [Read our [full review of the MobileDemand xTablet T1200](#)]



Trimble Juno T41 -- Smartphone-inspired rugged handheld with procap runs Android or WinMo

Trimble introduced the Juno T41 rugged handheld compute as a smartphone-inspired option for industries requiring a rugged field computer for data collection and mobile workforce management. It is a developer-friendly device for real-world field conditions, available with either Windows Embedded Handheld 6.5 or Android OS 2.3.4. [Read about the [Trimble Juno T41](#)]



Panasonic Toughpad JT-B1: A tough and handy Android 4.0 tablet with a 7-inch procap multi-touch screen for folks working out there in the field where it can get bumpy and wet

In January of 2013, Panasonic introduced the Android-based 7-inch Toughpad JT-B1 together with the 10.1-inch Windows 8-based Toughpad FZ-G1. The new tablets joined the existing Android-based 10.1-inch Toughpad A1, giving Panasonic a whole trio of "new era" ruggedized tablets, hedging its bets by offering tablets in both major operating systems platforms that do battle with Apple's still category-leading (albeit non-rugged) iPad. [Read what the [Panasonic Toughpad B1 is all about](#)]



Winmate E430T -- Rugged industrial Android PDA with 4.3-inch capacitive multi-touch WVGA



The Android-based Winmate E430T rugged handheld PDA may well be the answer for a lot of individuals and businesses who want a device with modern smartphone technology and ease-of-use, but also one that won't easily



break on the job. With a footprint of 3.2 x 5.2 inches the E430T is about the size of a contemporary large-screen phone. At about 9 ounces, it's considerably heavier than one of those ever more slender phones and it's thicker, too, but it's still light and handy enough to fit into most pockets. [See full review of the [Winmate E430T](#)]

Getac Z710: An attractive, rugged Android-based 7-inch tablet designed for computing, connectivity, communication and data collection in the field

The Getac Z710 rugged tablet can do everything Android-based consumer media tablets can do and it can also be used as a phone, but this nicely designed and very solid tablet also offers industrial-grade scanning, RFID and contactless smart card reading. And its internal cameras are good enough not only for video conferencing, but also for documentation quality still images and HD video. Overall, the Getac Z710 is an attractive, well conceived and executed product that should be on the short list of anyone seeking an enterprise-grade Android tablet device. [See our full review of the [Getac Z710](#)]



SDG Systems RAMPAGE 6: A 5.7-inch Android-based ultra-rugged handheld

The RAMPAGE 6, based on Juniper System's Mesa rugged notepad, is for those who want a virtually indestructible handheld/tablet, but one that runs Android instead of Windows. SDG Systems did the conversion and is the exclusive distributor of the unique device as well. The RAMPAGE 6 has a large 5.7-inch touch screen that offers lots of real estate for complex apps. It is also super-solid, offers good performance and battery life, good ergonomics and ease of use, while still weighing less than 2.5 pounds even with scanner and two batteries. [See full review of the [SDG Systems RAMPAGE 6](#)]



GoPro Hero3: GoPro strikes again with three new slimmed-down models that look the same, but are very different from one another

In the tough, rugged waterproof camera department, GoPro released the Hero3 with a slimmer, lighter body, integrated WiFi, a better lens, better audio and numerous other improvements. The Hero3 has a new flat-lens housing that's compatible with all older mounting hardware. The Hero3 comes in three very different editions (white (US\$199), silver (US\$299), and black (US\$399), so there's now a GoPro camera for everyone. [All you need to know about the GoPro Hero3]



Blog: What's the deal with Windows RT and the Microsoft Surface tablets?

It worked out with the Xbox, so Microsoft decided to also try hardware with their own tablets. The result is the Surface tablets, one that runs Windows RT and the other full Windows 8. We got one of the first Windows RT tablets to see if they are suitable for vertical markets. See [Windows RT: how suitable is it for vertical markets? \(Part I\)](#) and [\(Part II\)](#). And what about the Surface Pro tablets? Check out [Surface with Windows 8 Pro pricing contemplations -- an](#)

opportunity for traditional vendors of rugged tablets?

Other cool stuff we reviewed:

RuggedPCReview also examined and described the [Motorola MC45](#), the [Advantech PWS-770 tablets](#), the [DAP M7000 compact rugged tablet](#), the [GammaTech Durabook TA10](#), the [AMREL DT6](#), the [CipherLab CP60](#), the [TabletKiosk eo a7400](#) and also their [Sahara Slate PC i500](#), the [Panasonic Toughpad G1](#), the [Datalogic Lynx PDA](#), the [Getac PS336](#), the [Trimble Yuma 2](#), the [Winmate C350T](#), the [JLT Mobile VERSO 12 and 15](#), the [Motorola HC1 Headset Computer](#), the [Handheld Group's Nautiz X1](#), the [NORCO PPC-3308](#), the [Dell Latitude E6420 XFR](#), and the [Samwell Ruggedbook 310](#). Among lots of other gear.

And... various industry happenings, thoughts, oddities, and contemplations

On the Intel front, we were quite impressed with what Intel's done with the Celeron (see [Not Your Father's Celeron](#)), we regretted [The Needless Demise of the Netbook](#), wondered what Microsoft is up to with [Windows Phone 8](#), agonized over what appears to be happening at our old friends at [GD-Itronix](#), also regretted to see [Psion being absorbed into Motorola Solutions](#) (and, of course, Intermec into Honeywell), and raised what we think are some interesting questions about [computers performing under thermal stress](#).

In closing, here's the benefit of what we learned in the past few months here at the RuggedPCReview lab:

- Intel really aced it with the 3rd gen Core processors. Graphics finally rock.
- Too many Intel Atoms!! And not enough that are up to the job.
- Android is finally making inroads in rugged tablets. But all those versions are confusing.
- The rugged industry is finally trying capacitive multi-touch, and it works!.
- For now, Windows 8 is a mixed blessing. Microsoft didn't think this through.
- Still no cameras nearly as good as what one gets in a consumer smartphone.
- Retina displays have spoiled everyone! All of a sudden, lower resolutions don't look so good anymore.
- We're VERY bullish on the market for ruggedized handhelds and tablets.

Stay rugged!

Conrad

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