

TECHNOLOGY

The fight for lightweight computing:

Apple's MacBook Air vs. Lenovo's ThinkPad X300

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Apple is renowned for their innovation and excellent graphic design. Its latest computer is the MacBook Air, which, whether you are familiar with it or not, has the power to stun. Its extremely sleek and lightweight build would make this an object of desire for any laptop enthusiast. However, the computing field is rapidly expanding and growing increasingly competitive. This is where Lenovo comes in. Lenovo is the fourth largest personal computer manufacturer in the world, and finds wide use by professional enterprises. Its latest ThinkPad notebook is the X300 series, although it has been kept under wraps under the title of "Project Kodachi." Manufacturing started late January, and it was officially made available on the open market in late February.



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MacBook Air

The MacBook Air and the ThinkPad X300 go toe to toe with nearly identical dimensions. Both sport 13.3 inch LED screens, and weigh in at about 3 pounds. The MacBook Air is 0.16 to 0.76 inches thick, while the ThinkPad X300 ranges from .73 to 0.92 inches. The two main advantages the ThinkPad X300 has over the MacBook Air is the DVD drive, of which the MacBook Air lacks, along with a removable battery. The MacBook Air and the ThinkPad X300 both support Wireless connectivity, except that the ThinkPad also totes the traditional Ethernet connection.

However, the main objective of both notebooks is mobility. Both notebooks contain Intel Core 2 Duo Processor chips, and the Hard Drive space does not range much, from the X300's 64 gigs to the MacBook's 80. What is good about the ThinkPad is that it can be customized, therefore allowing you to add up to an additional 4 Gigabytes of RAM, while the MacBook only offers 2 Gigabytes of RAM onboard. On the other hand, the MacBook offers an optional external hard drive, but the ThinkPad also offers an optional third party external hard drive, therefore making no difference at all. The ThinkPad's Operating Systems support Windows Vista, XP, or older systems. The MacBook runs Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard, but it has the extra advantage of being able to run Windows Vista or XP at the same time, thanks to the Boot Camp feature that the Intel processors offer on Apple computers.

Although the MacBook Air and the ThinkPad X300 do compete with each other in some technical aspects, each notebook offers their own customizable options. The majority of the choice is based on the looks. The ThinkPad X300 would be a perfect choice, whether it is for professional or personal use.

ThinkPad X300

The MacBook Air would be better for personal use rather than professional. They are not the most affordable prices, but for the latest generation of computing devices, the price can be reasonable; or at least, they will be in a couple of years.



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