

TOSHIBA Portégé R600-108

► PRICE £1879 (inc. VAT) ► PRICE CHECK: www.techradar.com/478227

IN BRIEF: A fantastic business ultraportable, but bettered in key areas by its rivals

Earlier in the year, Toshiba's Portégé R500 ultraportable proved to offer great usability and mobility. The R600 (£1879 inc. VAT) now upgrades the range, and while performance and battery life are bettered in this group test, it is the lightest business laptop we've seen so far.

The slim silver chassis weighs an incredible 825g, making it even lighter than any Netbook currently on the market. However, it achieves this by using **Solid State Drive** storage and avoiding the use of an optical drive, so the light weight comes at the cost of reduced usability.

The use of Solid State Drive storage reduces weight, but limits storage to just 128GB. The lack of an optical drive also means you cannot access DVDs or CDs while travelling.

While battery life is strong, it falls behind all but the standard battery of the Asus in this group. Running for 274 minutes, it's ideal for commuters and travellers, but can't come close to the amazing mobility of the Sony VAIO, so consider just how important this is to you.

Solid build

Despite its slim design, build quality is sturdy and ideal for travel use. The screen panel is 4mm thick and has a large degree of flexibility, which prevents cracking under pressure. All other areas of the chassis are also incredibly strong, so frequent travellers can feel confident in its resilience. Usability is also fantastic. The keyboard is well made, with a firm yet comfortable typing action and proved to be one of the best in this group test. The touchpad is also large and easy to use,

SOLID STATE DRIVE

Using the same technology found in your USB memory key, advantages over regular hard drives include faster read and write times, and it's a lot more robust thanks to a lack of moving parts. This also leads to lower power consumption. However, the drives currently offer a lot less storage space.

although the small mouse buttons are slightly less accessible.

The 12.1-inch transfective LCD screen uses a thin internal mirror to reflect ambient light back out of the screen. This improves visibility without draining extra power. Image quality is great for most business use, but we found the screen had a slight hazy quality to it.

The low-voltage processor reduces power consumption and keeps the chassis cool during use. However, it also provides average performance and is bettered by the Asus and Lenovo in this group.

Business use is improved by the integrated 3G HSDPA module. It provides wireless internet access at mobile broadband speeds, so you can easily check email, use online messaging services and browse the internet wherever you go, which travellers will find incredibly useful.

The Toshiba Portégé R600 is bettered in terms of power and battery life in this group test, but it is still a great business ultraportable. Its unmatched weight, great usability and stunning build quality are among the best we've seen, but consider your needs before buying.

WHAT-LAPTOP

WHAT-LAPTOP

E-CODE	PPR61E-00D00CEN
DELIVERY CHARGE	FREE
SUPPLIER	WWW.COMPUTERS.TOSHIBA.CO.UK
TELEPHONE	0870 444 8936
PROCESSOR	INTEL 1.4GHZ CORE 2 DUO U9400
MEMORY	3072MB DDR2 SDRAM
HARD DRIVE	128GB (SSD)
OPTICAL DRIVE	NO
SCREEN SIZE AND TYPE	12.1-INCH TFT
DISPLAY RESOLUTION	1280 X 800 (WXGA)
GRAPHICS CARD	INTEL GMA 4500MHD
DIMENSIONS	283 X 201 X 30MM
WEIGHT	825G
WIRELESS LAN	802.11A/G/N
ETHERNET	GIGABIT
USB PORTS	3
FIREWIRE	NO
OPERATING SYSTEM	VISTA BUSINESS
STANDARD WARRANTY	3 YRS C&R P&L

► BENCHMARKS

BATTERY LIFE MINUTES

Toshiba	274
Benchmark Machine	201

MOBILEMARK 2007

Toshiba	163
Benchmark Machine	210

3DMARK 2003

Toshiba	1601
Benchmark Machine	1765

See page 42 for benchmark specification

VALUE FOR MONEY	7
PERFORMANCE	7
FEATURES	8
BUILD QUALITY	8

OVERALL

7

ULTRAPORTABLE LAPTOPS

