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## ThinkPad 20th Anniversary Edition?

November 23, 2011 [Post a Comment \(92 Comments\)](#)



**Closing in on the 20th anniversary presents some unique design opportunities**

I recently blogged about celebrating the 19th anniversary of ThinkPad. Every time we pass one of these milestones it makes me realize just how much black paint I have beneath my fingernails, and how significant ThinkPad has become. This week I started thinking about the forthcoming 20th anniversary, October 5th isn't so far away. How could we celebrate the 20th anniversary in a dramatic and appropriate way.

If you research wedding anniversary milestones you will find many fascinating traditional suggestions for ways to honor the event with gifts. Here is an excerpt from the Wikipedia on this topic:

The names of some anniversaries provide guidance for appropriate or traditional gifts for the spouses to give each other; if there is a party these can be brought by the guests or influence the theme or decoration. These gifts vary in different countries, but some years have well-established connections now common to most nations: 5th Wooden, 10th Tin, 15th Crystal, 20th China, 25th Silver, 30th Pearl, 40th Ruby, 50th Golden, 60th Diamond. The tradition may have originated in medieval Germany where, if a married couple lived to celebrate the 25th anniversary of their wedding, the wife was presented by her friends and neighbors with a silver wreath to congratulate them for the good fortune that had prolonged the lives of the couple for so many years. On celebration of the 50th, the wife received a wreath of gold. Over time the number of symbols expanded and the German tradition came to assign gifts that had direct connections with each stage of married life.



**What would a ThinkPad figurine look like?**

It's interesting that the suggested 20th anniversary gift is China. I'm talking about the material, not the country. I can't imagine offering a limited edition ThinkPad figurine to commemorate the occasion. Even more ridiculous would be a ThinkPad made from Bone China. Although beautiful and delicate, It would never pass the battery of ThinkPad torture tests.

Over the years we have introduced several special editions to celebrate various milestones. We've made shiny black versions, numbered versions, and even a leather version. There's still a faint lingering aroma of leather in my office from the Reserve Edition. I think it's time to start thinking about the 20th anniversary edition. Lenovo isn't the first company to face this dilemma, there are plenty of anniversary editions out there for just about everything imaginable. Pen, motorcycles, and of course car manufacturers, have all done this.



100th anniversary Harley XL1200 Custom celebrated it's heritage with an even more retro design



Brand new again to celebrate the 25th anniversary

One of the most creative limited editions ever was how Nissan celebrated the 25th anniversary of the [240Z](#). They chose to offer for sale a handful of the originals fully restored by the factory. What an undertaking! They looked perfect in every detail, right down to a reproduction of the original factory window sticker. The cars were priced at more than \$20,000, up from the original price of \$3,526 that a 1970 240Z fetched. Should we gather up vintage ThinkPad 700c's and refurbish them to their former glory? Not sure I want to go that far back in time, or that anyone would pay a premium for such an offering.

What should we do? I hate to let this one go by without doing something significant. I'd love to get your feedback and get the ThinkPad design creative juices flowing. October of 2012 is not that far away.

*David Hill*

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## 92 Comments on “ThinkPad 20th Anniversary Edition?”

- *Shu* says:

[November 23rd, 2011 9:45 am](#)

Personally, I'd love to see the butterfly keyboard on a contemporary Thinkpad.

- *KageSenshi* says:

[November 23rd, 2011 9:48 am](#)

@shu,

I opened this page from my rss reader to suggest the butterfly keyboard too ... but guess you are faster XD ..

- *Ben Sarsgard* says:

[November 23rd, 2011 10:08 am](#)

A retro-styled modern ThinkPad would be fantastic, and not much of a stretch. Keep the modern-spec hardware inside, but go back to rubberized metal for the frame construction and get rid of that ridiculous touchpad!

- *KK* says:

[November 23rd, 2011 10:26 am](#)

I think a ThinkPad action figure would be awesome - sort of a Jack Donaghy character.

- *David Hill* says:

[November 23rd, 2011 10:31 am](#)

KK, Your comments always push the boundaries of creativity. Perhaps the entire ThinkPad design team should be represented with a collection of action figures. Play the take home version of the ThinkPad design game for hours at end.

- *Allan* says:

[November 23rd, 2011 11:01 am](#)

Re-release the 700c with a modern panel (resolution) and premium options (SSD, i7, etc). I'd consider buying such a design.

- *Galaxy Lee* says:

[November 23rd, 2011 11:15 am](#)

Although ThinkPad 700c is a classic model but it's too far away from most ThinkPad users. Maybe the ThinkPad 20th Anniversary Edition should get the following features:

- 1.10.4" LCD(in memory of 700c and S30-Series)
- 2.Fanless Design(in memory of 560-Series)
- 3.Rock-solid 7-rows keyboard(in memory of 600-Series)
- 4.IPS display(in memory of past "FlexView" models, such T60p?A31p)
- 5.Palmrest without TouchPad(dedicated for TrackPoint lovers!)

- *Felix* says:

[November 23rd, 2011 11:33 am](#)

For me the most wonderful gift would be the announcement of a ThinkPad Classic. One that is uncompromisingly good. One that does not try to be cheaper than the rest.  
On my wish list: A modern ThinkPad with a small footprint \*and\* a big display, just like the still amazing T4x.

- *thomasg* says:

[November 23rd, 2011 12:19 pm](#)

I fully agree to what Felix says.

There are a lot of damn cheap “ThinkPads” around (or at least above-average quality Netbooks using the ThinkPad brand), then there are a lot of medium/competitively priced ThinkPads with solid quality, but there are no more Kick-Ass ThinkPads for a lot of money without any compromise on the Hardware side.

Like Felix and many others, I want THAT.

A ThinkPad built like a tank, all the hardware anyone could want, a ultra-high-res IPS/VA/OLED display, touchpad optional, a rubberized Palmrest (keep the magnesium rollcage, but use a even more sturdy composite for the rest of the case, probably like the X200s display top-cover). Oh yeah, and make it 14”!

Can’t be competitively priced? Who cares?! Competitive price means competitive build quality, and as everyone just builds crap, even competitively priced ThinkPads will have to move in that direction.

Also, include a ton of sensors, this is cheap and nobody else does it.

- *Ray from Manila* says:

[November 23rd, 2011 12:56 pm](#)

For kicks, I’d like to see a modern ThinkPad in the 700c’s clothing. In other words, and hardware mod. 😊

Would an Optimus Maximus-style keyboard fit the ThinkPad’s esthetics, or work hand-in-hand with the Thinklight?

- *Foreign investments in Cuba* says:

[November 23rd, 2011 1:50 pm](#)

I really appreciate if you take my old T30 and refurbish! ahahha I like a lot the Galaxy Lee solution. also love the 14” display size, love also the T series, IPS...

- *Robert Johnson* says:

[November 23rd, 2011 1:52 pm](#)

I agree with a couple posters, butterfly keyboard, 10.4 inch display, no trackpad, modern laptop in a 700c’s clothing.

- *Joe* says:

[November 23rd, 2011 2:34 pm](#)

Underspec it, include leather palmrests and a Bose sound system. Charge \$7,499 and deliver by concierge.

(Yeah, 14 years later and I still want a Twentieth Anniversary Mac. That thing looked great. Though Bose still sucks.)

- *MarceloR* says:

[November 23rd, 2011 2:41 pm](#)

The only other truly innovative design ( besides the 700 and the Butterfly) to come out of the Thinkpad line is the Transnote. How about a modern version of the Transnote with a digitizer screen in place of the notepad so you get a dual screen (like the MS Courier ) and a keyboard to boot?

- *-30-* says:

[November 23rd, 2011 3:02 pm](#)

Would not the most truly retro object re the 20th Anniversary be a “Think” pad and be available on the Lenovo site? The addition of the “Thinkpad History Book” which was previously mentioned on Design matters (English version, please) would be icing on the cake.

The two foregoing articles could also augment any 20th Anniversary Thinkpad model, allowing those purhasers to have their cake, and eat it too.

- *Joe* says:

[November 23rd, 2011 4:57 pm](#)

Oooh. What #15 said. Properly sturdy leather “Think” pads, please.

- *svenSvenssen* says:

[November 23rd, 2011 5:16 pm](#)

Butterfly keyboard. As long as the rest of the hardware isn’t terrible, that would be a fitting anniversary model.

Bonus points from me if the thing can be all solid-state and fanless - a tiny Thinkpad with no compromises.

- *Maltesers* says:

[November 23rd, 2011 6:13 pm](#)

I agree with Felix and Thomas G: please make the 20th anniversary edition “the best Thinkpad money can buy”, built to an ultra-premium spec (indestructible, SSD, matt screen, latest CPUs, gaming-compatible graphics \_and\_ great battery life). “Twenty years and just hitting our stride...” And for my nostalgic, raised-on-classic-Hollywood side, please also offer a 4:3 aspect ratio. When can I preorder?

- *Vasja* says:

[November 23rd, 2011 6:30 pm](#)

I want you to go back to the bento box... a box that is plain from the outside and colourful on the inside. I think it should have a wow factor when you open the box. Perhaps a Branded smell?

Play (ThinkPad action figures) or tool (new/old ThinkPad)?

If a product is made it could either be an underspeced sculpted work of art, or topspeced machine inside an old ThinkPad box. Would the user use a limited edition machine as an everyday computer? (is it limited, how limited, how much would it cost? Who is the target? Why?)

If the answer is “no” then make something special build around - what an underspeced computer will be able to do today and in the future - read documents, play Tetris... perhaps it should have a vertical screen like Xerox Alto and the butterfly keyboard to fit the portrait form?

The other option is a topspec machine inside an old box. The thickness on my 365E is absurd compared to a mobile phone, Im sure tons of tech could be “squeezed” inside. The keyboard feel on 300 series is great and I like the old PS/2 ThinkPad laptop Mouse.

Don’t really know who would buy “the entire ThinkPad design team collection of action figures” I would rather have a collection of old retro games on 3.5 inch diskettes that I could play on 20th Anniversary Thinkpad model 😊

Just imagine a computer with latest tech and loads of RAM running old Windows NT or 2000... It would be a spaceship 😊

- *KO* says:

[November 23rd, 2011 9:56 pm](#)

Though the ‘retro’ notion is quaint, I think ThinkPad stands for state-of-the-art technology and performance, ultimately useful as a computing tool, with timeless industrial design. What’s happening more as time goes by is that, partly because of commoditization and probably mostly because of cost, the gap of the first two factors to competitive products have shrunk, or gone in reverse. A couple of folks mentioned the T4x. I also think that was the last model that was well ahead of its peers. I owned one, replaced it with a T60, but ended up going back. A simple benchmark would be to make sure that the product absolutely does NOT generate the oft-asked



question, “how come I can get Feature X in a MacBook but not a ThinkPad?”

Somewhat ironically, the 20th Anniversary Mac was a pretty massive failure. Don't do that.

A X1 followon with ALL of its faults addressed, plus a few bonuses thrown in would be fantastic. “Real” size keys/layout (T420s), high-res, 16:10 “FlexView” panel. It doesn't even HAVE to be IPS if the quality is comparable.

I loved my X300 but it was slow, and the (high-res) screen quality was junk. My T410s is too big. I don't have a X1 because of the screen. Make us WANT this machine.

- *KO* says:

[November 23rd, 2011 11:40 pm](#)

Another thought: With both Windows 8 coming, and as an homage to the original 700T, what about a convertible tablet? And not a swivel screen, but take cues from the IdeaPad U1 and the ThinkPad Tablet (Android).

- *breandan* says:

[November 24th, 2011 12:18 am](#)

One word: Titanium.

- *Mid-O-Light* says:

[November 24th, 2011 2:45 am](#)

Hi-res 4:3 display on classic T4x or sexy X4x chassis with modern Windows8-ready specs !!

- *Cassio* says:

[November 24th, 2011 2:59 am](#)

A ThinkPad Ultrabook? basically the X301 reborn (X320/X330?). Make the bezel thin like T41, and thin, but still keep the rollcage and stuff (so i would understand if it's slightly thicker than, say, the U300s). keep the T400s keyboard (just shrinking it a bit to fit the small chassis), ssd and i7 (LV/ULV is fine) is a must, and u can skip the optical drive if you insist, but i rather have that as a 2nd battery bay.

i know it's probably too crazy, especially regarding the thickness, but would be awesome if it's possible.

oh, and free with the laptop, a “Think” pad. Leather bound, no less.

- *Hecke* says:

[November 24th, 2011 4:29 am](#)

Hi Dave,

+1 for Felix, ThomasG and Maltesers! DOES IT COUNT MORE IF I SHOUT?

As they said, I am also tired of compromises. When i got my T60p I was not at all overwhelmed by it's specs, just because i did not care before, using a used T21. But when i was looking for an upgrade two or three years later, I was surprised by the fact that really everything that was available at that time went into the T60p. That's what I am asking from Thinkpads. Unfortunately there is a lot to swallow these days. For example take high res IPS displays. They do exist, but they are not built into any Thinkpad because of costs! That is not how HighEnd works.

It is also not the case that there is no way of producing 4:3 displays, just a matter of cost. And so on.

+1 to KO, your benchmark nails it!

Take the Chassis of a T41, put in the most recent stuff (i.e. >500GB SATAIII SSDs, yes they do exist, even in 1.8”, a quad core, Optimus graphics or even better Maximus Graphics, a SXGA+, UXGA or above IPS panel in 4:3, why not put a secondary WACOM/display combination on the huge

palmrests, stuff every cubic mm with a built in battery but maybe keep the option of a swappable battery at the back, put a lot of ports on the huge sides: eSATA, USB3, Thunderbolt, Cardreader, VGA and displayPort or HDMI, oh yes, drop the optical drive, give the option of a touchpad-free palmrest, ... I bet my wishlist continues to grow until christmas;-)

Just build THE BEST MACHINE ON THIS PLANET

If it's priced over 5000\$ at the end, who cares, it's an anniversary!

It would right now start to put money aside for that baby.

\*putting the champagne into the cooler\*

cheers!

Hecke

- *Ray from Manila* says:

[November 24th, 2011 9:08 am](#)

“Even more ridiculous would be a ThinkPad made from Bone China. Although beautiful and delicate, It would never pass the battery of ThinkPad torture tests.”

Ok, scratch that, but since the ThinkPad was inspired by the bento, why not a Thinkpad that looks like a classic bento with a lacquered surface and an inlaid design, possibly with a gold dust effect as well? An image search turns up many beautiful designs.

- *Greg Costa* says:

[November 24th, 2011 10:59 am](#)

I've always wanted to get my hands on a butterfly keyboard, a ThinkPad S30 (that piano finish is beautiful), and the Transnote. The butterfly keyboard is something I would love to see reissued...it would definitely be turning heads in this age of tapping away at glass screens.

- *erik* says:

[November 24th, 2011 1:24 pm](#)

a modernized version of the 700C would get my vote. recycle the 10.1" WXGA IPS display from the thinkpad tablet, give it a traditional 7-row keyboard layout (with standard escape/delete keys), add a scroll key to the trackpoint mouse buttons, and stuff it in a traditional, rectangular, bento box chassis.

if someone mistakes it for a '90s-era thinkpad then you've probably hit the mark.

- *unit88888888 8* says:

[November 24th, 2011 3:12 pm](#)

We must not get rid of the touchpad in this day and age. i think the R&D department all know that the touchpads on laptops the touchpad and the trackpoint ability of the thinkpads is crucial to serve the most range of audiences and not the fanatic thinkpad trackpoint users that are too blind to see the benefits of using both for different cases. One thing they need to address is the keycap hinge on the new models of the thinkpads. David, try using the keyboard model in the generation of thinkpads of the w700, t500, t400 and then try using the keyboard of the t510, t410 laptop. there is a very different feel of the keyboard between those two generations. I feel that the t510 keyboard feels “uneven” as in not all of the keys feels the same feedback whereas for the w700, it requires the same amount of pressure to depress the key. Also, the keycaps for the t510 “wobbles” on the hinge while the keycap for the w700 are more firmly in place. also, REMOVE the friction sandpaper design of the touchpad and try to make the touchpad smooth and larger by reducing the space between the trackpoint buttons and the touchpad

- *r4nd0m* says:

[November 24th, 2011 5:45 pm](#)

a S30 with a little better specs(~1.5ghz dualcore, 3gb ram, ssd) and a lot more battery also: fanless



- *Keith Combs* says:

[November 24th, 2011 6:37 pm](#)

I would create an i5 dual core, integrated GPU, 14" 1440×900 IPS screen based ThinkPad X series machine with a backlit keyboard, 6 hours of battery life, 80% recharge on 30 minutes, 9.5" primary SSD bay, USB 3.0, Thunderbolt port, Thunderbolt GPU dock with discrete NVIDIA GPU and Ultrabay with a Blu-ray drive option. Matte black finish and no more than 4 pounds.

I don't ask for much. 😊

- *Daniel* says:

[November 25th, 2011 12:03 am](#)

I think I agree most with Thomas G and KO—an anniversary edition should epitomize ThinkPads—well constructed, high-performance, understatedly sleek business machines. I don't think that needs to come in a specific size, but if there has to be a single model, my vote would be for 12".

If it'd be feasible and comfortable, a nice tie-in to the idea of traditional anniversary gifts might be a China TrackPoint cap.

- *Moskito* says:

[November 25th, 2011 10:50 am](#)

Well, if I could make a wish:

14" (or 13") X/Txxs Series Thinkpad with 1400×1050 IPS Display (non-glossy), complete magnesium alloy case (including palmrest, keyboard bezel and display bezel!), classic keyboard, no screw caps, trackpoint only (no touchpad!) delivered with all 3 trackpoint variants.

Thickness as well as weight should rival that of the X30x/T4xxs series. (Meaning as thin and as light as possible. 😊 )

Configurations should include the i5 and i7 successors from the Ivy Bridge generation and configurations with discrete GPUs. (Preferred an Optimus pendant from AMD with their newest GPU generation.)

As for the interfaces, those should include:

- 3 to 4 USB 3 ports, one of them eSATA/USB3 combo
- DisplayPort, Thunderbolt and VGA (!!!)
- Firewire
- Audio
- Ethernet
- Docking connector

I guess I'm not asking for much either, but such a Thinkpad surely would rock! 😊

Regards, Moskito

- *Blzut3* says:

[November 25th, 2011 1:15 pm](#)

Honestly, for a 20th anniversary edition I would go with taking the design of the one of the early slates and put modern hardware in it. I guess for nostalgia you could even have a DOSBox app. (How did you load software onto the original slates anyways now that I think about it?)

Of course I would, just as much, like to see a good traditional laptop with a 4:3 high resolution screen. (QXGA if possible. Which given the current ipad 3 rumors should be.) I also think not having a touch pad would be a good choice for a 20th anniversary model. (Perhaps design it under a retired series: A530 anyone? 😊 )

- *priority* says:

[November 25th, 2011 2:01 pm](#)

Just make a real Thinkpad with full specs, it will be good to celebrate the ThinkPad spirit at 20th anniversary.. ( modernized 700c is good idea )

- *priority* says:  
[November 25th, 2011 2:02 pm](#)

\*\*no touchpad pls : )

- *Simon* says:  
[November 25th, 2011 2:39 pm](#)

I'll second the notion - how about a no-compromises Thinkpad!

I ended up switching to a Macbook Pro because it was much less compromised than a Thinkpad

- Quad core with reasonable weight and battery life
- Two spindles yet still thin
- 16:10 matte display (yeah, it's an upgrade)
- Extremely solid chassis design

There is no sub-6lb quad-core thin Thinkpad. There should be.

- *priority* says:  
[November 25th, 2011 4:36 pm](#)

@Simon, I agree with u.

- *Michael* says:  
[November 25th, 2011 8:04 pm](#)

- 1.16:10 or 4:3 AFFS screen
- 2.Palmrest without TouchPad
- 3.classical ThinkPad keyboards?I hate the slim chocolate keyboards?

- *lead\_org* says:  
[November 26th, 2011 6:32 am](#)

X1, X300, X61 Limited Edition.... now how about a limited edition W70x laptop with dual graphics card card that can lick the Alienware and price it similar to the Alienware.

- *sid* says:  
[November 26th, 2011 8:36 am](#)

Lenovo customer support is HORRIBLE! I am sorry I ever bought my Thinkpad. I will NEVER buy Lenovo. again. For those of you who who still like Lenovo....just wait until you have a problem and have to deal with India.

- *hazart* says:  
[November 26th, 2011 9:32 am](#)

@lead\_org,

As a user of W700 and now the W701, I second that. The chance is slim though, I feel.

- *O8h7w* says:  
[November 26th, 2011 1:17 pm](#)

Ouch... I read through these comments, and I'm feeling sorry for the poor David Hill. There are a few good ideas here and there, but they get lost in ramblings of specifications!

To sum it up, the boring references are:

- The T4x series
- The titanium ThinkPad

- The leatherwrapped ThinkPad Reserve Edition

The world “classic” gets thrown around a lot. Who would have expected that...

The interesting references are:

- The bento box

- The leatherwrapped notepad labeled “THINK” mentioned here:

<http://www.lenovoblogs.com/designmatters/2010/02/my-first-tablet/>

And that last one makes something somewhat more electronic come to my mind, the “Pocket Yoga Concept”: <http://www.lenovoblogs.com/designmatters/2009/03/pocket-yoga-concept/>

Cross those two leather-wrapped goodies with a recent smartphone, add a pencil and lots of good user interface development... You’d be reinventing pocket-sized content creation. This time around I propose that the leather should be black.

- - -

However, is introducing a new product a good way to celebrate? No, I don’t think so.

In post #19, Vasja has clued on to something important. Computers get old. Therefore, as much as I myself would love one of those halo computers a lot of people is talking about here, this should not be it. The 20th anniversary simply should not be celebrated by something that is outdated a couple of years later.

On the other hand, software from the 90’s can be a lot of fun... maybe the anniversary should be celebrated by digging up the factory preload image from the 700c?

- - -

Someone, somewhere, mentioned a ThinkPad history book. I’d buy that.

- - - - -

Thoughts that fled from the head of O8h7w

- *lars\_m* says:

[November 26th, 2011 4:14 pm](#)

Just keep doing what you do. You got it right the first time.

And that’s your new slogan for the celebrations: “get it right the first time”.

- *Albori* says:

[November 26th, 2011 9:44 pm](#)

Personally, I would love to see a colorful badge to stick in the corner(s) of my new Thinkpad. It’s simple and offers a nice throwback. Even if it’s not an IBM badge it would still be cool to have a tri-color Thinkpad badge.

- *Vega109* says:

[November 27th, 2011 1:18 pm](#)

X300 with new spec and docking capability~~

- *Craig* says:

[November 27th, 2011 1:27 pm](#)

1.16:10 ?16:9 or 4:3 13.3” full HD ? 1920X1200 or 1440X1050 IPS Display

2.classical ThinkPad keyboards, I hate the slim chocolate keyboards.

As for the interfaces, those should include:- 3 to 4 USB 3 ports, one of them eSATA/USB3 combo- DisplayPort, Thunderbolt and HDMI (!!!)- Docking connector

I wish it like X3xx Limited Edition

- *unit88888888 8* says:  
[November 27th, 2011 2:37 pm](#)

how about fixing the keyboard as in reverting the thinkpad keyboard back to the ones which you used for the t500,t400 and the w700 series keyboard and not the tX10 series since these new keyboards are awful. also take off the flush touchpad since they are also horrendous.

- *yorkchoi* says:  
[November 27th, 2011 9:55 pm](#)

How about a thinkpad made from cermet?

A cermet is a composite material composed of ceramic (cer) and metallic (met) materials. (from Wiki)

“China” is one kind of ceramic...

I believe cermet should be able top pass the ThinkPad torture tests

- *Charlie Chan* says:  
[November 27th, 2011 10:21 pm](#)

Same Form Factor as X31.

- *Dean* says:  
[November 27th, 2011 10:38 pm](#)

X301 with i5 or i7 CPU...nothing else needs to be modified.

- *saga* says:  
[November 28th, 2011 12:42 am](#)

TP701C???

This is very nice???

- *14mit1010* says:  
[November 28th, 2011 12:02 pm](#)

Just... bring back high quality high res non widescreen displays

- *Aries* says:  
[November 28th, 2011 12:12 pm](#)

I agree with comment from Dean. Where's the legendary X3xx Series sequel has gone? Replace by X1? X1 is a fail product! Many ThinkPad users agree with this. Don't mess up ThinkPad with any “beautiful but rubbish” laptop style like MacBook Air, UltraBook, etc. ThinkPad has its own style, and X3xx is one of the best series that ever built, please continue making this series.

- *YS* says:  
[November 28th, 2011 12:17 pm](#)

Wow, so many ideas. I would like to see the Butterfly make a return though.

If we're talking about ideal Thinkpads, mine is a 12" model the size of the X61, but with a 1400×1050 IPS screen and all the goodies one can fit in there (dedicated GPU inside or as a dock even!). But I doubt that'll happen given the mix of price and engineering challenges.

- *Andrew* says:  
[November 28th, 2011 12:59 pm](#)

Rubberized metal and the ThinkLight. Yeah backlit keyboards are possible now, but the ThinkLight uses less battery being one light, AND I can use it for other things like reading a quick note I wrote without fiddling with the screen or turning on a light. The ThinkPad used to be the lego swiss army

knives of the laptop world, it was modular, easy to work on, and had everything but the kitchen sink. But if I had to pick, the rubberized metal case, was by far, the best ThinkPad feature ever removed.

My Ideal ThinkPad: AMD based (which is just a dream for what I want, it would be too cost effective HINT HINT) quad core and dedicated GPU, rubberized metal case, 15 inch 1920×1080 IPS, modular disc drive so I can swap in a BD-RW or internal slice battery, 4 USB ports (3.0 would be nice if possible), VGA for those lingering old displays/projectors (I work in a school IT dept., trust me, if you don't have VGA, you don't have video), DVI/HDMI out as well, a realistic 5-7 hours of battery with wifi/web browsing (full work day would be nice, maybe with the slice), and all the ThinkPad innards, the roll cage, HDD airbag (since when I try to order a laptop with an SSD like the homepage says I can, there is no option to, but SSD would be nice if you let me buy it).

Basically, a blend of traditional ThinkPad style, functionality, and flexibility while bringing it up with the times. I would imagine this would fit in the W series line (I also liked the dual display but by the time I was ready to buy it wasn't offered anymore).

- *Shu* says:

[November 28th, 2011 2:12 pm](#)

I agree with the comment on a book celebrating the Thinkpad's history and design. I would totally purchase a book like that!

I feel that most people aren't aware of the Thinkpad's significance and design legacy. It would be a great marketing opportunity for Lenovo.

- *ross* says:

[November 28th, 2011 2:24 pm](#)

I'd be down to buy a throwback 'pad if the price was right. Maybe not even put new processors in it, thrown in a 486 and like 64mb of RAM at the most, like a 20gb HDD since files are getting so large, anything under a gigabyte wouldn't cut it, install Windows 3.1! Or if something like that would be expensive, have two options, one dreamy machine and one for the everyday fan. Even T-shirts would be awesome, you can't find legit Thinkpad clothing anywhere!

- *Chirag Bajarria* says:

[November 28th, 2011 3:53 pm](#)

@lenovopress ThinkPad that splits at the hinge. Base talks Intel WiDi to the screen; screen VESA mounts. Laptop becomes a desktop on demand.

- *Nicolas* says:

[November 28th, 2011 4:06 pm](#)

I think a new version of the Thinkpad Transnote would be totally awesome, considering that the touch devices are very popular these days.

You would just have to keep the same design (with the new "Thinkpad" logo of course :p) and concept with all the new technologies and components used in today pcs : a touchscreen like the one in th X220t, an intel i(X) processor and even maybe a decent graphic chipset!

That would be totally awesome and would remind people how Thinkpads were (and still are) ahead of their time!

- *v?er* says:

[November 28th, 2011 5:06 pm](#)

How about all X/T/W coming standart in full metal shell, no plastic outer panels, IPS optional on any of them and Shuriken-narrow bezel displays, cant stand the big bezels around LCD, they take up too much space!

- *ANDY* says:

[November 28th, 2011 6:47 pm](#)

I hope can have the high performed and main-strainGPU ,just like x31 which has ATI main-strain GPU.And the weight not over 1.5kg just like x220 now.

- *Fan Sheng Chieh* says:  
[November 29th, 2011 12:33 am](#)

1. T600 replica model
2. IPS Flexview monitor
3. power computing cpu + gpu
4. at least 8g ram
5. multi-touch monitor
6. IBM thinkpad remark, no lenovo word

- *gdi2k* says:  
[November 29th, 2011 10:37 am](#)

Another vote for an uncompromised piece of ThinkPad hardware glory here.

Let it feature the priciest Intel innards, highest res IPS screen, be built like a tank, but light as a feather and super sleek. No mechanical hard or optical drives required, but make it dockable!

Don't worry about the costs; people are willing to pay for quality.

Call it the "Two Zero".

Let it be a REAL ThinkPad!

- *Laumi* says:  
[November 29th, 2011 5:34 pm](#)

Thanks for asking David!

I'll add my vote to a High-End version. Like the TX0p era. Only when having a ThinkPad you got what you had. The Golden Ratio reached between T4Xp-T60p still have to be reached, with a distinct ThinkPad feel - no compromise to contemporary technology that is.

Also, ThinkPads seemed to be defined by strong and resilient materials (titanium, magnesium) while the lower tier carbon-fiber-strengthened plastic. Alas, use materials that speak by themselves. (E.g. when you take apart a T61 you realize that standing on it won't do much against it, and it's not a roughbook, but a Think...)

I'd also try to solve the conundrum of Trackpoint vs/and Touchpad by evolving further the solution tried in the recent X220 - by making the Touchpad seamless/at the same level as the palmrest, not depressed, only marked with thinkpaddish discretion by paint (different shade of black, or what else is appropriate) Have the buttons size decided by software (a la Touch zones) or have (also) the buttons a variation of rubber lines at the bottom of the palmrest (like the one on the X61T). Or even better, and this would truly be the future, the touchpad contour would discretely light up when in use...(the purists would have to be appeased though, fearing a Acer Iconia influenza).

And, If you could make it a matte SuperAmoled Plus Screen, work it through with Samsung, well, even the Mac loyalists would swallow hard. And if its a 4:3... well then, Thanksgiving in 2012 is going to be memorable.

Now the more I think...:)

Please consider this: If we are moving in the ultrabook era, where screen thinness is common, a UltraThinkpad, could feature, say two screens, a la W701ds, but with the second one vertically, at the same size as the other, given the need for vertical space and widescreen the trend, with a thin bezel between the screens, and a stronger/normal on the top screen). At least testing the concept would produce some results. And the hype/rave of having the option of two HD+ screens on top of each other at 13" or 14". WOW.



....that if butterfly keyboard would seem as StarTrek TOS era technology, but verticalling the reso(u)lution.

On the classical side, revisit the feel of the old keyboards. While I appreciate the recent developments, keytravel and response as well as keyboard uniform solidity are still to be matched. Perforated tin behind the keyboard? How about some unbinding strong fiber that weighs less? Latest Motorola RAZR's back could offer some hints perhaps?

And the Bento box design. Thinking Digitally. With Class. Uniquely. ThinkPad.

Let's hope to settle (at least) for these.

- *Michael Zerman* says:  
[November 29th, 2011 11:15 pm](#)

OT: IdeaPad U1/Hybrid

Hi,

Was wondering what news, if any, there is about the IdeaPad U1 or Hybrid that has been mentioned a number of times in your writings.

Canned, not canned or other?

Cheers

Michael Zerman  
Adelaide AUSTRALIA

- *BinBin* says:  
[November 30th, 2011 3:38 am](#)

Maybe the anniversary edition can base on 'X301'!!!

And then add some features like the ultrabooks:

1. More powerful. use (low-voltage) core-i CPU.
2. Lighter. X301 with optical drive and 6 cell battery ~ 1.5 kg.  
The aim can be set to 1.3 kg for better portability.  
(may give up optical drive, reduce the body dimensions, shrink battery ...)
3. Something Must inside:
  - a. classic keyboard like that of X220
  - b. 16:10 anti-glare IPS screen (sorry, I don't like 16:9)
  - c. Two Thinklight like that of T420s
  - d. SD card reader
  - e. keep the RJ45, VGA, and three USB ports
  - f. 128GB (or larger) SSD

- *BinBin* says:  
[November 30th, 2011 4:14 am](#)

If Lenovo want to save the design cost of anniversary edition, the molds of the X301 need not to be modified but change the CPU to core-i and add an additional battery module which can replace the optical drive.

- *Elliot* says:  
[November 30th, 2011 4:33 am](#)

Oh, the possibilities...can I be a boring realist and say that this new model must sell in commercially justifiable quantities for it to be even conceived in the first place...so, while I'm sure we're all going

to buy whatever Lenovo came up with, the reality is...these days, it has to be "faster, lighter, cheaper" to garner a much larger target base than just us. If we waive "cheaper", we still have faster and lighter so my suggestions are like some of the above: 1) It should ship with Windows 8. 2) It should be touch enabled (with or without a keyboard) 3) It should really be -razor thin- (Asus (blasphemy!) have some really nice ridiculously thin models out). Personally, an all black aluminum casing with very few red accents (trackpoint being one of them of course), anorexically thin, with a 20th anniversary O/S theme (wallpaper, startup sounds, screensaver) would do me just fine. Gone are the days of non-thin laptops, I'm waiting for a REALLY thin X230t to replace my X201t, just like I'm waiting for a slimmer Windows 8 ThinkPad tablet to replace my passable but not too exciting Android ThinkPad. Thin and light is the key to it being bought in commercially justifiable quantities for it to see the light of day.

- *priority* says:

[November 30th, 2011 7:57 am](#)

I see most ppl misses classic design line. And most wants x300 back.. And I agree that x300 was really good design.

If u want to do sth for anniversary u can give thinkpads classic soul back. Pls give up x1 and alien edge series also give up Lenovo logo on the cover and the island keyboard..

- *priority* says:

[November 30th, 2011 9:15 am](#)

Why don't u make new phone with windows or android ? " ThinkPhone " =)

- *Laumi* says:

[November 30th, 2011 3:38 pm](#)

Yes. Shortly, I second the "If u want to do sth for anniversary u can give thinkpads classic soul back." Interpreting it will be the challenge. Be inspired!

- *-30-* says:

[November 30th, 2011 8:21 pm](#)

I don't quite understand the reasoning behind the mention from a number of posters

re the giving up of the LENOVO name/logo on the outside/inside/roundabout. It is a LENOVO Thinkpad originally having been an IBM Thinkpad; what is the problem? If I

were to work for this company, I would feel honoured that the corporate name adorns

the product along side it's model designation. At the least, LENOVO's logo is not the

picture of a fruit from afterwhich someone has taken a bite!

- *John K* says:

[November 30th, 2011 8:39 pm](#)

The 10th anniversary was a 65% in size plastic model of the 701C.

The most loved ThinkPad model of all time. Today we have iPads and such tablets, I for one would love one of the new ThinkPad tablets that actually has a docking system modeled after the 701C Butterfly keyboard. Doesnt have to actually "dock" with a port connector either, just have a butterfly keyboard that would firmly hold the new thinkpad tablet and speak via bluetooth. I ended up here on this forum because I wanted to know what was coming for the 20th, I have 3 701's and the new in box 10th anny 701 model. Everyone seems to love tablets these days, wouldnt you love to open a sleek thinkpad dock that butterfly'ed the keyboard and snugly fit your tablet so you actually typed with a keyboard and surf with a trackpoint?

Anyone out there that can do this if Lenovo can't? I'll take a 100 of them just for my 100 or so friends that already own tablets.. The engineering costs, productions costs would be pennies, compared to a full laptop, we're talking plastic and bluetooth here!!!!

- *BinBin* says:

[November 30th, 2011 9:30 pm](#)

If the design team want to create a whole new model, I suggest that they can try a model with 10.1" body and standard voltage CPU like the Panasonic Let's note CF-J10.

Let's note CF-J10 is an unique laptop.

It's features: 10.1" body, standard voltage core-i CPU, 1 kg weight, 12.5 hr drive time in ECO mode.

Lenovo can use this anniversary model to push the laptop portability to a state they never have been. The ultrabase is necessary. The aim can be 'powerful on the go' and 'powerful on the desk with docking'.

- *HavenFinder* says:

[December 1st, 2011 1:16 am](#)

- a Tizio ThinkLight
- a Mondaine homage clock in the ThinkVantage software
- a Lamy Safari stylus for the tablet version

Seriously, look at the original design notes (I hope they're saved for posterity's sake in some dusty archive) and take it from there. It's amazing what new ideas can percolate when reflecting on documents from the past.

The best 20th birthday present would be knowing David has a cadre of designers that are ready to carry the ThinkPad torch as he's done so ably all of these years. Please, no repeat of what happened at Braun post Dieter Rams.

Looking forward to whatever you come up with (Richard Sapper's and David Hill's signatures in the battery compartment would be a nice touch).

- *Dark* says:

[December 1st, 2011 11:30 am](#)

X3XX?

=> Anti-Glare Display (or matte, this is the most important!!)

=> classical ThinkPad keyboards

=> CPU?MB?GPU upgrade

=> 16:10 matte display

=> Palmrest without TouchPad

=> Dock

- *blackhat* says:

[December 1st, 2011 11:18 pm](#)

I would love a completely matte black Thinkpad with black stainless steel hinges.

<http://tftscdn.nexus404.com/Blog/wp-content/uploads2/2009/07/colorware-stealth-macbook-pro-in-matte-black-1.jpg>

That would be awesome! Stealth-style!

- *blackhat* says:

[December 1st, 2011 11:54 pm](#)

...forgot: One cast iron, no plastic!!!

- *Lo Phi* says:

[December 2nd, 2011 4:56 am](#)

- a Classic Thinkpad -
- + in the tradition of a 600 (13") or T42/p (15")
- + 4:3 form factor
- + 133dpi IPS LCD screen
- + perfectly built, clam shell, best of rubber coatings
- + classic keyboard, no Windows keys, no shaky key caps
- + fanless and cool
- + best possible energy economics, 5h+ battery endurance
- + hot swappable battery
- + well balanced, e.g. battery at the front side
  
- + integrated data security and backup (not like R&R)
- + small bay for a removable USB Stick
- + modular connector modules
- + full Linux support, e.g. a special distro with Thinkpad artwork

...

- *rumbero* says:

[December 2nd, 2011 6:09 am](#)

I would like to see a modernized version of the T61+ Frankenpad, which i built on my own, since Lenovo doesn't deliver anymore what i need. My T61+ consists of a T61 Penryn mainboard featuring a T9500 CPU and 8GB of RAM in a T60 chassis with a new BOE Hydis 4:3 UXGA Flexview screen. This wonderful combination of the best features of the T6x generation was unfortunately never built and delivered by Lenovo, but is the perfect Thinkpad from my point of view. While they have become cheaper than they have been ever before, newer Thinkpad generations just don't feature such combined fantastic screen real estate and quality anymore. An anniversary addition should be an update to such a T61+ Frankenpad, delivering a 4:3 UXGA IPS/AFFS screen in combination with the best mature electronic components the market has to offer. In the meantime i will keep using my T61+ until it falls apart, hoping that Lenovo will in a not too distant future deliver a worthwhile successor to such a machine they never built before.

- *O8h7w* says:

[December 2nd, 2011 10:53 am](#)

- +1 Think Linux distro
- +1 #76, HavenFinder, honoring the design classics

And please merge these two 😊

-----

A few thoughts that fled from the head of O8h7w

- *MK* says:

[December 2nd, 2011 7:17 pm](#)

1. A perfect SQUARE BOX in Black (nowadays no Thinkpads are perfect square because the bottom), Titanium TOP and Bottom (make it in BLACK, you can do it!);
2. 12 inch 4:3 UXGA or SXGA+ IPS, even AMOLED+, matt screen;
3. Less than 1 inch thick, better to have no FAN;
4. Current mobile computing techs, such as processor/RAM/SSD/USB3/HDMI/3G/GPS/WiFi/BT..., with Thinklight, Camera, Mics;
5. Classic 7-row keyboard with trackpoint, no touchpad please!

Don't compromise! Just use all top-level material!

Asking whatever \$3000/\$4000/\$5000. No discount! even after 3 years.

Man it is anniversary!  
Who cares, just make it World TOP!

- *unit88888888 8* says:  
[December 3rd, 2011 6:22 pm](#)

can we get a glass touchpad since the touchpad we are using right now on the t510 machine and on the new generation of thinkpad with these frictional touchpad is horrible.

- *rocketeer* says:  
[December 4th, 2011 7:58 am](#)

There are my suggestions:  
1) IBM logo is a must;  
2) 16:10 IPS monitor between 14 to 15 inch

- *Dev* says:  
[December 4th, 2011 10:52 am](#)

4:3 aspect ratio 15" screen on a w520/t520

- *Fu-Chia Lin* says:  
[December 5th, 2011 11:12 am](#)

Well, if I could make a wish.....

X301 based, but with 16:10 IPS/AFFS matte screen (1440×900 is great), Please never be 16:9!!!!

Anti-Glare Display (or matte, this is the most important!!) MUST BE!!!!

new CPU?MB?a strong switchable independent GPU

Classic 7-row keyboard with trackpoint, Palmrest with touchpad and Palmrest without non-touchpad versions for choose (or switchable for customize)

The thickness and weight of x301 is ok, not too slim.

RJ45, RJ11 (or via bundle USB modem like x301 is also good), USB3, 1394, DisplayPort, WiFi, WiMax and/or LTE, 3G, GPS, BT, Thinklight, Camera, Mics (NEVER USE COMBO JACK,PLEASE).....

KEEP ALL GREAT ESSENCE of X301, and take away the weakness of x301.

- *swarm* says:  
[December 5th, 2011 4:11 pm](#)

I would like something like upgraded X301 with:

- docking
- USB 3.0, eSATA, DP, VGA, SD and GLAN
- don't care about ODD, but place for second would be nice 😊
- don't care about aspect ratio... IPS is welcomed
- matte LCD, no gorilla glass (!!!)
- traditional 7row keyboard (!!)
- trackpoint and touchpad
- 5-6 hours of real usage (at least 6cell battery)

...this is my dream laptop.

- *unit88888888 8* says:  
[December 6th, 2011 12:59 am](#)

all of the above have great ideas. one thing which gotta be addressed in the later thinkpads, get rid

of the new tactile feel of the touchpad. it is not very responsive and doesnt feel good on the finger after using the laptop for a long time!!!

- *elzet* says:

[December 6th, 2011 6:54 am](#)

There is no need to do something special.. just do what you always did the best. Small laptop in terms of footprint (12" screen size 4:3 maximum), constructed from durable materials (X series being a nice example), packed with high-power hardware (Intel CPUs with nV Quadro graphics for 10bit color precision), standard "yellow" AC and standard docking port. 7-row keyboard, trackpoint, and for christ sake, no touchpad (especially not clickpad present on current "Edge" series, which is just unbelievably terrible). User-replacable battery in the back with an option to charge 2nd one through docking station (just like on X200 Ultrabase). Make it 12", add a QVGA display and I will queue for preorder.

You know, there is no need to take out old blueprints for TP 701C or FlexView T60p - these were the very best machines at their time. Make a machine which will be the very best now. It doesn't have to be a new model line or anything - it just has to give me a reason to buy it. MY current ThinkPad is 3 years old which is about the time for upgrade - but if I look at your current portfolio, none of your current models meets requirements stated above, even if I'm willing to accept compromise on certain specs (screen aspect ratio, presence of touchpad, new X1 style keyboard)

- *Fu-Chia Lin* says:

[December 6th, 2011 9:40 am](#)

If the gpu for x3xx is too hot, then, Intel HD 4000 is acceptable (second best for me)

- *priority* says:

[December 6th, 2011 11:42 am](#)

What is this ???

<http://m.engadget.com/default/article.do?artUrl=http://www.engadget.com/2011/12/06/lenovo-rugged-thinkpad-x130e-targets-the-education-market-arr/&category=classic&postPage=1>

I am disappointed again :/ I think nobody pay attention our ideas and thoughts about ThinkPads here !

ThinkPad is serious machine for business, not a toy for students or colorful fashion for girls !!

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