Ted Selker and the IBM Everest Team take IBM Thinkpad 560 to the Top of the World

Recently Ted Selker, IBM fellow and director of the IBM User Systems Ergonomic Research lab in San Jose, joined the IBM Everest Team at base camp on Mount Everest to test effects of high altitude on the human body and the limits of IBM’s rugged, ultra-thin laptop, the IBM 560. The 560 features the integrated TrackPoint III pointing device developed by Selker. Ideally suited for harsh environments because it has no moving parts, it is immune to glacial dust that eventually works its way into mechanical parts causing them to malfunction. Although the 560 taken to everest was left mostly stock, some modifications were performed to prepare the machine for the extreme conditions it would face. Exposed ports were covered to prevent dust contamination. The LCD screen was fitted with an outer skin, resembling a storm window, for protection against airborne dust and low temperatures, and the hard drive was modified to work at high altitude. A suite of custom developed software tools were on board the 560 to gather data on the performance of humans altitude and also functions within the computer itself...pointing devices...more more more

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