Northern Michigan University

Cameras / Camcorders

RCA Autoshot CC4352

- List Price: $1,195.00
- Our Price: $250.00 from Radioshack

RCA Autoshot Pros & Cons

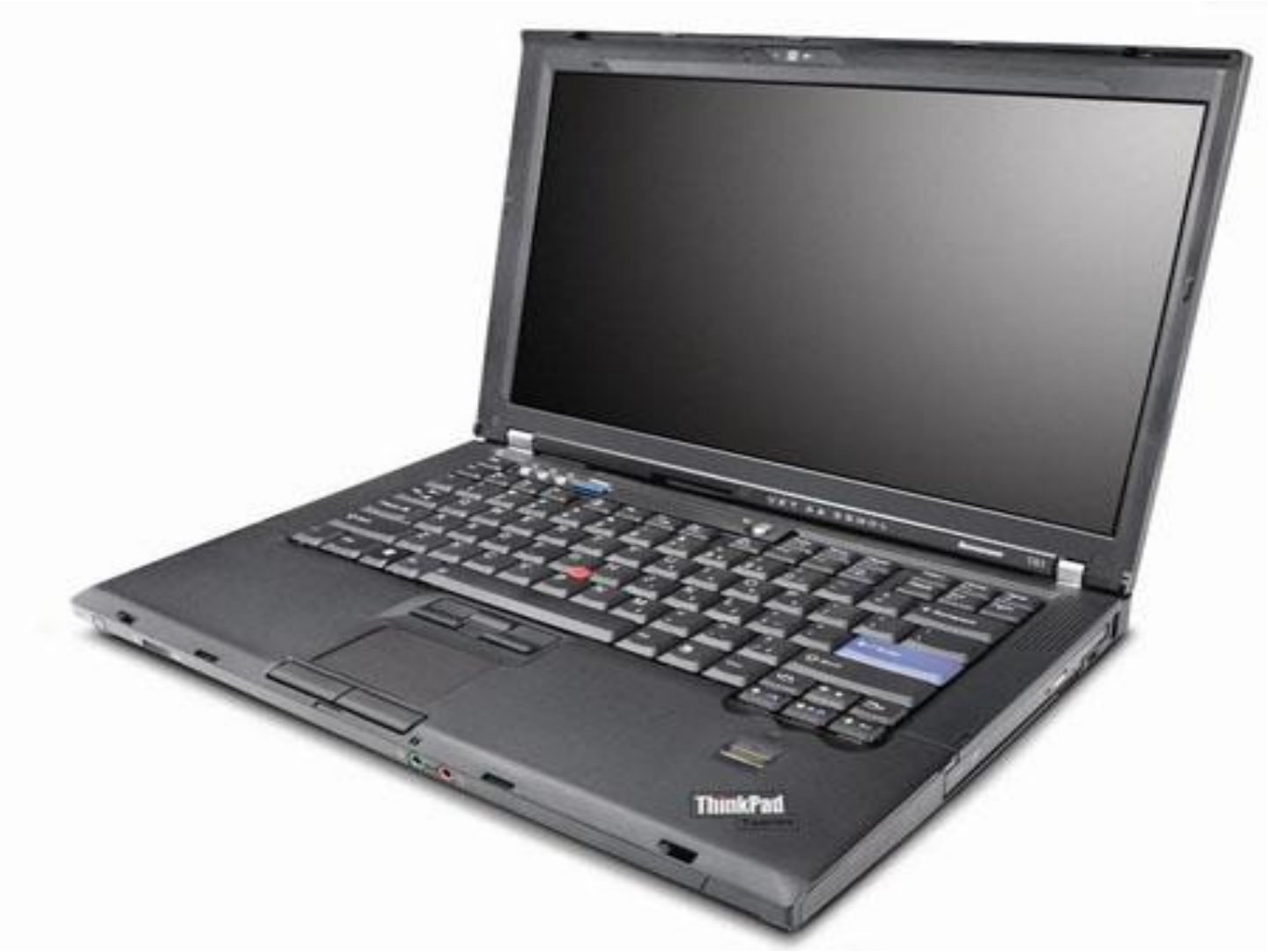
Pros

- Can record over 2 hours of footage without replacing tape
- Easy to operate
- Can be played back in ALL NMU general purpose classrooms

Cons

- Heavy, bulky
- VHS is a dying technology
- Takes time to convert to Mpeg video for use on the internet
- Videocassettes degrade over time and can be zapped if near strong magnetic fields

Lenovo R61 laptop



Lenovo Built-In Webcam Pros & Cons

Pros

- Convenient access
- Fairly easy to use and understand
- recording & editing is easily done with the tools that come with the laptop's image
- Audio is very good due to proximity of laptop's built-in mic to person being recorded

Cons

- Video quality is okay to marginal, not any better than VHS camcorder
- Poor automatic gain: Recording motion tends to smear, be jittery, washes out, or goes black easily
- Not a portable camera: cannot "point and shoot" with a laptop easily

Sony Handycam 205

- List Price: $539.99
- Our Price: $500.00 at BNH Photo INC

Sony Handycam Pros & Cons

Pros

- Has night vision so you can record in poor light
- Can record widescreen or traditional 4X3 aspect ratio
- Records to DVD format which is playable in all NMU laptops. DVD players are found in most NMU classrooms.
- Also can take still photos

Cons

- Only records up to 1 hour of footage
- Compressed video format
- Takes time to both format and finalize DVD
- Takes additional time to convert to Mpeg video for editing & posting to internet

Flip Ultra

- List Price: $149.99
- Our Price: $115.00 at Amazon.com

Flip Ultra Pros & Cons

Pros

- Lightweight & portable
- Easy to operate
- Relatively inexpensive
- Records in MP4 digital file format which is compatible with most current video editing software
- Easily transfers to one's computer via a USB port

Cons

- One Hour max footage
- Only has internal memory
- Simplistic controls do not allow for sophisticated recording
- Does not take photo stills

High Definition Cameras

- Instructional Media Services (IMS) is not yet supporting high definition video until Microsoft Movie Maker (the video editing software that comes standard with NMU's ThinkPad image) is replaced with software that supports high definition.

- The Center for Instructional Technology in Education (CITE) does support high definition. The CITE has both a high def Canon Vixia camera as well as Sony Vegas video editing software that supports high res video.

Canon Vixia HV30

- List Price: $649.99
- Our Price: $649.99

Canon Vixia HV30 Pros & Cons

Pros

- Widescreen
- True high definition uncompressed digital video
- HDMI, RCA, & video component connections
- Transfers to computer as AVI file which is the preferred format for high end video editing

Cons

- Need to play back in real time while transferring to computer
- Requires a lot of memory: 5 min = 1 gig of digital video
- 1 hr max record time on mini digital video cassette
- Due to its sophistication, requires some extra assistance to use, especially when editing raw video