

*A Buyers Laboratory Product Release Brief***Toshiba e-STUDIO232****23 PPM Copy • Print • Scan • Fax****Features****MSRP:** Base unit \$5,650**Std. / Max. Paper Capacity:** 1,100/3,700 sheets**5-GB hard drive partition for e-Filing****Improved security****Noteworthy**

- eCopy compatible
- Next-generation e-BRIDGE architecture
- Tilting control panel
- Toner recycling technology
- Faster wireless connectivity

Watch for upcoming Field Test and Lab Test reports on this product for thorough, hands-on analysis.

Target Market

The e-STUDIO232 has been designed for small- to medium-sized workgroups that produce monthly volumes up to 74,000 copies per month. The replacement model for the e-STUDIO230, to which it is very similar, this 23-ppm unit offers features normally found in higher-speed products. According to Christopher Coin, product brand manager for Toshiba America Business Solutions (TABS), “the unit is competitively priced while offering features typically available on units in the 35- and 45-ppm segment, including saddle-stitch finishing, high duplex productivity and the ability to integrate seamlessly into many existing business document workflows and IT infrastructures.” Other capabilities include scan to e-mail, TWAIN scanning, templates and optional document imaging and distribution software. Very similar in features and functionality to its predecessor, which was named a Spring 2005 BLI “Pick of the Year” in the Segment 2 category, the e-STUDIO232 differs mainly in that it uses the next generation of Toshiba’s e-BRIDGE controller, which features improved security, a faster processor and expanded wireless functionality. For price-conscious users, Toshiba offers quarterly promotions for free printing and scan enablers through its financial services arm, which is managed by GE Capital and US Bancorp.

Competitors

Coin told BLI that the e-STUDIO232 competes against Canon’s imageRUNNER 2270 and Kyocera Mita’s KM-2550. Other competitors include the Konica Minolta bizhub 250, the Ricoh Aficio 3025 and the Xerox WorkCentre Pro 123. Interestingly, since Sharp’s monochrome models in this speed range are more than two years old, the e-STUDIO232 may also compete against Sharp’s new MX-2300N business color model.

WHAT’S NEW

Toshiba’s latest-generation e-BRIDGE technology integrates copy, print, scan, fax and other networking capabilities in one single board within the device. The unified design shares system resources to control multiple functions and efficiently process information. The consolidation, or “bridge,” between hardware components offers reduced hardware costs, while improving features and functionality, according to Toshiba. The e-STUDIO232’s e-BRIDGE controller now offers faster processing with a 333-MHz processor and 256 MB of memory, compared to the predecessor’s 128 MB. In addition, the number of keystrokes required to perform scan to e-mail has been reduced. Further, wireless capability has increased in speed from 11 Mbps to 54 Mbps with support for the industry-standard 802.11g specification. Via the wireless capability, users’ wireless-enabled PCs can communicate with the unit via a wireless access point on the network. In addition to 802.11g, the unit supports Bluetooth wireless capability, an industry



First Look — Toshiba e-STUDIO232

specification for wireless personal area networks (PANs) that provides a way to connect and exchange information between devices like PDAs and printers via secure, low-cost, globally available, short-range radio frequency. This model also offers LDAP support and network user authentication; the latter increases security by requiring users to log in with their network user name and password before being able to access data or features. Also noteworthy is that the unit features toner recycling so there's no waste toner to dispose of, minimizing environmental impact and reducing downtime. In addition, the unit's drivers meet Windows Hardware Quality Lab (WHQL) certification, which entitles Toshiba to use the "Designed for Windows" logo on its products. When administrators configure the unit for network printing in a Windows environment, the unit's certified drivers will prevent incompatibility issues with Windows operating systems. An on-board 10/100Mbps NIC card for TCP/IP network connectivity is also included and, according to the company, toner yield has increased from 22,000 impressions to 23,000 impressions. The unit will also offer data cloning, role-based access and a plug-in for the HP Jet Web Admin utility in the first quarter.

FEATURES

The e-BRIDGE controller enables PCL 6 and PostScript 3 network printing and network scanning (scan speed is up to 50 ppm). Because functionality is built into the e-BRIDGE controller, no additional hardware needs to be installed, making the process for adding print or scan capabilities easy and minimizing downtime. When users need print or scan functionality, they purchase USB key "enablers" (one for print, one for scan and one for print and scan) to activate these functions on the controller. Advanced print features include Private Print, Scheduled Print, Print to e-Filing and Proof Print. For the base purchase price, users get standard memory of 256 MB and a 40-GB hard drive that are both shared. In addition, 32 MB of page memory enables users to temporarily store files and documents to the hard drive when the main memory is not available.

e-Filing allows users to scan, copy or print into electronic mailboxes, which can later be accessed over the network or by walk-up users. It also enables users to merge documents from various applications (Excel and PowerPoint, for example) into one file, which can then be exported as a PDF or TIFF file and sent as an e-mail attachment. In addition, templates allow users to program commonly used job settings for future jobs, including finishing features, from both the control panel and the print drivers.

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE & SECURITY

The e-STUDIO232's control panel can be tilted to a 45-degree angle, which increases ease of use for wheelchair-bound users, and thereby contributes to Section 508 compliance. Further, the Private Print feature satisfies HIPAA regulations, as it restricts access to sensitive data, such as medical records and insurance policies.

In addition to network user authentication, up to 1,000 departmental codes can be assigned to users to prevent unauthorized access to the unit. The optional Data Disk Overwrite copies over data that is temporarily stored on the hard drive. Users receive notification on the control panel's display immediately after they have finished scanning a job that data on the hard drive is being overwritten. Also, the Scrambler Board option encrypts data stored on the hard drive using 128-bit encryption, making it difficult to retrieve data should the hard drive be compromised. The unit is also Energy Star- and RoHS-compliant, and is lead-, halogen- and chromium-free.

OPTIONS

Other options for the unit include a 2,500-sheet letter-size tandem LCT and a paper-feed pedestal that adds up to two user-adjustable 550-sheet paper drawers that accommodate paper sizes up to 11" x 17". Finishing options include a 900-sheet finisher that offers single-position stapling of up to 30 sheets and a 1,000-sheet saddle-stitch finisher with hole-punching capability that offers multi-position stapling of up to 50 sheets. In addition, the saddle-stitch finisher can saddle-stitch up to 10 sheets to create 40-page booklets. An offset catch tray that jogs multiple sets and a job separator that separates copy, print and fax jobs are also available. Other options include a 100-sheet RADF and a fax board with an optional second PSTN line.

Software and Solutions

The e-STUDIO232 is offered with eCopy's ScanStation OP, a scanning solution that integrates paper-based information into existing business processes and applications, such as reporting, document management and customer management. (eCopy's ScanStation OP was named a Fall 2005 BLI "Pick of the Year" for "Outstanding Scan Routing Solution.") Toshiba's RE-RITE is a scan routing solution that takes incoming files from a specified network folder, OCRs them and converts them to a specified file format. The solution can convert documents to 16 different file formats, including Word, Excel, PDF, HTML, RTF and CSV. Toshiba's administrative utility suite includes DocMon, a document monitoring utility that allows administrators and users to view status of the device or jobs from their desktop and to be alerted when errors occur. Further, the TopAccess Web-based utility enables administrators to access device status and configuration settings remotely over the network. The administrator can also set up and edit templates via the utility and then download them to the device to appear as one-touch keys on the touch-screen control panel display.

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