

Computers: From “Reel” Big To “Real” Small Pocket-Sized Disks Store All

(NAPSA)—Ludwig Mies van der Rohe may not have been referring to computers when he proclaimed, “less is more,” but in the field of electronics, his words have taken on great significance.

Even as computers take up less and less space, they are able to do more and store more information. At one time, we stored information on bulky tape reels—now an entire laptop’s worth of information can fit on a disk the size of a credit card. Consider the evolution of storing computer files:

- Information was originally stored on reel-to-reel tape which couldn’t hold very much information, and required a lot of time to find specific pieces of data.

- With the advent of personal computers came cassette storage drives. A little more convenient, perhaps, but just as slow and limited in capacity.

- The first disk drives, which used 5¼” floppy disks, sped up the process immensely and increased capacity, but were impractical for storing large chunks of information or programs with lots of bells and whistles.

- The next “floppies” were the 3½” disks still commonly used today. Again, more convenient, but incapable of storing large programs or graphic files without breaking them up onto multiple disks.

- Compact discs have really raised the bar, holding information from hundreds of floppies on a single CD. Truly a versatile medium, CDs can be used to store computer files and play music on your PC and in your car and home stereos.

- Another powerful storage option comes in a disk the size of a credit card. Tiny 1.8” removable



An entire laptop’s worth of information can now be stored on a portable disk the size of a credit card.

drives slide into the side of a laptop, and have revolutionized the way we think of storing computer files. This powerful PC Card fits in the palm of your hand, yet holds 3,700 floppy disks worth of information.

Toshiba’s new PC card packs a ton of information on a disk that weighs less than a pager. The powerful and lightweight design makes it a terrific “bridge” device for sharing data between systems such as two notebooks, a notebook and a digital camera, or other digital gear. These devices make it easy to store huge files, such as photos, MP3s and presentations.

Used in any Type-II PC card slot, Toshiba’s 1.8-inch hard disk drive eliminates the hassle of carrying data from multiple diskettes or CDs while on the road, in the office or at home. Available in both 2GB and 5GB capacities, the drives start at \$299 with a one-year warranty and can be purchased through distributors or online at www.harddrives.toshiba.com.