e-CourtReporter Presents:

e-Tips Newsletter

No. 1 - June 27, 2001

Wil: Serial Killers on the Loose
Keith: Using a .BAK file (timer-based autosave)

Constant innovation is a hallmark of EclipseNT, so there's always something new to learn. It may be an explanation of an amazing new feature or just a faster way to do a familiar task, but Eclipse users have always been eager to help each other. In this spirit, I put together a Hyperkeys tutorial to help Eclipse users edit faster. In this same spirit, Wil Wilcox has suggested using e-mail and the Internet to share weekly tips on EclipseNT, Windows, SearchMaster, Technology, etc. Some of the ideas spring from the workshops that we've been presenting. Some great questions and interesting solutions come from these weekends. Whether our **e-Tips** are a basic tip for editing efficiency or a challenging macro, we hope you'll find them helpful.

Keith Vincent

Wil's e-Tip

Serial Killers on the Loose

Warning: The serial ports used for realtime on our notebook computers have been declared obsolete, and they are becoming extinct. If you are in the market for a notebook computer and you see the words **"legacy free,"** run as fast as you can because that means there is no serial port on that computer. When shopping for computers, be sure to ask if it has a serial port. Many name brand notebook computer from Toshiba, Compaq and others do not come with them anymore, not even one.

Serial ports and parallel ports as well are being replaced by a new port called USB, which stands for Universal Serial Bus, but spells T-r-o-u-b-l-e with a capital "T." The problem is that our steno machines still use serial ports. While there are USB converters available that will turn the USB port into a serial port, they are not your best option. The Socket IO PCMCIA card is more reliable than a USB to serial converter, so get a Socket IO first. In fact, there is now a Dual Serial Socket IO card available that has two serial ports on it. If you do realtime hookup, you are probably going to have judges

and/or attorneys show up without serial ports on their new computers. Be prepared for this eventuality by asking them if they have a serial port on their computer in advance if possible. If they do not, I recommend that they get a Socket IO Serial PC Card ASAP as well. Be on the lookout for the serial killers. They are not "**free**." They come with a very high price indeed.

Keith's e-Tip

Using a .BAK file (timer-based autosave)

EclipseNT is extremely protective of your work. Each time you move from one paragraph to the next, the changes you made are saved to disk and are no longer "just in memory."

If you'd like the system to create a backup copy of your job at timed intervals, go to the "Edit" section of your User Settings (Alt U) and set the "Timed auto-backup" to a number other than zero. For example, if it's set to 5 and you're editing the Jones job, every five minutes EclipseNT will make sure there is an updated Jones.BAK file that contains a secondary backup of your work.

You might find this BAK file very handy if, like me, you do something really stupid. For example, I've inadvertently text globaled ordinary words and turned them into spaces. Talk about disappearing text!

If you ever need to use this BAK file, just go to the file manager (Ctrl F), highlight the BAK file, and use the right mouse button (or Shift F10) to "Rename" the BAK file as an ECL file. For example, if Jones.BAK is renamed Jones2.Ecl, then Windows will recognize it as an Eclipse text document and allow you to edit it.

Upcoming 3-day EclipseNT e-POWER Workshops

Cincinnati, OH July 13-15, 2001

Houston, TX Oct 26-28, 2001

Costa Mesa, CA Nov 9-11, 2001

Las Vegas, NV Feb 1-3, 2001

For more details: www.EclipseNT.com

We'd also like to thank the great EclipseNT users who have joined us at one of our many workshops and we hope to see you again soon!

Who Are We?

Wil Wilcox is a freelance court reporter in Los Angeles, California, and has been a technology consultant for reporters since 1995. Since 1998, he and Robert Denos have been the Advantage Software representatives for Southern California.

Keith Vincent is a freelance court reporter in Houston, Texas. He's been an Advantage Software rep, trainer, and tester since 1992. In 1997 he wrote the Hyperkeys tutorial for Eclipse users.

Robert Denos is the manager and event coordinator for e-CourtReporter, LLC.

Any questions on seminars or workshops should be directed to Robert at this address:
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Disclaimer

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