

Keith Vincent & Wil Wilcox present:



e-Tips Newsletter

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Keith Vincent

25 Years of e-Tips

Wil Wilcox and I produced our first e-Tip on June 27, 2001, so it's a real milestone for us as we begin our 26th year. We're happy to fund this free newsletter as our contribution to the reporting profession, and we also appreciate how the users group Eclipse Software Professionals (ESP) helps us to distribute these articles.

As I recall, it was Wil who came up with the idea for e-Tips. He had worked with realtime guru Anita Paul Johnson and had developed successful technology workshops for court reporters. After **Wil and I met in 1998** at the NCRA convention in Chicago, we started **e-Power workshops in early 2000** to introduce EclipseNT and to help reporters transition from DOS to Windows. As the workshops were very well received, Wil suggested that a free newsletter would be a real service for our community and a great way to share ongoing tips.

25 years later, we are still quite active. Wil, originally from Utah, has been both a freelancer and Federal Court reporter in the Los Angeles area. He's always been a tech enthusiast and was a StenoCAT audiosync pioneer. He's made many contributions to Eclipse, most recently for "Boost Flow".

As for myself, I'm originally from Louisiana but have worked out of Houston since '92. I no longer do any international arbitrations, so I'm "semi-retired." I only do a few short Zoom depositions each week. The rest of my time I work with Jeremy Thorne on new features for Eclipse (including the ongoing adaptation for French) along with webinars and Visualizers.

After 25 years, as you might imagine, coming up with e-Tips topics is one of the biggest challenges. We are often inspired by questions that arise during trainings and webinars. We hope that you find the e-Tips helpful and would enjoy hearing from you.

Keith and Wil

Save the dates!

Eclipse Software Professionals VirtuCon 7 September 15-29, 2026

Expert training from
Greym Blaszkiewicz, Michael Starkman,
Jennifer Thompson, Keith Vincent
and guest presenters

Info and registration details to follow

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Sidecar Displays for Courtrooms and Depositions (Part 1)



Whether you are reporting depositions remotely from home or working live in a courtroom, viewing your Eclipse realtime translation, video conference windows, and exhibit documents on a single laptop screen creates a cramped, challenging workspace. Expanding your screen real estate with dual displays is one of the most effective productivity upgrades a court reporter can make.

Solving the Courtroom Monitor & Speaker Identification Problem

A frequent challenge for court reporters during hybrid or remote courtroom proceedings is display accessibility. Courtroom monitors displaying remote participants are often positioned far away from the reporter's desk, awkwardly angled, or limited in screen size. Even worse, courtroom hearings often feature dozens of remote participants, attorneys, and gallery members on screen at once. On a distant or small display, individual video tiles shrink into tiny thumbnails, making it nearly impossible for the reporter to identify who is speaking unless participants repeatedly state their names.

While this speaker identification issue can occur in large multi-party depositions, it is especially severe in court. By connecting your reporting laptop to the court's Wi-Fi network and joining the remote proceeding link directly on your own computer, you can bring the remote video grid directly to your desk. Having a dedicated display right beside your Eclipse window lets you clearly see active speaker highlights, participant names, and shared exhibits up close.

Courtroom Pro Tip: When joining a live courtroom proceeding link from your laptop, always verify that your microphone inside Zoom, Webex, or Teams is strictly muted to prevent disruptive audio feedback through the courtroom sound system.

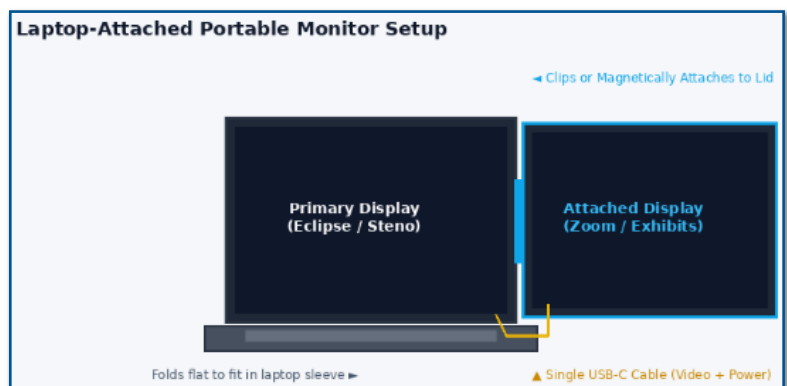
Versatile Uses Beyond Video Conferences

While displaying the remote video meeting is often the primary role of a second monitor, its value extends far beyond video calls. Having a secondary screen allows you to view reference materials simultaneously without obscuring your live Eclipse transcription. You can keep PDF documents open that were downloaded from the court docket or emailed by counsel, open case captions and notice pages provided by your

reporting agency to set up cover pages and block files, or monitor job worksheets, spelling lists, and scopist chat messages. Also great for Auto-Brief display!

Ultra-Lightweight Portable Sidecar Displays

While desktop users can use widescreen monitors with Windows Snap, laptop reporters need a portable solution that doesn't add heavy baggage. **Attachable "sidecar" displays mount directly to the back of your laptop lid using magnetic plates or spring-loaded clamps. Requiring zero extra table space, they connect via a single USB-C cable for both video and power.** Best of all, these displays typically weigh under 1.2 to 2 pounds, folding completely flat against your laptop lid so both slide effortlessly into your existing notebook case together.



Popular options include:

Xebec Snap & Tri-Screen Series: Weighing under 2 pounds, these units clamp securely onto 13" to 17" laptop lids, adding fold-out side displays without permanent adhesives.

Mobile Pixels DUEX Plus & TRIO: Weighing just 1.3 pounds, this display uses magnetic backing to slide out from behind your laptop screen and swivels 180 degrees into a presentation mode.

SideTrak Swivel: Weighing 1.2 pounds, it features a 360-degree magnetic hinge for easy screen positioning in tight courtroom spaces.

In Part 2 of this series, we will look at how to pair your multi-screen setup with Eclipse's native "Screenshot from the Writer" Python plugin to capture on-screen exhibits instantly via a stenowriter's or voicewriter's command, with a complete transcript audit trail.

Eclipse Tip: International Currencies – Keith Vincent

If your Eclipse number rules are not forcing a currency amount to be written out, then words like “dollars” and “cents” can indicate that digits are needed along with symbols like \$ or ¢, but what about Euros, pounds, yen, etc.? Eclipse can handle £, ¥, €, EUR, and so much more, but three elements are involved:

- 1 - Dictionary entries
- 2 - Metadictionary support
- 3 - Vocabulary Setup within User Settings, Numbers

First, **Dictionary entries**. By default, Eclipse assumes “pound” and “pounds” refer to weight rather than money in London. Likewise, “yen” could mean a desire rather than money in Tokyo. Solution: **Use braces and “C:” in defining currency names**: {C:pound}, {C:pounds}, {C:yen}, etc.

Second, **Metadictionary support**. Eclipse should automatically understand a dictionary entry like {C:pounds} because the default metadictionary contains {C:*}={/“%/?VMN} and it refers to a currency setup in the Numbers Vocabulary. You should not have to add this line in the metadictionary; it’s already ready to work.

Third, **Vocabulary Setup within User Settings, Numbers**. The default numbers vocabulary can be quite extensive, but it’s very customizable. Let’s use this small example to explain what you might see:

Currency setup

```
D/dollar/dollars/$^/1.0
C/cent/cents/^~cents/0.01/!
USD/U.S. dollar/U.S. dollars/US$/1.0
C/cent/cents/^~cents/0.01/!
P/pound/pounds/E^/1.0
N/penny/pence/^p/0.01/!
P2/pound sterling/pounds sterling/E^/1.0
N/penny/pence/^p/0.01/!
P3/British pound/British pounds/E^/1.0
N/penny/pence/^p/0.01/!
Y/yen/yen/¥^/1/!
E/Euro/Euros/€^/1.0
EC/euro-cent/euro-cents/^~euro-cents/0.01/!
```

The first item in this currency setup is your **default currency**. So if my cursor is on a number, Eclipse is ready to convert it to digits with the \$ symbol. AutoMagic can offer that suggestion. If I use Hyperkey “Shift+M” for money, the number can convert to dollars. If I work in Europe, I set the first item for Euros.

The **capital(s) at the start of each line could be part of a {#M*} conversion command** written right before or after a number. Thus, {#MY} could force a number into yen. I do not use that, but I did want to explain it. (Note: {#M*} does **not** insert a decimal symbol between dollars/cents, pounds/pence, etc. You must write the decimal symbol.)

After a slash, we indicate the singular form of the currency name, then a slash followed by the plural form. Here I show “/Euro/Euros”, but that can be changed to “/euro/euro” if that is the practice where you work. **Note on capitalization**: It will **not** work if your currency setup is /Euro/Euros but your dictionary entry is {C:euro} or {C:euros}.

Next, the currency symbol. The position of the ^ indicates whether it goes before the number or after. The ~ means a lockspace is used.

\$^ produces \$5	^~\$ produces 5~\$
€^ produces €5	^~€ produces 5~€
EUR^ produces EUR5	^~EUR produces 5~EUR

Note: The special characters chart (Ctrl+W) is not available within Currency Setup, so I opened an Eclipse document, used the chart to get the symbols I needed, and then Copy and Paste to add to my currency setup.

The /1.0 means a currency number could include a decimal component. (Use the period as the decimal symbol here, even if the comma is your normal decimal symbol.) The /0.01 show how many digits come after the decimal symbol. The ! means the number has ended. When you write “five dollars”, there might be some cents. When you write “five dollars fifty”, it becomes \$5.50. As soon as you write “five cents”, that’s the end of that number.

Note: If you prefer turning “five cents” into \$0.05, use \$0.^ as the cents symbol:

C/cent/cents/\$0.^/0.01/!

Disclaimer

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