

e-CourtReporter Presents:
e-Tips Newsletter

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“Liberty is the only thing you cannot have unless you are willing to give it to others.”
William Allen White

Wil Wilcox: Online Editing, Part 2
Keith Vincent: Realtime Output Buffer

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Online Editing's Time Has Come – Part 2

Last time in Part 1 of this article we looked at the software necessary for remote online scoping including a Web-based service available from <http://www.GoToMyPc.com>.

Now let's next look into possible Internet connections.

For officials, a high-speed Internet service called Courtroom Connect <http://www.courtroomconnect.com/> is worth looking into. If you have access to DSL or a high-speed wireless network in your courtroom or deposition suite, you have got it made as far as being able to have a scopist connect to your computer over the Internet for remote editing. If you are unable to get a high-speed Internet connection in your courtroom or deposition suite but do have a phone line available, the next best option may be to use dial-up Internet access such as Earthlink or AOL.

Your final option but with a few downsides, if you don't have a phone line you can use, is to go with wireless Internet access from cell phone providers. This will be much slower than high-speed Internet and subject to possibly being in a poor reception area where you are not able to get a good connection. This slower speed via a cellular carrier may be most effective to e-mail individual sections of the testimony for remote scoping than to try to do online editing. When attempting to do online editing, there may be a three- to five-second delay or lag time from the point the remote editor presses a key on the keyboard until that command is executed on your computer. There are things that can be done to minimize this lag time by adjusting your display options, etc. Even still, it won't be as fast as with high-speed. However, with some tweaking, it is possible to get this working satisfactorily by changing various display settings such as to black and white to minimize the delay.

There are two wireless access providers available in much of the country today that I could recommend to you. The first is Sprint PCS Vision Data service (50k – 110k) <http://www.sprintpcs.com/> which consists of a PC card that enables your notebook computer to connect to Sprint's cellular data network. In my testing, Sprint PCS has excellent coverage in most major metropolitan areas. The next one I would recommend is AT&T Wireless EDGE Network (100k – 150k) <http://www.attwireless.com>. I have not tested the Edge Network firsthand but have heard since it is so new that the coverage tends to not be as good as with the Sprint Service.

Verizon has announced that by the end of next year it will have a competing wireless network for computers throughout the US called EV-DO with speeds ranging from 300k – 500k. The other carriers have upgrade plans as well, so we're going to see wireless Internet access available at broadband speeds in the not too distant future. The best way to get information on these wireless services is to call the cell phone carriers and ask them. Sometimes details such as pricing are vague on their Websites. Unlimited cellular access at the present time is going for approximately \$80 per month.

Now with the help of a remote realtime scopist you can do dailies and expedites and still have a life. And with all of the wifi wireless networks popping up and the Internet access issue solved, there are few remaining hurdles to be conquered for remote scoping and/or Internet realtime hookup to be commonly used. It really works!

Keith's e-Tip

The Realtime Output Buffer, etc.

In connection with Wil's tips on on-line scoping, here are a few Total Eclipse features worth examining. Specifically, I'm referring to several options in the Realtime section of User Settings.

First, an option that you must turn OFF if you want to have a scopist editing your document as you write. If you do have a realtime scopist, do not put a check in the box next to "Follow Always." If there's a check in that box, each time you press a key on the steno keyboard, the cursor will move to the end of the document to follow along as you write. "Follow Always" is useful if you're by yourself, but it's not designed for working with a realtime scopist.

What about "Stop Follow on Unresolved"? It can be used whether you're by yourself or working with a realtime scopist. It simply means that if your cursor is following along as you write, it will stop if an untranslate or an unresolved conflict comes up. It doesn't matter whether your cursor is following along because you pressed Ctrl Page Down or because you're using "Follow Always." If there's a check in the box next to "Stop Follow on Unresolved," Eclipse will pause to let you resolve your conflict or define your untran. So if you do have a realtime scopist working with you, it helps the scopist to see something that needs to be fixed.

The "Edit Word Buffer" was introduced in Total Eclipse 3.1. What does it do? It enables you to make corrections BEFORE your text is transmitted to

realtime clients' screens. It's great if your clients are judges or attorneys using CaseView, LiveNote, Summation, etc., but it should not be used for closed captioning output. Typically, I set this to 7. That means that as I'm writing, the last 7 words have not yet been sent out to my clients. To let me know what has been sent out and what hasn't, the same background color that is used for print commands is also used for words that are still in the buffer. For me that would be gray. So I know that any text that appears against a gray background is something that has not yet been sent out.

There's one last option that affects the output buffer, and it's especially useful if you do have a realtime scopist at your side. If there's a check in the box next to "Wait for Cursor," then realtime output will wait for your cursor. You'll probably notice that the last word or two to the left of your cursor is using the output buffer's background color, so that shows you what text has not yet been seen by your realtime clients. Let's say an unusual name or term comes up that needs to be globalized. The scopist begins the global while the reporter continues to write. The amount of text that is being held in the output buffer will grow as the scopist is creating the global replacement. When the scopist is finished, he or she just starts moving the cursor. The text will then be sent out to the realtime clients.

Keep in mind that you could use these options together. So you could have your "Edit Word Buffer" set to 7 but also have checks in the boxes next to "Wait for Cursor" and "Stop Follow on Unresolved." That would mean that your last seven words would be waiting for any corrections you might want to make but that Eclipse would pause whenever an untran or conflict came up and that the realtime output would wait for your cursor. In this scenario, you could always correct at least the last seven words before sending them to your realtime clients; but if you needed more time to make the correction, the system would wait for your cursor.

Of course, you can set your "Edit Word Buffer" to be larger or smaller. Even if you set the buffer to hold the last 200 words, you could always flush out that text whenever you want. A dictionary entry defined as {FLUSH} will do the trick. Typically, the steno used for that purpose is the asterisk and number bar pressed together. Use the {FLUSH} stroke if there's a pause and you want to make sure your clients can see even the text that would normally be held in the output buffer.

One last note. If you do take advantage of the realtime output buffer, you can use either the computer keyboard or the steno keyboard to make your corrections. The steno keyboard is not limited to making corrections within a "reporter's area." Likewise, there is no "great wall" that keeps the scopist from using the computer keyboard to edit even the last bit of text that translates in

real time. As the name implies, the "Edit Word Buffer" is intended to enable realtime editing, not limit it.

Who Are We?

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