

e-CourtReporter Presents:
e-Tips Newsletter

No. 18 – August 10, 2002

"Change is the law of life.
And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future."
John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1917-63)

Keith Vincent and Wil Wilcox: A Total Eclipse is Coming

Constant innovation is a hallmark of Total Eclipse, 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, we continue our FREE newsletter to anyone who wishes to receive it. Whether our **e-Tips** are a basic tip for editing efficiency or a challenging macro, we hope you'll find them helpful.

Keith's e-Tip

Presenting Total Eclipse

The annual National Court Reporters Association convention (Orlando, August 8-11, 2002) is buzzing with the unveiling of Total Eclipse.

If you've been downloading the EclipseNT development versions during the past ten months, you've no doubt noticed an amazing number of improvements to the program. (The Instant Realtime button and the speedometer are just two that spring to mind.) These are all incorporated into Total Eclipse, but the best features have been kept a secret until now. We wanted to surprise our competitors who have been developing pale imitations of our "old" software, EclipseNT. (Don't worry about EclipseNT; it will continue to work and be fully supported.)

When you open Total Eclipse (which, as always, will be made available at no extra cost to all Eclipse users with current support), you'll notice a beautiful new user interface. There are now four toolbars (two large and two small) with spectacular graphics that make this the most photogenic version of Eclipse ever. The default arrangement is one row of basic icons, but you can

select from about eight arrangements or undock the toolbars, resize them, reposition them, and Total Eclipse will remember your preference when you restart the program.

One of my favorite additions to a number of dialogues is the “gear” icon, which takes you quickly to the appropriate section of your User Settings. So from the Translate Notes dialogue, the “gear” icon takes you to Realtime setup. From the Print dialogue, the “gear” icon takes you to Document setup. You get the picture.

There are truly too many improvements to mention here, including support for speech input technology and extended steno keyboards like the Gemini and the Treal. However, I hope one of the best-loved additions will be the Visualizer, which is my contribution to the program.

What is the Visualizer? It’s a multimedia Help system. As a start, I’ve prepared almost 70 short movies (the longest takes 97 seconds) that SHOW you how to use Total Eclipse. If you press F1 or any “Help” button, the online help system will include a “Visualizer” button wherever there is a movie that relates to the text. The “Help” menu column also features “Visualizer topics.” That will take you directly to the list of movies.

Viewing the Visualizer movies in sequence would give you a good understanding of how to use Eclipse. As I developed them, I tried to be as clear as possible for new users but also show many aspects of Total Eclipse that even experienced users might not know. That was no small task (a 90-second movie could easily take six hours to create), but I’m hopeful it will increase ease of use.

The complete set of Visualizer movies will be included as part of the Total Eclipse installation disk. So new purchasers will automatically receive them. I understand that if you download the Total Eclipse update from the Eclipse website (it will be available soon after the convention), the movies will be separate. (Even short movies take space. The 70 Visualizer presentations take about 125 megs.) So you will be able to download the topics as you need them or request a disk with a complete TE install disk.

In conjunction with the release of Total Eclipse, I’ve been busy improving my training materials:

3rdTutor.exe revises the Efficient Editing Tutorial and includes links to the Visualizer files wherever possible. Of course, a disk with both 3rdTutor and the complete Visualizer files will be included as part of the e-Power

Workshops that Wil and I present, as of the August 23-25 weekend in Houston.

3vRTkit.exe revises the Realtime Editing Kit and includes the Portable Macros that were made possible as of EclipseNT 2.1.1.22.

3vPreSuf.exe updates the Prefixes and Suffixes Kit.

I also have several new e-Power Video Tutorials to announce, which brings the total to six:

New: **“A Total Eclipse Mini-Tour”** improves on the half-hour tour that I developed this Spring.

New: **“A Total Eclipse Overview”** builds upon the approach taken in the Visualizer presentations. However, the short “Overview” movies are on a separate CD, so you can view them without having to have Total Eclipse installed on your computer. Since I was limited only by the size of a CD, I was able to use a richer sound format and not really worry about how many movies I’d create. The “Overview” currently includes almost two hours of presentations.

New: **“Eclipse Automatic Number Conversion,”** about two hours of presentations on how to fine-tune your dictionary and user settings for the best number translation.

“Eclipse Form Fields and Automatic Indexing”

“Interactive Realtime Translation (for all CAT systems)”

“Keyboard Magic: The Eclipse Realtime Editing Kit”

Total Eclipse

Once again we're celebrating the release of an awesome new Eclipse upgrade, Total Eclipse. Eclipse is proving one more time that it deserves its reputation of being the CAT technology leader, but that's not all. With Total Eclipse, we are seeing emerge a new side to Eclipse, that of also being one of the court reporting industry's most user-friendly programs.

On that note, one of my favorite new features of Total Eclipse is the very user-friendly Instant Realtime. All you need to do is just click on the realtime icon, and assuming that you've actually plugged in your writer your realtime will start. That's it. You no longer need to bring up the Translation Notes Dialog, enter a name for the job, or any of the rest of that. Just click on the Realtime icon, and you're ready to go. How could it get any easier than that?

In upcoming issues we'll be providing more details on some of our other favorites out of the hundreds of new features and enhancements in Total Eclipse and how to get the most out of them. We can't tell you the exact date that Total Eclipse will be available for download from the Eclipse website at: <http://www.EclipseCat.com> or when it may be available on CD. For now, start watching Eclipse's CR-Net section on Eclipse website for information and news about the forthcoming release of Total Eclipse. In the meantime, please be patient.

Due to the large number of people subscribing to our e-Tips newsletter that we happily write as unpaid volunteers, and the fact that we also have full-time careers, please understand that we will be unable to answer your individual e-mails requesting further information about Total Eclipse. We will, however, attempt to answer some of your e-mail questions by covering that topic in a future e-Tips newsletter.

Eclipse is one program where the only thing that is for sure is that the best is yet to come. We're soon going to be getting another very good glimpse of that bright future with this beautiful, brilliantly conceived, user-friendly and all around fantastic program soon to be in the hands of Eclipse users everywhere. With Eclipse, your software will continue to be state-of-the-art and a joy to use. Hurray!

Upcoming 3-day Total Eclipse e-POWER Workshops

Houston, TX **August 23-25, 2002**

Chicago, IL **September 20-22, 2002**

Honolulu, HI **October 4-6, 2002**

Burbank, CA **November 1-3, 2002**

For more details: www.EclipseNT.com

Last Chance! 2-day Eclipse Realtime Workshops

Indianapolis, IN **October 19-20, 2002**

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:

e-CourtReporter@pobox.com or call (818)766-7346.

Disclaimer

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