

e-CourtReporter Presents:  
**e-Tips Newsletter**

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"Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of."  
Benjamin Franklin

**Wil Wilcox: Editing PDF Files**  
**Keith Vincent: An Affordable 30" HDTV-Ready LCD Monitor**

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## **e-Power Video Tutorial Training**

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Whether you're an Eclipse beginner or a power user, you can learn a great deal with e-Power Video Tutorials. With these easy-to-use training tools, *"Seeing is Understanding."*

Total Eclipse Visualizers are short "how-to" videos that come with your Total Eclipse CAT software CD. Although each video lasts only 1 or 2 minutes, the Visualizers are too large to download. So if you have downloaded Total Eclipse and want to have the Visualizers too, just call 1-800-800-1759 and ask for the Total Eclipse update CD from Advantage Software. A small shipping fee will apply.

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## **Upcoming 3-day Total Eclipse e-POWER Workshops**

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**Honolulu, HI      October 8-10, 2004**

For more details: [www.EclipseNT.com](http://www.EclipseNT.com)

### Editing PDF Files

Now that we have the capability to create PDF files of our transcripts that maintain the exact layout of the originals, you may ask, "How do you convert a PDF transcript into a format that a proofreader or a scopist can edit, such as a Microsoft Word document or an RTF file?" The best solution is with a software program called [ScanSoft PDF Converter 2](#) which is a Microsoft Word 2003 plug-in. [PDF Converter 2](#) retails for just \$49.99. Of course, if you have the time, money or inclination to buy a more expensive and complex program, with the full version of Adobe Acrobat Professional, you can edit PDF files as well, but it will set you back \$449, almost 10 times as much.

As we've discussed in earlier e-Tips, Portable Document Format (PDF) is a universal document format that lets you share copies of your transcripts with everyone using any operating system including Windows, Mac, Palm, Pocket PC and Linux. PDF files look and print exactly as your original transcript making them the ideal format for electronic distribution of transcripts. You create a PDF transcript by changing the printer output in Total Eclipse to PDF format.

[ScanSoft PDF Converter 2](#) takes this a step further and can then open these PDF transcripts in Microsoft Word complete with your text box. You can then edit and save your PDF transcripts as Word or RTF files, once again, with your original formatting intact. The plug-in adds an "Open PDF" command to the menu in Microsoft Word 2003. If you've also installed [PDFCreator](#) from the [Total Eclipse 3.2.0.0](#) Software CD or [PDF995](#) or [PDF Create!](#) you can take the edited files and re-export them back into PDF format once again. This has lots of applications applicable to court reporters such as for working with proofreaders or perhaps a court reporting agency that would then have the ability to correct a simple typo or adjust the formatting before sending the transcript out.

[PDF Converter](#) is very easy to work with. Just right click on a PDF File in the Windows Explorer, and select "Open PDF in Word." It's as easy as that. [PDF Converter](#) is very accurate and will maintain the original layout of your transcript. In addition, [PDF Converter](#) was developed with the cooperation of Microsoft, so it works seamlessly with Microsoft Word 2003 without glitches.

Working with a proofreader using [PDF Converter](#) and Microsoft Word instead of a paper transcript that the proofreader marks for correction and sends back or an e-mailed ASCII file that the proofreader e-mails back with a list of page and line numbers requiring correction is much more efficient and will enable

a faster turnaround time on your transcripts. This has the potential to save reporters, scopists, proofreaders and agency owners and court administrators a lot of time and money. Our jobs just got a lot easier with the addition of the very user-friendly and powerful program, [PDF Converter 2](#).

## Keith's e-Tip

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### An Affordable 30" HDTV-Ready LCD Monitor



In November 2002 at the Comdex expo in Las Vegas, I saw a prototype of a 30" LCD Monitor/HDTV by Viewsonic. I really liked the idea of having a large flat-panel computer monitor with simultaneous picture-in-picture viewing for TV broadcasts. I could imagine a captioner buying a single screen for watching a broadcast and captioning with Eclipse AccuCap. What I couldn't imagine was paying the projected \$3,000 price tag.

Two years later, I came across forecasts that the prices for LCD displays of 30" or greater would fall 30 percent as Taiwan shifts production to larger screens. When my old computer monitor started dying, that was all I needed to start shopping. Plus, my birthday was coming up. Could there have been any clearer sign that it was meant to be? Well, the holidays will soon be here. So I'll pass on what I've found, just in case you're writing your letter to Santa.

I actually did purchase a 30" Viewsonic unit for \$1750. Beautiful, but with one fatal flaw. It did not let you listen to what was viewed in the picture-in-picture (PIP) window. I then tried out a 32" Samsung unit. It did allow listening to the PIP window. As a TV, it was outstanding; as a computer display, it was unexceptional. Plus, it cost \$3500.

To make a long story short, the ideal display for me has proven to be the 30" **Westinghouse Digital W33001**. Phenomenal picture quality, outstanding PIP features, and connections for just about any device you can think of. I found it at Best Buy for \$1999, but I've seen it on the Internet for as little as \$1679 (plus \$35 for shipping). You can use this link and then "Search" for "W33001". <http://store.yahoo.com/nextpowerusa/>

Now for the details.

### **Westinghouse Digital W33001**

Width: 34.8" Height: 21.1" Depth: 4.0" (8.0" with base)

Weight: 40 lbs.

Screen: 25.4" wide, 15.3" high, 30" diagonal

Optimal Screen Resolution: 1280x768

Built-in dual tuners for picture-in-picture display

Built-in stereo speakers

A display of this size and resolution gives you a lot of options. Here's just one setup. I've given about two thirds of the screen to Total Eclipse, nicely magnified. That's about 16.5" wide, 14.5" high, 21.5" diagonal. That leaves room in a corner of the screen for a PIP TV window - 7.5" wide, 4.5" high, 8.5" diagonal. Plus, there's still room on the Windows desktop to display E-mail or some other program -- 9" wide, 9.5" high, 13" diagonal.

The Westinghouse Digital W33001 has by far the best picture-in-picture features I've seen in any LCD display. Consider the options:

**PIP** - 2 live displays. The smaller window can be positioned in a corner of your screen or in the very center. You can also choose the size of the PIP window -- 30, 40, 50, 60, 75. The largest setting (18.5"x11.25"x21.5") is definitely too big for my taste. However, I can certainly see a captioner loving this level of control over the PIP window.

**Split Screen** - 2 live displays, side by side, each 12.1"x7.5"x14".

**Pop 3** - That is, 1 large live display (17"x10.5"x19.5") plus 3 small screens (8.5"x5"x9.5" each) that continuously take snapshots of three additional channels that you want to follow.

**Pop 12** - That is, 1 large live display in the center of your screen (12.5"x7.5"x14.5"), surrounded by 12 small screens (6.25"x3.75"x7" each) that continuously take snapshots of additional channels that you want to follow.

If you'd like more information, here's a link to the manufacturer's website. There you can even download the full user's manual in PDF format. Like any manual, it could be more complete. Some features I stumbled on when I was trying out every button on the remote control. Still, it's nice to have access to this information before you purchase.

<http://westinghousedigital.com/products/prod-30dvi.shtml>

I should mention that to take advantage of 1280x768 widescreen resolution, I did have to update the drivers for my computer's video card. That didn't take too much hunting within Windows' advanced display settings. There I found a link to the website for my video card's manufacturer and ultimately a place to download driver updates.

Just a few years ago, you could easily spend \$1700 for an average-sized flat-panel display. \$1700 is less than what you'd pay for a good notebook computer. Now the same price will buy something much larger that can even be used for high-definition TV. That's definite progress.

## Who Are We?

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**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.

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