



e-Power Video Tutorials presents:



# e-Tips Newsletter

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Keith Vincent

## Connection Magic: More than Total Eclipse 5.1

A keyless version of Eclipse, an internet-connectable version of Bridge, and even the ability for multiple editors to work on the same document at the same time -- all this and more is being made possible by a new dedicated server at Advantage Software. They call it "Connection Magic".

For the past five or six months, I haven't had to plug in a USB software key because I've been using a **keyless version of Total Eclipse, which will be Version 5.1**. It's now downloadable as a development version.

The first time I used this version, I was given a **license number to enter on the computers where I run the program. The license number is stored automatically**, so it's not something you have to remember. Now **when I turn on Eclipse, it sees if I have an internet connection. If so, it sees whether the same license is already in use.** Perhaps I'm working on my desktop and I leave Eclipse running and then move to my notebook computer. As soon as I run Eclipse on another computer, the copy of the program on my first computer will be suspended. **You can move among multiple computers without carrying a key and without having to worry about overlapping usage.**

**If you do not have an Internet connection available, you can use Eclipse off-line for up to two weeks.** You will be given countdown warnings within three days of the expiration of the off-line access. As soon as you run Eclipse at all with an Internet connection available, it will reset the off-line access for another two weeks.

**What if you have no Internet access on some computer, even for five seconds every two weeks? Then keep using the hardware key.** Going keyless is an option, not a requirement.

*(continued on page 3)*

### Eclipse Webinars

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**New webinars will begin  
after the New Year.**

### Eclipse Users Group

**21st Annual Convention  
Las Vegas, April 26-28, 2013**

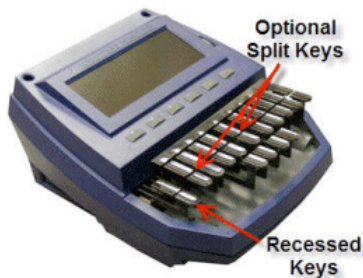
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## Additional Support for Extended Steno Keyboards

In e-Tip #121 (August 2012), I described how Total Eclipse 5.1 would support the extra keys that are offered on some steno keyboards like the Passport and the Infinity writers.



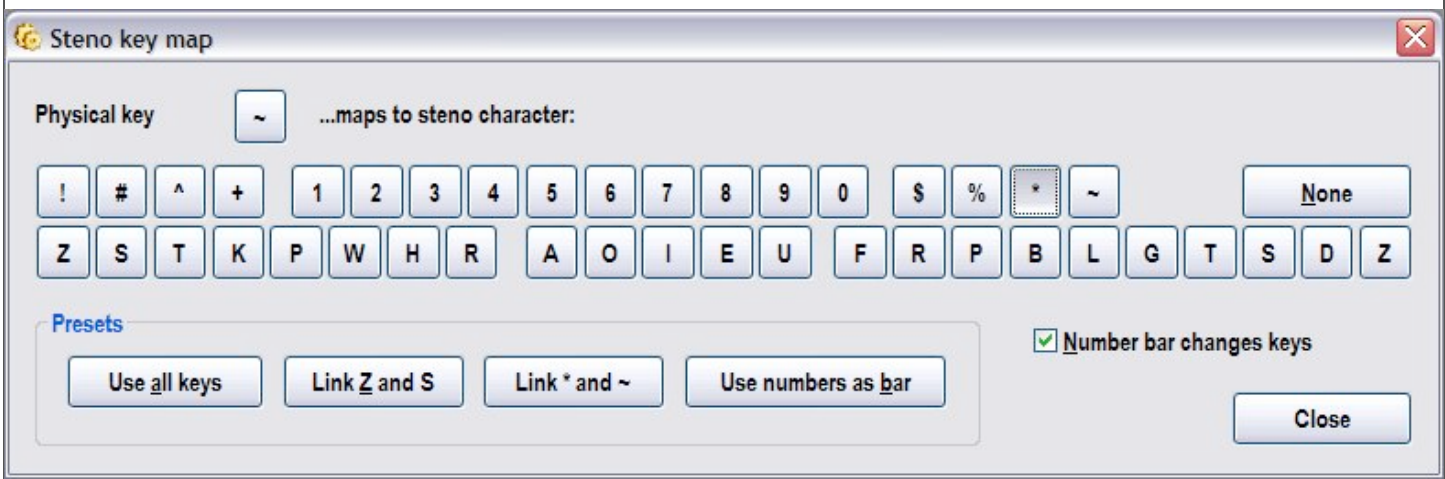
^ Z T P H \* F P L T D  
+ S K W R ~ R B G S Z  
A O E U

After several months of testing, it's become clear that a more versatile approach was in order, for several reasons. **The Passport has 27 keys. The Infinity Traditional and Infinity Ergonomic writers can have as many as 39 keys, if ordered with a separate key for each number instead of the traditional wide number bar.**

You can configure the keyboard as you see fit, **with Total Eclipse 5.1. Simply select "Extended Keyboard" in the "Input" section of your user settings. Then use the "Key map" button.** So when you press a physical key like the lower asterisk, do you want that key mapped to the steno character \* or do you want it mapped to ~ or something else entirely? It's a tremendously versatile approach designed to support all steno machines.

What about the key arrangement itself? **Perhaps one person will use the split initial S keys (Z- and S-) but not the two asterisk keys (\* and ~).** With Total Eclipse 5.1, you have total flexibility.

When you switch from a traditional steno machine that has only 22 keys and start using a writer with extra keys, you do need to convert your dictionary. **Well, what if you want to try out different writers with varying keyboards? You won't have to convert your dictionary yet one more time. You can try any keyboard arrangement without affecting your dictionary.**



## “Connection Magic” *(continued from page 1)*

I should probably mention that **at the general release of Total Eclipse 5.1, it will be necessary to trade in your current hardware key if you decide to use a keyless license instead.** Later on, if you find that a hardware key works better for your circumstances, then you can trade in your keyless license for the traditional hardware key. You decide what you prefer. You just can't use both kinds of licenses at the same time; it's one or the other.

**A new internet-connectable version of Bridge** is also in the works, as Eclipse programmer Jeremy Thorne showed in his November webinar. **The reporter sets up Eclipse to output to Bridge via "Connection Magic". The reporter's clients could be anywhere in the world.** With Bridge and an internet connection (plus a password, if the reporter has set one), they would be able to see the reporter's realtime transcription. Of course, you can still connect to Bridge via cables, StenoCast wireless equipment, or file sharing on a network. An upcoming e-Tip will speak more about this new version of Bridge, but what I find especially exciting is that the connection is both **extremely secure and ultra-easy to set up.**

In his November webinar, Jeremy previewed how **"Connection Magic" also makes it easy to take advantage of Eclipse StenoLink. In fact, I**

**was writing on my steno machine in Texas, while Jeremy was editing a copy of the transcript in Florida. He was also transmitting to Bridge users via the internet, such as Michael Starkman in Pennsylvania.** StenoLink itself is not new; it was added to Eclipse in 2006. Until now, however, one needed to know IP addresses and port numbers and use port forwarding to contend with firewalls. Advantage Software's dedicated server now makes it both secure and super-easy to set up. The reporter and the scopist simply select Eclipse StenoLink via "Connection Magic".

StenoLink has made it possible for a reporter and one scopist to work together remotely, but **"Connection Magic" will make it possible for multiple Eclipse users to edit the same document simultaneously.** As I write, I've been spending a week working with Jeremy Thorne in Vermont. It's now snowing and the last time I saw so many stars was in a planetarium. While the snow and stars in Vermont have been magical in their own right, the work Jeremy's been doing on collaborative editing has been amazing. He can see my document on his screen, and I can see both our cursors as we're simultaneously editing the same document. I'll have more to say in an upcoming e-Tip, but suffice to say that great things are at hand for Eclipse users.

## Eclipse Users Convention: Las Vegas, April 26-28, 2013

Looking for the best place to learn how to get more out of your Eclipse software? Look no further than the **21st annual Eclipse Users Convention in Las Vegas.**

Speakers: Jeremy Thorne (advanced), Keith Vincent (intermediate), Jan Fuller (beginners), Steve Kosmata (Eclipse indexing), Jim Barker





(Searchmaster), Anissa Nierenberger (Dictionary Jumpstart), Marybeth Everhart (Realtime Coach), Scott Friend and John Everhart (Windows 8).

**For a limited time, there's a 22% discount available for those who register early. For info and registration, please visit [EclipseUsers.com](http://EclipseUsers.com).**



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## Language Tools/Toys

A recent trip to Italy had me looking for a dictionary that I could have on my iPhone. At [Ascendo-Inc.com](http://Ascendo-Inc.com), I found just what I wanted. It's an English-Italian and Italian-English dictionary, a phrase book, and a quiz to turn vocabulary building into fun. The free edition is quite good, but the full edition costs less than \$10.

In fact, I wound up buying the French, Spanish, and German versions, too. To be honest, it's the quizzes that I

like the most. Some choices are obvious, but others play on secondary meanings or figures of speech. When I'm waiting in a line somewhere, it's a game that I can play and it takes me back to language courses in my college days. Nerd power!

As reporters, we're all about words. The more of them that we learn, the better equipped we are to do our job.

Ascendo's French, Spanish, Italian, and German dictionaries are available for iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch, and Android.



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