

e-Tips Newsletter

Issue 64

March 2007

Please keep in mind that because of the volume of e-mail we receive and the fact that we are volunteering our time and this free newsletter, we can't routinely answer individual questions by phone or e-mail, or consult on individual problems or purchasing decisions.

The first step to getting the things you want out of life is this: Decide what you want.

Ben Stein—

Inside this issue:

Wil Wilcox - Using & Naming USB Flash Drives	1
Keith Vincent— New Options in Litigation Support Software	3

Using and Naming USB Flash Drives

by: Wil Wilcox



Flash drives have become very popular and very inexpensive. A few years ago, I paid about \$150 for a 512-megabyte USB flash drive. Today I saw a 1-gigabyte model for less than \$20 and a 4-gigabyte model for less than \$50. That's the equivalent of thousands of floppy disks, without the moving parts that make floppies vulnerable.

Here are three tips for using flash drives.

First, I'm hoping you're setting up your computer for realtime transcription, at least for yourself. You don't need to have anyone else connected to your computer in order to enjoy the benefits of instant translation with synchronized audio recording. **Well, BEFORE you turn off the computer at the end of your job, back up your files.** Back up your steno file, your text file, your audio (WAV file), along with your main dictionary and any job dictionaries that you used during translation. Do all this BEFORE you turn off the computer. **Then place the flash drive in your pocket or your purse, not in your computer case.** If you drop your computer or it gets lost or stolen, you'll at least have a flash drive that contains what you need to finish your job.

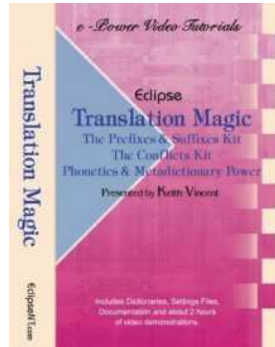
Second, did you know you can easily name your flash drive? When you insert the flash drive into one of your computer's USB ports, it will probably show up in Windows Explorer as "Removable disk" or something generic like that. Just right-click on that generic name, and wait for the context menu to appear. Select "Rename." You can then change the generic name to something more descriptive, perhaps including your name (WWilcox-1).

Third, why not keep a copy of Bridge on your flash drive? That way you can easily give it to attorneys who want realtime transcription but have not installed any software that would allow them to connect to your computer. Bridge is free and easy to use. Eclipse users can download a copy from the Support page of the Advantage Software website (www.eclipsecat.com) ■

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New Options in Litigation Support Software

By: Keith Vincent



Keith Vincent

My first computer was a Macintosh, and I've been nostalgic for the Mac ever since I had to buy a PC in order to run court reporting software. I feel real sympathy for Mac attorneys who have had to stoop to using PCs in order to take advantage of realtime transcription. So you can understand how pleased I was to discover not just one but two companies who have been developing litigation support software that runs on either a PC or a Mac.

I was also very happy to find that these products do not involve the use of realtime tokens, nor do they require monthly subscriptions.



Transcript Manager Pro by 1360 Studios caught my attention at the Summer 2006 NCRA convention in New York. The product was then in beta testing, and a first version was released in November 2006. Version 1.1 was released a few months later, and an upcoming version will incorporate support for the Mac as well as the PC.

Transcript Manager Pro has an elegantly simple interface, and I particularly like the way the text scrolls up from the bottom of a split screen. Even while moving back to earlier review testimony, a judge or attorney can always see the last few lines that a reporter has written. So you're not likely to hear the old question, "How do I get the realtime to stop so I can review testimony?" or "How do I get it to follow along again?"

For more information, visit www.1360Studios.com. In particular, check out the screen shots that can be found if you click on the "Law Firms" button.



Last week I learned of another company that has been even more active in developing cross-platform legal software. **Clarity Legal Software** currently offers three products that I think you'll find very interesting.

DepoSmart competes directly with LiveNote and other products for attorneys.

Bundler offers court reporters an alternative to e-Transcript – and one that works for your Mac clients, too.

TrialSmart competes directly with Trial Director and other software for exhibits and synchronized video presentation. Again, all three products work on either PCs or Macs, and the pricing is very reasonable.

For more information, visit www.claritylegalsoftware.com. In particular, check out the on-line video tutorials that are available when you click on the "Get Training" button. ■

Visit Keith's website @: www.KVincent.com

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