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e-Tips Newsletter

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Eclipse 7

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Eclipse 7: Shared AI for Conflict Resolution

Keith Vincent

When I purchased Eclipse in 1992, what attracted me most was its intelligent resolution of dictionary conflicts.

1) Non-traditional conflicts

I already had distinct steno for homonyms like *there*, *their*, and *they're*, but Eclipse could handle much more than traditional conflicts. It quickly learned to pick the right choice for punctuation, hyphenation, and number formatting. It's easier to write since I don't worry about every comma or hyphen.

2) Slop-stroke syntax

Each conflict in your dictionary learns from your editing choices, but the slop-stroke syntax lets one entry use what another has learned. I have KWRE defined as \yes\{,?}yes\{,?}\yes

Should slop-stroke syntax be used for non-conflicts? In the past I would say no, but today I say yes. That's because Translation Magic does not base any guess off things that are defined with slop-stroke syntax.

This calls for illustration. Let's say I write KOPB SREPBGS to mean "convention", but it came out as KOPB SREPBS during fast writing. In the past I would have defined the misstroke as "convention". Today, I'll use slop-stroke syntax and define it as {=KOPB SREPBGS}. If I later misstroke words like *convince*, *convex*, *convenience*, *conviction*, etc., those may be closer to KOPB SREPBS than what I was trying to write and could result in a "convention" translation that I do not want. Using slop-stroke syntax tells Translation Magic that I would

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Microsoft Surface Book/Surface Pro 4



Microsoft has announced its first ever notebook computer, the Surface Book, as well as a new Surface Pro 4 tablet.

I have loved my Surface Pro 1, but it has never been my daily driver for realtime reporting or even editing. I have used it for traveling, proofreading, or light transcript editing. The Surface Pro 1 had only one USB port, a small screen, not comfortable to use in your lap like a regular laptop.

The perfect Surface would have a larger screen, more USB ports, and a keyboard that is comfortable to use in your lap. Well, Microsoft just released such an animal into the wild, and it is absolutely exquisite: the **Surface Book**. It has a 13.5-inch screen, sixth-generation Intel Core processor, up to 16 GB RAM, and a 12-hour battery life. Like the Surface, the new Surface Book can be used as a full-powered laptop



or as a tablet. You can also snap the display screen to the back of the keyboard so it acts like a clipboard

The Surface Book goes on sale October 26, and the base model costs \$1,499. The tablet portion of the laptop weighs 1.6 lbs. and the whole unit about 3.5 pounds.

The Surface Pro 4 (\$899) is the same size as the Surface Pro 3, but has a bigger display: 12.3 inches. The keyboard has been improved and includes a fingerprint reader and a larger touchpad.

The stylus has also been improved. It now has a one-year battery life, attaches magnetically to the Surface Pro 4 (or the Surface Book), works with different pen tips, and has a digital eraser on the other end.

One of the real cool things is that these devices share a portable docking station that adds USB ports, etc.





The Surface Book compares very favorably with the MacBook Pro. It definitely is a MacBook Pro competitor. The specs really stand up in this regard. **Microsoft has entered the hardware world.** To the same extent Apple controls their devices from the software to the hardware, Microsoft is now going to trying to one up Apple all the way. The competition between these two is only going to benefit computer users.

Whether this is a true Ultrabook replacement remains to be seen. You would need to test drive one in a Microsoft Store when they are on display and see for yourself. The biggest news is that with Microsoft entering the hardware world in a big way, the innovation of these products has only just begun. Great things are going to be coming and it looks like one is already here. A real paradigm shift in the computer world has been unleashed.

Microsoft has finally come out swinging. Apple and Microsoft's other partners better step up their game or lookout because they are going to be getting some serious competition.



Eclipse 7: Shared AI for Conflict Resolution

(continued from page 1)

never write those strokes intentionally, so don't use that as a guess.

The globaling dialogue has long offered an easy way to create slop-stroke entries. Use the "Special entries" button and press the "End" key to go to the end of the list to select "Slop stroke". The steno dialogue will open to let you indicate the keys for the clean steno to which your dictionary entry will refer.

New in Eclipse 7, the globaling dialogue lets you use F9 (the dictionary speedkey) for slop-stroke lookups.



In this example, I'm defining KWR*E and Eclipse offers {=KWRE} for my "yes" entry. I'd press the "1" key to easily create that {=KWRE} entry.

3) Shared Conflict AI

Eclipse 7 has added one more way for conflicts to share artificial intelligence. Let's again use the example of a punctuation conflict. I have KWRE defined as \yes\{,?}yes\{,?}\ and it's learned 50 grammatical contexts that do or do not need commas. KWRE can serve as a "master" conflict for other words that occur in similar contexts.

With Eclipse 7, I can create a "no" conflict that will follow the many rules that have been learned by my "yes" conflict.



Here I'll define TPHO as \no\{,?}\no\{,?}\ and that much is a normal conflict. What's new is that this entry starts with the slop-stroke syntax. It's telling Eclipse to look up KWRE to find the context rules, but use \no\\{,?}\no\{,?}\ as the text for the choices.

A few closing examples. I'm not showing the steno I write for "yes, ma'am" or "of course", etc. I'm showing that the rules are stored at steno KWRE.

Punctuation conflicts:

{=KWRE}\yes, ma'am\{,?}yes, ma'am{,?} {=KWRE}\of course\{,?}of course{,?}

Hyphenation conflicts:

{=UP TO TKAEUT}\day to day\day-to-day {=UP TO TKAEUT}\first class\first-class

Number formatting conflicts:

{=TPHUB}\exhibit number\Exhibit No.{#N} {=TPHUB}\column\Column{#N}

Webinars

In the Spring, EclipseWebinars.com offered a three-part introduction to Eclipse 7 by Keith Vincent, Michael Starkman, and Jeremy Thorne. By popular demand, the recorded version of the Eclipse7 series remains open and offers .6 CEU.

At least one webinar is planned for the month of November, and details will be announced soon. For information on the webinars, visit EclipseWebinars.com.

Bridge Mobile App Now Available for Android Devices



Bridge Mobile app for Android devices is now available in both the Google Play Store and Amazon's App Store.

The basic version is free, and it can be upgraded to the "Pro" version for \$9.99 per month or \$99.99 per year. Outputting from your CAT software to Bridge Mobile will require a Bridge Broadcaster license, which costs \$279 per year. This price covers both internet and local output via the Connection Magic system, but it also includes Bridge Mobile cloud storage.



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Mail to: Keith Vincent, 1910 Ottawa Lane, Houston, Texas 77043 For more info on e-Power Tutorials, visit: www.KVincent.com.

Multiple USB Sound Cards in One Package

e-Tip #144 showed a device that SoundProfessionals.com is creating for Eclipse Multi-Channel Synchronized Audio. This 4x6.5x1-inch box contains four high-quality Andrea sound cards securely plugged into a USB hub. On one side, you plug in whatever mics you want. On the other side, there's just one USB connector to plug into your computer, but Eclipse sees multiple Andrea devices.

For live monitoring, plug in some earphones and hear what all the microphones are picking up. The box also features individual mute buttons for the live monitoring.

The SP-Multitrack-USB is currently on sale for \$399.95 at EclipseCat.com. On the Eclipse website, you'll find it listed under Catalog, Audio, Microphones.

SoundProfessionals.com also offers a wide variety of microphones. A good choice is the MS-Boundary series which cost \$100-\$160 depending on cable length.





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