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e-Tips Newsletter

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Eclipse Users Conference

April 20-22, 2018

Bally's Hotel, Las Vegas

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Keith Vincent

Bye-Bye, Speex

For at least 15 years, I've been using and recommending the Speex codec for recording audio. Excellent sound quality, and minimal file size (10 megabytes per hour instead of the 37 megs required for the default PCM setting.) Unfortunately, **Windows 10 is removing support for Speex**. Thus, the codec I now use is GSM 6.10 at 22.050 kHz Mono. The file size for one hour is 15 megabytes, with good sound quality.

If your Windows 10 computer won't let you listen to Speex recordings from the past, do not panic. You just need to go to EclipseCAT.com, Support, Downloads, Utilities and More, and download "SpeexFixSetup.exe." While you're at it, download the instructions, "Speex Fix step by step.PDF."

After the typical installation process, you'll have, among other things, "Convert Speex.mac". This is a macro that you can import into your user settings, and you can assign whatever speedkey that you want to use when you need to convert a Speex audio file.

So let's say you're editing a transcript whose audio file was recorded with Speex. While in the file, use the speedkey that you assigned to run the "Convert Speex" macro. A command prompt window will open to ask for the name of the file that needs converting. At that point, just press Ctrl+V to paste in the complete file name, which was automatically copied for you by the "Convert Speex" macro. Wait for the process to complete, and you can then listen to the audio.

By the way, **Version 9 of Eclipse automatically detects a Speex problem and converts the audio for you behind the scenes.** At the January retreat in Florida, **the beta version of Eclipse 9 was made available to interested users, and it will be in wider distribution for the Eclipse Users Conference in Las Vegas, April 20-22, 2018.** Version 9 features some very significant audio enhancements, which will be the focus of upcoming e-Tips.

New Always-Connected Computers with Windows 10S



The chips that power today's amazing smartphones have become so powerful that they can now run some, if not all, Windows programs. **HP, Lenovo, and ASUS are releasing laptops using ARM-based Qualcomm Snapdragon 835 processors that can run full Windows programs.** I've been checking these laptops out. The version of Windows they come with is called Windows 10S. They are at this time offering a free upgrade to Windows Pro which you will want to take advantage of if you get one of them.

There are so many advantages to being able to use these low-cost mobile processors as workhorses to run our programs, but also several disadvantages. As mentioned above, the chips I'm referring to are referred to as ARM and manufactured by Qualcomm and called Snapdragon. It is the same Snapdragon as in many high-end cell phones on the market today. Qualcomm and its partners are now getting ready to go head-to-head with the Intel chips that have been powering our laptops for all these years. We'll see how it works out.

First, the pros. These ARM systems like your cell phone are basically always on and always connected. ARM systems have been finetuned for wireless communications, honed by years of use in cell phones. This means that as soon as you turn it on, it will be connected. I'm getting tired of relying on hotspots and public wifi networks. The always-on LTE sounds great to me.

In addition to the always-on LTE connectivity one of the best features is that **these systems have very low power requirements.** This means that we're talking about the possibility of working on a laptop for days without having to charge it. Let that sink in for a minute.

And now the cons. All of these pie-in-the sky promises include some major downsides. The first being that **the only true Windows apps supported by Windows 10S are those that you can download from the Windows Store.** Your CAT program is not one of these. **To run other Windows programs like Eclipse, they have to use a Windows emulation mode** like people use when running Windows programs on Macs.

Programs do not always work perfectly in these software emulators. For instance, while Eclipse "may" run just fine for editing your transcript, think twice before hooking up to one of these laptops for realtime

and/or recording audio of the proceedings. These features "may" not work as advertised at all or be very glitchy, especially on the early systems. Major warning here! **Do not buy one of these new ARM-based laptops and install your CAT software on it and expect it to work out of the box like another Windows laptop would without big surprises.**

Even so, the promise of multi-day battery life and always-on connection to the Internet without any fuss is very compelling. In addition, Microsoft is said to be currently testing "hundreds" of Snapdragon-powered Windows 10 systems so they must really think they are on to something.

The big takeaway from all of this is to keep your eyes on this space and know what you're buying into if you get one of these. It is more realistic to hope for now that you "may" be able to use one of these systems to take on the road to proof transcripts or do light editing or as a realtime viewer with Bridge Mobile. Also, Intel will not be taking on this competition lying down. Look for Intel to offer laptops with built-in LTE and longer battery life as well.



While these Windows 10S notebooks being released by Lenovo, Asus and HP do deserve looking at, just know that if you do get one, it may really prove to be more of a toy. However, it's entirely possible we could be pleasantly surprised. My hunch is that if these systems gain popularity and they can get the bugs worked out that a few generations down the road they may really be onto something. It's a very big "if," though. For intrepid

(continued on page 3)

New Always-Connected Computers (cont.)

early adopters, you will just have to find out how much mileage you can get out of such a system. Manufacturers are hedging their bets on this for sure. You will see competing devices with Intel chips. Just know what you're buying. I'd stick with Intel for the time being.

Our technological future is very exciting and headed in some amazing new directions for sure. Don't even get me started on how powerful our technology will become when coupled with the upcoming 5G wireless with Internet speeds faster than your cable modem provides.

Eclipse Users Conference, Las Vegas - April 20-22, 2018

The 26th annual Eclipse Users Conference will be taking place at Bally's Hotel in Las Vegas, April 20-22, 2018. It's the premier gathering for the most varied and in-depth Eclipse-related training.

Friday offers three tracks of Eclipse training: Basic (Steve Kosmata), Intermediate (Keith Vincent), and Advanced (Jeremy Thorne). Saturday and Sunday offer a

wide range of topics that will be described at the Eclipse Software Professionals website (EclipseUsers.com).

Speakers include Tori Pittman, Anissa Nierenberger, Margie Wakeman Wells, and Lynda Batchelor Barker. There are seminars for all types of users -- reporters, scopists, and captioners, steno or voice.

For info/registration, visit EclipseUsers.com.

Eclipse Webinars: Curated Bundles

Since 2007, Eclipse Webinars has offered dozens of great classes devoted to help you become a software power user. The live webinars are always recorded and carefully edited to a high standard of quality.

One of the most frequent questions we get asked is "Which webinars do you recommend for someone just starting out?" or "I want to learn how to increase my accuracy, where do I start?" So we've asked the PRESENTERS who offered these webinar to give their

advice. What we got back was amazing: Nine different custom-created webinar bundles, on nine different topics, each with between two and nine webinars per bundle, on everything from Automatic Indexing to Translation Tuning, and everything between! Enjoy.

At EclipseWebinars.com/webinars_curated_bundles.php you'll find the "Curated Bundles". You'll be impressed by the many topics covered by Michael Starkman, Jeremy Thorne, and Keith Vincent.

Total Eclipse Workshop in London

On June 2, 2018, in London, Keith Vincent will offer a six-hour workshop, "Exploring Eclipse."

The workshop will highlight significant features that were introduced in Versions 5, 6, 7 and 8 of Eclipse, as well as new features in the forthcoming Eclipse 9. The goal is better translation and more efficient editing.

The class runs from 9:00 to 12:00 and then 1:30 to

4:30. The program can qualify as a source of continuing education units.

This workshop is set up as a small-group event (a maximum of about 25 participants) to make sure that no one gets lost in a crowd. If you're interested in attending, it's important to register without delay. For more info, visit KVincent.com.

Disclaimer

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