e-CourtReporter Presents:

e-Tips Newsletter

No. 21 – November 26, 2002

Wil Wilcox: Comdex Technology Update
Keith Vincent: Conflict Tips

Constant innovation is a hallmark of Total Eclipse, so there's always something new to learn. It may be an explanation of an amazing new feature or just a faster way to do a familiar task, but Eclipse users have always been eager to help each other. In this spirit, we continue our FREE newsletter to anyone who wishes to receive it. Whether our **e-Tips** are a basic tip for editing efficiency or a challenging macro, we hope you'll find them helpful.

Wil's e-Tip

Fall Technology Update

The e-CourtReporter team of myself, Wil Wilcox, Keith Vincent and Robert Denos have just returned from the annual COMDEX computer convention in Las Vegas. After having searched the convention floor high and low for new technology for court reporters, we found some absolute gems to tell you about. There's a good chance that you may want to add one or more of these items to your holiday shopping list.

Smallest Portable Scanner: At only 10.6 ounces and the size of a fat ruler, **Visioneer's** $181 **XP 100** *http://www.Visioneer.com* goes where no color flatbed scanner can go; it fits in my briefcase. Now when you want a quick copy of that case caption or exhibit you can scan it right then and there.

Notebook Computer Companion: If the prospect of lugging around your desktop-replacement notebook this holiday season seems daunting, read on. Pocket PCs allow you to check e-mail, access your calendar and contacts, listen to MP3s, store and display digital photos, and when equipped with a USB-host port even potentially utilize a USB keyboard. My picks of the current crop are all from Toshiba; the **e330**, **e335** *http://www.BestBuy.com*, **e550G** *http://www.CompUSA.com*, or the **e740** *http://www.Toshiba.com*. They are priced from $299 to $549 and all either come with standard USB

ports or have an available accessory that adds one. Dell and HP displayed new PDAs from $249, but without USB-host ports that's a deal-killer for me because I want to be able to use it with a USB keyboard. Stay tuned for more exciting developments.

A Shiny New Notebook: I've long been a fan of Fujitsu notebook computers, having owned several. With the just-released **Fujitsu Lifebook** C2210 Series models *http://www.FujitsuPC.com/*, they've hit a home run that perfectly fits the bill for our court reporting needs. The new "C" series models all come with Pentium 4 processors, lots of memory, large hard drives, and all of the standard ports that a court reporter could ask for including four USB 2.0, firewire, parallel, and the increasingly-rare serial port required for use with most of our writers. You can burn your own CDs with the included CD/RW drive, but the brand-new Lifebook also has a built-in floppy disk drive for making ASCIIs and reading notes disks. I only wish that it had a built-in microphone for audiosync, but since most people plug in an external mic for the superior recording quality of an external mic anyway, I guess I can accept that. And since many notebook computers don't last that long these days, it is always my recommendation that you upgrade to the two- or three-year warranty. These new Lifebooks are not only very stylish but easy on the budget as well with prices starting from $1,399 to $1,899. You'll get lots of compliments from judges and attorneys when they see you with this dazzling new notebook PC.

Best Computer Backup: Here's the COMDEX Best of COMDEX winner. A good backup is a must-have. No transcript is ever completely finished until it is backed up, but who wants to stop at the end of the day and spend time backing up their files? The Automatic Backup System by CMS makes that process automatic and is the perfect solution. You simply connect the ABSplus to your notebook or desktop computer and a back up launches automatically with the included excellent software. Backing up with the ABSplus will give you the peace of mind of knowing that your files will be safe, secure and always there when you need them. Available with a PC-card or with a USB 2.0 interface. 95% of court reporters using the ABSplus use the PC-card version, but if your computer has a USB 2.0 port I recommend the USB 2.0 model. We believe in the ABSplus so much that we actually carry it on our Web site. For more information, including pricing, please visit our Web site at: http://www.e-courtreporter.com. If you're even thinking of going paperless, the ABSplus is a must-have.

Coolest Audio Backup Device: As we are increasingly using audiosync day-to-day on the job and beginning to go paperless, a digital audio backup device could never come at a better time. Using the new **Olympus DM-1** digital recorder during the proceedings you can make a digital audio file

backup without a computer. You can kiss that cassette recorder goodbye and never turn a tape over again. The Olympus DM-1 voice recorders *http://www.OlympusAmerica.com/* retail for $249 and include a 64 MB chip that lets you record up to 22 hours of audio at a time. Not only that, but using the included USB connector the digital WAV file can be downloaded to your computer in case your audiosync file doesn't record properly or is corrupted or lost due to a system crash during the realtime proceedings. Then you can use it while editing your job in Total Eclipse. When you're finally done with the transcript, you can use the DM-1 to enjoy listening to some MP3 or WMA tunes. I give this little recorder five stars for making digital audio backups.

We're sure that this information will raise millions of questions among our readers. Please understand that as working court reporters and also authors of this free newsletter, we do not have the luxury of time to be able to individually reply to all of your phone calls and e-mails. We do hope to answer some of your questions in future **e-Tips**. Please refer to the Web sites listed for further information and/or tech support. Another great way to get more information is simply by going to your favorite search engine such as *http://www.Google.com* and search for any of the manufacturers and/or product names.

Keith's e-Tip

Conflict Tips

1) Your first conflict choice should always be the more likely possibility. If SROL is your steno for "volume," define it as \volume\Volume{#R} and Eclipse will learn to pick "Volume" when there is a number that follows; and that number will be converted to a Roman numeral . If you don't want Roman numerals, define this conflict as \volume\Volume{#G} to insist on generic number conversion.

2) Go to the "Translate" section of your User Settings to check the box next to "Pick 1st conflict choice by default." If Eclipse hasn't learned a context "rule" for resolving a conflict, it will at least pick your first conflict choice. As you're editing, you can always select a different conflict choice, if necessary. Each time you select a conflict choice, the system learns from your editing.

3) If you just type over an incorrectly selected conflict choice, Eclipse learns nothing from that. The system only learns something when your cursor is on a conflict and you press 1, 2, 3 or whatever number corresponds to the appropriate choice.

4) For exceptional conflict choices, include the Shift key, too. So if it's a two-way conflict and you press "1," Eclipse will learn a grammar rule associated with this choice; but if you press "Shift+1," your selection will be considered an exception to the rules.

5) Slop stroke entries are designed to improve conflict resolution. So if EUTS=\it's\its is already in your dictionary, then define EUTZ as a slop stroke. How? In the globaling or dictionary addition dialogues, you can press Ctrl E to create a Special Entry. Then press the End key to go to the end of the list, where you'll find Slop Stroke. When you press the Enter key, a steno entry dialogue will open. Use your computer keyboard to enter EUTS - - in other words, the "clean" steno that's already in your dictionary. When you press the Enter key or click on "Okay," Eclipse will create this entry {=EUTS}. It may look odd, but it will work to tell Eclipse that whenever your write EUTZ, all the conflict rules can be found with the EUTS entry.

Upcoming 3-day Total Eclipse e-POWER Workshops

Las Vegas, NV   **January 31 – February 2, 2003**

San Diego, CA   **May 30 – June 1, 2003**

Houston, TX   **October 3-5, 2003**

Burbank, CA   **November 7-9, 2003**

For more details: www.EclipseNT.com

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Who Are We?

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.

Robert Denos is the manager and event coordinator for e-CourtReporter, LLC.

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