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Michela Bicentenary in Rome

Keith Vincent

On November 5, 2015, it was my pleasure to represent Eclipse at the Italian Senate in Rome, which celebrated the **bicentenary of Antonio Michela Zucco (1815-1886), the inventor of the Italian steno machine.**

Antonio Michela Zucco was a gifted mathematician, technician, and educator who was fascinated by sound and words. In much the way that musical notation allows you to perform the music of any land, he wanted to create a universal method for quickly denoting spoken words. So he created a shorthand method and, in **1863, the first *chorded* steno keyboard for pressing multiple keys simultaneously, as on a piano, and thus quickly capturing entire words at a stroke.** This was many years before the 1909 keyboard of Marc Grandjean in France or the 1911 keyboard of Ward Stone Ireland in America.
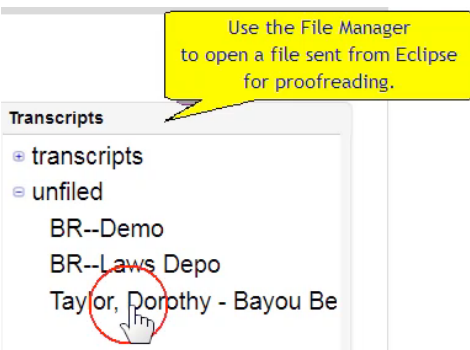
Proofreading with BridgeMobile Pro

WIL WILCOX

After transcribing a document with Eclipse 7, you can proofread on a very portable device like an iPad or an Android tablet, using Bridge Mobile Pro. Here's how.
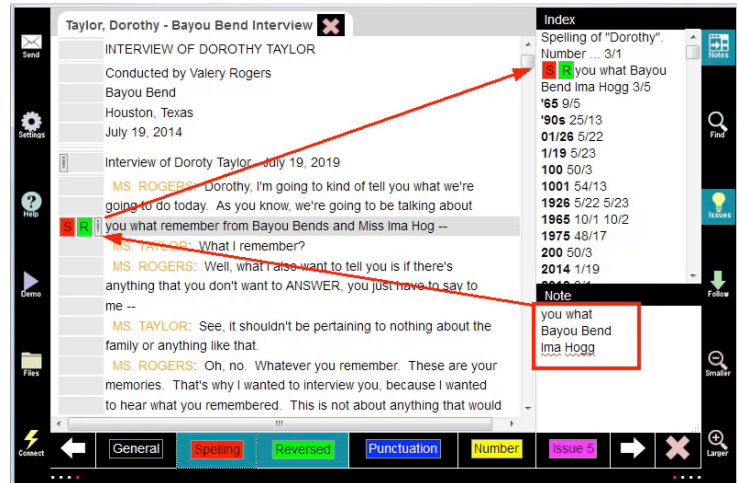
Bridge Mobile cloud storage is used for the exchange of files. Thus, **both Eclipse 7 and Bridge Mobile Pro will need you to indicate your e-mail address and set up a password** so that the two programs can securely exchange files. This is easy to do. **On the Eclipse side**, go to User Settings, User, Advanced, Connection Magic. Within **Bridge Mobile Pro**, go to Settings, Info. In both cases, just set it and forget it. The setup only needs to be done one time.

Now let's presume you have a fully edited transcript in **Eclipse 7. From the Tools menu, select Convert.** The Conversion Wizard will open to walk you from one step to the next: To another system. Text files. Bridge Mobile proofreading. Select your transcript from the list of files. Your job is instantly sent to Bridge Mobile cloud storage.

Now **open Bridge Mobile Pro**. **Use the Files icon** to open a job sent from Eclipse 7. Since it's a file that did not begin within Bridge Mobile, look within the "unfiled" listing.

Use the File Manager to open a file sent from Eclipse for proofreading.

Transcripts
⊕ transcripts
⊖ unfiled
   BR--Demo
   BR--Laws Depo
   Taylor, Dorothy - Bayou Be

Once the text appears in the Bridge Mobile Pro screen, you can **use the various annotation tools to indicate spots where something needs to be corrected.** For example, you could move to a line and simply tap the left of the text to insert a spot marker. To insert a note, just start typing. However, no need to type a note to indicate every problem. You can use issue codes.
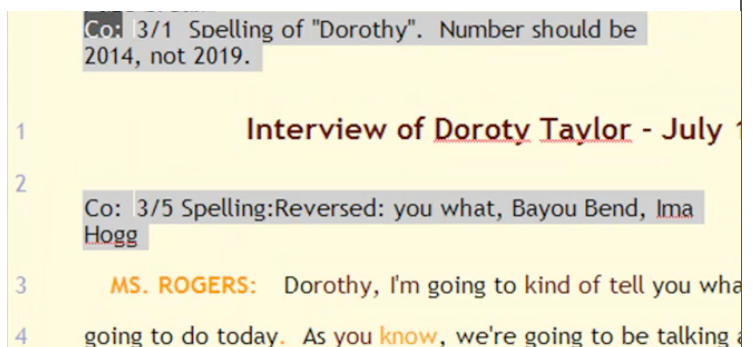
Within Settings, you could label the issues for common problems like spelling, word reversals, punctuation, etc. Thus, you could move to a line and just tap one or more issue buttons that relate to that part of the text.

So let's say you've finished proofreading and are ready to leave the beach or coffee shop or airplane or wherever you've been reading. **Just tap the "X" button to close the document within Bridge Mobile Pro. The annotated file is automatically stored in the cloud and retrievable by Eclipse 7.**

Within Eclipse 7, go to the Tools menu and select Convert. The Conversion Wizard opens. This time it's "From" another system, Text files, Bridge Mobile proofreading, and select your job.

Within Eclipse, Comment Lines show the annotations you made in Bridge Mobile Pro.
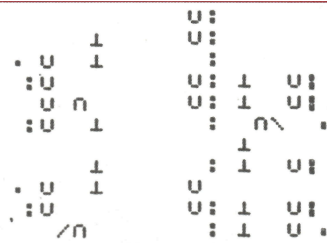
Michela Bicentenary in Rome

The Michela keyboard has been used in the Italian Senate since 1880. **Some 1880 Michela keyboards were used for more than 80 years, until the late 1960s**.
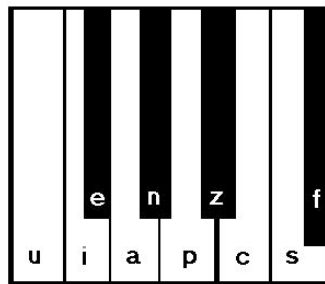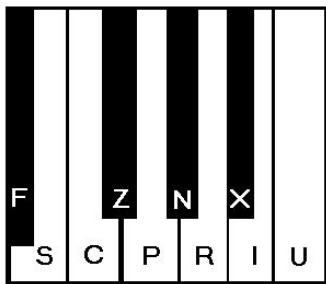
A collection of Michela keyboards and documents was in the Senate's Garibaldi Hall before it started traveling. **In this old woodcut, you see the Michela keyboard has piano-like keys for the left and right hands, and it prints symbols onto paper tape.**

The symbols here denote consonant and vowel sounds, written with the left and right hands. **As keyboards were electrified and linked to computer software, the symbols were replaced with letters.**

Esempio di striscia in alfabeto "Michela"

Whether it be the 20 keys of the Michela keyboard in Italy or the 23 keys of the keyboard used in English-speaking lands, some letters are missing and others are duplicated for both the left and right hands. Some letter combinations like PRun ("per un") appear natural while others like CPUi ("qui") seem arbitrary; but that's no more odd than when I, on my English keyboard, press the keys for TPHAOEUPB in order to write "nine."

Stenotypists at the Italian Senate today use modified MIDI keyboards as input devices for Eclipse computer-aided transcription software. On the morning of my presentation at the Michela conference, I was able to watch the Senate and its reporting team in action. There are currently more than 300 members in the Italian Senate. At least 200 were present. Debate was lively, to say the least. Italian is syllabically dense, so stenotypists need a lot of speed.

A reporting team member writes for five minutes and then immediately edits his or her text. A first draft is made available very quickly on the internet and also given to Senators for correction before a final version is prepared within 24 hours.

I can only imagine what Antonio Michela Zucco would think to see his shorthand system and his keyboard not just surviving but thriving for more than 150 years.

F Z N X | e n z f
S C P R I U | u i a p c s

Bridge Mobile Apps Now Available

The Bridge Mobile app is now available in Apple's App Store and 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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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 $449.95 at SoundProfessionals.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.

Mute switches for each channel
(only mutes monitoring, not recording)

Headphone jack
for live monitoring

Stereo microphone inputs
(can plug in a total of 8 microphones)

USB connections - one for
computer and one for A/C adapter
(if needed - see details)

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