

# e-Tips Newsletter

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## Inside this issue:

<b>Wil Wilcox -</b> Delete Word, Character Repeat, and Fixed Paragraphs	1
<b>Updated Video Tutorials Available</b>	2
<b>Keith Vincent -</b> Intersteno 2007 Conference, Prague	3
<b>Keith Vincent -</b> StenoCast X5 with "Peace of Mind"	4

If it's stupid  
but works,  
it isn't stupid.

Please keep in mind that because of the volume of e-mail we receive and the fact that we are volunteering our time for this free newsletter, we can't routinely answer individual questions by phone or e-mail, nor can we consult on individual problems or purchasing decisions.

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## Three Short Reminders - Wil Wilcox -



It seems it's the simplest tips that often prompt people to write, "Thanks. That really helped." So I'll offer a few short reminders, in the hope that they'll prove helpful.

**1. Pressing the Ctrl and Backspace keys together will "delete word."** So there's no need to press the "Delete" key repeatedly. This speedkey will work even if Hyperkeys are not on. If your cursor is on the first letter of the word, the entire word is zapped. If your cursor is on some other spot in the word, the remainder of the word will be deleted. Of course, if you're using Hyperkeys, you can simply press the "d" key to do the same thing.

**2. There are Windows settings for Keyboard Character Repeat.** Open the Windows Control Panel and find "Keyboard." (It's part of the "Printers and Other Hardware" category.) "**Repeat Delay**" controls how long or short the wait will be before Windows starts to repeat things like cursor movements. "**Repeat Rate**" controls how quickly or slowly the commands will be repeated. Speed up these settings if you find your keyboard keeps you waiting; slow them down if you find it tends to run away from you.

**3. Within Eclipse, don't overuse the "Fixed" paragraph.** It's fine for inserting a blank line, via Speedkey Shift+F5. For judicial reporters, it's also suitable for names and addresses on Appearance pages, as well as lines that hold plaintiff and defendant info.

A "Fixed" paragraph is not the best choice for long paragraphs with automatic word wrapping. Why? **The first letter in a "Fixed" paragraph does NOT automatically capitalize. The last sentence in a "Fixed" paragraph is not required to end with a period, question mark, dash, etc.** When the spelling checker scans a "Fixed" paragraph, it does NOT consider the lack of initial capitalization or the lack of terminal punctuation as errors.

**For paragraphs that need word wrapping, initial capitalization, and ending punctuation, use a "Style" paragraphs.** These are typically set to behave as "Normal," meaning the spelling checker will not overlook some easy errors. Of course, when you're identifying speakers, use "Speaker" paragraphs.

Want some Visualizers on this? Go to the Help menu, "Visualizer Topics." Section 2 is about Document and User Setup. Check out the movies on "Fixed Paragraphs" and "Paragraph Behavior." **Enjoy!**

## Updated e-Power Video Tutorials Now Available

Four of Keith's e-Power Video Tutorials are now available in 2nd Editions, which means they've been completely updated and substantially expanded. About one hour of video presentations were added to "Form Fields and Automatic Indexing," so it now offers .4 CEU instead of .3.

Keyboard Magic, 2nd Edition (.4 CEU)

Interactive Realtime Transcription, 2nd Edition (.4 CEU)

Eclipse Form Fields and Automatic Indexing, 2nd Edition (.4 CEU)

Eclipse Automatic Number Conversion, 2nd Edition (.3 CEU)



Three of the tutorials are now available in 2007 editions, which means they've been updated and slightly expanded.

A Total Eclipse Mini-Tour: 2007 (.1 CEU)

A Total Eclipse Overview: 2007 (.6 CEU)

Translation Magic: 2007 (.3 CEU)



### e-Tip Special

Save \$10.00 during August 2007 on each of these updated video tutorials.

**\$59.95 each, plus \$5 S/H (outside US add additional \$6). Checks only, please!**  
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## Intersteno 2007 Conference in Prague

- Keith Vincent -



From July 21st to 27th, it was my pleasure to attend the 2007 Intersteno Conference that was held in the Czech Republic's great capital of Prague. I hope you don't mind if I share a few observations from the experience.

I suppose what stood out the most for me was the diversity of the participants. I'm used to NCRA conventions where just about everyone is involved with steno machines in one way or another, whether it be as reporters, captioners, scopists, students, or vendors. Intersteno is not just about court reporting. It includes typists, pen writers, machine writers, voice writers, and people who are just somehow connected with information processing. Let's just say the "steno" part of "Intersteno" relates to writing fast and the "Inter" part of the name means international.

Intersteno is indeed international. About 500 folks attended, plus others who participated via the internet. Of course, there were a large number of Czech participants, which may have given them a "home court" advantage, but I understand the Czechs are always present in large numbers. I met people from Italy, France, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Hungary, Poland, Finland, several Scandinavian countries, Cameroon and, of course, China, which will host the 2009 conference. Official events tended to be conducted in Czech, English, and German.

At our Advantage Software table, we did some demos in French, Italian, and German. I was surprised to learn that Dan Glassman, the international sales rep for Eclipse, grew up as an American living in Pakistan and Afghanistan. I was hoping I'd have a chance to hear Dan break out some Urdu or Hindi, but the fellow from New Delhi who was supposed to visit was not able to make it. Dan has more than 25 years of experience in serving the international reporting community, and I understand he's been very instrumental in setting up theories and steno keyboards for South America, Turkey, Hungary, etc. Very impressive guy. Of course, sometimes there was no common language for the folks you wanted to converse with, but the atmosphere was always cordial.

At our American reporting conventions, we know that some speed competitions are taking place, but the seminars are what most people are there to attend. I'd venture to say that it's just the opposite at Intersteno. The competitions are a major focus of the gathering. For me, the most amazing category was that of multilingual transcription, where Boris Neubauer took first place, with transcription in 16 languages! Thursday evening was an awards banquet, and it took about two hours to give out the prizes, including 1st prize to the USA's Laura Brewer for the speed competition in machine steno. In each category, there's a contest for professionals ("seniors"), one for juniors, and one for pupils. The youngest participant was 11 years old, and he received a large crystal vase that made you wonder how he'd walk off stage without tripping over. Needless to say, the large number of young people who were competing in various events made the gathering quite lively. Do we have a Youth Day at our court reporting conventions in the States?

(continued on page 5)

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### ***The Court Reporter's Forum***

Looking for great information on Eclipse, as well as a place to chat with others in our profession?  
CR Forum is for you.

A quick link to the Eclipse section can be found on the home page at [www.Kvincent.com](http://www.Kvincent.com).

## A StenoCast Update

- Keith Vincent -

For the past two years, I've been using the StenoCast wireless realtime products. As you may know, StenoCast is a company that was started in San Diego by court reporters for court reporters. I've been especially impressed by the improvements they've made to their products and by their commitment to making upgrades as affordable as possible. Less than a year after introducing the X1 for steno machines, the company created the X1-Lithium. It recharged in just 2.5 hours, would work for about 30 hours on a single charge, and had its range increased from 90 feet to about 300.

For the wireless connection from your computer to client computers, StenoCast offered the X7. It then created the EzReceiver, which greatly simplified the process of getting clients hooked up for the wireless realtime connection. The X7 remains a great product, but I've sometimes wished it did not need to be plugged into AC power. Although the X7 is not a very large piece of equipment, I wished it was a bit smaller. The new StenoCast X5 addresses both of those concerns.

**The X5-Lithium provides a wireless connection from your computer to client computers. It's designed to replace the X7.** It has a number of advantages:

1. **The X5 has a built-in lithium battery.** It recharges completely in just 2.5 hours and then can work for at least 15 hours.
2. **The X5 can plug directly into either a traditional serial port or a USB port. It can draw power from the USB port** so that you don't have to worry about charging the built-in lithium battery.
3. **The X5 is the same size as the X1.** So it's quite a bit smaller than the X7. The smaller, the better. I want something that fits neatly in my steno case, and the X5 does. Despite the smaller size, it still has a 300-foot range because, like the X1 and X7, it's a Class I Bluetooth device. Like the other StenoCast products, the X5 is matched with USB EzReceivers which make it exceptionally easy to set up your clients for the wireless realtime connection. Indicator lights on the X5 let you know exactly how many EzReceivers are connected to your realtime signal.



Now for the good part. **The StenoCast products have not only gotten better, they've gotten more affordable.**

Formerly, the X7 alone cost \$399, and each EzReceiver cost \$120.

In contrast, the X5 with one EzReceiver costs \$399. Each additional EzReceiver costs \$99.

**A new "Peace of Mind" subscription program is now offered. The X1 for your writer is now available for just \$15 a month. The X5 with one EzReceiver is available for just \$25 a month. Each additional EzReceiver is available for just \$5 a month.**

Of course, you can just buy the products rather than sign up for the subscription program. However, the "Peace of Mind" program includes technical support, a no-fault warranty, and protection against accidental damage. Definitely a winning proposition.

Looking for additional information? Check out the StenoCast page at [www.KVincent.com](http://www.KVincent.com).

**Intersteno 2007, Prague (Continued from Page 3)**

Probably the loudest and longest applause at the awards banquet went to a young woman from Spain who won both the speed contest in machine steno and the realtime transcription contest, in the "juniors" division. Her name is Miriam Martin Garcia, and she's blind. I have to tell you that I got a lump in my throat as I watched her approach the stage with her teacher, to pick up a beautiful trophy, not once but twice.

My only regret concerns the city of Prague. I wish I had scheduled more days to visit. Some cities in Europe tend to be block after block of buildings that all look the same. Prague certainly has its share of bleak Soviet-era architecture, but the heart of the city is packed with charm. Music seems to be a very big part of the city's life. I can't remember being in another city where I've seen so many posters for concerts. One particularly magnificent baroque church offered at least one organ concert a day, sometimes two. If I can manage it, I want to go back to Prague in May or September, when the weather is a bit cooler. Hopefully, there will be just as many flowers in bloom. If not, the splendid architecture will still be there and the streets will still be a pleasure to stroll through.

Many thanks to our Czech hosts for their warm welcome, and congratulations on a fine convention!

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