



e-Tips Newsletter

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No-Hassle CD Burning with Total Eclipse 4



Please keep in mind that because of the volume of e-mail we receive and the fact that we are volunteering our time and this free newsletter, we can't routinely answer individual questions by phone or e-mail, or consult on individual problems or purchasing decisions.

A jury consists of twelve people who determine which client has the better lawyer. *-Robert Frost*

Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example.

Mark Twain (1835-1910)



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If your computer crashes, it's bad. If it crashes and you lose the hours of work you've put in working on a transcript, or maybe perhaps even miss a deadline to get that job sent out, then it's even worse. That's why one of my favorite new features of Total Eclipse 4 is burning CDs from the File Manager.

That's right. If you have WindowsXP and the brand new Total Eclipse 4, you are now able to burn transcripts and their associated files to CDs directly from within the file manager. It just got as easy to copy a file to a CD as it is to copy that same file to a floppy disk.

From within the File Manager, CTRL-F, simply select the files you want to burn. Click "Copy to" and select "Burn to CD" as your destination. Then sit back and take a short break while your files are burned to the CD. But don't make coasters, CDs that are unreadable because of a recording error. This can happen if you use your computer to do other things while burning your CD or the disk gets scratched. So chill out a couple minutes while your computer burns your CD. That way you will burn a good CD and won't get singed.

I'm finding using the Eclipse File Manager easier to use to burn files to CDs than the Windows Explorer. At the end of each day, I pop a CD-R into the drive and send a copy of my transcript to the CD. In fact, I've tested a lot of software for backing up to CDs, and I've never seen one program that makes it easier than it now is with Total Eclipse 4. Using the File Manager, you can also burn CD-RW disks, although I prefer CD-Rs. CD-Rs are compatible with more computers and also are cheaper than CD-RWs.

I don't need to tell you that keeping a backup copy of your work is extremely important. You'll never know just how important until that fateful day when your computer crashes or gets stolen and that hard work of yours is lost. Making backups onto CDs with the Eclipse File Manager gives us one more easy-to-use tool to prevent that from happening. There are many ways available to us of backing up. I'm a fan of multiple backups. So in addition to any other backup media or devices you may be using, having backups on CDs is always a good idea. I hope that this has given you a burning desire to burn CDs with Total Eclipse 4. □

e-Power Tutorials e-Tips Special
New Updated e-Power Tutorials

Total Eclipse Mini-Tour & Total Eclipse Overview

Updated e-Power Tutorials are \$20 each with the return of the old CD.

Total Eclipse Mini Tour

Total Eclipse Overview

Check which one(s) you would like.

**For more details on specific tutorials,
visit Keith's website at:
<http://www.kvincent.com>**

**Add \$5.00 for Shipping & Handling.
CA residents add \$1.65 per CD for sales tax.**

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Introducing Total Eclipse 4.0

By Keith Vincent

Each summer, Eclipse users are accustomed to a feast of features in the annual general update of the program. This year there's a lot more to digest. A brand-new dictionary with amazing search capabilities, a friendly document setup wizard, the ability to incorporate graphic links, customizable dialogues, typeover tracking -- these are just some of the features of Total Eclipse 4.0 that will be discussed in future e-Tips.



What we're seeing with Total Eclipse 4.0 is the foretaste of an amazing reinvention of the program. The new dictionary that is at the heart of 4.0 is actually the core of what will Total Eclipse 5.0.

More than 20 Visualizers are devoted to showing you the many great features of the new dictionary. Be sure to check them out. The Visualizers have undergone a major revision for Total Eclipse 4.0. There are now 180 visual help movies built into the program. The number of Visualizers is partly the result of breaking some movies into shorter pieces so that they would take less time to watch and be more focused and better integrated into the help system. However, there have been many new movies added, too. There's also a completely new Visualizer Topics menu that makes it much easier to find the movies.

Each time you open or close Total Eclipse 4.0, your dictionary is optimized. That's probably one reason why my 4.0 dictionary takes half the space of its predecessor. Even so, the 4.0 dictionary stores a lot more information. The entries are displayed in columns, similar to the "Details" view in Windows Explorer. You can decide which columns you want to display, but for each entry the system stores steno, text, created date/time, modified date/time, used date/time, number of times used, number of conflict resolution contexts learned by Eclipse artificial intelligence, number of steno strokes, number of words, as well as any user comments.

Each column heading acts as a sort button. If you want to sort your entries by text from A to Z, just click on the "Text" column. If you want to sort by text from Z to A, click on the "Text" column one more time. If you want to sort your entries by how many times they've been used, click on the "#" column. You get the picture.

Of course, you may not want to display all 10 columns of dictionary info. You might get tired of dragging the horizontal scroll bar to the left and right to see all the info for an entry. No problem. You can select "Display Properties" from the "Window" menu (or just right-click on the dictionary display) and enter a size of zero for the columns that you don't want to see. The Notebar will still give you an easy way to see that info when you want to.

Shift Ctrl F5 is the default speedkey to show or hide the Notebar. At the top of the Notebar, the steno for your dictionary entry is displayed as vertical notes. The rest of the Notebar displays other info like text, dates, number of times used, etc. Personally, I like to use an easy-to-read font to display three columns of info -- steno, text, last date used. The Notebar can always be toggled on or off via Shift Ctrl F5.

Continued on page 4 -

Continued from page 3 —

I don't think you'll have any trouble finding dictionary entries with Total Eclipse 4.0. I've been finding stuff that was hidden in my dictionary for years. Of course, you can use the same keyboard commands you've always used to search for entries within the dictionary -- F5 or Hyperkey f. To go to a specific steno entry, it's still Alt G or Hyperkey G.

There are a large number of shortcuts to search by steno or by text. Perhaps you want to find all your entries that contain at least five steno strokes and that also contain capitalized text. Pick those two shortcuts and press the Enter key (or click on the OK button.) Total Eclipse very quickly filters the display to show you just the entries that you wanted to see. Because the display is filtered, there's no need for the "Locate Next" or "Locate Previous" commands. I think you'll really like the filtered display. To get back to an unfiltered display, just use the "Find" command (F5 or Hyperkey f) and press Enter.

Keep in mind that you can open additional windows on your dictionary. So you can go to the "Window" menu and use the "New window" command. Each window will let you edit your dictionary. So if you get in the mood to meticulously review your dictionary entries, you could have one window for keeping your spot as you move down the list of entries. A second window could be for adding new entries that occur to you or removing things you don't want. A third window might be for a filtered display containing just capitalized entries. You could use the mouse to click on one window or another, or you could use Ctrl Tab as a keyboard command to switch windows.

Here's a teaser for you power users out there. Total Eclipse 4.0 uses Regular Expressions for its dictionary searches. This powerful pattern matching tool has become one of the most popular standards in the computer industry. The shortcuts for steno and/or text searches are designed so that users don't have to master the syntax for Regular Expressions. However, if you're comfortable using RegEx, you can open the Custom search builder at the end of the shortcuts list and access the full power of searches based on Regular Expressions.

The Custom search builder is a dialogue where you can either type in a RegEx pattern directly or build the Regular Expression by selecting choices on the dialogue. I have to say I haven't used this feature much so far, but it's been very helpful for the few times I've wanted to find something unusual. As always, you can ask the techies at Advantage Software for help in creating a custom search.

If your mouth is now watering for Total Eclipse 4.0, you won't have to wait much longer. In the coming weeks, new installation disks will be sent to all Eclipse users with a current subscription to the support and update program. Those disks will contain both Total Eclipse 4.0 and the 180 Visualizers.

One final word concerning a few e-Power Video Tutorials. The "Total Eclipse Overview," on which the Visualizers are based, has been completely updated and expanded. By the time of next month's e-Tip, we expect to receive approval to offer additional CEU credit for this tutorial (.5 instead of .3). If you have bought a copy of the Overview tutorial, you can exchange it for the new version. (See this month's special for trade-in details.)

Also, a "Total Eclipse 4.0 Mini-Tour" is now available. You can take the whole tour in less than 40 minutes, or you can zero in on areas of interest. The Mini-Tour consists of 26 short presentations. Some presentations last less than a minute; most take less than a minute and a half. Again, it's an entirely new version of the Mini-Tour. In addition, we expect it to be approved by NCRA as a source of .1 CEU. Enjoy! ☐

A StenoCast Update

By Keith Vincent

In e-Tip #45 (May 2005), I reported on a first experience with the StenoCast X1, X7 and EzReceiver wireless realtime products. These are great products. Now I'm happy to say that the X1 has been made even better. First shipments of the X1-Lithium are set to begin around August 1st.

What improvements are in the X1-Lithium? First, the lithium polymer battery can run for at least 30 hours on a single charge. Second, it takes much less time (about 2 hours) to fully recharge the unit. Third, the X1-Lithium is a Class I Bluetooth transmitter, giving it a much stronger signal. It has a range of about 300 feet. (The original X1 had a range of about 90 feet.) Fourth, the X1-Lithium plugs directly into the 9-pin serial port of your steno machine. No more pigtail for most machines. (A 3-inch pigtail is provided for the telephone-like connector on the ProCAT Flash and most StenoRAMs.) Fifth, the X1-Lithium includes very helpful indicator lights to show that it's transmitting, as well as to let you know when the battery is getting low.

More information on the X1-Lithium is available at my website: www.KVincent.com. The X1-Lithium is priced at \$299. If you've already purchased the original X1, a trade-in opportunity will be announced soon. As soon as it's announced, I'll make the details available on my website. □



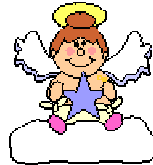
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