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e-Tips Newsletter

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Wil's e-Tip

Instant Realtime

One of my favorite features of Total Eclipse is the very user-friendly Instant Realtime. All you need to do is just click on the Realtime icon. And assuming that you've actually plugged in your writer and turned it on, your realtime will start. That's it.

What's the keyboard method for doing Instant Realtime? If your computer's keyboard is desktop style with a separate numeric keypad for numbers, you may simply click on the key labeled with the + sign or plus key. Activating the functions of the numeric keypad can also be done on a notebook. Please consult your notebook computer's user manual for instructions on how to do that. On my notebook it's the "FN" key plus the "semicolon." In the meantime, clicking on the Instant Realtime icon is a piece of cake.

When you use the Instant Realtime, you no longer need to bring up the Translate Notes Dialog, Alt-T, and then enter a name for the job or select special or case dictionaries beforehand or any of the rest of that. Just click on the Realtime icon and you're ready to go. How could it get any faster or easier than that to start realtime?

If you'd like to assign the dictionary or dictionaries it will use before starting realtime, there is a simple keyboard way to do that as well. Press Alt-U, and then while still holding down the Alt key, press the letter "D." A good way to remember this keyboard command for selecting dictionaries is that the Alt key and the letters "U" and "D" stand for "Use Dictionaries." Therefore, Alt-U/D is the keyboard shortcut to select the dictionaries you want to use before starting instant realtime translation.

Another new feature in Total Eclipse 3.1 that makes using Instant Realtime even more convenient is the "auto-rename" option. If you use Instant Realtime, you may also want to take advantage of this feature and go into your user settings on the Realtime tab and put a checkmark next to "Auto rename realtime jobs." Then at the end of the job after you stop your realtime translation and close that file you will be prompted to "enter a file name" at that time. Or you can go into the new File Manager, Ctrl-F, later and rename the job from there. When you close an Instant Realtime file after selecting "auto rename realtime jobs," it will prompt you for a new file name. I find being asked to specify a file name afterwards to be very convenient since I like including the name of the witness and the date as part of my file name. Many times I do not know how to correctly spell the name of the

witness or the date (just kidding) until after the job has started. This works quite well for me.

To see show-me movies demonstrating Instant Realtime and selecting dictionaries to be used in translation, there are two excellent Visualizers that I can recommend to you. Under the Categorized Sequence of Visualizer Presentations in section "H: Dictionaries," "Show Dictionaries to be Used," and in Section "D: Translation, Realtime, Synchronized Audio" "Instant Realtime." Sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words.

Keith's e-Tip

Pre-Translation Speaker Setup

With Total Eclipse 3.1 you now have a method for setting up your Speaker Table before translation actually begins. If you forget someone, Eclipse will automatically prompt you to complete your speaker setup when you start translation.

If you'd like to see this illustrated, it's in the **Visualizer** entitled "Pre-Translation Speaker Setup." You can find this movie by going to the "Help" menu and selecting "**Visualizer** Topics." Then in the categorized sequence of presentations, go to Section E: Editing.

I realize you may not have the 90 **Visualizers** that are a part of Total Eclipse 3.1. Maybe you've asked for an update disk and it hasn't reached you yet. You can still see this movie. First, **get your microwave oven** working on a fresh batch of popcorn. Second, go to the "Updates" area of Advantage Software's CR-NET and download the file named "SpeakerPrep.exe". When the popcorn's ready, watch the movie; but go easy on the butter.

What the movie shows is that this new method of setting up speakers lets you predetermine the order in which names will appear on the speaker table when you press F2. Even if your Speaker 2 starts talking before Speaker 1 says anything, your Speaker Table will still look the way you want.

Here's a piece of advice. Add "THE WITNESS" at the start of both the "Original" and "Replacement" columns of the new speaker setup. When you start translation, the name next to the "0" on your Speaker Table will be "THE WITNESS," which just happens to be the speaker change that's set up for the "Ctrl 0" shortcut.

Now, you may say, "Wait a minute. The "Ctrl 1" shortcut changes a paragraph to whoever has the "0" next to his/her name on the Speaker Table," if that makes any sense. That used to be true. It used to annoy some folks that the first number on the Speaker Table was zero. Well, the first number is still zero. However, if you import the "Keyboard setup" of the new **Eclipse.set** file, it includes small adjustments to the macros that are used by the shortcuts assigned to Ctrl 1 through Ctrl 6. I tweaked the macros with the expectation that you'd have "THE WITNESS" at the start of the "Original" and "Replacement" columns of the speaker setup.

So there's been a small change to the macros used by the keyboard setup. However, I think the new speaker setup feature is a big deal. Admittedly, it's not easy to describe in words. So it's **Visualized** for you. **Shhh**! Eat your popcorn and watch the movie.

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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