When I purchased Eclipse in 1992, what attracted me most was its intelligent resolution of dictionary conflicts.

1) Non-traditional conflicts

I already had distinct steno for homonyms like there, their, and they're, but Eclipse could handle much more than traditional conflicts. It quickly learned to pick the right choice for punctuation, hyphenation, and number formatting. It’s easier to write since I don’t worry about every comma or hyphen.

2) Slop-stroke syntax

Each conflict in your dictionary learns from your editing choices, but the slop-stroke syntax lets one entry use what another has learned: I have KWRE defined as {\yes{},?\yes{},?} so that Eclipse can learn whether to insert “yes” by itself or with a comma before or after. Now, sometimes I press the asterisk key by mistake, but I do not want KWR*E to have to gradually learn what KWRE already knows. So I defined KWR*E as {KWRE}.

Should slop-stroke syntax be used for non-conflicts? In the past I would say no, but today I say yes. That’s because Translation Magic does not base any guess off things that are defined with slop-stroke syntax.

This calls for illustration. Let’s say I write KOPB SREPBGs to mean “convention”, but it came out as KOPB SREPBS during fast writing. In the past I would have defined the mistroke as “convention”. Today, I’ll use slop-stroke syntax and define it as {=KOPB SREPBGs}. If I later mistroke words like convince, convex, convenience, conviction, etc., those may be closer to KOPB SREPBS than what I was trying to write and could result in a “convention” translation that I do not want. Using slop-stroke syntax tells Translation Magic that I would

(Continued on page 3)
Microsoft has announced its first ever notebook computer, the Surface Book, as well as a new Surface Pro 4 tablet.

I have loved my Surface Pro 1, but it has never been my daily driver for realtime reporting or even editing. I have used it for traveling, proofreading, or light transcript editing. The Surface Pro 1 had only one USB port, a small screen, not comfortable to use in your lap like a regular laptop.

The perfect Surface would have a larger screen, more USB ports, and a keyboard that is comfortable to use in your lap. Well, Microsoft just released such an animal into the wild, and it is absolutely exquisite: the Surface Book. It has a 13.5-inch screen, sixth-generation Intel Core processor, up to 16 GB RAM, and a 12-hour battery life. Like the Surface, the new Surface Book can be used as a full-powered laptop or as a tablet. You can also snap the display screen to the back of the keyboard so it acts like a clipboard.

The Surface Book goes on sale October 26, and the base model costs $1,499. The tablet portion of the laptop weighs 1.6 lbs. and the whole unit about 3.5 pounds.

The Surface Pro 4 ($899) is the same size as the Surface Pro 3, but has a bigger display: 12.3 inches. The keyboard has been improved and includes a fingerprint reader and a larger touchpad.

The stylus has also been improved. It now has a one-year battery life, attaches magnetically to the Surface Pro 4 (or the Surface Book), works with different pen tips, and has a digital eraser on the other end.

One of the real cool things is that these devices share a portable docking station that adds USB ports, etc.

The Surface Book compares very favorably with the MacBook Pro. It definitely is a MacBook Pro competitor. The specs really stand up in this regard. Microsoft has entered the hardware world. To the same extent Apple controls their devices from the software to the hardware, Microsoft is now trying to one up Apple all the way. The competition between these two is only going to benefit computer users.

Whether this is a true Ultrabook replacement remains to be seen. You would need to test drive one in a Microsoft Store when they are on display and see for yourself. The biggest news is that with Microsoft entering the hardware world in a big way, the innovation of these products has only just begun. Great things are going to be coming and it looks like one is already here. A real paradigm shift in the computer world has been unleashed.

Microsoft has finally come out swinging. Apple and Microsoft’s other partners better step up their game or lookout because they are going to be getting some serious competition.
Eclipse 7: Shared AI for Conflict Resolution

(continued from page 1)

never write those strokes intentionally, so
don’t use that as a guess.

The globaling dialogue has long offered an easy
way to create slop-stroke entries. Use the “Special
entries” button and press the “End” key to go to the
eend of the list to select “Slop stroke”. The steno
dialogue will open to let you indicate the keys for the
clean steno to which your dictionary entry will refer.

New in Eclipse 7, the globaling dialogue
lets you use F9 (the dictionary speedkey) for
slop-stroke lookups.

In this example, I’m defining KWR*E and Eclipse
offers \{=KWRE\} for my “yes” entry. I’d press the
“1” key to easily create that \{=KWRE\} entry.

3) Shared Conflict AI

Eclipse 7 has added one more way for
conflicts to share artificial intelligence. Let’s
again use the example of a punctuation conflict. I
have KWRE defined as \yes\{,\?\}yes\{,\?\} and it’s
learned 50 grammatical contexts that do or do not
need commas. KWRE can serve as a “master”
conflict for other words that occur in similar contexts.

With Eclipse 7, I can create a “no” conflict
that will follow the many rules that have been
learned by my “yes” conflict.

Here I’ll define TPHO as \no\{,\?\}no\{,\?\} and
that much is a normal conflict. What’s new is that
this entry starts with the slop-stroke syntax.
It’s telling Eclipse to look up KWRE to find
the context rules, but use \no\{,\?\}no\{,\?\} as the
choices.

A few closing examples. I’m not showing the
steno I write for “yes, ma’am” or “of course”, etc.
I’m showing that the rules are stored at steno
KWRE.

Punctuation conflicts:
\{=KWRE\}\yes, ma’am\{,\?\}yes, ma’am{,\?}
\{=KWRE\}of course\{,\?\}of course{,\?}

Hyphenation conflicts:
\{=UP TO TKAEUT\}day to day\day-to-day
\{=UP TO TKAEUT\}first class\first-class

Number formatting conflicts:
\{=TPHUB\}exhibit number\Exhibit No.\#N
\{=TPHUB\}column\Column\#N

Webinars

In the Spring, EclipseWebinars.com offered a
three-part introduction to Eclipse 7 by Keith Vincent,
Michael Starkman, and Jeremy Thorne. By popular
demand, the recorded version of the Eclipse7 series
remains open and offers .6 CEU.

At least one webinar is planned for the month of
November, and details will be announced soon. For
information on the webinars, visit
EclipseWebinars.com.

Bridge Mobile App Now Available for Android Devices

Bridge Mobile app for Android devices is
now available 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.
e-Tips Newsletter 4

**e-Power Video Tutorials: e-Tip Special**

*Use this form to take advantage of discounted pricing (ends October 31, 2015).*

- **Translation Magic (.3 CEU)** ..... $59.95
- **Form Fields & Automatic Indexing (.4 CEU)** ..... $59.95
- **Shipping & Handling, $5 per disk (max. $15)**
  (Outside USA, add additional $10)
  
**Total: (Checks only, please!)**

We cannot ship orders that do not include shipping/handling fees.

Name: __________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________
City/State/Postal Code: __________________________ e-mail: __________________________
Telephone: __________________________

Mail to: Keith Vincent, 1910 Ottawa Lane, Houston, Texas 77043
For more info on e-Power Tutorials, visit: www.KVincent.com.

---

**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 $399.95 at EclipseCat.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.

---

**Disclaimer**

The information contained in this document represents the current views of Keith Vincent and Wil Wilcox and those who submit articles on the issues discussed as of the date of publication. Market conditions change and, thus, after the date of publication, e-Power Video Tutorials cannot guarantee the accuracy of any information herein.

We regret that we cannot answer individual questions nor can we consult on problems or purchasing decisions.

Information in this document is provided “as is,” without warranty of any kind, expressed or implied, including but not limited to implied warranties of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose, and freedom from infringement.

The user/reader assumes the entire risk as to the accuracy and use of this document. This document may not be redistributed without permission. All trademarks acknowledged. Copyright, e-Power Video Tutorials, 2015.