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CCRA

California Court Reporters Association

C C R A O N L I N E



**NETWORKING, SEMINARS & FUN:
PREPARING FOR CCRA'S
2014 ANNUAL CONVENTION!**

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California Court Reporters Association

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the California Court Reporters Association is to advance the profession of verbatim shorthand reporting by promoting professional reporting excellence through education, research, and the use of state-of-the-art technology; establishing and maintaining professional standards of practice; and advocating before legislative and regulatory bodies on issues which impact the judicial system and others served by the court reporting profession of California.

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The deadline for ad and article copy for CCRA Online is the first of the month prior to the scheduled publication date. Articles, ad copy, changes of address, complaints of nondelivery, and subscription requests should be directed to CCRA, 65 Enterprise, Aliso Viejo, CA 95656 or call (949) 715-4682. Advertising inquiries should also be directed to the Association office. Photographs accompanying articles should be RGB color JPEG files with a resolution no less than 120 ppi.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CONVENTION 2014

By Carlos Martinez, CSR, RPR, CMRS
President, CCRA

Fresh off of our time at the NCRA convention in San Francisco, we now turn our attention fully towards October and CCRA's convention in Palm Springs. If you have not received a flyer for the convention yet, please contact me directly at carlos.martinez@cal-ccra.org. I will personally ensure that you receive the necessary information from our executive director to enable you to sign up for the convention this year.

Let's start with Friday's golf tournament for the early arrivals. It starts at 11:00 a.m. Come out and enjoy the beauty of the Indian Wells Golf Course. The views are spectacular.

This convention is full of classes that you do not want to miss. If you're interested in transitioning into CART or captioning, Saba McKinley will be teaching "What is CART and is it for You?" and "CART 101" on Saturday. Saturday morning will bring you a host of classes ranging from Steve Kosmata's class on Eclipse software to Rachel Passarella's class of tips on what is appropriate to post on social media.

There will be plenty of other tech classes, including one for those looking to begin implementing wireless realtime on a Bluetooth platform.

STUDENTS, this is for you...EVERYTHING. You're welcome to be at every class or discussion or meeting or test. There is not a student track that you're relegated to be on. CCRA knows the importance of being informed and believes that since you've chosen to invest your money in our convention this year, you should have the ability to choose what classes you've invested in. You will benefit greatly from being around long-time industry professionals as they learn and ask questions about advanced software issues or by spending your time with those that are looking to make a move in the profession to another area of reporting. The networking opportunities here are endless and worth the money that you've spent to come here. The right conversation could put you in a place to begin working as soon as you are licensed, so bring your business cards and pass them out.

There are just so many good classes that I cannot list them all here, but I do want to be sure to talk a little about Margie Wakeman Wells' classes. If you have attended Margie's course, you know the benefit of listening to it the first time. The added benefit is listening to it again. You will always learn something new sitting in on her classes. And since your transcript is what represents you in the profession, anything that you can learn to help make your transcript better is time well spent.

Saturday also includes CCRA's business meeting and lunch where we install CCRA's new leaders, eat lunch, and are treated to a fantastic guest speaker. Our guest speaker this year will



CALIFORNIA COURT REPORTERS ASSOCIATION • 2014 CONVENTION

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be the Honorable Kent Hamlin from the California Alliance of Judges. Judge Hamlin has been instrumental in saving jobs in California through his work with the Alliance pushing for accountability with the Administrative Office of the Courts now known as the Judicial Council.

And that's just Saturday.

Sunday is also full of good classes that you will not want to miss, and a good way to start out your Sunday is by competing in the PACCRA 5k run/walk. The entrance fee goes to a great cause and helps to keep CCRA strong in Sacramento.

Sunday will feature a class put on by NCRA's executive director, Jim Cudahy. Learn about the new strategic plan that NCRA rolled out just a few weeks ago at the convention in San Francisco from the person that helped to create and build the plan.

Have you always wanted to get your degree and didn't know how to go about doing it? Kay Reindl from Humphrey's College in Stockton will be leading a class directed at obtaining your bachelor's degree in court reporting. If you've ever wanted to get your degree, don't miss out on this informative class.

There are many more classes being offered by CCRA at this year's convention, and inside of this month's issue, several of the instructors of those classes have written articles about what they plan on teaching. I hope that you'll enjoy what they've written.

Remember to register early and to be sure to come to the President's reception on Friday night.

<http://www.cal-ccra.org/2014-annual-convention>



IF YOU CAN INVEST IN ONLY ONE CONVENTION THIS YEAR... MAKE YOUR INVESTMENT COUNT WITH CCRA

Inspired by the overwhelmingly positive feedback from previous convention attendees, CCRA is heading back to the Miramonte Resort & Spa in Indian Wells, California, October 3-5, 2014. Why is this the best investment for your hard-earned dollars?

- 1. PRICE!** CCRA's convention is an incredible value! Other conventions being held in California this year will cost you over \$450, and that's just to get in the door. Their room rates are also higher. Get those CEUs instead with CCRA for just \$349 (students \$165), which includes 4 meals and 2 receptions at a luxurious hotel and spa.
- 2. LOCATION!** The Miramonte Resort & Spa is remarkably close to metropolitan areas of Southern California and Ontario International Airport, yet far enough away to still feel like you're getting a refreshing getaway in the Palm Springs Valley, nestled at the base of the beautifully scenic Santa Rosa Mountains. SoCal residents can pop over just for the day. And did we mention shopping? The Desert Hills Premium Outlets is tantalizingly close.
- 3. NETWORKING!** The convention this year will include two receptions and five meals. Bring those business cards, because you will not only renew friendships with colleagues but also meet more people from your own state who are in the best position to help you expand your career opportunities. Our conventions typically draw over 350 people, more than any other state association in the country.
- 4. SEMINARS:** We are excited about the wide range of seminars we are developing. We have expanded and intensified our offerings on technology and realtime. Plus, interested in CART and captioning? Wondering if you have what it takes? Thinking about transitioning to a new career path? We are introducing a CART/Captioning track. Bring your writer and get some hands-on practical training from some of the top realtimers in California.
- 5. STUDENTS:** When you attend a CCRA convention, we don't track you into a limited number of classes. Your low registration fee admits you to your choice of any of our seminar offerings.

We at CCRA believe reporters and students should attend all the conventions they can. But if you can only afford one in 2014, you will be sorry to have missed CCRA's 104th, our best convention yet.

Like us on Facebook and regularly visit our website to receive all of the exciting details in the coming months.

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104TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Spas, pools, networking, and CEU's. Inspired by the overwhelmingly positive feedback from previous convention attendees, CCRA's 104th annual convention is headed back to the Miramonte Resort & Spa in Indian Wells, California, October 3-5, 2014.

This resort is remarkably close to the metropolitan area of Southern California, yet far enough away to still feel like you're getting a refreshing getaway in the Palm Springs valley. Nestled at the base of the beautifully scenic Santa Rosa Mountains, the resort is easy to reach with airport options.

Conventions provide the perfect platform for networking. So whether you're at a reception or enjoying a break in between classes, you'll want to have plenty of business cards because you'll not only renew friendships with colleagues, but also meet more people from your own state who can help you expand your career opportunities. Our conventions typically draw over 350 people, and with the wide range of seminars that are available, we expect another great turnout.

The wide range of seminars will include technology, realtime, and a track dedicated to CART and Captioning. The exciting world of CART and Captioning is growing into different areas of our daily lives. Bring your writer and get some hands-on practical training.

Students may attend any seminar on the schedule and are not limited to a student track. This provides a student with the opportunity to focus on the area of work that is of interest to them and to interact with working reporters at the same time. Sometimes the motivation that comes from attending a convention is just what a student needs to help get to that next speed.

Whether you come to network, get up to speed on your software or test out that shiny new writer, this year's convention is sure to have what you're looking for. See you there!

CONVENTION SEMINAR PREVIEW: HOW TO FIND ANY SPELLING IN .032 SECONDS

By Christy Cannariato, CSR, RPR, CRR

The Internet, especially the smartphone, has made it easier than ever to nail down all of the spellings that court reporters need, even on the most technical subject matter. When you think about it, the methods used by veteran reporters before the average person had access to the Internet was unchanged for most of the twentieth century. We spent days tracking down a spelling, making trips to the library, using landlines or maybe even payphones to call merchants, doctors, college professors, and librarians for help, and we gradually acquired shelves of reference books. I remember one treasure I had stumbled upon in a used bookstore was a collector's manual of all guns and rifles ever made. I can still visualize the cover of that book over twenty years later; I used it as an official in criminal court and loved it that much.

Compare that to the technology explosion in the past twenty years. Internet search engines in the palm of your hand have reduced the time of a search for that elusive spelling down from days to fractions of a second, but only if you know how to use them effectively. I have been known to search on my smartphone for a spelling while I was on the record, in between

a Q and an A, and finding the proper spelling of a word and correctly defining it in my realtime job dictionary before the word was uttered a second time. So if you are spending more than five minutes searching for a spelling these days, you're just not doing it right!

My seminar will teach you some valuable tricks. But don't worry. It won't be a boring lecture on Boolean search operators. It will be fun and interactive. Bring your smartphone, tablet or laptop, and you can participate in hands-on training. We will even have prizes in store for people who are the first to solve real-world spelling challenges drawn from my own deposition work in the past year. In addition to Google tips, we will discuss tips for gathering those spellings offline. Come share your favorite tips, website or product with your colleagues.

Life is short. Let's learn from each other how to gain more time for ourselves and our families and spend less time searching. Because let's face it: If you're anything like me, spending more than .032 seconds looking for a spelling on the Internet heightens the odds you will get distracted by Facebook or some other shiny web page.



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WHY SHOULD YOU ATTEND THE NEXT ANNUAL CONVENTION AS A STUDENT?

By: Karly Greenshields

You are immersed in this roller coaster of a program we call court reporting school. You know there's a convention around the corner, but the idea of attending leaves you overwhelmed with questions and filled with anxiety. The idea relocates to the back of your mind and gets buried beneath your priorities of finances, family, and far beneath the goal of passing out of your current speed level. Well, let me tell you something. Attending the annual convention IS a priority as a student, and it should be at the top of your list.

A convention is the best place for a student to grow. I can say from experience that I have never been more rejuvenated, eager, or driven to finish school than after attending a court reporting convention. While you're at the convention, you have the opportunity to meet like-minded peers from all over your state who share the same aspirations, frustrations, and perspectives of school with you. I have met some of my closest court reporting friends through conventions, and these friendships are invaluable to me and my future.

Not only will you have an opportunity to meet your peers, but you will have the opportunity to meet some of the most hard-working professional reporters there are in this industry. These are the people we dream of becoming as students and whom we want to learn from. These are the people who are so excited for us to start our journey that they want to mentor us along the way. Bring those student business cards along, because these are the people who want you to contact them when you've earned that CSR behind your name. The amount of knowledge and confidence you will gain through these networking opportunities will be worth every penny in the end. I can promise you that is true.

Our association understands what it means to be a student. They understand that we don't have the means to attend the convention, pay for our room, and budget for meals. Again, there goes your brain burying the idea beneath your

responsibilities. Then, all of a sudden, you get a pamphlet in the mail about the next annual convention. As you start to flip through the pamphlet, you realize not only does it sound like a great networking opportunity in a beautiful area, but the price is unbeatable for students. You can apply online to room with another student to reduce your cost. There will be meals provided throughout the convention, so you won't have to budget too tightly for food. Once you've registered, there's an online sponsorship opportunity for you to receive reimbursement for your registration. And here's my FAVORITE part: you can attend any of the seminars you want to. I mean it: ANYTHING YOU WANT. Now the idea of attending the convention is starting to creep back up again, huh? Because students are so valued by our association, the registration price for students is extremely low. CCRA believes in your future; do not underestimate that.

When the idea of attending the next convention surfaces, I challenge you to think about how many positives you will gain from the experience. Our association wants us to attend because we are the blood and future of this profession. We are treated as equals among those esteemed professionals I spoke of earlier, and you will feel that way when you're there. That alone confirms that we are a huge value to the future of this profession. I challenge you to research what seminars you would like to attend while you are there and how they will help you finish school. I challenge you to plan on attending with a school friend not only to cut down on costs, but so you can share the experience with somebody. I challenge you to reignite your passion for court reporting through attending the convention and stepping outside your comfort zone into a welcoming and supportive environment.

Don't be afraid to ask questions or contact the board members for help. They are eager to help you get there. Once you are there, I promise you will be able to see how cherished we are as students and how bright our future is. I look forward to seeing you all very soon!

CONVENTION SEMINAR PREVIEW: THE BASICS OF COURT AND DEPOSITION REPORTING

By Christy Cannariato, CSR, RPR, CRR

This seminar is the ultra-mini version of CCRA's BOOT CAMP to be held again in January 2015. It will teach the basics of court and deposition work. It's perfect for students, new reporters, and reporters in transition. Even if you don't anticipate

becoming a deposition reporter, well, you just never know. Leave this seminar feeling ready.

Abby Waller will handle the courtroom half of the seminar, and I will teach the deposition aspect. Abby will cover courtroom etiquette, reading back for the jury, archiving of notes, and transcript production.

For the deposition section, we will cover giving oaths; marking exhibits; and tips for working with interpreters, videographers, and deposition firms. I tend to talk fast, so I may just have time to throw in tips for getting out rough drafts in a flash. We promise a lively and valuable seminar, packed with knowledge, tips, and tricks... and maybe even awarding a prize or two.



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CART CAPTIONING AT THE CCRA CONVENTION

By Saba McKinley

What is CART? Is it for you?

Have you been curious to find out what CART is all about? Do you even know what CART is? Is CART captioning something you would be interested in learning more about because you want to be of service? If you answered “yes” to any of those questions, we have the perfect seminar for you at the upcoming CCRA annual convention.

My name is Saba McKinley, and I was an official reporter in Los Angeles Superior Court for more than 19 years before I transitioned about four years ago into the exciting and rewarding field of CART Captioning. In this seminar, I will share with you what CART is and the differences between CART Captioning and providing judicial realtime as an official reporter. I will also cover how CART captioners are paid and how to get started in this fastgrowing segment of the reporting industry. You will also learn why certifications are important and desired. Lastly, I will also share with you “Why” CART Captioning is truly the dream of a lifetime for me.

CART Captioning & Broadcast Captioning Panel Discussion

In this seminar you will meet professionals who provide CART Captioning and Broadcast Captioning. You will also meet a mother who fought all the way to the Supreme Court to have CART services provided for her daughter. Her case, in conjunction with another high school student, has set a precedence for CART services to provide equal access to communication.

This session will be followed by a Q & A session. This discussion should prove to be enlightening and heartwarming. IT'S NOT TO BE MISSED.

CART 101

This seminar is a hands-on approach to transitioning or getting started in the CART industry. **BRING YOUR EQUIPMENT.** You will realtime a college lecture. This experience will give you the insight you will need on your dictionary's needed changes, and it will introduce the technique of finger-spelling and why it is CRUCIAL when working as a captioner.

You will also learn how the realtime screen should appear for the end-user, your client, and you will be shown why knowing your software is a must. You will learn the importance of being able to use a phonetic dictionary.

Attend the “What is CART,” seminar first, and then follow that up with this seminar, and you will have a big head start on what it takes to begin working as a CART Captioner.

Formatting & CART Nuances

In this seminar, you will learn even more nuances related to CART. You will learn how to hookup to a projector, what equipment is used in the field and different types of CART settings including remote CART. If you have already decided CART Captioning is a way for you to increase your marketability, attend each of the CART seminars in succession, and you will be well on your way to beginning a CART career.

I'll look for you at the convention!

ARGONAUT GRADUATION

By Brooke Ryan

On July 22, 2014, I had the pleasure of speaking at Argonaut's graduation ceremony honoring Karly Greenshields, Alexa Mahl, Joe Puckett, Whitney Sisneros and Karen Zubenko. It was wonderful to see such great support for these young people. There were many family members and friends in attendance cheering them on.

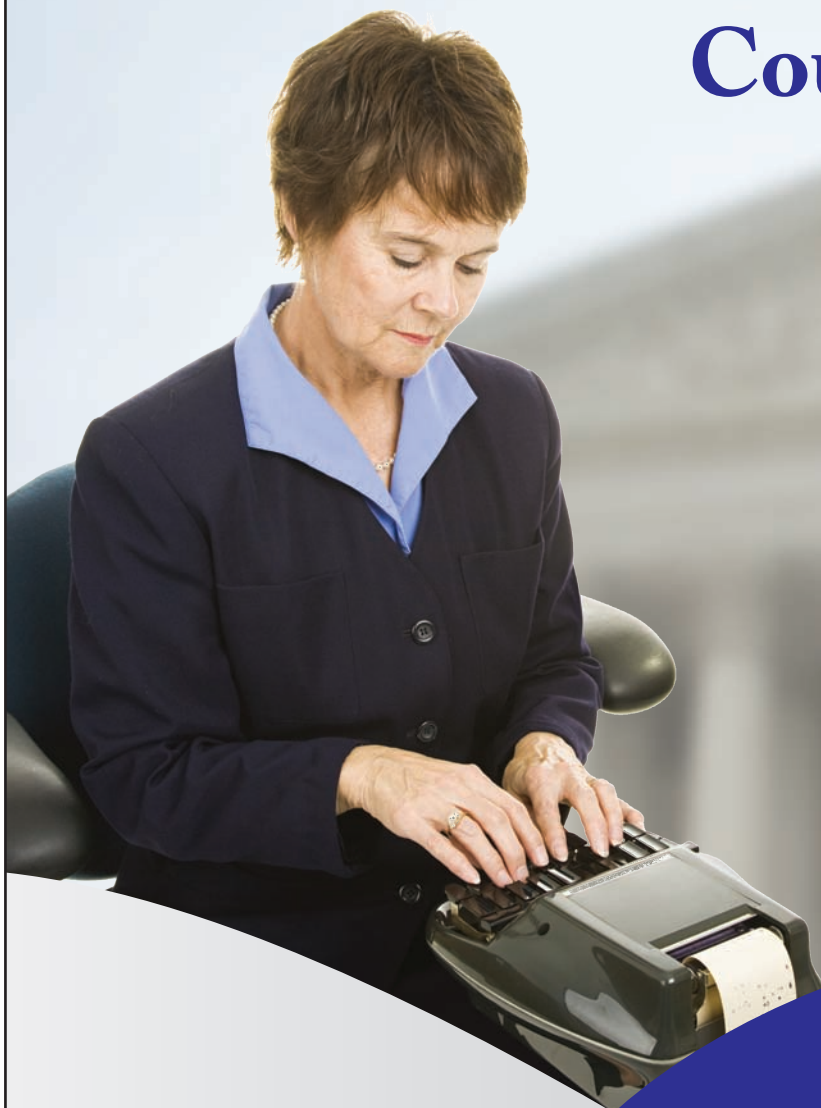
I was asked to keep my remarks light-hearted and positive. That was not a tough challenge. I talked about the options they will have and how they are entering our profession at a very exciting time. Since this was in Sacramento, I talked about the fact that Sacramento Superior Court will be hiring soon, just in case that is their chosen career path. I reminded them of CCRA's rich history and urged them to represent the profession well.

One thing I didn't talk about, but I would like to take this opportunity now, is to say that the most important thing you will decide is who to date and/or marry. Please pick someone who is incredibly supportive. You will need that during this crazy journey that is your new profession.

Best of luck to all of you. You make us very proud to call you colleagues.



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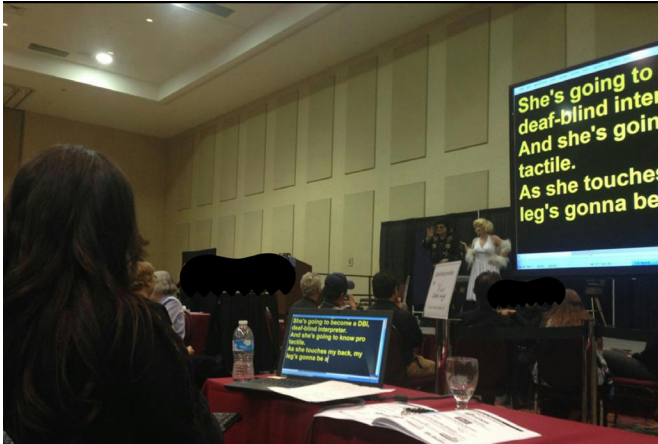
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CAPTION IT FORWARD: ARE CONVENTIONS WORTH THE TIME AND MONEY?



By Regina DeMotive, CSR

The CCRA annual convention is coming up in October. Many of you are contemplating attending. You might say, "I don't have time to spend three days in Indian Wells." Or you might say, "The price for the convention is way too expensive." But have you really thought about what you'll get out of the convention? Let's see...

First, let's talk about networking. In one of my previous articles I mentioned how saying "hello" to someone can be the start of something great. You never know where a simple "hello" can take you in the future. You might say "hello" to a future employer. You might say "hello" to a colleague who will introduce you to a future work lead. What do "future" leads lead to? Money. We all like money; right? So don't be shy to say "hello" to someone new! Networking is key and will pay off!

Next, let's talk about opportunity. I recently saw a quote that I absolutely love! "If someone offers you an amazing opportunity and you're not sure you can do it, say yes – then learn how to do it later." ~ Richard Branson. How true is this? I always tell students to try every field within Court Reporting. You won't know you like or dislike a certain field unless you try it. Not all avenues within Court Reporting are right for everyone. So if you meet a CART provider at a convention, pick their brain about what they do. If you meet a broadcast captioner at a convention, ask about their setup and how they got to the speed level they are at. At this point, you might not ever think you will be at that "level." But I thought the same thing, and I have far surpassed where I thought I'd ever be! NEVER SAY NO to opportunity! And never stop striving for more opportunities!

I'll give you an example. In May, I attended a deaf expo. That is where I met the deaf UFC fighter, which I wrote about in a previous article. After that expo, I wanted more! I reached out to my best friend, Google, and went on a hunt! I found a deaf-blind expo that was being held in Las Vegas. I noticed on their web site they mentioned they were providing CART for some of their breakout

sessions. That piqued my interest. I contacted them to see if they needed a CART provider and, BAM, they did! The CEO of the company hosting the event asked me to caption his keynote speech at the banquet. Of course, I wouldn't say no! I ended up captioning the entire dinner banquet (see picture), which included a comedian, two speakers, the keynote address, and ended the night with a skit from "Elvis" and "Marilyn Monroe"! I made new contacts and have potential client leads all because I went out searching for more opportunity!

So the next time you have thoughts that the convention is too expensive, too far away, too much trouble, I want you to think about all the opportunities you're missing out on. Are you frustrated you can't get out of school? Are you wondering why you can't find more work? Think about all the potential contacts you could make at the next annual convention!

One thing I didn't mention was the knowledge you will gain. All of the breakout sessions are wonderful! I will be a speaker at the CCRA convention in October. My session is called "A day in the life of a broadcast captioner." If you're interested in learning more about broadcast, sign up for the convention! I look forward to seeing you all there!

On a side note, for those who were expecting a "Part 2" from last month's article, I didn't forget! I'm saving that for a future article!

Keep striving!

PACCRA 10-10-10 OPPORTUNITY DRAWING

What are these tickets for? One of the ways PACCRA raises money is by holding a drawing of some kind every year. In the past, cars, cash and great prizes have been given away. We have found that cash is the most popular prize, so that's what we're doing again this year. By purchasing tickets for the drawing, you are supporting PACCRA and enabling court reporters to be seen and heard in Sacramento. You are helping CCRA and PACCRA continue the century-long tradition of preserving our industry. Three winners will each take home 10% of the total money collected for the drawing. You need not be present to win.

You may purchase tickets
on the convention registration
form or by visiting
tinyurl.com/PACCRA10-10-10.



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Is Windows XP Coming Back?

Q. I am debating about buying a new laptop with Windows 8. I know that some people don't like Windows 8. Do you think Microsoft will keep this format in the future or will it go back to something like XP or the Windows 7 format? How do you feel about Windows 8?

A. I think Windows 8 is fine. I like the touchscreen interface, which is what it was designed for, though it certainly can be used with a traditional mouse and keyboard. Historically, whenever a new operating system makes its debut, there are people who like it and people who don't like it. I call it the Broccoli Syndrome.

Microsoft is not going to return to an older format because a few people complain, however. Windows 9 is already in the works and will be the next step in the evolution of Windows, but it isn't going to revert back to something akin to Windows 3.1, 98, XP or even Windows 7. Time and technology move ahead with us or without us.

When Windows 98 was released eons ago, there were some people who hated it because it represented such a big change from the previous version. The same thing occurred when XP replaced Windows 98. Over time people settled down and became comfortable with the new operating system and that will happen with Windows 8, as well. Then, when Windows 9 is released, the Broccoli Syndrome will return. If you decide that you do not want Windows 8, you can still purchase Windows 7 on amazon.com or from other retailers.

Q. Is there a limit to how many times I can use my Windows 7 Recovery Disk to format my hard drive?

A. There is no limit, so you can use your Recovery Disk until the cows come home -- if you are, indeed, expecting bovine visitors. Doing so will not damage the Recovery Disk so there is nothing to be concerned about as far as over-using it.

Q. How do I delete all data from a flash drive so that I can put new information on it?

A. Formatting a flash drive will wipe all data off the drive. If that's what you would like to do, start by inserting the flash drive into a USB port on your computer. Click Computer (depending

on your version of Windows), then right-click your flash drive icon and select Format.

You will see the capacity of the drive and various bits of technical information nobody ever pays attention to. You might want to consider changing the Volume Label, which is the name that will appear next to the drive letter for your flash drive. I like to name my flash drives something short like "Morry" or "Edith," but other people prefer something more descriptive, such as MP3Files or WorkDocs. You don't have to change the Volume Label at all, if you prefer to leave things as they are.

Remove the check mark beside the Quick Format box, then click Start to format your flash drive. The formatting process will probably take a few minutes and you may see a green progress bar. Once formatting is complete, your flash drive will be squeaky clean and devoid of all data that it previously contained.

Mr. Modem's DME (Don't Miss 'Em) Sites of the Month

NaughtyCodes.com – Though it sounds like an adult-oriented Web site, it is not. This site provides access to a database of discount codes that are available to shoppers when placing an online order. Select an online store from the drop-down menu and you will see the code and the discount. Sure it's naughty, but it's also kind of nice. A similar site that I have used successfully a number of times is RetailMeNot.com. www.naughtycodes.com

The Labyrinth – If you are a student of Medieval Studies -- and who among us isn't? -- you won't want to miss this. Sponsored by Georgetown University, The Labyrinth provides free access to a plethora of resources, including connections to databases, services, texts, and images around the world. Each user will be able to find an Ariadne's Thread through the maze of information on the Web. (As we all know, Ariadne was the daughter of King Minos of Crete. Minos had Daedalus build a Labyrinth, which was a house of winding passages. So who is Daedalus? Yes, it's THAT Daedalus, the father of Icarus, uncle of Perdix and Iapix, of course.) <http://bit.ly/1j8k7Zz>

Twisted Questions – Would you rather die by a boulder falling on you, falling off a mountain, or getting hit by a meteor? Or let's say you're standing on a stage in front of a huge audience, about to play a lengthy violin solo. The problem is, you don't know how to play the violin. What do you do? Described as a "playground for the mind," this site asks bizarre, occasionally troubling questions and invites your input and participation. Some questions may occasionally be a bit on the coarse side, so be forewarned. www.twistedquestions.com

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AND A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL CCRA RECEPTION AT NCRA

I love a party. Don't you? How about one with good food, drink and people who share your interests? I have found that one of the benefits of attending court reporter conventions is the opportunity to meet, share information and make new friends with fellow reporters. If that can be accomplished in a relaxed, fun atmosphere it's even better. Saturday evening, immediately following the NCRA convention in San Francisco, CCRA hosted a reception in a suite with a beautiful view of the city. President Carlos Martinez, Vice President-Official Brooke Henrickson and many others were busy making sure all were welcome and enjoying themselves. It was standing room only, and the laughter and voices could be heard down the corridor of the hotel.

This was an opportunity for CCRA to say thank you and express appreciation to all who support us and to connect with national and state leaders, reporters and others related to reporting from all over the country. There were officers and staff from NCRA, past presidents of CCRA, business owners, vendors, reporters and students from all aspects of the profession.

Everyone seemed to have a story to tell or experience to share. Arnella Sims, after some prodding, talked about working on the O.J. Simpson case to a group of rapt listeners. The reception, which was scheduled to last a few hours, went on late into the night.

Congratulations go to Lori Kowalski from San Diego County, who won a Surface Pro 2, keyboard and an hour of tech time with Sandy VanderPol.

There are many who helped to make this event a success: Brooke Henrickson, Karly Greenshields, Gerie Bunch, Mary Martinez, Lesia Mervin, Arnella Sims and Sandy VanderPol. Wine was supplied by Bodega de Edgar and beer provided by Jerry Packer and Sterling Management. Our Platinum sponsors, LACCRA and SOCR; Gold and Silver supporters NCCRA, Orange County Court Reporters Association and the Alameda County Reporters Association deserve special recognition.

CHICKEN CORDON BLEU

(SERVES 8)

Ingredients

4 whole chicken breasts
8 slices Black Forest ham
8 slices Swiss cheese (I prefer Fontina)
3 tbsp minced fresh parsley
Pepper to taste
1 egg, beaten
1 c. Italian bread crumbs (or more if necessary)
¼ c. butter (1/2 stick)
1 10.75 oz can Cheddar cheese soup
8 oz (1 cup) sour cream
1/3 c. dry sherry (don't substitute)

Directions

Split, bone and skin the chicken pieces*. Place each chicken breast half on a sheet of waxed paper. Using a meat mallet, flatten to ¼-inch thick. Place 1 slice each of ham and cheese in the center of each piece. Sprinkle evenly with parsley & pepper. Roll up each chicken breast lengthwise and secure with a wooden pick. Dip each piece into beaten egg and coat well with crumbs.

In a skillet, melt the butter, brown the chicken pieces and place in a 12x8 inch baking dish, reserving the drippings.

To the drippings, add the cheese soup, sour cream and Sherry. Stir well and pour over the chicken. Bake uncovered in a 350 oven for 40 to 45 minutes.

*You can skip this process by buying 8 halves of boneless, skinless chicken breasts.

This recipe comes from The Redstone Inn in Iowa.

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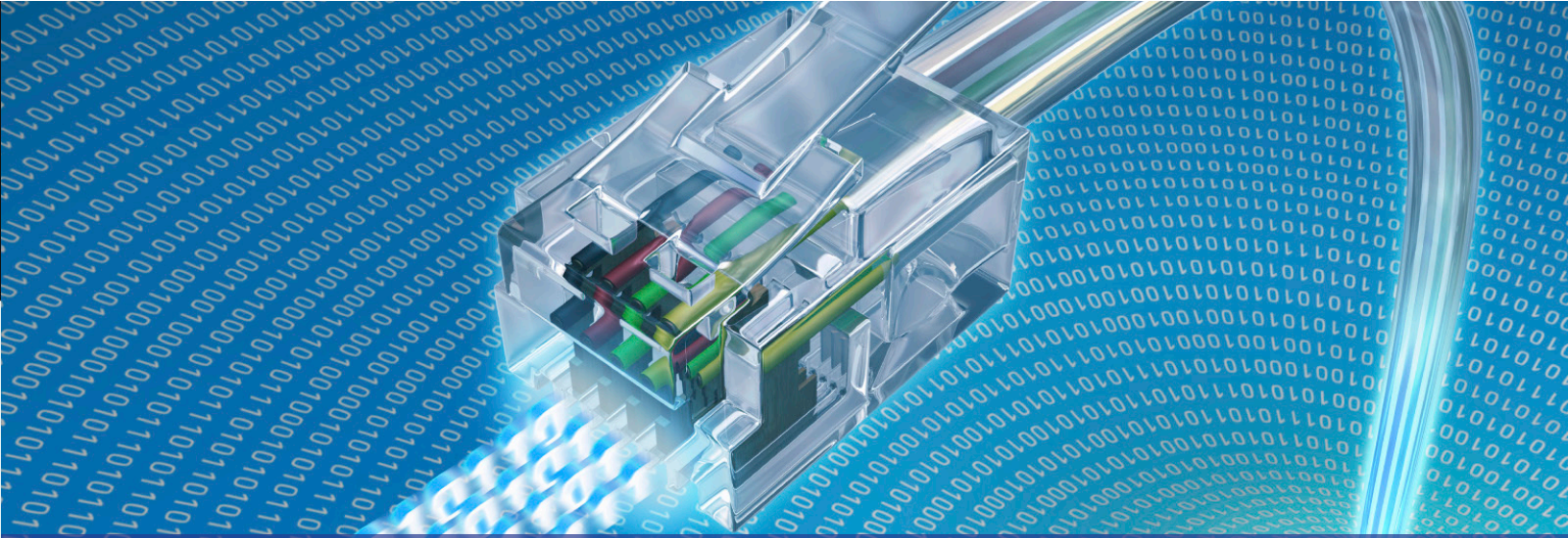
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WHAT IS A LAN? WHAT IS A WAN? WHAT IS CONNECTIFY HOTSPOT? HOW DOES THIS AFFECT ME?

A LAN (Local Area Network) is a private computer network that links computers at a single location, such as at a private residence or office building. Establishing a LAN allows files, software, and devices like printers and fax machines (or realtime software like CaseViewNet or Bridge) to be shared among the users of the LAN.

The Internet, by contrast, is a global, public WAN (Wide Area Network) that links millions of smaller networks with over a billion computers connected at any given time. The most basic difference between a LAN and the Internet is that a LAN is private and localized, while the Internet is public and worldwide.

A LAN is able to facilitate sharing of files and resources by linking computers together through a central device known as a "router." The router acts as a go-between, directing data traffic on the LAN. Computers can be connected to the router using an Ethernet cable or wirelessly, using radio waves. A LAN does NOT automatically have Internet access (unless and until you provide it).

(I see you scratching your head even harder now, perhaps throwing up your hands screaming, "I give up! I'm never going to understand this stuff! I just want to go back to the more simple times of just being a court reporter. The only thing I had to worry about was how to spell names correctly and punctuate! Now I have to be some sort of computer genius!" Stick with me! I promise, by the end of this article, you will understand a little bit more about the ins and outs of wireless connections.)

Note: When you are providing realtime to your clients wirelessly (using a router or Connectify), you will be creating a LAN (or Local Area Network).

There are situations in which a LAN is setup for the sole purpose

of providing Internet access (like Starbucks or the free airport WiFi). This is also handy for households that have two or more computers but only want to share an Internet account and nothing more. It's easy to see how using a LAN for this purpose could lead to the incorrect assumption that a LAN and the Internet are the same thing.

Many reporters find value to their client (and to themselves) to add Internet access to the LAN. This can be accomplished by plugging in an Ethernet cable to their router (free), using an aircard (\$\$), a cradlepoint router (\$\$), or creating their own hotspot from their smartphone(\$\$). This allows counsel access the Internet while at the same time receiving their realtime feed. (This is important because if counsel use their own computer for a wireless realtime feed, they have to connect to your LAN, thereby negating their opportunity to use their computer for anything they may need. They would have to disconnect from our LAN and go to another hotspot to do their other tasks, then reconnect.)

Connectify Hotspot is a "virtual" router for Microsoft Windows. It can enable a Windows PC to serve as a router over Ethernet or WiFi. Along with a Windows 7 or 8 certified WiFi device, it can act as a wireless access point. This enables users to share files, printers, software, and Internet connections between multiple computing devices without the need for a separate physical access point or router. (It does everything the physical piece of hardware called the "router" does.)

You can also "drag" an exhibit, for example, to one of their clients sharing their Connectify hotspot. A window pops up on your client's computer telling them a file is ready for download. Connectify can help you save on your data plan.