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HIGH-TECH COURT REPORTER TRAVELING LIGHT

One of the court reporters I have the pleasure of working with, Veronica Thompson, wants to have as little as possible to carry to depositions and arbitrations. She now arrives at depositions carrying a little black backpack and no case. When she arrives at a law office announcing "I'm the court reporter," the receptionist/attorneys get scared and inevitably ask, "Where is your stuff? We have a deposition!" Veronica smiles, turns, and shows them her backpack.

Veronica uses a little Sony Vaio netbook/computer to run her CAT software on with a 2MB hard drive. Her steno machine is a red LightSpeed from Stenovations.

Veronica uses Stenocast as her preferred output for realtime. With a multi-USB hub, she can send out a realtime feed to Stenocast, has a back-up thumb drive for saving files, and her CAT software key.

I know of two other court reporters in California using netbooks to run their CAT software.

Upon interviewing Veronica, I learned that her disciplined practice is at the end of every job, she copies to a thumb drive the transcript, her LightSpeed dictionary, her main dictionary, and her job dictionary. She goes home and uploads the transcript and dictionary to her large computer for editing. Once she is done editing any job (or during the editing process) before turning off her large computer, she once again is disciplined enough to copy her edited transcript, her main dictionary, and her job dictionary to the thumb drive. Then when she opens up her deposition netbook/computer she inputs the changes. This procedure takes incredible discipline. Veronica believes (and so do I) if a person skips a step, you will start forgetting what you have done and haven't done which can be very dangerous.

One thing I love about court reporters is they are innovative, technical professionals. Having the desire to be the best, have the best equipment, and be efficient will take anyone a long way. Veronica is always pushing the technology perimeter. (One day I might write about how she edits with her feet so she can hold her cat while she scopes/proofs.)

Please leave any comments. The court reporting world wants to hear from you.

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