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Publication will take place at the discretion of the Board.

◆ **World championship Prague 2007 may become a festival for motivating top performances!** ◆



As the son of a sports official in south Moravia, I studied at the Handelsakademie in Hodonin and always regarded shorthand and typewriting as sport disciplines.

Our teacher always informed us about the results of competitions and championships. This was for us, at the time beginners, a meaningful model with positive motivating content.

Every sports meeting involving top athletes, besides being of great interest to spectators and providing opportunities for journalists to learn how top performances are achieved, should also deliver a motivating message to other athletes to help them understand how they may emulate such performances. They need to know about education, training and strategies, and how to make use of the most modern methods available.

On the basis of this reflection and in the interest of the Intersteno image, I express the wish to not only will the world championships in Prague 2007 be an interesting event, a friendly meeting with hundreds of supporters of our abilities in texts production, but that competitors (like athletes) will motivate, through meaningful rules of disciplines, millions of other keyboard friends.

Jaroslav Zaviacic

◆ **Internet competition 2007** ◆

In 2007 this contest will take place **from 23rd April - to 15th May**. Announcements and rules are available on our web site www.intersteno.org - Internet contest.

In order to allow teachers and students participating for the first time in this kind of contest, to become acquainted with procedures and verify their results, Intersteno is offering the possibility of a trial contest **free of charge**. **Registration to this simulation competition will be possible from the 1st to 14th January 2007**. The competition will start on 15th January and end on the 31st. No diplomas will be printed. A results list will be temporary published on our web-site.

◆ **Foot pedal and foot mouse as a means of preventing repetitive strain injury, carpal tunnel syndrome, text messaging injury and similar injuries – Part II by Ruber Pellar** ◆

Before we start to describe specific solutions, we would like to define the basic terms: what a computer mouse is and the history. The details of its invention are sufficiently well known. For instance the English Wikipedia defines it under the heading Mouse (computing) as follows:

hand-held [pointing device](#), designed to sit under one hand of the user and to detect movement relative to its two-dimensional supporting surface. In addition, it usually features buttons and/or other devices, such as

"wheels", which allow the user to perform various system-dependent operations. Extra buttons or features can add more control or dimensional input.

From our point of view, a computer mouse is, first of all, a piece of equipment ancillary to the computer as a text processing machine, by which some special functions are executed. Put simply, it is an ancillary controlling device.

Foot mouse – a mouse variant for those who do not wish to or cannot use the hands or the head; instead, it provides footclicks.

Wikipedia informs us about the foot mouse in one sentence only, in the section Alternative device, which is:

Foot mouse – a mouse variant for those who do not wish to or cannot use the hands or the head; instead, it provides footclicks.

I do not know who the inventor of the foot mouse was. I only can provide some fragmentary facts from its history. If we understand the foot mouse simply as a foot controlled device, it is obvious that people have been using feet for controlling for many years– for "controlling" of musical instruments (e.g. pianos and organs), sewing machines, of course dictaphones, footballs, paint brushes and pens (if they cannot use their hands). The Czech patent by Jan Cerný No. 7859 from 1922 "Zpusob a psací stroj ke zkracování a zrychlení psaní" (Manner and typewriter for shortening and speeding up of writing) mentions the possibility to use it for controlling of some parts of the machine "foot pedals which are connected with the writing machine in an appropriate manner".

As Jaroslav Zaviacic wrote to me in his e-mail of the 1st October 2006, one participant in a typing competition became famous as a result of equipment which he used while standing. His (mechanical) typewriter was fixed to the table and instead of spacing by hand, he used a special device involving a foot pedal connected to a big drum by which he via a pulley moved the carriage by drawing the line space and carriage return lever, which meant that he did not need to raise his hand from the keyboard, so that he made no mistakes due to inexact returns of his left hand to the basic position. In addition, it saved time at every line.

◆ 25th championships in keyboarding in The Netherlands ◆

On 11th November the 25th championship in keyboarding in The Netherlands was organized in the Groen van Prinsterer College in Barneveld.

All competitors used the computers of the school network and plugged in their keyboard. On the computers special software is installed (QMTT) that gives immediately results at the end of the competition. Competitors type two texts, each for 10 minutes and only the best of both results is registered in the result list. Not a bad idea for a world championship? After the competition, youth workshops dealing with making music, being creative with garbage, modern fashion were scheduled while waiting for the prize giving.

Everybody had the opportunity to type as many characters as possible in one minute. The attempts to get the highest result could be followed on a big screen.

In the category up to 13 years, Charlene Zhang typed 395 characters/minute in 10 minutes without any mistakes. Coen Schipper won the category up to 17 years with 517 characters/minute and only one mistake. Andrea Schipper, his sister, was the best in the open category with 636 characters/minute and 3 mistakes. The total result lists can be downloaded on www.nktypen.nl.

◆ Hodonin 2006 ◆

This traditional meeting took place on 5th and 6th November. It was attended by our Secretary-Treasurer Mr. Danny Devriendt, along with Georgette Sante and two competitors from Belgium, as well as Franz Sager from Austria. Competitors came from the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Germany, Poland, Austria and Hungary.



The photo shows the top three in the classification list 1. Miloš Cernilovský (G Hradec Králové), 2. Šárka Bicanová (OA Český Tešín), 3. Lukáš Prčík (OA Hodonín). We are sure we will meet them in Prague.

Additional information as well as full classification list, [can be read at this link.](#)

◆ **First international seminar on new technologies in real time intralingual subtitling - Forlì (Italy) 17th November 2006** ◆

In Europe subtitling activities are increasing due to special laws and requests coming from associations of the hard of hearing. Sub-titling of live broadcasts (such as news - sport events and so on) requires skilled professionals who can capture speeches in realtime with very high accuracy.

Until now Stenotype was the most commonly used technology for this activity, but speech recognition technology is now developing. The biggest activity in Europe is concentrated in England where both BBC and private TV companies are covering a big percentage of real-time events with subtitling (close captioning). Technologies used are Stenotype and speech recognition (the spin off company from the BBC has about 50 stenographers and 60 voice writers). Due to a shortage of stenographers, about 4000 hours per years are prepared in realtime with Stenotype from Australia via e-working.

The programme of this event can be read (in English) at www.respeaking.net.

Intersteno was present at this meeting, when speeches were made by Fausto Ramondelli, Gian Paolo Trivulzio and Fabrizio Verruso. From different points of view, the main focus of the speakers was to spread information about Intersteno experiences and its contribution to the improvements of technologies and the evaluation of professional abilities.

An invitation was extended to the next Intersteno Congress in Prague where a real time competition will take place. The results for the different technologies will be easily comparable.

Many thanks to Peter Walker for the revision of these texts.

◆ **This newsletter in PDF format.** ◆

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