



This news letter is published under the responsibility of the Board of the International Federation for Information Processing - Intersteno - and sent to all e-mail addresses of persons participating in the work of the members of Intersteno known to the Board. Contributions to the newsletter can be sent using the form on the web site www.intersteno.org.

Publication will take place at the discretion of the Board.

◆ **Hotel accommodation for the Congress in Prague.** ◆

In our e-news n. 17 - November 2006, we released information about suggested accommodation in Prague. Mr. Polacek informs us that booking for this accommodation **must be exclusively done using a special form** available on www.intersteno.cz (Menu. Accommodation).

An early booking is strongly recommended since July is a peak holiday period. The prices are very cheap.

Students holding the **ISIC card** and wishing to be accommodated in the Campus of the University can get very special prices (see below). An ISIC card can be bought for about 15 euros in all European countries and gives many important benefits.

Hotel Pyramida**** www.hotelpyramida.cz		Single CZK 2600 (€ 93) Double CZK 3100 (€ 110)
Penzion Jas*** www.penzionjas.cz		Single CZK 1800 (€ 64) Double CZK 2300 (€ 82)
Hotel Krystal*** www.ubytovani-hotel-krystal.cz		Single CZK 1300 (€46,50) Double CZK 1800 (€64)
CUA Campus Hostel** CUA Campus Hostel* http://unicoagric.czu.cz		Single CZK 1000 (**) (€35,70) CZK 800 (*) (€28,50) CZK 400 (*, ISIC) (€14) Double CZK 1400 (**) (€ 50) CZK 1200 (*) (€ 43) CZK 800 (*, ISIC) (€ 28,50)

◆ **Internet competition.** ◆

Registration for the fifth edition is now possible on www.intersteno.org. The rules are available in English -

French - German and Czech. The Italian version is available at www.intersteno.it

.A reminder about deadlines:

- **registration** will be possible until 14th April 2007
- **payment of the fees** must be received not later than 22nd April 2007
- **competition starts** on 23rd April and automatically **closes on 15th May 2007**

A new age category up to 13 years has been added. Competitors over 20 years must register via Intersteno representative in their countries. In countries where no Intersteno national group is fully active, the Intersteno Board will grant this authority to trusted organisations and or teachers/tutors. Please contact our Secretary, Mr Danny Devriendt at secretary@intersteno.org, in good time.

◆ **Board meeting in Prague 14-15th April 2007** . ◆

The Board will meet in Prague in order to prepare for the many appointments and duties to be carried out during the Congress.

The General Assembly in Prague must take several decisions:

- approval of updates to the Statute (see the final proposals of the Commission at www.intersteno.org - Prague - Statute modifications)
- election of the Members of the Board, Scientific Committee etc.

◆ **Diaries written in shorthand to be deciphered. Who can help?** ◆

Mr. John Charlot wrote to our Secretary: "*I am writing a biography of my father, the artist and writer Jean Charlot. He wrote his diaries in a shorthand that has been tentatively identified by the expert, Ms. Dorothy Roberts, as being that invented by Aimé Paris in the early 1800s and developed up to the work of Emile Duployé.*

We are anxious to have the diaries deciphered as well as the other notes Charlot made in shorthand. I am contacting you in the hope that someone is known to you who can handle this system. The job would include a great deal of material to be deciphered. A complication is that Charlot started using the system for French, but then extended it to Spanish and English."

We hope that the experts in these shorthand systems can be of help. Please contact Mr. John Charlot at charlot@hawaii.edu

◆ **Foot pedal and foot mouse as a means of preventing repetitive strain injury, carpal tunnel syndrome, text messaging injury and the like - Part III.** ◆

When looking for actual information on the foot mouse, I strictly limited my search to the notion that a „mouse“ or a computer controlling device is one that is controlled not by one or two hands, but by one foot or both feet.

There are, perhaps, too many foot mice and there are even many devices that are not controlled by the hand(s), - the so called hands-free mice, or no-hand mice. The mouse can be controlled also by other parts of our body, for instance by the head and the parts of it such as the eyes, eyelids, jaws, tongue, even by the breath stream. A special problem is of course the controlling of the computer or even simple objects“ by (an) implanted device(s) or by body energy transmitted by some pickup or reader. Perhaps I shall have the opportunity to write about no-hand mice which are also no-feet mice.

But even the feet mice can be subdivided according the part of the feet or legs where the mouse is placed or by which it is controlled - e. g. the heels, toes, ankles or knees.

Very early, in the 1960s **Douglas Engelbart**, the inventor of the "normal" hand mouse, made experiments with foot mouse, for example, the knee controller

A foot mouse using the toes was designed by **Johnnie Manzari: 3D Design**

But let us go back to the terminology of the foot mouse:

Attention: a foot mouse can be also a real mouse, e.g. white-footed mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*) !

Allowing for my limited knowledge of languages, I was able to find the following terms for the mouse:

German: *Fußmaus*, plural *Fußmäuse*

French: *souris à pied*

Italian: *mouse a pedale*

Russian: МЫШКА ДЛЯ НОГ, НОЖНАЯ МЫШКА, Ножная мышь

Dutch: voetmuis

Czech: nožní myš, myš ovládaná nohou, myš ovládaná nohama

Slovak: nožná myška, nožná myš

I searched under these terms in Google and I found many solutions, most of them in English. The most commonly described solution is perhaps the mouse produced and sold by Hunter Digital, in Los Angeles, CA 90049, U.S.A., for about \$300.

NO-HANDS MOUSE

There are foot mice that can be made by amateurs for about \$10. These solutions and a description of their production can be found on the web, for example LA RSI Support Group - Home Remedies

Given the amount of such mice, there is a wide variety of solutions which I unfortunately had not the opportunity to try out. I could only look at the first pages of sometimes very large lists of citations in various languages which can be found in the search engines.

When searching, **these sources should not be forgotten:**

1) **the foot mouse described in oriental languages**, including the Japanese. Chinese, Korean and perhaps also Hindi, and those invented and produced beyond Europe and North America:

There is one very interesting Japanese example made by Edikun Technology Inc.: The mouse is constructed of several flat plates heaped one on another that can be moved in different directions. See: <http://www.edikun.co.jp/>.

2) **The patent literature** which can be found, for instance in the European Patent Office, via the <http://ep.espacenet.com/>. Applying the Advanced search, I found about 60 patents, significantly many of the of Chinese, Korean etc. origin.

I have personal experience with the programmable foot switch made by Kinesis Corporation. It is a programmable 3-button keyboard that works in co-operation with the regular keyboard or as a stand-alone keyboard. Keyboard codes can be sent from both the foot switch and the regular keyboard at the same time. A recessed switch activates programming mode to allow the user to program each foot switch pedal independently, simply by pressing keys on the regular keyboard. The foot switch also makes mouse click emulation possible.



The switch allows me to play macros with my foot. That is an advantage for instance, when I type new words in a database, where the vocabulary entries have to be opened and closed by a string of commands, or when going through the text on the screen of my computer I am translating and at the same time holding a dictaphone in my hand. The disadvantage of the Programmable Foot Switch for USB, AC004USB is, that it has to be programmed manually on the device itself, not via the regular keyboard. Another disadvantage in my opinion, is to do with the shape of foot switch whose 3 buttons are not very well adapted to the shape of the feet.

This disadvantage is very much diminished I think in new products of Kinesis Corporation, e.g. Kinesis Savant Elite Triple Action Foot Switch (see image here on the left).

You can get additional information at this link:
http://www.safecomputing.com/kinesis_triple_action_footswitch.html

Interested readers of e-news can get the lists of my searches by e-mail, if they contact me.

Ruben Pellar (rpellar@pha.inecnet.cz)

Thanks to Peter Walker for revising this issue.

❖ **This newsletter in PDF format.** ❖

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