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***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](http://www.intersteno.org).***

***Publication will take place at the discretion of the Board.***

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◆ **WHAT IS AN INTERSTENO CONGRESS?** ◆

At least 1800 readers of this e-news were not able to attend the Congress in Prague and not all of the 473 participants had the opportunity to attend every event of this Congress. In this e-news you can read feedback and be motivated to take advantage of the large quantity of information, photos and videos available on [www.intersteno.cz](http://www.intersteno.cz) and [www.intersteno.org](http://www.intersteno.org). This information was speedily delivered by the Steering Committee, to whom we owe many thanks.

**Mark Golden (speech at the NCRA convention August 2007)**

*Attending an Intersteno meeting is a fascinating experience. Seeing how very different the reporting profession is in other lands is a very useful thing.*

*Now, it isn't a question of which country is more advanced or which country is "better" than another, whatever that might mean but rather a matter of just looking at the profession from a different perspective, which can help shake you free of preconceived notions, those blinders that cause you to see only what you are expecting to see, rather than what is actually going on with steno, realtime, and other technologies in other places.*

*Sometimes we can't imagine doing things any differently than the way we are currently doing them because that's the way we have always done them. Seeing how this same skill has developed and is being used in other societies and cultures shows you how different things could be.*

*Now, don't get me wrong. I would not trade the privilege of living in the good old U.S. of A. for anything in the world, but we still could learn a thing or two from the parliamentary reporters in Germany and Italy, from the steno education system in China, and from how keyboard and shorthand skills are being incorporated into general high school education in Hungary and into the training of the unemployed in the Czech Republic. The next Intersteno World Congress will be held in 2009 in the somewhat more luxurious Olympic Village facilities in Beijing, China. It would be worth considering saving up those frequent flier miles now for the opportunity to be present.*

**Linda Drake - National Verbatim Association - USA**

*Intersteno is much more than a worldwide competition. Its purpose is to bring together all methods of information processing so that participants stay abreast of changes in technology and international developments in every aspect of record-making. NVRA's attendance guarantees the delivery of this important information to its members.*

**John Wenklawsky - Stenograph**

*'There are many forms of creating a record. Some utilize today's latest technologies while others embrace proven ways. The shorthand machine and the voice writer rely heavily on the human factor. Digital recording and video are based on newer technology, but there is still a spot for the pen writer. The most important point that needs to be made is this; that a transparent legal system requires a record created by an impartial third party. Without a transparent legal and legislative system, countries will not be able to attract business investments from other parts of the world. It is also essential to ensuring human rights.'*

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## The record was broken – more than one million keystrokes were typed in half an hour



The new record of 1,320.041 keystrokes in half an hour was created by 108 typists during the Congress. This feat also involved breaking the record of one million net keystrokes – which means that typing errors or other mistakes are deducted from the total.

The commissar from "Dobrý den" agency from Pelhřimov oversaw the proceedings and was responsible for ensuring that everything was in order. .

**Helena Matoušková**, ninefold world champion, is the holder of the absolute world record of 955 keystrokes in a minute. This year she headed the jury and she remarked on the result: *"This is the first time such a record has been created in our country. Even if we cannot reveal the individual results until Thursday's ceremony, the average is admirable."*

The average speed of participants in the championship event was 12 222,6 keystrokes – which means that everybody typed about six pages of text in the half hour.

For the past six years the Czech republic has taken the lion's share of the medals in competitions throughout the world. Interinfo CR, the organizer behind this success, supports technologies by which the problem of producing a fast and error-free text record in Czech as well as other languages is being solved. Jaroslav Zaviacic, who is also the Chairman of the Czech association Interinfo CR, was elected the President of Intersteno two years ago.

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## Another 2 000 people were actively watching the Intersteno Congress !

Statistics from the web site [www.intersteno.cz](http://www.intersteno.cz), which was established for the Congress, and for the World Championship in Information Processing of the international federation Intersteno, show that this site was visited by more than 2 000 visitors.

Average time of visits on the web site was around 10 minutes. "That is a really positive rate. We published results of the World Championship together with photos every day and actually we have videos from the most important events to download. We are the society for which modern technologies are basic instruments," commented **Jaroslav Poláček**, the Chief of the Steering Committee.

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## 007 in Prague!



Hundreds of participants took part in the day of youth, when young competitors became secret agents in the style of 007 in an exercise to save the flag of Intersteno. Participants survived about 15 tasks which to gain the flag, which was handed over to the Chinese delegation, as it will organize the Congress in 2009, at the final ceremonial.

Competitors spent a pleasant afternoon in Prague. They visited the historic center of Prague and to an exhibition in the Old Town. The Inspirela company helped to prepare not only the game but to acquaint young people with Prague as well as with one another.

"We achieved our aim through a "game of action" when we managed to bring together people from several countries. In a way Intersteno is a family of people who share similar interests. We wanted them to meet and make contacts which they will be able to exploit in their personal as well as work life in the future. According to responses of our young friends we managed to do this," said **Jaroslav Poláček**, Chief of the Steering Committee.



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## Man versus technique



On 24th July 2007, a joust between typists and computers equipped with scanners was prepared at the University of Agriculture in Prague.

**Jaroslav Zaviacic**, President of Intersteno, commented: "We discovered as far back as eight years ago, the value of OCR which enables us to transform a printed text to an electronic version by means of scanners. The technique is much faster and has a low level of an error rate in patterns printed with high-quality on a white paper."

To be able to type at a keyboard – to be keyboard-literate – is important, for sure, because you would be able to repair a text (e. g. from 20-year-old book) obtained by a scanner. It would be much longer if you had to retype the whole book," the President of Intersteno, commented on the result right after the end of the exhibition.

To achieve about 250 keystrokes in a minute means approximately two months' regular preparation and an investment in an instruction programme. As can be seen from the results someone who has a low level of skill gets results that a close to those gained by a lower category scanner.

A man typing (very quickly) with two fingers does usually not exceed 250 keystrokes per minute and that is why he loses a lot of time and concentration as he has to "search" for letters. Scanners are really useful where a large quantity of high quality material is transferred. A typist gets tired and makes mistakes, unlike a machine.

Helena Matoušková, ninefold world champion, took part in the competition. She remarked after the publication of results: "I took part in a similar comparison earlier and I must say that the technique has advanced. I would like to say thanks to Canon company for "competitive" scanners and at the same time I am glad that learn typing at a keyboard is still a valuable skill."

Scanners were represented by the CanoScan 4400F and Canon DR 4010C. As well as world champion Helena Matoušková, Václav Mikula, world champion in junior category, and Pavel Musil, who represented typists who use only long fingers for typing, were also present.

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## Court reporters group on Compuserver.

Dave Rogala, a good friend of Intersteno and now Individual Member, placed useful information on the court reporters group on Compuserver, thus increasing interest in the Prague Congress.

[Have a look at this link.](#)

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## **Nomination of new individual members.**



Gian Paolo Trivulzio and Jaroslav Zaviacic

During the General Assembly in Prague, five new individual members have been appointed. Here are their names:

**David Rogala (USA)**  
**Audioscribe Corporation (USA)**  
**Marie-Paul Wagener (Luxembourg)**  
**American Association of Electronic Reporters and Transcribers (USA)**  
**Realtime STENOvations (Canada)**

Individual members now number 11. You can get additional information at [www.intersteno.org](http://www.intersteno.org) - Structures - Individual members and Individual members list.

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*Many thanks to Peter Walker for revising these texts*

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