

Bar Bytes

A Few 'Bytes' to Chew on

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In this month's column, we reflect on what is new in technology for lawyers – or not new, as the case may be.

- With the U.S. economy struggling, research and development of new technology products has slowed considerably. (The exception appears to be Microsoft, which is spending \$5.2 billion in R&D this year.) At ABA Techshow 2003 in Chicago, the experts agreed that there is no one hot product or new technology sweeping lawyers off their feet. They advised lawyers to take advantage of this “breather” by learning more about the software and products they already own.
- PDF (portable document format) is fast becoming the preferred file format for lawyers concerned with document security and viruses. PDF preserves the fonts and formatting of any document. Courts using electronic case filing require PDF. The premier PDF creator is Adobe Acrobat (www.adobe.com), but there are a number of PDF writers one can buy, or even download from the Internet for free. For a list, see www.PDFZone.com
- Tired of wasting paper printing web pages? Have you ever added a web page to your “favorites” only to go back later and it has changed or is no longer there? Here is a simple tip for saving a web page, graphics and all, using Internet Explorer.
 1. Go to the website.
 2. Choose File; Save As
 3. Save as Type is Web Archive, Single File
 4. Select the folder where you want it saved
 5. Choose Save.
- I haven't tried them myself, but I have read good reviews of two software products to recover deleted files, whether they were deleted on purpose, by a virus, or by other means. They are: File Rescue Plus <http://www.file-rescue.com/> and Recover4all Professional <http://www.recover4all.com/>. File Rescue Plus can even recover deleted picture files from digital camera media. The software needs to run from a floppy drive, and users are advised to cease using their PCs as soon after the mistaken delete as possible, so the files will not be overwritten.
- Corel www.corel.com recently released WordPerfect Office 11. New features include document map, which lets you use index, table of contents, or table of authorities reference markers to view and navigate long documents. RealTime Preview feature allows users to preview formatting changes such as fonts before applying the changes. One new feature is the ability to change the interface to “Classic Mode,” bringing back the look of the old WordPerfect DOS 5.1 user environment (blue screen, white text, etc.).

- At the time this is being written, Microsoft Office 2003 is in beta testing <http://www.microsoft.com/office/preview/default.asp>. The scheduled release date is summer 2003.
- ProLaw Software, a division of West, announced the release of ProLaw Ready, practice management software for law firms of 1 to 15 lawyers. http://www.prolaw.com/pr_ready.html
- Best Software, maker of Timeslips <http://www.timeslips.com>, introduced a new edition of Timeslips for sole practitioners (one or two timekeepers) for \$199.99. Also, Timeslips 11 is now out. The company announced that version 9.1 of Timeslips will no longer be supported.
- If you missed the announcement in Eblast, this is news worth repeating: the South Carolina Judicial Department web page has added an interactive “map” of South Carolina that links to all S.C. counties that have court roster information online. http://www.sccourts.org/clerks/roster_map.cfm.