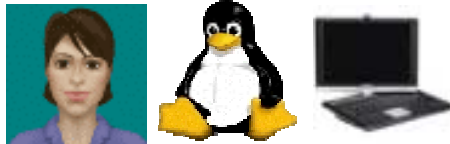


## The legal IT world - is a circle - full of Penguins and lawyers using tablets !

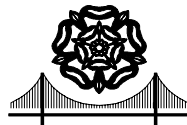


Welcome to my 2nd column, as your IT roving reporter. By the way, may I take this opportunity to thank you all for your feedback. Please keep those comments coming; your interest, ideas and views are always welcome ☺. For those interested in “Embodied Linguistic Agents” and virtual representatives, as mentioned in my first column (which gesture and move on the net as they talk), makes you wonder how long it will be before Barristers & Solicitors and related service providers will offer ELAs, in the way that others do, e.g. Ford’s Kate, Coca Cola’s Hank, AT&T’s Allie and now First Direct’s Cara, pictured below!

Bye the way, have you noticed that the world’s a circle inhabited by an increasing number of penguins ? Come on Rover, have you lost it, again ? We all know that the world is a sphere and that penguins only inhabit a select number of areas, like the Antarctic and south west coast of Africa. Sorry guys, I was of course referring to the increasing use of “Linux”, pronounced LinUCKs, represented by those charming little penguin images. In this context, the world is in fact a circle, in which, sound and effective ways of doing things resurface and evolve. Hence, **Linux**, a modern day UNIX, is becoming of interest to lawyers. So, what will happen next ?



On my continuing journey in search of the IT Holy Grail, much to my joy, I discovered, recently, that more and more lawyers are taking tablets. Steady now Rover, you’ll get yourself into trouble, making slanderous accusations like that. Worry not, the “tablets” to which I refer are those wonderful Tablet PCs that can recognise our handwriting. Could this combination be what PDA & PC users, alike, have been waiting for ? Will synchronising your personal organiser, mobile phone and desktop soon become a thing of the past ? Sadly not yet, methinks, but **Tablet PCs** can add value (<http://www.thetabletpc.net/>) and are now available from lots of manufacturers. What exactly is a Tablet PC ? Well, Bill Gate’s vision of a Tablet PC is a Windows computer, running MS Office, e.g. Word, Excel and PowerPoint, as well as all of the normal in-house and other applications, which you would expect on your desktop or notebook PC. What Tablets bring to the party is the simplicity of pen and paper. Because you can write on the screen, it can handle those basic tasks that are common in daily work, like making file notes, annotating a document or taking minutes. Handwriting can either be stored, as is, as a contemporaneous image or converted to text for your word processor and / or your case and document management system. Meanwhile, by using the non pen sensitive opposite side of the reversible screen, as on the Toshiba, above, you have a perfectly normal PC, with “qwerty” keyboard and mouse. Will it catch on ? Only time will tell, but I’d certainly like one ☺.



Please feel free to contact me direct, at Rose & Bridge Associates, with any queries that you may have with regard to the effective use of technology in the legal profession; after all I earn my living, as you may have guessed, as an independent & impartial Legal IT Adviser ([www.randb.freemove.co.uk](http://www.randb.freemove.co.uk)), not as a journalist !

Tel : + 44 (0) 1904 720334 e: [david@randb.freemove.co.uk](mailto:david@randb.freemove.co.uk) Fax : 0871 277 3799 ( fax to email ).