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Cell phones, pagers, and BLA*BS, oh my!

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Date: June 13, 2007 06:42 AM

Author: Debbie Mayer (deb@debbiemayer.com)

Anyone have a gizmo "cure" for AUDIO INTERFERENCE from attorneys' cell phones, pagers, and Blackberries? Thanks!!

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Date: June 13, 2007 11:02 PM

Author: Douglas J. Zweizig, RDR, CRR (DougieJZ@verizon.net)

Forgive me, but I'm pretty much thinking out loud below.

Yeah, snatch it and throw it out the nearest window! It just happened to me on Monday. I narrowed it down to my Cingular AirCard, which is doubtful because I use it all the time while writing, or the defense attorney, who, on the last day of trial, brought his laptop, with Internet access. I'm not sure if he was tethered to a BlackBerry or not. But during this trial we had NUMEROUS issues with phones going off. The judge had to have several of them seized. This was in City Hall. I love being in our Criminal Justice Center because the public must check all cell phones in the lobby; not so in City Hall.

But the audio interference on Monday is pretty bad, and it's in the file recorded on my laptop and the one recorded on my writer. I spoke to one of the CAT reps about it and he mentioned something about the computer soundcards not being shielded possibly being a problem, though he's not sure. I have a BlackBerry. I disable the antenna before court starts.

The only reason I used my AirCard on Tuesday is because the wireless Internet kept going in and out all morning. It was fine in the afternoon, so I disabled my AirCard and there was no more interference. So I'm reasonably sure it was my AirCard, now that I think about it, though it could've been defense counsel's computer. I will say that it's something that rarely happens to me. When it does happen, it naturally happens at the worst possible time. Isn't that how it always goes? LOL.

D.

* Edited to answer your initial question: I downloaded two different programs that supposedly clean up various and sundry different forms of blips, bleeps, blurps and whatnot. I haven't had a whole lot of time to play around with it. I only did the "auto-clean," which pretty much made the sound level so low you couldn't hear it. But take that with a grain of salt because I didn't read any of the directions. Once I have time to fiddle with it properly, I'll report back. The program I tried so far is called MAGIX Audio Cleaning Lab. But before experimenting on any file, you should back it up somewhere first.

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Date: June 16, 2007 12:41 PM

Author: Debbie Mayer (deb@debbiemayer.com)

Wow, what a response! Thanks, Doug!

I did manage to chat with a videographer about the audio interference problem (BTW, I'm now working as a freelancer -- forgot to mention that, sorry!). Mr. Videographer showed me his setup and explained some of the various cable shields and whatnot. I also noticed, when I was cabled in to Mr. Videographer's sound system, absolutely ****NO**** audio interference from various cell phones that went off during the depo, so he's definitely right-on about his cable shields! I guess all it takes is MONEY, huh?

The problem I'm having in addition to audio interference, which I neglected to clarify, is the attorneys! They are the biggest purveyors of cell phones, pagers, and Blackberries in my workspace, and it seems that they are becoming more and more reticent to TURN THEM OFF during a depo!

On the other hand, I hate to ask them to please turn off cell phones now that I realize I have unshielded cables! Maybe they're text-messaging their office team during the depo, I don't know!

Anyway, I'll wrap up this message and get back to work now. Thanks again for your response, Doug! It's always a pleasure to hear from other reporters out there!

Debbie Mayer

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