

System 7 Keyboard Mapping Patch

Apple seems to have screwed up some of their keyboard mappings in the U.S. keyboard layout in the released version of System 7.0. A patch is provided here which was supplied by James W. Walker (author of Open-wide 2.0). First I'll describe the problem, then I'll explain how to implement the fix. I'll also describe a cute ResEdit hack for those people who use multiple keyboard layouts.

The Problem

Quick example: Under System 7 and using Times (whether TrueType or Adobe) type Shift-option-r. In System 6 you would have correctly seen an “A” with a circumflex on top. Instead, under System 7 I bet you saw a percent sign (the o/oo kind, not the o/o kind). But that's the character you SHOULD get from Shift-option-e!

I have documented several such mismappings. (This doesn't mean that when you open a previously typed document that you'll get incorrect characters. What it does mean is that sometimes when you type, the document will receive the wrong character.)

I'll point out the other problems I found:

| Shift- option+ | Should be | Actually is under Sys 7 | which you should get by |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| e | percent | acute | opt-e |
| g | "I grave" | double quote | |
| i | "E grave" | circumflex | opt-i |
| m | tilde | "A circumflex" | s-opt-r |
| n | circumflex | tilde | opt-n |
| r | "A circumflex" | percent | s-o-e |
| t | "E circumflex" | scaron | no key |
| u | "E umlaut" | umlaut | opt-u |
| x | "U grave" | ?? | no key |
| z | "U circumflex" | cedilla piece | no key |

[The “no key”s refer to characters stored in the font which are used to create composite characters but which are not accessible directly from the keyboard. (At least they're not *supposed* to be!)]

My most authoritative source for the keyboard mapping is the “Key Cap Chart: Standard Character Set” which came with ATM (or the PlusPack?).

The fix

The enclosed document is a “keyboard mapping”. (In System 7 it shows up as a standard document icon with an imbedded picture of a keyboard.) Drop it directly into your System FILE (NOT in the folder, directly into the file as if you were installing TrueType fonts or sounds). Then double-click on the Keyboard CDEV in the Control Panels folder. From there you can choose the newly installed keyboard mapping to activate it.

A ResEdit hack for multiple layout users

If you change the “always show icon” flag in the `itl1c` resource of the System file from 0 to 1, and if you have multiple keyboard layouts in the System file, an icon will be displayed between the Balloon help and the application icons on the right side of the menu bar. From there you can choose the keyboard layout you want. (It also says that you can toggle thru them with Command-option-space. But I hate it when they program keys to do things that you can’t reconfigure! Just like CloseView.)

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