



SmartKeys 2

Introduction

SmartKeys 2 is a freeware Control Panel designed to assist Macintosh typists by allowing them to type on the Macintosh as if it were still a typewriter. Specifically, it can perform six different tasks divided up into individual smartkeys as follows:

Smartkey	Function
Space	Prevents typing of more than one space.
Dash	Converts two consecutively typed hyphens into a dash.
Quote	Converts typewriter quote marks into true quotation marks.
Ligatures	Converts the character components of a ligature into one.
Kill Doubled Caps	Converts the second of two consecutively typed capitals into a lowercase letter when the second capital is followed by a lowercase letter.
Shifted Punctuation	Converts the less than and the greater than math symbols into the comma and period respectively.

SmartKeys 2 succeeds its predecessors, SmartKeys (1.0) and the OneSpace INIT.

System Requirements

Smartkeys 2 will run with system version 6.02 or later; however, 6.04 or later is recommended. It is fully compatible with System Software version 7.0 (In fact, it takes advantage of System 7.0 features). The Macintosh has been designed to be compatible with many different languages. SmartKeys does not apply to all of them and does not function if the active script system is not the Roman one. In addition, the smartkey that handles the shifted punctuation conversion (< into , and > into .) does not function unless the keyboard layout (technically called the KCHR) is set to the US one.

Installation

To install the SmartKeys 2 program, drag it into the System Folder and reboot your Macintosh. With System Software 7.0, you can still drag it into the System Folder. A dialog box will prompt you if want to install Smartkeys 2 in the Control Panels folder. Click OK. You can also drag Smartkeys directly into the Control Panels folder. On rebooting, SmartKeys 2 will display an icon indicating it has loaded itself and is running.

Preferences file

When SmartKeys is first loaded, it will create a preferences file in the System Folder where its settings will be stored. (In System Software 7.0, the preferences file is created in the Preferences Folder. This is a System 7 feature of SmartKeys 2) You can rename this file to whatever you wish, but you cannot move it to another folder. If you remove the file, SmartKeys 2 will create a new one the next time it is loaded at startup or accessed from its Control Panel.

Control Panel Overview

Changing SmartKeys' settings involves accessing its control panel. Choose Control Panel (Control Panels in System Software 7.0) from the Apple menu. In System Software 7.0, the SmartKeys' control panel appears by itself. The control panel interface is divided up into five panes. The uppermost pane contains the Smartkeys 2 logo as well the display startup icon button. As noted earlier, when Smartkeys 2 loads at startup, it displays a startup icon. If you don't want this icon to appear, uncheck this button. If you don't want SmartKeys 2 to load at all, hold the shift key down at startup just before SmartKeys 2 is about to load. In this case, it will display an icon to this effect even if the Display Startup Icon button is unchecked.

The next pane tells you which smartkey the current settings are currently being displayed for. There is a popup menu to choose the smartkey for which the current settings will be displayed. At the right is the help button. Checking this button engages the context-sensitive help. A help message will be displayed in the lowermost pane for each item that the mouse is over. Typically, the help messages explain what an item will do when it is checked or clicked on.

The settings for each smartkey reside in the next two panes which are side by side. The left pane contains all of the state settings; that is, those that are either on or off. The right pane contains controls for maintaining a list of excluded applications and desk accessories for the current smartkey.

Space Smartkey

Many of us have been taught to type two spaces after a period and have taken this rule with us to the Macintosh keyboard as well. However, this rule was meant for use on typewriters. Style manuals and typing instructors never anticipated that professional typesetting equipment, the Macintosh that is, would become available for the masses. Now that typesetting is available, there is reason to use it as

such. That is to say, memos, business letters, as well as term papers, and whatever else should be typeset. The only reason that something was typed in the past was that it was all that was available. As a result of so much experience with this typewriter-specific rule, some users have trouble breaking this habit. The space smartkey thus prevents the user from typing more than one space character in a row. In the SmartKeys' control panel, toggle the space on or off with the On button. When attempting to type more than one space, SmartKeys 2 can be set to beep by turning on the Beep on execution button. This might be helpful for typists who are trying to become consciously aware of their habit in an attempt to break it. For users who want to prevent multiple spaces after punctuation marks, check on the Smart Punctuation button. SmartKeys will block multiple spaces if the first space follows one of the following punctuation marks

, . ; : ' " ' ") ? ! — —

Dash Smartkey

Typing two consecutive hyphens to represent a dash in typewriting is practically a necessity because typewriters usually don't have dash characters available. Many Macintosh fonts do, so it makes sense to use the dash. This smartkey will come in handy for those who have trouble breaking the habit. When a user types the second of two consecutive hyphens, SmartKeys 2 backspaces over the first one and types a dash instead. This dash character is generally accessible from the keyboard by typing option-shift-hyphen. If the user still wants to be able to type the second hyphen on the fly, it is possible when the Smart OVERRIDE feature is enabled for the dash smartkey. Smart Override is always engaged by holding down the command and option keys and typing the original character. For the dash, when typing the second hyphen, hold down the command and option keys, and SmartKeys 2 will type an ordinary hyphen. Another setting available is to automatically insert spaces before and after the dash. The user can also choose between an em dash, the default, or an en dash, generally accessible from the keyboard directly by using option-hyphen. The em dash, so-called because it is usually the width of capital letter M, is the dash that is most often used to mean a dash. The en dash, so-called because it is usually the width of a capital letter N, is the dash that is most often used as a subtraction symbol or to indicate a separation in a range of years, as in 1984–1991. The final option, called Smart Fonts, is available for the quote and ligature smartkeys as well. This option disables the smartkey when the current font is one of three system fonts, Geneva, Monaco, or Chicago. For example, if it is set on for the dash smartkey, typing two hyphens in the Finder would not be converted to a dash because the Finder usually uses the Geneva font. Conversely, if you were using Canvas and the font were set to Bookman, the dash smartkey would convert hyphens.

Quote Smartkey

Another difference between typewriting and typesetting involves quotation marks, and it is one of the most publicized differences between typing and typesetting. Many programs, for example, have a "smart quote" feature built into them. Basically, this smartkey converts the typewriter's straight quote or double quote key into true, generally, curly quotation marks. The single close quotation mark is also the apostrophe. Smartkeys maintains the single/double state of the original typewriter quote mark. It uses the previous character to determine whether to type an open quote (one that curls to the right, such as ") or a close quote (one that curls to the left, such as "). If the previous character is space, tab, return, enter, semicolon, colon, open parenthesis, open bracket, or open brace, Smartkeys types an open quote. SmartKeys uses these rules for both single and double quotes except when the previous action was a mouse click. In this case, the smartkey defaults to a close quote for the single and an open one for the double. The reason for this is that when users type into a new context, it's usually to add an apostrophe (') or begin a new paragraph("). The quote smartkey also features a smart OVERRIDE capability engaged by holding down the command and option keys while typing the neutral quote mark. The quote smartkey also supports the smart fonts feature.

Ligature Smartkey

Once in a while, you might come across an unusual letter, such as œ. This combination of the letters o and e is called a ligature. The list of ligatures and their components that SmartKeys supports are as follows

Ligature	Component
æ	ae
fi	fi
fl	fl
œ	oe
ß	ss

Generally, the ligatures, æ, œ, and ß are uncommon, but the fi and fl ligatures are more common. The reason is because the i and the l tend to interfere with the f in combinations of f and i and f and l. As a result, typographers have come up with ligatures for them, so they can sit next to one another

peacefully. There are also ligatures for ffi and ffl, but they are not generally supported by Macintosh fonts. The ligature smartkey works just as the dash smartkey works — when the second component character of a ligature is typed, Smartkeys backspaces out the first component and changes the second one into the ligature. The smartkey supports the Smart Fonts feature and another feature known as Smart Delete. When engaged by checking on its corresponding button, Smartkeys 2 will retype the first component of a ligature when the ligature is backspaced out. Backspacing over the fi ligature will leave behind f. Thus, if you type f then i by mistake and wanted o, you would only have to backspace over the ligature and type the o. Smartkeys 2 will remember the last 255 characters after the first ligature typed initially or after a mouse click.

Kill Doubled Capitals Smartkey

This smartkey is just a typing enhancement. It has nothing to do with either typewriting or typesetting. What often happens with fast typists is that after typing a capital letter, say at the beginning of a sentence, is that they continue to hold it down as they type the next character. This tends to happen more often if the second letter is on the side of the keyboard opposite the one the shift key is being held down because a typist's one hand is coordinated to begin before the other is finished. Thus, the word `THE` is changed to `The`. To keep the typist conscious of this habit, a Beep on Execution button is provided.

Shifted Punctuation SmartKey

This smartkey, like the kill doubled capitals smartkey, is also just a typing enhancement. In fact, it also helps with a shift key problem because it allows typists to continue to hold down the shift key while they type a comma or a period. Normally, doing so would type the mathematical symbols `<` and `>`, respectively. In order to be able to type these characters, turn on the Smart OVERRIDE feature and hold down the command and option keys when typing `<` and `>`.

Exclusions

The pane adjacent to the state settings contains the controls for maintaining a list of applications and desk accessories to be excluded from the current smartkey. Smartkeys 2 permits exclusions because some programs have no need to use smartkeys and some may even be impaired by having them. For example, communications programs often do not support the entire Macintosh set of characters and will not work properly if SmartKeys 2 attempted to type a real quotation mark instead of the generic typewriter quote mark. In addition, certain games, for example, use the spacebar repeatedly. Although this pane is common to each smartkey, an independent list is maintained for each one. To add an application to the list, click the Add Apps to List... button. The standard get file dialog appears where you can choose any application or the Finder to add to the list. The dialog returns each time you've added an application until the list is full (a maximum of 15 total items), or until you click Cancel. To add a desk accessory to the list, click the Add DA's to List... button. In System Software 7.0, the standard get file dialog appears instead showing only desk accessories instead of applications or the Finder. In System Software 6, a dialog appears containing list of all the currently installed desk accessories arranged in alphabetical order. Double-click on the name of a desk accessory to add it to the list or click on a name to select it and click the Add button. When the list is full or there are no more desk accessories to add, the Add button dims.

Credits

I would like to thank all the people who have a hand in developing SmartKeys 2. I would like to especially thank Michael Ross and Alyssa Finley for their tireless efforts at weeding out the many bugs that plagued the beta tests. I would also like to thank Johnny Tolliver, Drew Tagliabue, Brian Diehm, Stephen Gauvin, Ken Mcleod and Fred Terry for their testing and comments, and all the other users who called me by telephone and wrote letters via snail mail for their comments.

Compatibility and Known Bugs

SmartKeys 2 attempts to be as compatible as possible with the Macintosh environment. There are sources of incompatibility, however. For one thing, Smart Fonts does not work immediately with many applications because they do not update the font (the checkmark in the application's font menu) the user has chosen until the next time the user clicks in the menu bar. Another problem is that SmartKeys 2 does not work in Microsoft Excel at all. A third problem concerns the dialog that comes up when the user attempts to add desk accessories to the exclusion list. To make the list, Smartkeys 2 makes a call to a Macintosh routine (AddResMenu) that may cause a system crash at a later time if the user isn't careful, especially on a non-II machine. Specifically, if the user brings up SmartKeys 2 with Multifinder running and the Finder as the current application and then accesses the list of desk accessories, it might be dangerous to directly switch back to the Finder and open an application. The cause of this bug is due to the system software and not to SmartKeys 2. A fourth problem involves Aldus Pagemaker (both version 3 and 4). When a user types fast, Smartkeys 2 is unable to properly make conversions. Finally, and luckily, no INIT conflicts were reported with SmartKeys 2 betas and other INITs.

It is the author's intention to fix bugs and keep SmartKeys 2 updated. Please report bugs and comments to the author at

Maurice Volaski

173 Princeton Ave. Apt. #2

Amherst, NY 14226-5006

Internet: volaski@contra.med.buffalo.edu

(If there are any of you who did report bugs or comments in the past via snail mail and didn't get a response it was probably because the letter was not forwarded to my current address as it should have been.)

Distribution

SmartKeys 2 (and this documentation) is meant to be made available to the entire Macintosh community for free. However, SmartKeys 2 is not in the public domain and all copyright rights except free distribution are reserved. It should be available via the typical public domain distribution channels, including the national online services, such as America Online, CompuServe, Connect, and GEnie as well as the usenet newsgroup comp.binaries.mac and Macintosh archive sites on the internet, such as info-mac and rascal.