SoftKBD

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SoftKBD is released as Shareware and as such it is not free. If you find this program useful, I request a <u>registration</u> fee of $20. In return for your registration fee, I will send you the next version of SoftKBD, when available, as a thank you. If you are an organization that wishes to use SoftKBD on more than one computer, please contact me for registration discounts. If you have registered: Thank You!

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Using SoftKBD

Getting SoftKBD up and running is simple: double-click the SoftKBD icon to start it running.

Once SoftKBD is running, switch back to Program Manager and start the Windows application you want to use SoftKBD with.

To use SoftKBD to "type" information into your application, simply point at the appropriate key and press (click) your mouse button.

NOTE:

The application you want to type information into **must** be the active application!

Shift, Ctrl, and Alt:

To use the Shift, Ctrl, or Alt key in combination with another key, click the Shift, Ctrl, or Alt key, then click the key you want to combine. Example: in order to type "Sam" into your application, click on Shift, then click on S, click on A, then click on M. You will see "Sam" entered in your application.

Quick Shift:

A fast way to shift a character (alphabetic keys only) is to double-click the left button on the character you want capitalized. Example: To enter "Sam" in your application, double-click S, then click A, and finally M. See Quick Clicks for other shortcuts.

Accessing Menus With Alt:

With this version of SoftKBD you can not open a menu using the on-screen keyboard.

This should not be a problem for you as it is generally quicker for you to use your mouse to access and select items from the menus in Windows applications. You may use SoftKBD to enter information in dialog boxes. See Dialog Boxes, below, for details.

Shift, Ctrl, and Alt Combinations:

Shift, Ctrl, and Alt cannot be combined with each other and another character with this version of SoftKBD. You can't send something like Shift+Ctrl+Y to your application using SoftKBD's keyboard.

These "shift" combinations are usually used to quickly access a feature found on a menu in a Windows application. If you find it quicker to send a shift combination to an application, you may using the Ctrl, Shift, and Alt options on SoftKBD's menu bar.

These work like the CapsLock and NumLock keys on a keyboard. That is, they lock the Ctrl, Shift, or Alt keys. If these items are gray, they are unlocked or up. If they are black, they are locked or down.

To send a combination, such as Shift+Ctrl+Y to an application, you click Shift and Ctrl on the menu bar to lock the Shift & Ctrl, then click Y. After you click the Y, you **must** again click Shift & Ctrl to unlock these keys. Otherwise, whatever you click next will be sent as a Shift+Ctrl combination.

High ANSI & ASCII:

To enter characters, such as "¢", not found on your keyboard, you use Alt from the menu bar and enter the numeric code on the keyboard. See your Windows manual for charts of the ANSI & ASCII character sets and instructions for entering these codes. Please remember to "unlock" Alt after you enter the code.

Dialog Boxes, List Boxes, Edit Fields, Etc.

SoftKBD can be used to navigate <u>Dialog</u> and <u>List Boxes</u>, and type information in <u>Edit Fields</u> (e.g. file names, etc.). ALT key combinations can be used within Dialog Boxes to "press" buttons. Please note that ALT key combinations may not work with certain dialogs. As above, it is generally faster to point & click within the dialog.

I have found difficulties with entering information in some dialog boxes with some Windows applications.

For example: With Microsoft Word for Windows (WFW) SoftKBD won't normally send a character to a dialog edit field.

On SoftKBD's menu bar you will see two selections called Dlg1 and Dlg2. These should be used only with dialog boxes you encounter difficulties with. These options change the way in which SoftKBD interacts with an application and should only be used with "problem" programs.

To work with WFW dialogs, simply click Dlg2 and the use SoftKBD's keys as you normally would. When you finish with the dialog, click Dlg2 to turn this feature off.

Another problem program is QuickC for Windows (QCW). I've found two dialogs, Find and Find & Replace, that won't work with SoftKBD. Use Dlg1 to use these dialogs.

I'm sure other Windows applications may present problem dialogs for SoftKBD. For these you will have to try either Dlg1 or Dlg2 to determine which works. If neither work, try them together. If you encounter trouble sending keystrokes to any other part of a Windows application, try using the Dlg options.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

After using a "Dlg" option turn it off! These options change the way SoftKBD interacts with an application. If left on you may lose SoftKBD's double click feature or will lose the <u>caret</u> in your application.

I am trying to correct this problem, and hope to have solved for the next version of SoftKBD.

Moving & Sizing SoftKBD:

By default SoftKBD places itself at the top of your screen. You may, if you wish, place the keyboard display anywhere on the screen, and re-size it to fit your needs.

SoftKBD will save the size and position of its window in SOFTKBD.INI each time you Close it. The next time you run SoftKBD, it will place itself at the same location and size itself to the saved size.

Carefully consider the size you choose to make SoftKBD. There is a trade-off between how much of your application you see and how much of SoftKBD you can access without scrolling.

By default SoftKBD sizes itself so you will not have to scroll it to access any part of the keyboard. When you size SoftKBD's window smaller, you will have to use scroll bars to access "hidden" parts of the keyboard.

To return SoftKBD to it's default size, select Default Size from the Control Menu.

<p style="text-align:center"><strong style="color:red">End Of Using SoftKBD</p>

In Windows the active application has the title bar highlighted, usually in blue. See your Windows User Guide if this is unclear to you.

Within this document "mouse" refers to any input device that Windows "sees" as a normal mouse. This device can be a trackball, lightpen, joystick, etc.

A caret in a Windows program is usually a blinking vertical line. The caret is also known as an insertion point,   cursor, edit point, etc.

NOTE: In this document "cursor" refers to the mouse cursor.

The Control Panel is a program that comes with Windows. It allows you to adjust several of Windows system settings such as colors, date/time, etc. See your Windows User Guide for more details.

In this document "cursor" refers to the on screen pointer that moves when you move your mouse or other pointing device.

The Control Menu is under the gray box with a white line in it, to the left of the title bar. This menu is normally used to adjust the window size and location, and to close an application or switch to another. See your Windows User Guide for more details.

List Boxes provide a list of selections from which you choose. Click the arrow, then click the value you want selected. You may have to use the scroll bar to see all of the selections.

Dialog Boxes are input tools used by Windows program. They can contain List Boxes, Edit Fields, various Buttons, etc. See you Windows User Guide for more details.

Edit Fields are where you enter information requested by a program. See the section on Using SoftKBD, Dialog Boxes, List Boxes, Edit Fields, Etc., in this help file.

Cursor Woes:

Certain Windows applications, Windows Write and Microsoft Word for Windows to name two, hide the mouse <u>cursor</u> while "typing" with SoftKBD or a regular keyboard. This is not much of a problem as any movement of your mouse will restore the cursor.

Windows Real & 386 Enhanced Modes Only:

SoftKBD was designed to work only in Real and 386 Enhanced modes.

386 Enhanced Mode and DOS:

SoftKBD will work with DOS applications under Windows in 386 mode, but you will experience the following two problems that limit its usefulness:

1. The Num Lock & Caps Lock status may not be the same between SoftKBD and the status indicator on your keyboard. This can cause you difficulties.

2. The direction keys do not work properly with DOS in this version of SoftKBD.

In the future I hope to fix these problems to allow SoftKBD to work with most DOS applications to provide complete access to more software.

Windows 3.0 Users: In order to use SoftKBD's direction keys with a DOS program running in a window, the Num Lock key must be turned off on your **computer's** keyboard **before** SoftKBD and the DOS program are run! Also you must avoid using SoftKBD's Caps and Num Lock keys. This may or may not enable you to use SoftKBD with a DOS program.

Windows 3.1 Users: Problem 1, mentioned above, does not happen under this version of Windows. To use the direction keys with 3.1, start SoftKBD and turn **off** its Num Lock key **before** starting your DOS program.

Windows 3.0 & 3.1 Users: You must use the above directions with the Num Lock key or you will get numbers instead of the movement you desire.

Double-Clicks:

To speed up certain "typing" chores, capitalization, entering a space, and entering an Enter, you can double-click a <u>mouse</u> button. See <u>Quick Clicks</u> for more information.

Because   of the way Windows reports a double-click to a program, you may notice that your application first receives what is assigned to a single click of the key, then a back space, and finally, what is assigned as a double-click on that mouse button. This is normal.

Mouse Parameters:

If you have difficulty using your <u>mouse</u>, for example, if the <u>cursor</u> moves too fast or slow, or you cannot double-click properly, use the <u>Control Panel</u> to adjust the Mouse Tracking Speed (how fast the cursor moves), and the Double

Click Speed (the amount of time that passes between two clicks to signal a double-click).

End of User Notes

Changing SoftKBD's Colors:

Through SoftKBD's Option menu, via the   Colors dialog, you may change the colors of all the characters on the keys, the background window color, and the key face color.

Click on the item you wish to change the color of, then adjust the color values using the three scroll bars.

Under the scroll bars you will see a representation of the color item you select and adjust. When the color is how you want it, select either another item to change or select OK to finish.

Your modified colors are saved, in SOFTKBD.INI,   and reused next time you run SoftKBD.

NOTE: The three scroll bars represent the RGB (Red, Green, Blue) values of a color and range from 0 to 255. This gives a possible 16,777,216 colors (256 x 256 x 256). Most likely your video adapter cannot display this many colors. Windows will try to approximate the color you choose.

End of Changing SoftKBD's Colors

Quick Clicks:

Quick Shift:

A fast way to shift a character (alphabetic keys only) is to double-click the left button on the character you want capitalized. Example: To enter "Sam" in your application, double-click S, then click A, and finally click M.

Quick Space:

A fast way to send a space to your application, (with a two button <u>mouse</u> only), is to click the right button. Your <u>cursor</u> must be positioned on one of SoftKBD's keys for this to work properly; the key doesn't have to be the Space Bar.

Quick Enter:

A fast way to send a carriage return, or Enter, to your application, (with a two button mouse only), is to double-click the right button. Your cursor must be positioned on one of SoftKBD's keys for this to work properly; the key doesn't have to be the Enter key.

End of Quick Clicks:

Adjust Key Sizes and Spacing:

Through SoftKBD's Option menu, via the Key Sizer dialog, you may adjust the sizes of SoftKBD's keys and the spacing between the keys.

NOTE: In order to adjust the size of SoftKBD's window, use the <u>Control Menu</u>.

Key Size:

Use the two <u>list boxes</u> here to adjust the sizes of the keys. The x value determines the width of the keys, the y value determines the height of the keys.

These x & y values are actually the number of pixels to the left & right and the top & bottom, respectively, of the text on a key.

Key Gap:

Use the list boxes here to select the amount of space between keys. The x value determines the gap between the left & right sides of the keys. The y value determines the gap between to top & bottom of the keys.

Test Button:

Use the Test button to see the results of your adjustments.

Defaults Button:

Use the Default button to return SoftKBD to its normal key size & gap settings.

End of Adjust Key Sizes and Spacing:

Changing Fonts

Through SoftKBD's Option menu, via the Font Selection dialog, you may adjust the style & sizes of the characters on SoftKBD's key faces.

Font Names:

This list box displays the names of the fonts installed with your version of Windows. Simply click the name of the font you wish SoftKBD to use on its key faces.

NOTE: This version of SoftKBD will only display 16 font names. If your setup includes more than 16 fonts, you will only be able to select from the 16 displayed.

Font Sizes:

This list box contains the sizes available for the font selected in the Font Name list box. The higher the number, the larger the font appears. As above, simply click on the size you desire.

Bold:

The Bold check box allows you turn on, or off, boldface for the font you choose. Turning Bold On tends to make the font larger.

Test Button:

Test allows you to see the affects of your selection of Font Name, Font Size, and Bold.

Default Button:

Selecting the Default Button will return the key face font to SoftKBD's built-in size and name.

Please Note: This version of SoftKBD does not utilize the new fonts in Windows 3.1.

End of Changing Fonts:

SoftKBD 1.0 Registration

To print this select: File, Print Topic, from Help's menu.

Please send your registration to:

George Leotti
416 S Elmwood AV
Glenolden PA 19036-2327

I have never and will never give, sell, or trade, a registrants name/address to any mailing list!

Please include a check, drawn on a U.S. bank, or a USPS (US Postal Service) money order only, for $20.00 to register this version of SoftKBD and I will send you the next version when it is complete. Registrations recieved in non-US funds will be rejected. Thank you!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____, STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

Disk Size: _____(5.25 or 3.5 only)

If you have any comments or suggestions about this program, you can write to me at the above address or on CompuServe at 75616,1724.