Better Edit Keys documentation

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• Shareware: $10

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• Introduction

◊   Better Edit Keys is a cool system enhancement that allows you to use the shift, option and control keys with the arrows, delete, forward delete and clear keys in any standard text editing field, including basic text editors such as SimpleText. This makes it much easier to work with text without reaching the mouse. The following key combinations are allowed:

- shift + any arrow: extend the current selection.
- option + left/right arrow: move to the previous or next word.
- control + left/right arrow or option + up/down arrow: move to the beginning or end of the current line.
- shift + option + any arrow: move like option + arrow while extending the selection.

- option + delete: delete up to the beginning of the current word (or clear selection).
- forward delete or shift + delete: delete the next character (or clear selection).
- option + forward delete or shift + option + delete: delete up to the end of the current word (or clear selection).
- clear: clear the current selection, if any.
- option + clear: delete the current word (or clear selection).

• Troubleshooting

◊ The above tasks should usually be performed by applications, but many of them don't care. Better Edit Keys implements this default behavior in all situations where the application is not already taking care of it, but it does nothing if the application handles the keystrokes by itself. This means that the above keystrokes will not work if the application already handles them. For example recent versions of SimpleText handle the forward delete key by themselves, which also disables the option + forward delete keystroke provided by Better Edit Keys. There is no safe way to override the application's own handling of the keystrokes, so Better Edit Keys is only useful for applications that don't handle them and for generic text editing fields like the ones in dialog windows.

◊ For technical reasons, Better Edit Keys can't tell the esc key from the clear key. This never causes any trouble with the usual esc key behavior, so you can still use it to dismiss dialogs and cancel operations. The only side effect is that you can use the esc key just like the clear key if no Cancel button is currently visible.

◊ Because of the way the Mac toolbox works, Better Edit Keys can't add editing keystrokes that use the command key. It can't be done, so don't even bother asking about it. I know you'd like to use command + shift/right arrow to go to the beginning and end of the line, but you'll have to do it with control + left/right arrow instead.

• Installation

◊ To install Better Edit Keys, move it inside your Control Panels folder (inside your System folder) and restart your Mac.

◊ To disable Better Edit Keys, remove it from the Control Panels folder and restart.

• Version history

◊ 1.0 - First public release.

• Distribution

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• Have fun!

◊ And don't forget to register your shareware, so that more cool inexpensive utilities can see the light

in the future.