

Typing Programs

A selection of programs to help you cut down on typing

These typing programs work to automate tasks you would usually do yourself. They work by setting shortcuts for commonly -typed words, phrases, or large blocks of text. For example, typing 'tyvm' becomes 'thank you very much', or 'letter1' might become a pre-written e-mail. This kind of software can save you lots of time by cutting out repetitive typing tasks. There's also predictive text software, which predicts words or phrases you are going to type to save you from having to type them. And there are "as-you-type" spell-checkers that offer suggestions you can resolve by pressing a single key. Programs often offer a combination of these three features. They are not free, you will have to pay a one-time fee. Some will have a trial period. Some of the best programs we've found are:

Asutype

Asutype learns and adapts itself to your keyboard habits, spell checks, and automatically corrects mistakes as you type, automates difficult and repetitive typing tasks, such as automatically expanding any predefined abbreviation to a longer text passage, and applies several other original and innovative solutions to prevent you from making unwanted typos, increasing the speed and accuracy of your typing.

Website: <https://www.asutype.com/overview.html>

Short Keys

Short Keys is good for pre-writing emails and setting common phrases for yourself.

Website: <https://www.shortkeys.com/>

aText

aText is a text template, text shortcut, text macro, text automation, and text expansion tool. aText accelerates your typing in any application by replacing abbreviations with frequently used phrases you define.

Website: <https://www.trankynam.com/atext/>

LightKey

LightKey is a text-predicting program that learns your writing style and predicts what you're going to write so you don't have to type it.

Website: <https://www.lightkey.io/>

Tips

1. It won't be perfect straight away...

It's important to keep in mind that there will be an adjustment period to any new program. No matter how simple a program may seem, you won't get all the benefits immediately. Give yourself time to adjust to the programs, so don't get disheartened if you don't see big improvements straight away.

2. Remember to set good shortcuts

Setting good shortcuts removes a lot of frustration from these programs. Remember not to set a shortcut to something that forms a word or any part of a word you need to type. E.g. Sor, Er, Re, letter, e-mail, etc. If you do, you won't ever be able to type this word while the program is running without setting off the shortcut. Instead, try making shortcuts out of acronyms, like ty1 for 'Thank you', or 'YW' for you're welcome.

3. If you're feeling adventurous, try a combination of two programs

Sometimes, you can combine two programs to really cut down your typing. For example, Lightkey's predictive typing tools combined with Asutype's real-time spell check and shortcuts

4. If it's not helping you, get rid of it.

If you find that a program really isn't working out for you, delete it! The last thing you want is to make computing more difficult. This is true even if you have paid for it.



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