Tai Dam Keyboards

Tai Dam TW layout, Keyman implementation

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by Jim Brase, SIL International

Contents

Background and overview

"Tai Viet" is the name of the script which the Tai people of northwestern Vietnam and surrounding regions use to write their languages. The same basic script, with some variations, is used to write the Tai Dam, Tai Don (called Jinping Dai in China), Tai Daeng, and Thai Song languages.

We anticipate that the Tai Viet script will be included in the next release of The Unicode Standard, version 5.2.

The **TaiDamTW** keyboard has been designed specifically for typing the Tai Dam language. It is based on the layout of the Tai Dam typewriter created by the Tai Dam community in Des Moines IA in the 1980s.

This implementation of the TaiDamTW keyboard has been built using Tavultesoft Keyman Developer.

Software requirements

- For Windows Vista: requires Tavultesoft Keyman Desktop version 7 or later.

- For Windows XP: requires Tavultesoft Keyman Desktop version 6 or later.

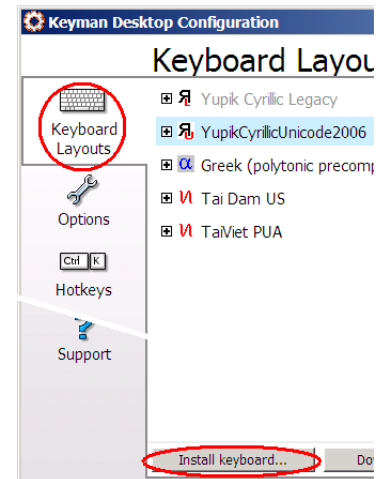The Keyman Desktop software is available at http://www.tavultesoft.com/.

Installation and configuration

The following instructions are for Keyman 7. If you are using version 6 on Windows XP, see the Keyman documentation.

1. If you have not already done so, install Tavultesoft Keyman Desktop version 7.

2. Click on the Keyman icon 🔴 that is in the system tray.

3. From the menu, select "Configuration…".

4. To install a keyboard:

    a. Click on the Keyboard Layouts icon along the left side of the window.

    b. Click on the "Install Keyboard" button at the bottom of the window.

    c. In the file dialogue, find the TaiDamTW.kmp file and open it.

    d. In the next dialogue, click "Install".

5. To be able to select a keyboard by using a hotkey, highlight the name of the keyboard and click on the "Options" button.

6. To set other hotkeys (e.g. to set a hotkey to turn Keyman Desktop off), click the "Hotkeys" tab.

7. See Keyman Help for information on other configure settings.

8. Links to this documentation and the source files can be found by clicking Start / All Programs / Tai Dam TW Keyboard.

Activating the keyboard

To activate the keyboard, either:

- Press the hotkey that you assigned to the Tai Dam TW keyboard. Or

- Click on the Keyman icon ⬛ that is in the system tray. Select "Tai Dam TW" from the list of keyboards.

⬛	Keyman Desktop 7.1	
α	Greek (polytonic precomposed) Unicode 1.02	Shift+Ctrl+G
Ltd	Lao Unicode for Tai Dam	Ctrl+Alt+L
И	Tai Dam TW	
И	Tai Dam US	Ctrl+Alt+T
И	TaiViet PUA	
VN Td	VN Unicode for Tai Dam - tvd	Ctrl+Alt+V
Я	YupikCyrillicUnicode2006	
	Switch Keyman Desktop Off	Ctrl+Alt+O
	On Screen Keyboard	
	Configuration...	
	Help...	
	Exit	

Modifying the keyboard layout

A link to the source files TaiDamTWsource.zip is installed when you install the keyboard. After you install the keyboard, you can access it by clicking Start / All programs / Tai Dam TW Keyboard. Click on the link to the zip file, and extract the contents to a location where you can work with it.

Tavultesoft Keyman Developer is required to edit and recompile the keyboard layout. See http://www.tavultesoft.com/.

TaiDamTW keyboard layout charts

Chart 1: TaiDamTW layout—shifted

Chart 2: TaiDamTW layout—unshifted

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