Chars

# Features

"Chars" is a small application written in [AutoHotkey](http://l.autohotkey.net/) which allows the user to easily and quickly insert accented or other special characters using keyboard shortcuts. The application is completely portable at the moment, i.e. no installation is needed, the two following files only need to be in the same folder.

# Usage

Simply start the executable "Chars.exe" which will quietly reside in the system tray. To insert an accented/special character at the cursor position, press the following key combination:  
**[Ctrl]+[Shift]+[…]**  
where […] stands for a letter of the alphabet or “$”. A popup overlay with variations of the basic letter will appear. Simply select the desired accented/special character with the arrow keys (↑ and ↓) and press [Enter].

Pressing e.g. [Ctrl]+[Shift]+[a] will display a list of the following characters:  
á|Á|à|À|ă|Ă|ắ|Ắ|ằ|Ằ|ẵ|Ẵ|ẳ|Ẳ|â|Â|ấ|Ấ|ầ|Ầ|ẫ|Ẫ|ẩ|Ẩ|ǎ|Ǎ|å|Å|ǻ|Ǻ|ä|Ä|ǟ|Ǟ|ã|Ã|ȧ|Ȧ|ǡ|Ǡ|ą|Ą|ā|Ā|ả|Ả|ȁ|Ȁ|ȃ|Ȃ|ạ|Ạ|ặ|Ặ|ậ|Ậ|ḁ|Ḁ|ⱥ|Ⱥ|ᶏ|ɑ|Ɑ

# Settings

## Characters

The list of available characters is saved in a file called “Chars\_Settings.ini”. You can edit the available characters for each basic letter of the alphabet by opening the said file in a text editor like Notepad++. A pipe character “|” must separate each entry. Adding two pipes behind a character makes it selected by default. The file must be saved with the UTF-8 file encoding and be located in the same folder as the executable file “Chars.exe”.

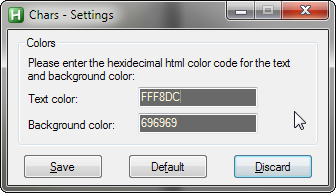
## Tray Menu

Right clicking on the application icon in the system tray will bring up a small menu with the following options:

* Suspend hotkeys: allows to temporarily disable the keyboard shortcuts
* Help: displays this small help file
* Settings: calls up a small settings window where the user can select a custom color combination for the selection of the special characters
* Exit: shuts down the application

## Settings

You can define text and background color for the character selection overlay by introducing [HTML color codes](http://html-color-codes.info/) without the preceding hash symbol (e.g. F5E164, 000000, FFFFFF, 972BDF) or basic color names (e.g. Red, Gray, Blue). A live preview displays the selected colors.



# System Requirements

Tested on Windows 7 64 bits Enterprise

# Acknowledgements

## Application icon

By **Oxygen Team** (Creative Commons (Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 2.5 Generic))  
→ <https://www.iconfinder.com/icons/9217/character_set_icon>

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