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Typing Speed Survey

As a computer science student, I use a keyboard quite a lot in my daily life. I use it to do anything from type emails, chat over various messaging services, to write code, and to play games. Over time I’ve found my typing speed steadily increasing, and I started to wonder if other CS students had seen similar trends. I decided to bother my friends on various forms of social media to take a survey of mine, using a typing test on 10fastfingers.com. I had them take a typing test on their PC, a typing test on their phone, and asked them if they used the home row method of typing, and at what age they started typing. I got around 40 responses in a few days, though I would love to get some older people to weigh in; most of the people I surveyed started typing by middle school at the absolute latest. Some of the results were to be expected; home row typists almost always beat out non-home row users, and most people were faster at typing on their PCs than they were at typing on their phone, though there were a few interesting outliers. In addition, there seems to be a pretty definitive correlation between age started typing and typing speed, with typists who started when they were very young showing great propensities towards fast speeds.

I had been hoping to receive typing speed data from 10fastfingers.com or from typeracer.com. The first site never responded to me, and the second one has an API with data that mostly isn’t interesting to me. I hope to expand the results of my survey a bit by the time I visualize the data. Unfortunately the visualization won’t be the most interesting, though I have a cool idea to show a long brick of text and show exactly how much of it could be typed by a given user using highlighting. Line graphs will be very prevalent, though they will be interactive and will be able to be filtered by things like age and home row.  
  
 I am sorry the dataset isn’t bigger. I had to work with what I could get and I’m very surprised to see that I couldn’t find much info on big datasets of typing speed measurements online. Perhaps we’ll talk about it in the coming days.