APRIL 3, 2011
7
TAMASHII

Win US Intl for Linux 0.2

With a smail, I present you this package that modifies Linux's US – International (for graphic session applications) to something that resembles Windows US – International keyboard layout. Even better, it's portable!

Download

Click here to download Win US Intl for Linux 0.2 (US or es-ES keyboard version)

Usage Instructions

Download the above file and unpack it in the home directory of the user which will be using it. You'll have 3 new files there, named

.XCompose (where the magic occurs)
win_us_intl_modmap.sh (reinforces the magic via changing the apostrophe key assignment)
win_us_intl_config.sh (runs the commands needed to use the magic)

Open up a terminal and run the shell script win_us_intl_config.sh like this:

```
~/win_us_intl_config.sh
```

All the applications you run from that terminal will have the US – International keyboard layout with the modifications on (pretty convenient for limited access systems or to use it like a portable app.)
Only the software you run from that terminal will have the changes applied to them.
After this, you can delete the shell scripts freely. The .XCompose file must be kept in the home directory until the session ends.

For your convenience, you should configure your windows manager or graphic interface system to run the script globally before any graphical application starts. For that, please watch the documentation for your windowing system. In the case your use OpenBox (which I have in CrunchBang), use this:

Setting up the package to run in session's startup: OpenBox case

OpenBox has a configuration file that is used to automatically run commands before the windowing system starts up. The file can be found in the .config/openbox directory of the user's home directory, named autostart.sh.

In the start of the file, please add the next line:

LANGUAGE

ESPAÑOL
ENGLISH

CATEGORIES

ANIME
JAPÓN
PERSONAL
RANDOM
TECHNOLOGY

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```
~/win_us_intl_config.sh
```

And log out. The next time you log in, the system will use the new settings of the US – International keyboard globally for the graphic session.

How to know if the change works

If you ran the command from a terminal, all the applications that you run from that terminal will have the changes applied. The previous programs will retain a US – International layout without modification.

You can test the changes running your trusty text editor from that terminal, like gedit, scite, or kate. Remember to use ampersand (&) in the end of the command to not lock up the terminal.

If you ran it from the graphical session startup, you just have to open your favorite program from the menu system or from a terminal, any of them will work.

There you can press the apostrophe key (for US keyboard) or the acute accent key (for es-ES keyboard) and press the s key. You should get 's. To insert a n with tilde (ñ), you can press AltGr (Right Alt) together with the n key. You can also press and release Shift + the key under Esc and then the n key. The results should be the same. Test it by writing text in English while using the apostrophe key (on US keyboard) or the acute accent key (for es-ES keyboard) to type an apostrophe. There's no need to press the space bar to write the apostrophe, it is kept invisible until another key is pressed.

How to undo the changes

An easy solution, if you haven't configured your window manager to run it on startup, and you don't want to log off, is to run this line before closing the terminal where you ran the script:

```
setxkbmap en
```

Replace "en" with the keyboard layout you had previously set up. In the case of Spain – Spanish, you should use "es es" (without the quotation marks). After this you might delete all the previously extracted files and close up the terminal without an issue.

Another solution would be to log off and log on. Everything will be kept as it originally was.

If the script was configured to start from the session startup, you should configure your window manager to not run the script in startup. Log off. The next time you log in, the keyboard will be kept as originally was. Remove the files.

To Do

There are several things I want to do with the script in the future when my

understanding of X's keyboard system improves.

- Test compatibility with es-LA keyboard (one accent key) and pt-BR keyboard (Brazilian Portuguese).
- Correct the problem when pressing consecutive dead keys. According to Windows, the graphical symbols of a pair of those keys are displayed when they're consecutively pressed.
- Improving the "installation" of the script to start automatically in the session startup of the most common window managers.
- Create a "uninstaller" of the changes done (for a portable and a installed version).
- Create a list of the symbols that can be inserted with this modifications.
- Complete the list of entries of available symbols and the dead keys.

License

This work is released using the LGPL v2.1 license. You might check it out in http://www.gnu.org/licenses/old-licenses/lgpl-2.1.html. I can't be held responsible for any damages occurring from the use of this software package. I have tested it personally, and I haven't had any problems. Some of my friends have tested it as well with successful results.

A little addition to the LGPL license, or better, a favor I want to ask to you is that, if you have done modifications to this script to add compatibility with Windows' US – International behavior, please send me those to my email address enclosed in each of the files of the package. I'll evaluate them to determine if they coincide with Windows' behavior. If they work, they'll be included in a new version of the package, giving credit where it's due. Thank you very much!

An important note: I have only used a empiric/experimental analysis of the keyboard layout in Windows. I didn't extract, decompile or in other way derive from the original work of Microsoft in Windows. This project doesn't have any direct relationship with Windows or its developers, and I'm not even saying that Windows belongs to me. Windows belongs to Microsoft and it's a registered mark protected by reserved copy rights.

Change Log

The change log is pretty short, as this is a one-day project, but here it is:

- version 0.2 (20110403)
  - edit 6: Added entries on XCompose for other non alphanumeric symbols. Created script to run the needed command lines.
  - edit 5: Added compatibility when pressing two dead keys in succession (it still doesn't works well).
- version 0.1 (20110402)
  - edit 4: Created script to run xmodmap to change the apostrophe key (US keyboard) or the acute accent key(es-ES keyboard) to

have the same settings as in Windows.
edit 3: Added the entries for the number keys.
edit 2: Added entries for the capital and lowercase letter keys.
edit 1: Initial testing version.

7 Responses

Luis Felipe April 3, 2011 at 8:36 pm

Gracias por compartir este trabajo. Seguro que a muchos les va a servir como base para adaptar a sus necesidades (fraceses, alemanes, etc…)

REPLY

Otto Robba June 21, 2011 at 1:55 am

Another way to enable this is, if you cannot get it to run on startup (I didn't, everything failed :() is to create a .sh for each application that you want to use it. Just merge both .sh files, add the application name at the end and that is it. It won't require a terminal to be open or anything like that.

REPLY

Tamashii June 21, 2011 at 9:57 am

Nice solution too. Thanks for sharing it. I find it odd that you couldn't make it to run on startup, because that's definitely one/the best way to make it globally available. If you agree, I might add your solution to the post, properly credited.

REPLY

Otto Robba October 7, 2011 at 2:45 am

Only saw your reply now – feel free to add it.

REPLY

Tamashii October 7, 2011 at 4:27 pm #

Sorry, I had some minor problems thus I had to move hosting. Nevertheless, thank you.

REPLY

Tamashii May 7, 2013 at 8:40 am #

Thanks a lot for your tip.
I tried that but I can't remember why didn't it work, I retried those lines yesterday and your solution worked really well.
If you allow me, could I add your solution to the page (proper credits due)?

REPLY

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