Enable special characters in form input

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I'm looking for a (`preferrably HTML or Javascript`) way to enable my users to place their cursor into any one of my many text input-fields, and type `"CTRL-SHIFT-A,"` and have it display a macron-A entity (`"Ā", also coded as Ā`). I've already figured out a Javascript way to recognize when `"CTRL-SHIFT-A"` is pressed, but I just don't know how to display "Ā".

Javascript

```
<script>

    window.addEventListener("keydown", keysPressed, false);
    window.addEventListener("keyup", keysReleased, false);

    var keys = [];

    function keysPressed(e) {
        keys[e.keyCode] = true;
        if (keys[17] && keys[16] && keys[65]) {

      /*The solution should probably go here.*/

        e.preventDefault();
      }
    }

    function keysReleased(e) {
      keys[e.keyCode] = false;
    };

    </script>
```

HTML

```
<input style="width: 55px;" onkeyup="lettersOnly(this);"></input>
```

Charset is "windows-1252" and it's encoded as "UTF-8 with BOM."

javascript   forms   input   character   entities

edited Jan 31 '16 at 1:44   asked Jan 31 '16 at 1:17

rudminda
137 ● 9

1 Answer

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You can use `String.fromCharCode()` once you find the code of your special character. I looked up your character and found details on Wikipedia, and in there I used the Unicode value, which is 256. So here an example:

```
alert(String.fromCharCode(256))
```

To go on the "how to place the string into the input control that has focus" you could modify the function as follows:

```
function keysPressed(e) {
        keys[e.keyCode] = true;
        if (keys[17] && keys[16] && keys[65]) {
          // e.target.value is the read/write property of the
          // input field that received the keyboard sequence
          e.target.value=String.fromCharCode(256);
          e.preventDefault();
        }
}
```

See it in action at: https://jsfiddle.net/kn3ko9oy/

edited Jan 31 '16 at 2:03

answered Jan 31 '16 at 1:27

sal
3,050 ● 1 ● 7 ● 18

Thanks, but alert just displays "Ā" in a pop-up alert window. However, I need it to display "Ā" in the cursor's active text-input field. – rudminda Jan 31 '16 at 1:34 ✎

I thought the crucial point was how to display "Ā". If you need additional actions, then can you post bits of the html so that we can take a look and test the results? JSFiddle might be a good place for these sort of things. – sal Jan 31 '16 at 1:39

BTW, what I wanted to do was slightly different: Instead of your line of code, which only puts the desired character at the beginning of the string: `e.target.value=String.fromCharCode(256);` here are 2 lines which will put it anywhere: `var entry = e.target.value;` `e.target.value = entry.concat(String.fromCharCode(256));` – rudminda Jan 31 '16 at 3:14 ✎

@rudminda That's awesome. I think the whole idea of SO is to get everyone going past their blocks, and use it for more. Great job, glad I was of help. :) I would also look into jQuery for that would make some of these manipulations much easier. – sal Jan 31 '16 at 6:51 ✎