Something

Jack Rosenthal

26 October 2015

Me

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- You probably would not be surprised if I was on a new keyboard layout tomorrow.

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- I made yet another keyboard layout.
- I built my own keyboard.
- You probably would not be surprised if I was on a new keyboard layout tomorrow.
- Therefore I will speak of keyboards.

On Keyboards and Things...

Jack Rosenthal

26 October 2015

A bit of history...

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The first keyboard layout was designed by the inventor of the typewriter, Christopher Latham Sholes. It looked a bit like a piano:

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- 3 5 7 9 N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
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The resulting layout looked like this:
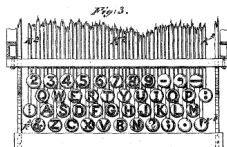
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- Sholes died of tuberculosis

Issues with QWERTY

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- Many common letter combinations require a finger to jump over the home row.
- Many common letter combinations are typed with one hand. (e.g. was, were)
- Most typing is done with the left hand, which for most people is not the dominant hand.
- About 16% of typing is done on the lower row, 52% on the top row and only 32% on the home row.

Dvorak to the Rescue!

In 1932, Dr. August Dvorak and Dr. William Dealey designed a keyboard layout based off the concept of a *home row*.

Dvorak to the Rescue!

: ;	? ,	. .	P	Y	F	G	C	R	L	
A	O	E	U	I	D	H	T	N	S	
Z	Q	J	K	X	B	M	W	V	' -	

Dvorak and Dealey's design principles:

- Letters should be typed by alternating between hands

Dvorak to the Rescue!

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- The right hand should do more of the typing because most people are right-handed.

Do your fingers hurt?

Typing *Nineteen eighty-four* by George Orwell
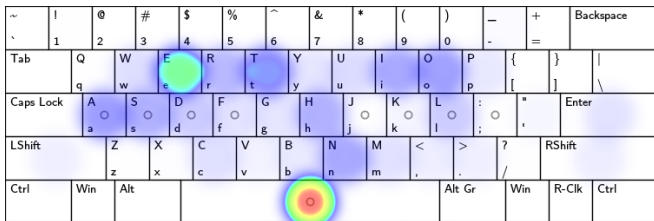
QWERTY: Distance fingers moved: 10.4 miles
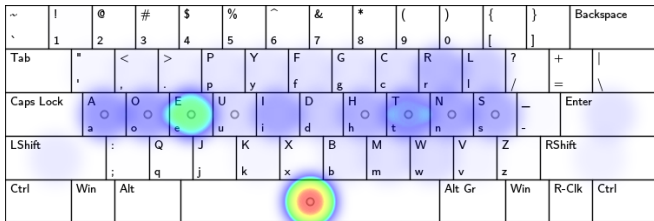
Dvorak: Distance fingers moved: 6.2 miles

Why did I initially switch keyboard layouts?

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- Jesse Weaver is entirely responsible for this.

Why did I initially switch keyboard layouts?

- Jesse Weaver is entirely responsible for this.
- But he led me to do my own research.

Colemak

Colemak

~ `	! 1	@ 2	# 3	$ 4	% 5	^ 6	& 7	* 8	(9	) 0	_ -	+ =	← Backspace
Tab ⇄	Q	W	F	P	G	J	L	U	Y	: ;	{ [	}]	| \\
← Backspace	A	R	S	T	D	H	N	E	I	O	" '	Enter ↵	
Shift ⇧	Z	X	C	V	B	K	M	< ,	> .	? /	Shift ⇧		
Ctrl	Win Key	Alt						Alt Gr	Win Key	Menu	Ctrl		

Design principles:

- Change QWERTY as little as possible while bringing efficency simmilar to Dvorak.
- Be easy to learn if you are already a good QWERTY typist.
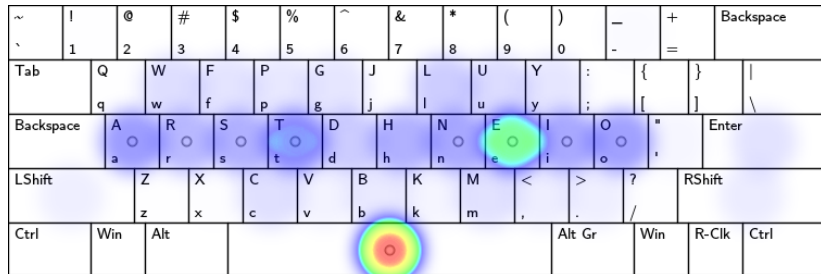
Colemak

Design principles:

- Change QWERTY as little as possible while bringing efficency simmilar to Dvorak.
- Be easy to learn if you are already a good QWERTY typist.

Why I abandoned it:

- It's no better at programming than QWERTY.
- It dosen't have enough hand alternation for my liking.
- Too much lateral motion while typing.

Colemak: Heat Map

Typing *Nineteen eighty-four* by George Orwell

Distance fingers moved: 5.9 miles

Antibracket

A keyboard layout designed to combine the ambition of Dvorak, practicality of Colemak, and the symbols of Neo.

`	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	-	=	BKSP
Comp	W	F	U	Y	Z	X	H	P	B	Q	Esc	L0	
Tab	L	O	E	A	I	N	R	T	D	S	Pnc	Enter	
Shift		,	G	M	J	;	V	K	C	.	Num	Shift	
Ctrl	Win	Alt		Space			Alt	Win	Menu	Ctrl			

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													BKSP
Comp	"	_	[	]	^	!	<	>	=	&			
Tab	/	-	{	}	*	?	(	)	'	:		Enter	
Shift		#	$	|	~	`	+	%	\	@		Shift	
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Comp	PD	BS	U	Del	PU		7	8	9				
Tab	Hm	L	D	R	End	.	4	5	6			Enter	
Shift	,		[	]		0	1	2	3		Shift		
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Shift		,	G	M	J	;	V	K	C	.	Num	Shift
Ctrl	Win	Alt			Space			Alt	Win	Menu	Ctrl

Why I abandoned it:

- I already knew how to type in Colemak and was lazy.

Antibracket: Heat Map

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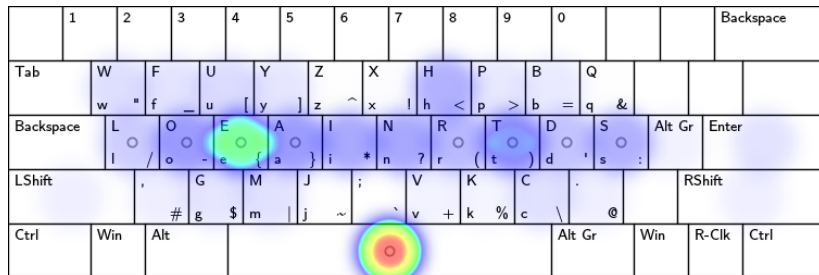
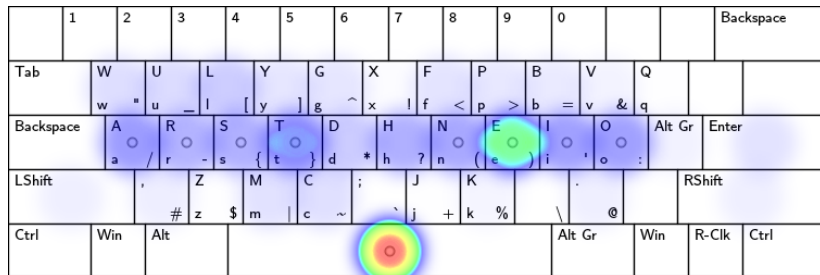Distance fingers moved: 6.3 miles

The WULY Antimak

Me on 13 Feb 2015

An ergonomic modifier based keyboard layout with Antibracket's symbols and numbers and a home row practically stolen from Colemak. Also focuses around ease of vimming and still optimised for the English language... so basically it's crack for your keyboard.
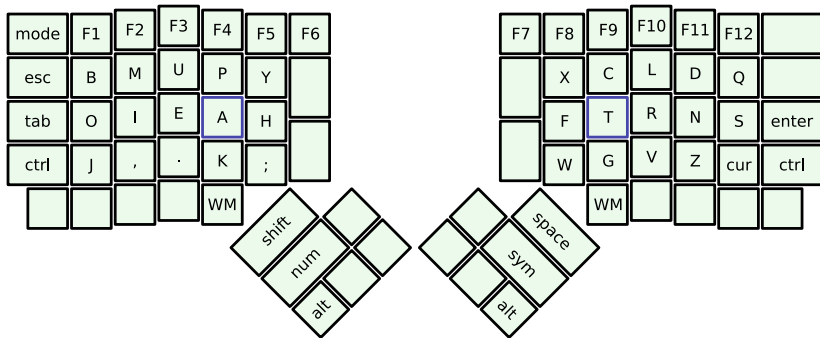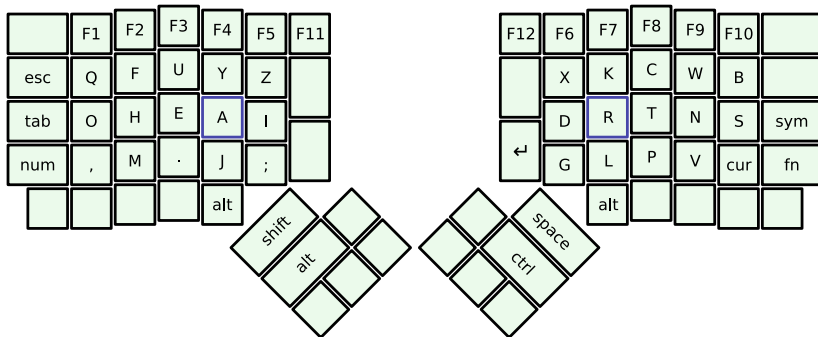
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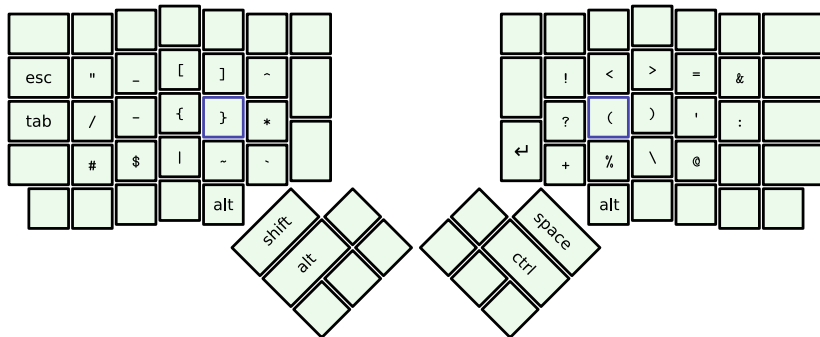

Distance fingers moved: 5.6 miles

My BuTeck ADNW Variant
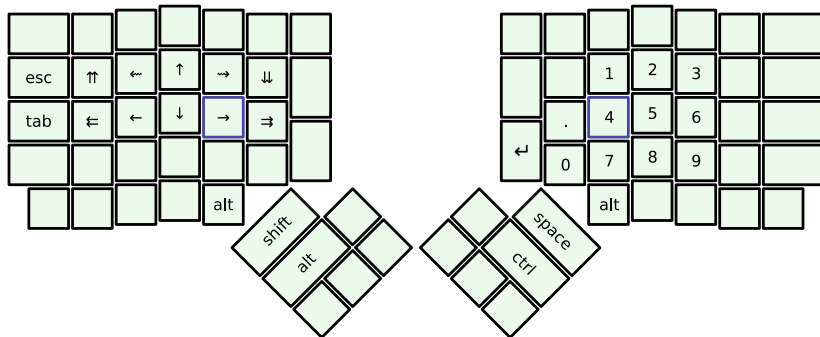
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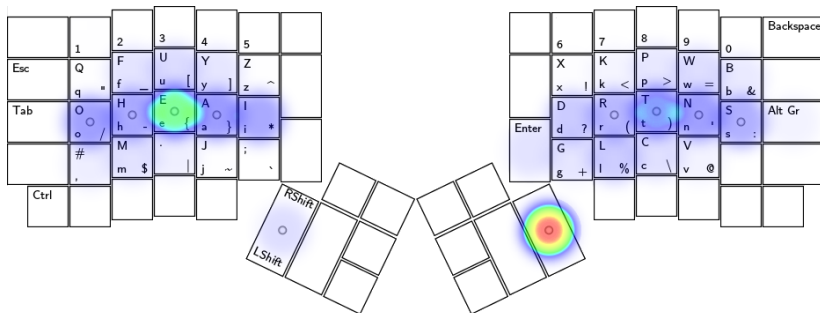
Distance fingers moved: 4.9 miles

- Programmers Dvorak

Other notable keyboard layouts worth researching

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- Workman

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- ARENSITO

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2. Change layouts on your computer. Don't rearrange your keys to match your layout.

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6. Once you are accurate, you will naturally start to type faster.
7. Impress your friends.

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- You should do your own research and find a keyboard layout you like.

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- If you use QWERTY, don't.
- You should do your own research and find a keyboard layout you like.
- There is no best keyboard layout, each layout has it's advantages.