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System 7.1.x: Foreign Language Keyboard & KCHR Resource (1/95)

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TOPIC -----

How can I obtain and install the keyboard layout for French, Spanish, Italian, German, and so on in System 7.1.x?

DISCUSSION -----

With the release of System 7.5 there is built in support for many European languages. For more information search the Tech Info Library for the article titled, "Keyboard Control Panel: International Layouts (10/94)".

You can add keyboard layouts from other countries to your system by dragging keyboard resources known as a KCHR's into your System Folder.

You can extract the KCHR from the internationalized version of system software of the country you want. Using German as an example, find the German 7.1 Images on the System Software CD (part of the Developer CD series). Double click on the Deutsch 7.1.sea and download the software to your hard drive. Double click on the System suitcase, and you'll see the KCHR for German.

Once you've extracted this resource, follow these steps:

- 1) Drop the German KCHR file into your U.S. System File within the System Folder.
- 2) Choose the Keyboard Control Panel in the Apple Menu. You'll see that for Keyboard Layout, German KCHR is now one of the choices. If you highlight German KCHR, your keyboard now becomes German.
- 3) You can check that you're in German mode by choosing Key Caps from the Apple menu. You'll find, for example, that the "y" key now becomes the "z" key and vice versa.

For your reference, system resources of type KCHR map key codes to character codes. Each resource of type KCHR normally corresponds to a natural language, and represents the character set in which the language is written.

Another good source of information is the book called "Guide to Software Localization" which you can order through APDA.

Article Change History:

17 Jan 1995 - Added System software version and System 7.5 information.

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