

4 Open Source Android Keyboards That Can Replace Gboard

If you're concerned about privacy while using Gboard, try four open-source keyboard alternatives like AnySoftKeyboard, HeliBoard, Simple Keyboard, and FlorisBoard — lightweight, secure, and customizable.

Gboard is the default keyboard on most Android devices and is packed with smart features. However, Gboard's tight integration with Google services has raised privacy concerns for many. If you're one of those users who wants to break away from the Google ecosystem, there are plenty of open-source options that can provide a similar experience without compromising your personal data.

AnySoftKeyboard

Keyboards



English
QWERTY Latin
keyboard



EN Keypad
16 keys English layout



English
QWERTY Latin
keyboard with symbols
(on long press)



EN Compact
Compact in portrait



Dvorak
Dvorak layout. Created
with Stephen Paul
Weber



Dv Compact
Compact Dvorak in
portrait



AnySoftKeyboard is the most popular and powerful open-source Gboard alternative available today. It is privacy-focused, customizable, and supports multiple languages ??via its own language packs. Users can choose from a variety of keyboard layouts such as QWERTY, Dvorak, or AZERTY, and there are even specialized keyboards just for entering emails, web addresses, or numbers.

Similar to Gboard, AnySoftKeyboard also supports voice input and swipe typing. If you don't like this type of typing, you can assign swipes to other actions for faster operation. The keyboard has full features such as auto-correction, word suggestions and especially **Incognito Mode** to help enter sensitive information more securely. When this mode is turned on, the application will pause saving the typed content and disable word suggestions.

Users can also customize the keyboard interface with many different themes, automatically changing colors according to the application in use thanks to the **per-app tint** feature , providing a highly personalized experience.

HeliBoard

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← Preferences



Input

Show key hints

Show long-press hints

Select hint source

Select popup key order

Show functional hints

Show hints if long-pressing a key triggers additional functionality

Show TLD popup keys

Replace period key popups with top level domains when typing URLs and email addresses

Popup on keypress

Vibrate on keypress

Keypress vibration duration

System default

Vibrate in do not disturb mode

Sound on keypress

Show emoji description on long press

Requires an emoji dictionary

HeliBoard is another open-source Android keyboard, built on OpenBoard (AOSP's open-source keyboard). The app works completely offline, requiring no internet access — which many users consider a big plus for security.

However, since it doesn't connect to the internet, HeliBoard lacks features like spell checking or cloud-based word suggestions. Instead, users can download and install a local dictionary, which gives the app basic word suggestions and spell checking. While the accuracy can't match Gboard, it's a reasonable price to pay for privacy.

HeliBoard doesn't have swipe typing enabled by default, but you can enable it manually by adding an external gesture library. It still supports multiple layouts, one-handed mode, split keyboard, clipboard memorization, and a very flexible interface customization.

Simple Keyboard

← Simple Keyboard

Auto-capitalization

Capitalize the first word of each sentence



Show separate number row



Hide special characters



Hide language switch key



Show on-screen keyboard

Show on-screen keyboard while using physical keyboard



Switch to other keyboards



Space swipe cursor move



Delete swipe



If you like minimalism, Simple Keyboard is the perfect choice. It's less than **1MB** , only requires vibration permission, and doesn't access the internet. However, because it's designed to be as lightweight as possible, it doesn't have emojis, GIFs, swipe typing, or spell checking.

Simple Keyboard also offers only a few basic themes, allows you to adjust the keyboard height and turn on/off display elements. This is the ideal keyboard for those who want a fast, light and absolutely private typing experience.

FlorisBoard

← Keyboard

Number row

Show a number row above the character layout



Hinted number row

Smart prioritization



Hinted symbols

Smart prioritization



Show utility key

Shows a configurable utility key next to space bar



Utility key action

Dynamic: Switch to emojis / Switch language

Spacebar label

Current language

Capitalization behavior

Enable Capslock by double tapping shift

Font size multiplier

100% / 100%

Incognito indicator

Display the incognito indicator behind the keyboard

Try out your setup



FlorisBoard is a modern, open-source keyboard that balances **privacy and usability** . It has a clean, user-friendly design, supports multiple languages, and has a variety of keyboard layouts, including split and one-handed modes.

Users can fully customize everything from the interface to the input behavior. Like HeliBoard, FlorisBoard has **an incognito mode** , a built-in clipboard manager, gesture support, and the ability to create secondary keyboard layouts for quick language switching.

FlorisBoard is still in beta, so it may occasionally have minor bugs or lack some features like word suggestions and spell check. However, it is still a promising option for those who want a more user-friendly and privacy-friendly alternative to Gboard.

Depending on your needs—from minimalist to powerful, from absolute privacy to smart features—you can choose one of the four keyboards above to replace Gboard, enjoying a safer and more personal typing experience.

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