



Power users who minimize mouse use and work only at the keyboard get things done faster, are less stressed, and maintain better focus. They're not superhumans—they just eliminate unnecessary movements.

Additionally, for people with repetitive strain injuries or those who work long hours, remapping keys can significantly reduce wrist and hand pain. It's also quite useful for programmers, writers, and anyone whose workflow involves specific commands being hidden behind awkward keyboard shortcuts.

Keys should be reset first

Get started with these changes for instant results!

The biggest hurdle you'll face when changing your keyboard layout is memorizing all the new keys. For this reason, it's best to start simple and slowly incorporate new keys and shortcuts into your workflow one by one.



One of the easiest keys to start with is Caps Lock. It takes up the most accessible space on the keyboard and is essentially useless on a modern computer. After all, you already have the **Shift** key for capital letters and special characters.

Resetting Caps Lock to a more frequently used key, like Escape or Backspace, is a good start because it puts a more useful key closer to your hand. Another key you can replace Caps Lock with is Control. This will help with shortcuts and reduce the stress on your pinky when using them.

If a simple reset doesn't work, you can also go a step further and reset the entire layout. Instead of QWERTY, you can switch to Dvorak or Colemak. Dvorak, designed in the 1930s by Dr. August Dvorak, prioritizes the most frequently used characters on the home row, minimizing finger movements. Colemak takes a similar approach, but keeps common shortcuts like **Ctrl + Z, X, C**, and **V** in place to make the transition from QWERTY easier.



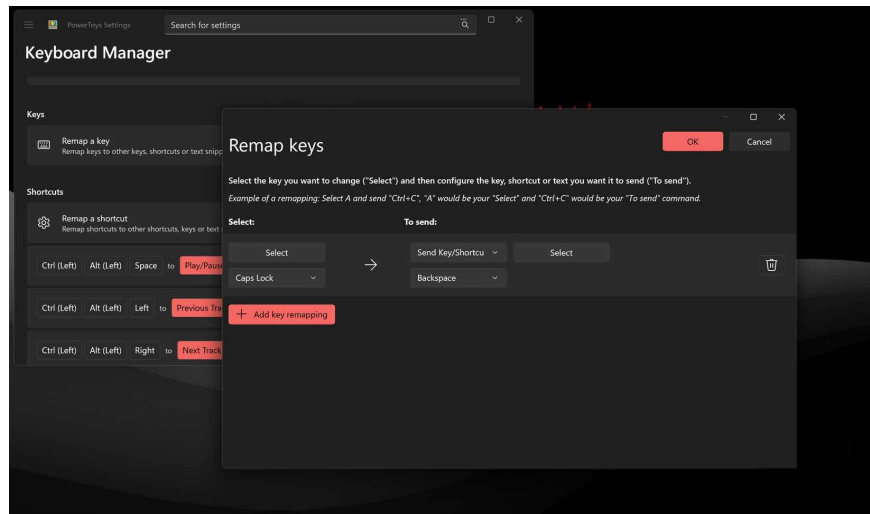
The problem is that learning a completely new keyboard layout takes time and effort. If you use two different computers for work and personal use, you'll need two keyboards, which is a significant financial investment. Additionally, since most other keyboards are QWERTY, you'll find yourself constantly switching between two different layouts. However, if you type for hours every day, the long-term benefits can be significant.

Tools that make keyboard remapping incredibly simple

Keyboard layout fix software in minutes

You don't need to be tech-savvy to remap keyboard keys. There are plenty of great tools for Windows, macOS, and Linux that come with graphical interfaces and can get you up and running in minutes.

For Windows, the easiest recommendation is Microsoft PowerToys . It has a module called **Keyboard Manager** , which allows you to easily remap individual keys or entire keyboard shortcuts. What's more, PowerToys can even help you type faster once you learn how to use the other modules it offers. If you need more advanced control, you can use SharpKeys .



If you have a Mac, Karabiner-Elements is a good place to start. Linux users have options like Input Remapper or tweaking GNOME based on their desktop environment.

These tools let you change the keys on your existing keyboard through software, so you don't have to physically swap out the keys. Your keyboard will still look exactly the same, it will just work differently. You can also extend this approach and copy the entire Dvorak or Colemak layout, but you'll want to rearrange the keys to avoid confusion.

You finished reading the article "**How to fix an awkward keyboard layout**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.