

Re: To be or not to be (ordinary keys ~ ^ `)

## Re: To be or not to be (ordinary keys ~ ^ `)

---

*Source:* <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Debian/2008-05/msg02287.html>

---

- *From:* "Jordi Gutiérrez Hermoso" <[jordigh@xxxxxxxx](mailto:jordigh@xxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Mon, 26 May 2008 12:14:40 -0500
- 

On 26/05/2008, Luis Fernando Llana Diaz <[luis@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:luis@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

But I usually work with LaTeX, and therefore I use the chars ^ and ` much more often.

I realise that this is probably not the best solution, but I notice that so many coding languages are built for usage with a US keyboard layout, that I often code with the US keyboard layout and switch to Spanish (international sort, the one with the symbols needed for Catalan as well) whenever I need to write prose in Spanish or French (not Catalan, unfortunately). Since my coding is also in English in order to make it easier to share (aren't you disappointed when code is commented in a language you don't know?), it all works out with the US layout.

This seems to be even more true when using Emacs, where many of the keychords seem to be optimised for the US keyboard layout. I have honestly tried writing C++ with a Spanish layout, but most of the necessary symbols are in very uncomfortable keys. When writing LaTeX, I also use the English layout and type `\acc^e\~nts l`ik`"e th`is`. It seems like a small price to pay to type one extra key before typing all accents. Every command in LaTeX begins with a backslash anyways, and I have yet to see a Spanish layout that has a backslash in a comfortable position for frequent usage. Indeed, most Hispanophone Windows users I see that need to use a backslash memorise its ASCII code and type it with Alt+\$ASCII\_NUMBER combinations.

So my own advice is to get used to the US layout for LaTeX and coding. Whether that's feasible or not, I'm not sure, but if you touch-type, a different keyboard configuration seems to be no more difficult than learning a different language. It seems to involve a similar kind of switch in your brain.

– Jordi G. H.

—

To UNSUBSCRIBE, email to [debian-user-REQUEST@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:debian-user-REQUEST@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Re: To be or not to be (ordinary keys ~ ^ `)

Re: To be or not to be (ordinary keys ~ ^ `)

with a subject of "unsubscribe". Trouble? Contact listmaster@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx