

Typing Pal

Documentation

Updated: July 23, 2023

Table of Contents

School Edition	4
User Guide	5
User Guide for School Edition	6
Key Concepts	7
Logging In	8
Management	9
Training	10
Results	11
Student Interface	12
Pedagogical resources	13
Start-Up Guide	14
Typing Method	15
Typing Accuracy	18
Typing Speed	19
Planning the Training	21
Personalizing the Program	22
Worksheets	23
Documents	24
Literature Review	25
Home Edition	28
User Guide	29
User Guide for Personal/Home Edition	30
Logging In	31
Management	32
Training	33
Interface	34
Results	35
Frequently Asked Questions	36
General Information	37
What is the difference between the Personal and Home editions of Typing Pal?	38
What types of keyboards are available in Typing Pal?	39
Which edition of Typing Pal do you recommend for kids?	40
How many accounts are included with the Home edition?	41
Is there a trial version for Typing Pal?	42
When I use Typing Pal through my public library’s website, I lose my progress every time I log in. Is this normal?	43
Login	44
I forgot my password. How can I access my account?	45
I’m trying to access Typing Pal, but my web browser returns an error page (Error 403). What can I do?	46
Configuration	47
As an Occupational Therapist, I require several accounts for my clients. Which subscription do you recommend?	48
Will my Typing Pal subscription renew automatically?	49
I have three children. Which Typing Pal subscription do I need?	50
My iPad keyboard does not work with Typing Pal. What can I do?	51
My keyboard does not match the keys in Typing Pal. This prevents me from progressing. What should I do?	52
My keyboard is misconfigured. What can I do?	53

My child does not have an email address. How do I create and configure their account?	54
We subscribed to the Home edition. How do I set up my children's accounts?	55
Tips	56
I'm stuck on the first exercise. What can I do?	57
Online Shopping	58
I'm trying to purchase Typing Pal but my transaction has been denied. What can I do?	59
Why is the VAT fee not on my receipt?	60
School Edition	61
My children have access to Typing Pal through their school, but they can't sign in to their account. What can I do?	62
I had a Typing Pal account with my school. I want to continue my learning with a personal subscription. Is this possible?	63
New Features for School Edition	64
Improvements 2023	65
Improvements 2022	67
Improvements 2021	68
Improvements 2020	70
Improvements 2019	72
Improvements 2018	75
Improvements 2017	77
Improvements 2016	81
Improvements 2015	84

School Edition

User Guide

User Guide for School Edition



This user guide is intended for administrators (responsible for the technical aspects of Typing Pal) as well as for teachers (responsible for overseeing its use). It explains how to create, manage and configure the different types of accounts (administrator, teacher, student). Explore the guide to discover all the features offered by Typing Pal, or consult it from time to time to find the answers to your questions.

First Steps

Start off on the right foot by following these steps:

1. Take a look at our [start-up guide](#) for a brief overview of Typing Pal.
2. Learn the basics of a sound [typing method](#).
3. Prepare a [training plan](#).
4. Create student accounts by choosing one of the following three methods that best suits your needs.
 - [Account creation by import](#) — Select this method if you want to **create all the accounts and groups** of a school at one time.
 - [Manual addition](#) — Select this method to add **one student at a time**.
 - [Self-registration](#) — Select this method if **you already have your groups** and you want your students to create their accounts on their own.

Refer to this user guide if you have any questions about Typing Pal's various features.

First Peek

To introduce you to Typing Pal, we suggest you explore the program as though you were a student.

1. [Log in](#) to your administrator or teacher account.
2. Make sure you already have at least one group. If not, [add one](#).
3. Use the function [Log in as a student](#) to:
 - explore the learning environment and activities.
 - try your hand at a few typing activities.
 - try a game and navigate the student interface.

By familiarizing yourself with Typing Pal from the students' point of view, you'll be able to better guide them when giving your instructions.

Key Concepts

Before delving into this User Guide, make sure you understand the basic notions presented in this chapter.

- **Management Structure**
 - **Subscription** — A subscription consists of one or more schools.
 - **School** — Each school includes one or more groups.
 - **Group**— Groups usually consist of a number student accounts within a class.
- **Accounts**
 - **Super Administrator** — This account manages the subscription, all the schools it includes and all associated accounts.
 - **School Administrator** — This account manages a school and all associated accounts.
 - **Teacher** — This account manages one or more groups and all associated student accounts.
 - **Student** — This account has some personalization options, depending on the permissions granted to it.
- **Navigation**
 - **General Navigation**— Learn how to locate what you're looking for in the main management panel.
 - **List Navigation** — Learn how to use lists effectively.
- **Searching, Filtering, Sorting and Selecting**
 - **Searching** — Perform a search in a list.
 - **Filtering** — Select a subset of criteria.
 - **Sorting** — Sort the accounts according to the column headings.
 - **Selecting** — Select accounts using keyboard combinations.

Logging In

This chapter explains how to log in to Typing Pal, which is one of the first steps required to manage accounts or begin training.

- **Login Page**
 - **Access from a *Direct URL*** — Use the *Direct URL* of the school or the subscription (*Custom URL* or *Subscription URL*) to directly access the login page.
 - **Access from the *Homepage*** — If you've lost your *URL*, go to the *Homepage* school.typingpal.com to recover your *Login page*.
- **Authentication**
 - **Sign-on with Typing Pal** — This authentication mode works with the user's *Username* and *Password*.
 - **Sign-on with Google** — This authentication mode works with the user's Google account.
 - **Sign-on with Microsoft** — This authentication mode works with the user's Microsoft account.
 - **Sign-on with Clever** — This authentication mode works with the user's Clever account.
- **Custom URL**
 - Edit your school's *Custom URL* so that it closely reflects the name of your institution.
- **Codes**
 - **Signup Code**— Use this code to allow students to create their own accounts, provided that the group and teacher accounts have already been created.
 - **Subscription Code** — Retain this code if you are the super administrator, as it serves as a username for your account and as a subscription ID.
 - **School Code** — If you still use this code to identify your school, please note that it has now been replaced by the *Custom URL*.
- **Sharing Login Information**
 - **Sending Login Information to School Administrators** — If you are a super administrator, email the login information to the school administrators.
 - **Sending Login Information to Teachers** — If you are an administrator, email the login information to the teachers.
 - **Downloading Student Login Information** — Download students' login information in order to give students their login in class.
- **Log In as a Student**
 - Log in as a student to validate, from the student's point of view, any changes made to activities or group settings.

Management

This chapter presents everything you need to know about Typing Pal's management tools.

- **Schools Management**
 - **Adding a School** — If your subscription allows it, add a school to the list of schools you administer.
 - **Default Keyboard** — Set the type of default keyboard for your school.
 - **Location** — Specify your school's location and its time zone.
- **School Administrators Management**
 - **Adding a School Administrator Account** — Add a school administrator account to delegate to it the management of a school's accounts.
 - **Editing or Deleting a School Administrator Account** — Edit or delete the account of a school administrator.
- **Teachers Management**
 - **Adding a Teacher Account** — Add a teacher account.
 - **Editing or Deleting a Teacher Account** — Edit or delete a teacher account.
 - **Granting Group Access to Teachers** — Determine whether a teacher can access all groups in a school or only his or her own groups.
 - **Managing Teacher Permissions** New Feature 2023 — Restrict specific permissions for teachers to either add, delete or modify groups, student accounts and text collections or to reset results. Settings apply to all teacher accounts collectively.
- **Groups Management**
 - **Adding a Group** — Add a group or several groups at a time by importing a list.
 - **Editing a Group** — Edit the name of a group, its description, its teachers or its welcome message.
 - **Group Settings** — Edit certain settings to apply them to all the student accounts in a group.
 - **Deleting a Group** — Delete a group along with the student accounts it contains or move them to another group in a single operation.
 - **Live Supervision** — See your students' activity in real time from a dynamic new dashboard.
- **Students Management**
 - **Adding a Student Account** — Choose from three methods to add student accounts.
 - **Editing or Deleting a Student Account** — Edit or delete a student account.
 - **Moving a Student Account from One Group to Another** — Move a student account from one group to another or from one school to another.
 - **Editing Student Permissions** — Edit student permissions to block or grant access to certain features.
 - **Automatic Deletion of Inactive Accounts** — Disable the automatic deletion of inactive student accounts.
- **Export**
 - Export a list of students, groups, teachers or schools to archive certain information or prepare an update by using the import feature.
- **Account Creation by Import:**
 - **Excel and CSV Templates** — Download template files in Excel or CSV format.
 - **Import File for Student Accounts and Groups** — Create the file containing the student and group accounts to be imported.
 - **Import File for Teacher Accounts and Groups** — Create the file containing the teacher and group accounts to be imported.
 - **Import File for Schools** — If allowed by the subscription, create the file containing the schools and school administrators to be imported.
 - **Importing a List of Students, Teachers or Schools** — Import the file that will be used to create the accounts, groups, and schools you need.
- **Account Update by Import**
 - Update student accounts by importing an Excel or CSV file.
- **Bulk Edit**
 - Bulk edit the settings or options for a set of accounts, groups or schools.

Training

This chapter describes the different training activities and the tools you need to customize them.

- **Age groups**
 - **Selecting an age group** — Select the most appropriate age group for your students.
- **Targets**
 - **Unit of Measure for Speed** — Choose to measure typing speed in words per minute or characters per minute.
 - **Targets** — Set targets that best suit your students, according to their age or curriculum.
- **Preparation**
 - **Basic Advice** — Have your students watch a short video showing the seven principles to follow in order to rapidly learn how to type effectively.
 - **Initial Test** — Have your students complete the initial test in order to have a benchmark against which to measure their progress.
- **Exercises and Tests**
 - **Accessing the Exercises and Tests** — Access the list of exercises and tests in order to configure them.
 - **Order of Exercises and Tests** — Choose a sequence of activities in the proposed order or a sequence in no particular order.
 - **Locking Exercises and Tests** — Lock exercises and tests to prevent students from accessing them before the time is right.
 - **Progress Monitoring** — Take a look at a student's record to see the status of the activities in their training program.
- **Improvement Activities**
 - Have your students complete the training exercises as often as possible so that they improve their typing of certain characters or train the fingers that need more practice.
- **Texts**
 - **Assigning a Collection of Texts to a Group** — Assign a collection of texts to a group.
 - **Accessing the Collections of Texts** — Access the collections of texts to edit them or add a new one.
 - **Adding a Collection of Texts** — Add a new collection of texts that can include as many texts as you want.
 - **Editing a Collection of Texts** — Edit your text collections to suit your needs.
 - **Progress Monitoring** — Take a look at a student's record to see the status of the activities in their training program.
- **Games**
 - **Accessing Games** — Encourage your students to access the games from the *Move on* tab and to enhance their skills progressively by playing through them in order.
 - **Cosmik Ball** — Check out this game in which students type single characters on command to keep an explosive cosmic ball captive.
 - **Monkeys in Jeopardy** — Explore this game in which students type sequences of characters and single words to extend life-saving vines to monkeys threatened by a storm.
 - **Magical Duel** New Feature 2023 — Become bewitched by this strategic game in which students cast spells by correctly typing phrases of varying lengths to free the enchanted subjects of a magical realm.
 - **Difficulty Levels** — Suggest your students select the level of difficulty most challenging for them.
 - **Top Players** — Remind your students to check the different rankings if they want to compete against the other students in the class.
 - **Granting Access to Games** — Restrict access to the games.
- **Letters to parents**
 - By automatically generating a personalized letter, you can let parents know that their child is learning to type with Typing Pal. The letter invites parents to support their child in continuing the training activities at home.

Results

This chapter focuses on the tools you can use to diagnose your students' difficulties during the course, grade the students and view statistical reports.

- **Video Replay**
 - **Video Replay**—Use the *Video Replay* feature to review a recorded activity from beginning to end.
 - **Authorizing Access to Video Replay**—Determine whether students will have access or not to the video replay of their completed activities.
- **Grading**
 - **Including Grades in Statistical Reports**—Include grades in the statistical reports based on your students' performance.
 - **Default Values**—Consult the table of default values for grades according to the learning environments.
- **Statistical Reports**
 - **Criteria for Calculating Averages**—Learn how the data selection settings are used for calculating averages.
 - **Reports for a School, Group, or Teacher**—Manage your statistical reports by targeting the right set of student accounts.
 - **Detailed Results**—View the detailed results for a particular student.
 - **Displaying the Measure Unit of the Results**—Display the results in *Words per minute* or in *Characters per minute*.
 - **Parent Reports**—Generate a report for parents to share data on their child's engagement and performance.
- **Certificate of achievement**
 - **Requirements**—Learn how students can obtain their prestigious personalized certificate of achievement.
 - **Download**—Learn how you and your students can download the certificate of achievement.
- **Delete Results**
 - Bulk delete results for all activities or only for certain specific categories, and for all students in a group or only selected accounts
 - Delete a specific result from a student's log.

Student Interface

This chapter takes a look at the components of the student interface and the display settings that you can control.

- **Home Screen**
 - **Suggested Activity Tiles** — Typing Pal welcomes students with two suggested activity tiles when they log in.
 - **Teacher’s Message to the Group** — The home screen displays a personalized message from the teacher to the students.
- **Student Settings**
 - **Profile** — The student profile contains the student’s choice of avatar as well as his or her identification information.
 - **Environment** — The student can choose the interface appearance and select one of the three available coaches.
 - **Language and Keyboard** — The student can change the keyboard layout to match the one he or she uses.
 - **Target** — The speed target may or may not be modified, depending on the option you have chosen.
 - **Authentication** — The authentication section allows an account to be linked to Google or Office 365, depending on the option you have chosen.
- **Avatars**
 - **Choosing an avatar** — The student can choose an avatar from 49 portraits, 30 creatures and 30 neutral photos.
 - **Granting Access to Avatars** — Administrators can block the avatars for all the accounts in a school.
- **Feedback**
 - **Entertaining Animations and Keyboard Viewer** — Discover the entertaining animations and the keyboard viewer, two viewing modes that encourage students to look at the screen while typing.
 - **Audio Notification** — An audio notification lets students know if they’ve reached their targets. This option can be disabled for a silent environment.
- **Display Options for Activities**
 - **Accessing the Display Options** — Access the display options for your group or show the students how they themselves can access them.
 - **Options** — Consult the list and learn about all the display options.
- **Keyboard Navigation**
 - Learn how students can navigate through the interface using certain keyboard keys.
- **Badges**
 - **Personal Bests** — Learn how the system of personal bests works.
 - **Achievements** — Learn about the progress, performance, perseverance and mystery badges.
- **Activity Log**
 - **Results** — Students can select the most relevant results and activity types for calculating their average speed and accuracy.
 - **Video Replay** — Students have access to a video replay of the activities recorded in their log.
- **Achievements Panel**
 - Discover the achievements panel showing achievement level, badges collected and stars won, as well as average speed and accuracy.

Pedagogical resources

Start-Up Guide

Start off on the right foot by reading this 10-point overview of Typing Pal, made especially for teachers.



Click the image to download PDF.

Typing Method

Learn to Type Efficiently

A good typing method uses all your fingers for fast, error-free typing, without looking at the keyboard. The best way to acquire this fundamental skill is by practicing regularly and following the tips below.

Posture and Work Environment

Your typing performance doesn't only rely on your fingers; your posture and work environment also play an important role.

Three ergonomic factors require special attention:

1. **Posture** — The ideal posture puts every part of the body in its optimal position. Rest your feet on the floor or on a footrest with your knees bent at a 90° angle. Position your forearms so that the angle of your elbows is between 80° and 160°. Keep your shoulders down and relaxed. Straighten your back and adjust the back of your seat for good lumbar support. Your head should be in line with your torso. Make sure your wrists stay in line with your forearms, either by holding your wrists loosely in the air, or by resting them on a wrist support. Check your posture every 15 minutes and adjust your position when necessary to make sure you are always sitting correctly. If you cannot adjust the furniture in any way, take more frequent breaks.
2. **Screen Distance and Position** — Maintain a distance of 45–70 cm between the screen and your eyes. Ideally, the top of the screen should be at your eye level. When using a laptop, lower your eyes (not your whole head) to look at the screen. Tilt your screen back to an angle of around 15°.
3. **Lighting** — Adjust the lighting of your work environment so that you can easily read documents, and so that you are not blinded by the light from your screen or from the window. If you need to squint your eyes, the lighting is not optimal.

Pay special attention to your posture and the ergonomics of your work environment and make adjustments as soon as you feel uncomfortable.

Make a habit of standing up and stretching every hour. This way, you can avoid any tension in your muscles turning into chronic pain. Finally, take your eyes off the screen every now and then and look at something far away. This will help to avoid eye strain.

The Basic Position

One of the most common positions involves placing the index fingers on the two raised keys **J** and **F**, with the second, third, and fourth fingers on the adjacent keys of the same row, and the thumbs resting on the space bar. This is called the basic position. After each keystroke, return your fingers to their starting point, so that the basic position is maintained for the entire typing session.

To find the basic position without looking at the keyboard, use your index fingers to locate the tactile reference points on keys **J** and **F**. The rest of your fingers will naturally fall into position.

Keyboard Map

The keyboard is sometimes represented by a map of different-colored keys. Each color represents the keys associated with a particular finger.

Keyboard maps vary slightly, but the principle is the same for all of them: each key is associated with one finger only, and all fingers are used for typing, with the hands moving as little as possible.

If, for whatever reason, you are unable to comfortably reach certain keys as shown by the map, you can assign other fingers to those keys. The important thing is to use all your fingers and to make sure that each key only has one finger associated with it.

Muscle Memory

If your eyes are on the keyboard while you type, you waste time looking for the correct keys. Your brain also does unnecessary work coordinating your movements instead of thinking about what you are writing.

The Typing Pal training program helps you to develop sensory and muscle memory, allowing your fingers to find the keys by reflex.

To quickly develop typing reflexes, start by focusing on your typing accuracy (not speed) and on maintaining the basic position between each keystroke. By doing so, your fingers will always make the same, correct movement for each of the keys, and the motion will become muscle memory.

Keep your eyes on the screen or the document you are retyping. Resist the temptation to glance at the keyboard. Trust your muscle memory; it will guide you!

Finally, to help your muscle memory register character sequences or whole words, keep a constant typing rhythm.

The , **Shift**, , **Alt** and **SPACE** Keys

The , **Shift**,  or **Alt** keys are often typed in combination with another key to write a special character or accent.

In this case, it is best to use the fingers of the opposite hand to type the , **Shift**,  or **Alt** key so that you can type the desired key with the usual finger.

For example, to type an exclamation mark (!), you normally need to type  and  at the same time. As most keyboard maps ask you to use the little finger of the left hand for the  key, you should use the little finger of the right hand to type the  key.

The **SPACE** bar can be typed using either thumb.

Typing Speed and Accuracy

Concentrate and take your time to avoid making mistakes. Focus on accuracy before speed. Once you can type with almost no errors, you can be confident that your muscle memory is good enough to help you speed up and reach your targets.

Practice regularly with Typing Pal and make it a personal challenge to complete all the activities with no errors. You will receive a gold star, proof of your keyboard mastery.

In Summary

Below is a summary of the recommendations that will help you develop a good typing method:

1. Pay attention to your posture and the ergonomics of your work environment.
2. Return your fingers to the basic position after each keystroke.
3. Always type the same key with the same finger, as shown by the keyboard map you have chosen.
4. Do not look at the keyboard; instead, trust your muscle memory to guide your fingers.
5. Keep a constant typing rhythm to help your muscle memory register character sequences and words.
6. Use the fingers of the opposite hand to type the , **Shift**,  or **Alt** keys.

7. Practice typing accurately before you try to type quickly. Your speed will gradually improve on its own.

Typing Accuracy

Before you can become a virtuoso on the piano, you must first be able to play scales without hitting any wrong notes. The same principle applies to mastering the computer keyboard.

Why Accuracy Before Speed?

At the start of the Typing Pal training program, users need to focus on accuracy, not on speed. This is as true for the typist who is in the habit of using just a few fingers as for the beginner who has never typed.

When you take the time to type without making mistakes, your fingers will get used to the correct movements. These motions will be written into your muscle memory. When this memory becomes more developed, it will allow you to type quickly without having to think or to look at the keyboard.

In this way, the total beginner actually has an advantage over the typist who has used an incorrect method for years, as this person will need to reprogram his or her muscle memory. This is why researchers recommend using an established method for learning to type, and starting at a young age.

The Typing Pal Approach

The Typing Pal program puts a lot of emphasis on accuracy as the basis of the learning approach.

1. **Accuracy: Your No. 1 Priority** — Along with speed, accuracy is the main target you will work towards in the activities under the *Learning* tab. If you are making a lot of mistakes, lower the target speed so that you can focus on your accuracy.
2. **Gold Stars for Encouragement** — To encourage you in developing an accurate typing technique, Typing Pal celebrates your successes with a shower of stars. These activities are marked with a gold star. The larger your collection of gold stars, the greater your keyboard skills!
3. **No Progress Without Perfection** — If you type the wrong key by mistake, Typing Pal does not allow you to continue the exercise until you have typed the correct character. This approach contributes to the development of perfect typing accuracy, as well as encouraging you to keep your eyes on the screen.
4. **Deleting Wastes Time** — The backspace key is sometimes overused or relied on as a crutch. To avoid developing this bad habit, Typing Pal does not let you use the backspace. Accurate typing is always more efficient than quick correction.

Typing Speed

The purpose of acquiring a good typing method is to learn to type quickly and efficiently. Speed is therefore the ultimate goal of the training. The best way to reach this goal is with a [good typing method](#).

What Speed Target Should I Aim For?

Although speed is measured objectively, its evaluation is much more subjective. What is a good target to aim for? It is difficult to say. Even the scientific literature is divided on the question.

The right speed target depends on your age and your end goal. Do you simply want to be more efficient in writing emails, or do you intend to compete in international competitions?

Targets for an adult	Words per minute (wpm)	Characters per minute (cpm)
Average speed	40 wpm and over	200 cpm and over
Above average speed	50 wpm and over	250 cpm and over
Productive speed	60 wpm and over	300 cpm and over
High speed	70 wpm and over	350 cpm and over
Competitive speed	120 wpm and over	600 cpm and over

Did you know? — According to [Intersteno](#), an international federation that regularly organizes international typing contests, the world record for typing speed is held by Czech typist Helena Matoušková. In 2003, she achieved a typing speed of 955 characters per minute. That's around 191 words per minute, with 99.97% precision!

The Typing Pal Approach

Final Target

Typing Pal suggests setting a final target for the typing speed you want to reach by the end of the training. This target will vary according to your age and the skill level you are aiming for. Check out the table below to help you set an appropriate target.

Age range	Beginner	Intermediate	Expert
6 to 11 years old	15 wpm (75 cpm) 80% accuracy	25 wpm (125 cpm) 85% accuracy	35 wpm (175 cpm) 90% accuracy
12 to 16 years old	30 wpm (150 cpm) 85% accuracy	40 wpm (200 cpm) 90% accuracy	50 wpm (250 cpm) 95% accuracy

17 years old and over	45 wpm (225 cpm) 90% accuracy	55 wpm (275 cpm) 95% accuracy	65 wpm (325 cpm) 100% accuracy
-----------------------	--	--	---

Intermediate Targets

Once you have set your final target, Typing Pal uses this to calculate intermediate targets for each of the training activities under the *Learning* tab. These intermediate targets are adjusted to the difficulty coefficient for the text and its relative position in the training plan.

For example, if the final target is set at 65 words per minute, the speed target for the first exercise will be set at 33 words per minute. Achieving this reasonable goal with total accuracy is a prediction of the training program's ultimate success.

Speed Evaluation

The typing speed recorded during exercises or tests at the end of each step under the *Learning* tab is useful for formative evaluation. For example, this data allows you to compare student scores during the course of their training.

For a summative evaluation, we recommend that you refer instead to the final tests under the *Learning* tab, or to the texts under the *Progress* tab, since the texts used in these activities more closely reflect a real-life context. Filter the statistics by selecting this activity type. This will show more accurate results in terms of the performance level achieved.

Finally, to evaluate progress, we recommend that you compare the initial test result with the final test result. Since the two tests are exactly the same, you will get a clear indication of progress.

Planning the Training

Don't start without a good game plan. Have a clear idea of the direction you want to give to the training, and then adjust your plan over the year to suit your students' needs.

Winning Formula

- **Make Typing Pal a game!** — Each practice session with Typing Pal is an opportunity for the students to improve in an atmosphere that is both fun and stimulating. When they set out to break their personal record and their fingers hit the keys at full speed without making any errors, it's certainly very exciting! If you can transmit this playful attitude to them, the students will persevere and succeed.
- **Plan brief sessions or take breaks** — Avoid imposing overly long practice sessions. The students will become tired and discouraged. Plan shorter sessions and allow for breaks. Extend the sessions gradually if you find the students are still engrossed and concentrated.
- **Schedule frequent sessions** — Students who practice frequently will progress faster. In addition to the sessions with you at school, they can also practice at home.
- **Don't stop the training too soon** — If the students have reached their targets, it's too soon to stop! The typing method needs time to become permanently ingrained. By stopping too early, bad habits may quickly return. Your students have finished? Increase their targets and push their limits.

First Lesson

1. **Underscore the advantages of efficient typing** — Start a discussion with your students so they become aware of the importance of typing quickly without errors.
2. **Present the 7 keys to success** — Show the video on the [7 keys to success](#) or introduce the basic principles to be respected yourself.
3. **Determine the level of the students** — Have your students complete the [initial test](#). This test will give you an idea of the students' level and it can be used later to measure their progress.
4. **Do a few activities** — Depending on how much time is left in the period, have the students do a few of the exercises found in the first step.
5. **Adjust the targets** — Then take the time to [analyze the results](#) of your students to assess the level of your group. [Adjust the targets](#) accordingly. If the students are at different levels, you may want to raise the targets for the better students or reduce them for those having difficulties.

Long-Term Planning

- We suggest that you plan about one hour of practice per week, divided into three or four sessions. For example, students can practice once in class and the other times at home or in the school library.
- You can monitor the students' progress to ensure that the group is advancing at the same pace by combining the following suggestions:
 - [Unlock access](#) to a new set of exercises each week.
 - Only [unlock the test](#) when the students are in class in order to control the conditions in which the test is taken.
 - Encourage the students to win the golden icons for each activity by completing it perfectly.
- When their daily or weekly targets have been met, students can play [games](#), do [improvement activities](#) or type [practice texts](#). [Raise the targets](#) to get the students to do even better.

Personalizing the Program

Typing Pal offers an efficient training program while still allowing you to make certain adjustments to suit your students or your own teaching style. Below are some of the advanced features for tailoring your training program.

Access to Activities

The exercises under the *Learning* tab have been designed to introduce new keys gradually, repeating them often at the outset, then alternating with other keys that have already appeared in previous exercises.

Since the activities use characters that have already been introduced, the program, by default, only lets students complete the activities in the suggested order. They must successfully complete all the exercises in a given step before they can take the test.

However, you might wish to override this feature to reflect your own teaching requirements.

For example, if you want to supervise your students' work, you can [lock access to the tests](#) so they can't be done at home.

You might like to give your students the freedom to [complete activities in any order](#) so that they can master the drills before getting started on special characters.

Finally, you can [block access to games](#) if you prefer to keep them as a reward.

Personalized Targets

[Choose speed and accuracy targets](#) for your whole group based on their training program and skill level.

You always have the option to [make adjustments for specific students](#) so that everyone has a challenge adapted to their individual abilities.

Texts

When students have practiced typing all the keys and using all their fingers, they are ready to move on to the texts under the *Progress* tab.

By default, the three collections of texts cannot be modified, but you can [add new original collections](#).

You might like to create a new text collection linked to a writing project, lessons, or vocabulary that you want students to study.

Improvement Activities

The [improvement activities](#) are automatically generated by Typing Pal's algorithm, which analyzes the student's typing and detects which characters or fingers need more practice.

These exercises therefore offer your students a set of personalized activities, adapted to their individual needs.

Worksheets

Documents

Literature Review

Summary

A good typing method not only enables faster writing, it also frees up the brain's resources for the complex mental processes that writing requires (Johansson et al., 2009). Regular practice and good typing skills therefore allow students to write better (Wideman and Owston, 2000). Furthermore, their typed texts are of a higher quality than those written by hand (Crook, 2007). Researchers recommend that students learn the correct technique as early as possible (Wichter et al., 1997), preferably through frequent 15-minute sessions over the course of more than one school year (Losier, 2002).

Typing Practice in the Teaching Program

One of the main objectives of school education is to prepare young people to take an active part in society later in life. Given the growing role of information and communication technologies (ICT) in the development of modern economies, ICT education is both valuable and necessary.

Those who lack sufficient technological skills could fall foul of the “digital divide” (Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques, 2010).

Of the various digital skills to master, typing is one of the most essential (White, 2003) and should even be part of early primary school education (Wichter et al., 1997).

Excerpts from various teaching programs show that typing is already an integral part of students' education, leading many schools and teachers to look for an effective training program to help their students develop this essential skill.

The Perfect Time to Begin Training

The majority of students do not have access to their own computer at school, and computer lab sessions are often sporadic. Most student work at both primary and secondary level is still written by hand.

Even so, Wichter et al. (1997) argue that typing training should take place as early as possible. Researchers suggest that this training should begin before students start to use computers in a more general manner, since older students may be more reluctant to learn than their younger counterparts. Children in primary school should therefore receive typing training regardless of the intensity of their computer use.

Sooner or later, quick typing is certain to become an essential skill in schools, even at the primary level. A growing number of primary and secondary teaching establishments in North America and elsewhere are already starting to assign a computer or tablet to every student (Associated Press, 2012).

Without the proper training, some students develop an incorrect typing technique. While this does not necessarily prevent them from typing quickly (Gemmell, 2003), their typing speed will nonetheless plateau after a given point. Worse, they risk damaging their tendons in the long term. Unfortunately, once the typing rate has reached a certain level of efficiency, an incorrect typing technique becomes much more difficult to fix (Yechiam et al., 2003). It is therefore crucial to avoid bad typing habits from becoming entrenched and thus impossible to correct.

Whether students type quickly using a poor technique, or slowly with their eyes glued to the keyboard, they stand to gain from typing training from the first years of primary school onwards, no matter the frequency of their computer use. Yet the advantages of a good typing technique are not limited to writing speed, precision, and ergonomic optimization. Indeed, researchers have obtained results that point to unexpected advantages, particularly regarding the quality of written texts.

Unexpected Advantages

When researchers compared a group of subjects who had mastered a good typing technique with a group that had not, the first group were found—unsurprisingly—to write longer texts, and more quickly, than the second group. More striking perhaps was that the first group’s texts were also of a higher quality than those of the second group.

This is explained by the fact that a good typing technique frees up internal resources, leading to better execution of connected secondary tasks (Johansson et al., 2009). As such, reflection and creative processes are not hampered by a constant visual recourse to the keyboard.

Teachers can thus benefit from training their students to type before giving them computer-based writing projects. Not only could faster completion of the task make up for the training time, the finished text may also be of higher quality.

Once they learn to type efficiently, students who use a computer often write higher-quality texts than those who write by hand. Crook (2007) explains this difference by the cognitive load associated with handwriting which he believes impacts the composition process. In addition, using a keyboard is less intimidating and requires fewer psychomotor skills than handwriting does, especially for young children (Balajthy, 1988 and Campbell, 1973). Texts typed on the computer are also easier to write, revise, and alter than those written by hand (Gemmell, 2003).

Wilderman and Owston (2000) found that students who regularly write on a computer produce texts of a higher quality in terms of style and structure. The researchers conclude that regular use of word-processing software contributes to the qualitative improvement of students’ written work.

For Crook (2007), this underscores the importance of a good typing technique in ensuring that computer-based writing is as rapid and fluent as possible. Meanwhile for Johansson and his team (2009), automation of the typing process and the habit of continually looking at the screen mean that the brain’s resources are freed up for the more complex mental tasks involved in writing. These researchers noticed that typists who keep their eyes on the screen also re-read their own texts more frequently and edit them more.

Overall, those who keep their eyes on the screen are faster and more productive, tend to re-read their work more frequently, and are more capable of mental multitasking. Research led by Crook (2007) and published in scientific literature has established a correlation between writing speed and compositional quality of texts by children aged 7 to 9.

Conclusion

The importance of teaching a good typing method in schools is clear. Daily practice with Typing Pal, integrated into the teaching program, considerably improves students’ chances of mastering a good typing technique. In turn, this progressive improvement allows students to concentrate on the quality and richness of their texts. While research has already made great progress in this domain, we must continue to explore typing methods and their positive effects on learning. By doing so, will we be able to hone our teaching practices.

The Typing Pal team is always looking for new studies on this subject that will help improve its pedagogical approach. If you have any suggestions for scientific texts on the acquisition of typing techniques, please feel free to share them with us. We are committed to providing students with the best possible tool, informed by research in science and education.

Bibliography

- Associated Press. (November 24, 2012). California among few states clinging to pen as cursive writing is erased from curriculum. *The Washington Post*.
- Associated Press. (2012). Les enfants et les professeurs se détachent des lettres attachées. *Journal Métro*, 12(180), 28.
- Balajthy, E. (February 1988). Keyboarding, Language Arts, and the Elementary School Child. *The Computing Teacher*, 15(5), 40-43.

- Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association. (2010). *Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects*. Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association.
- Crook, C. (2007). Does using a computer disturb the organization of children's writing? *The British Psychological Society*, 25, 313-321.
- Gemmell, S. (April 2003). A Study of Keyboarding Instruction and the Acquisition of Word Processing Skills. Philadelphia, PA, USA: Chestnut Hill College.
- Johansson, R., Wengelin, A., Johansson, V., & Holmqvist, K. (2009). Looking at the keyboard or the monitor: Relationship with text production processes. *Springer*, 23(7), 835-851.
- Losier, H. (2002). *Master's dissertation presented to faculty of Sciences de l'éducation*. Moncton.
- Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques. (2010). *Are the New Millennium Learners Making the Grade?* Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques, Centre pour la recherche et l'innovation dans l'enseignement, Paris.
- White, N. (November 17, 2003). Speeding up the quick brown fox; Keyboarding an essential skill for job market
Repetitive strain injuries are a concern for kids. *Toronto Star*.
- Wichter, S., Haas, M., Canzoneri, S., & Alexander, R. (August 19, 1997). *Keyboarding Skills for Middle School Students*. Consulted October 11, 2012, on Alton C. Crews Middle School:
<http://www.crews.org/curriculum/ex/compsci/teachers/keybd-res/keyboard.html>
- Wideman, H., & Owston, R. (2000). *Learning with eMates in Etobicoke; Final Project Report*. York University, Centre for the Study of Computers in Education.
- Yechiam, E., Erev, I., Yehene, V., & Gopher, D. (2003). Melioration and the Transition from Touch-Typing Training to Everyday Use. *Human Factors*, 45(4), 671-684.

Home Edition

User Guide

User Guide for Personal/Home Edition



The Typing Pal team created this user's guide to help you get the most out of our learn-to-type application. Use it to discover all of Typing Pal's features, along with tips to help you learn faster. The guide will also answer most of your questions.

If this is your first time using Typing Pal, we recommend you read this chapter.

- **First steps**

- **Customize your settings** — Select your work environment, language, and keyboard, and set speed and accuracy goals.
- **Preparation** — Learn some basic tips and measure your initial skill level.
- **Training** — Practice often with a variety of activities.

- **Training plan**

- **Winning formula** — Stick to our four basic principles to learn the right typing method effectively and efficiently.
- **First lesson** — Learn how to approach your first practice session.
- **Long-term planning** — Set a training plan for the weeks and months to come.

Logging In

This chapter explains how to log in to Typing Pal using your Duide account or other unique authentication services.

- **Sign in with Duide**
 - Use your Duide account credentials with this sign-in method.
- **Sign in with Microsoft**
 - Use your Microsoft user account credentials with this sign-in method.
- **Sign in with Google**
 - Use your Google user account credentials with this sign-in method.
- **Sign in with Apple**
 - Use your Apple user account credentials with this sign-in method.
- **Sign in with Facebook**
 - Use your Facebook account credentials with this sign-in method.

Management

This chapter covers everything you need to know about your profile, subscription, and associated users.

- **Profile**
 - **Avatars** — Select the avatar that suits you best from among the 109 choices.
 - **Sign-in Credentials** — Update your sign-in credentials.
- **Subscription**
 - **Limitations of the Trial Version** — Learn the limitations of the trial version.
 - **Advantages of the Full Version** — Discover the advantages of the full version.
 - **Purchase a Subscription** — Purchase a subscription in just seconds.
 - **Add Additional Users** — Give the gift of Typing Pal to the whole family.
- **Users**
 - **Types of Users** — Learn about the different types of users.
 - **Add a Guest User** — Email an invitation to a family member.
 - **Add a Supervised User** — Create an account for a child younger than 13 who does not have an email address.

Training

This chapter covers the various training activities.

- **Targets**
 - **Speed Measurement Unit** — Set the speed measurement unit to either words per minute or characters per minute.
 - **Targets** — Determine and set your speed and accuracy targets.
- **Preparation**
 - **Essential Tips** — Watch a short video on the seven principles for learning to type successfully and effectively.
 - **Initial Test** — Take the initial test to set a benchmark for your progress.
- **Training Activities**
 - **Exercises** — Learn how exercises are designed.
 - **Improvement Activities** — Learn how improvement activities will help you improve.
 - **Texts** — Learn how to practice typing in realistic settings.
 - **Tests** — Learn how the tests are designed.
- **Games**
 - **Cosmik Ball** — Discover this game, where you have to type single characters on command to keep an explosive cosmic ball captive.
 - **Monkeys in Jeopardy** — Take a peek at this game, where you have to type sequences of characters and single words to extend life-saving vines to monkeys threatened by a storm.
 - **Magical Duel** — New Feature 2023 Become bewitched by this strategic game in which you cast spells by correctly typing phrases of varying lengths to free the enchanted subjects of a magical realm.
 - **Difficulty Levels** — Select the difficulty level that will give you the most stimulating challenge.
 - **High Scores** — Check out the different high score rankings to see how you measure up against other family members, if applicable.

Interface

This chapter introduces Typing Pal's interface elements and display options.

- **Home Screen**
 - **Suggested Activity Tiles** — Typing Pal welcomes students with two suggested activity tiles when you log in.
- **Language and Keyboard**
 - **Language** — Select your interface language and learning language.
 - **Keyboard** — Select the keyboard layout that best matches the physical keyboard you will be typing on.
- **Learning Environment**
 - Select your learning environment by selecting the age group that best meets your needs.
- **Feedback**
 - **Entertaining Animations and Keyboard Viewer** — Discover the entertaining animations and the keyboard viewer, two viewing modes that encourage you to look at the screen while typing.
 - **Audio Notification** — An audio notification lets you know if you've reached your targets. This option can be disabled for a silent environment.
- **Display Options for Activities**
 - Configure your display to create an optimal work interface.
- **Keyboard Navigation**
 - Learn to navigate using your keyboard.

Results

This chapter covers the tools used to measure and evaluate your performance and progress.

- **Activity Log**
 - **Statistics** — Track your progress and evaluate your performance using your results.
 - **Data Selection** — Filter your statistics and refine your results.
 - **Video Replay** — Watch any activity again to better analyze your performance.
- **Accuracy and Speed**
 - Get a qualitative analysis from Typing Pal that shows your strengths and weaknesses.
- **Personal Bests and Badges**
 - **Personal Bests** — See how the system of personal bests work
 - **Badges** — Discover the progress, performance, perseverance and mystery badges.
- **Certificate of Achievement**
 - How to get your certificate of achievement.
- **Reset**
 - Find out how to reset your results if you want to start again from zero.
- **Achievements Panel**
 - Discover the achievements panel showing achievement level, badges collected and stars won, as well as average speed and accuracy.

Frequently Asked Questions

General Information

What is the difference between the Personal and Home editions of Typing Pal?

Both editions require an internet connection and run on Mac, Windows, Chromebook and iPad. Their numerous training exercises can be used on several devices by children and adults alike. However, only the Home edition includes three user profiles (you can add more profiles for an additional fee).

Typing Pal Home Edition is the first typing software that enables parents to supervise their children's learning. Detailed statistics make it possible to follow young users' progress, analyze their performance and even review their work in video playback. Each user chooses between three environments offering coaches, animations and practice texts adapted to their age group (6–11 years, 12–16 years, 17 and older).

What types of keyboards are available in Typing Pal?

The available keyboards are an English version (compatible with QWERTY keyboards), a European version (compatible with AZERTY and QWERTZ keyboards) and a Canadian French version (compatible with QWERTY and Canadian multilingual keyboards).

Which edition of Typing Pal do you recommend for kids?

All Typing Pal editions are suitable for children. However, the Home Edition was specifically designed to allow parents to guide and follow their children's learning. For more information on the differences between each edition please see the following [article](#).

How many accounts are included with the Home edition?

Typing Pal Home Edition comes with three user profiles (including the subscription holder's account). You can add up to six more users, for a total of nine.

Is there a trial version for Typing Pal?

Yes. The trial version has limited features (one user, one game, some exercises and some texts) and no expiration date.

Please note that we do not offer technical support for trial versions.

When I use Typing Pal through my public library's website, I lose my progress every time I log in. Is this normal?

Yes. The Typing Pal software available in public libraries is a collective subscription that does not allow users to record their individual progress. For a personalized experience, we recommend the Home or Personal editions of Typing Pal.

Login

I forgot my password. How can I access my account?

You can reset the password for your Typing Pal account from your [Client Portal](#) by using the button on the login page.

Typing Pal Home Edition is used for supervised learning at home or homeschooling. The user who holds the subscription acts as supervisor for the account. To reset the password for a supervised account—a child's account, for example—please proceed as follows:

1. Log into account as the primary user (Account Holder).
2. From the homepage, choose **My Settings > Users**.
3. At the bottom of the page, click on the button associated with the user and choose **Change password**.

I'm trying to access Typing Pal, but my web browser returns an error page (Error 403). What can I do?

For security reasons, requests from anonymous networks are blocked (e.g., proxy servers, VPN, data centres and Tor nodes). NordVPN is supported and should work with Typing Pal. Otherwise, we suggest connecting to Typing Pal directly without going through a VPN.

Configuration

As an Occupational Therapist, I require several accounts for my clients. Which subscription do you recommend?

Typing Pal Home Edition comes with three user profiles (including the subscription holder's account). You can add up to six more, for a total of nine users.

Proceed as follows:

1. Log in to your Home Edition account.
2. From the homepage, go to **My settings > Subscription**.
3. Click **Options > Add users**.
4. Click **Next** to proceed with the payment.

You can add up to six additional users, for a total of nine. Should you require more user profiles, contact our sales department by email at multiposte@druide.com.

Will my Typing Pal subscription renew automatically?

When you subscribe to Typing Pal, automatic renewal is disabled. It can be activated manually if needed.

I have three children. Which Typing Pal subscription do I need?

We recommend subscribing to Typing Pal Home Edition and adding an additional user.

Typing Pal Home Edition is used for home supervision or homeschooling. The user who holds the subscription acts as a supervisor for the account. For example, you can manually create a profile for a child under 16 who doesn't have an email address.

Since the subscription holder has the ability to create accounts for minors, some of whom are too young to have an email account, we do not recommend the supervisor role be assumed by anyone besides the subscription holder. To add additional users, proceed as follows:

1. Log in to Typing Pal.
2. From the homepage, select **My settings** > **Users**, and click **Buy additional users**.

My iPad keyboard does not work with Typing Pal. What can I do?

Apple's new **Smart Punctuation** feature automatically substitutes some forms of punctuation with typographically suitable equivalents (for example, "straight" quotation marks are replaced with "smart" quotation marks).

Typing Pal will not recognize these characters.

You can disable this feature by going to **Settings > General > Keyboards > Smart Punctuation**.

My keyboard does not match the keys in Typing Pal. This prevents me from progressing. What should I do?

An incorrectly configured keyboard will prevent you from performing exercises. Most reported issues are related to incorrect keyboard configurations. Your physical keyboard must match the keyboard configured in Typing Pal.

To confirm that you are experiencing a configuration issue, try typing the characters that cause the issue into a document or an email to check whether the keys are properly mapped.

To map the keyboard configuration in your Typing Pal account, please proceed as follows:

1. Log in to your Typing Pal account.
2. From the homepage, go to **My settings** > **Language and keyboard**.
3. Change the **Platform**, **Input method**, and **Layout** settings so that the **Preview** matches your physical keyboard.

My keyboard is misconfigured. What can I do?

An incorrectly configured keyboard will prevent you from performing exercises. Most reported issues are related to incorrect keyboard configurations. Your physical keyboard must match the keyboard configured in Typing Pal.

To confirm that you are experiencing a configuration issue, try typing the characters that cause the issue into a document or an email to check whether the keys are properly mapped.

To configure the keyboard in your Typing Pal account, please proceed as follows:

1. Log in to your Typing Pal account.
2. From the homepage, go to **My settings > Language and keyboard**.
3. Change the **Platform**, **Input method**, and **Layout** settings so that the **Preview** matches your physical keyboard.

My child does not have an email address. How do I create and configure their account?

You can manually create a profile for a child under 16 who doesn't have an email address.

Proceed as follows:

1. From the homepage, go to **My settings > Users**.
2. Click the large “+” icon.
3. Select **Profile creation for a child under 16 (without an email address)** from the drop-down menu at the top of the window (it is set to **Email invite** by default).
4. Complete the required fields and click **Create**.

We subscribed to the Home edition. How do I set up my children's accounts?

You can manually create a profile for a child under 16 who doesn't have an email address.

Proceed as follows:

1. From the homepage, go to **My settings > Users**.
2. Click the large "+" icon.
3. Select **Profile creation for a child under 16 (without an email address)** from the drop-down menu at the top of the window (it is set to **Email invite** by default).
4. Complete the required fields and click **Create**.

Tips

I'm stuck on the first exercise. What can I do?

You must pass all level 1 exercises and the exam to gain access to subsequent exercises. Please note that the trial version includes only one exercise.

Online Shopping

I'm trying to purchase Typing Pal but my transaction has been denied. What can I do?

Our online store accepts payments using Visa, Mastercard or Eurocard. Since our store is located in Canada, your financial institution must allow transactions in Canada. Please speak to your financial institution about getting the relevant authorizations.

Why is the VAT fee not on my receipt?

Because our online store is located in Canada, a Value-Added Tax (VAT) is only collected from Canadian residents. If VAT applies to your purchase, you must pay it to your country's relevant authorities.

School Edition

My children have access to Typing Pal through their school, but they can't sign in to their account. What can I do?

Verify with your children's school that its Typing Pal subscription is active. If so, there may be a login issue. Ask the school to give you the children's usernames or to reset their passwords.

Keep in mind that for security reasons, requests from anonymous networks are blocked (e.g., proxy servers, VPN, data centres and Tor nodes).

NordVPN is supported and should work with Typing Pal. Otherwise, we suggest connecting to Typing Pal directly without going through a VPN.

I had a Typing Pal account with my school. I want to continue my learning with a personal subscription. Is this possible?

It is not possible to transfer your progress from one subscription to another for any edition of Typing Pal.

New Features for School Edition

Improvements 2023

Released June 26, 2023, Typing Pal's annual update featured the launch of the brand-new game *Magical Duel*. Several new settings were also added in response to feedback from school staff. The most notable improvements made to Typing Pal's School Edition are:



Magical Duel

Joining the educational games *Cosmik Ball* (played by typing single characters) and *Monkeys in Jeopardy* (played by typing words), comes *Magical Duel* (played by typing phrases). Set in a fantasy world, this game requires students to choose spells strategically and type them out correctly for their character to be able to defeat a series of opponents.



Game Badges

Students can earn new badges by winning rounds 5, 10, 15 and 20 of *Magical Duel*. They can also unlock a mystery badge by playing the game. How? It's a secret!



Personal Rankings for Each Activity

A new link on the screen that appears after an activity has been completed lets students consult their activity history and view past results. This feature makes it easier for them to track their progress on a particular exercise or test.



Activity Log Date Filter

In response to feedback from teachers, a date filter has been added to allow quick access to activities carried out over a given period. This feature can be accessed from both the management interface and the student interface.

Recommended Target Charts

Charts provide numerical targets for each age group (6 to 11, 12 to 16, and 17+) and skill level (beginner, intermediate, expert) to guide goal setting for typing speed and accuracy.



Option to Add Multiple Teachers per Group

Group management settings are being updated so that multiple teachers can be assigned to the same group starting at the beginning of the new school year.



Settings to Manage Teacher Account Permissions

In response to requests from school officials, super administrators and school administrators can now limit teacher account permissions to edit student accounts, groups and text collections.



Setting to Define the Data Retention Period



Super administrators can now specify the amount of time after which accounts will be automatically deleted following subscription expiry. This setting makes it easier to comply with their institutional data management policies, for example.

Improvements 2022

We released our annual update of Typing Pal on August 25, 2022, just in time for the back-to-school season. As an ongoing computer code redesign brings significant developments, here are the main improvements that teachers and students can benefit from today.



Educational Practice Texts

Each collection of texts—*easy*, *intermediate* and *difficult*—now has an additional section about the English language (or the French language, depending on your subscription). These practice texts, inspired by the language guides in the writing assistance software [Antidote](#), allow students to strengthen their typing skills while reviewing their knowledge of language in a fun way!



Limited Edition Badges

After the *progress*, *performance*, *persistence*, and *mystery* badges, a new type of badge is coming to Typing Pal: *limited edition* badges. These can only be unlocked within a specific timeframe corresponding to a particular event. For example, Typing Pal's very first limited edition badge, *Back to School 2022*, is available from August 25 to September 15, 2022. The appearance (and disappearance!) of these challenges is designed to sustain your students' interests all year long. They are announced on Typing Pal's badge page and on [our Facebook page](#).



Controlling Access to *Move On* Activities

We always take educators' requests into consideration. Therefore, it's thanks to you that teachers are now able to lock practice texts and improvement activities. Since game locking was already in place, you can now independently manage access to each type of activity in the *Move On* tab. This way, you can focus your students' attention on the type of activities of your choosing for each of your groups. The relevant settings can be found in the *Settings* section of the *Group Summary* page.



Computer Code Redesign

After we replaced our server system last year, we began a complete redesign of Typing Pal's computer code. These efforts are already bearing fruit. For example, we rolled out over 20 updates—mostly for patches and bug fixes—without a single service interruption. New security measures have been put in place to protect your personal information. The algorithm that generates content for the improvement activities and the *Monkeys in Jeopardy* game was strengthened to better prevent the accidental spelling of inappropriate words in an educational context.

Improvements 2021

Top Improvements

On July 8, we released our annual update of Typing Pal. The biggest change took place behind the scenes: we fully replaced the servers and made significant structural changes. This major investment means that Typing Pal can now offer you even better services, and for longer. Learn more about this year's new features below.



Improved Safety, Stability, and Performance

Major upgrades to the Typing Pal servers' infrastructure have further improved its safety, stability, and performance. These upgrades also lay the groundwork for new improvements to be developed—look out for them next year.



Simplified Association with Office 365, Google, and Clever Accounts

When login is done with an Office 365, Google, or Clever account, Typing Pal now recognizes the associated email address and checks whether a Typing Pal account already exists for that address. For the school, this avoids the accidental creation of an additional account where one already exists. For the student, login is now completed in two clicks—no additional password needed.



Number Pad Training

Not all keyboards come with a number pad, but if you're lucky enough to have one, make the most of it! New training texts including serial numbers, mathematical operations, decimal numbers, and whole numbers help you develop the typing skills needed for data entry.



Easier Process for Adding and Testing Out Texts

Now it is even easier for you to add your own training texts, as the special characters created by some word-processing software programs ("curly" apostrophes, hairline spaces, etc.) are automatically replaced by the universally recognized characters used by Typing Pal. Plus, you can test out your newly created activities without leaving the management interface.



Additional Details for Better Monitoring

You can view the last exercise each student has successfully completed, just by consulting the student list—handy for checking who is behind and who is ahead. The student log also tells you the number of attempts for each activity. A new filter identifies the lowest completed scores, plus you can now erase one at a time to avoid unduly affecting the statistical reports.



Automatically Generated Letters to Parents

With the click of a button, create an individual letter for all the students in your group. Each letter includes the student's name and the instructions for logging into Typing Pal, inviting parents to support their child's training at home.



Clues For Mystery Badges

Students now receive a clue to help them collect the mystery badges. If they need more help, you can always access the solutions in the management interface. Six new challenges have also been added.

All Improvements

Technological Infrastructure

- Full replacement of servers and structural changes.
- Improved safety mechanisms for the software platform.
- Modernized and upgraded application code.

Login

- Simplified association between Typing Pal and Office 365, Google, and Clever accounts.

Student Environment

- New section with 12 training texts on the number pad for each of the three environments (6 to 11 years, 12 to 16 years, 17 years and over).
- Clues to help students obtain the mystery badges.
- Six new mystery badges.
- Improved display of data in the activity calendar. Future months can now be viewed during the first year of training.
- Correction of a display problem in the keyboard viewer in Windows. Replacement of the Cmd key with Win.
- Removal of extra spaces before carriage returns at the end of a line in timed texts. Greater consistency with the format of other activities.
- Correction of an animation problem that sometimes appeared in Safari when typing errors were made.

Management Tools

- Automatic replacement of the special characters created by some word-processing software programs (“curly” apostrophes, hairline spaces, etc.) with universally recognized characters.
- New function to test personalized texts directly from the management interface.
- Latest exercise successfully completed (having achieved objectives) displayed in the student list for a group.
- Statistics on the number of attempts made by a student for an activity.
- More intuitive sorting of badges in the student’s record.
- More efficient loading of the student log.
- Filter to display lowest completed scores for each activity.
- Option to erase a chosen result.
- Generator for letters to parents that include the student’s name, the name of the class leader, the school’s personalized URL, and the login instructions.
- More teacher accounts displayed in the drop-down list of the form for creating school accounts.

Improvements 2020

Top Improvements

On August 20, we released our annual update of Typing Pal, and we've focused almost all of our efforts on developing ways to motivate your students even more! Here are the main new features.



New Home Screen

Your students will soon be greeted with a dynamic screen including tiles that update to reflect their progress. For example, once they've studied the tips and completed the initial test, the corresponding tiles become *Exercises* and *Texts* tiles. As well as offering shortcuts, these tiles indicate the number of activities completed, giving students an overview of their progress.



More Attentive Coaches

They're more instructive, too! The coaches are characters chosen by your students to guide them through their training. Now, they offer more than just encouragement. They look at the progress made and offer targeted recommendations on which parts of Typing Pal's pedagogical program to pursue next. For example, a coach may look at a student's progress and suggest some improvement activities.



Kudos for Record-breaking

To help motivate students to redo exercises and texts, their best results in terms of both speed and accuracy appear in the targets panel just before the beginning of the activity. If they manage to beat one of these results, they get a gold medal.



20 New Badges

There are already fifty badges to collect in Typing Pal, rewarding students for their achievements and encouraging them to persevere. Five new badges for attendance are awarded on a weekly, monthly and yearly basis. Six new badges are awarded for sticking to improvement activities, and nine more for those keyboard aces who complete a number of exercises and texts with 100% accuracy.



Audio Feedback

We have also added sounds. After each activity, a sound effect lets students know if they have reached their goal or not. Whenever an improvement activity is passed or a record is smashed, another distinctive sound is used for celebration. And don't worry if you prefer a quiet working environment – audio feedback can easily be disabled in the settings.



Visual Feedback

With your permission, Typing Pal shows speed and accuracy statistics as students complete an exercise or type a text. This has been the case for years, but now the statistics change color, allowing your students to see in real time whether they are reaching their speed and accuracy targets. This visual feedback will help students focus their efforts.

Better Progress Tracking



Before, you could easily see how many activities your students still had to complete, but it was harder to identify the activities themselves. Thanks to two new tabs in the student's file, *Exercises* and *Texts*, you no longer need to analyze the log to get this information. Each of these tabs displays the full list of activities as icons. You even have access to the step-by-step progress chart.



Dark Mode

Dark mode is a display mode that prioritizes dark shades, emitting less blue light than traditional light display modes. Using it reduces screen glare and the mental fatigue that comes with it. What's more some visually impaired students can read white text on a black background more easily than black text on a white background.

All Improvements

Student Environment

- New home screen
 - Suggests activities based on student's progress
 - Shows the number of complete activities
 - Shows four useful shortcuts: Improvement activities, Games, Badges and Results
- Activity suggestions from coaches based on student's progress
- Personal bests
 - Display of the top results for speed and accuracy in an activity's target panel
 - Awarding of a gold medal when student beats a personal best
- More than 20 new badges
 - 6 new perseverance badges as a reward for the completion of improvement activities
 - 5 new perseverance badges reward student's diligence in training
 - 9 new performance badges highlight exceptional accomplishments
- Audio feedback
 - Sound effects tell student whether or not they have met their targets
 - Special sounds when an improvement activity has been completed or a record has been broken
 - Option to disable audio feedback in the settings
- Visual feedback while typing through the changing colors of the statistics, which indicate whether targets are being met or not
- New video replay button in panel is displayed at the end of the activity

Display

- New dark mode uses dark colors and emits less blue light than the traditional light mode
- New types of icons indicate whether tests have simply been completed or completed without any mistakes
- Calendars now display years

Management Tools

- New *Exercises* and *Texts* tabs in student profile to make it easier to track progress and view completed activities

Improvements 2019

Top Improvements

On June 27, we released the annual update for Typing Pal — School Edition. This time, we have focused our efforts on new tools that allow you to guide your students more efficiently in their learning. Here are its top new features.



Live Supervision

See your students' activity in real time from a dynamic new dashboard. Which students are logged in? Are they doing the right exercise? Follow them every step of the way.



Attendance Calendar

Analyze your students' attendance with a new calendar that shows their use over the last twelve months. Evaluate your students' participation at a glance thanks to red dots that change size.



Complete Pedagogical Resources

Discover new pedagogical resources including a start-up guide, advice on methodology and worksheets. Everything you need to guide your students efficiently.



Usage Reports for Parents

Generate summary reports showing students' attendance and performance. Share them with their parents to involve them in their child's progress. Together, you can encourage them to persevere.



Enhanced Certificates of Achievement

Bulk export the certificates of achievement for all the students in your group. Another new feature: the certificate now shows speed and accuracy.



Complete Statistics

Statistics now include data on improvement activities and gaming sessions. Any time spent on Typing Pal counts!



Global Search

Type a name in the new global search field and see the list of relevant results appear as you type. Whether you're searching for a student, a colleague or an institution, you'll find what you're looking for right away.



More Balanced Exercises

Explore the exercises and tests for rare characters and see how much more balanced they are. Your students will easily learn those characters that can be difficult to type.

All Improvements

Management Tools

- A new dashboard for supervising students in real time showing whether a student is logged into their account and displaying the activity that they are currently working on.
- New real-time information in the student's summary showing whether a student is logged into their account and displaying the activity that they are currently working on.
- Visual improvements to the student's summary, including the following:
 - A progress chart
 - A graph showing time spent on Typing Pal over the last twelve months
 - The attendance calendar for the current month
- A new attendance calendar for the last twelve months.
- Improvements to the certificates of achievement, including the following:
 - Speed and accuracy information
 - Option for the teacher or the administrator to generate a certificate for a single student or in bulk for all the students in a group
- A new global search field allowing users to easily find a student, teacher, administrator or institution.
- New column to sort students based on the number of completed activities
- The option to generate usage reports for parents that contain the following information:
 - Average speed
 - Average accuracy
 - Time spent on Typing Pal over the last twelve months
 - The number of activities done over the last twelve months
 - The number of completed activities
 - The number of stars obtained for activities completed with a perfect score
 - Data on speed and accuracy (fastest characters, most accurate characters, etc.)
- Improvement of students' usage statistics, which now take into account time spent on the following activities:
 - Improvement activities
 - Games
 - Incomplete activities
- New option to delete the results of incomplete activities and improvement activities
- Automatic adjustment of a group's speed and accuracy targets when a student is added to it
- Access to management tools for administrators after the end of their subscription in order to export or delete information
- Export of statistical data with search criteria at the top of the lists

Pedagogical Resources

- Addition of a start-up guide for teachers.
- Creation of eleven lesson plans with worksheets adapted for different keyboard layouts.
- Redesigned self-assessment sheet for primary and secondary school levels as well as for adult education.
- Inclusion of a review of scientific literature on the benefits of acquiring a good typing method and on the best teaching methods.
- Articles containing advice on methodology on the following subjects:
 - Typing method
 - Keyboard accuracy
 - Typing speed
 - Training planning
- Addition of a legend for all the activity icons in the student environment.

Student Environment

- Addition of an attendance calendar for the last twelve months.
- Improvement of the activities log, which now takes into account time spent on the following activities:
 - Improvement activities
 - Games

- Incomplete activities
- Randomized content when students restart an exercise or test so that they cannot memorize an activity.
- Better calibration of exercises and tests for rare characters that can be difficult to type.
- Display of all the characters associated with exercises and tests in student's journal.

Settings

- Addition of an option for students and administrators to block the video replay feature.
- Option to accept all types of apostrophes and quotation marks.

Display

- Handling of screens with high pixel density
- Improvement of the appearance of interface panels during loading

Security

- Student password
 - Generation of random passwords that are easy to remember
 - New visual indicator to show password's strength in students' forms

Improvements 2018

Top Improvements

On June 26, we launched our annual update to Typing Pal, boasting a refreshed, modern look and even richer and more varied content. Here are its top seven new features:

-
- 

Log in With Clever

Clever's single sign-on system is now compatible with Typing Pal. It joins those of Google and Office 365 to give you even more one-click login options.
-
- 

Unified Interface

Students of all ages will now be brought together under one updated working interface with no disruption to their browsing habits. This unification provides a smooth transition for students moving between age groups.
-
- 

Achievements Panel

Students will be able to access the brand-new achievements panel at any time from their avatar, allowing them to quickly check how far they have come. It will show them a new achievement level, badges collected, stars won, as well as their average speed and accuracy.
-
- 

More Intuitive Icons

All of the training activities will benefit from a complete revamp of their icons, which will give a clearer illustration of the type and status of the activity. This way, students will quickly spot which activities need to be done or repeated.
-
- 

A New Type of Exercise

Learning will be enhanced with the addition of 30 new drill-based exercises. They will help students work on their muscle memory by focusing on common character sequences. In English, this includes words ending in *-ness*, *-ing*, *-ion*, and many more.
-
- 

144 New Texts

Four themed sets of twelve training texts have been added for each of Typing Pal's three age groups. In total, 144 new texts open windows onto the history and richness of the world.
-
- 

A Spectrum of Avatars

Nearly 50 colorful portraits are now available in addition to the existing creatures and photos. With this third collection of avatars, students will have no trouble finding a digital image to suit their personality.
-

All Improvements

Interface

- Complete revamp of the graphical interface, unified for all age groups
- New achievements panel (accessible from the avatar), showing the following information:
 - An achievement level represented by a diagram showing the percentage of completed activities
 - Average speed
 - Average accuracy
 - Percentage of badges collected
 - Percentage of stars collected
 - Shortcut functionality for each of these items (leading to the activities log or the list of badges)
- Complete revamp of the activity icons for a clearer indication of the activity type and status
- Inclusion of collected badges before each step in the *Exercises* page
- Inclusion of collected badges before each section in the *Training Texts* page
- Inclusion of collected badges in the progress indicator located at the top of the *Exercises* page
- Added progress indicator at the top of the *Training Texts* page
- Improved presentation of coaches (various looks and clothing styles)

Activities

- 30 new drill-based exercises focusing on muscle memory for common character sequences such as *-ness*, *-ing* and *-ion*
- 144 new training texts, divided among four themed sets of twelve texts for each of the three age groups
- Six additional badges to win for these new exercises and training texts

Login

- New login mode using the Clever application
- Option for students without email addresses to request a replacement for a lost password from the login page

Avatars

- 49 new “portrait”-type avatars
- Added tab for selecting from the three avatar collections (creatures, photos and portraits)

Management Tools

- Option to search by student identification number
- Simplified password reset mechanism for students
- Visually improved management emails sent by the application (upon subscription renewal, for example)

Fixes

- Synchronization of student log entries with their school’s time zone
- Correction of a positioning problem for some speech bubbles
- Correction of minor content errors

Improvements 2017

Top Improvements

On June 27, we launched Typing Pal Online's annual update. More customizable than ever before, this latest version introduces a number of remarkable improvements. Make sure to check its top 10 new features.



Batch Import to Update Accounts

We have completely overhauled the import and export modes for Excel and CSV files. You can now effortlessly edit, move and delete hundreds of student accounts at a time, or even add your own institution's student ID reference to each account.



Office 365 Login

After Google Sign-In, we've integrated another streamlined authentication process to Typing Pal. All students with an Office 365 account enjoy logging in with one click. It's fast and simple.



State-of-the-art Privacy Protection

A new privacy policy, combined with continuous improvement to our security procedures, makes Typing Pal a safe application where students' privacy is better protected than ever before.



Fonts for Students With Special Needs

New customized fonts will greatly help students who struggle with lookalike letters. Serif and monospaced fonts, which are easier to distinguish, may be chosen by those with special needs.



Video Tips for All

Teachers and administrators will regularly discover interesting tips on their Typing Pal news feed. We invite you to tune in and become power users! Moreover, the "7 Keys to Success in Learning to Type" video, designed to help students discover best practices in keyboarding, has been revamped.



Targeted Reset

You can now reset your students' results for specific activity categories you wish them to start over, such as exercises, practice texts, games and tests. All other results will be kept safe.



Neutral Avatars

You told us that older students had outgrown our set of funky avatars. It's time for them to try out our new set, carefully picked to appeal to a larger audience.



New Speed Measurement

Speed measurement reaches a whole new level of sophistication. You can now set, measure and display your students' keyboarding speed in characters per minute. You may switch back to the word per minute display at anytime. So give it a try!



Enhanced Student Settings

Should you enable them, settings now provide students with new options such as the possibility to choose from one of three learning environments, as well as to modify their virtual keyboard configuration to match the one they are currently using.



Revamped User Guide

Discovering and mastering all of Typing Pal's features has never been easier. Our web-based user guide, filled with pedagogically sound advice, now boasts helpful screencasts and a new chapter dedicated to the student interface, including its numerous settings.

All Improvements

Import and Export

- Fully redesigned import mechanism for adding, modifying, and deleting student accounts in batch mode
- New shortcuts in the management tools allowing to import new elements directly from student, teacher and school files
- Addition of a field allowing a unique external identifier to be specified for students (e.g. their student ID).
- Processing of columns in any order (provided that headings are included)
- Intelligent support for the possible variants in column headings (e.g. first name/student's first name/FIRST NAME, etc.)
- Ability to import files without column headings
- Ability to reimport an updated file that was previously exported from Typing Pal
- Native support for Excel format
- New Excel import templates
- Revamped CSV import templates
- New interface allowing a file to be previewed before importing it, thereby reducing manipulation errors
- Better detection of duplicates when importing
- After importing, insertion of colored bullets, allowing items that have been modified or added to be quickly identified
- Improved layout of the import error window
- If an import operation fails, access to a file with the list of errors to be corrected
- Contextual error messages

Login

- New Office 365 login mode
- Improved procedure for recovering a lost password

Privacy

- New privacy policy
- New message displayed notifying super administrators when a modification materially changes the protections outlined in the policy
- Modified architecture for storing student accounts, facilitating the elimination of personal data from the archiving system
- New mechanism for automatically deleting student accounts that have remained inactive for more than one year (the super administrator can disable this mechanism)

Activities

- New introductory video.
- Twenty-four new practice texts in “The Office” collection
- Name of the current activity displayed in the browser tab
- Achievement certificate grayed out to show that it has not yet been obtained
- Better display of games’ status when they’re locked by the teacher
- Warning message to students who try to repeat the initial test
- New progress bar in the “Badges” page

Student Settings

- Complete redesign of the “Profile and Student settings” section
- New display parameter allowing for the use of serif or monospaced fonts
- New setting allowing speed to be displayed in characters per minute (this setting can be blocked by the teacher)

New collection of avatars

- New thumbnail displaying the keyboard corresponding to the settings chosen by the student
- New thumbnail of the learning environment chosen by the student
- New thumbnail displaying recommended speed targets by age and level

Teacher and Administrator Settings

- Advanced controls allowing results to be reset for certain types of activities (exercises, games, texts, improvement activities), enabling students to start these activities again without losing other results
- New setting allowing speed to be displayed in characters per minute
- New display parameter allowing for the use of serif or monospaced fonts
- New setting allowing the super administrator to disable the mechanism for automatically deleting student accounts that have remained inactive for more than one year

Management Tools

- New page allowing teachers to view the list of badges earned by the students
- Dynamic integration of the newsfeed and tips
- New button added to save changes to the sequence of exercises and tests
- New column showing the date student accounts were last modified
- New column showing the date of teachers’ last login
- New option to sort on these columns
- More precise validation of certain fields within forms

User Guide

- Completely revised user guide with a new chapter dedicated to the student interface
- Integrated explanatory videos
- Dynamic HTML layout
- Ability to bookmark certain sections through the use of HTML anchors, making sharing easier
- “See Also” sections added, making it easier to access related topics
- Labels added allowing new features and improvements to be quickly identified
- PDF version available for download

Corrections

- Improved transitions in Google Chrome when manipulating windows
- Fix for a problem making it impossible to restart the timer after pausing an activity on the last character
- Fix for a problem allowing the dialog of an expired session to be displayed while the session was still active
- Fixes for Several minor display problems

Improvements 2016

Top Improvements

On July 4, we deployed Typing Pal Online's latest annual update. This new version was carefully crafted to give you simplified, quicker access to richer and more diverse content. Here are its top 10 new features:



Simplified Login

Get started in no time with a new streamlined authentication process, including the option to log in using your Google account with Google Sign-In.



More Activities

Rekindle your students' interest and help them reach higher levels of typing skills with an expanded curriculum. We've added over 200 exercises and practice texts for your students to work on.



Timed Tests

Set new standards and refine your assessment method with new timed tests lasting one, two or three minutes.



Performance Badges

Cheer on your students when they earn new badges designed to foster their perseverance and encourage them to reach higher goals. There are 54 colorful badges to collect!



Kudos for Accuracy

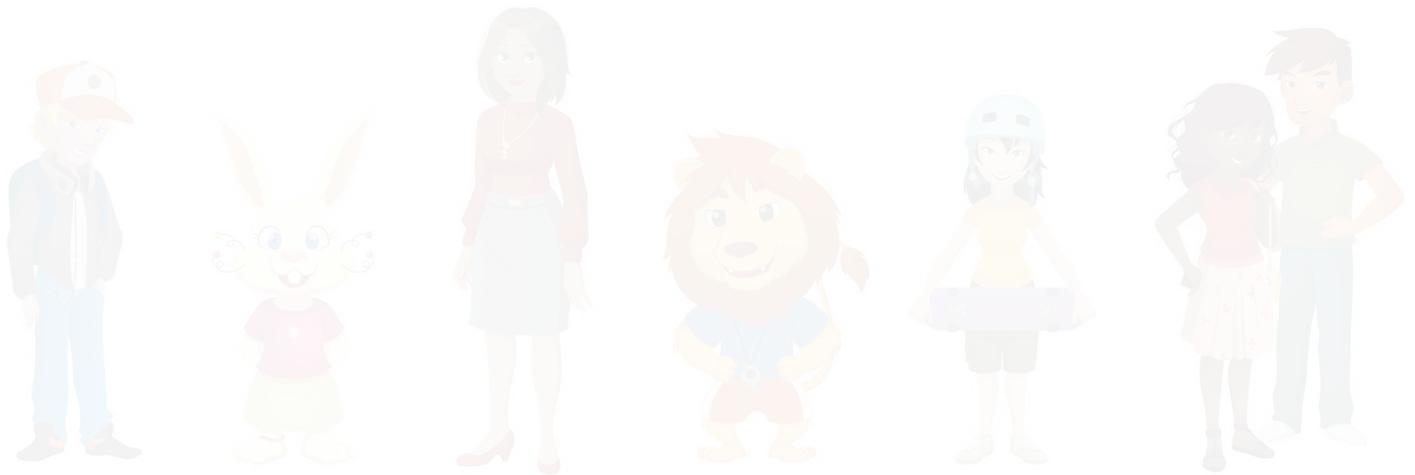
Reaching a target is great, but achieving perfection is even better! Now, when the accuracy for any given exercise hits 100%, students unlock a golden activity icon.

Custom Sign-In URL

Access your Typing Pal account directly with a custom sign-in URL, such as <http://lincolnelementary.typingpal.com>. You don't have to remember the school code anymore, saving you one step when you log in.

Personalized Achievement Certificate

When the final test is completed, a personalized diploma is automatically created and displayed to students in recognition of their success.



Better Coaches

In addition to their visual makeover, our coaches are now star in 10 brand new animations. What's more, their new comments will inspire your students and guide them through their training.

Keyboard Navigation

The keys , , , and  can now be used to select the “Watch the replay”, “Restart” and “Next activity” functions. With no more need for the mouse, the hands gain efficiency by retaining an optimal position on the keyboard between activities.

Shortcut to Statistics

Quick access to students' statistics is no longer reserved for administrators. As a teacher, you can now see them with a single click using a smart shortcut in the management window.

All Improvements

Login

- New Google Sign-in login mode
- The ability to create a custom login URL for schools, such as <http://lincolnelementary.typingpal.com>
- Fully revamped login and signup pages
- Improved search for users who forget their custom URL or school code

Activities

- More than 200 new texts and exercises
- Introduction of timed tests lasting one, two or three minutes
- A new golden icon showing exercises successfully completed with 100% accuracy
- New animated star display upon successful completion of an exercise with 100% accuracy
- New exercises consisting of additional special characters
- New exercises consisting exclusively of words
- The ability to select the “Watch the replay”, “Restart” and “Next activity” functions without using the mouse
- Improved default layout of the typing area in exercises with an easier-to-follow cursor and slightly larger characters

- The ability to block certain activities and display their locked icons in the exercises panel
- Revised and reorganized content in collections of texts
- Fully rewritten messages of encouragement displayed after an activity
- Reconfigured difficulty levels: some exercises are easier while others are harder
- A visual makeover for Typing Pal coaches
- Disabling of certain keys during activities to avoid accidental interruptions
- Removal of animations from the replay window to maximize available space
- New icons for improvement activities

Achievements

- The introduction of badges to collect in celebration of students' achievements
- A new notification system for badges earned
- An added menu to access recent notifications
- Automatic creation of a personalized achievement certificate upon successful completion of the final test

Management Tools

- New "Statistics" tab allowing teachers to access all of their groups' statistics with a single click
- New "Advanced settings" section in the group creation dialog, including an option to choose the collection of texts to use with a group
- Added tooltips and information bubbles
- An added shortcut for creating a first group upon student account creation
- Harmonization of terminology

Animations

- 10 new entertaining animations to replace old ones
- The ability for students to choose to display either the keyboard viewer or the entertaining animations

Security

- Use of the SSL internet communications security protocol throughout the service
- Acceptance of more special characters for password creation

Corrections

- Various display problems fixed
- Problem causing superimposed best/worst finger icons on the speed and accuracy diagrams fixed
- Improved text display to prevent the accidental splitting of words
- Improved management of "Caps Lock on" messages
- Problem preventing test results from being saved after completion fixed
- Improved performance and stability in automatic text scrolling
- Readjustment of certain visual elements to improve compatibility with high pixel density displays
- Problem with password changing from the settings fixed
- Improved layout of the student log to prevent truncated columns
- Added confirmation message after a password is changed using the reset password form
- More reliable username validation
- Problem preventing students' targets from being adjusted fixed

Improvements 2015

Top Improvements

On July 3, Typing Pal enjoyed its most significant makeover in recent years. With increased compatibility and a redesigned interface, here are its top ten new features.



iPad Ready

Typing Pal will now run on an iPad paired with a Bluetooth keyboard. Students just need to log in and type—no download required!



Optimized for Chromebook

Smart resizing functions have been added to improve user experience. And Typing Pal's dynamic keyboard viewer now perfectly matches the Chromebook's unique layout.



Rebooted Games

Typing Pal's educational games have been completely revamped. They offer an improved design and the option to focus on different areas of the keyboard.



Better Keyboard Display

Thanks to the dynamic keyboard viewer's smart color scheme, it has never been easier to learn which finger to use for each key.

Live Feedback

Major interface improvements include a live display of statistics such as speed and accuracy. Or not! As is the case with the games, teachers decide what students can see.

Shortcuts to Improvement

With new quick links, both in the student log and at the end of exercises, it's easy for students to improve on their most recent performance.

Replay Mode

Typing fast is a demanding sport. With the new replay mode, teachers can be coaches, looking back on a performance and giving specific advice.

Dynamic Exercise Statuses

When teachers raise speed or accuracy targets, the completion status of exercises will now change accordingly. More ambitious targets give exercises a longer life.

Easy Account Access

It is now much easier for students to register. Also, login information may be sent to selected teachers with a single click.

Avatars!

With no less than 30 colorful avatars now available, students are sure to find one to match their personality.



All Improvements

On July 3, Typing Pal enjoyed its most significant makeover in recent years. Here are all 70 new features.

General

- Compatibility with iOS and ChromeOS platforms
- Display of students' names in each activity
- New user menu for quick access to profile options
- New animations, such as the hot air balloon on the homepage of the *TGIF* environment*
- A modified *TGIF* environment that makes full use of high-resolution displays*
- Visual adjustments and updates across all environments

Typing Analyzer

- A fully revamped typing analyzer, providing better performance and accuracy on the latest browsers
- The option to start an activity again at any time with no need to refresh the page
- The option to pause an activity at any time
- Automatic pausing whenever the application is placed in the background*
- The collection of more accurate statistics based on each press of a key, rather than characters
- Real-time calculation of statistics
- Automatic detection of accidental Caps Lock*

Activities

- A fully redesigned interface
- Compatibility with browsers' manual resizing controls*
- Smart resizing according to screen size
- Smart scrolling, allowing users to read continuously as they type, not page-by-page
- The option to scroll manually through text
- The option to select and copy text
- Keyboard shortcuts for quick access to the pause and restart functions
- Real-time display of the following statistics: accuracy, number of mistakes, speed, elapsed time, progress in the text (displayed as a bar or percentage, or the number of completed or remaining characters)

Video Replay

- The option to replay an activity straight after finishing it
- Additional access to this feature via the student log and the teacher's admin tools
- A display showing real-time statistics during the video replay

Instructions Panel

- Integration with the activities themselves
- Simply presented targets that clearly show the maximum number of mistakes
- Direct access to typing directions for each character in the activity
- The option to navigate between sets of instructions without using the mouse
- The option to close the instructions panel at any time and proceed straight to the activity
- The option to show the instructions at any time during the activity via the pause function

Keyboard Viewer

- Specific adaptations for Windows, OS X and ChromeOS keyboards
- The use of colors to help users associate keys with particular fingers
- Animated instructions showing how to type characters that require a sequence of multiple keys
- The option to change the layout of the Enter key regardless of the keyboard language
- Added visual markers on the F and J keys showing the starting point for each index finger
- Subtler animated hands that better illustrate the correct position

Options Panel

- Integration between this new panel and the activities themselves
- The option to hide real-time statistics
- The option to underscore mistakes in the text
- The option to hide the instructions panel at the beginning of exercises
- The option to briefly display mistakes during the exercises
- For some activities, the option to type directly into the text

Results Panel

- A completely new layout
- Results shown with more specific messages
- A button that launches the video replay
- A button that leads straight to the next activity

Games

- Different game modes that focus on specific areas of the keyboard
- Leaderboards specific to these modes
- Access to the leaderboards before beginning a game
- Fresh graphics and sounds

Avatars

- 30 fun, colorful characters to choose from
- Automatic assignment of avatars to a group
- An algorithm to minimize duplicate avatars when adding students to a group

Student's Log

- Direct access to the log via the Results tab
- The option to sort results by clicking on column headings
- The option to repeat an activity by clicking on its title
- Improved layout

Skill Enhancement

- A new mode aimed at helping users improve their weakest fingers
- Easier access to skill enhancement activities through new shortcuts in the exercises index

- Improved layout

Management Tools

- Bulk sending of login information to selected teachers
- An integrated support form enabling easy access to customer service
- The option for teachers to block access to games
- The option for teachers to personalize the activities' display options
- An added option to recalculate whether a student passes or fails an activity after a group's targets change
- Updated guides

Registration Form

- Simplified one-step registration
- An added field for teacher selection, allowing filtering of the groups list
- Clearer flagging of format errors
- The option to select an avatar upon registration

*Only available on some platforms, technology permitting.