

Adding Diacritics to Igbo Language.

An NKL Guide / Concept.

Now, if you are working on a Windows PC , then there is good news. The very first port of business is to head over to <http://nigeriankeyboardlayout.com> and download the Windows Installer.

Run the installer after extracting the files, when you get the message about the Igbo, Hausa and Yoruba keyboard being installed – it's time to try the process by employing the ALTGR + {'x'} combinations.



Fig 1. Desktop Keyboard Layout

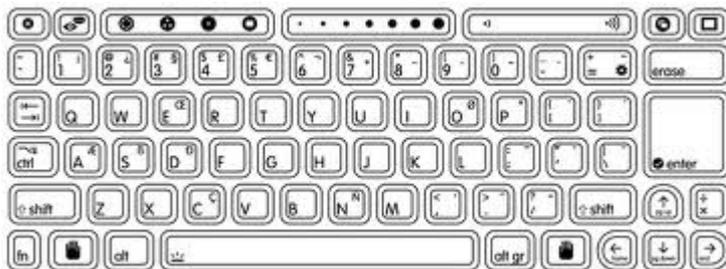


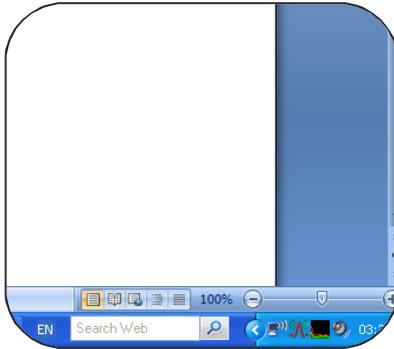
Fig 2. Abstracting a form, from your Laptop Keyboard fascia.

Guides can also be found at nigeriankeyboardlayout.com.

In the diagrams above, the Alt Gr or alt gr keys are clearly shown towards the bottom right hand corner. By depressing this key together with the usual letters in our language which take a dot or dash on top or beneath them, the following can be produced; \grave{u} , \grave{n} , \grave{j} , \grave{o} , \grave{N} and our Naira can be produced using the Alt Gr combination with 5, like so; ₦. Computers without the AltGr key sometimes use the Alt key or the Ctrl+Alt. However before this keyboard can be used in this way, it is important to change the Input language and keyboard map or layout of the system being used.

What follows is a really simple description of the method in Windows XP. The process is similar across the Windows flavour of computers.

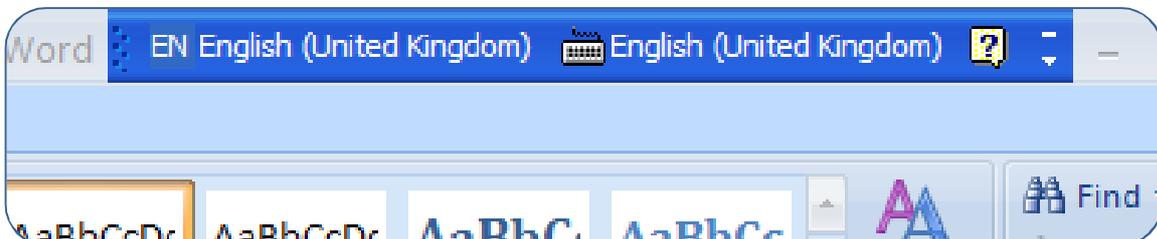
Know, Love, Show the language Bar



System Trays

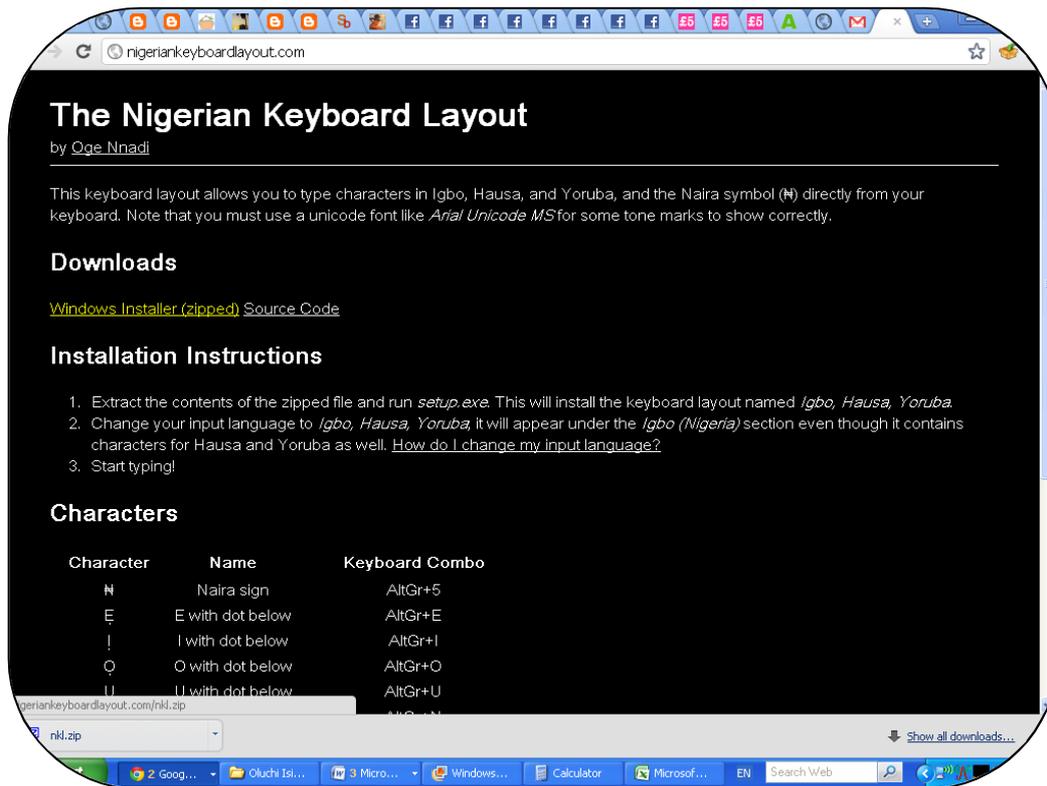


Top of the Screen

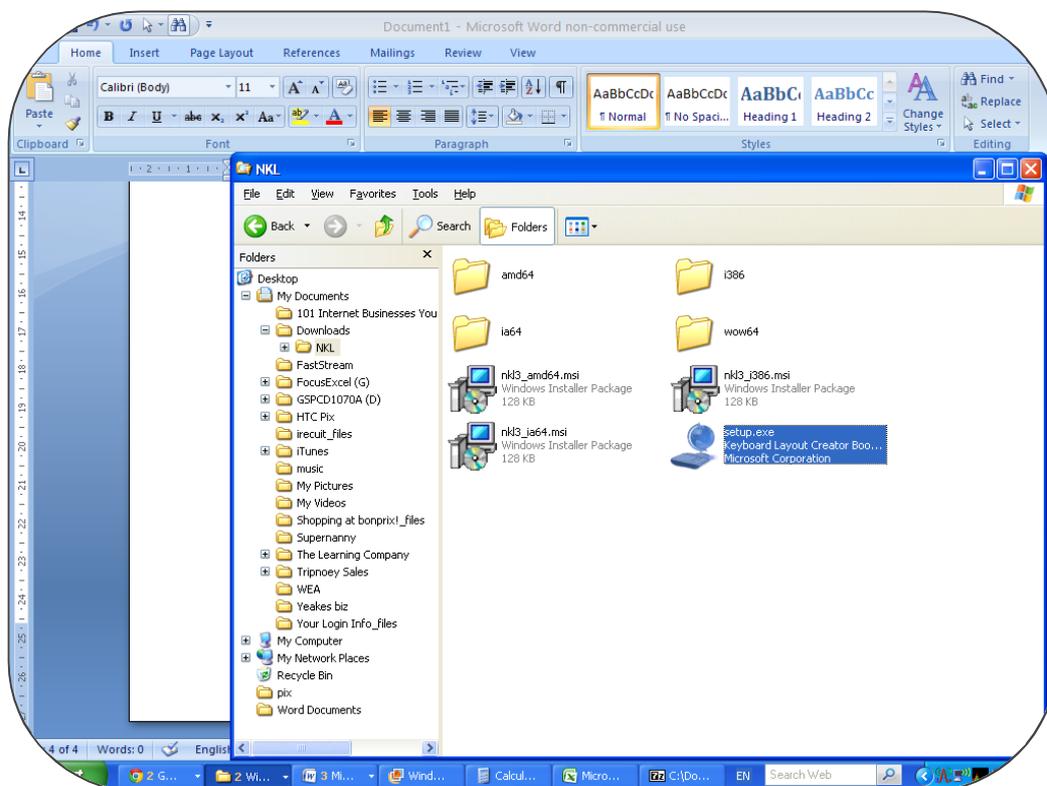


Towards the bottom of your screen on a Windows PC , (this guide has been prepared in Windows XP, but the method should be fairly standard across Windows Platforms), you will see the system tray usually EN (United Kingdom) or EN (United States) is what most people have. Click above that and elect to display your language bar on top of your screen.

The Webpage

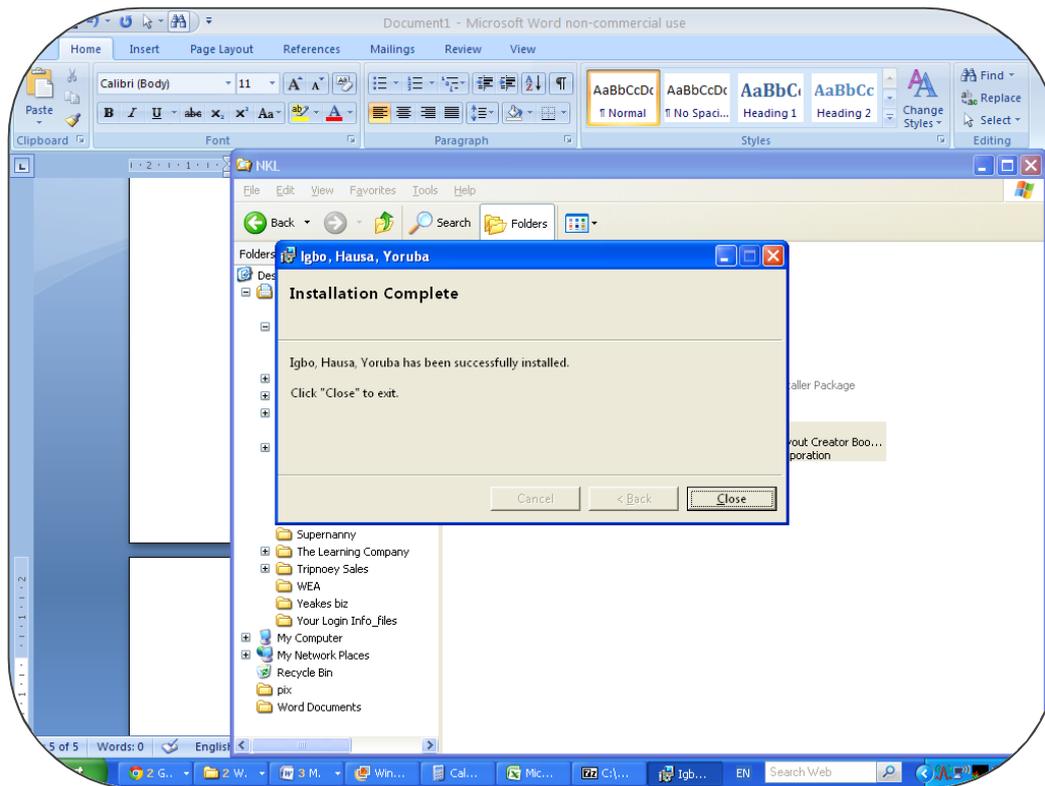


Contents and Files

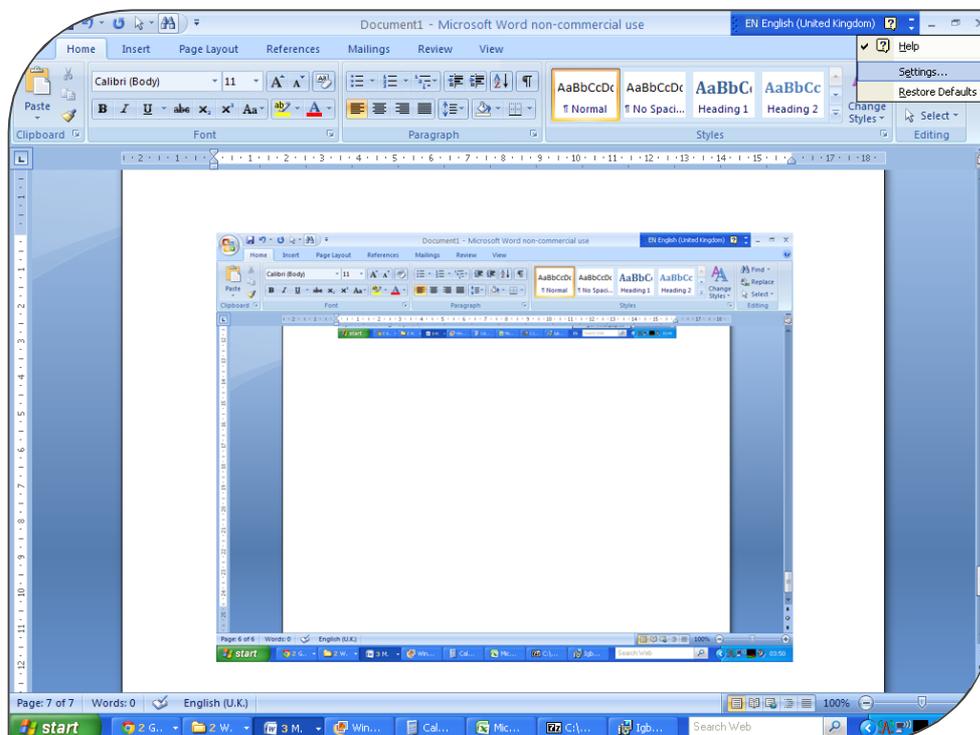


Extract the files and run **setup.exe** and let the process install the keyboard layout. See below.

Installation Complete

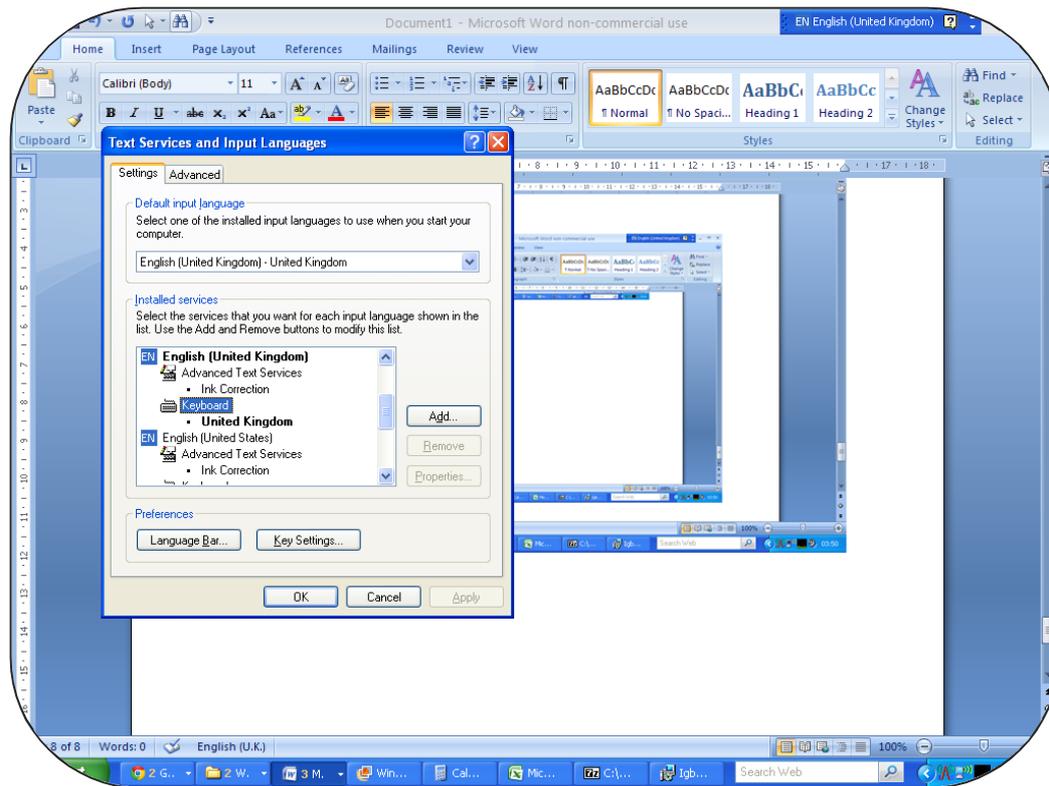


Launch your Word Processing application (For this test, if you can, do use the 2003 – 2010 versions of Word, which are among the versions tested for this method) ...

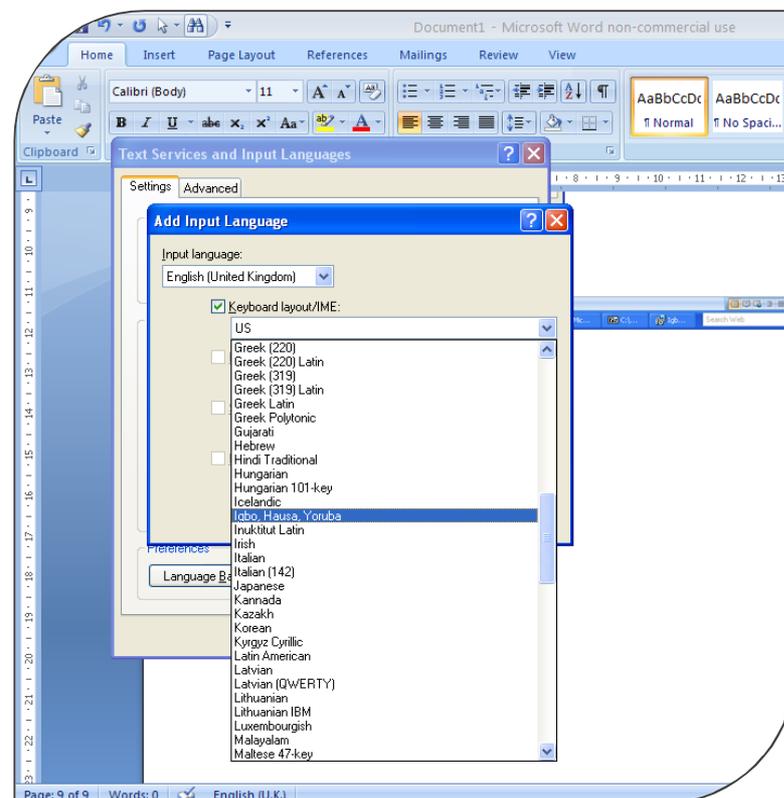


Now, get back to the language bar and click the drop down arrow at the right hand side to call up its settings ...

Text Services and Input Languages

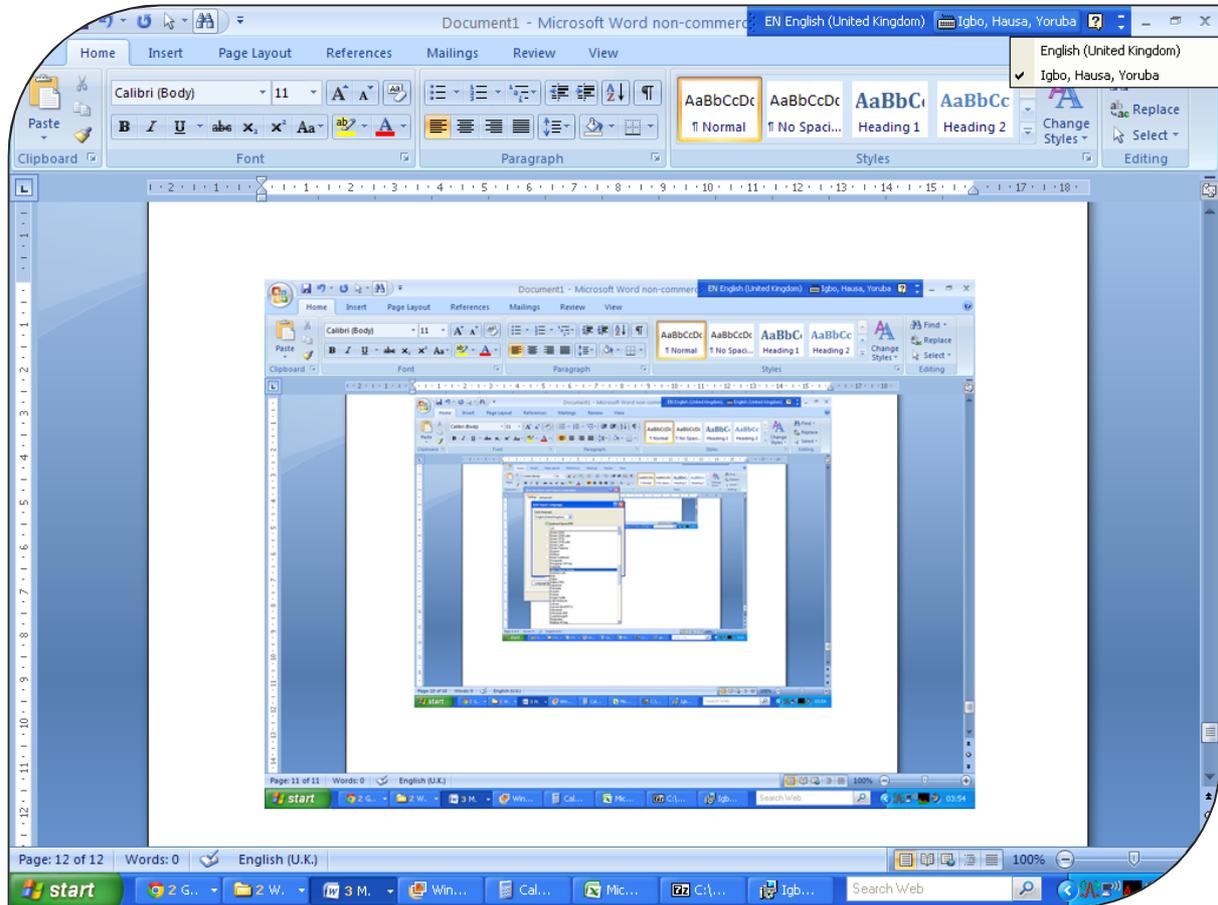


Select the keyboard icon showing and click the **Add** button on the left and in the screen below, through the keyboard layout field, add the *Igbo Hausa and Yoruba Keyboard ...* Click **Apply** and Click **OK**



Back to the Language Bar

Change your default keyboard layout now from what it was to the Igbo, Hausa, Yoruba layout. See Below. Keep your input language whatever you would have it be. Now you know the method. Order the stout ! It's a bar 😊

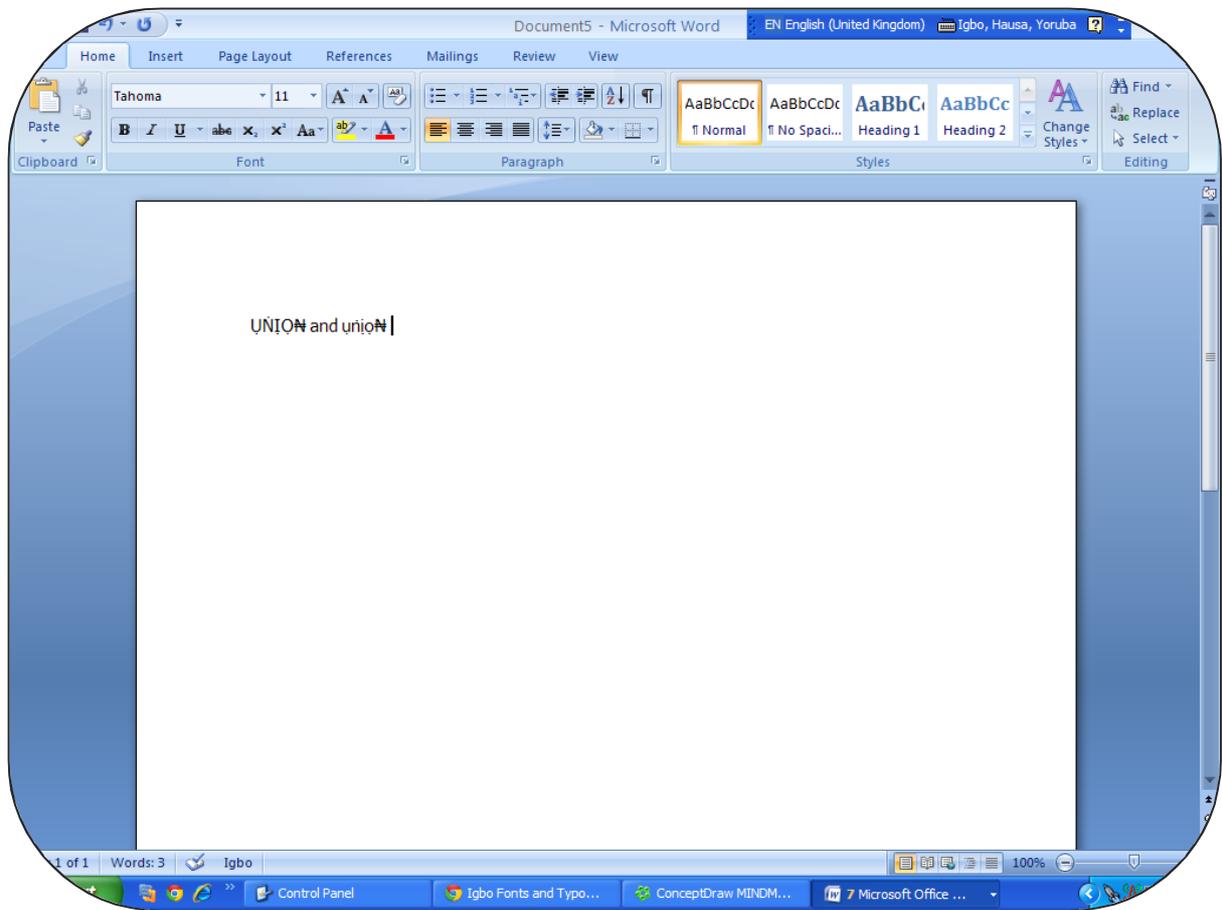


Perform the Union Language Test

Call up a blank sheet.

Hold the AltGr key down and depress your Igbo keys for U, N I,O, Ñ – these being the principle characters or letters that would bear diacritics (not tone marks or other accents) – just the dots and dashes that spell loads of our words with vowel sounds. AltGr + 5 = Ñ and to get the caps you have to apply a three stroke combination like so SHIFT + AltGr + '[your letter here]' to produce the capital glyphs.

The Webpage, <http://www.nigeriankeyboardlayout.com> describes the text inputting method and the likelihood of getting characters and other possibilities. A lot of the fonts in use today are Unicode compliant (*Unicode* just means that the International Standards Organisation expanded the set of characters that it is possible to produce on a mechanical device to cover yours, read about it on Wikipedia) and can be used with this method.



Moment of truth above.

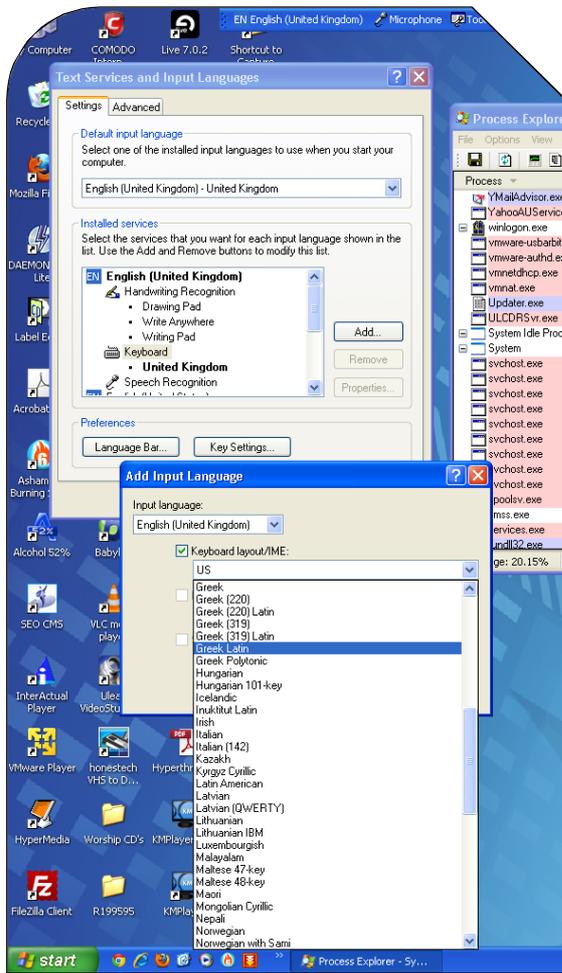
CAPS: ~~UNION~~

NOCAPS: ~~union~~

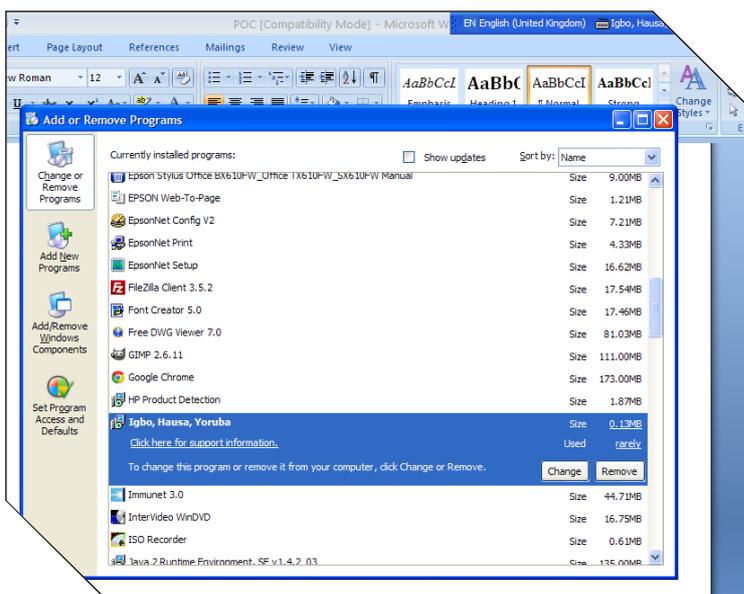
Keyboard – the thing works!

Cheers! It's a bar. 😊

To prove the concept, here's what your system looked like before the installation of the NKL. See? No Igbo Keyboard.



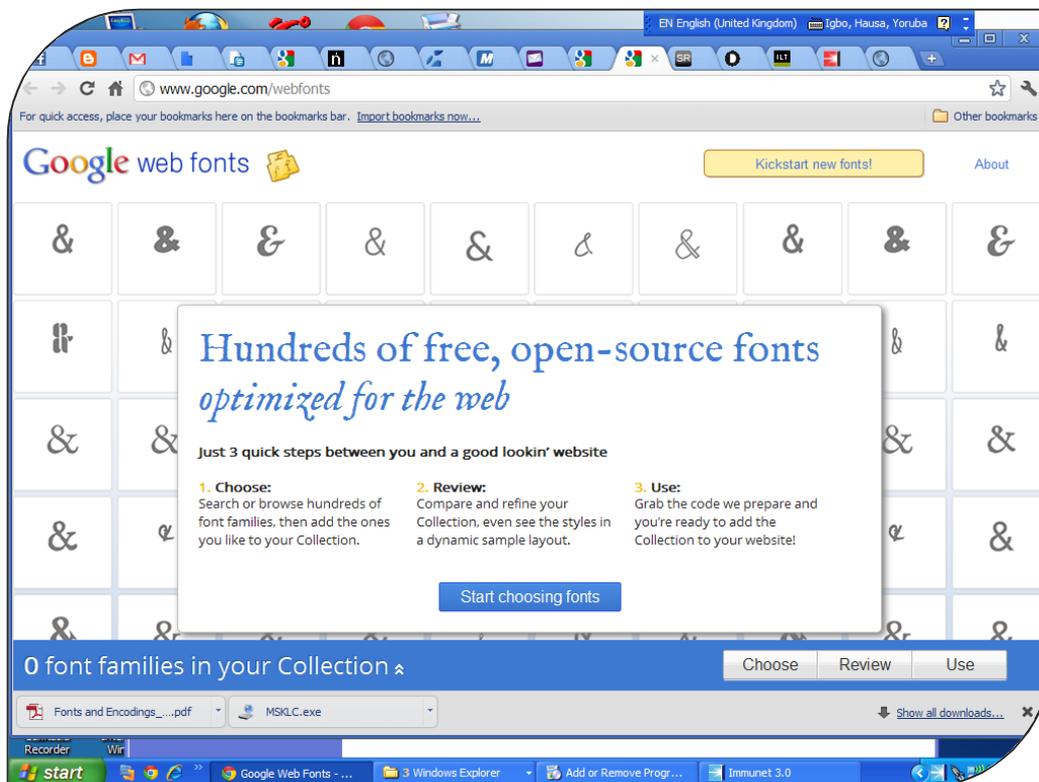
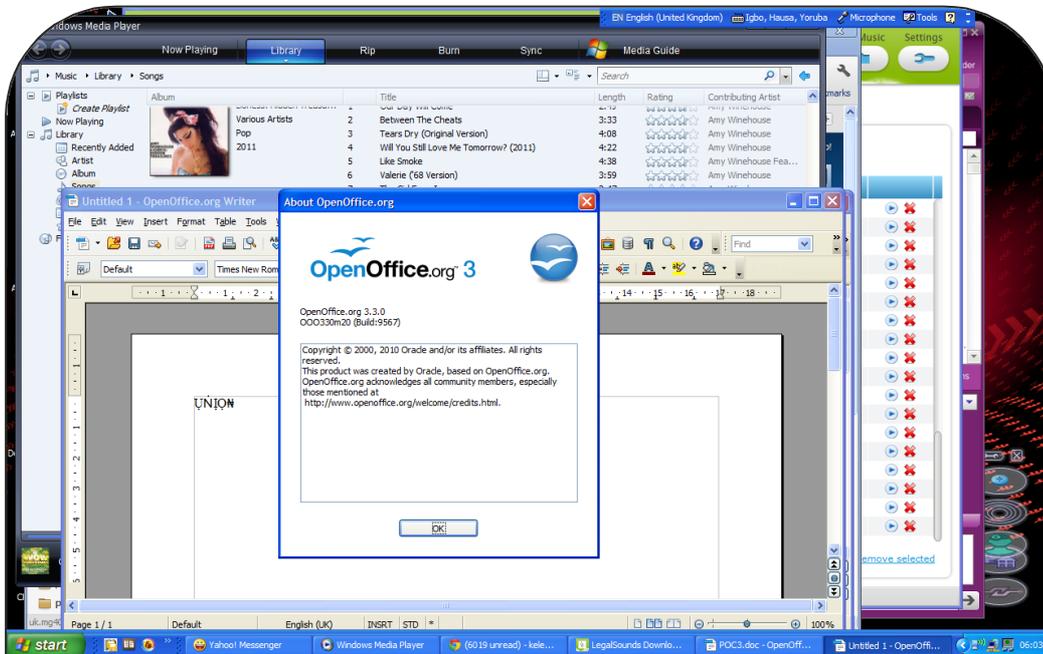
To Uninstall; (Why are you doing that?)



Go to the control panel and elect to remove programs. Select Igbo, Hausa, Yoruba to uninstall.

Here's the Killer – the keyboard works in Open Office (Tested in the current version of Open Office as in Word) and on the World Wide Web – that is your browsers will recognise and use your diacritics – I think that's changed communication right there.

Now go out and change the world! Wrap it up !





THE END

An unauthorised version.
2011.