



**The National Centre for Languages**  
Promoting a greater national capability in languages

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The standard keyboard layouts for most South Asian languages have been agreed between Microsoft and the authorities in India and Pakistan. Unfortunately these layouts are generally unfamiliar to users in this country. Furthermore, research has shown that, the use of a phonetic based keyboard layout, where the Asian letter is placed in the position on the keyboard layout that is similar the equivalent sounding letter on the standard European layout, enables students to type more easily and helps them familiarise themselves with the alphabet of the target language.

Therefore, CILT - the National Centre for Languages and the Department of Educational Studies at Goldsmiths College, University of London have jointly produced a CD that will easily allow the introduction of customised phonetic keyboard layouts that support educational best practice.

The keyboard setup software included on this CD was created using the Microsoft Keyboard Layout Creator which is a standard Microsoft product that they provide for just such circumstances.

The Microsoft Keyboard Layout Creator extends the international functionality of the Windows operating system by allowing users to:

- Create new keyboard layouts from scratch
- Base a new layout on an existing one
- Modify an existing keyboard layout (.KLC) file and build a new layout from it
- Package the resulting keyboard layouts for subsequent deployment and installation.

Further details of the Microsoft Keyboard Layout Creator can be obtained from  
<http://www.microsoft.com/globaldev/tools/msklc.msp>

We have also set up our own website for the project which contains more language specific details  
<http://www.languages.devisland.net/community/>

If you wish to discuss the technical issues involved, we would be only too pleased to send someone to visit your school, contact us through Siva Pillai at the Department of Educational Studies at Goldsmiths College (<siva@gold.ac.uk>).

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Steve Cushion'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. Below the signature is a thin, horizontal blue line.

Steve Cushion, Higher Education Adviser at CILT - the National Centre for Languages