

The Step by Step DIY:

In Windows'98:

The first three methods described above work with Windows 98 too.

Another alternative is to install a Unicode editor like SC Unipad, also available here along with its Phonetic Urdu keyboard by another of our members Asad Raza. there are other Unicode editors too like Unicedit or Orient Unicode Editors. (Please google for their download links).

But to modify your Win'98 to write Urdu, you need to add Arabic Support here. For this you may have to upgrade your system files from www.microsoft.com/downloads/. These files are Riched32.dll, windows installer, New versions of Times New Roman, Tahoma, Arial and Courier New fonts, and Arabic fonts pack. Windows installer update is some times provided by the cover CDs of computer magazines too. After installing these, the language bar may also be selected. Now you need a keyboard too that cannot be other wise added. And remember that by default the Windows uses only Arabic Type writer keyboard and does not offer you to change it as in Windows XP. For this you may need to install a keyboard program like Keyman, available in the Files section here. There are Urdu keyboards too for this. This keyboard would be sitting in the system tray. After selecting the language in the language bar, you may click the Keyman icon and select Urdu Phonetic if you need phonetic layout.

Other alternative keyboards are LSinstaller of Paktype and Phonetic of Shehzad etc. (Most of these are available in Yahoo Urdu Computing group at http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/urdu_computing/files.)

Another thing one needs is of course fonts. For an Inpage like Nastaleeq looks, I recommend Nafees Nastaleeq (updated) font from CRULP (<http://crulp.org>), Pakistan, available here. Other decorative fonts may be Paktype Tahreer or fonts from Microsoft (Arabic pack mentioned above) or <http://www.urdulife.com/>.

In Windows XP:

Proceed this way:

Start-> Control Panel-> Regional and Language Options (Screen shot).

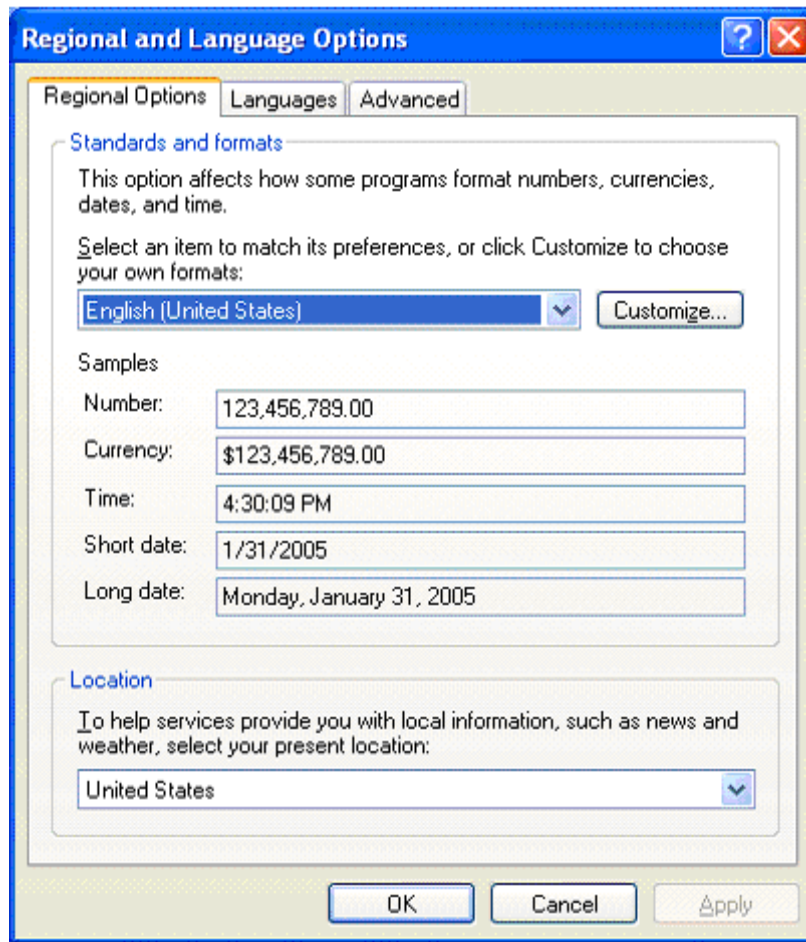


Fig.1

If there are no languages installed then the 'DETAILS' tab would only allow you to add Western Script languages like French and German.

Hit the LANGUAGES Tab now, you would see this:

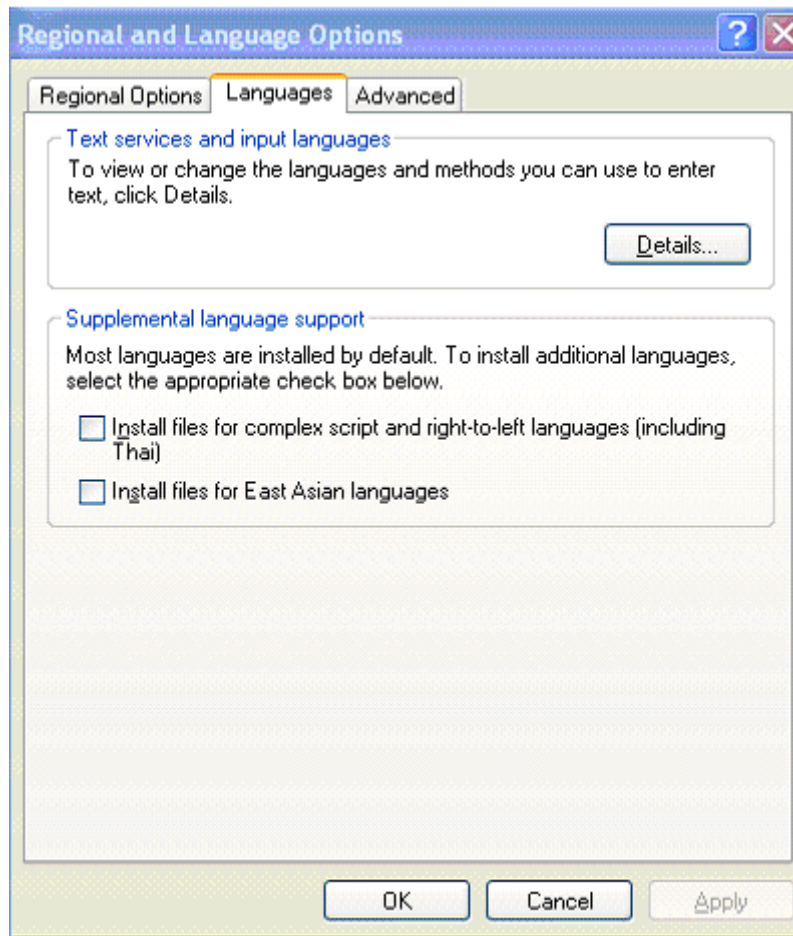


Fig.2

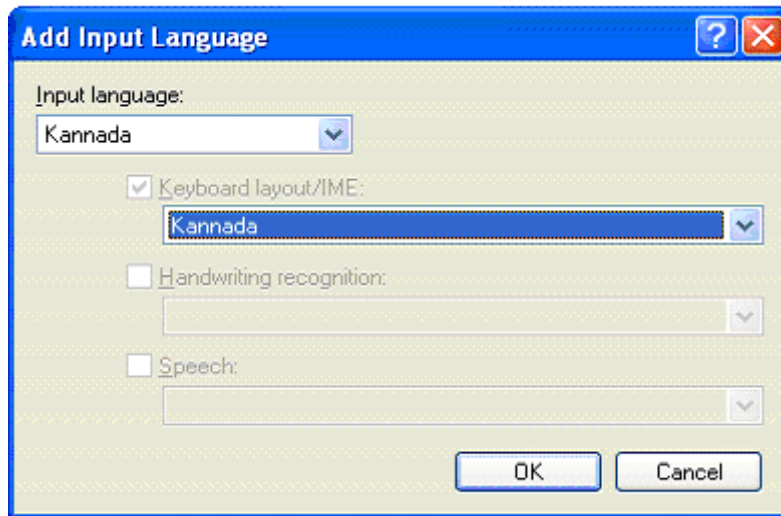
To add languages like Indian (called Indic – Devanagari, the four South Indian languages, Gujarati etc), Arabic (also includes Farsi and Urdu), one MUST check the first option under "Supplemental Language Support", these are Complex Script Languages. And yes, if you want to add Chinese, Japanese and Korean support too, check the box for east Asian languages too below the Complex script check box. And take out your CD of Windows (Pirated??) or browse to the dump of Windows XP in your hard disk. Windows would do the needful now. And a restart later, you would see the above screens and then when you press Details Tab, you may find this screen:



Fig.3

Of course in my screen shot, Hindi and Urdu have been already installed, but if they have not been installed, the "Installed Services" would only indicate English (United States)

But pressing "Add" button would lead you to this screen with a drop down menu under "Input



language".

Fig.4

Once you click the down arrow here, you may see the options like:

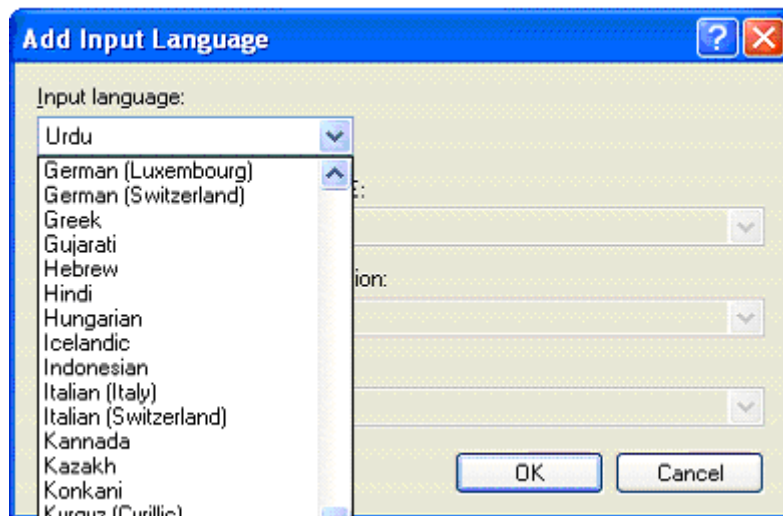


Fig.5

Select the one you want, say here I am adding "Kannada" I find another entry of Kannada (selected now with another drop down menu) under Keyboard Layout/IME (Input method Editor). The default keyboard has already been selected by Windows, but if another keyboard has been installed prior to this, it would be listed in the drop down menu, and that may be selected instead of the default.

Unfortunately most of the default keyboards are the ones used by the typewriters in that language. And most modern computer users cannot type that. Hence there are PHONETIC

keyboards too available. For sure, I can lead to Hindi "Swara" as well as "Urdu Sautee" that I have created myself and you see in the screen shot. (Fig.3). And you may also appreciate the best part of Unicode here. You may input anything in the languages if you select the input language (I would show that later), name of a folder, a file, a title bar button, a text file in Notepad, you name it, hence you may notice "Hindi Swara" in Devanagari script and "Urdu Sauti" in Urdu!! Even when you install these keyboards (Swara available in the Files Section of urdu_computing as well as IndicComputing Yahoo! Group, "Sautee" available in urdu_computing Yahoo! Group.), the add remove program too would show you these names in the respective scripts.

NOW TO SELECT THE LANGUAGE for input, please see the Fig. 3 again. In the lower part, there is a "Preferences" section with a button called "Language Bar". Clicking on this would give the option of showing the language bar on the desktop:

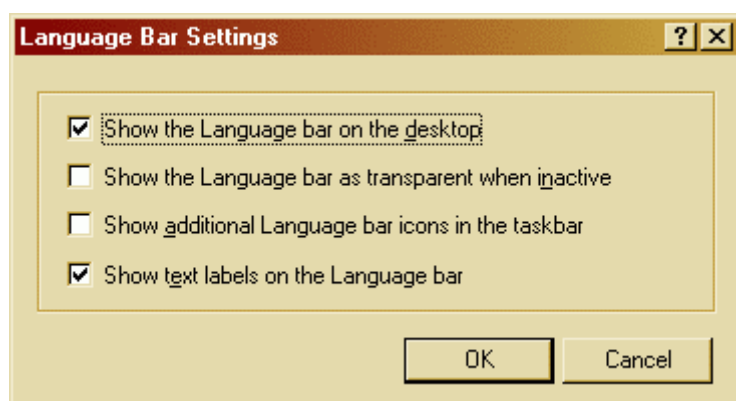


Fig.7

You may also select this to be visible in the system tray (Notification Area, where Windows shows you date and time). On the desktop, you may move it around, and the language may be selected by just selecting the language as in the Fig. 8 below.

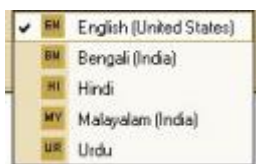


Fig. 8

But remember, the language selection is application specific, while working with Hindi in Notepad, if you start Word, it would not type in Hindi unless you reselect "Hindi" from the language bar.

Fonts:

The default Times New Roman font can also display many Urdu characters but among the fonts installed by Windows XP (or upgraded in Windows'98), the Tahoma font is the best. However, on most Urdu text web sites, the font used is Urdu Naskh Asia Type greatly popularized by BBC Urdu site (<http://bbc.co.uk/urdu>). Other fonts used on the web are Nafees Web Naskh (<http://crulp.org>). For Nastaleeq looks, the Nafees Nastaleeq font is also available from CRULP site (<http://crulp.org>). Some fonts have been developed that are mid way between Naskh and Nastaleeq that I call 'Nasq'. Such fonts are Nastaleeq Like (<http://globalscience.com>) and those created by this author (Nasq and Nigar) available from Urdu Web site (<http://www.urduweb.org/mehfil/viewtopic.php?p=2359#2359>). In fact all these fonts may be downloaded through a single installer package from urduweb site at http://www.urduweb.org/mehfil/dload.php?action=file&file_id=9.

To install Sautee Keyboards/ IME:

The author has created a pretty good phonetic Keyboard, now in its second version, called Urdu Sautee-2. You may download it from here:

http://www.urduweb.org/mehfil/dload.php?action=file&file_id=8.

After downloading the .zip file, uncompress it in any folder and then just double click the .msi (Microsoft installer) file. The keyboard would automatically be installed and would be made available by that name under the Keyboard Layout menu. After adding support for Urdu (Pakistan), you may again attempt to add Sautee in the similar fashion. In fact, after adding Urdu Sautee as IME/keyboard Layout, you may remove the 'Urdu' IME, the default layout to reduce the confusion of two layouts. Other help files are also included in the .zip file.

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Question• I tried to install this Urdu font, but in the drop down list of the list, I do not have Urdu. Could you please tell me how can I import Urdu into that list in Windows XP. I shall be most grateful. Thanks.Saf

Answer • *Aijaz Akhtar (Aijaz Ubaid)* Says:
[October 2, 2007 at 5:33 am](#)

Not clear Saf as to hat exactly is your problem. You have to add support for Urdu first in Windows XP, add this language with an IME i.e. keyboard, be it phonetic or whatever you prefer. Select the language and keyboard only. Te question of font would come later when you format your document in Wordpad or Word. And yes, ib NS Word, Urdu font selection can be done in “Complex Script Font” box, below the box for Latin font. Selecting an Urdu font in Latin font would not do, nor selecting an Urdu font, but typing with English US keyboard would produce Urdu. یہاں میں نے محض لنگویج بار میں اردو کو سلیکٹ کیا ہے، اور اس کے ساتھ میرا صوتی کی بورڈ شامل ہے۔ میں اردو دوست نامی کی بورڈ استعمال کرتا ہوں۔ اس کو یہاں سے بھی داؤن لوڈ کر سکتے ہیں:

<http://www.esnips.com/doc/bfd90d45-aad1-4207-afee-912fcf389a24/Urdost>