

Entering Latin Characters in Ubuntu With The Multi_Key

By [Roger Keays](#), 25 September 2011

Wow. You learn something everyday huh? Since I [killed a bunch of the keys](#) on my keyboard recently I've been stuck without being able to easily enter Latin characters. Today I found out about the [Compose key](#), or in Ubuntu terminology - the Multi Key.

The Multi Key lets you enter special characters by typing a combination of two keys. For example:

- is Multi A '
- is Multi < <
- is Multi 1 2
- is Multi ? ?

Pretty neat huh? Except my keyboard doesn't have a Compose key. Apparently you can set up Shift and Alt to be the compose key under keyboard options somewhere, but I preferred to use xmodmap to onvert my Windows key to a Compose key:

```
$ xmodmap -e "keycode 133 = Multi_key"
```

Voila! Now I can put in any Latin characters without resorting to the Character Map.

Check this [list of common compose sequences](#) to find the characters you want to enter.

About Roger Keays



Roger Keays is an artist, an engineer, and a student of life. He has no fixed address and has left footprints on 40-something different countries around the world.

Roger is addicted to surfing. His other interests are music, psychology, languages, the proper use of semicolons, and finding good food.