Leading innovation in the design of comfort
We have all seen an amazing transformation of the PC over recent years. It has morphed from a familiar productivity tool into a powerful environment that lets people connect to the world for information, communicate with almost anyone, enjoy video and audio entertainment, and much more. Because consumers are spending more time than ever at their PCs, comfort and usability are becoming ever more important to users. Logitech has always been a leader and innovator in keyboard design, but there are special times when the innovations truly deserve a headline.

Our new keyboard platform is a case in point.

A little revolution is a good thing

Logitech’s new generation of keyboards is extraordinary in the sense that every aspect of the keyboard has been addressed to enhance the total comfort experience. Our approach to comfort begins with ergonomics. The first noticeable result is a new, flatter, thinner, ergonomically beneficial Zero Degree Tilt™ design. Logitech’s new keyboard is not the first to claim an “ergonomic” benefit, of course. Many are familiar with the older “split” keyboard that was designed to reduce the discomfort associated with wrist ulnar deviation and forearm pronation. However, the new Logitech keyboard platform taps the deeper ergonomic potential of the “straight” keyboard—the keyboard form factor preferred by the vast majority of keyboard users. Second, we have introduced a range of innovations related to key design and key placement that greatly enhance the user experience. Finally, we have made refinements to navigational controls that offer the benefit of reducing repetitive motion and enable more efficient two-handed navigation.

In the following pages, we’ll look more closely at these innovations that combine to make this generation of keyboards a new world standard.
Ergonomic roots

When ergonomic principles are followed, comfort naturally follows. Logitech’s new keyboard products share three ergonomic dimensions:

Zero Degree Tilt™
Over the last decade, many studies have shown the benefits of a flatter keyboard. They suggest that one of the primary benefits of a keyboard with 0° slope is less wrist extension. This in turn may reduce the risk of hand and forearm discomfort and some musculoskeletal disorders.

Lower keyboard height
Keyboard height is another factor with ergonomic implications, according to available studies. Lower height may significantly reduce the risk of upper extremity symptoms.

Two-handed navigation
Two-handed navigation is enabled with keyboard tools such as a scroll wheel, Page Back and/or Forward buttons, image zooming, or controls that let users toggle between open Windows. The left hand commands the keyboard tools, completing tasks that once required the mouse. The right hand can now move the mouse within a smaller radius, and focus on tasks that complement the left hand. Each hand stays comfortably in its own zone. In this way, users can accomplish their work and media related tasks faster, more easily, with higher precision and enjoyment, and less “one-hand” fatigue.
The keys to overall comfort

In addition to the ergonomic factors of keyboard flatness and height, and two-handed navigation, Logitech has made remarkable usability improvements to the keyboard’s keys themselves. In isolation, each of the key-related changes described here seems small, but together they create a far more intuitive and easier working experience.

New key locations, shorter distances

Redesigned 5-Pack
In Logitech’s new keyboard line, a new, narrower, more intuitive 5-Pack replaces the conventional 6-Pack. The traditional “Insert” key has been moved to the “F” Row, where it more rightly belongs. This reduces the chance of accidentally pressing the wrong key — to name just one of other benefits explained later in this document (Repositioned Mouse, New Icons and More Intuitive Key Placement).

Repositioned cursor keys
The new cursor keys are now 15 mm (0.60 inch) closer to the “J” Key. This makes entering and editing text even more precise and convenient, since the right hand won’t have to move away from the typing area.

Improved “A” Row
Several improvements have been made to the “A” Row:
• The new “A” Row has a larger left “Ctrl” key, and eliminates the redundant “Start” key on the right.
• The “Ctrl,” “Start,” “Alt (Gr),” “Space,” and “Contextual” keys are even easier to find and use.
• The “A” Row now has special convex keycaps, to work more naturally with the space bar.

Redesigned, relocated “F” Row
The “F” Row has been completely redesigned, starting with a relocation of the “Insert” key. Depending on the specific product, “F” keys are either round or rectangular. This design is more attractive, and makes it easier for users to distinguish from the main keys. It also communicates single-touch action far more effectively than standard keycaps.

Repositioned mouse
Past studies have revealed a comfort advantage in bringing the mouse closer to the typing area. Logitech’s new design lets users work with their mouse a full key width closer to the keyboard.
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Easier-to-find keys

Centered labels and new icons
The easy-to-read labels are now printed on the center of each key, and the new icons communicate each key’s function much more clearly. Additionally, the keys are larger and flatter, making this information stand out, and increasing the overall visual appeal of the keyboard.

More intuitive key placement
Consider the placement of the new 5-Pack, for example. The “Home” and “End” keys are now arrayed horizontally, the “Page Up” and “Page Down” keys vertically—a far more logical arrangement. And the “Delete” key is fully twice as long as before, to enhance accuracy and save time.

Improved key design and feel

Enhanced key feel and response
Logitech understands the importance of the way keys feel and respond to the touch. Product design engineers have created keys with new force/displacement specifications. This improves key feel and response, and may increase typing comfort as well.

New recess on “Caps Lock” and “Num Lock” keys
Almost every computer user has accidentally pressed the “Caps Lock” key while typing. It’s not only annoying, it wastes valuable time and effort. To alleviate this problem, Logitech has added a special recess to the bottom edge of the key, designed to reduce accidental presses. This same refinement has also been added to the “Num Lock” key.

Larger cursor keys
The new cursor keys have a larger surface, which may add to user comfort.
And there’s even more to tell you

The new Logitech keyboard platform creates a comfort experience that is in a class by itself, perfect for today’s PC user. For complete information about Logitech’s new keyboards and cordless desktops, please go to:

www.logitech.com/comfort

References


Office Ergonomics Research Committee, www.oerc.org


The information contained in this document is provided AS IS without warranty of any kind. Some experts believe that the use of any keyboard may cause serious injury to your hands, wrists, arms, neck or back. For important ergonomic information about setting up your computer workspace, please read our Comfort Guidelines, which can be found at www.logitech.com/comfort