

Re: OT: Path dependent keyboard

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- *From:* David Friedman <ddfr@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 13 Apr 2005 11:49:24 -0700
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In article <rvien-F9D963.05165413042005@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, Robert Vienneau <rvien@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

> In article <1113364550.332154.208470@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, > skearney@xxxxxxxxxxxxx wrote:
>
>> It has been said that the most common letters were taken off the home
>> row of the first typewriter keyboard to slow down the typist and
>> prevent jamming.
>
> That's a claim that two things have been said. As far as I know,
> the second is true.

The statement that "it has been said" is I think true, but not terribly interesting. What is stated to have been said is, I think, three claims:

1. The most common letters were taken off the home row.

At least an exaggeration, since the home row contains "a" and "s," which are among the most common letters—my vague memory of long ago readings on cryptography is that "a" is about number 3.

2. The reason they were taken off was to slow down the typist.

3. The reason to slow down the typist was to prevent jamming (although one could perhaps read this as "taken off ... to prevent jamming").

According to the Liebowitz and Margolis piece, both of those are false. The keyboard was designed to prevent jamming, but the means was not slowing down the typist or controlling what was on the home row.

—
Remove NOSPAM to email
Also remove .invalid
www.daviddfriedman.com
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Re: OT: Path dependent keyboard

- *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ *Re: OT: Path dependent keyboard*
 - ◇ *From:* skearney
- ◆ *Re: OT: Path dependent keyboard*
 - ◇ *From:* Robert Vienneau

- *References:*

- ◆ *OT: Path dependent keyboard*
 - ◇ *From:* skearney
- ◆ *Re: OT: Path dependent keyboard*
 - ◇ *From:* Robert Vienneau

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