Typewise raises $1M to build the most secure and intelligent smartphone keyboard

Swiss-based start-up Typewise raises $1M in a seed round to develop the next-generation smartphone keyboard built to be productive and stay private. Typewise reduces typos by 4X compared to other keyboards while fully safeguarding user privacy.

The app has already been downloaded over 250,000 times in just a few months. With the new funding the company plans to release its advanced AI text prediction technology, for which it collaborates with ETH Zurich, Europe's leading science institution, as part of a federal research grant. This technology will ultimately bring text predictions to any software, both desktop and mobile.

The smartphone keyboard is today's **most important human-machine interface**. We use it 76x per day on average in all kinds of apps. Yet, it is fundamentally flawed. 70% of smartphone users are **bothered by frequent typos**, because the keys on the traditional keyboard (which is based on the 19th century typewriter and originally designed for ten-finger typing) are too small and too close together. One out of five words typed contains a typo, according to a large study by the University of Cambridge.

Even worse, 77% of users are **concerned about their privacy** since keyboards can record everything the user writes. Most keyboard apps leverage AI technology to reduce typos, relying on an internet connection to train their central algorithms or to feed their business models with user data. That's problematic and open for abuse: keyboard apps such as Go Keyboard (200m+ users), Kika Keyboard (250m+ users), Touchpal (150m+ users) or Cheetah Keyboard (100m+ users) were recently **banned from the app stores**.

In January 2020 the Norwegian Consumer Council reported that Wave Keyboard (10m+ users) shared user data with third-party ad networks, despite telling its users that it does not share their data. Relying on privacy promises or GDPR compliancy is clearly not sufficient.
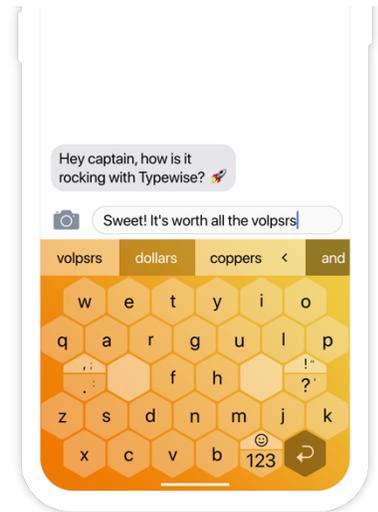
At Typewise, we believe in 100% full privacy. That's why Typewise doesn't require suspicious permissions on your phone and all data stays on your device.

David Eberle, Co-Founder and CEO | david.eberle@typewise.app | +41 (0)79 453 1960
Typewise AG, Im Kugelfang 50, 4102 Binningen, Switzerland | https://typewise.app

4X fewer typos

Typewise results in 4X fewer typos than the average keyboard. We achieve this (1) through algorithms that analyze where individual keys are pressed exactly and thus eliminate systematic errors; and (2) through a patented interface with larger keys that are easier to hit. The interface is optimized for typing with two thumbs because 74% of smartphone users write this way and achieve the highest typing speed, according to the Cambridge study. Two space buttons placed in the middle of the keyboard allow these most frequently used keys to be reached as easily as possible.

100% private text predictions

Our proprietary neural network suggests suitable words to the user and learns his own slang or dialect. In contrast to other keyboards, this AI runs completely offline and guarantees user privacy 100%. Typewise does not need "Full Access" in contrast to Google Keyboard, SwiftKey & Co. Together with leading AI engineers from ETH Zurich's Data Analytics Lab we're currently developing the next generation of our text prediction AI. We've obtained a research grant from Innosuisse, Switzerland's federal innovation agency. This technology can also be embedded into other software beyond the smartphone keyboards, bringing the power of text completion to any desktop or mobile application.

The future of typing

The larger vision of the company is to touch every human-machine interaction, making it productive and private for all users around the globe to input data into the digital world. This vision attracted a seed investment from Swiss business angels. With the new capital the two founders David Eberle (CEO) and Janis Berneker (CTO) want to further grow the team from currently eight employees and reach one million users by next year.

Made in Switzerland

Typewise was founded by two Swiss guys David Eberle (CEO) and Janis Berneker (CTO). We met at the age of 14 in high school and have always been two makers with an interest in the latest technology. In our later professions as Data Scientist (Janis) and Strategy Consultant (David) we both had to write a lot on our smartphones, and both of us were annoyed by the bad usability.

The idea to develop an innovative keyboard for smartphones matured over time. One evening Janis had a flash of inspiration and within a few hours a concept was developed and in David's mailbox. With David's early morning answer "Let's do it!" the project began. As a technology enthusiast, Janis devoted himself to product development and David took care of the market strategy. The next step was the validation of a prototype called "WRIO Keyboard" on the crowdfunding platform Kickstarter, where we exceeded our funding target by 50%. This

validated that our solution would be useful also to others and that there's a viable business model.

The app

Typewise is available now for free on the Apple App Store (iOS 12 and newer) and Google Play Store (Android 6 and newer). Premium functions are available through an in-app subscription ($9.49/year or $1.99/month) or as a separate lifetime purchase ($24.99). Typewise currently supports over 35 languages. The AI speaks English, German, French, Italian and Spanish. More languages are being added continuously.

Links

Website: https://typewise.app/

Press Kit: https://typewise.app/Typewise-Images.zip

Typewise App for iOS: https://apps.apple.com/app/typewise-keyboard/id1470215025

Typewise App for Android: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=ch.icoaching.typewise

Cambridge / ETH study: https://userinterfaces.aalto.fi/typing37k/

Blog article related to study (featured on Medium): https://uxdesign.cc/why-we-struggle-with-smartphone-keyboards-and-5-ways-to-change-that-b5e1970bef2d