

**Urdu Fonts and Keyboards can be downloaded from <http://www.deedahwar.net/download.html>. The download links are at the bottom of the page.**

Once again, below are instructions: Please follow it step by step.

The instructions given below are for **Microsoft Windows XP**. **Same procedure works for Windows Vista**, except that you do not need to follow **Install files for complex script and right-to-left languages (including Thai) Step**, Vista offers it by default.

Please note that the screenshots provided may differ from your computer's desktop environment/theme.

### **Step 1: Right-to-left support**

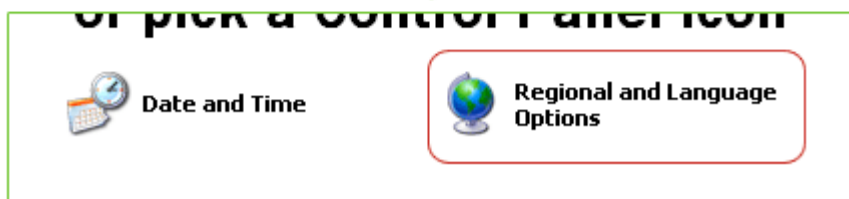
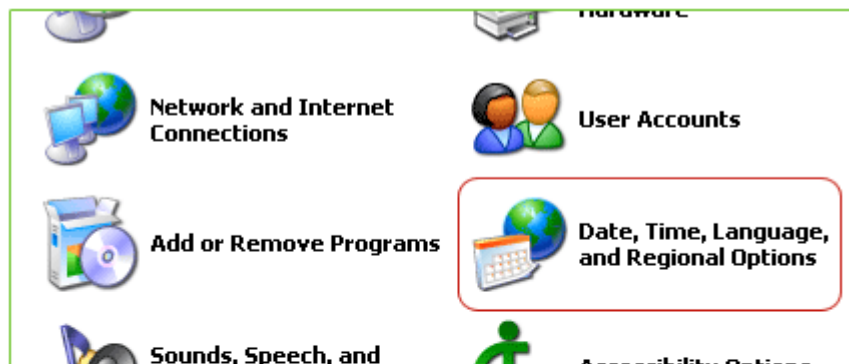
You will need the **Windows XP** Installation CD (or an alternative installation source) for this step. **Windows Vista** has a built in support for Urdu. By following below instructions, you should be able to enable Urdu on Windows Vista without a need of Windows Installation CD.

First, go to Control Panel. (Click on **Start**, then **Settings**, and then **Control Panel**. Or if you are not using the Classic Start Menu, then simply **Start > Control Panel**.)

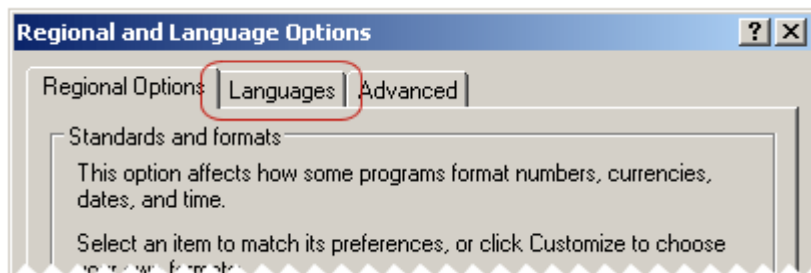
Next, enter **Regional and Language Options**.



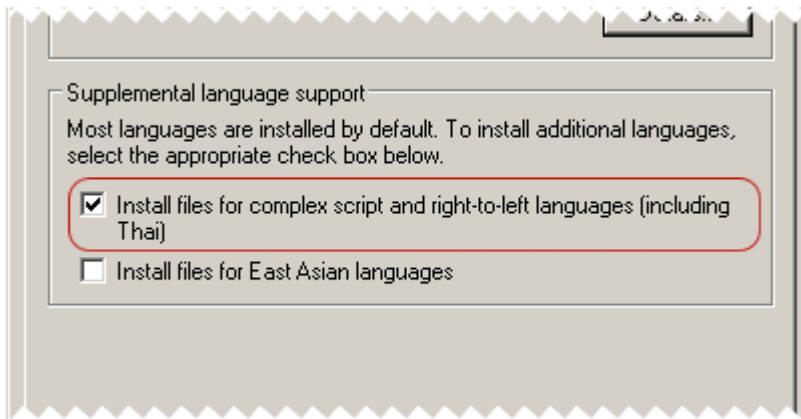
However, if your computer's Control Panel displays the Category View, then click **Date, Time, Language, and Regional Options** and then **Regional and Language Options**.



A dialog box titled “Regional and Language Options” will appear. Click on its **Languages** tab.



Check the option that says “**Install files for complex script and right-to-left languages (including Thai)**“. (If you are like me, you’ll wonder what so special is about Thai. [Short explanation](#): Thai language requires special rules for word breaking and warping. Long explanation: No idea!)



Click OK. You'll be prompted to insert the Windows XP installation CD, after which Windows will do some magic.

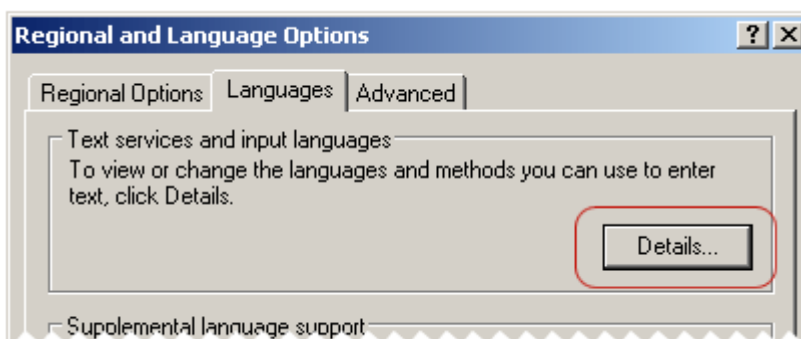
That's it. Your computer now supports right-to-left languages. Simple, huh?

## Step 2: Installing the keyboard layout

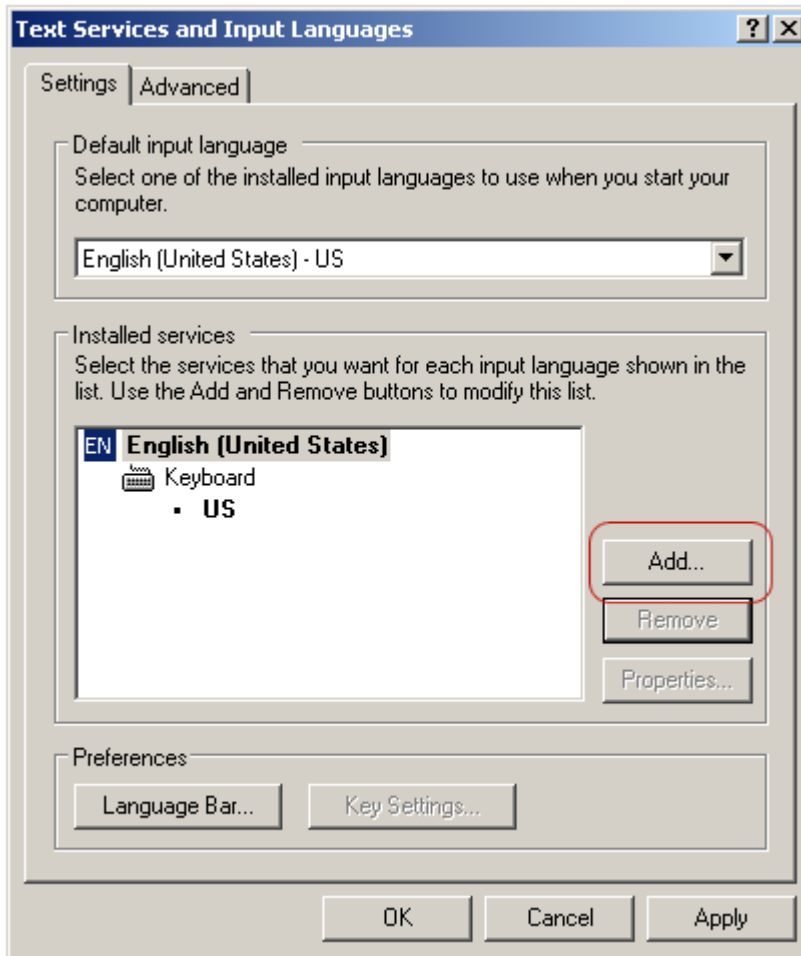
There are several Urdu keyboard layouts available; however, my personal favorite is [CRULP Urdu Phonetic Keyboard Layout](#), released by [Center for Research in Urdu Language Processing \(CRULP\)](#). Even though the instructions below are for installing this phonetic keyboard layout, installing other keyboard layouts is similar and shouldn't be difficult.

First, click on [this link](#) to go to the keyboard layout's page on CRULP's website, and download it. Unzip the zip file and run setup.exe. It will display a success message after installation.

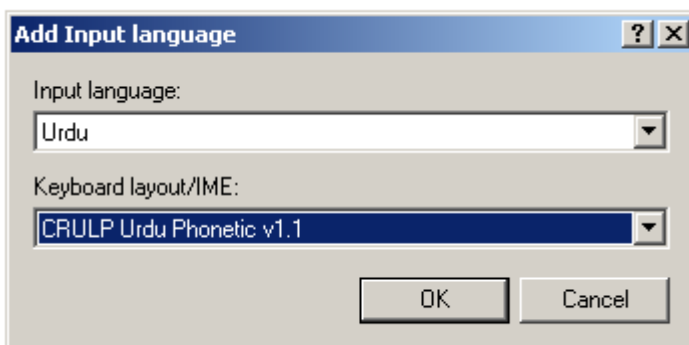
Now, visit **Regional and Language Options** (in the Control Panel) again. Go again in the **Languages** tab, and click the button that says "**Details...**"



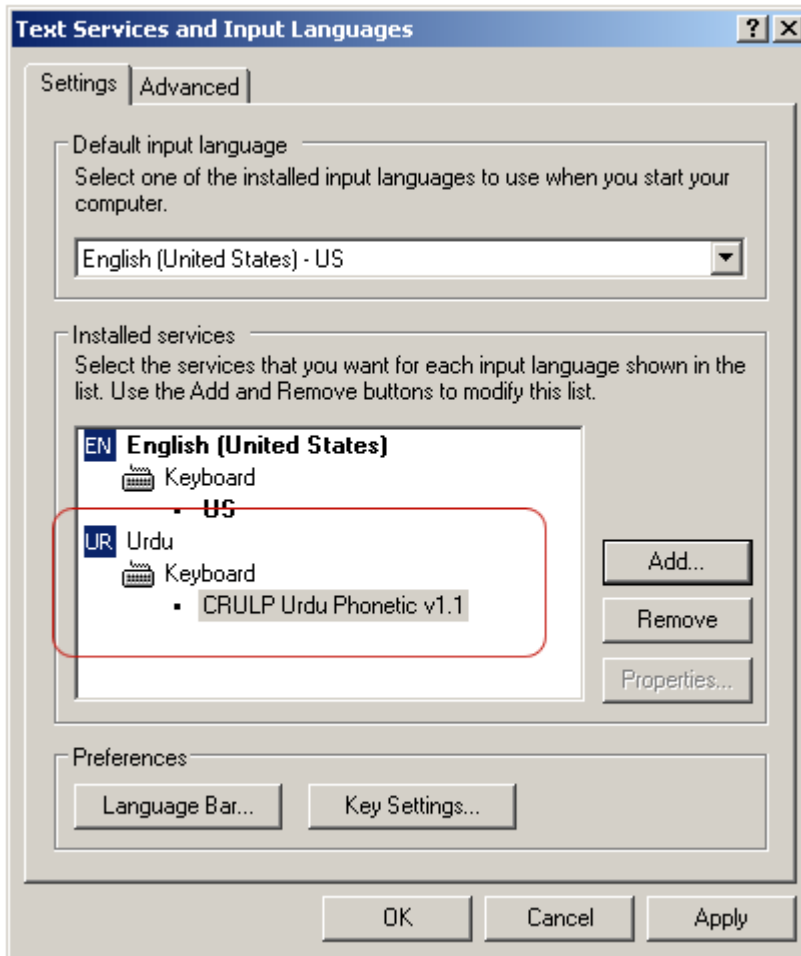
A new dialog box titled "Text Services and Input Languages" will appear, showing a list of installed keyboard layouts. Since you need to add into this list the Urdu keyboard layout that you just installed, click the button that says "**Add...**".



Another dialog box titled “Add Input language” will appear. Select “Urdu” for “Input language”, and “CRULP Urdu Phonetic v1.1” for “Keyboard layout/IME”.



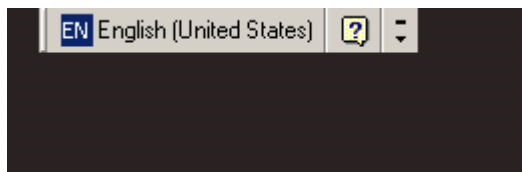
Click OK. The Urdu keyboard layout should now appear in the list.



Now that was pretty simple too, wasn't it?

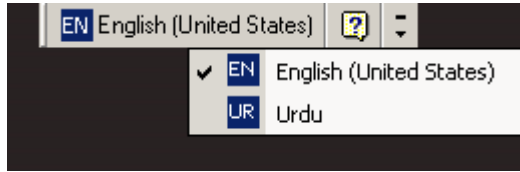
### Step 3: Test

After the keyboard layout is added successfully, you should also start seeing the Language Bar somewhere on the Desktop (or on top of the current window), as shown below. The appearance of the Language Bar may differ (and you can customize it later), but the tiny blue icon which says EN is all that matters right now. This is telling you that if you type anything right now, it will be interpreted as English by your operating system.



If you click the EN icon, something like below will appear. Select "UR Urdu" and the blue icon will change itself from EN to UR. As long as the Language Bar shows this UR, everything you

type will be in Urdu. To switch back to English, click the UR and change it to EN. Plain and simple.



Now, for the testing part.

Open WordPad (**Start > (All) Programs > Accessories > WordPad**). Change the font to any Urdu font that you have installed, or if there is none, change it to Tahoma. Increase the font size as well, just for the sake of clarity (12–14 points will be fine).

Next, switch to UR in the Language Bar. Now hit these keys: P - A - K - S - T - A - N. You should see پاکستان written in the WordPad window.

Congratulations!

You can now write Urdu in almost any software (but not all) that lets you type and supports Unicode. ([Unicode](#) is a standard for representing and manipulating text from different writing systems of the world.)

#### **Step 4: Practice!**

Typing in Urdu can be a pretty tiresome job if you are new to it. The only thing that you can do to make yourself comfortable with it is practice. Some tips are below:

1. On the download page for [CRULP Urdu Phonetic Keyboard Layout](#), there is also a link that says “Release Notes”. It’s a PDF file with information on the keyboard layout, but more importantly, it contains the mappings of Urdu alphabets for the keys of your computer’s keyboard. Use it as a reference whenever you can’t find any Urdu alphabet on the keyboard.
2. Use a better Unicode text editor for creating and editing your Urdu text files. I recommend using [BabelPad](#). It lets you select keyboard layouts through its own interface, so you don’t need to go to the Language Bar, and it also has several tools for working with Unicode and Unicode fonts.
3. If you want to create fully formatted documents in Urdu, you can do so by using Microsoft Word, or [OpenOffice.org Writer](#), or any other word processor. Please refer to the respective help files of your word processor for specifying the right-to-left direction and other issues. (They are not much difficult, so you shouldn’t have any problem.)

**Phonetic Keyboard, Nastaliq fonts and Arabic fonts are available for Download from <http://www.deedahwar.net/download.html>**