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# KEYBOARD CONTROLS FOR AN INTERNATIONAL USER BASE



# Manuel Matuzovic

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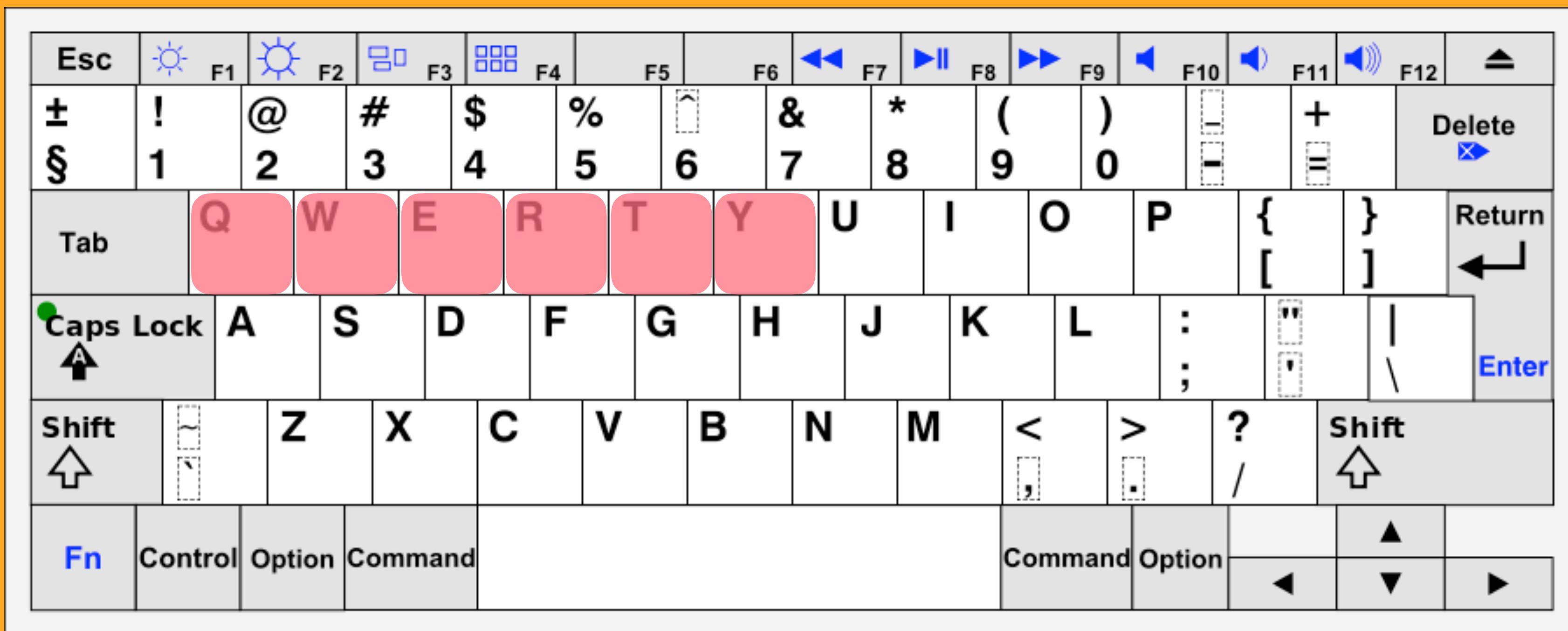
**č, ó, đ, dž, š, ž, nj, lj**  
**q, w, x**

# Keyboard layouts

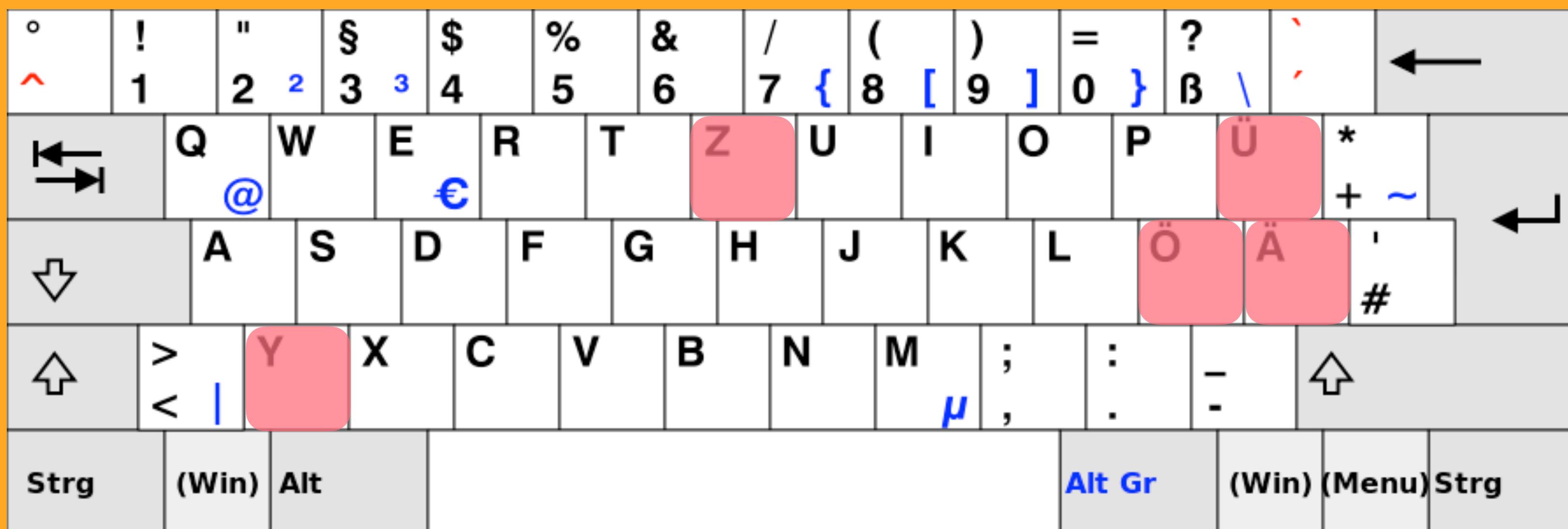
*“A keyboard layout is any specific mechanical, visual, or functional arrangement of the keys, legends, or key-meaning associations (respectively) of a computer, typewriter, or other typographic keyboard.”*

Wikipedia

# QWERTY



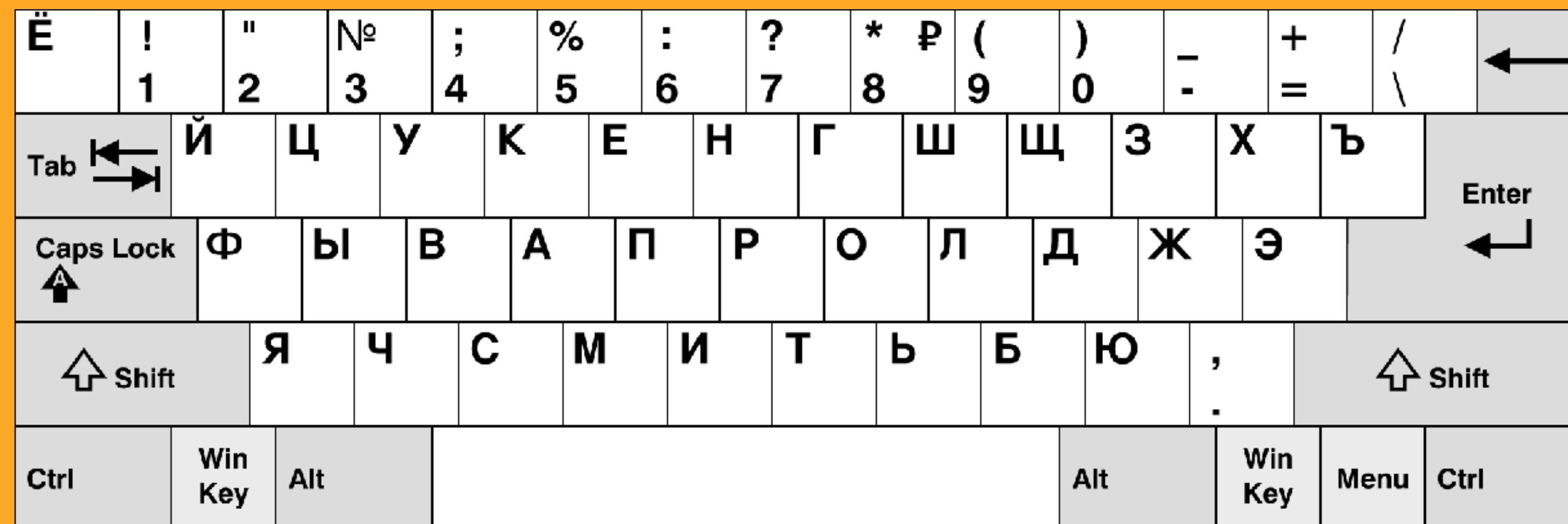
# QWERTZ



# AZERTY



# JCUKEN



Soooo?

# Events

- **keydown**

The keydown event is fired when a key is pressed down.

- **keyup**

The keyup event is fired when a key is released.

- **keypress**

The keypress event is fired when a key is pressed down

# Values

- **keyCode**

Returns a numerical code identifying the value of the pressed key.

- **which**

Returns a numeric code identifying the value of the pressed key; this is usually the same as keyCode.

- **charCode**

Returns a Number representing the Unicode reference number of the key; this attribute is used only by the keypress event.

# event.keyCode

```
window.addEventListener('keydown', navigate);
```

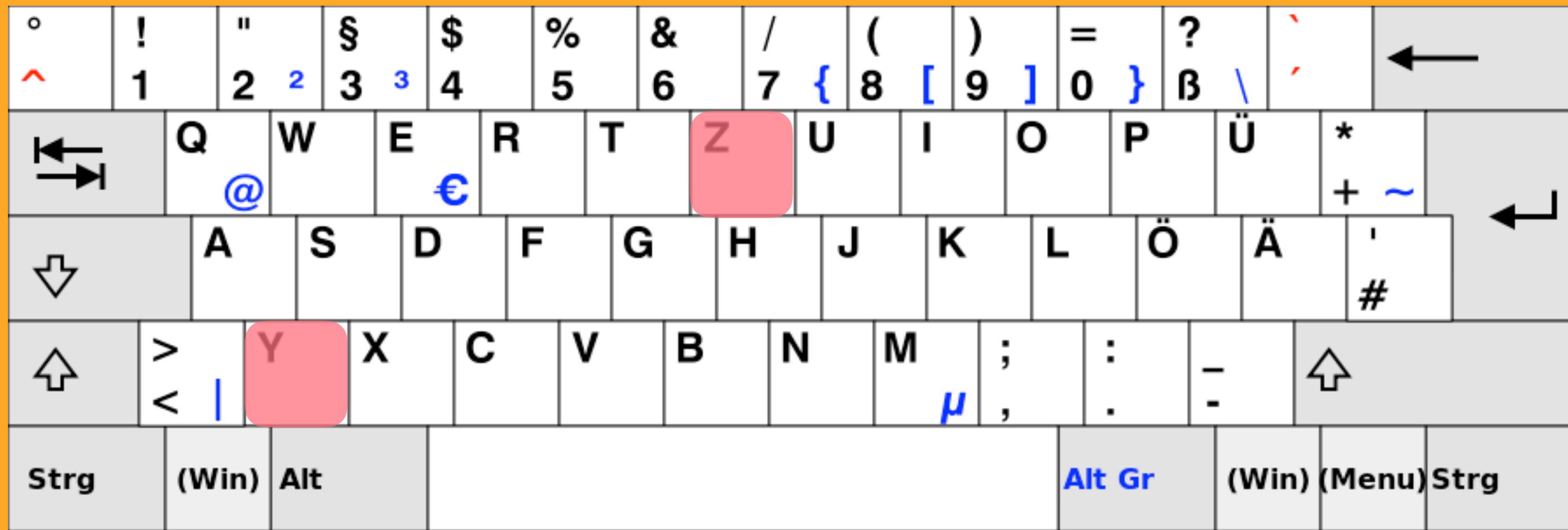
```
function navigate(e) {  
    ...  
  
    if (e.keyCode === 68) {  
        moveLeftAndRight(1);  
    }  
  
    if (e.keyCode === 90) {  
        shootMissile();  
    }  
}
```

# Issues

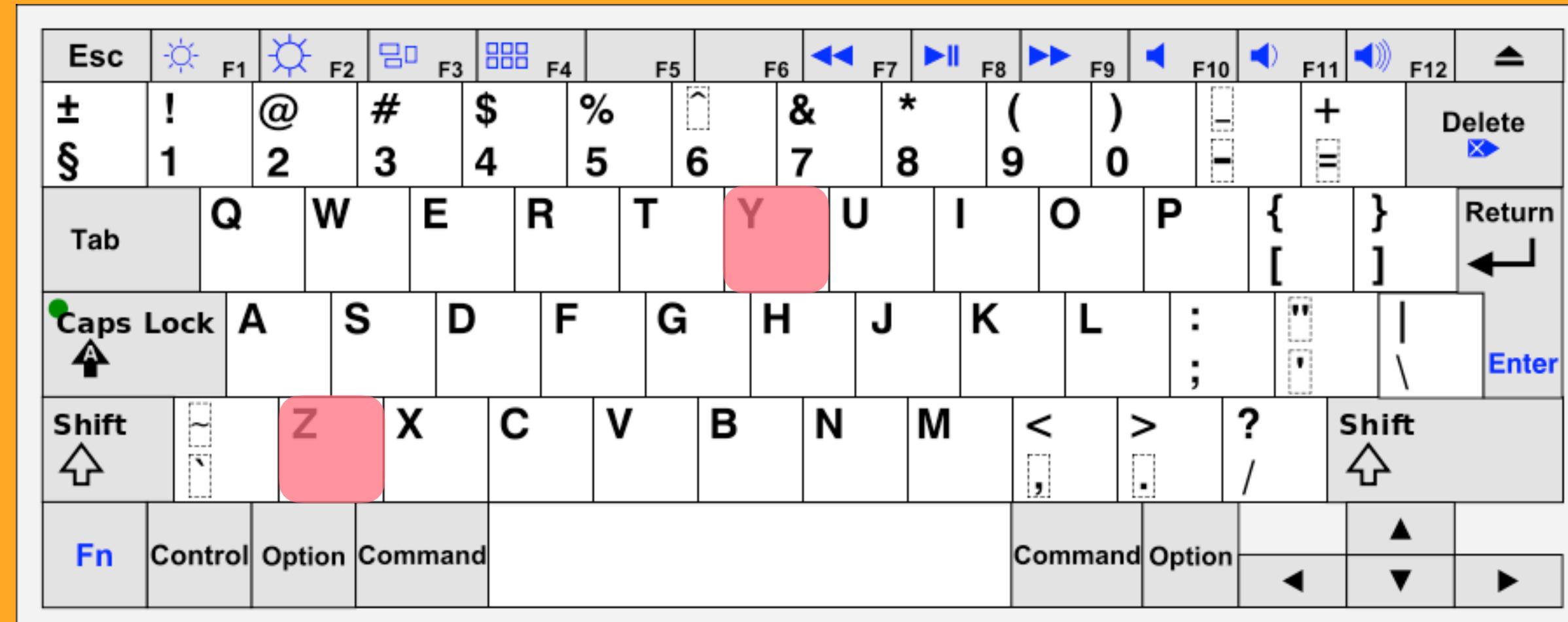
- **Different meaning of properties** when handling a key event (keydown or keyup) versus a character event (keypress).
- The **values of keys** in keypress events are **different** between browsers.
- **Inconsistent values** for keys and events **cross-browser**
- keyCode on key events **tries to be international-friendly**, but isn't



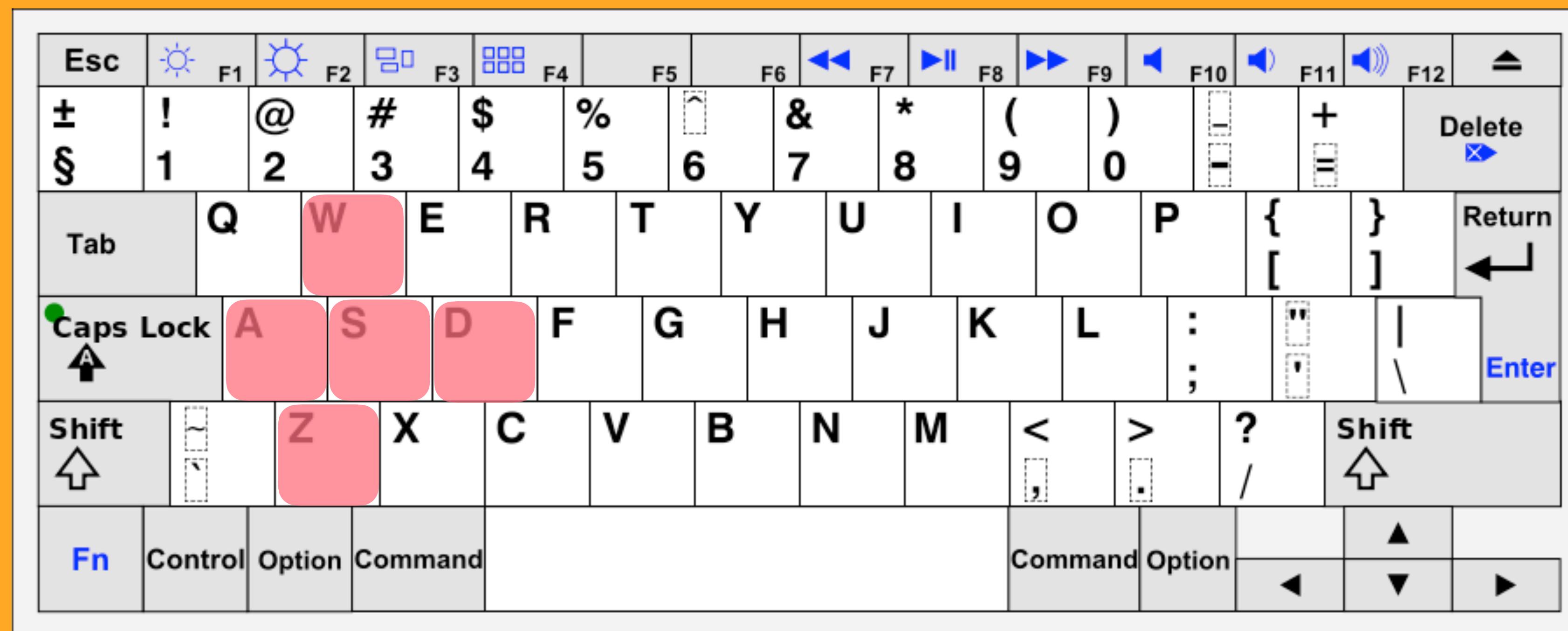
# QWERTZ



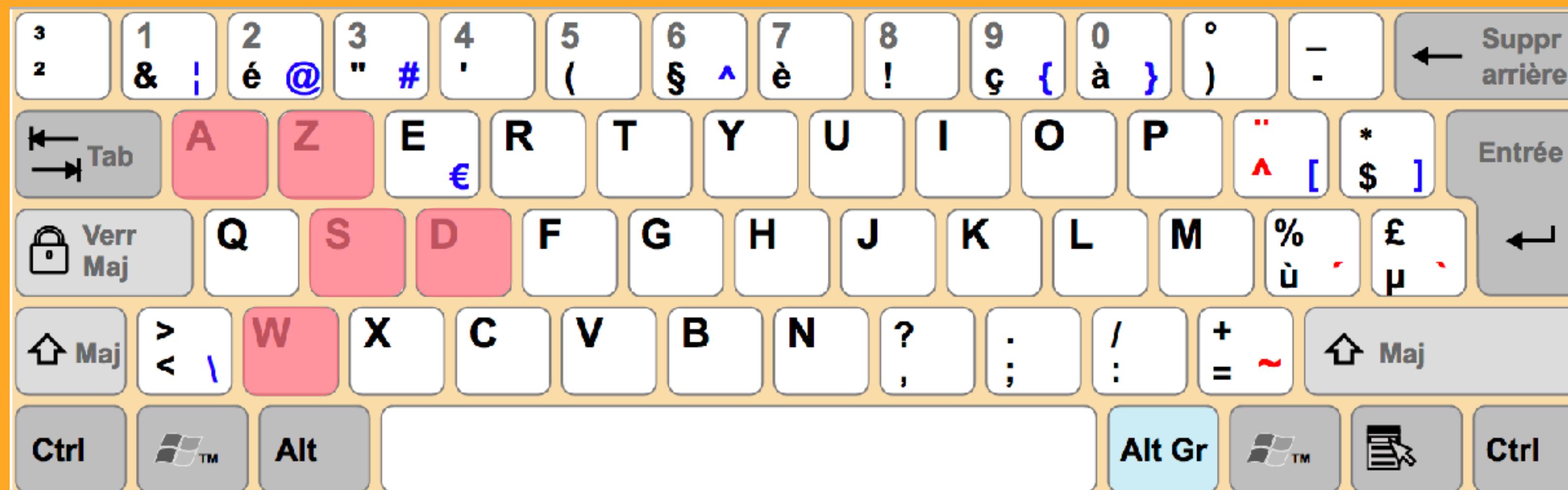
# QWERTY



# QWERTY



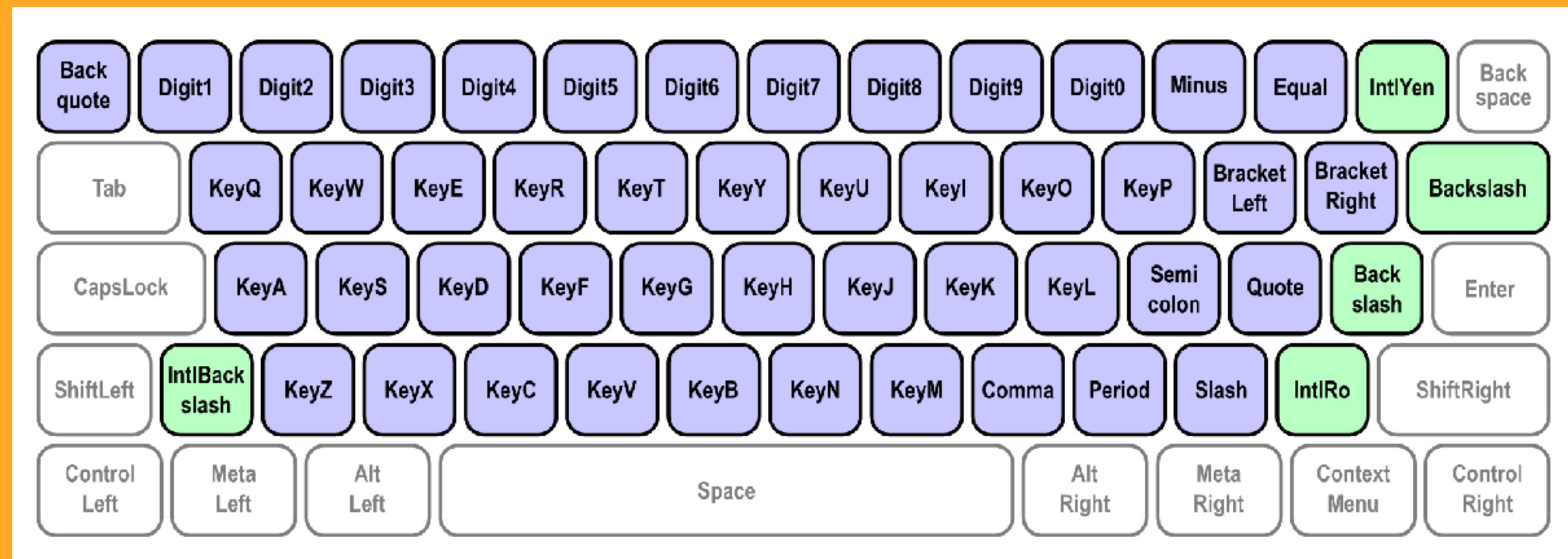
# Remember AZERTY?



# UI Events: API

- Two new properties: **key** and **code**
- **event.key** - printable character or a descriptive string, e.g. z
- **event.code** - physical key, e.g. KeyY
- Reference keyboard in the specification

# Reference keyboard



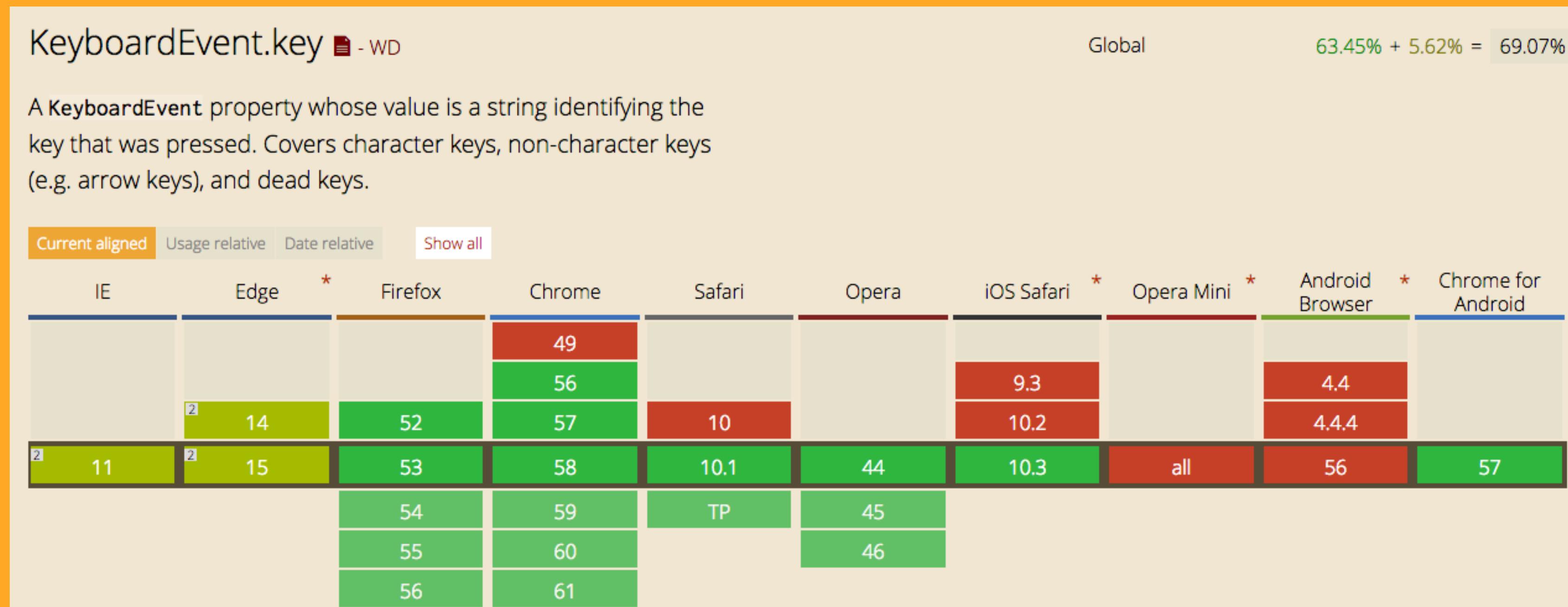
# event.keyCode

```
window.addEventListener('keydown', navigate);
```

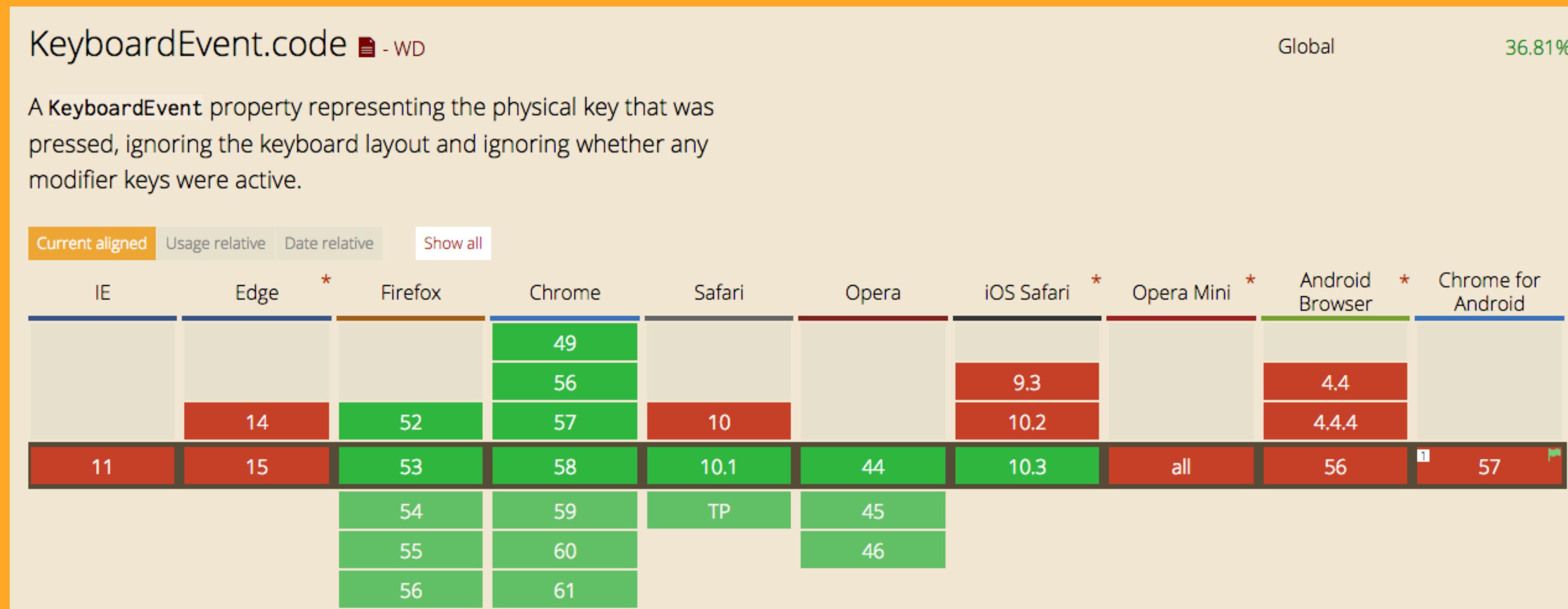
```
function navigate(e) {  
    ...  
  
    if (e.code === 'KeyD') {  
        moveLeftAndRight(1);  
    }  
  
    if (e.code === 'KeyY') {  
        shootMissile();  
    }  
}
```



# Browsersupport



# Browsersupport



# Fallback

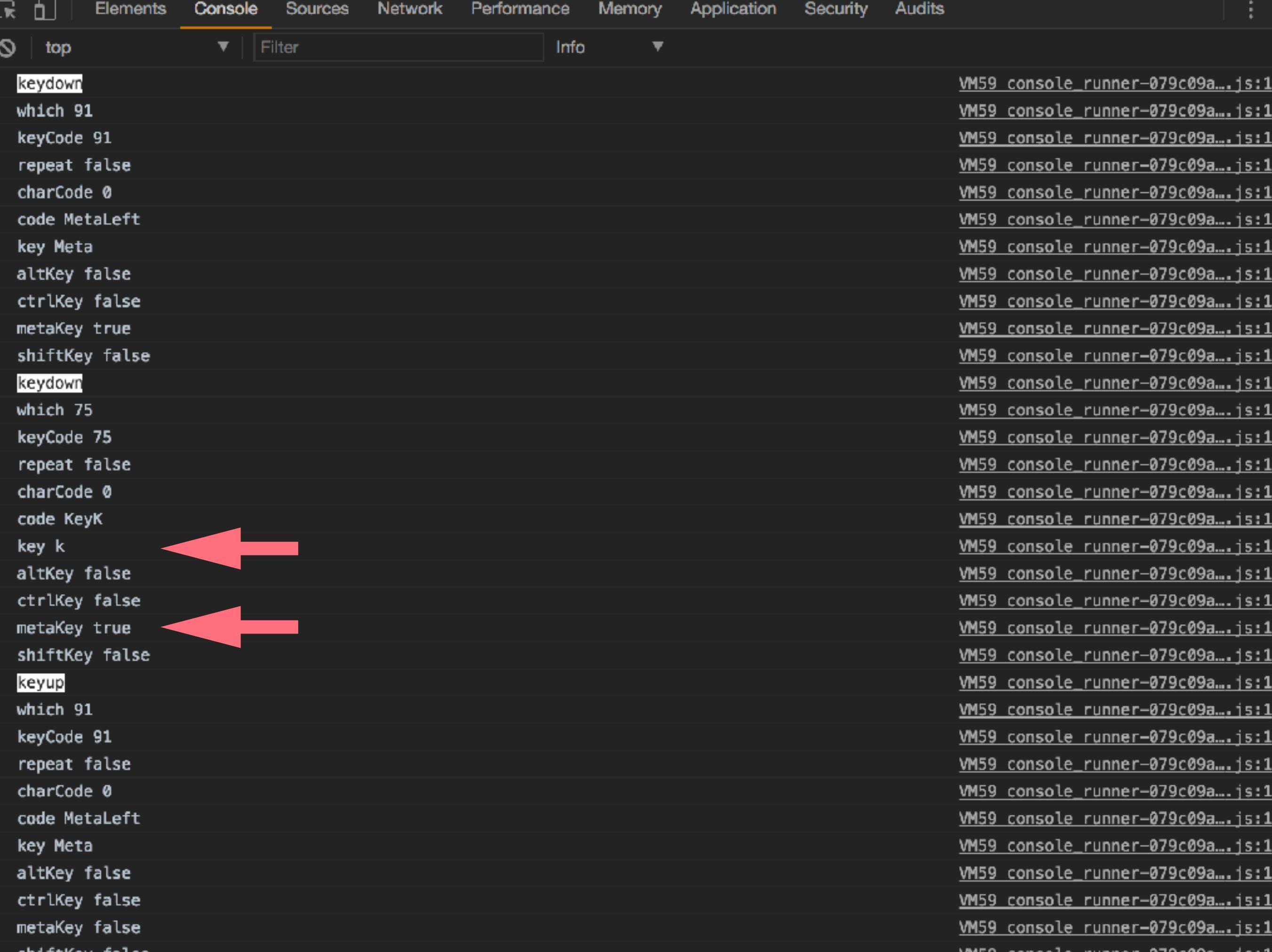
```
switch (e.code || e.key || e.keyCode) {  
    . . .  
  
    case 'KeyD':  
    case 'ArrowRight':  
    case 39:  
        moveLeftAndRight(1);  
    . . .  
}
```

# Notes

- There is no way of checking for the current keyboard layout.
- Use the **repeat** property to check if the user keeps pressing a key and the event is sent repeatedly
- Boolean properties for modifier keys (**altKey**, **ctrlKey**, **metaKey**, **shiftKey**).

```
• JS

1 document.addEventListener('keyup', event_info);
2
3 document.addEventListener('keypress', event_info);
4
5 document.addEventListener('keydown', event_info);
6
7 function event_info(e) {
8     console.log('%c%s', 'background: #fff; color: #333;', e.type)
9     console.log(`which ${e.which}`)
10    console.log(`keyCode ${e.keyCode}`)
11    console.log(`repeat ${e.repeat}`)
12    console.log(`charCode ${e.charCode}`)
13    console.log(`code ${e.code}`)
14    console.log(`key ${e.key}`)
15    console.log(`altKey ${e.altKey}`)
16    console.log(`ctrlKey ${e.ctrlKey}`)
17    console.log(`metaKey ${e.metaKey}`)
18    console.log(`shiftKey ${e.shiftKey}`)
19 }
```



keydown  
which 91  
keyCode 91  
repeat false  
charCode 0  
code MetaLeft  
key Meta  
altKey false  
ctrlKey false  
metaKey true  
shiftKey false  
**keydown**  
which 75  
keyCode 75  
repeat false  
charCode 0  
code KeyK  
key k  
altKey false  
ctrlKey false  
**metaKey true** ←  
shiftKey false  
keyup  
which 91  
keyCode 91  
repeat false  
charCode 0  
code MetaLeft  
key Meta  
altKey false  
ctrlKey false  
metaKey false  
shiftKey false

<https://codepen.io/matuzo/pen/PmgWRm?editors=0010>

## TWEETABLE TAKE-AWAY

**The web is international and so are your users.  
Don't assume that all users use the same input  
devices.**



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[meetup.com/webclerks](https://meetup.com/webclerks)

# THANK YOU

# C D E P E N

## MEETUP

JUNE 27TH    18:30    SEKTOR5    SHOW & TELL

# Images

- [http://www.daniel.at/images/pictures/\\_DSF2655.jpg](http://www.daniel.at/images/pictures/_DSF2655.jpg)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QWERTZ#/media/File:KB\\_Germany.svg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QWERTZ#/media/File:KB_Germany.svg)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QWERTY#/media/File:KB\\_Intl\\_English\\_Mac\\_-\\_Apple\\_Keyboard\\_\(MC184Z\).svg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QWERTY#/media/File:KB_Intl_English_Mac_-_Apple_Keyboard_(MC184Z).svg)
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