Keyman — SIL's Free, Open-Source Keyboard Platform Letting Language Communities Build Their Own Layouts for 2,500+ Languages

Digital Inclusion · Good practice · Australia

Quality score: 72/100

Evidence strength: Strong

Summary

Keyman, created in 1993 by Hobart-based Tavultesoft and acquired by SIL in 2015, became free MIT-licensed software in 2017. Community 'language champions' build the layouts; coverage grew from 600+ languages (2019) to 2,500+ today. No usage evaluation is published.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Innovation level	3/5
Sustainability (ongoing)	1/1
Evaluation evidence	0/1
Demonstrated reach	1/1
Documented learning	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-20

SIL Global (Keyman; originally Tavultesoft Pty Ltd) — accessed 2026-11-20

Keyman — free and open source — accessed 2026-11-20

Keyman — SIL acquisition notice — accessed 2026-11-20

ABC News (2019) — Smartphone keyboards for traditional languages — accessed 2026-11-20

GitHub — keymanapp/keyman — accessed 2026-11-20

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