Overlay Maker and Text Based Overlays

Quick Guide

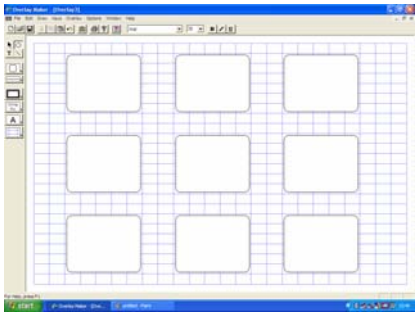
Created 01/05

Steps to create a Days of the Week overlay

Load **Overlay Maker** and select **Standard mode** from the **Options** menu.

Create a New Overlay

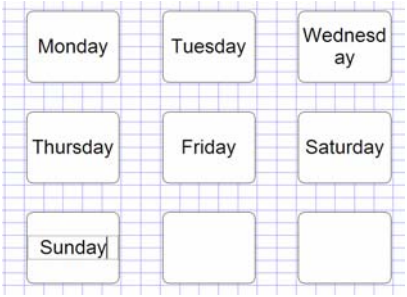
Choose **New Overlay** from the **File** menu, choosing the **9 Key** Overlay



From the **toolbox** choose the **Text** tool

Click in each box, entering the text as shown.

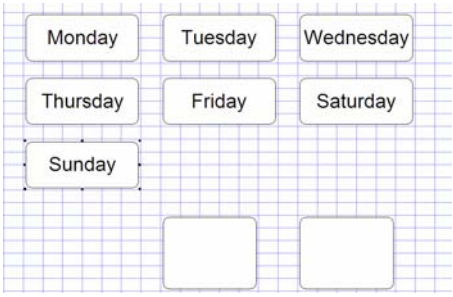
Your Overlay should now look like this:-



Editing keys

The Wednesday key is too small. To stretch it choose the selection tool from the toolbar, click inside the key then move the pointer to the corner and drag across and up till the whole word fits taking up 4 squares in height and 6 in width.

Do the same for the other keys, moving them up slightly (click and drag).



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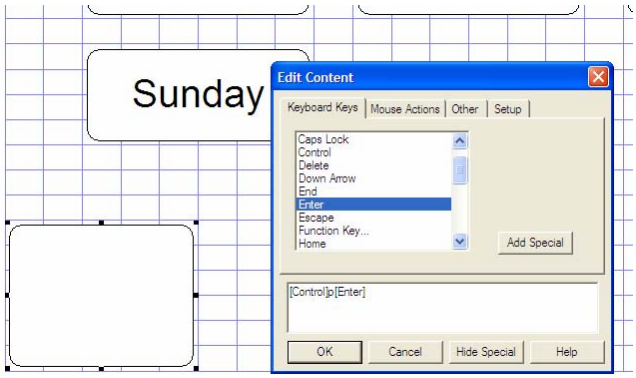
A Delete key to fix mistakes and a Print key when finished would be useful. Move the remaining two boxes to either side of the overlay. For consistency it makes sense to position these keys in the same place on all overlays.

Making a Print Key

Printing can be done with keyboard commands so the **content** of this **key** needs to be whatever the command to **print** is (ctrl p on pc, cmd p on mac)

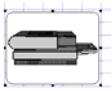


Double click on the **bottom left key** to open the **Edit Content** box then **Show Special**.

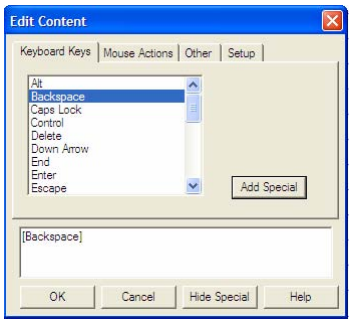
From the **Keyboard Keys** list select **Control (**or **Command)** then **Add Special** (or double click).
Enter **p** from the keyboard.
Add **Enter** (pc) or **Return** (mac) and click on **Add Special.**
Then **OK.**

Adding a Graphic

Select the printer key, load the Picture Library then choose Printer.

This key now has a picture of a printer  and will send the command to print.

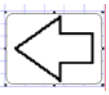
Making a Delete Key



Double click on the key to open the **Edit Content** box (then **Show Special** if it is not already there).

Select the **Backspace** key, **Add Special** then **OK**. This will delete one letter at a time.

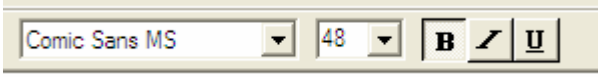
Add the graphic as before.

The delete icon  is not very exciting but it is similar to the one on the keyboard.

Changing the text font, size and style

Select all the **day** keys by clicking and dragging around their whole area. The keys should now all have black 'handles' showing.

Now using the **text tools** change as shown. Adjust the size of the keys, as before, to fit the text if necessary.

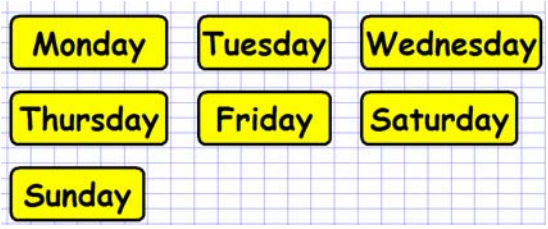


Changing the line thickness, fill colour and border colour

With all selected, increase the **line thickness**

And change the **fill colour** of the keys to yellow.

Looks much better now!



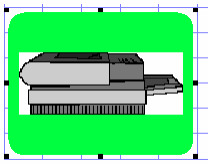
Select the **printer** and the **delete** key by clicking on the one, holding the shift key and clicking on the second. Change the **line thickness** to the **thickest**.

Now select only the **printer** key and change the **border colour**

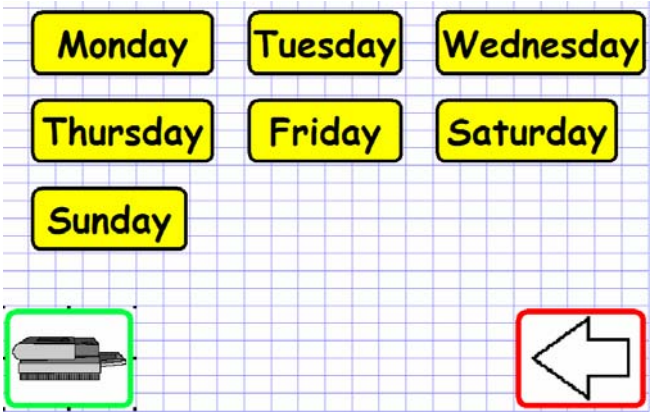
to one of your choosing.

Do the same with the **delete** key.

It is less effective to change the fill colour of cells with graphics in them as the area of the graphic is rectangular and white filled.



The **final days overlay** should look something like this!



Using the overlay

This overlay needs to be **sent** to the **Intellikeys Board** before the board can be programmed with its contents. It needs to be **printed** and placed on the board so the child can use it.

Sending Overlay

Select **Send Overlay** from the **File** menu (ctrl d for pc, cmd d for mac).

NOTE:

The contents of the overlay will remain in the Intellikeys memory until you send another one or reset the board. This is an important point to remember as any pressure subsequently on the keyboard will send the contents of a key to the computer (whether the overlay is physically there or not). This can cause havoc with other users or your desktop as items are renamed! The USB board has an on/off switch at the left top-side which is very useful; be aware that when you switch back on the last sent overlay is still active.

Printing Overlay

Ensure that **US Legal paper** is in the printer then select **Print Overlay** from the **File** menu (ctrl p for pc, cmd p for mac)

Load the program you wish to use the overlay with and it's ready to use.

Ideas for overlays

Any text based overlay can be made using the steps as above.
Additional keys can be added as needed (e.g. Save, Quit, Read) or as the program allows.
Coloured paper can be used to provide a better contrast background and save on ink.
Multiple overlays can be produced and linked together.