



**Building a
consistent
approach across
broad enterprises**

an interview with
R. Brett Short

by Nancy J. Beckley

Keyboarding

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It all started when I learned to type on my mom's vintage Royal typewriter. It got more exciting when I went to my dad's office in high school to use his shiny new IBM Selectric with the Courier 12 type ball. Soon there were huge word processing



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machines, followed by the introductory computers—mine was an Apple IIc. I took typing between summers in high school, where I learned the basics: “All good men must come to the aid of their party.” I learned to use typewriter paper that could be easily erased, progressed to liquid white out, and then to white-out tape to make corrections. Nirvana: the IBM “Correcting” Selectric. Spellcheck was Webster's Dictionary and Roget's Thesaurus, the other must-have companion for typists.

I wonder how much business is conducted on smartphones? Maybe not a compliance plan, or business proposal, but with smart tablets we are getting pretty close to a business solution. So, what's the problem? It can be summed up in one word (or is it two words?): “auto correct.” You know, that horrible feeling you have when you realize that you sent a quick text to a colleague where auto correct took over? Social media posts are full of auto correct examples, some funny, some downright, well... embarrassing.

Just like IBM had a variety of font balls, the smartphone and tablets today have

additional keyboards that can be installed. My favorite is the Bitmoji keyboard. It has a personal emoji: “Create your Bitmoji and be yourself wherever you go.” Change your outfit, hair style and color, glasses, age, and other personal characteristics. When texting, your Bitmoji keyboard will prompt with some suggestions and, if you don't like those, enter a search term to select a match to your mood. Bitmoji is on the App Store and Google Play.

We no longer learn to type, we get oriented to keyboarding...

As much fun as the Bitmoji keyboard is, it won't correct errant type. After reaching the tipping point, and feeling I needed an IBM correcting solution, I found it in Grammarly—the self-described, free writing assistant. The keyboard interface is very clean. As you are typing, the bright green “G” will be thinking and pop up a red alert to check spelling or grammar errors, contextual spell checking, advanced punctuation correction, and more. I am hooked—sorry, that's hooked! Pick it up at your favorite app store.

We no longer learn to type, we get oriented to keyboarding, and there is no better way to keyboard than to have more digital keyboards. Have you styled your Bitmoji? ☺