

Mobile Text Input on a Smartwatch QWERTY Keyboard

Colton Turner,¹ Morgan Colling,² Barbara Chaparro¹, and Jeremy Patterson²

¹Department of Psychology, Wichita State University; ²Department of Human Performance Studies, Wichita State University

As smartwatches continue to grow in popularity the demand for a smartwatch with efficient texting capabilities continues to increase. Conventional opinion states texting on a smartwatch is too difficult and inefficient due to the limited screen size. However, recent research done at Wichita State University shows smartwatch users can achieve typing speeds of up to 30 AdjWPM using a trace-based typing method and 26 AdjWPM using a tap-based typing method while seated at a desk. These speeds are comparable, if not better, than typing speeds achieved on smartphones using the same input methods. In addition, these speeds are better than any other keyboard for small screen devices listed in the literature. Given the mobile nature of smartwatch usage, a second study is being conducted to examine typing speeds using the same techniques while walking and standing. Results from both studies will be discussed along with smartwatch design implications.