



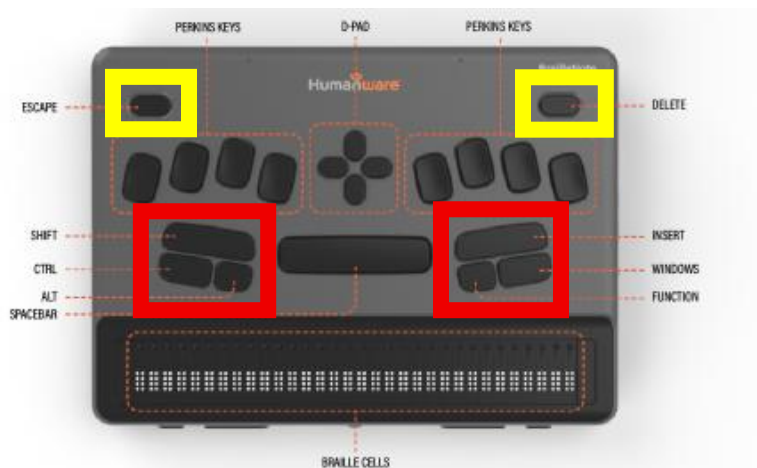
## Differences between BrailleNote Touch Plus and BrailleNote evolve

Moving to a more powerful platform like Windows naturally brings some changes to how KeySoft works. Our goal has always been to make using a Windows device feel as seamless and familiar as possible to long-time KeySoft users, but in some cases, KeySoft must adapt to the underlying operating system.

Just as there were changes when KeySoft transitioned from the Windows CE environment to Android, the move to Windows 11 introduces its own adjustments.

### More Keys

Don't be alarmed by the additional keys on the BrailleNote Evolve. These extra keys are essential for performing more advanced tasks and will become especially useful as you gain proficiency with a screen reader. By default, the keys to the left and right of the spacebar are disabled (Highlighted with a Red box), while the top left and top right keys remain active (Highlighted with a Yellow box). These additional keys are known as modifier keys and are labelled as follows:



Please note that these keys can be customised by installing a third-party application called [“Sharpkeys”](#).

It is not necessary to use the keys to the left or right of the space bar when first being introduced to the BrailleNote evolve. In some cases, to achieve a task, there are multiple methods or keystrokes that you can use.

When these keys are disabled, you will be locked into the KeySoft Main menu. At any time, if you want to return to the main menu from an open application, simply press the home button on the front edge to return to the Main Menu. Alternatively, you can **press all 6 dots and space bar**.

This document includes a learning plan to help you adjust to the new features and changes on the BrailleNote Evolve. Remember, this is a gradual learning process; take your time, and don't feel discouraged along the way.

## Menu and general navigation

- When navigating through menus, there are some changes to be aware of. You can no longer press **space** or **backspace** to move forward and backwards through a menu list. You can, however, continue to use **Space with dot 4** to move forward and **Space with dot 1** to move back. You can also use the traditional First Letter navigation in most cases.
- In addition to First letter navigation, you can quickly jump to menu items by continuing to type the first few letters. For example, in the menu, you have a series of menu items beginning with the letter c. These could be *calculator*, *calendar*, *camera* and *click to do*. If you want to jump to the later item "*Click to do*", typing the first few letters quickly will take you to that item. Keep this in mind when accidentally pressing an incorrect first letter and then trying to go to the letter you pressed afterwards will likely not work if pressed too quickly.
- While in the KeySoft menu, you can search for an application. Pressing **Space with f** for find will place you into the search dialogue. Type the application you wish to find and then press Enter to show the list of results.
- There are many elements to Windows, and so it is not possible to show dialogues in a list view. Therefore, another method of exploring is by tabbing around these elements. A perfect example of this can be seen when configuring your language profile. To move through the available items, you need to Tab to move forward or shift tab to move back. You will also identify this from the KeySoft Main menu. Pressing the Tab **Space with dots 4 and 5** will cycle you through the Power button, Search windows and then list. Alternatively press **Space with dots 1 and 2** to perform a shift tab.
- Another example of a slight change in behaviour involves exiting applications and menus. Traditionally, pressing **Space with E** in KeySoft has been used for many years to exit applications, move up one level at a time or exit dialogs. Here are some scenarios to be aware of:
  - In the event a dialog is opened, and you wish to close it, pressing the **Escape** key (Top left button) should be used. One example could be if you find yourself in the HW application menu and you wish to exit back into the document. Please refer to "What is the HW Application menu" for more information.
  - In replacement of using **Space with E** to move up a level in the file manager use the backspace Key.
  - On the BrailleNote Evolve, the **Space with E** shortcut will always close the entire application.

## Learning Plan

Below is a learning plan that can be used to discover some of the changes advised above.

### Learning Plan: Adapting to KeySoft Changes on the BrailleNote Evolve

#### Stage 1: Understanding New Menu Navigation

**Objective:** Learn the updated methods for moving through menus.

#### Snapshot Video Tutorial:

#### What's changed:

- Space and Backspace no longer move you forward or backwards in lists.
- **Space + dot 4** moves forward; **Space + dot 1** moves back.
- Alternatively, you can use your **up and down** arrow keys.
- First-letter navigation still works in most cases.

#### Practice tasks:

1. Open the KeySoft Main Menu and navigate through it using **Space + dot 4** and **Space + dot 1**.
  2. Try doing the same using the **up and down arrow** so you can choose your preferred option.
  3. Choose a letter (e.g., "M") and use first-letter navigation to jump through all items starting with that letter.
  4. Practise switching between **Space + dot 1** and **Space + dot 4**-navigation and first-letter navigation smoothly.
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#### Stage 2: New Method of interaction - Mastering Multi-Letter Navigation

**Objective:** Understand how typing the first few letters speeds up menu navigation.

#### Snapshot Video Tutorial:

#### What's new:

- You can type multiple letters quickly to jump to later items in a list.
- Example: If the list has *Calculator, Calendar, Camera, Click to Do*, typing "cl" quickly jumps to "Click to Do".

#### Practice tasks:

1. Go to the KeySoft main menu. Press the letter A, you should be prompted "All Apps". Press enter.
2. Practice typing two or three letters in quick succession to jump to items further down the list. For example, type the letter "c" followed quickly by the letter "l" to reach the "Click to Do" item. If you don't land on the correct item, it's likely because the letters weren't entered quickly enough.

3. Test what happens if you mis-press a first letter and try correcting it, and observe how timing affects navigation.
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### Stage 3: Learning to Search Within the KeySoft Menu

**Objective:** Become fluent with the new search feature.

**Snapshot Video Tutorial:**

**What's new:**

- The ability to search for an application installed.
- Press the traditional braille shortcut used to perform a find command, Space + F to open the search dialog.
- Type the application name, press Enter, and browse results.

**Practice tasks:**

1. Open the KeySoft menu and use **Space + F** to search for "KeyWord."
  2. Try alternative searches—short names, longer names, and partial words.
  3. Compare how quickly you can find apps using search vs. navigation.
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### Stage 4: Navigating Windows-Style Dialogues

**Objective:** Learn how to explore interface elements using the new Tab and Shift + Tab braille commands.

**Snapshot Video Tutorial:**

**What's new:**

- Some Windows elements cannot appear in KeySoft-style list views.
- Use Tab to move forward through items, Shift + Tab to move back.
- To perform a Tab using braille keys use **Space with dots 4 and 5**.
- To perform a shift + tab use **space with dots 1 and 2**.

**Practice tasks:**

1. Open the KeySoft main menu.
2. The main menu is split into three elements. (Search field, menu list and power button)
3. Move through all elements using Tab and Shift + Tab actions.
4. Practise identifying patterns: buttons, checkboxes, edit fields, toggles, etc.
5. Try navigating a similar settings screen elsewhere in Windows, like using the quick setting (Enter + q)

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## Stage 5: Adjusting to the New Exit Behaviour

**Objective:** Understand the updated commands for leaving apps or stepping back a level.

### Snapshot Video Tutorial:

#### What's changed:

- **Space + E** now always exits the entire application.
- To go back one level (e.g., inside KeyFiles), use the **backspace key**.
- To close menus or dialogues within an application use the Escape key in the upper-left corner.

#### Practice tasks:

1. Open KeyFiles and enter a folder.
2. Press the **Backspace** key to move back one level.
3. Press **Space + E** to exit the application entirely.
4. Repeat with different apps (e.g., KeyWord documents, settings screens) to build muscle memory.
5. From the main menu, press the KeySoft Context menu shortcut **Space with M**. To exit the context menu you will not need to press the Escape key.

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## Stage 6: Combining Skills in Real-World Tasks

**Objective:** Apply the new navigation techniques together.

#### Practice tasks:

1. Open the KeySoft menu → Search for an app → Open it → Navigate a dialog using Tab → Exit with Escape or **Space + E**.
2. Navigate a long menu using multi-letter navigation, then go back using **Space + dot 1**.
3. Explore a Windows settings page and practise identifying controls with Tab/Shift+Tab.

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## Outcome

By following this progressive plan, the user will:

- Understand every navigation change and why it behaves differently.
- Build reliable habits for menu movement, dialog interaction, and app exiting.
- Feel confident using both the KeySoft environment and underlying Windows 11 features.

## App switcher

Switching between apps and closing apps from the app Switcher. We no longer have the app switcher button. However, a Braille shortcut “**Space with dots 2-3-5**” will open a list of open applications. You can then move through the list of opened application.

### Stage 7: Multi-tasking

**Objective:** Apply the new method of switching between applications and closing open applications.

#### Snapshot Video Tutorial:

#### What’s changed:

- BN evolve does not have a dedicated app switcher button.
- Pressing **Space with dots 2-3 and 5** will open the app switcher menu
- This is a list of opened applications.
- To close an open application from the app switcher press **Space with M**. An option to close the application will now be available.

#### Practice tasks:

1. Open the KeySoft menu → Search for the application word and Open it.
2. Press the Home button to return to the KeySoft Main Menu
3. Using the search function (Space + F), search for the
4. Navigate a long menu using multi-letter navigation, then go back using Space + dot 1.
5. Explore a Windows settings page and practise identifying controls with Tab/Shift+Tab.

## Office suite of applications

BrailleNote evolve includes some core KeySoft applications, such as KeyMath, KeyFiles, KeyBrf and Victor Reader. Within the office suite, KeySoft is also available through add-ins. These add-ins allow a braille user to be more proficient and productive, putting you in a familiar environment of KeySoft feel.

Again, it is not necessary to use the modifier keys to use such applications, as there are many braille shortcuts. To enable or disable your modifier keys please refer to “Enable / Disable modifier keys” section.

In certain Office applications, the BrailleNote Evolve provides a HumanWare application menu. This menu works much like a context menu and contains several options which will include Braille shortcuts and qwerty shortcuts and some without. This is a great way to learn how to use KeySoft in a specific application, while it also helps you on your journey to transition to screen reader skills.

Traditionally, users open the context menu by pressing **Space + M**, and this still works in KeySoft core applications such as KeyMath, KeySoft Main Menu and other KeySoft Applications. However, most Windows applications have their own built-in context menu that also opens when you press **Space + M**. To avoid conflicts and ensure access to the HumanWare-specific menu, a new shortcut has been introduced: **Backspace + A**, which opens the HumanWare Application menu within Word, Outlook, PowerPoint and Excel.

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## Clear Explanation of the Difference between Context and application menu

### **Space + M**

This is the original shortcut in KeySoft to open the context menu

Still used for KeySoft applications (e.g., KeyMath, Victor Reader and the Main Menu).

But in other Windows apps including Office 365 application, it triggers the standard Windows context menu instead of the HumanWare menu.

### **Backspace + A**

Previously this was used when in a save dialogue but has now changed.

It opens the HumanWare context menu specifically in applications that use HumanWare Add-ins. It avoids the conflict with Windows applications that use **Space + M** for their own context menus. The applications that it is known to work in include, Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook classic.

In short:

**Use Space + M** in KeySoft apps.

**Use Backspace + A** to access the HumanWare menu when you're in Windows apps.

## Stage 8: HumanWare context and application menu

**Objective:** Understand where the HumanWare application menu comes into play and where the HumanWare context menu works

### **Snapshot Video Tutorial:**

#### **What's changed:**

- There is no longer a dedicated context menu button, but you can still use **Space + M**.
- The HumanWare context menu opened with **Space + M** applies only to KeySoft family applications—those whose names often begin with “Key” with the exception of “Victor Reader”.
- Applications such as Word, Outlook, Excel, and PowerPoint include HumanWare add-ins. These add-ins function similarly to a context menu, but cannot use **Space + M** because that shortcut activates the application's own built-in context menu.
- To access the HumanWare application menu in these applications, press **Backspace + A**.

### Practice tasks:

1. Open Word from the KeySoft menu.
2. Press **Space with M** to recognise the specific applications context menu.
3. Now press **Backspace with A**. You will be prompted "Application menu"
4. Use **Space with dots 1 and 4** to move between the three available categories.
5. If you wish to exit the HumanWare application, remember to use the Escape button.
6. Select a category, such as formatting, and again use **space with dots 1** to move through the available shortcuts.
7. You can decide to action these commands by pressing Enter, or keep note of the Braille shortcut so you can later try them.
8. Return to the Main Menu.
9. Find and select the KeyBrf : Braille editor application.
10. Select Create.
11. Press **space with M**, you will be in the KeySoft application context menu.
12. These apps will not have an application menu.

## Language Profiles

With language profiles, we have taken a different approach to configure it. First to add a Profile you need to select Manage profiles where you can you either delete or create a new profile with a dedicated name. Once you have created a profile name you will then have to activate that profile to configure it in real time. When configuring your profile, you will always be configuring the current active profile you are using.

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### Stage 9: Managing and configuring language profiles

**Objective:** Create and manage your language profiles


#### Snapshot Video Tutorial:

#### What's changed:

- Creating Language Profiles
- Configuring Language profiles
- Switching language profiles remains a similar experience

### Practice tasks:

1. From the Main menu, open the options menu by pressing **Space with O**.
2. Select Manage language profiles and navigate to the New button.
3. You will be prompted to manually activate it in order to configure it. Press **Enter** on Yes.
4. Open the options menu once again (**Space with O**) then select configure language profile.
5. Use **Space with dots 4 and 5** to move between the list of items.
6. When on an item which is said to be a combo box, use **Space with dot 1** to move through the available options.

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7. Once you have finished configuring the profile, select Ok button
  8. Try creating another language profile and switching between them.
  9. Try deleting a language profile.

We hope you find this documentation useful as you start to adapt to the new KeySoft integration with Windows.

Adapt and evolve with Brailnote