

to-kana, a program for converting romaji to kana.

Ethan Long

ABSTRACT

to-kana converts a incoming stream of romaji to either hiragana or katakana either from a file, or from standard input, and outputs to a file or standard output. to-kana aims to be as modular as possible, it should be usable for any project that requires a stream of romaji to be converted.

Purpose in nIME

nIME uses to-kana to convert the stream of keyboard inputs into basic kana for to-kanji to then convert to kanji. ato-kanaplays nIME, without it no kana conversion could take place.

Usage

to-kana takes in a very rigid but simple form of romaji, every character except the basic vowels takes two letters to type. The style is most similar to the “modern” IME, rather than ktrans’ SKK format. Some examples of common usage:

watashi → わたし
korega!epikku!desu → これがエピックです
nannde → なんで
donnna → どうな

As one can see from this usage, the common letters all take two keystrokes to type.

日本語	ロマ字
あ	a
か	ka
きゃ	kya
っか	kka
っきゃ	kkya
ん	nn

In the raw stream, ! is used as a placeholder for the katakana trigger character, nIME’s GUI will trigger said placeholder when conversion is requested.

Technical documentation

All the functions in to-kana serve the purposes of the eval function. The eval function takes in a file pointer and converts the contents assuming that they are in the previously described romaji form.