

Dasher 5.0 Release Notes

Download:

<https://github.com/ipomoena/dasher/releases>

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Backward compatibility

For eye gaze users

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Backward compatibility

For eye gaze users

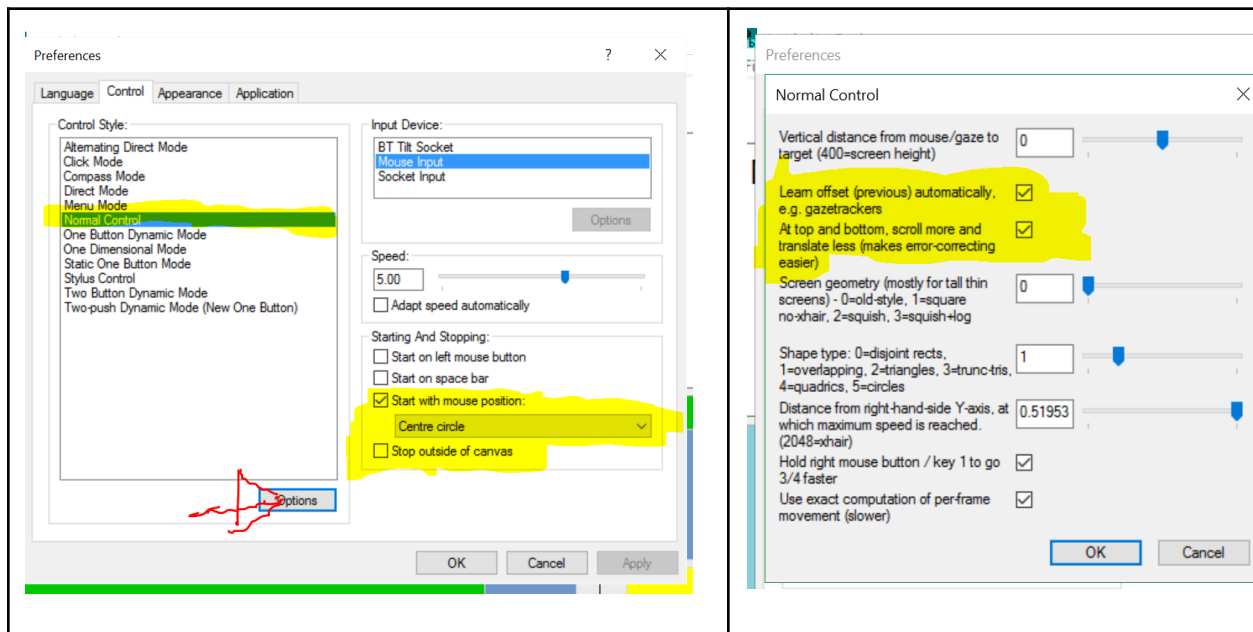
First, you must configure your eyetracker to move mouse cursor where your eyes are looking. Expensive eyetrackers usually come with such software. For [Tobii EyeX](#) or EyeTribe or PCEye Go you can use [Click2speak keyboard](#) functionality (there is special key on the mouse panel to turn on/off mouse pointer follow eyes).

For better or worse, explicit eye gaze control style is gone. Here are new recommended settings for eye gaze users: **Prefs** → **Control**:

- **Starting and stopping:** → **Start with mouse position: Centre Circle** (so you can start and stop dasher without clicking, by looking at the circle in the middle)
- **Starting and stopping:** → **uncheck stop outside of canvas** (eyes dart too much and dasher will stop too often if this option is checked).
- **Control Style: Normal Control.**

Then inside **options** dialog, make sure this options are checked:

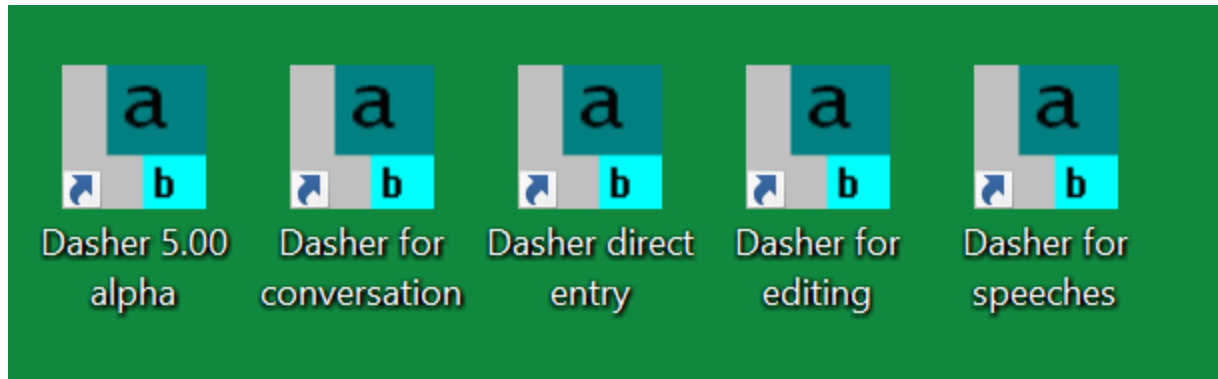
- “Learn offset (previous) automatically, e.g. gaze trackers”
- “At top and bottom, scroll more and translate less (makes error-correcting easier)”



New Features

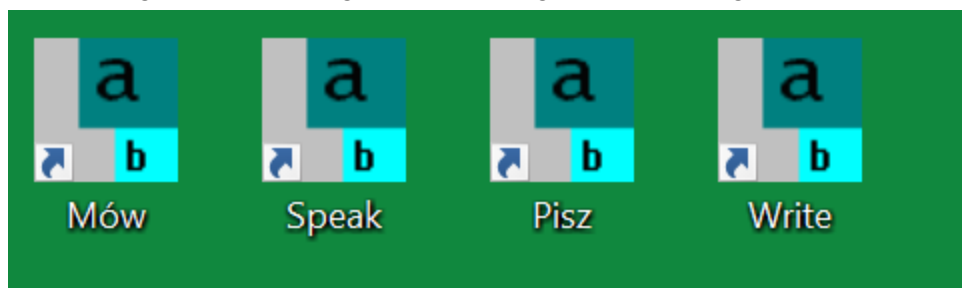
Dasher can be started in different configurations

It is shipped with default settings and named configurations for common usage profiles. You can modify settings in each config to your liking. And they will be remembered between restarts, separately for each profile.



You can also create your own profile by creating shortcut to start dasher with parameter /config [profile name]

For bilingual user using dasher for speaking and typing, following profiles may be useful.
speak_lang_A, speak_lang_B, direct_lang_A, direct_lang_B.



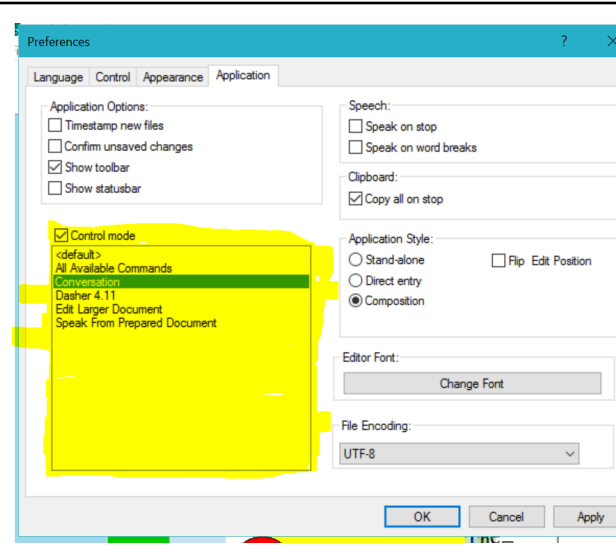
Profiles can be pinned to taskbar for easy starting and switching between profiles.

Option to choose control boxes with commands useful in different profiles

There are many possible actions you can trigger from Control box. But not all of them are needed at the same time. If you don't use Dasher to generate speech, why would you care about various speech related commands?

There are several layouts of control box to choose from now. And there will be more in the future.

You can also craft your very own control box if you are not afraid of XML. See advanced features.



Ability to speak in language different than operating system language

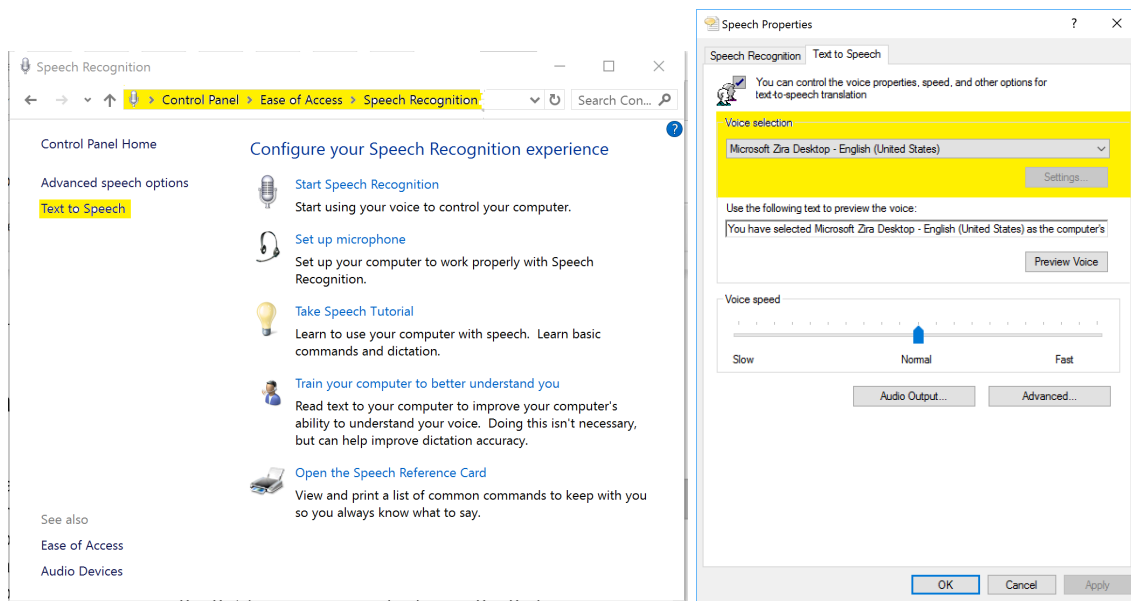
Are you bilingual? Do you want to use dasher to speak in different language than the language your operating system is using? Now you can. Dasher will select voice in the language described in alphabet file. So if you want to speak with Polish pronunciation, use Polish alphabet. If you want to speak with English pronunciation, use English alphabet.

Before your computer can speak some other language, you must install proper language pack.

For Windows see <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/language-packs>

How to change voice to male/female/child under Windows

Selection of voice for speaking is hidden in Speech Recognition settings in Control Panel. Even if you speak in different language, than your operating system language, Dasher will follow the gender of the operating system default voice.



Start Control Panel. Select Ease of Access. Inside Ease of Access, select Speech Recognition. On the Speech Recognition panel, click Text to Speech link (highlighted in yellow on the first picture). This will start Speech Properties configuration. There you can change Voice selection. After changing voice to the gender of your choice, click OK. restart Dasher. And Dasher should speak with proper gender voice.

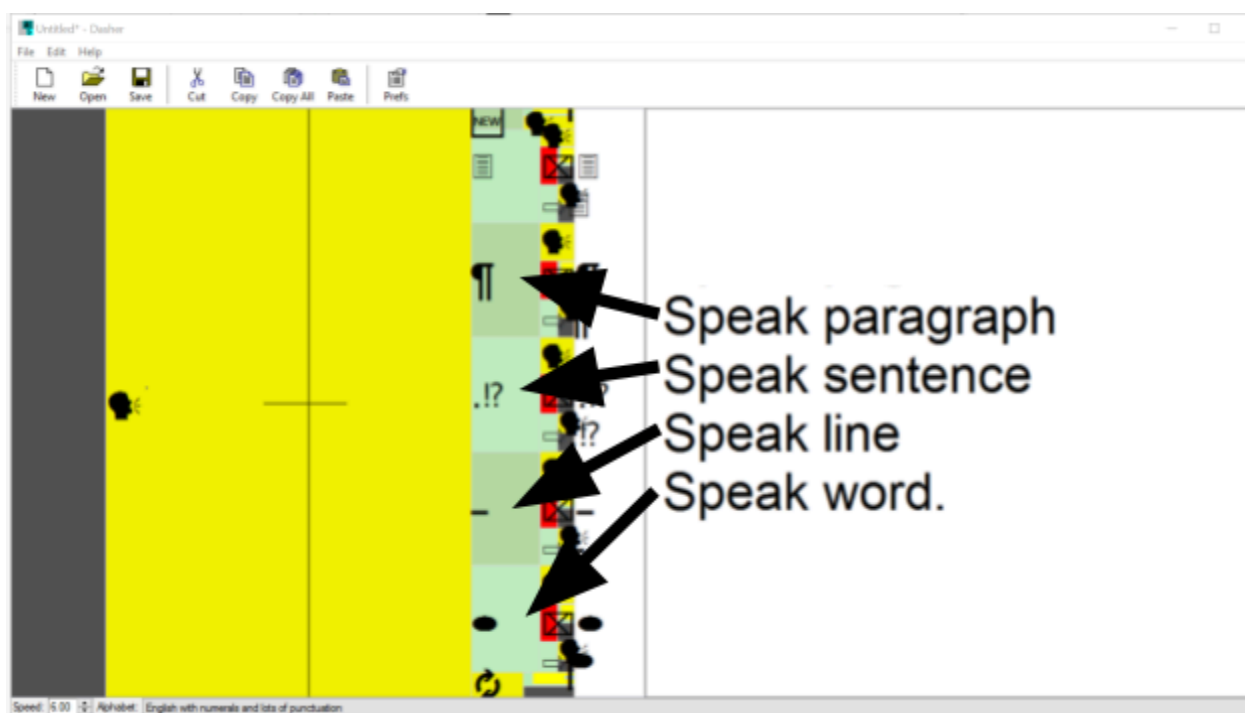
New Chinese input variants - Hanyu pinyin

A system of romanization (phonetic notation and transliteration to roman script) for Mandarin Chinese used in the People's Republic of China. Cantonese also has a pinyin-type system called Penkyamp.

- Chinese Pinyin with tones (5 groups)
- Chinese Pinyin with tones (11 groups)
- Chinese Pinyin with combining tones
- Chinese Pinyin without tones

Ability to speak fragment of text

There are new commands allowing you to speak fragments of text. You can speak paragraph, sentence, line or word where the cursor is. This in addition to already existing "Speak All" and "Speak New" actions.



Ability to cancel ongoing speech











If it ever happen to you to accidentally start speaking long text, by accident, you know how embarrassing it could be. Now you can quickly stop speech by using “Speak Cancel” command in control box.



Control Box with pictures instead of text

You can choose between control box with text or control box with symbols. Symbols can reduce visual clutter, but they don't display correctly on Windows versions less than 10. To change control box to the one with symbols: Prefs → Application → Control mode: and choose control box with symbols instead of ascii.

	Stop	•	Letter
	Pause	●	Word
	Move	—	Line
	Delete	.!?	Sentence
	Clear		Paragraph

	Copy		Page
	Speak		All
	Repeat		New
	Move backward		Move Forward
	Delete backward		Delete forward

Additional Move and Delete actions

In addition to already existing move and delete commands (letter, word, line and all), you can also move or delete sentence or paragraph.

Copy to clipboard actions

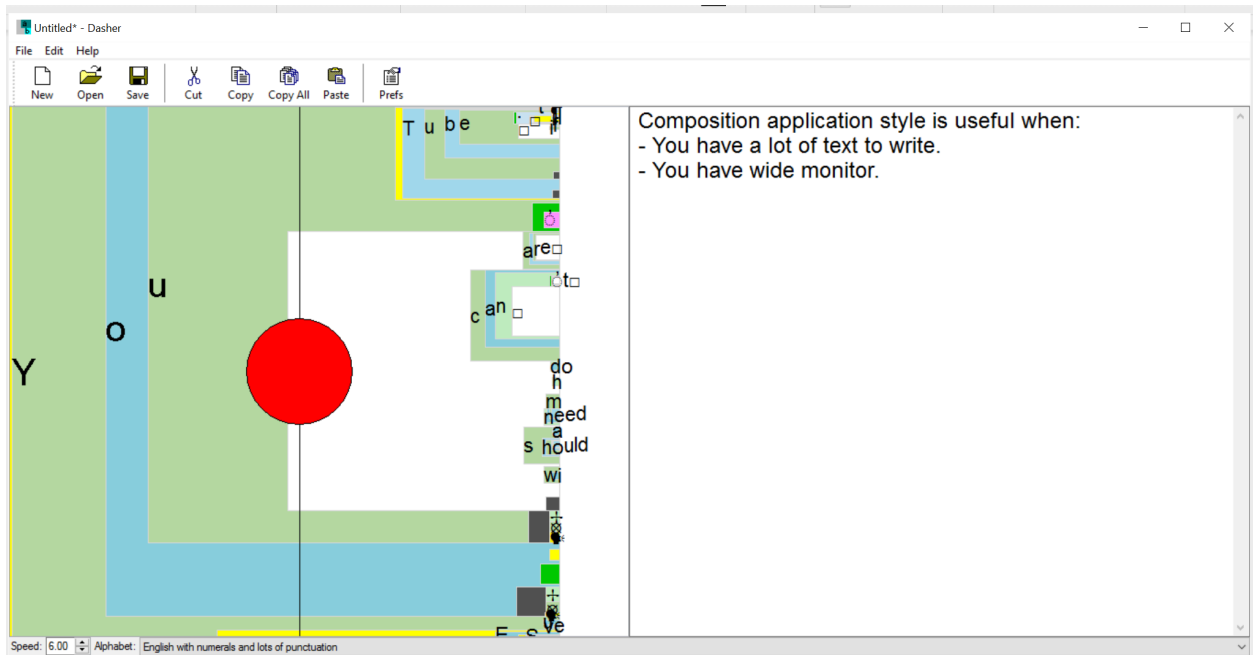
You can copy various pieces of text around cursor. All, new, paragraph, sentence or word.

Option to save files in UTF-8 and UTF-16 formats

I recommend setting file encoding to UTF-8 if you ever plan to write texts in language other than English. Prefs → Application tab → select UTF-8 from “File Encoding” combobox.

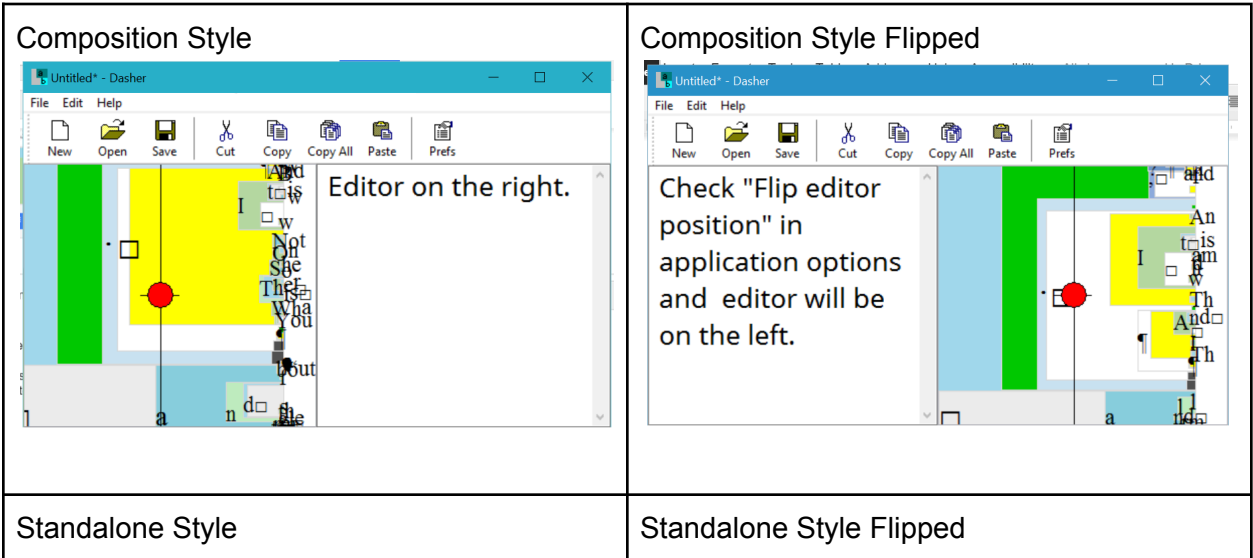
Composition application style

Composition application style is useful when you have a lot of text to write or you have wide monitor. Prefs → Application tab → Application Style: (*) Composition.



Option to flip editor position

Prefs → Application tab → Application Style: [x] Flip Editor Position.

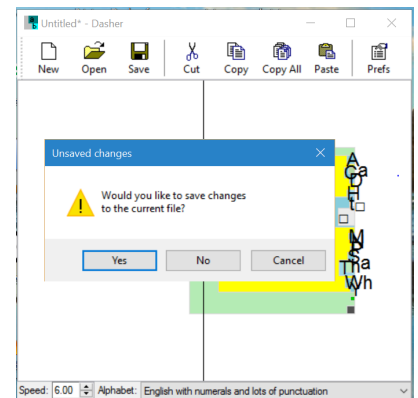


Option to turn off “Would you like to save changes” prompt

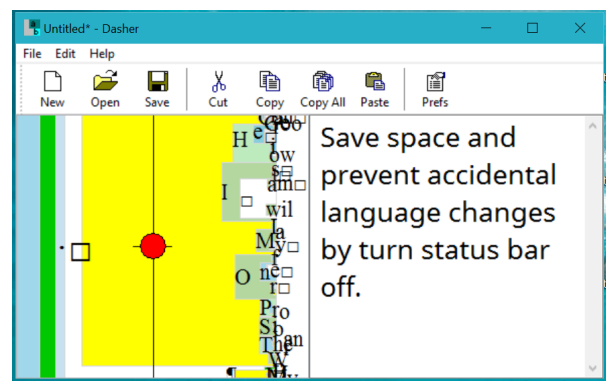
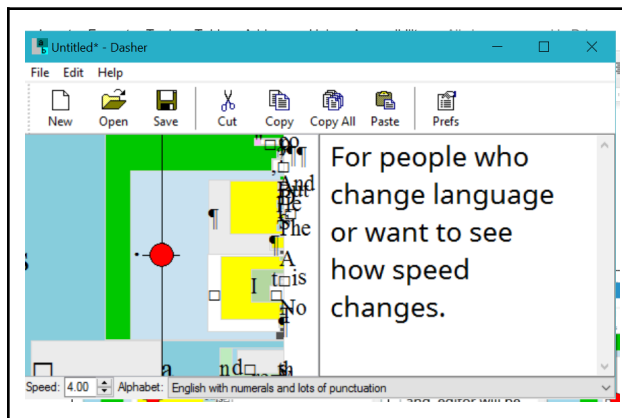
When using dasher to enter text directly into other applications, it is only annoying when you see “Unsaved changes” message box.

The same is true during conversation. Most of the time you only want to quickly clear text.

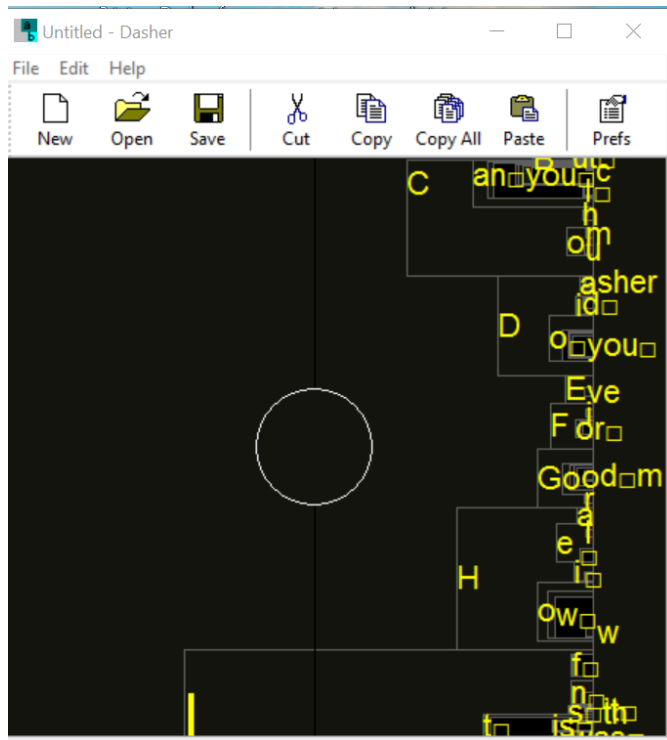
Now you can turn this prompt off. Prefs → Application tab → uncheck Confirm unsaved changes.



Option to hide Status bar



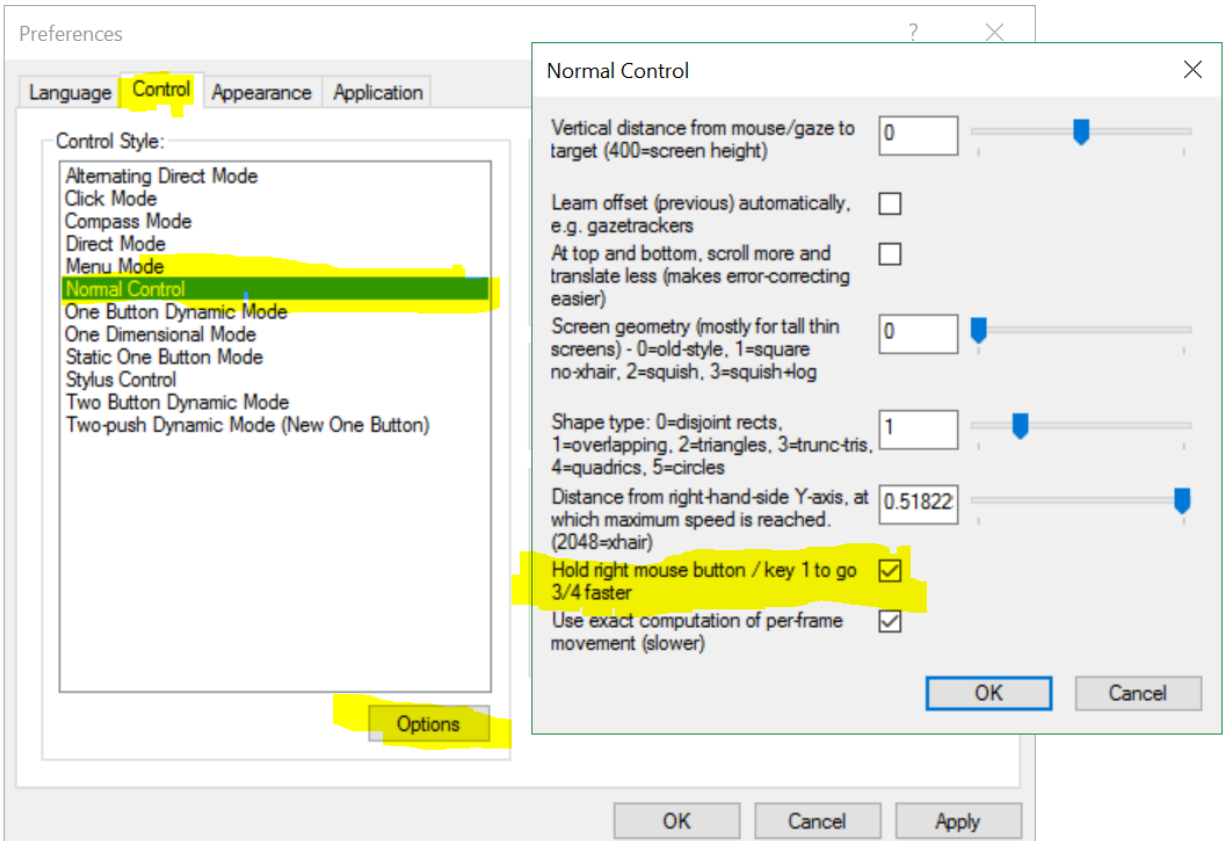
New color scheme



Option to boost speed when holding right mouse button

Do you wish Dasher would temporarily go faster? Now you can. Hold right mouse button or key 1 to go $\frac{3}{4}$ times faster.

How to activate speed boosting feature?



No more accidental starts with Centre Circle or Two Box starter

If you use circle starter you know that it may start even if dasher is covered with other windows. Very embarrassing if it by accident triggers speech. Now circle starter will never start if you can't see it.

Current max speed is displayed in auto speed mode

Advanced features

Advanced options

These cannot be changed from preference dialog. You can modify them directly in setting.*.xml files in user dasher directory. On Windows it is %AppData%\dasher.rc, on Linux it is ~/.dasher/

- Go through control box at full speed
`<bool name="SlowControlBox" value="False"/>`

- Change how often is max speed is updated by autospeed calculations. (percent)
<long name="AutospeedSensitivity" value="50"/>
- How big should the circle starter be.
<long name="CirclePercent" value="5"/>
- Do you want thicker box outline?
<long name="OutlineWidth" value="2"/>

Customize your own Control Box

Ability to combine several actions inside control box command