

How to work around hang up issues with gnome keyboard layout switcher in GNOME 2

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Every now and then my **gnome keyboard layout switcher** hangs. When my keyboard switcher hangs I can't switch between my two defined languages **English** and my native **Bulgarian**

The hang up of the language switcher is makes switching between my two defined languages impossible until I logoff and login again or kill the current GNOME session with **CTRL+ALT+BACKSPACE**.

Sometimes logging off again is not necessary so I have to logoff and login to GNOME few times until finally the *gnome keyboard layout switcher* reacts to an issued change language via *Alt+Shift* or by clicking on it.

Unfortunately the *gnome keyboard layout switcher* is not available as a process so there is no way to simply **kill -HUP** the process responsible for it.

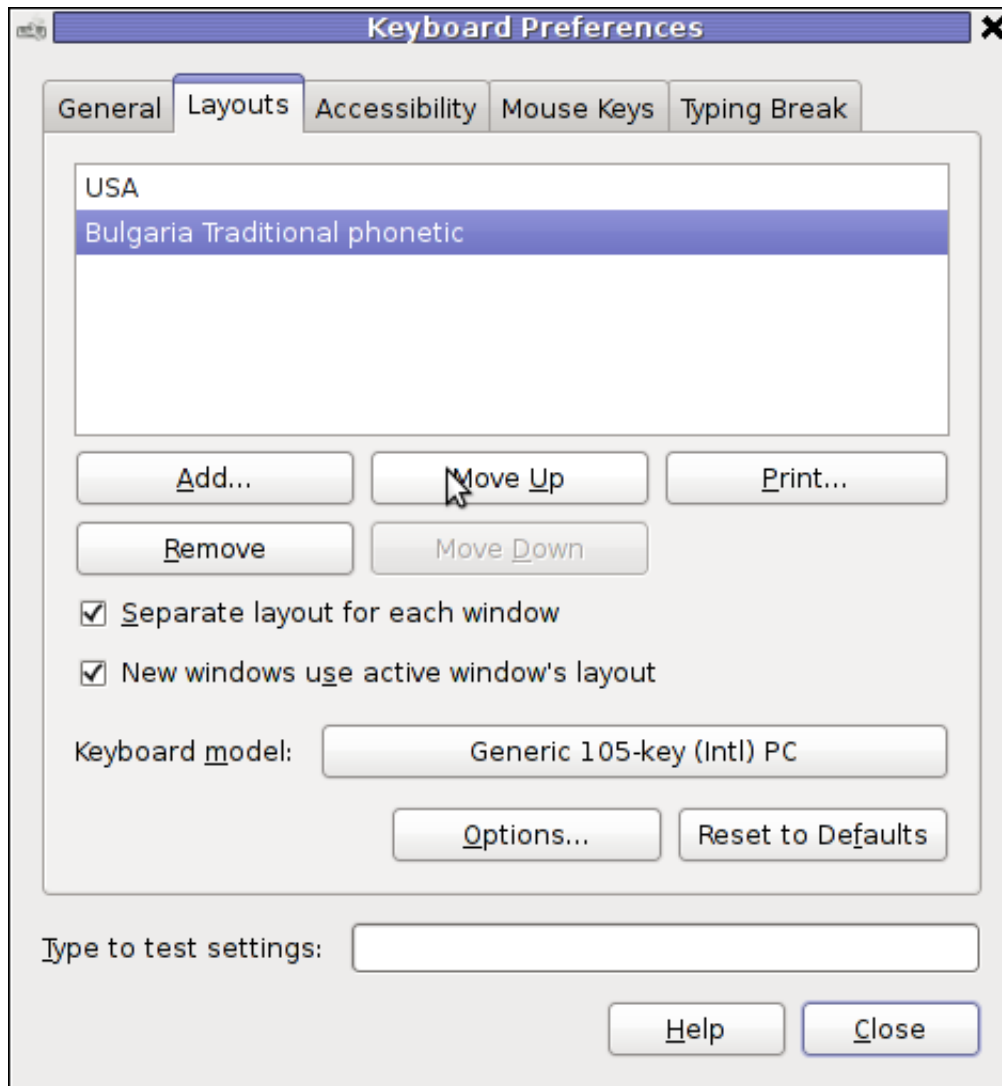
Just until today I couldn't find a way how to **restart the gnome keyboard layout switcher when it hangs**.

Now today I finally found a way to restart it without restarting the whole gnome session or killing completely the Xorg server.

To "fix" up the keyboard switcher when its not responding, I had to issue in gnome-terminal or via ALT+F2:

```
hipo@noah:~$ gnome-keyboard-properties
```

As you can see in the screenshot below, one has to press the **Move Up** button to switch the default order of languages. Once this is done the keyboard layout switcher starts working again. Once working I just used the move up once again to revert back my default language order as it used to be.



I'm not sure what exactly is causing the *GNOME 2 keyboard layout switcher to hang (when it does)*, my guess is it is due to some kind of version incompatibility between gnome versions or configurations specific to my computer. In the past I was running Debian Testing/Unstable and then downgraded back to Debian stable, probably this is the reason of the language switcher hangs.