

Hello ladies,

Good question, and I did have to think about it a bit as surely it encompasses more than the simple mechanics of efficiency. If I go far enough back, I was often frustrated that my high intellect didn't translate into acceptable handwriting — something which I was judged upon by my instructors from a very early age. Here's a story that didn't happen to me, but one I witnessed in high school; my closest friend had dropped his notes in algebra and while still lecturing, the teacher knelt down to pick it up then stopped speaking altogether, staring at the paper. As she handed it back she announced, "You have horrible handwriting, you'll never get a good job." My friend mumbled, "My dad has bad handwriting, he has a good job." I actually now work where he did at the Texas Instruments plant as a unix administrator, making seriously good money. Her expectations required updating.

I took typing class in high school — an odd thing for a male to take as it was still all geared for women to become secretaries, right out of an episode of *Mad Men*. We were on those old IBM Selectric typewriters. Come to think on it, you may have no idea what I'm talking about. There were these machines — that looked like printers, but with a built-in keyboard, and you'd "roll" paper across the platen, and as you hit the individual keys, a mechanism would cause the corresponding raised letter, like on a printing press, to strike the paper with force, simultaneously striking a moistened ink pad in between. Voila! The printed word. (This is also where we get the word "Return" on Mac keyboards, its short for "Carriage Return" as in the old days you had to manually reset each line at the beginning by physically moving the carriage — the device which held the paper and incremented its movement as the striking words (sometimes on a ball, other times utilizing type bars were static).

So despite the fact that my Razer Black Widow Ultimate Mechanical keyboard was \$130 and rated for 50 million keystrokes — which I will totally utilize given what I do for a living — it frustrates me that it was invented when the Iron Horse, that is to say coal fueled locomotives — were a brand new thing. Surely it's time for an update in how we get ideas, expressed through words, from our heads to a written format? Which brings me back to efficiency. As an INTJ my mind is always scenario running, deconstructing everything generally understood to be obvious; tearing apart societal constructs and putting them back together in different ways to see what works and what doesn't and perhaps more importantly — why. My mind is constantly in motion. And while there is no current method in which to snapshot everything simultaneously, my typing speed is the closest I've come to performing real time mind recording operations.

This is why I dislike pen and paper — two things I gave up back in 1999 along with carrying cash and wearing a watch, never to look back, never to pine for the past.

So ladies, here is my best effort. A while back I turned my handwriting into a font for a project I was working on and have not had a reason to use it since. While this most certainly didn't fulfill the spirit of the law, I like to think it amusingly addresses it's letter :)

Existential Empiricist