

Accents, Accents, Accents. . .

Enhancing CM Fonts with “Funny Characters”

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Abstract The number of (free) fonts prepared with METAFONT is surprisingly small compared, e.g., to what is available in the commercial market. Well, not so surprisingly: METAFONT generates T_EX-oriented bitmap fonts which have not become popular outside the T_EX world.

Accepting this irksome situation as a challenge, we have prepared MetaType 1, a package for generating fonts in the world-wide accepted POSTSCRIPT Type 1 format. The package makes use of METAFONT’s “sister”, namely METAPOST, and a few other utilities, such as AWK and T1UTILS. One of the first results obtained with MetaType 1 was an electronic replica of a traditional Polish font, Antykwa Półtawskiego.

Recently, an opportunity arose to embark MetaType 1 upon enhancing the Computer Modern family of fonts with diacritical characters, thus following in Lars Engebretsen’s footsteps, who also recognized the importance of the problem and created the AE (Almost EC) collection of virtual fonts. The task turned out to be fairly complex but well-suited for a fully programmable engine like MetaType 1. We are going to announce the outcome of the project, i.e., the Latin Modern family of fonts in the Type 1 format and to share the experiences gathered while accomplishing the task.

MetaType 1 is available from:

<ftp://bop.eps.gda.pl/pub/metatype1/metatype1-ver033.zip>

Antykwa Półtawskiego is available from:

<ftp://ftp.GUST.org.pl/pub/TeX/GUST/contrib/fonts/replicas/antp.zip> (Type 1)

<ftp://ftp.gust.org.pl/pub/TeX/GUST/contrib/fonts/replicas/antp-ttf.zip> (TrueType)

The Latin Modern family will be publicly released at the TUG 2003 meeting.