

Adobe Glyph Naming Standards

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Why glyph names?

- OpenType CFF requires either glyph names or predefined CIDs
 - Fonts are either name-keyed or CID-keyed
 - With TT outlines, glyph names are optional
- Convenient font developer labels
- PDF creation
 - Due to legacy elements of certain workflows, *sometimes* only glyph names are left when PDF generated
 - Users want better quality underlying text in PDF for text search and extraction
 - So, sometimes need to get Unicode from glyph names
 - Bigger issue with OpenType PS than TT

What Glyph Names?

- Use *Adobe Glyph List for New Fonts* (AGLFN)
 - “AGLFN”—older list recognized by older apps
 - Don’t use Adobe Glyph List (AGL)
 - AGL is for applications decoding glyph names, not for font developers
- Names based on Unicode
 - uniXXXX
 - uXXXX (newer option)
- Variant glyphs for above

Resources

- Unicode & Glyph Names
 - <http://partners.adobe.com/asn/tech/type/unicodegn.jsp>
- See especially section 6!
- Adobe Glyph List for New Fonts
 - <http://partners.adobe.com/asn/tech/type/aglfn13.txt>

AGL(FN) Names

- List with a variety of forms, such as
 - E (not the same as “e”)
 - Abreve
 - exclam
 - afii10017
 - zdotaccent
 - sf010000

Unicode Names

- Original format
 - uniXXXX
 - E.g. Euro is uni20AC
 - Only works with BMP (16-bit) Unicode
- Newer format
 - uXXXX
 - Supports >16 bit numbers

Naming ligatures

- Descriptive method:
Put underscore between glyph names
 - E.g. “Th” ligature
 - T_h
 - uni0054_uni0068
- Unicode method:
“uni” + two or more BMP Unicodes
 - E.g. “Th” ligature
 - T_h
 - uni00540068

Naming variants

- Anything after a period is ignored (for purposes of decoding Unicode)
- Thus, “A.swash” has the same Unicode as “A”
- small cap that decomposes to a *capital*: “A.sc” or “A.c2sc”
- small cap that decomposes to lower case: “a.sc” or “a.smcp”

Duplicating small caps

- Adobe has both lower-case small caps and cap small caps
 - "a.sc" for 'smcp'
 - "A.sc" for 'c2sc'
- Why have both?
 - Better quality text search/extraction from PDF

Variant ligatures?

- Decode by dropping period first.
- How to do ligature of swash T and h?
 - *T_h.swash* is one correct option
(decodes to T_h, which then decodes to T and h)
 - *T.swash_h* is incorrect
(decodes to T alone when dropping period and everything after)



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