
TeX Development Fund 2009 report

TeX Development Fund committee

In *TUGboat* 28:3 (September 2007), we presented a roadmap for future TeX development, focusing on three major projects: the LuaTeX extension, the TeX Gyre fonts, and the TeXworks front end. Since then, considerable progress has been made on all three. We have also supported additional projects.

Major projects

LuaTeX (<http://luatex.org>): MetaPost has been rewritten as a library as of MetaPost 1.100, thus greatly facilitating graphics support in LuaTeX. The next major task is enhanced math support; the proposal is available online at <http://tug.org/tc/devfund/luamath08.pdf>. Arabic support in the collateral Oriental TeX project sponsored by Dr. Idris Hamid at Colorado State University is also ongoing.

TeX Gyre (<http://gust.org.pl/projects/e-foundry/tex-gyre>): new releases with additional glyphs and other features continue apace. As noted elsewhere in this issue, the Gyre project is now on firm legal footing: URW++ has made the base 35 PostScript fonts available under the LPPL.

TeXworks (<http://tug.org/texworks>): TeX Live 2009 is expected to contain a TeXworks binary for Windows, with binaries for other systems available from the TeXworks web site. Development and documentation support continue, with other contributors joining Jonathan Kew, the principal author.

The following smaller projects, some completed and some ongoing, have also been supported recently.

SVG output in MetaPost

Applicant: Taco Hoekwater, The Netherlands,
<http://tug.org/metapost>.

Amount: US\$1500; acceptance date: 28 Nov 2008.

Implement SVG output as a backend in MetaPost version 1.200. This project was co-sponsored by a generous contribution to TUG made by David Crossland.

Bulaq Press Arabic font development

Applicant: Khaled Hosny, Egypt.

Amount: US\$1000; acceptance date: 5 Nov 2008.

Bulaq Press, established in Cairo in 1820, has developed one of the most widely used Arabic typefaces that has been a standard in Arabic printing for more than 150 years. However, no fully conformant digitized version of that typeface is available; only a few proprietary fonts come close.

This project aims to digitize the Bulaq (Amiriya) Press typeface in the form of an OpenType font that

implements all contextual features of the original typeface as well. Also, the project will work on extending it to cover other languages using the Arabic script. Finally, the project will consider writing any macro packages or support files needed to use the font in Arabic-capable TeX engines such as XeTeX and LuaTeX.

Free (libre) font initiative

Applicant: David Crossland, Great Britain,

<http://tug.org/fonts/librefontfund.html>.

Amount: US\$500; date: 3 Sep 2008.

A project to collect and create free (libre) fonts and tools, and make them widely available for general use. TUG is also contributing administrative support to this project. A report from January 2009 is available at <http://tug.org/tc/devfund/fontfund09.pdf>.

Obyknovennaya Novaya font development

Applicant: Basil Solomykov, Russia.

Amount: US\$1000; date: 7 Aug 2008.

The Obyknovennaya Novaya (“Ordinary New Face”) typeface was widely used in the former USSR for scientific and technical publications, as well as for textbooks. The current implementation is in Metafont (<http://litwr.boom.ru/obnov.html>); the author aims to provide an outline version as well.

Inconsolata

Applicant: Raph Levien, USA, <http://levien.com/type/myfonts/inconsolata.html>.

Amount: US\$1000; acceptance date: 30 Nov 2005.

The Inconsolata design is nearly final at this writing, and has been available from the web page above for some time. (L)TeX support has also been written, and is available from <http://mirror.ctan.org/fonts/inconsolata>.

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The TeX Development Fund was created by the TeX Users Group in 2003, under the aegis of the TUG Technical Council, to foster growth of TeX-related technical projects.

As always, we remain most appreciative of the ongoing support from individuals and institutions, which have made the recent grants possible. Contributions are always welcome!

For application information, the complete list of projects, and more, please see the web site.

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<http://tug.org/tc/devfund>