

Indic-Computing Consortium

announces

First National OpenType Font Workshop

Date: (probable dates) **28th to 30th March 2003**

Venue: PESIT, Bangalore

Sponsors:

PESIT, Bangalore

Vishwa Kannada, Bangalore

DeepRoot Linux Pvt. Ltd, Bangalore

Chattisgarh Infotech Promotion Society, Raipur

Indlinux.org, Mumbai

ekgaon technologies pvt. ltd, Madurai

Indic-Computing Consortium:

The Indic-Computing Consortium is an initiative of software developers, businesses and academic institutions to help evolve appropriate standards, resources and technologies for the Indic-Computing community.

The Indic-Computing Consortium is designed as a national-level participatory organisation that serves as a common forum for discussion, information exchange and advocacy on behalf of all parties interested in the development of Indian Language Computing. The consortium aims to make true access of computing possible for Indian people by enabling support in local language.

A framework is being built for creation of a hierarchy of participatory consortia, which would facilitate broad regional and local participation in the standardization and development process from a variety of stakeholders with differing areas of expertise and specialization. It is aimed that these consortia be participatory and inclusive to properly represent the viewpoint of local developers, users and other stakeholders. In step two, Indic-Computing Consortium would encourage & support formation of state-level consortia for each regional language, which could include participants from the following key member groups:

- Developers: Software developers and managers developing local-language tools
- Technologists: Academics and other experts in encoding and representation issues
- Users / Practitioners: Government agencies, publishers, NGOs and other major users of local-language software
- Linguistic Groups: Academics and other experts of the linguistic features of a language and its script

Working closely with the State Government, this state-level consortium would serve as the representative body for deciding standards and other technical decisions for computing in a given regional language. The major roles to be carried out by the state-level consortium would be as follows:

- Discuss various technical, linguistic and practical issues related to computing in the regional language
- Serve as a capacity-building and educational resource for small regional software developers and users
- Publish documents, tools & other materials helpful for local-language computing and development
- Represent the regional language at National consortium meetings
- Represent the regional language at International Standardization consortiums and proceedings such as Unicode and ISO

In September 2002 Indic-Computing organised its first National workshop, which aimed at finding the various problems faced by the developer communities and issues related to standardization, technical support, policy and tools. To know more about the consortium, workshops and other initiatives, visit us at <http://www.indic-computing.sourceforge.net>

The workshop:

One of the working groups formed at the first Indic-Computing workshop was for development of OTF & issues related to language standardization and representation in international consortium. One of the action point and agenda for the group was to "Hold OTF training workshop for developing major Indian language OTF fonts". Dr. U B Pavanaja took upon to hold and coordinate this workshop and Mr. Abhas Abhinav proposed to coordinate for logistics & sponsorship, Mr. G. Nagarjuna proposed to help coordinate with Akruti for making available fonts to be used for develop OTF. This group succeeded in its tasks making this workshop possible, Akruti released some free fonts to be used for conversion to OTF, which were taken up by some of the language groups (for more details on the language groups and the major issues being dealt by it please go through the proceedings of first workshop at our website)

Some of the major concerns raised by the language community were:

- i. Developing good look fonts
- ii. Development of open source tools for rendering and hinting of OTF fonts (currently OTF development uses proprietary tools)
- iii. Finding font developers for all Indian languages and coordinating the group
- iv. Making available fonts to be converted to OTF

This workshop seeks to address some of these issues and others enclosed in the workshop program as under. This is the first national workshop on the subject, we propose to take up more regional workshops in future to give focused attention to each language, these workshops would be held all across India in different parts and would hold training programs and technology demonstration. We invite volunteers who would take upon to hold these workshops and provide coordination & logistics support. The Indic-Computing Consortium would provide necessary technical support and capacity building to these regional groups.

Why OpenType?

OpenType is an extension to TrueType, and uses Unicode as standard for character encoding. It also provides additional tables for defining rich set of mappings between characters and glyphs. It also provides for a having a large glyph set and even glyph variants. All the features provided by OpenType format can be made use by having a

application independent, preferable system level library with a api interface usable by applications.

For Indic script processing OpenType tables like GSUB (glyph substitution) and GPOS (glyph positioning) gives font designer to define his rules on what conjuncts or combinations could be made available. Application programmer is relieved of the burden of knowing all the linguistic part. Also OpenType sort of makes the concept of glyph standard or font encoding standard redundant, again giving font vendors freedom to follow their own glyph sets and not really affecting the application. To summarize OpenType provides lot of benefits to Indic computing and also renders redundant some issues faced in Indic computing.

There has been an ongoing debate on whether OTF is right for Indian Languages. The debate is relevant and contextual also. One of the perspectives penned by G Karunakar in support of OpenType is here for participants to explore. However the debate goes on and we invite all to participate in it on the Indic-computing mailing list. Please go through the attachment why_otf.txt for more on OTF fonts.

Who can participate & pre-requisites:

- Any developer/company/organization having interest in language technology and interested to learn development of OTF, understanding of Unicode and related issues.
- Pre-requisites
 - Understand how to make a font
 - Knowledge of Unicode
 - Have a font that it/he/she can use for lab time
 - A willingness to keep trying until it/he/she understands
- To get comprehensive information on pre-requisites mentioned above please go through the following links
 - Creating and supporting OpenType fonts for Indic scripts
<http://www.microsoft.com/typography/otfntdev/indicot/default.htm>
 - Building OTF
<http://www.microsoft.com/typography/otfntdev/intro.htm>
 - Details about VOLT
<http://www.microsoft.com/typography/developers/volt/default.htm>
 - Unicode FAQ about Indic
<http://www.unicode.org/faq/indic.html>
 - Unicode code charts
<http://www.unicode.org/charts/>

How to participate:

- i. The workshop is by registration only, last date of registration in **20th March 2003**
- ii. Participants interested to participate in the workshop should send there applications to Vijay Pratap Singh Aditya <vijay@ekgaon.com>
- iii. Application format

- Name
 - Organisation
 - Communication Address
 - Whether participating in individual capacity or representing your organization
 - In either case please write in 200 words your interests and what do you expect from the workshop
 - If there are more than one participant from your organization/group please provide the numbers and communication address only.
- iv. Please send the registration fee (*) (as applicable) by Demand Draft in the name of "DeepRoot Linux Pvt. Ltd, Bangalore"

• Students	-	500.00
• Active contributors to Indic-Computing Mailing lists (#)	-	750.00
• Members of GLUGS & open source developers	-	1000.00
• Academic & Government Institutions (Representatives other than students)	-	1500.00
• Corporate & other commercial software developers	-	2000.00

(*) Participants please note that fee would cover workshop registration, literature, CD with important font development softwares, lodging and boarding for three days (also dinner for the night before the workshop starts).

- v. After acceptance, application request (printed) & Registration fee should be sent to the following address:

DeepRoot Linux Pvt. Ltd.
 #377, SFS-407, IVth Phase 64,
 Yelahanka New Town
 Bangalore – 560 064
 Karnataka, India
 Ph No. +91 80 856 2896
 email: kiran@deeprroot.co.in

- vi. We have a very small support available for selected participants who are not able to meet their travel & registration fee. All participants who are not able to meet the expenses could apply for support from Indic-Computing Consortium. Each application would be studied for providing support. Typically we would support students, young developer (not having financial support), members of GLUG's and Volunteers; corporate & other commercial software developers are discouraged to apply for this support.
- vii. Decisions on the applicable fee (#) & necessary support would be taken by Indic-Computing Consortium and shall be notified to the applicant.

Contacts:

Participants are advised to contact the following for there queries:

Dr. U B Pavanaja: <pavanaja@vishvakannada.com>

Technical clarification, sessions of the workshops, required preparation, fonts etc

Mr. Abhas Abinav: <abhas@deeprroot.co.in>

Logistics, Lodging & Boarding, Venue, Registration fee etc

Mr. Vijay Pratap Singh Aditya: <vijay@ekgaon.com>

Workshop registration application, coordination, any other issue not covered above

Instructions for Participants:

- 1) The participants are advised to go through the pre-requisites and equip themselves with necessary knowledge on font & Unicode standard.
- 2) The staying arrangements are from the evening before the day of start of the workshop. Dinner would be provided for the night also, for all participants reaching before 9.00 PM only.
- 3) The lodging & boarding provided by PESIT is in hostels & mess, and is modest by all means. Participants who wish to opt out of this arrangement can make their own staying arrangements. Please notify the same to us, also it is expected that the lunch would be taken by all the participants irrespective of their place of stay at mess only as there is not much time available in between the session.
- 4) The staying arrangement in the hostel is till 3rd day evening, it is expected that the participants would vacate the rooms by evening.
- 5) PESIT is at outskirts of Bangalore, participants are expected to make their own arrangements for local travel, as nothing could be provided by the organizers.

Venue & how to reach:

PESIT (PES Institute of Technology)
100 Feet Ring Road,
Banashankri – IIIrd Stage, (Off. Mysore Road)
Bangalore
Phone: (080) 672 0007

For participants arriving at Airport, take a prepaid taxi to the above address, the place is known to the prepaid stand.

Directions from Airport:

Airport Road--->Richmond Circle--->Lalbagh --->Hanumant Nagar--->HoskarHalli--->PESIT 100 Feet Ring Road

For participants arriving at Railway station & Bus station, best is to take a prepaid taxi to the above address, the place is known to the prepaid stand. A Bus is also available

Directions from Railway Station:

Station--->Chamrajpete--->Ashram--->Hanumant Nagar--->HoskarHalli--->PESIT 100 Feet Ring Road

Workshop program:

Day-1:

09:00 - 09:45	Registration
09:45 - 10:15	Welcome & Inauguration – J Koshy / Director PESIT
10:15 - 10:45	Overview - Pavanaja
10:45 - 11:00	Tea break
11:00 - 11:30	Planning glyph repertoire - Pavanaja
11:30 - 13:00	Introduction to Indian scripts, Character set, tools & Glyph Design & current trends in fonts- Ravi Pande
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 - 15:00	Testing glyphs, Generating Fonts, Font format - Ravi Pande
15:00 - 15:15	Tea break
15:15 - 17.15	Lab: Define glyphs and fill out repertoire
17.15 -	Tea & informal interaction

Day-2:

09:30 - 10:15	Encoding - J Koshy
10:15 - 10:45	Introduction to OTF - Pavanaja
10:45 - 11:00	Tea break
11:00 - 11:30	Open Type Tables - Pavanaja
11:30 - 13:00	Introduction to VOLT - Pavanaja
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 - 15.30	Lab: Open type tables

Day-3:

09:30 - 10:15	Testing - Pavanaja
10:15 - 10:45	Hinting – Video Presentation, from Microsoft training programme
10:45 - 11:00	Tea break
11:00 - 11:30	Digitally signing the font - Pavanaja
11:30 - 13:00	Fonts on Linux - Karunakar
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 - 15.30	Lab: Open type tables

Special presentations proposed:

- a. Sunil Abraham, Mahiti, Bangalore, would arrange for an IPR (cyber laws) lawyer Lawrence Liang, who would discuss the issue of OTF openness after understanding the Adobe & Microsoft agreement on release of the fonts.
- b. Development of Otf from Ttf (Akruti) experiences: Nagarjuna
- c. Open/free software tools for Otf development: M Arun