

A new font format

First there was PostScript, then TrueType, and now... OpenType fonts. OpenType is a new font format developed jointly by Adobe and Microsoft. The OpenType format has several promising advantages.

- OpenType fonts are cross-platform, which means that the same font can be used on a Macintosh or Windows computer.
- A single font file with a descriptive English name contains all the font data for an OpenType font. This makes it easier to locate and copy fonts to send with a print job.

- OpenType fonts are based on Unicode. This means that each font has room for over 65,000 unique characters. A font designer may include foreign language characters, fractions, symbols and alternate characters all in a single font. A document containing English and Russian text, the Euro character, and fractions could be formatted with a single font.

OpenType fonts have a .ttf, .ttc, or .otf suffix on the file name. Adobe (www.adobe.com/type/opentype) is busy releasing new OpenType typefaces. The

latest versions of many of the Microsoft (www.microsoft.com/typography) typefaces, such as Arial and Times New Roman are in OpenType format.

Before using OpenType fonts, you may need to upgrade your version of Adobe Type Manager or your printer driver. In addition, check to make sure that your applications support OpenType fonts. At the moment Adobe InDesign 2 provides the greatest level of support for OpenType features.

Keith Gilbert provides training & support services to help graphic designers and communicators convey print and Web messages effectively. Gilbert Consulting, 651 633-7148 www.gilbertconsulting.com