

GUST font licenses

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Abstract

For some time the problem of font licenses was discussed at the Bacho \TeX conferences and in various mail exchanges. The approach presented here tries to address the following issues: first, making sure that fonts developed for the \TeX world, where backwards compatibility is very important, will not be broken by “uncontrolled” modifications and second, addressing the issue of the notion of font source code files. As a result, two GUST font licenses were formulated.

Streszczenie

Od jakiegoś czasu podczas konferencji \TeX -owych i w wymianach poczty elektronicznej dyskutowano problem licencji fontowych. Zaproponowane rozwiązanie stara się uwzględnić następujące elementy: po pierwsze, zapewnienie, aby fonty przygotowane dla świata \TeX -owego, w którym bardzo ważna jest kompatybilność wsteczna, nie łamały jej przez „niekontrolowane” modyfikacje i po drugie, zajęcie się problemem kodu źródłowego fontu. W wyniku sformułowano dwie licencje fontowe GUST-u.

Introduction

For quite a while Bogusław Jackowski and Janusz M. Nowacki were pressed to formulate explicitly the licensing scheme under which the GUST font team aka “GUST type.foundry” releases their fonts, most notably the Latin Modern, Antykwa Toruńska, Kurier and Iwona families.

The following licenses were considered:

- the classic “knuthian” license, which allows unrestricted use but requires that “once you have changed something, please change unambiguously also the relevant names to avoid chaos”,
- the GNU General Public License, version 2, from the Free Software Foundation, <http://www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html>,
- the STIX license, by STI Pub Companies, http://www.stixfonts.org/user_license.html,
- the very new Open Font License, OFL, from SIL International, <http://scripts.sil.org/OFL>,
- the \LaTeX Project Public License, LPPL, version 1.3a, <http://www.latex-project.org/lppl/>.

The discussion conducted during September and October 2005 by several interested people from the \TeX community (see the Acknowledgments section at the end) decided against all of them, well, not totally. The current LPPL, now at v. 1.3a,

was chosen as the basis of two resulting licenses: the GUST-FONT-SOURCE-LICENSE and the GUST-FONT-NOSOURCE-LICENSE.

The rationale

I will not discuss here in detail the licenses listed above but will only concentrate on the issues which led to the formulation of both GUST licenses.

Our thinking took into account the following:

1. the fonts should be as free as possible in the GPL sense, i.e., everybody should be able to (a) take the fonts and use them for any desired purpose, (b) modify them whenever he or she feels so, and (c) distribute them freely,
2. however, compatibility issues (mainly preservation of formatting of documents) require that freely modified fonts should not become confused by users for the original ones, so some restrictions should be imposed,
3. the \TeX community wants the fonts to be maintained in a consistent and compatible (in the document typesetting sense) way, hence some control over the development is needed,
4. the pool of fonts under consideration includes fonts for which no (complete) source files exist in the sense that the fonts were created with visual tools, but GPL and LPPL, the main

licenses from our world strongly stress the importance of source file availability.

The discussion showed that the LPPL comes quite close to fulfill the above requirements. This was much to our liking, as the LPPL was designed for the \TeX world.

Item 1 from the above list, “freedom”, is built into it by design and is dealt with throughout the document. This is stressed in the “Preamble” by saying: *We, the \LaTeX 3 Project, believe that the conditions below give you the freedom to make and distribute modified versions of your work that conform with whatever technical specifications you wish while maintaining the availability, integrity, and reliability of that work.*

Item 2, “do not confuse the users”, is applied mainly by the virtue of clause 6 which requires modifications to be easily identifiable. However, (sub)clause 6a asking for modified components to “clearly and unambiguously” identify themselves as such in interactive use can not be fulfilled for fonts. Non-interactive use also has pitfalls—in the case of fonts constituent files are identifiable only by names.

Item 3, “developer and community control”, is given to the author of the work in clause 4. Further, the “Maintenance of the Work” section of the LPPL sets rules which are aimed at ensuring continuity of maintenance and development.

Item 4, “non-existent source code”, is nowhere catered for.

The licenses

In Figures 1 and 2 the SOURCE and NOSOURCE versions of the licenses are given, respectively.

Lets begin with the SOURCE license. Clause 1 revokes clause 6a of the LPPL in an attempt to deal with the inability of fonts to identify themselves in interactive use, therefore they cannot identify themselves as “Derived Work”.

Clause 2 tries to deal with ease of identification by asking that the author of a modified font changes *all* names of the constituent files as given in a separate file, MANIFEST.txt. It is the responsibility of the original author (or Current Maintainer) to provide the full list of such files. Please note that the renaming of files is *asked for* but *not legally required*. Such a requirement by some considerations seems to conflict with the desire to maintain the general “freedom”.

The NOSOURCE license is largely identical to the SOURCE license with the exception of its clause 1, which in effect allows for the existence of fonts prepared with visual tools hence without

source files. For such fonts *Work is the same as Compiled Work*.

Currently the LM family of fonts is released under the GUST-FONT-SOURCE-LICENSE (it is generated from MetaType 1 sources) and the Antykwa Toruńska, Iwona and Kurier families are under the GUST-FONT-NOSOURCE-LICENSE, as the author is for the time being very reluctant to publish them.

License usage

Proper deployment of the GUST font licenses requires the prospective author to conform to a few rules.

- Provision of a “readme” file stating the license under which the font is released should be provided. Templates of the contents of such files for the SOURCE and NOSOURCE licenses are given respectively in Figures 3 and 4.
- Provision of the MANIFEST.txt file listing files which should be renamed in Derived Works. For templates see Figures 5 and 6.
- Provision of license notes in “text files” constituting the font. These may be either in a long form, as the last six lines in Figures 3 and 4 or where this is not possible, just by naming the relevant license: GUST FONT SOURCE LICENSE or GUST FONT NOSOURCE LICENSE, as appropriate.
- Macros, documentation and all “non-font” files, are suggested to be put under the unmodified LPPL.

Conclusions

The reader might have noticed that in Figures 1 and 2 the GUST font licenses discussed in this article are referred to as preliminary versions. This is the first occasion that the licenses are presented to a wider public and I hope that a discussion ensues which will lead to a perhaps better formulation. The discussion might be influenced by the recently released SIL Open Font License, OFL, by SIL International (<http://scripts.sil.org/OFL>), or by the GPL, version 3 (<http://gplv3.fsf.org/>), activities.

Acknowledgments

The GUST font licenses presented here are the result of insightful discussions with Karl Berry, Hans Hagen, Bogusław Jackowski, Frank Mittelbach, Janusz M. Nowacki and several other \TeX -ies. The work which Frank Mittelbach and the \LaTeX team put into arriving at the current 1.3a formulation of the LPPL license made it possible to arrive where we are now.

```

%% This is a preliminary version, barring acceptance from the LaTeX
%% Project Team and other feedback, of the GUST Font Source License.
%% This license is for use with free fonts distributed with source code.
%%
%% For the most recent version of this license see
%% http://www.gust.org.pl/fonts/licenses/GUST-FONT-SOURCE-LICENSE.txt or
%% http://tug.org/fonts/licenses/GUST-FONT-SOURCE-LICENSE.txt
%
% This work may be distributed and/or modified under the conditions of the LaTeX Project Public
% License, either version 1.3a of this license or (at your option) any later version, provided
% that the following additional clauses are observed:
%
% 1) Due to the nature of fonts, clause 6a of the LaTeX Project Public License, version 1.3a,
% does not apply. A later version of the LaTeX Project Public License may number or word
% this clause differently; it is the substance that is important.
% 2) It is requested, but not legally required, that derived works be distributed only after
% changing the names of the fonts comprising this work and given in the accompanying file
% MANIFEST.txt, and that the files comprising the Work, as listed in MANIFEST.txt also
% be given new names. Any exceptions to this request are also given in MANIFEST.txt.
%
% The latest version of the LaTeX Project Public License is in
% http://www.latex-project.org/lppl.txt and version 1.3a or later
% is part of all distributions of LaTeX version 2004/10/01 or later.

```

Figure 1: The GUST FONT SOURCE LICENSE.

```

%% This is a preliminary version, barring acceptance from the LaTeX Project Team and
%% other feedback, of the GUST Font Nosource License. This license is for use with
%% free fonts distributed without source code, e.g., fonts created with visual tools.
%%
%% For the most recent version of this license see
%% http://www.gust.org.pl/fonts/licenses/GUST-FONT-NOSOURCE-LICENSE.txt or
%% http://tug.org/fonts/licenses/GUST-FONT-NOSOURCE-LICENSE.txt
%
% This work may be distributed and/or modified under the conditions of the LaTeX Project Public
% License, either version 1.3a of this license or (at your option) any later version, provided
% that the following additional clauses are observed:
%
% 1) As there is no universally relevant concept of font source files, no distinction is
% made between "Work" and "Compiled Work"; hence, the relevant clauses of the
% LaTeX Project Public License should be interpreted accordingly.
% 2) Due to the nature of fonts, clause 6a of the LaTeX Project Public License, version 1.3a,
% does not apply. A later version of the LaTeX Project Public License may number or word
% this clause differently; it is the substance that is important.
% 3) It is requested, but not legally required, that derived works be distributed only after
% changing the names of the fonts comprising this work and given in the accompanying file
% MANIFEST.txt, and that the files comprising the Work, as listed in MANIFEST.txt also
% be given new names. Any exceptions to this request are also given in MANIFEST.txt.
%
% The latest version of the LaTeX Project Public License is in
% http://www.latex-project.org/lppl.txt and version 1.3a or later
% is part of all distributions of LaTeX version 2004/10/01 or later.

```

Figure 2: The GUST FONT NOSOURCE LICENSE.

```
Font: SourcedFont
Designer: ...
Author: ...
Version: ...
Date: ...
License:
% Copyright 2005, 2006, C. R. Holder
% This work is released under the GUST Font Source License
% -- see GUST-FONT-SOURCE-LICENSE.txt.
% This work has the LPPL maintenance status "maintained".
% The Current Maintainer of this work is T. Maintainer.
% This work consists of the files listed in the MANIFEST.txt file.
```

Figure 3: A template for the SOURCE readme file.

```
Font: NonSourcedFont
Designer: ...
Author: ...
Version: ...
Date: ...
License:
% Copyright 2005, 2006, C. R. Holder
% This work is released under the GUST Font Nosource License
% -- see GUST-FONT-NOSOURCE-LICENSE.txt.
% This work has the LPPL maintenance status "maintained".
% The Current Maintainer of this work is T. Maintainer.
% This work consists of the files listed in the MANIFEST.txt file.
```

Figure 4: A template for the NOSOURCE readme file.

```
%% Fonts which names should be changed in derived works as requested
%% by clause 2 of GUST-FONT-SOURCE-LICENSE.txt
SourcedFont
%% Files which names should be changed in derived works as requested
%% by clause 2 of GUST-FONT-SOURCE-LICENSE.txt
sf.pfb
%% Files which names need not be changed in derived works as requested
%% by clause 2 of GUST-FONT-SOURCE-LICENSE.txt
hello.txt
```

Figure 5: A template for the SOURCE MANIFEST.txt file.

```
%% Fonts which names should be changed in derived works as requested
%% by clause 3 of GUST-FONT-NOSOURCE-LICENSE.txt
NonSourcedFont
%% Files which names should be changed in derived works as requested
%% by clause 3 of GUST-FONT-NOSOURCE-LICENSE.txt
nsf.pfb
%% Files which names need not be changed in derived works as requested
%% by clause 3 of GUST-FONT-NOSOURCE-LICENSE.txt
hello.txt
```

Figure 6: A template for the NOSOURCE MANIFEST.txt file.