

DTL [FontMaster] Track

ST. PETERSBURG, THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2008

09.40 hrs Automating font production processes

Dr. Jürgen Willrodt & Frank E. Blokland

The very versatile and easy to edit *Ikarus* based file structure of DTL FontMaster, in which the glyph descriptions are cleverly kept separated from metrics and naming info, is tailored for sophisticated organizing and batching font production processes. Reproducibility and stability are keywords. The following subjects (amongst others) will be explained:

- Glyph databases: organizing, building, merging, enhancing
- Glyph mapping: managing Character Layout files
- Name tables: editing UFM and OT Layout features files
- Metrics: metrics and kern pairs editing/generation
- OpenType Layout features: editing features files and automating the features generation
- Font generation: batching (with command files)

10.40 hrs • Break

11.00 hrs Automating type design processes

Frank E. Blokland

Not only font production processes can be automated; to a certain extent also the type design process can be done by software itself. An introduction on the (possible) automation of type design processes and the presentation of the first version of the *DTL LetterModeller* application. This presentation is partly based on the PhD research on *Harmonic systems in the Latin script* that the speaker is currently doing at Leiden University.

12.00 hrs Editing OpenType fonts: OT Master

Dr. Jürgen Willrodt

OT Master is a powerful new generation tool for the direct extensive editing of OpenType CFF and TTF fonts, which is available for Mac OS X and Windows. The many functions include the adding and editing of glyphs, the revision of (name) tables, consistency checking and the handling of OpenType Layout features. The following subjects (amongst others) will be explained in detail:

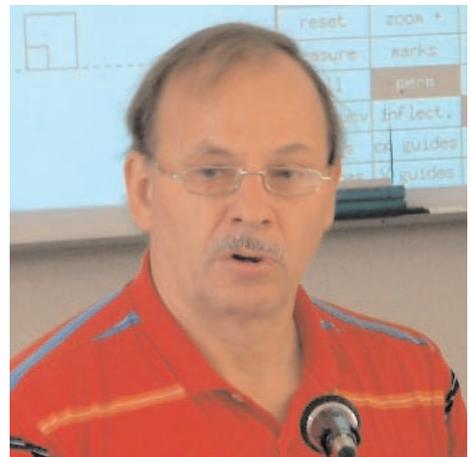
- Name tables: checking and modifying
- Line spacing: checking and modifying
- Glyphs: editing and adding
- OpenType Layout features: importing a features file
- Arabic fonts: creating Arabic fonts including mark positioning

13.00 hrs • Lunch



Frank E. Blokland is type designer (of, amongst others, DTL Documenta and DTL Haarlemmer), Senior Lecturer at the Royal Academy of Arts in The Hague since 1987 and Professor at the Plantin Society in Antwerp since 1995. Frank founded the *Dutch Type Library* in 1990. A couple of years later he initiated and supervised the development of *DTL FontMaster*, a set of professional font tools developed together with URW++.

Currently Frank is doing a PhD study at Leiden University, in which harmonic systems in type and music and the automation of type design processes play a central role.



Dr. Jürgen Willrodt studied Physics and Mathematics and got a PhD in theoretical particle physics in 1976. Jürgen joined URW in 1983 as a software developer. His first major development project was the porting of *Ikarus* from DEC to Sun Unix. He has been the main developer of the *Ikarus* font production system since 1985, developing interpolation, auto-tracing and hinting algorithms as well as special algorithms for Kanji separation. Since 1995 Jürgen is managing director at URW++ and responsible for font production and font tools development (*Ikarus* and *DTL FontMaster*).

14.00 hrs Re-inventing font technology

Peter Rosenfeld

Much of the actual font technology finds its origin in the *Ikarus* system, invented by Dr. Peter Karow in the early 1970's and developed till this day by URW++ under supervision of Dr. Jürgen Willrodt. A historical overview and explanation of more than thirty years of *Spitzentechnologie* by URW++'s managing director, who was directly engaged in the *Ikarus* development over the past thirty-plus years.

15.00 hrs Crossing borders: The best of different worlds

Frank E. Blokland

– Running FM under Mac OS X / 11 and Linux in a *Wine bottle*.
– Integrating FM in workflows based on other font tools.
TypeTech attendees who use third party software are invited for a direct comparison of the functionality of their font production tools with FM's and to discuss (the necessity of) possible workflow integrations (or even migration).

16.00 hrs • Break

16.20 hrs Reception: to celebrate a long lasting co-operation

The Dutch Type Library and URW are working together for 17¹/₂ years in the field of font (tools) production now and we would like to celebrate this long lasting co-operation and friendship – together with all ATypI TypeTech Forum attendees – with some good food and drinks.

Also a preview of the booklet *Comprehensive Notes on the Design of Cyrillic Letters* by the Finnish type designer Hanna Hakala and typeset in the preliminary version of *DTL Valiance* will be presented here.

17.20 hrs • End of FM Track



Peter Rosenfeld started, after finishing his business studies in 1980, his first position in the font production department at Dr. Hell in Kiel. It was there where he first got in touch with digital type. Peter joined URW in Hamburg in 1982 and a little later he became the manager of the URW font studio. He worked very closely for and with Dr. Peter Karow, the visionary and pioneer of the type industry. Roughly ten years after joining URW, Peter became Managing Director of URW++ and the company has established itself in the graphic design industry by continually developing and marketing innovative font and software products.



Hanna Hakala is a type and graphic designer from Helsinki, Finland. She has studied graphic design at University of Art and Design Helsinki and type design at the Type and Media masters program at the Royal Academy of Arts in The Hague. She has a background in developmental genetics (MA) and she has worked in Minneapolis and Helsinki as a research scientist. She has been involved with the design of several visual identities, magazines and books. She is particularly interested in information design, multilingual projects and the design of Latin-Cyrillic typefaces.