



# **World Typography** *Developments and Issues* *on the* *Free Desktop*

**Edward H. Trager**  
**Unifont.org**





# Introduction

- **The Free Desktop must support “World Typography”**
- **Unifont.org** exists to achieve this goal by providing information about FLOSS Unicode fonts, Unicode-enabled software, i18n, and Unicode usability issues on the Free Desktop.
- **Site visitation has nearly tripled in last 15 months**
- **1st Text Layout Summit @ Gnome Live! Oct. 2006**
- **2nd Text Layout Summit @ aKademy July 2007**



# Challenges in Bringing World Typography to the Free Desktop

- **Large problem domain**
- **Few understand all the issues – both linguistic and software technology issues**
- **Language and communication issues (e.g. licensing)**
- **Historically different groups have done their own thing with only informal collaboration**

# Problems

- **Inconsistent support for world scripts due to different layout engines (Qt, Pango, ICU ... )**
- **Buggy support especially for Indic scripts**
- **Different layout engines exhibit different bugs**
- **Code inefficiencies result in slow rendering**
- **Some scripts (Myanmar, Mongolian) not supported at all**
- **Text editing issues**
- **Font and font configuration issues**
- **Input method issues**
- **Font management issues**

# Solutions

- Get Qt, Pango, ICU, SIL Graphite, m17n and other developers working together
- 2nd annual Text Layout Summit will be held July 4-6 @ aKademy in Glasgow, UK
- Work together to create a unified text layout engine and related text services for the Free Desktop

