Towards Perfect Indic Rendering on Gnome

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(Exceptions Unicode Telugu Table Image and image from Amir Wali's arabic text flow map)



Agenda

- Timeline of indic computing
- Gnome Text rendering stack
- Issues in Indic rendering
- Unicode Table(Telugu)
- Open type font (Lohit-te)
- Bugs in Pango
- Harfbuzz-ng timeline and features
- Harfbuzz-ng indic potential contributors
- Summary
- References



Timeline* of Indic Computing

- 2000-Windows OS support indic without special HW
- 2005-Firefox build to render Indian languages
- 2005-Padma Firefox plugin to display sites which use non unicode fonts
- 2006-Localisation of Desktop
- 2007-Localisation of Office Suite
- 2009-Commercial companies start offering Indic computing support(Google/Yahoo/Rediff/Microsoft)
- 2005- Cell phones start sporting Indic languages

*Indicative Timeline

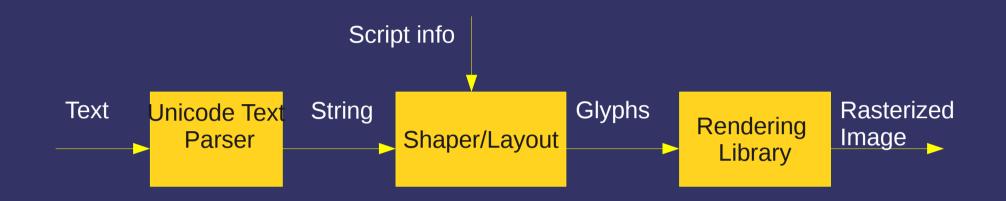


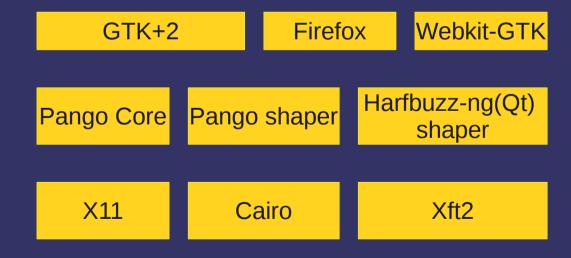
Indic rendering software

- Pango
- All Gnome applications
- QT
- All KDE applications
- ⇒ ICU
 - OpenOffice/Liberoffice



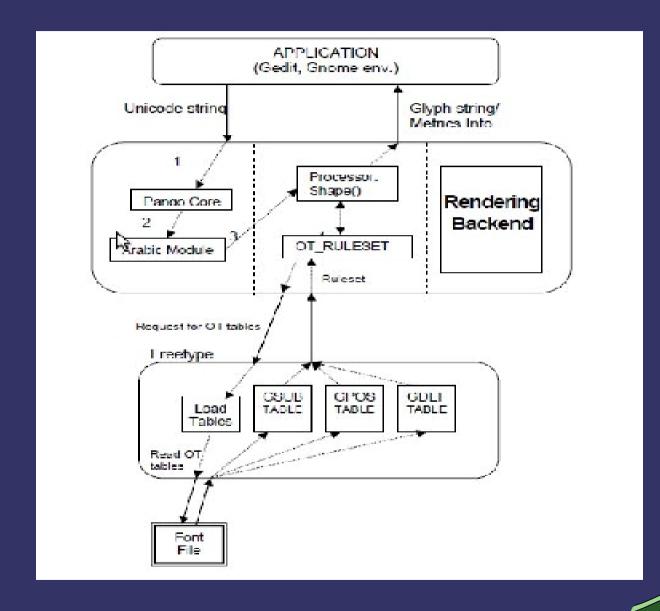
Gnome Text Rendering stack







Text rendering flow (eg:Arabic)



Issues in Indic rendering

- Too many softwares
- Single code base for each software.
 - Potential for bug fixes to introduce new bugs
- Font encoding diversity
 - Unicode

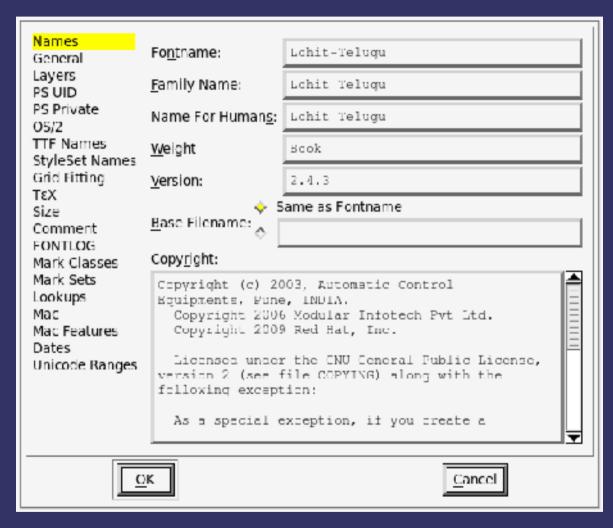


Unicode Telugu

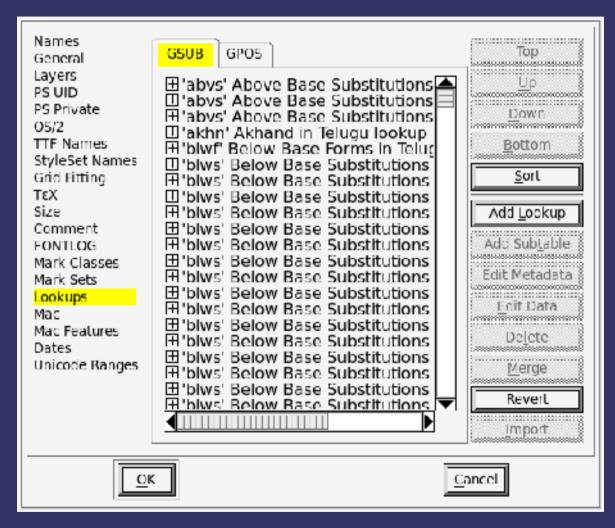




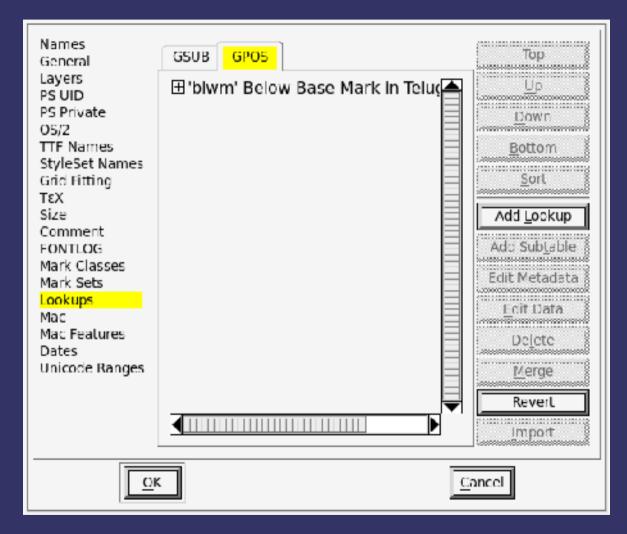
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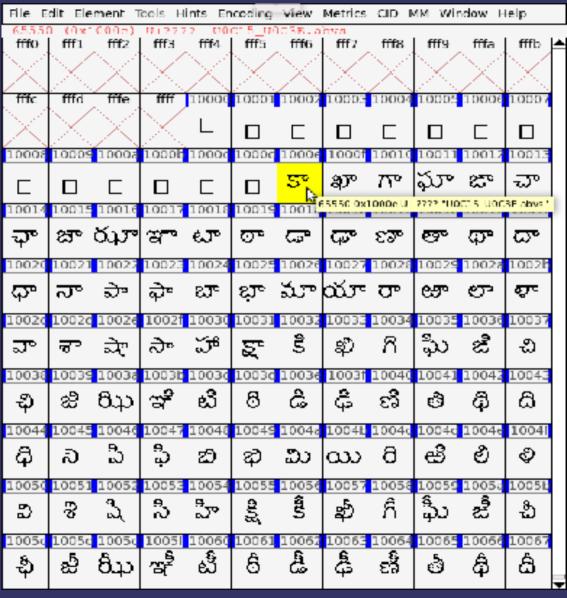




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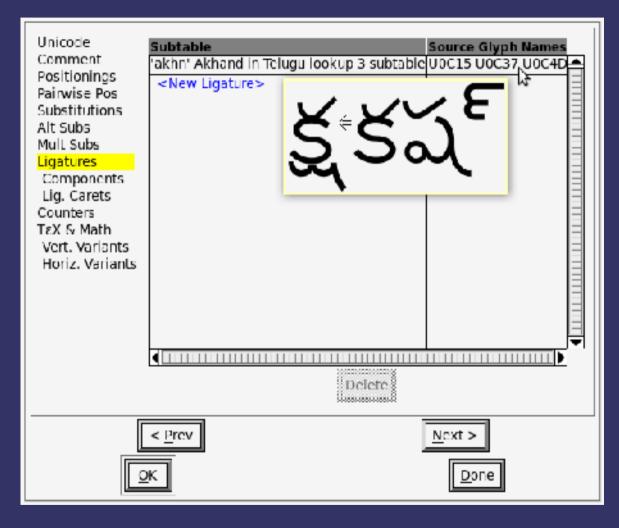
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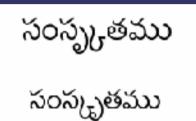






Fix of Font rendering bugs for Telugu, Kannada

- Reph handling for Telugu
- Halanth ending of conjugates
- Telugu akhand problem
 - (కా+ష్) correct: కాష్wrong: క్షా)
- Kannada akhand problem



Actual: ಕಕ್ಷ

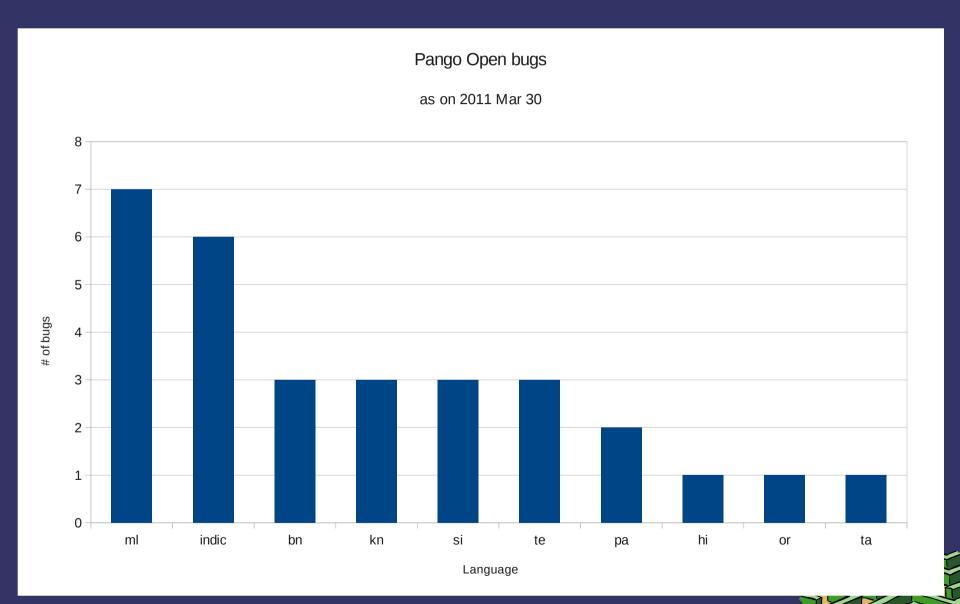
Correct: हुँ छ

Key sequence :

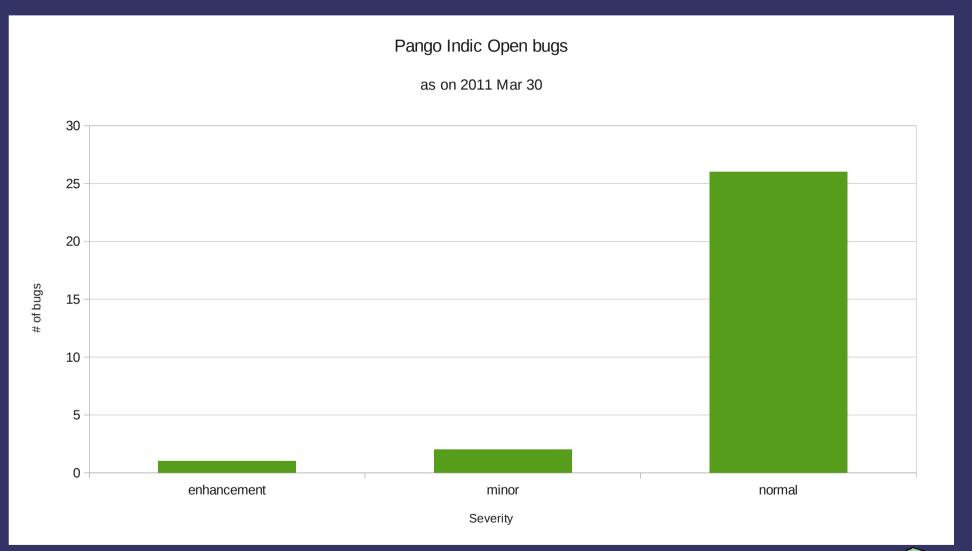
Inscript: k + d + k + <

Rawcode: 0c95+0ccd+0c95+0cb7

Pango Open bugs -Language



Pango Indic Bugs -Severity





Harfbuzz-Ng Timeline

- 2009-07-05: First public version of need for unifying rendering as presented at the Gran Canaria Desktop Summit by Behdad (See reference)
- 2009-08-06 Harfbuzz-ng layout code supporting Latin shaping merged into Pango
- 2010-10-13 Arabic/Syrian/N'Ko shaper working
- 2011-03-22 Firefox 4 ships with Harbuzz-ng
- Future
 - 1.0 with Stable API and shaping for Latin, Arabic by Mar 2011
 - Hebrew, Hangul ... TBD
 - New Tai Lue, Indic ...TBD



Harfbuzz-Ng API Features

- Usability top priority (best practice from Cairo)
- Threadsafe
- Backend agnostic API (hb.h)
- Open type specific API (hb-ot.h)
- Call backs for font/ Unicode
- Use of Font data directly



Harfbuzz-Ng Indic potential contributors

- Indic: Tom Hacohen
- Telugu, Arjuna Rao Chavala, Kesavardhana Gandla
- Hindi, Pravin Satpute
- Tamil, Muguntharaj Subramanian



Summary

- Perfect rendering of Indic languages on Computers, Smartphones critical for business and personal use
- Need for Indians to contribute to the initiative.



References

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 - http://behdad.org/text/
- Unicode standard
 - http://unicode.org/
- Harfbuzz-ng API thread
 - http://lists.freedesktop.org/archives/harfbuzz/2009-August/000359.html
- Harfbuz-ng
 - http://cgit.freedesktop.org/harfbuzz/
 - git://anongit.freedesktop.org/harfbuzz
 - ssh://git.freedesktop.org/git/harfbuzz
- Mailing list
 - http://lists.freedesktop.org/mailman/listinfo/harfbuzz
 - https://lists.sourceforge.net/lists/listinfo/indlinux-group



24