Font Forum
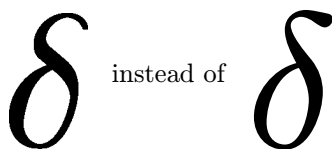
Important Message Regarding CM Fonts

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If you see that your system produces the symbol

$$\delta \quad \text{instead of} \quad \delta$$

for the Greek lowercase delta, you should tell your system administrator immediately to *upgrade your obsolete version of the Computer Modern fonts.*

I made important corrections to all those fonts in the spring of 1992, but alas, I still see many books, journals, and preprints using the old versions. Please help me abolish the old forms from the typefaces of the earth.

Many characters were improved in 1992, notably the arrows, which now are darker and have larger arrowheads, so that they don't disappear so easily after xeroxing. But most of the changes are rather subtle compared to the dramatic improvement in the lowercase delta. In fact, the old delta was so ugly, I couldn't stand to write papers using that symbol; now I can't stand to read papers that still do use it.

When I released the new versions in 1992, I also installed a new and improved procedure for digitizing the letterforms at low resolutions.

The new forms of the characters take exactly the same space on the page as the old, as far as TEX is concerned. So the same line breaks and page breaks will be obtained with the 1992 fonts as with the original fonts of 1986. The only difference will be that your papers will look better and they will be more pleasant to read.

These fonts are never going to change again. The best time to get rid of the old version is now. Correct METAFONT sources are widely available in TEX archives around the world, with dozens of mirror sites; they appear in directory `/tex_archives/fonts/cm/mf`. If you use dvips for printing DVI files, it is not necessary to regenerate all the fonts with METAFONT; just delete the old ones, and dvips will make new ones as needed.

You may happen to see new publications that continue to use the old delta. If so, please tell the authors of all such papers about this Web page. Their work deserves to be typeset with more beautiful letterforms.

Incidentally, my little monograph *Axioms and Hulls* was the first publication to use the final form of the Computer Modern fonts. All details of the 1992 font refinements were documented in the fourth printing of *Computers & Typesetting, Volume E: Computer Modern Typefaces*, which came out in March 1993.

[†] This item is a slightly edited version of the "Important Message to all Users of TEX" that appears on Knuth's Web page `http://cs-faculty-www.stanford.edu/~knuth/cm.html`.