T_EX at the End: Omega and Zapfino

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Abstract   The future of type is OpenType (Adobe and Microsoft's successor to Apple's "Royal" font technology which was licensed to Microsoft as TrueType), Unicode, and other extensions of TrueType and the Type 1 font format such as ATSUI (Apple Typographic System for Unicode Information). While T_EX has been extended to support other new formats and standards such as `.pdf`, support for the new font formats has been limited at best, and in its most promising incarnation (QuickDraw/GX and TeX/GX) has whithered on the vine as it were.

Fortunately, for Unicode in T_EX there is Omega which coupled with the other strengths of T_EX can be sufficient to take advantage of new technologies without explicit support with the proper (or improper) techniques.

This paper will be an explanation and exploration of this, looking at a specific font and format (the `.dfont` ATSUI-enabled version of Zapfino), arguably very nearly a worst-case scenario, and how it can be dissassembled into individual glyphs in `.eps` format and seamlessly stitched back together as an Omega Virtual Font with a matching Omega Translation Process to automatically insert ligatures and swash and variant forms using `ASCII` markup in an otherwise ordinary `.tex` source file which can then be used in a pre-press ready workflow.