Fonts and Font Families - An Overview

FontSuvidha is the only software solution available worldwide, helping you overcome the issue of conversion of text from one font to another in Devnagari (Hindi, Marathi and Sanskrit)

It will be helpful to know some basic facts about the fonts and font families. There is a big difference in **FONT** and **FONT FORMAT or FAMILY.** The sections below will be of great help to those considering buying and using **FontSuvidha.**

The various sets of characters we use for typing our documents are called Fonts. A font comprises of set of characters, generally with a common look and texture. In English, the fonts comprise of characters like A to Z, 1 to 0 and other standard characters like $, &, #, @ etc. e.g. Verdana, Times etc.

In case of Devnagari, this differs in a big way. Unlike in English, there are many complications while writing in Devnagari. We need to represent characters and words with Matras, Anuswaras, Kaanaas etc. This involves the use of both upper and lower ASCII characters, which are mapped to the keyboard. Here exactly lies the problem of standardisation of Devnagari Fonts. Many companies developing fonts and technologies in Devnagari had used different mapping styles for these characters, thus resulting in the problem of non-compatibility.

FONT FAMILY:

This is known as the **FONT FORMAT** also. This is the set of encoding for the font. The basic issue of non-standardisation of Devnagari fonts revolves around this. The encoding of fonts developed by various vendors differ in a big way and this is the reason we had to develop **FontSuvidha**.

There are a number of such Font Formats or Font Families existing in the market today. There are many complications in this issue too. If you think that one manufacturer constitutes to one family, it is not so. There are instances where a same manufacturer has developed and distributed more than one family. The example of this is C-DAC (DV-TT, DVB-TT, DVWB-TT etc.), Akruti and ShriLipi. C-DAC has more than 2 formats. Akruti has 4 formats and in case of ShriLipi there are many. Although this could have been avoided by the vendors, thwy have purposely created different families for professional reasons.

In short, a **FONT FAMILY** is something like DV-TT*ABCD*, DVB-TT*ABCD*, AkrutiDev*XYZ* etc.

FONT:

This is the actual set of characters in a **FONT FAMILY**. There can be a number of such FONTS in a specific FONT FAMILY. There could be Ten, Hundred or a few Hundred **FONTS** in **ONE FONT FAMILY.** The Fonts in a particular family have the same encoding. That means, there is a full transformability of documents from one font to another if the **FONT** belongs to the same **FONT FAMILY**. This is the reason we can use fonts like DV-TTSurekh and DV-TTYogesh, without the need of **FontSuvidha** Converter. However we can not easily switch between DV-TTYogesh and AkrutiDevPriya without using **FontSuvidha** because the families differ.

CONVERSION BASICS

The primary aim of **FontSuvidha** is to convert documents from one **KNOWN Family (or format)** to another **KNOWN Family (or format)**. The basic assumption here is that, someone who is trying to convert a document **MUST** know either the source font and the destination font. If he doesn't know either of these, he does not need conversion.

SOURCE FONT FAMILY:

This is the **FONT FAMILY** in which a document is composed. The person using the converter may not be having the **FONT** of the **SOURCE FONT FAMILY** and thus he needs to convert the document from a **FONT** in **SOURCE FONT FAMILY** to a **FONT** available with him on his machine.

DESTINATION FONT FAMILY:

This is the **FONT FAMILY** which one needs to convert a document into. Anyone using any Devnagari software knows which software he is using. The **FONT NAMES** in particular software start with some similarity such as AkrutiDev, DV-TT, DVB-TT, SHREE etc. This is known to the person trying to convert a document. However there are some exceptions to this too. There is no such common string in the FONT NAMES in case of some of the FONT FAMILIES including Moser Database, BharatBhasha etc. This is another example of non-standardisation. We just can not do anything about it.

DESTINATION FONT:

Any user trying to use **FontSuvidha** must at least know this. This is the name of the actual font available with him. Thus, he can select the destination font without trouble.

WHY MY FONT IS NOT IN THE LIST?

There may be some confusion in the minds of some of the users while selecting the destination font and we would like to throw some light on this critical issue.

The FONT names in the list of DESTINATION FONTS appearing in **FontSuvidha** are hardcoded into the software itself. In some of the families, there are more than few hundred fonts in use. It is practically impossible to include all of them. Further, it is practically impossible for the user to scroll down the list every time he wants to convert some text. Thus, we had to include only few font names that are commonly in use. There are possibilities where some of the FONT NAMES in some FONT FAMILIES may not be appearing in the list.

This is may create some confusion in the mind of the users. Here is an example, which could throw some light on this. In SHREE Lipi TTF Series, we have included only about 30 Font names, whereas there are more than 500 other font names belonging to the same family. Since we **DID NOT** want to give a big scrollable list, which could prove to be a problem for frequent user of **FontSuvidha**, we did not include all of them in the list. However this **DOES NOT** mean that the conversion is not supported. The conversion very much takes place. In such a case, the user needs to select Font Name as "Other Font" under the Destination Font Family. After conversion the user may see some junk on his screen. He then needs to just change the font of the document to the desired one manually. Another way of handling this is that select an alternative Font Name, convert the trext and then chang3e the Font Name to the desired one..

Here exactly the assumption that one should know the font family name of his font comes in picture. If you know you are using C-DACs DV-TT fonts, and have chosen it as the Destination Font, you can see all the names starting with DV-TT, followed by a name. e.g. you are using DV-TT*ABCD* and the name does not appear in the Destination Font List, you can convert the text into any other font starting with DV-TT, say DV-TTYogesh. You may see some junk on the screen. Now all that you need to do is, select this junk and change the font name from the ones you have and you are through!

In Devnagari, there are a number of **FONT FAMILIES** in use. We have tried to pick some important families of these. Our constant R & D efforts help us in keeping the software updated for any new fonts coming in the market.

For a comprehensive list of Font faces supported for conversion, refer the document "Fontsuvidha-Fontlist". If your desired font is not found in the list of supported fonts, you have no reason to worry. Just send us some document made in the font and the TTF file. We will then explore the possibility to include the font in the supported list.

Do keep visiting our web site to find interesting information on Devnagari Fonts from time to time.

Now that you know the basics, how about acquiring a copy of **FontSuvidha**, the World's only universal Font Converter for Devnagari Text?

We are sure you will.

CyberShoppee.com
Chanakya, 3rd Floor, Behind Classic Plaza, Gokhale Road, Naupada, Thane 400602, Maharashtra, India
Tel No: 91-22-25421185
E-mail: info@cybershoppee.com
Web: www.cybershoppee.com / www.fontsuvidha.com
For Trade Enquiry and Retail Purchase, Contact: support@cybershoppee.com

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