

**NAME**

ot2kpx – extract kerning information from OpenType fonts

**SYNOPSIS**

**ot2kpx** **fontfile**

**DESCRIPTION**

**ot2kpx** extract the kerning data from OpenType fonts (both *otf* and *tff* formats) and prints it (in *afm* format) to `stdout`.

**OPTIONS AND ARGUMENTS**

**fontfile**

The OpenType font (in either *otf* or *tff* format).

**RESTRICTIONS**

- **ot2kpx** doesn't implement all of the OpenType specification. Things that are missing include: support for font files containing multiple fonts, LookupTables with LookupTypes other than 2, "kern" tables with format other than 0 and ValueRecords with other types of data than just XAdvance data.

Most of these limitations don't really matter, since the missing features are rare (the only fonts I know of that use them are the non-western fonts that come with Adobe Reader). Furthermore, some of these features concern (according to the OpenType specification) "*define subtle, device-dependent adjustments at specific font sizes or device resolutions*". Since there's no way to express such adjustments in *afm* format, ignoring them seems to be the only option anyway.

- **ot2kpx** collects kerning data first from the "kern" table, then from all LookupTables associated with the "kern" feature; if a kerning pair occurs multiple times, the first value seen is chosen. There are (or may be) several issues with this approach:
  - The OpenType specification says that fonts in *otf* format shouldn't use the "kern" table at all, just the lookups from the "GPOS" table. Many such fonts do, however, contain a "kern" table, but no "GPOS" table; so we use the "kern" table anyway.
  - Instead of reading all LookupTables, it might be better to let the user specify a script and language and process only the LookupTables for those values. However, at least in the fonts I checked, all script/language combinations eventually point to the *same* "kern" LookupTables, so this approach wouldn't make any difference (apart from further complicating the code).

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**RECENT CHANGES**

(See the source code for the rest of the story.)

*2012-02-01* Refactored the code, and fixed a number of bugs in the process. Updated the documentation.