Introducing PFBFix, the Windows program that fixes Adobe Type I fonts created by CorelDraw's WFNBOSS!

BACKGROUND:

CorelDraw, one of the truly awesome graphic arts packages for Windows 3.0, has always had superior font capabilities as a major competitive edge. CorelDraw comes with over 100 fonts that can be scaled, filled, rotated and fit to any shape you desire. With CorelDraw 2.0, the capability was included to convert the supplied Corel fonts to Adobe Type I fonts suitable for use with Adobe Type Manager (ATM) for Windows, bringing scalable fonts to PostScript, LaserJet and dot-matrix printer users from all Windows applications that support fonts.

Corel converts their fonts with a program called WFNBOSS, which is part of the CorelDraw package. Unfortunately, there are a few little bugs in WFNBOSS that render its converted Type I fonts unusable.

First off, ATM expects to find a certain string of characters in a Type I font file near the beginning of the file. WFNBOSS writes the wrong string to the file. PFBFix fixes this.

Secondly, each ATM font is supposed to have a unique identification number, known as the UniqueID. WFNBOSS gives every font it creates the same UniqueID of 4221071, which is not too unique. PFBFix fixes this, too, by reading the UniqueIDs of all the ATM font files in your PostScript outline fonts directory (start ATM Control Panel, click on Add button, look at directory listed as 'Target directory for PostScript outline fonts') and fixing the UniqueIDs so they are unique.

Finally, you can only create one Type I font per session of WFNBOSS. In other words, start WFNBOSS, convert a Corel font, close WFNBOSS, and restart it for each additional font you want to convert. If you convert multiple fonts in a WFNBOSS session, weird information is written to the fonts files and they will be unreliable at best. PFBFix doesn't fix this problem, so you will still need to convert fonts one at a time.

INSTRUCTIONS:
1.   Delete any non-working versions of the fonts that exist in your PostScript outline fonts directory (Look at ATM.INI in your Windows directory to get the filenames of the fonts).
2.   Start Corel's WFNBOSS.
3.   Click the 'Conversion Type' box until it says 'Corel to Adobe Type 1.'
4.   Make note of the 'Destination Dir:' directory.
5.   Select a font to convert (click the 'More Files' button, if necessary) and click on Convert.
6.   Close WFNBOSS.
7.   Repeat steps 2 - 7 for all fonts that you want to convert.
8.   Start ATM Control Panel.
9.   Select 'Add' and find the directory that WFNBOSS listed as the 'Destination Dir:'
10.   Select the fonts (using Ctrl-Click or Shift-Click for multiple selections) and exit ATM Control Panel.
11.   Start PFBFix.
12.   Select 'Choose Directory...' and locate your PostScript outline font directory.
13.   Select 'Fix Files.' PFBFix will give you status information in its title bar.
14.   Exit and restart Windows. Your ATM fonts should display OK now.

To print ATM fonts on a PostScript printer, you may have to edit WIN.INI. Your ATM fonts should be

listed in a [PostScript, <port>] section which should have a lot of lines in the format

     softfont<n>=<Target Directory for Font Metrics files>\<filename>.pfm
     (example: softfont1=d:\pfm\arabia.pfm)

To print on a PostScript printer, additional information about the location of the corresponding PostScript outline files (which have the extension .PFB) must be added,

     i.e.   softfont1=d:\pfm\arabia.pfm,d:\psfonts\arabia.pfb.

Neither PFBFix nor ATM write this information at the present time, but I could be persuaded to add this functionality to PFBFix if people actually register PFBFix for a measly 5 bucks. This is my first product, and if I discover that I can actually get back a little cash for the time and mental energy involved, I'll add his feature, along with a feature that keeps your ATM.INI and WIN.INI files in sync so that you don't get the annoying 'Fonts don't match' message.

So there's the sales pitch. PFBFix will work uncrippled if you never send me a dime, but you'll sleep better and live a longer, happier life if you send me $5.00 for giving you the ability to use CorelDraw's WFNBOSS for creating ATM fonts. I know that Corel is planning a fix sometime soon, but this fix is here today. So, send your $5.00 to:

     New World Software
     680 Mass Ave Suite 1B
     Boston, MA 02118
     Attn: Ken Granderson

so that I will keep my faith in people and so I can keep feeding my cats Science Diet cat food.

And, of course, if you run into problems, feel free to call me at (617) 536-6946 in the evening, or drop me a line in my CompuServe mailbox at 76307, 3571.
Happy Fonting!
Legal-type stuff follows.

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