

# Uyghur on OS X

## Donkey 3.7 Update

(April, 2005)

### INTRODUCTION

I decided to do some research for the U on X project this weekend since I'm home bound with planter fasciitus. I found some helpful information thanks to a guy named Tom in the Apple Discussions forum.

### NEW IN DONKEY 3.7

- Why Uyghur fonts don't work in Apple applications like TextEdit, Mail, etc.
- A clearer and more comprehensive site for Uyghur unicode fonts
- Ukelele 1.5 update
- Latest info on each word processor's ability to type Uyghur

### I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHY

Thank you Tom Gewecke. For a while now (two years maybe), I've never understood why the Uyghur fonts will not work in OS X on the system level and in Apple applications. I figured the problem was somewhere deep in unix code, which I was not about to dive into. I posted a question on the Apple Discussion for Panther, and Tom gave me the answer in simple enough terms.

The Uyghur fonts are made with OpenType technology, and do not contain Apple's *Apple Advanced Typography* (ATT) data. Therefore, OS X doesn't properly handle the font. The only way that these fonts will work on the system level (file names, etc.) and in apps like Mail, and TextEdit is for AAT data to be put into the Uyghur fonts, or for Apple to make OS X able to fully support OpenType. And no one yet knows if Tiger will or not support OpenType. We'll have to wait and see.

The reason Mellel is able to handle the Uyghur fonts properly is because Mellel has its own text engine inside the program to handle OpenType fonts, while Apple's text engine in OS X can't handle them.

### FONTS

Here is a much better site listing probably all the Uyghur unicode fonts that the "Uyghur-PC-world" is using.

<http://www.ukij.org/fontlar/>

## KEYBOARDS

Ukelele was updated (1.5) on Jan. 25, 2005. Here's the link:

[http://208.145.80.131/cms/scripts/page.php?site\\_id=nrsi&item\\_id=ukelele](http://208.145.80.131/cms/scripts/page.php?site_id=nrsi&item_id=ukelele)

## LATEST IN WORD PROCESSING PROGRAMS' ABILITY TO TYPE UYGHUR

1. **Mellel** (1.8+): Yes. For those of you who like columns, Mellel 2.0, being released in a few months, will have them, among other things. The current version is 1.9.x.
2. **Microsoft Office** (V. X and Office 2004): No right-to-left scripting support.
3. **Anything from Apple (TextEdit, Mail, etc.)**: Not until they include support in their text engine for OpenType. Maybe in Tiger. Who knows?
4. **Nisus Writer Express**: No right-to-left support. However, in a recent newsletter they did mention that it may be here as early as the summer, 2005.
5. **NeoOffice/J** (1.1 *Release Candidate* with Arabic add-on pack): Almost.
6. **AbiWord** (2.2.7): No

If you have any questions, additions, or corrections to the Uyghur on Mac OS X Project, please email me @ [allornothing@keptprivate.com](mailto:allornothing@keptprivate.com).