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Dai Banna SIL Fonts

User Guide



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Geometric Shapes (U+25CC)



CJK Symbols and Punctuation (U+3000..3002, 3008..300B)

、。〈〉《》

Halfwidth and Fullwidth Forms (U+FF01, FF08, FF09, FF0C, FF0E, FF1A, FF1B, FF1F)

! () , . : ; ?

Features and Requirements

The Dai Banna SIL fonts are encoded in **Unicode** and generated in the **TrueType** font format. As a minimum, they require operating systems that support both TrueType and Unicode. These include Microsoft Windows® 9x and greater, Mac OS version 9.0 and later, and some implementations of Unix / Linux. (TrueType font support on Unix and Linux may depend upon the particular applications in use.)

The fonts have built-in smart **Graphite** code to control line breaking. Graphite is a smart font technology capable of supporting complex script behaviours. In the previous version of the Dai Banna fonts (2.200), Graphite was needed to reorder four vowels to the left of the base consonant:

U+19B5	ᵛ	NEW TAI LUE VOWEL SIGN E
U+19B6	ᵛᵛ	NEW TAI LUE VOWEL SIGN AE
U+19B7	ᵛ	NEW TAI LUE VOWEL SIGN O
U+19BA	ᵛ	NEW TAI LUE VOWEL SIGN AY

Before Unicode 8 these vowels were stored in logical order, i.e., consonants are always stored before vowels. In the previous version of the fonts, Graphite was needed to reorder these vowels so they display properly.

Now, these vowels are stored in visual order (i.e. before the consonant), so no reordering needs to be done in Graphite (or OpenType).

Graphite also allows smart line breaking that limits break opportunities to between syllables only. This is useful because intersyllabic space is optional in New Tai Lue text, and without space marking syllable boundaries, standard applications will just break the line whenever it is full, likely splitting up a syllable, which is undesirable as per standard script usage.

To correctly render a run of text with no intersyllabic space, you must be using applications and/or operating systems that provide an adequate level of support for Graphite. Tested applications / operating systems which make use of the Graphite capabilities of the fonts include:

- SIL WorldPad 2.4 & 2.8 (Windows)
- LibreOffice Writer 6.4.6 (cross-platform)
- gedit 2.30.3 (Ubuntu Linux with pango-graphite 0.9.3-0.1)

More information on Graphite and related applications can be found at <http://scripts.sil.org/RenderingGraphite>.

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Installation

The Dai Banna SIL font package includes a set of font files and font documentation (DaiBannaSIL.pdf). These will have already been installed through .deb installer. If you are reading this file from a .zip download instead, please read on.

Note: No keyboarding component is included. If you want to use the font to type New Tai Lue characters, then you will need a separate keyboard manager.

Microsoft Windows

Extracted font files (DBSIL*.ttf) from the zip file, select all the fonts, and right click to select to `Install for all users`. You will need Administrator privileges to do so. See <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/314960> for more information.

Macintosh

Copy the extracted font files (DBSIL*.ttf) into one of the several predefined Fonts folder (e.g., `/Library/Fonts/`). See <http://support.apple.com/kb/HT2435> for more information.

Linux

Copy the extracted font files (DBSIL*.ttf) into `~/.fonts` for personal installation or into `/usr/share/fonts/` for system-wide installation. Then type `fc-cache -fv` to update the system font cache.

Note: Certain applications may not see the new fonts immediately. You may have to quit and restart the application for the fonts to become available.

More information on general font installation is available on our website at <http://scripts.sil.org/DecompressUtil>.

Known Issues

Font linking: CJK punctuation rendered in other fonts - Windows

Although the Dai Banna SIL fonts contain glyphs for some characters in the CJK Symbols and Punctuation block and the Halfwidth and Fullwidth Forms block, certain applications/operating systems will automatically choose a default Asian text font to display these characters instead. This can usually be overridden by highlighting the whole run of New Tai Lue text and changing the font to one in the Dai Banna SIL family, but the following applications insist in font linking:

Microsoft Word 2010 on Windows 7 Ultimate

Microsoft Word 2016 on Windows 10

This is **not** a defect of our fonts but rather a failure of the applications/OS to recognise Dai Banna SIL as containing Asian (CJK) glyphs.

Misc.: Autofit row height gives initial blank line - Excel

In a cell containing New Tai Lue text wrapped into multiple lines, the autofit function in Microsoft Excel (tested with Excel 2010 and 2016) may fail to compute the correct row height when the column width falls in a certain range. The result is that a blank line is left before the first line of text. This faulty behaviour is **not** a defect of our fonts but a bug of the application. Manual height adjustment can remove the blank line.

Technical Support

As these fonts and utilities are distributed at no cost, we are unable to provide a commercial level of personal technical support. We will, however, try to resolve problems that are reported to us.

We do hope that you will report problems so they can be addressed in future releases. Even if you are not having any specific problems, but have an idea on how this system could be improved, we want to hear your ideas and suggestions.

Please note that these fonts are intended for use by experienced computer users. Installing and using these fonts is not a trivial matter. The most effective technical support is usually provided by an experienced computer user who can personally sit down with you at your computer to troubleshoot the problem.

General information about the encoding and use of the fonts can be found in the README file. Additional information is also available on our general Font FAQ page at <http://scripts.sil.org/FontFAQ>. If that fails to answer your question, you can contact us at:

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