

A Company Profile



**Diwan Software Limited,
PO Box 500326,
Office 128,Building 1,
Dubai Internet City,
Dubai, U.A.E**

Tel: +971 4 3911 888

adil@diwan.com

Executive Summary

Based in London, England, and Dubai Internet City, UAE, Diwan Software Limited is one of the leading companies producing electronic publishing software.

- Diwan's core business is in manufacturing and selling of Desktop Publishing software.
- It has a growing business in multilingual software for mobile devices that benefits greatly from Diwan's experience in personal computer software.
- Diwan also has one of the largest libraries of quality Arabic typefaces and has a set of multilingual fonts. Diwan's font is the standard Arabic System Font in Mac OS X supporting Arabic, Farsi, Urdu and Pashto.
- Diwan is one of the largest regional investors in Arabic-specific research and development.
- Diwan develops specific applications for electronic learning and digitisation of educational texts.

Starting the Electronic Publishing Revolution

Diwan (Science and Information Technology Limited) was founded in 1985, and pioneered Desktop Publishing (DTP) in the Arabic language. Diwan soon developed the DTP applications al-Nashir al-Maktabi and al-Nashir al-Sahafi based on the publishing application, "Ready,Set,Go!" for the Macintosh Operating System. These programs are still the leading DTP products in the Arabic language.

Diwan started the electronic newspaper publishing revolution with those products

and a number of new ones for newspaper workflow like NewsNet, PictureNet and CommsNet. Al-Hayat newspaper was launched in London in 1987 using Diwan's systems. It was, according to a BBC programme, the first ever fully electronic newspaper in the world. Soon other Arab newspapers adopted Diwan's system, like Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, Al-Ahram and others.

The current company, Diwan Software Limited, is still owned and managed by original founders of Diwan (Science and Information Technology Limited) and represents some of the longest experience and best knowledge of any company in the Arabic software market.

The first major act of Diwan Software Limited was to buy the full international marketing and copyrights to Ready,Set,Go! from The Esselte Group.

The products selling point is that it is very easy to use yet provides all the features needed by a high-end publisher such as advanced typography, colour separations, and support for Pre-press systems.

The Windows version won an award from PC Magazine Middle East. It fully supports transparencies, Multilingual OpenType and AAT fonts, text on a path and other features to match those found in other high-end publishing applications.

Mobile Software

"Diwan TPRE" is a fully multilingual text engine optimised for mobile phones and other small devices. The engine features a small memory footprint and can load language specific information as data directly from a remote site. The text engine can handle display as well as editing and is designed to integrate within an existing text editor.

Language support includes Arabic, Thai and the major Indian scripts. Support for additional languages can be created as data without rewriting the basic engine.

Diwan Oannis is a new publishing application for handheld computers. It incorporates Diwan's text rendering engine to provide new levels of readability for Arabic and English text on a small device.

Arabic Fonts

Diwan produces one of the largest ranges of original, quality Arabic typefaces. The typefaces range from simple headline fonts to complex calligraphic typefaces that contain over 5000 glyphs. The Diwan Mishafi font won a prestigious award from the Type Directors Club in New York.

Oannis

Oannis is a publishing system that can hold on a single CD the complete set of curriculum books for a high school education. This includes many required features for an electronic book browser like summaries, bookmarks and searching.

What made this work possible is that it depends mainly on Diwan publishing

software with Diwan fonts and rendering engines for those fonts. From that software Diwan developed a special books reader (Oannis) which can read the format of the books and view it in a very special way, this made it possible to see all the books of the high school (90 book) into one CD with many different features.

Back in 1986 Diwan revolutionised the printing and publishing industry of the Arab world by making it possible for designers to transfer their experience of laying out newspapers and magazines to the computer. Diwan Oannis is part of the computer revolution for the world of education. It provides the essential role of evolving the wealth of knowledge and years experience embodied in the school books to the computer age.

Recent work by Diwan

- Implemented Islamic, electronic educational books (21 book) for all of the education classes in Saudi Arabia on one CD for Dar al Wasilah benefits. Approved by the Saudi Ministry of Education to be the standard for study of the Islamic curriculum.
- Digitisation of the high school curriculum (three classes, 90 educational book) for the Republic of Yemen Ministry of Education.
- Localisation of Openwave mobile browser, and licensing of specialised software and fonts.
- Arabic/English PDA publishing applications for Symbian and Windows Mobile.
- A Multilingual Arabic Font for supporting Arabic, Urdu, Farsi and Pashto. Used by Apple Computer Inc. as the standard Arabic font for Mac OS X.
- Working on the Openwave mobile browser to provide full support for the bi-directional features of XHTML and add support for Arabic, Thai, Devanagari and other Indic languages.
- Worked with Google to convert their web application system “Google Web Toolkit” to handle Arabic.