Kerning

(mPDF >= 6.0)

The control of Kerning is complicated! CSS3 allows for 2 methods of specifying kerning. In mPDF 6, these 2 methods have exactly the same effect:

- font-kerning: normal;
- font-feature-settings: 'kern' on;

TrueType fonts allow for 2 possible ways of including kerning data:

- OTL GPOS tables may contain kerning information
- The font may contain a separate kern table

Most fonts contain both or none, but they may exist independently.

If kerning is set to be active (by either of the CSS methods):

- if the useOTL value means that OTL GPOS tables are applied, then this method will be used;
- if not, then the separate kern table will be used - if it exists.

In Latin script, kerning will only be applied if specified by CSS. The configurable variable `useKerning` determines behaviour if `font-kerning: auto` is used (the default).

When using OTL tables, kerning is set to be on by default for non-LATIN script; this is because a number of fonts use information in the kern feature to reposition glyphs which are essential for correct display in complex scripts.

Limitation: if useOTL is set, but not for Latin script (e.g. = 0x02), and the text string contains more than one script, then kerning will not be applied to the Latin script text e.g. [Cyrillic text][Latin text][Cyrillic text]. This is because mPDF uses the presence of any repositioning applied to determine if kerning has been applied, otherwise using the alternative kern tables.

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