The New Roboto

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Along with the Material Design guidelines we released a new version of the Roboto type family. A lot of things have changed as we tuned the font to work across more screen sizes and conditions, from watches to desktops, televisions to cars. It still keeps much of its character that made it successful for both phones and tablets, but almost every glyph has been tweaked and updated in some way.

MATERIALS SCIENCE

6.626069×10^{-34}

One hundred percent cotton bond

Polymer chains

Alloys of aluminium, titanium and magnesium often

PAPERCRAFT

carbon in its graphite form is thought to be ceramic

MATERIALS

Cardstock 80lb ultra-bright orange

STATIONERY

We see Roboto as an evolving type family and plan to continue to change and update it as the system evolves. It used to be that a type family was designed once and then used without change for many years. Sometimes an updated version was released with a new name, sometimes by appending a "Neue" or "New". The old model for releasing metal typefaces doesn't make sense for an operating system that is constantly improving. As the system evolves over time, the type should evolve along with it.

The easiest way to identify the new version is to look for the R and K. They were some of the rowdier glyphs from version one and have been completely redrawn. Also check for the dots on the letter i or in the punctuation. We have rounded them out to make the types a little more friendly when you look at them closely. We also rounded out the sides of the upper case characters like O and C which makes the font feel less condensed even though it still has a high character count per line.

Some of the most significant changes are in the rhythm and spacing, especially for the caps. This isn't apparent as you look at individual glyphs, but makes for a better texture on the screen. Some of the more subtle fixes were to balance the weights between the caps and lowercase characters (the caps are slightly heavier in this version) and better correction for the distortions that occur in the obliqued italic characters.

BEFORE

AFTER

KkR

KkR

OCD!?

OCD!?

15679

15679

AaBbCcDdEe
FfGgHhIiJjKk
LlMmNnOoPp
QqRrSsTtUu

Roboto supports 16 weights as well as advanced typographic features such as smallcaps, ligatures and lower case numerals. Roboto currently covers most scripts based on Latin, Cyrillic and Greek alphabets.

Black
Bold
Medium
Regular
Light
Thin
Bold Cnd
Regular Cnd
Light Cnd

Black Italic
Bold Italic
Medium Italic
Regular Italic
Light Italic
Thin Italic
Bold Cnd Italic
Regular Cnd Italic
Light Cnd Italic

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CHARACTER SET

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Ğ Ġ Ģ Ĥ Ĩ Ī Ĭ Į İ Ĵ Ķ Ĺ Ļ Ľ Ŀ Ń Ņ Ň
Ō Ŏ Ő Ŕ Ŗ Ř Ś Ŝ Ş Š Ţ Ť Ũ Ū Ŭ Ů Ű Ų
Ŵ Ŷ Ÿ Ź Ż Ž ß Ä Ǽ Ḣ Ỉ Ó Ý Ω ï A B E
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κ ο μ ν χ ï ϋ ó ύ ώ Ë Ǵ Ѕ І Ї J K Ќ
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