UI Typeface Evaluation

Checklist

Letterforms

- Tall x-height
- Open counters, big bowls
- Differentiation of ambiguous glyphs (aceo, Ill, o0, etc.)
- Simplicity of knotty glyphs (a, g, 1, 7, etc.)

Features

- Proportional and monospace numerals
- Sub/sup numerals
- Fractions
- Small caps

Optional:

- Lining and historical numerals
- Alternate styles (on a few characters)
- Grading

Range

- Many weights (minimum 5-6 or even better, a dedicated variable axis)
- Part of a super family (matching condensed, extended, display, serif, mono etc.)

Charset

- Script for any language the product is in
- Script for Greek (for scientific notation)
- Bonus glyphs (arrows, dingbats, boxed numbers etc.)

Implementation

- Variable format
- Optical sizes
- Line-height to x-height ratio and position

Feel

- Feel on labels and running copy, at UI sizes (12–48 px)

Licensing

- Price per seat/impression/installation
- Modifications allowed or not
- If \$-free, is it free to use for commercial applications

Tools

To verify or complete vendor specs.

- CharSet Checker: scripts and symbols support
- FontDrop!: languages, metadata, OpenType features
- Underware Latin Plus: detailed latin scripts support