Checklist

Application support for OpenType features in Cogncur

Use this checklist to:

- test whether an application can successfully use the Cogncur font family
- create documentation on how to configure an application to work with the Cogncur font family

This checklist tells you *what* you might want to achieve in your application when using Cogncur. It does not tell you *how* to achieve it.

Contextual alternates

Contextual alternates should be enabled.

- This is automatic in many applications.
- In a few applications, contextual alternates must first be disabled, then re-enabled.

Contextual alternates ON	Contextual alternates OFF
	

Application specific notes:

- In Microsoft Word, contextual alternates need to be enabled manually.
- Microsoft Powerpoint does not support contextual alternates.
- Photoshop CS6 does not support the specific combination of contextual alternates and ‘multiple substitution’ used in Cogncur, even though it supports contextual alternates in other fonts.

Workaround: url yet to be determined…

Stylistic sets

Stylistic sets can be chosen by the end user to change the appearance of some letters. For Cogncur, it is highly desirable that multiple stylistic sets can be selected simultaneously. Stylistic sets must always be chosen manually, they are never automatic.

No stylistic sets	One stylistic set: ss20	Multiple stylistic sets: ss13, ss20
		

Application specific notes

- MS Word unfortunately allows the user to select only one stylistic set at a time.

Workaround for non-compliant applications: use https://www.fontsquirrel.com/tools/webfont-generator in expert mode to compile ‘flatten’ stylistic sets into a font.

Kerning

Kerning should be enabled. In Cogncur, kerning is used at the boundary between letters and interpunction. It has no effect on the distance between connected letters.

- Kerning is automatic in many applications.

Kerning ON	Kerning OFF
	

Application specific notes

- In MS Word, you manually set kerning to take effect from a certain font size upward.

Line spacing

Cogncur was designed to be written with the ascenders and descenders touching each other. Unfortunately, some applications ignore the dimensions declared in the font and instead use the ‘maximum size’ of the letters encountered in the font to determine line spacing. Since this ‘maximum size’ includes accented uppercase letters, this will lead to too much line spacing. It should be possible in your application to set the line distance such that ascenders and descenders are touching each other, and preferable, this line distance should be called ‘1’ or ‘Single’ by the application.

Correct line spacing	Too much line spacing
	

- In MS Word, line spacing needs to be set to ‘Exactly’ and then to the same point value as the current font size. Setting the line spacing to ‘Single’ does not work.

Letters outside the em-square

Since letters in Cogncur overlap horizontally and touch vertically, parts of letters fall outside the em-square. Some applications may ‘cut off’ parts of letters. This may be dependent on the specific (print) view used or the amount of hardware resources available to the application. Testing for ‘cut off’ problems should be done not just ‘on screen’ within the application itself; you should also use the application to produce a PDF and then open the PDF in Acrobat Reader to inspect it.
Some applications may have more than one way to produce a PDF. For most purposes, using the “Print” dialog and then printing to a PDF printer driver produces best results. If you do not have a PDF printer driver, you can install the free “Foxit PhantomPDF printer”.
If you might need to use accented uppercase letters such as ‘Ñ’, you should specifically test with those.

No cut off problems	Cut off problems
	

Application specific notes:

- In LibreOffice, the “Export as PDF” function produces results that are inferior to printing to a PDF printer driver.
- In MS Word, cutoff effects appear when the line distance is set ‘correctly’ to exactly to the same point value as the current font size. These cutoff effects persist in the print preview, but disappear when actually printing or producing a PDF.

Accented characters

It should be possible to insert accented characters through the ‘Insert Symbol’ dialog or an equivalent dialog. After inserting, these accented characters should form the correct (dynamic) connections to other characters. You want to test that Cogncur supports all the accented characters required by the language you intend to use (and if your phonics or spelling curriculum uses accents… those as well).

Additionally, you might want to address these two minor issues in documentation:

- It is possible that the ‘Insert Symbol’ dialog shows the letters without entry or exit strokes, which results in the ‘e’ looking indistinguishable from ‘c’.
- Accented letters should only be inserted from the following unicode blocks: Latin-1 Supplement, Latin Extended-A, Latin Extended-B. Letters should never be inserted from the “Private Use” block. Letters in the private use block will appear exactly ‘as is’ and will not form dynamic connections to other letters.

Double vowels with shared accent

If the ‘standard ligatures’ feature is enabled, if two vowels both with a breve or macron accent are inserted next to each other, they will be replaced with a ligature in which the vowels ‘share’ the accent. The ‘standard ligatures’ feature is on by default in most applications, but can be manually enabled and disabled.

Shared accents, with standard ligatures	Without standard ligatures
	

Whitespace before initial letter with short entry strokes

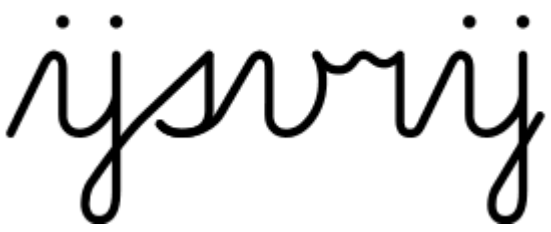
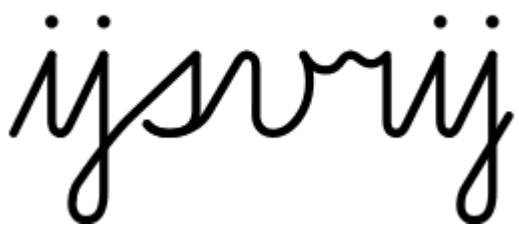
This is only relevant if you intend to use Cogncur with short entry strokes (not from the baseline). This can be achieved through stylistic set 1. If this stylistic set is active, the font uses both ligature substitution and kerning to achieve the correct amount of whitespace before initial letters. The ligature substitution is implemented through the ‘required ligature’ feature, which cannot be disabled by the end user.

Correct whitespace before letters with short entry strokes	Excessive whitespace before letters with short entry strokes
	

Dutch ‘ij’ ligature

This ligature is programmed as a language-specific required ligature. It should show up when the document language is set to Dutch. The end-user can not take any action to enable or disable the ligature, other then change the document language.

- Changing the document language to Dutch should cause this ligature to appear.
- In the standard settings, ‘i’ and ‘y’ have a different kind of connection, and ‘ij’ copies the connections from ‘y’. Dutch users will probably want to enable stylistic set ss13 so that both ‘y’ and ‘ij’ use the same connections as ‘i’.

Language Dutch (NLD) with required ligatures	Other language
	

Workaround: insert symbol

Integrated guides should connect

‘space’ should produce integrated guides…
Obviously, ‘justifying’ doesn’t work with integrated guides…