

xesoul: Using the soul package with Xe_ΛTeX

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Abstract

This is a small package that allows users to successfully use the soul package when preparing documents with Xe_ΛTeX.

1 Introduction

While I was trying to underline Greek text using the `\ul` command of the soul package with Xe_ΛTeX, I discovered that this is not possible. I was getting several errors and the output was looking terrible. I did not know what was wrong. I did a Google search and I found that another user had the same problem. He posted his case to the Xe_ΛTeX mailing list and Ulrike Fischer helped him and gave a solution to the problem. However, since the solution is not part of the soul package, I thought it would be a good idea to create a new package that would solve the problem.

2 The Implementation

The code of the package is very simple. It loads the soul package and then it sets the `\SOUL@tt` font to be a Unicode encoded font. The most natural choice is to use a font that is included in every distribution of TeXlive. Thus the package uses the freemono font. If for some reason the font is not available in your installation, then you can download it from the following URL:

<https://fontmeme.com/fonts/freemono-font/>

Since the soul package uses the `\SOUL@ttwidth` variable, we need to reset it. Now one can use the soul package with no problem.

```
1 \xesoul}
2 \RequirePackage{iftex}
3 \ifXeTeX
4 \RequirePackage{soul}
5 \font\SOUL@tt="FreeMono.ttf"
```

```
6 \setbox\z@\hbox{\SOUL@tt-}  
7 \SOUL@ttwidth\wd\z@  
8 \else  
9 \typeout{The `xesoul' package can be used only with XeLaTeX.}  
10 \fi  
11 \</xesoul>
```