Proposal to create open source OpenType tables for modern Mongolian

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Mongolian orthography is complex. The existing encoding contributes to a cascade of issues that affect adoption of the script.
We are working together to address these issues. In this presentation I want to make a suggestion to help with fonts.
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Key parts of a font

A font is a collection of data tables.
Key parts of a font

- **Glyph outlines**
- **Contextual shaping rules**

The most important table is the glyph table which contains definitions of the glyph shapes.
Key parts of a font

• Glyph outlines
• Contextual shaping rules

For a complex script such as Mongolian, the OpenType substitution table is also essential.
Key parts of a font

Together these, and additional tables make a functioning font.
Font variety

Users want to have a wide selection of fonts for different purposes. Variety amounts to having different glyphs.
Building the OpenType for a complex script is hard. There are no prizes for being better, every font needs to be conformant.
Conformant shaping

A conformant Mongolian OpenType font passes the test suite (http://rule.mongoltoli.cn/ruletest.php)
When we have a font that passes all of the tests, let’s make the OpenType table available to everyone.
Any new font that implements the same glyph set can use the same OpenType solution and become conformant.
OpenSource shaping

Loading the OpenType tables for a font could be as simple as running a script from a command line.
In order to have the shared OpenType tables apply across fonts, each font must implement the same glyph set.
Open-sourcing a conformant OpenType table comes near the end of our work to stabilize the Mongolian encoding.