

## The New MS Web Fonts, English and Greek

All six fonts below, which are new in Vista and Office 2007, have monotonic Greek glyphs, but *none* of them have polytonic glyphs. ☹ That means we still have no additional polytonic fonts for use in NT studies. The only standard font on WinXP that includes polytonic Greek is Tahoma—not particularly a “pretty face.” (I assume Tahoma is still part of Vista, but haven’t verified that.) If you have the right MS software, you may also have Palatino Linotype, which is a bit ornate, but a serviceable polytonic face. And if you install Adobe Acrobat you may also have Minion Pro—a very nice face with full polytonic support.<sup>1</sup> If you have none of these options, then your best bet is to get the free Gentium font, or possibly Cardo (the later of which is serviceable, but not very polished in Greek; the advantage of Cardo is that it also includes a set of very nice Hebrew glyphs.) See samples of these below, and more info on my Unicode page:

[<NTResources.com/Unicode.htm>](http://NTResources.com/Unicode.htm)

Format: New font [< replaces/can function as]      (—Note that names of replaced fonts are in their own face below.)

### 1. Cambria [< Georgia, Times New Roman]

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxy ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Monotonic Greek: αβγδεζηθικλμνξοπρσςτυφχψω ΑΒΓΔΕΖΗΘΙΚΛΜΝΞΟΠΡΣΤΥΦΧΨΩ

### 2. Calibri [< Arial]

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxy ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Monotonic Greek: αβγδεζηθικλμνξοπρσςτυφχψω ΑΒΓΔΕΖΗΘΙΚΛΜΝΞΟΠΡΣΤΥΦΧΨΩ

### 3. Candara [< Trebuchet]

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxy ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Monotonic Greek: αβγδεζηθικλμνξοπρσςτυφχψω ΑΒΓΔΕΖΗΘΙΚΛΜΝΞΟΠΡΣΤΥΦΧΨΩ

### 4. Consolas [< Courier, fixed width] 9 pt

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxy ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Monotonic Greek: αβγδεζηθικλμνξοπρσςτυφχψω ΑΒΓΔΕΖΗΘΙΚΛΜΝΞΟΠΡΣΤΥΦΧΨΩ

### 5. Constantia [< Palatino, Book Antiqua]

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxy ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Monotonic Greek: αβγδεζηθικλμνξοπρσςτυφχψω ΑΒΓΔΕΖΗΘΙΚΛΜΝΞΟΠΡΣΤΥΦΧΨΩ

### 6. Corbel [< Verdana]

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxy ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Monotonic Greek: αβγδεζηθικλμνξοπρσςτυφχψω ΑΒΓΔΕΖΗΘΙΚΛΜΝΞΟΠΡΣΤΥΦΧΨΩ

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<sup>1</sup> I’m not sure if the Minion font is part of the Reader or if it come only with the full version of Acrobat. It does not install into the Fonts folder, but in one of the Adobe folders. Of course once you know that it’s there, it can easily be moved to the Fonts folder. ☺

**For comparison, here are some of the fonts with good polytonic Greek glyphs:**

Ἄρχῆ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ υἱοῦ θεοῦ. < Gentium

Ἄρχῆ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ υἱοῦ θεοῦ. < Minion Pro

Ἀρχὴ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ υἱοῦ θεοῦ. < Palatino Linotype

Ἄρχῆ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ υἱοῦ θεοῦ. < Cardo

And for the standard polytonic font on Windows, here's their ugly sister:

Ἄρχῆ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ υἱοῦ θεοῦ. < Tahoma

**Cambria:** compare the lowercase vowels:

vowel-vowel with tonos<sup>2</sup>-vowel with acute; polytonic Gentium

(i.e., the third character in each triplet below is in Gentium, the first two in Cambria)

αάά εέέ ίίί οόό υύύ ηήή ωώώ

Despite the lack of polytonic Greek support, these are really quite nice fonts and will be very serviceable for other purposes. And a couple of them look fine with Gentium as the polytonic font. The names seem quite odd to me, and having all of them with 'C' names is confusing. For now, you can only get these fonts one of three ways (that I know of):

- Buy Vista (a really bad idea!),
- Buy MS Office 2007 (from what I've seen, that's not a good idea either!), or
- Download the free MS PowerPoint 2007 viewer.

The viewer will install all six fonts in your Fonts folder.

If MS wants these to become as standard and widespread as their earlier "Core Web Fonts," then they will sooner or later have to release them as a stand-alone installer, but that hasn't happened yet. All you can find on the MS web site is this page telling you how good they are:

<http://www.microsoft.com/typography/ClearTypeFonts.mspx>

The PowerPoint 2007 installer can be downloaded here:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=048DC840-14E1-467D-8DCA-19D2A8FD7485&displaylang=en>

And if you don't want to type 108 characters, here's a 24 character URL that will take you to the same page! <http://tinyurl.com/u5bsa>

**Font properties description notes**

(These are the notes embedded in the fonts themselves—though you can't normally read them unless you've installed utility software such as the MS Font Properties Extension. Each is in its own typeface. I've added a string of italics and numerals at the end of each for comparison. Notice that some of these fonts have "old style" numerals. All samples are set in 12 point type except Consolas which is at 9 point.)

**Cambria** has been designed for on-screen reading and to look good when printed at small sizes. It has very even spacing and proportions. Diagonal and vertical hairlines and serifs are relatively strong, while horizontal serifs are small and intend to

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<sup>2</sup> The tonos is the only accent in monotonic (i.e., modern) Greek and it usually has a steeper angle than the acute. There are no other accents and no breathing marks in monotonic Greek.

emphasize stroke endings rather than stand out themselves. This principle is most noticeable in the italics where the lowercase characters are subdued in style to be at their best as elements of word-images. When Cambria is used for captions at sizes over 20 point, the inter-character spacing should be slightly reduced for best results. The design isn't just intended for business documents: The regular weight has been extended with a large set of math and science symbols. The Greek and Cyrillic has been designed under close supervision of an international team of experts, who aimed to set a historical new standard in multi-script type design.

[0123456789; ***Italic face:*** *For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom.*]

**Calibri** is a modern sans serif family with subtle roundings on stems and corners. It features real italics, small caps, and multiple numeral sets. Its proportions allow high impact in tightly set lines of big and small text alike. Calibri's many curves and the new rasteriser team up in bigger sizes to reveal a warm and soft character.

[0123456789; ***Italic face:*** *For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom.*]

**Candara** is a casual humanist sans with verticals showing a graceful entasis on stems, high-branching arcades in the lowercase, large apertures in all open forms, and unique ogee curves on diagonals. The resultant texture is lively but not intrusive, and makes for a friendly and readable text.

[0123456789; ***Italic face:*** *For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom.*]

**Consolas** is aimed for use in programming environments and other circumstances where a monospaced font is specified. All characters have the same width, like old typewriters, making it a good choice for personal and business correspondence. The improved Windows font display allowed a design with proportions closer to normal text than traditional monospaced fonts like Courier. This allows for more comfortably reading of extended text on screen. OpenType features include hanging or lining numerals; slashed, dotted and normal zeros; and alternative shapes for a number of lowercase letters. The look of text can be tuned to personal taste by varying the number of bars and waves.

[0123456789; ***Italic face:*** *For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom.*]

**Constantia** is a modulated wedge-serif typeface designed primarily for continuous text in both electronic and paper publishing. The design responds to the recent narrowing of the gap between screen readability and traditional print media, exploiting specific aspects of the most recent advances in ClearType rendering, such as sub-pixel positioning. The classic proportions of relatively small x-height and long extenders make Constantia ideal for book and journal publishing, while the slight squareness and open counters ensure that it remains legible even at small sizes.

[0123456789; ***Italic face:*** *For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom.*]

**Corbel** is designed to give an uncluttered and clean appearance on screen. The letter forms are open with soft, flowing curves. It is legible, clear and functional at small sizes. At larger sizes the detailing and style of the shapes is more apparent resulting in a modern sans serif type with a wide range of possible uses.

[0123456789; ***Italic face:*** *For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom.*]