

Standard ligatures

The same words twice. Look at the f: with ligatures off its hook runs into the dot of the following i, which is the collision the ligature was drawn to avoid.

DejaVu Sans

office fluffy final waffle

off

office fluffy final waffle

on

26 characters, width 88.76 mm against 88.54 mm

Roboto

office fluffy final waffle

off

office fluffy final waffle

on

26 characters, width 80.03 mm against 78.25 mm

A ligature is not a width

How much narrower each pair becomes, measured at 100 points. Where the figure is zero the ligature is still there - fi and fl in this face are drawn as one glyph that happens to take exactly the room the two letters took. Only the eye sees those; the line breaker cannot.

DejaVu Sans: fi 0.00, fl 0.00, ff 0.53, ffi 0.53, ffl 0.53 mm

Roboto: fi 1.29, fl 0.81, ff 0.00, ffi 3.00, ffl 3.00 mm

The text stays copyable

Select the line below in a reader and copy it: it comes back as six characters, not as four. The ToUnicode map carries the ligature glyph back to the letters it was made from, which is the half of this feature that no one sees and everyone would miss.

office