Forming Conjunct Consonants with Devawriter Pro.

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Devawriter Pro offers two ways in which to enter Sanskrit using the Devanagari abugida:

1. Using halants, or half characters.

This is the way that Sanskrit in Devanagari has been digitised before the advent of **Devawriter Pro**. I have developed **Devawriter Pro** to address this problem.

The **Devawriter** font bundled with **Devawriter Pro** contains a comprehensive bank of Devanagari conjunct characters.

Nevertheless I have included a way to enter text using halants as some people seem to prefer things that way.

2. Using a full complement of Devanagari conjunct consonants.

To illustrate the difference consider the word akṣararam:

Entered using halant characters.

Entered using full conjunct consonants.

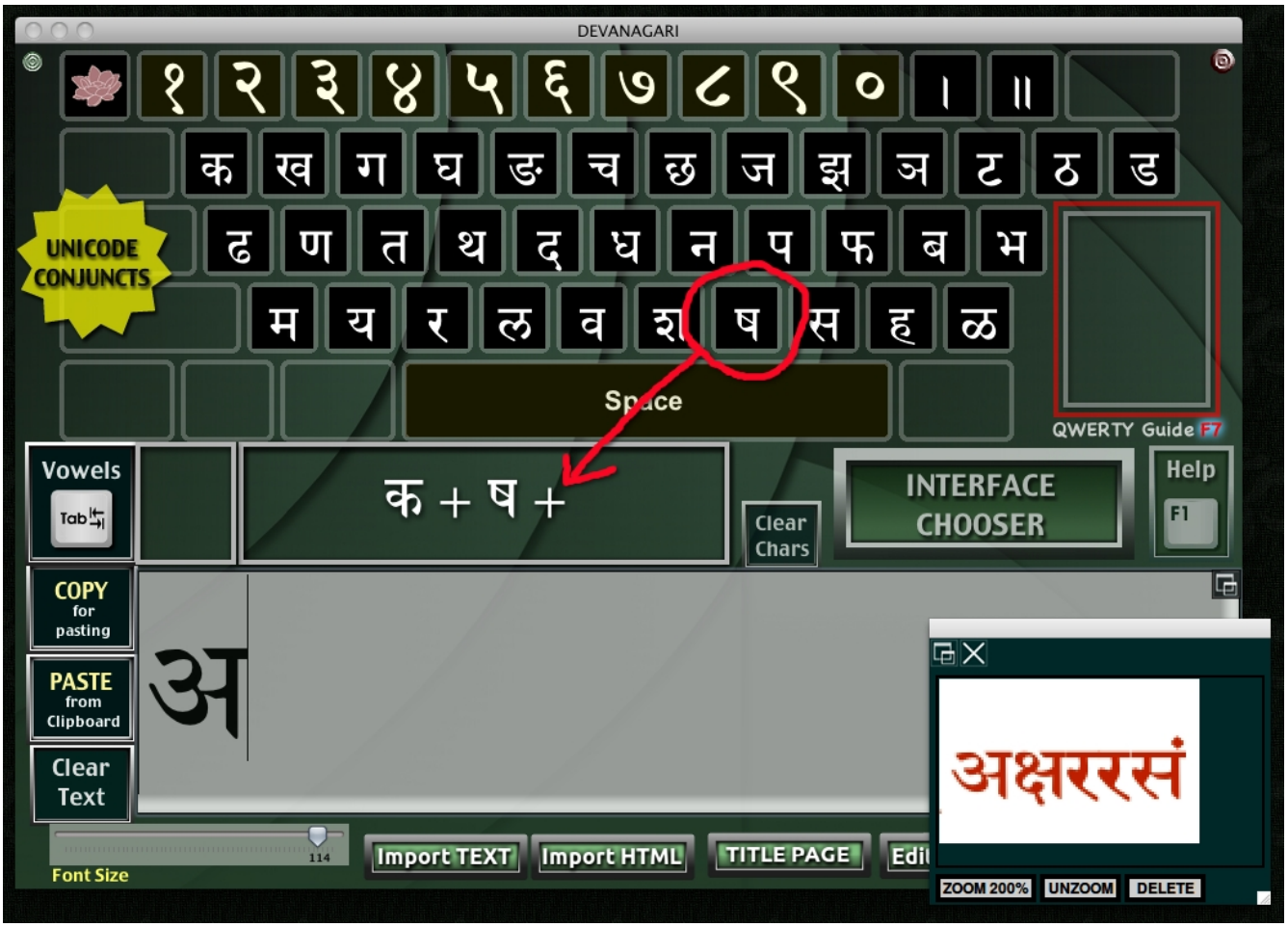
One of the problems of data entry of languages that use a very large number of characters are the limitations imposed by the standard computer keyboard.

Devawriter Pro circumvents this problem by allowing the person inputting text access to the standard base forms and forming conjunct consonants for the user automatically:

Consider the form क्ष

Enter 'ka' [either with a mouse-click onscreen, or via the keyboard], and 'ka'

is entered into the conjunct formation space.



Enter 'şa' [either with a mouse-click onscreen, or via the keyboard], and 'şa' is entered into the conjunct formation space.

As a vowel is not needed after the conjunct [beyond the implicit schwa] a click on the LOTUS key completes the process and the appropriate conjunct consonant is entered into the text area.

A way to avoid having to use the LOTUS key is to hold down the SHIFT key when one enters the last consonant in a conjunct, at which point the conjunct formation takes place without the LOTUS key having to be clicked.

The value of using a system that allows full conjunct consonants can be clearly seen if one examines the following example:

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