All About Fonts

Introduction

Managing, viewing and installing fonts can be daunting. For some, a Font Manager may be the answer, but there may not be one solution for all your needs. Also, fonts may reside in one of several location depending on the source and installation method. All the average user needs to know is in the next section – Summary. However, continue reading the supplemental information for more details.

Summary

1. Adobe Fonts – use fonts.adobe.com to manage your fonts. These can't be managed by any other method.
2. Google Fonts – use fonts.google.com to download fonts. You can add them to the MainType Library to install them. If you do this, the fonts will remain in their original location. You can also right-click to install them and they will be copied to location 6.
3. Downloaded fonts – add them to MainType Library or right-click to install. The locations will be the same as item 2 above.

Everything that follows is supplemental information.

Font Locations

Note – some of these locations might not exist on your system if you haven't used the particular Font Managers.

1. [C:\windows\fonts](). Default location for Windows fonts.
   c:\windows\fonts
2. [C:\users\user\FontBase\Providers\Google](). One location for Google fonts, used by FontBase.
   C:\Users\User\FontBase\Providers\Google
3. [Adobe font cache1](). One location for Adobe fonts.
   C:\Users\User\AppData\Roaming\Adobe\Adobe Photoshop CC 2019\CT Font Cache
4. [Adobe font cache 2](). Second location for Adobe fonts.
   C:\Users\User\AppData\Roaming\Adobe\CoreSync\plugins\livetype\r
5. [SkyFonts folder](). Second location for Google fonts, used by SkyFonts.

6. [Microsoft location](#). Used when adding fonts usingMainType.
   C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Fonts
7. [Extensis suitcase](#).
   C:\Users\User\AppData\Local\Extensis\Suitcase Fusion\Suitcase
   Fusion.fontvault\SA\g\OTTT\--

Where are fonts installed

- Most Windows fonts are in location 1
- Google fonts remain in downloaded folder if installed by MainType. If installed by FontBase, they are in location 2 or if installed with SkyFonts, location 5.
- Windows fonts are installed location 1
- Adobe fonts are in locations 3 and 4 in font caches, not font files.
- FontBase fonts are installed in c:\users\user\fontbase

Managing fonts

- Windows fonts can be managed as follows:
    - Using the Control Panel, Fonts. This doesn't show Adobe fonts.
    - Using Windows Settings under Personalization, Fonts. This is more accurate than the Control Panel and shows Adobe fonts.
    - Using MainType
- Google Fonts
    - Best way is to use MainType. Go to Library, Add Font Folder and choose a folder containing Google Fonts. Next, in MainType click a font to install it.
    - Use the FontBase Program available [here](#) to manage fonts. Be careful with this program since **it's easy to add a bunch of fonts without much effort**.
    - SkyFonts works also. Google fonts installed with this program can be managed by MainType.
- Adobe Fonts
    - These can be managed online at fonts.adobe.com
    - You can also launch the Adobe CC program, select Fonts, then select Manage Fonts. From here you can activate or deactivate fonts. Choose Browse Fonts at the top to find more fonts.
    - They show in MainType but can't be managed since they don't exist as font files but exist in a font cache.

Font Managers

- MainType
  - Shows Adobe fonts but can't manage them. They show under Active Fonts.
  - Can manage Google Fonts if the folder is added to the Library.
- Adobe Creative Cloud Application
  - Shows installed Adobe Fonts
  - Click Manage to manage your active fonts
- Adobe Fonts online
  - Can Activate or Deactivate Fonts [here](#).
  - Show your Active Fonts [here](#).
- Google Fonts
  - Download fonts [here](#).
- FontBase Program
  - Available [here](#).
  - When you install it, the FontBase folder is created under user account.
  - To install more fonts, click Inactive on the left and select any font to install and the font will be installed in the FontBase folder and be available immediately.
  - To deactivate a font, select Active and uncheck the font. They are not deleted from the FontBase folder.
  - You can also add or delete fonts from the FontBase folder or Drag and Drop onto the FontBase program.
- Font Viewer available [here](#).
  - Shows all installed Windows and Adobe fonts, except for Google Fonts
- SkyFonts
  - Available [here](#).
  - Downloaded fonts go to location 5
  - Fonts show in MainType, Word, Photoshop and Windows Settings
- Nexusfont
  - Available for free [here](#). Also has portable version.
  - Manages Google fonts installed by SkyFonts. Doesn't show Adobe fonts.
  - Can export fonts. You can use the portable version on any PC to export fonts.

- Extensis Suitcase
    - Available here for $96 and has a free trial.
    - This program does it all except show a font path, unless you drag and drop the folder into a Temporary Fonts folder. It manages Google fonts, Adobe fonts and can add any font folder. For example, I had to drag and drop location 6 – these showed up as temporary fonts.
    - When you install a downloaded font from DaFont, for example, it shows in MainType but can't be managed unless you drag it into Suitcase's temporary folder.
    - Automatically makes all Google fonts available, all 2536 of them, allowing you to install any of them. They're added to location 7. If you install SkyFonts, those fonts will be available also.
    - Fonts added as Temporary fonts will now show in MainType where you can install or delete them. They are in location 6.

Font File Types
- TrueType (TTF/TTC)
- PostScript Type 1 (PFB/PFM)
- OpenType (OTF)
- Bitmap Fonts (FON)

Recommended Font Programs
1. MainType free version available here.
2. FontBase which is free and available here.
3. SkyFonts which is free and available here.
4. FontExpert, $59, with free 30-day trial available here. This doesn't manage Adobe fonts.
5. Nexusfont free, available here.

Font Sources
1. Google fonts – free.
2. Adobe fonts – free for Creative Cloud subscribers.
3. DaFont.com – free.
4. SkyFonts – free. This is not really needed since it duplicates Google Fonts unless you connect to other font sources which require an account ($$$).

Notes:

1. Fonts from Adobe online may have many font variations. Click the font to check.
2. You can double-click a font to preview it.
3. My PC as of 3/9/2019
   a. No Google fonts
   b. 17 Adobe fonts per Adobe Cloud application
   c. 187 font families according to the Control Panel.
   d. 540 files in the Windows fonts folder. 192 of these are System or .fon fonts leaving 348 fonts.
   e. 186 font families in Windows 10 Settings app and 332 font faces.
   f. 409 Active Fonts and 392 library fonts according to MainType. The difference is the number of installed Adobe fonts.
   g. Windows Registry lists 350 fonts. The location is: HKLM\Software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Fonts
   h. Not sure what all this means, looks like I have approx. 400 fonts installed.
4. Always use a font manager to install fonts. You can't install a font by copying it to the Windows Fonts folder or to any other folder. If you do this, you might not be able to delete the font file unless you use the PowerShell as follows:
   Remove-Item –path c:\windows\fonts\myfont.ttf – force
   I used it without the -force and it worked.
5. You can see a list of Windows 10 default fonts here, includes 56 font families.

Recommendations

1. Downloaded Fonts
   - Maintain a folder called downloaded fonts and add it to the MainType Library. These will go to location 1.
   - If you choose not to use MainType, download these and right-click to install. They will not be managed by MainType. They will be in location 6. If you change your mind, uninstall them using the Windows Settings and reinstall them with MainType.
2. Best Font Manager for the average user
   - MainType free version.
3. Use Windows, Settings, Personalization, Fonts to manage fonts rather than the Windows Control Panel.

4. You don't really need a font manager if you're using Google or Adobe fonts. The same goes for downloading a font periodically.
5. Final recommendations
   - Keep it simple
   - Too many fonts slow your computer