

Do you need a font manager?

It's nice to have a wide variety of typefaces and styles available during the design process. However, on Macintosh and Windows computers, having many fonts installed can result in system-wide problems. For example, the startup time of certain applications can be dramatically slowed. Font menus in your applications can get lengthy, making it time-consuming to scroll to the end of the alphabetical listing to choose "Zapf Dingbats". Having many fonts active increases the chances that you will encounter a corrupt font that makes your entire system unstable.

Font management programs give you the best of both worlds: they allow you to have dozens, hundreds, or thousands of fonts installed, but easily and quickly turn off fonts that you don't need at the moment, and then just as quickly turn them back on when you do need them. You can keep a huge "library" of fonts at your fingertips, but not have them all "active" at once. Fonts become easier to locate in applications, programs launch faster, and system stability is increased.

Some font managers have additional benefits, such as: locating and making

copies of fonts, organizing fonts into categories, locating damaged fonts, displaying a preview of fonts, or printing font specimen sheets.

The three most popular font management programs are Suitcase (www.extensis.com), Adobe Type Manager Deluxe (www.adobe.com), and Font Reserve (www.diamondsoft.com).

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