

# Using and Managing Fonts in Mac OS X

## Quick Tips

### Best Practices for Font Management

For creative professionals who typically use a wide variety of fonts, this QuickTip will help you organize and manage your fonts.

#### Types of fonts

Mac OS X supports several types of fonts including Mac PostScript Type 1, Mac and Windows TrueType, Multiple Master, OpenType and Mac OS X System (dfonts) fonts.

##### ❖ Mac PostScript Type 1

Adobe PostScript fonts launched desktop publishing and are used today by publishers, corporations, and government agencies for high-quality output to laser printers, imagesetters, and platesetters. Each PostScript font requires two files, one for the screen font and one for use by the printer's RIP.

##### ❖ Mac TrueType

Most current RIPs support Mac TrueType fonts, which are typically used in home and office environments. A single file contains both screen and printer font information. Be sure to embed these fonts when making PDFs or PostScript files to avoid problems at the RIP.

##### ❖ Windows TrueType

Same as Mac TrueType, but with a different internal format. The extension is .ttf.

##### ❖ System (dfonts)

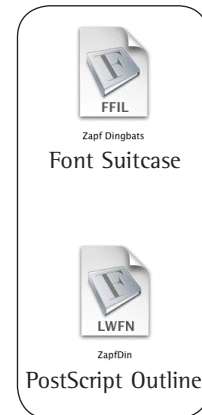
Introduced in Mac OS X, dfonts (Datafork TrueType Font) are specially packaged TrueType fonts that contain information in the data fork instead of in a separate resource fork. Many dfonts are high-quality fonts with extensive glyph sets that designers will love. (Note that applications must support Unicode and be revised to take advantage of these glyph sets.) Some of these names conflict with existing PostScript or TrueType fonts, so you may want to remove the dfonts when you prepare your system.

##### ❖ OpenType

OpenType fonts (extension .otf) can contain 65,000 different glyphs, so type can be set in non-Roman languages such as Japanese, Chinese, and Korean. Some applications, such as TextEdit, Adobe InDesign, and Photoshop, support advanced OpenType layout Unicode; other applications get only the basic MacRoman character set from OpenType fonts, and would have to be revised to take advantage of Unicode and advanced OpenType typography.

##### ❖ Multiple Master

This special PostScript font allows variation of one or more font parameters (such as weight) to create a large number of custom styles, also known as instances. Mac OS X v10.2 and later can activate already created instances of this font.



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### Location, Location, Location

In Mac OS X, fonts can be typically found in several locations. These fonts are always on and available to all applications. Mac OS X recognizes fonts in the folders listed below. Duplicate fonts are resolved based on where they are installed, in the order listed in Table 1 below. When a duplicate is found, it only acknowledges the existence of the first duplicate.

Mac OS X Recognized Font Folders (in the following order)	
/Users/<your username>/Library/Fonts	
/Library/Fonts	
/System/Library/Fonts	(Mac OS X System Folder)
/System Folder/Fonts	(Mac OS 9 System Folder)
/Library/Application Support	

Table 1: Fonts Locations

### Removing Nonessential Fonts

To prepare your system for the strict font requirements of design and production, remove all nonessential fonts from the folders listed above and then activate the fonts as you need them using a font management application like Suitcase, Font Reserve, Font Book, MasterJuggler or FontAgent Pro.

You can remove nonessential fonts manually or by using one of the font management applications mentioned above.

### Removing fonts in Mac OS X

In Mac OS X, five fonts are installed in System/Library/Fonts that you may want to replace with your PostScript version of the fonts. The five fonts are: Courier.dfont, Helvetica.dfont, Times.dfont, Symbol.dfont and Zapf Dingbats.dfont.

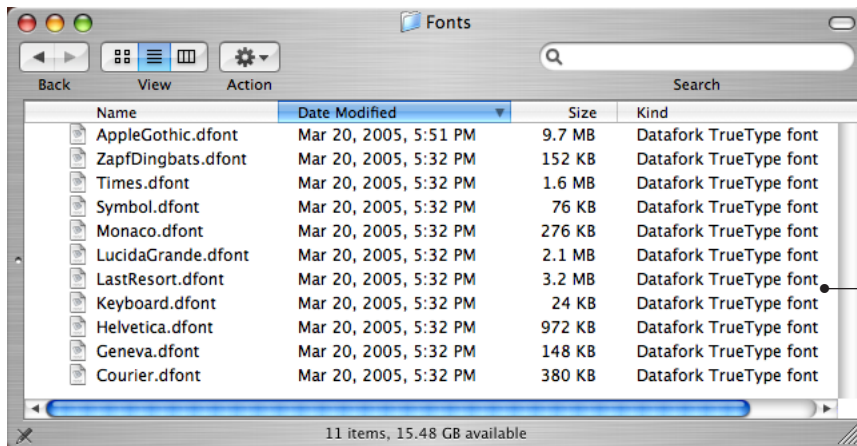


Figure 1: System Folder/Fonts (Mac OS 10.4.3)

### Fonts and Applications

Some applications (Microsoft Internet Explorer, Microsoft Office) add fonts at will to the Fonts folder. If you run Internet Explorer in Classic, you might want to take the fonts it installs, put them in a separate folder outside the Fonts folder, and activate that folder as a set in your favorite font manager.

### Keeping your preferred Helvetica and Helvetica Neue fonts active

Some Mac OS X functions require that Helvetica and Helvetica Neue be active. They include the Sound preference pane, TextEdit, Mail, iCal, and certain third-party menu bar items. If you use these regularly, as soon as you remove Helvetica from the system, activate a version of Helvetica and Helvetica Neue in your font manager of choice or in your user folder. It doesn't matter what font format (TrueType, OpenType, or PostScript) you use.

Essential fonts  
Mac OS X (10.4.3)

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### Removing fonts in Classic

Remember that the System Folder in Classic supports applications that aren't yet built for Mac OS X. But all applications, even Mac OS X applications, can see fonts located in the Classic System Folder.

To deactivate fonts with names that conflict with fonts you're going to be using in production, open the Fonts folder in your Classic System Folder. The fonts that are commonly removed are **Courier, Helvetica, Times, Symbol, and Zapf Dingbats**. Just make sure you leave the fonts shown in Figure 2; otherwise some of your Classic applications may not work correctly. Store the fonts you remove in a safe place, such as a new folder named “/System/Folder/Fonts\_Removed” in your Classic System Folder.

### Name conflicts in Classic

If you manage fonts by putting them in the Classic Fonts folder, watch out for name conflicts with fonts in higher-priority folders (see page 1). For example, a PostScript version of Helvetica installed in the Classic Fonts folder works fine for Classic applications, but is overridden by Helvetica that's in the System/Library/Fonts for all Mac OS X applications.

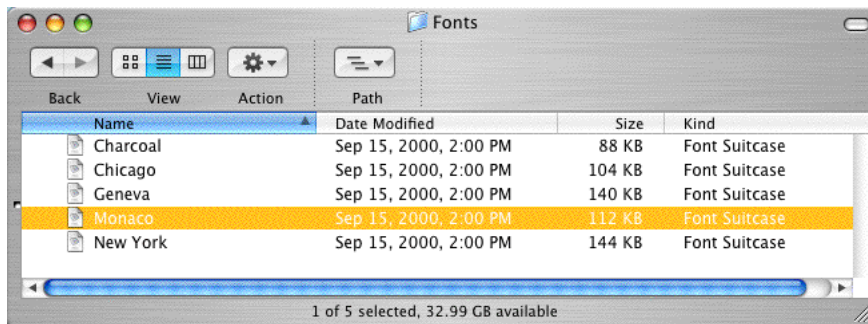


Figure 2  
System Folder/Fonts

### Font Corruption

In Mac OS 9, if two fonts had the same internal ID number, the Mac OS renumbered one to avoid conflicts. As a result, sometimes a font file became corrupted, triggering application and system crashes.

Mac OS X doesn't try to alter fonts, so the chances of a font file becoming corrupted are almost nonexistent.

### Font Rendering in Classic

Classic applications with PostScript fonts, require ATM Light version 4.6.2 or later. This is a free download from Adobe at [www.adobe.com/support/downloads](http://www.adobe.com/support/downloads).

### Technical Support

If you have any questions, please contact James Wamser (262) 317-8272 ([wamser@sells.com](mailto:wamser@sells.com))

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### Font Finagler

If you're having font problems, it could be caused by corrupt font cache files. What could be happening is that incorrect or corrupted encoding vector information is being used when mapping the character codes as input by your keyboard to the glyphs they represent in the problematic font. You can run Font Finagler to purge these cache files in an attempt to restore normal behavior. If you use Font Finagler but the problem remains, then it could be caused by a font conflict or by a corrupt font. Try removing fonts to isolate the problematic fonts that are causing this behavior.

Now would be a good time to quit out of any other applications, since Font Finagler will require an immediate restart. Click "Inspect Font Cache Files" button to continue with the font cache-purging procedure. Click "Clean Font Cache Files" then click "Clear". If Font Cache Finagler was successful, you'll see a dialog to that fact, and a button to issue the immediate restart.

Font Cache Cleaner can be found at:  
<http://homepage.mac.com/mdouma46/fontfinagler/>

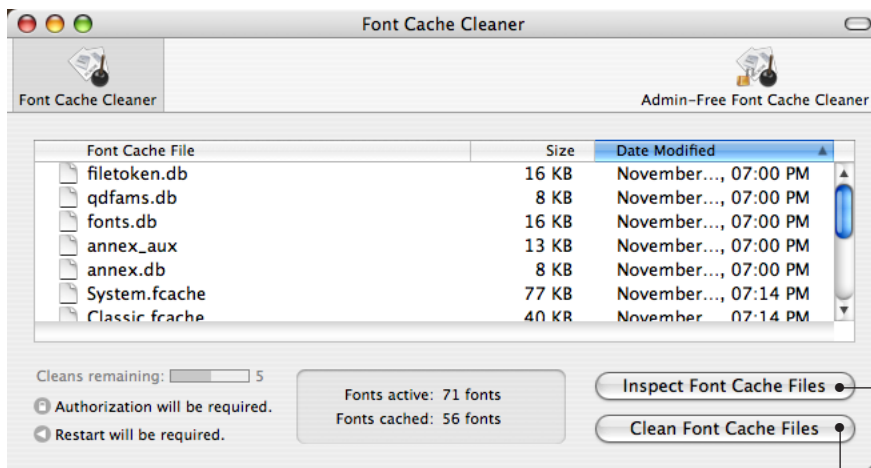
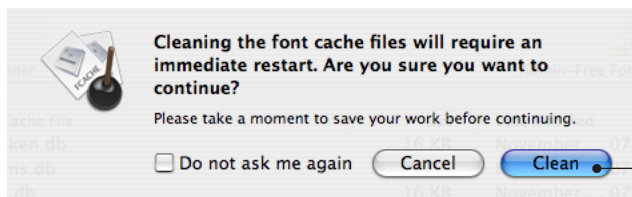


Figure 3

Click here to Inspect your Font Cache Files

Click here to Clean the Cache Files



Click the Clean button

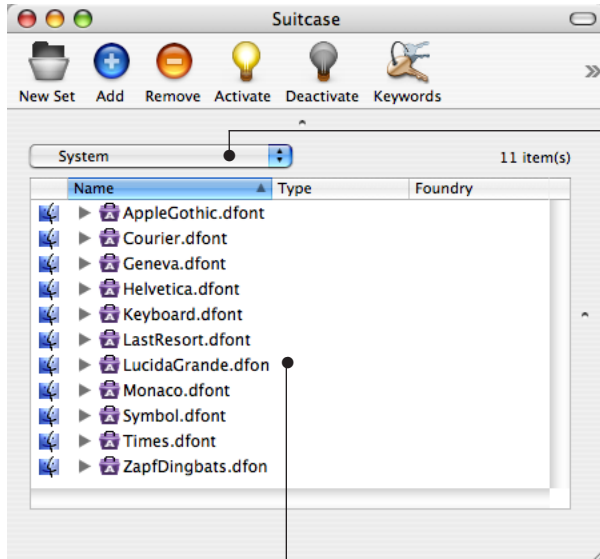
Figure 4

# Using and Managing Fonts in Mac OS X

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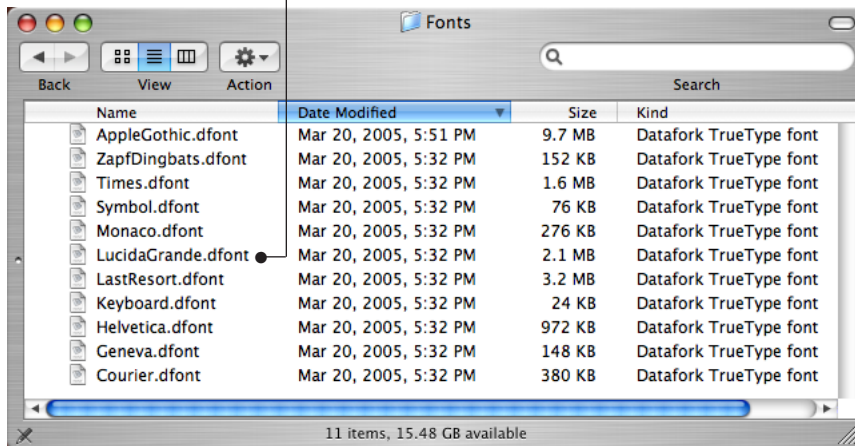
### Extensis Suitcase

Activate fonts as you need them using an application like Suitcase, Font Reserve, Font Book, MasterJuggler or FontAgent Pro.



System (Mac OS X) Fonts selected from the pop-up menu

**Caution:** We have experienced problems, at times, when the Preview Pane in Suitcase is open.



All Nonessential Fonts have been removed from the Mac OS X System Folder.

(System/Library/Fonts)