



Font memories

It's not goodbye but *au revoir* to too many TrueType files — they can slow things down. Panicos Georgiades and Gabriel Jacobs show you how to group fonts for specific jobs.

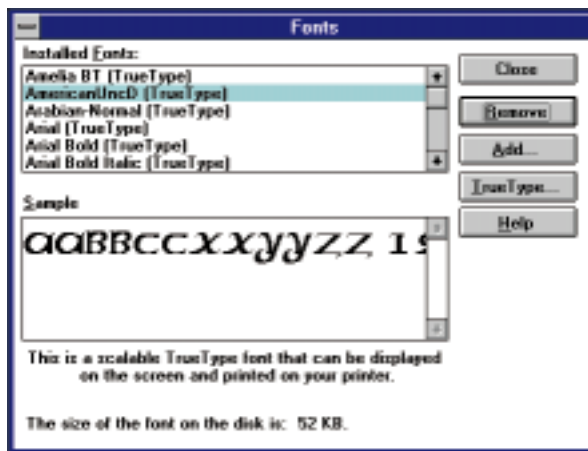
Windows, and most of its applications, copy and store TrueType font files to the Windows\System subdirectory. But having lots of fonts installed (more than 100, say) can slow things down. So, it is a good idea to keep groups of fonts dedicated to different jobs in separate directories, and to edit the [Fonts] section of your win.ini file to keep only those fonts you need for a particular job, by adding or subtracting groups of entries.

Suppose you want to manage three groups of fonts: one for everyday use, the other two for projects on which you work only occasionally. Keep the everyday ones in the Windows\System subdirectory, create two other directories (for instance, Project1 and Project2) and install the fonts as necessary.

To move the currently installed TrueType fonts to a directory other than the default Windows\System subdirectory, open the Fonts icon in the Control Panel. Select all the TrueType fonts you want to move and then choose the Remove button.

The Remove Font window will ask for confirmation about deleting each TrueType font. Make sure that the Delete Font File From Disk check box is *not* checked, and then choose the Yes button — in other words, remove the fonts from the installation, but not from the hard disk (Figs 1 & 2).

Next, from File Manager move all the .TTF files, of those fonts you want moved, to the two directories (Project1 and



Figs 1 & 2

Remove fonts but do *not* delete them from the disk



Using an editor such as Notepad (run two instances) you can cut out and save to two separate files (say, project1.txt and project2.txt) the group of entries referring to the fonts in the two different directories. This will leave your win.ini with only the fonts for normal use. Each time you want to use the special fonts, all you need do is edit win.ini and paste in the lines you have previously cut out.

Project2). Restart Windows, and from the Fonts icon in Control Panel choose the Add button. Specify the c:\project1 directory from the bottom of the Add Fonts dialogue box. Windows will begin retrieving all the font names from that directory (Fig 3).

Disable the Copy Fonts to Windows Directory option by clearing the check box at the bottom of the Add Fonts dialog box, choose the Select All button, then OK. Do the same for the Project2 directory fonts and restart Windows.

The [Fonts] section in your win.ini will still contain entries which will refer to .FOT font files in the Windows\System subdirectory, even though the .TTF files (the largest in size) are now in the Project1 and Project2 directories.

Question time

Q. *"Is there definitive literature on Windows for Workgroups 3.11 that explains the meaning of all valid entries in the system.ini and win.ini files, the relationship of these files and their entries in the registry and the software that may have caused the entries? I ask this with a view to removing any which are not required."*

"In my win.ini file I have the title [wt4gpi8s56bz]. This precedes a selection of font types which are repeated in the section titled [fonts]. In my system.ini file under [386ENH] I have the following three entries:

*COM1AUTOASSIGN=
COM2AUTOASSIGN=
LPT1AUTOASSIGN=*



Fig 3 Re-install the fonts but do not copy them to the Windows directory

"What are the valid parameters?"

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The COM1AutoAssign= and COM2AutoAssign= lines indicate how Windows will treat requests for the use of your communications ports by more than one application if one of them is a non-Windows application.

A value of 0 means that any application can use the port at any time. A value of -1 means you will get a message asking you which application should be given control of the port.

The value of a positive number up to 1,000 represents the number of seconds after an application stops using the port before another application can use it (the

Calendar tricks

Many people use Windows Calendar as a simple alternative to Lotus Organizer and its ilk. Unfortunately, it is very limited. For example, it will not allow you to print the Month View grid. However, it is possible to do this by pressing Alt +PrtScr to capture the grid to the Clipboard, opening Paintbrush or any similar program, pasting the picture, and printing it (Figs 4 & 5). Or, Calendar will print only appointment times if there's an entry. So, to print blank entries, simply enter a space on the relevant time line(s). By the way, put Calendar first in the Startup group, and you see immediately what you've got on that day as you boot up.

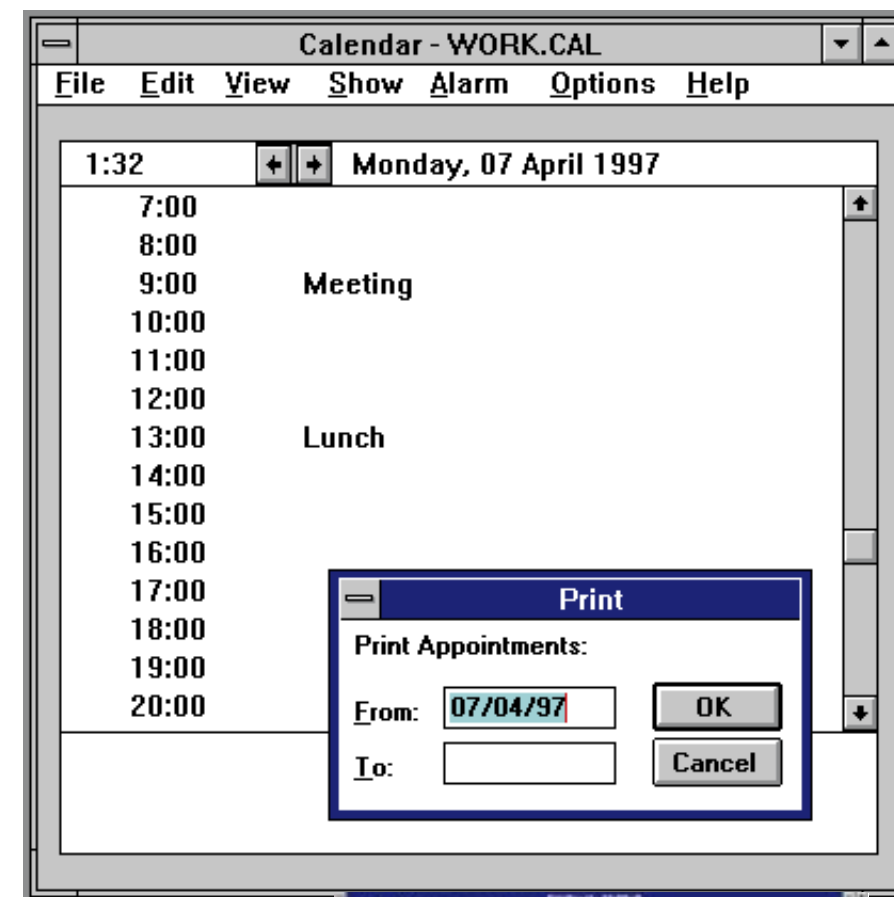
A. The [wt4gpi8s56bz] section in your win.ini is the remainder of an aborted or failed upgrade session.

During an upgrade session (say from Windows 3.0 to 3.1 or 3.11) the first part of the Windows Setup disables certain Windows components: namely all fonts except the system, fixed pitch, and OEM fonts, the Shell (Program Manager, Norton Desktop for Windows, and so on), the desktop bitmap, screensavers, Task Manager and installable drivers loaded through the Drivers= line in the system.ini file. These components are to be replaced by the new version's components so that they don't interfere with the upgrade process.

If the Setup process is interrupted before the Windows graphical user interface mode portion has been completed, some or all of the above items may not be properly re-enabled. Fonts are disabled by renaming the [Fonts] section in the win.ini file to [wt4gpi8s56bz].

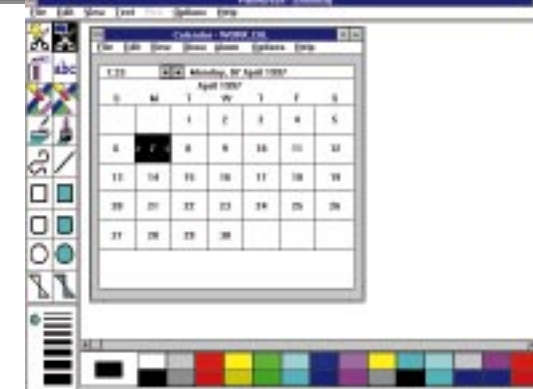
Setup can encounter problems with re-enabling the old fonts if the system memory is very low or if two aborted installations have occurred. If there is a problem, Setup will display a message box telling you that trouble was encountered when restoring the previously installed fonts and that the [Fonts] and [wt4gpi8s56bz] sections must be merged by hand. So to do this:

1. Open win.ini using Notepad.
2. Delete any line from the [wt4gpi8s56bz] section that is duplicated in the [Fonts] section.
3. Append the contents of the [wt4gpi8s56bz] section to the [Fonts] section.
4. Delete the [wt4gpi8s56bz] section.



Figs 4 & 5

To print the month view of the Calendar, copy the screen and paste into Paintbrush



Sound Recorder

Sound Recorder is a free Windows accessory for playing, editing and recording sound files, although for recording you need a sound card and device drivers (to be installed in the Drivers section of the Control Panel). It's designed for small voice message files you would usually attach to documents, as opposed to long pieces of music. For this reason, it has a maximum default recording time of 60 seconds, but you can increase this time using this technique: Record for the 60-second duration and Save As using any name, say "empty.wav". Next,

choose Insert File from the Edit menu, and select empty.wav. This increases the recording duration to 120 seconds. You can repeat the process as many times as you like, to increase the recording time, until there's not enough memory to continue.



default is 2). To change a value, use the 386 Enhanced icon in the Control Panel.

The LPT1AutoAssign= entry is for your printer port and applies only to Windows 3.0. As in your case, although it may still appear in the system.ini after an upgrade, it will have no effect.

Template time

"Regarding your 'Step-by-Step Guide to creating Write Templates' [PCW, April]: Although you are correct about using templates — and also probably following Microsoft's 'right way to do things' — when creating templates from Word or any other application, you can get away with just putting the path and filename of the template. Provided the file type is registered in File Manager, the relevant application will automatically be launched.

"I know this saves very little time compared with using a template but I had never thought of doing it the way you suggested. However, doing it in the way I have mentioned above has never been any trouble to me. Well, it takes different strokes, doesn't it?"

Justin

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Yes, this will work fine for the example we gave about using templates with Windows Write (as well as with lots of other

programs). But be careful with templates that involve file types which can be associated with different programs; usually images (BMP, PCX etc. and files like TXT and DOC). New applications you install have a tendency to associate files to themselves.

Quick switch

"Having read your column about booting Windows 95 and MSDOS off the same hard drive [PCW, March], I thought I should mention that there is an easier way to switch back to DOS on booting.

"In your article, you mentioned pressing F8, then going to option 8. Instead of pressing F8, try pressing F4 and it will perform these two steps in one."

Chris Beaumont

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Thanks, Chris. This undocumented option is what was used in the beta release of Windows 95 and it still works, provided you don't want to access any of the additional Start options available with F8.

PCW Contacts

If you have any queries or Win3.1-related topics to discuss, contact **Panicos Georgiades** and **Gabriel Jacobs** at Win3@pcw.vnu.co.uk.