

Welcome

Thank you for trying *Font Xplorer Lite* - limited free version of our full-featured font viewer/manager *Font Xplorer*.

You can navigate through all topics by pressing the << and >> buttons above this help text. If you followed a jump to new topic, use the *Back* button to get back to the previous one that contained the jump.

Sometimes there are menu choices referenced in the help text. If you see something like (**View -> User Text**), it means that in order to run the command the topic talks about you must choose the **User Text** command from the **View** menu.

There are some images that guide you to important stuff:



points to an important note



points to a tip



points to a warning

Also, this help file lists only those shortcut (accelerator) keys that are not visible in menus. The best way to learn shortcut keys is to look at the menu commands and note the shortcuts available. By using shortcuts you can dramatically improve your working speed.

Have fun!

Moon Software team

Introduction

Font Explorer Lite contains only little subset of *Font Explorer's* functionality but it is still fully functional font viewer program with the following major features:

- You see how each installed font looks, so it's very easy to compare fonts
- Unload, uninstall, copy, move, delete fonts
- Print character map of selected font
- Save bitmap sample of selected font
- View comprehensive information about selected font (full name, copyright, embedding info, available character sets, installation status etc.)
- Advanced, resizable character map that displays all font's scripts, so you can see characters present in Cyrillic and other scripts, if available in font
- Filter fonts by character set, so you can only see symbol fonts or fonts containing full Cyrillic character set for example
- Integrated *Repair Wizard* will solve most common problems with fonts

Basics

When you run *Font Explorer*, you'll see a list of fonts that are installed (actually loaded) in your system. Each font is drawn with its own face so you can very easily choose the best font for your task. That way, you'll have a complete overview of fonts available in your system or in a disk folder. You can change the size of the fonts displayed (**View -> Font Size**), toggle the display of font names (**View -> Font names**), or only display fonts that have a specific character set (**Filter -> Character Set**) etc. This last mode is very useful if you want to see only symbol fonts for example, or all fonts that contain cyrillic characters...

By right-clicking on the font list, the font context-menu is displayed. This menu contains some useful commands that allow you to manipulate selected font(s). Try right-clicking any object since many objects have a special context-menu that lists commands available for that object.

To refresh the font listing use the **Refresh** command in the **View** menu.

Please see the following topics for a detailed description of the functionality of *Font Explorer*.

Moving Around

You can navigate through the list of fonts with the arrow keys. This is an ordinary Windows list box where up and down arrows move to the previous/next font. **Home** moves to the top and **End** moves to the end of the listing. In addition, if you want to jump directly to a font that starts with a specified letter, just press that character key on the keyboard. Press it again and the next font that starts with this character will be selected. For example if you are on the top of the list, but want to jump to fonts whose name starts with T, just press the T key on keyboard and you are there.

- ▶ To find the previous/next checked font use **Ctrl+Up / Down**
- ▶ To scroll a whole page at a time use **Page Up/Page Down**
- ▶ For fast scrolling, you can hold down the **Ctrl** key when dragging the scroll bar. Fonts will then not be drawn on the list during scrolling; instead, you'll see a tooltip with the current topmost font name.

Character Map

Font Xplorer has a very cool *Character Map* (**View -> Character Map**). You can also display it by double-clicking on a font file in the listing (if you have not changed this default behavior from Options). What makes it different from other character maps is that it is fully resizeable and can display characters from any script that font contains. That way you can display, for example, extended cyrillic characters. This is not possible with the *Windows Character Map* or with most competitive products.

- ▶ To add a character into copy area with the mouse, hold down the **Ctrl** key when clicking on the character or press the **Spacebar** key.
- ▶ You can use the **Backspace** key to remove characters from the copy area one by one (you don't need to activate the text box first!).
- ▶ You can use the **Enter** key to toggle between the *Font Xplorer* main window and the *Character Map*.
- ▶ By right-clicking on the character map area, you can display a popup menu that has additional commands, like copying selected symbol to the *Windows* clipboard in different formats, etc.

Displaying Font Information

The *Font info panel* displays useful info (font full name, copyright, version, available scripts, installation status etc.) about an activated font.

▶ To show/hide the font information window choose the **Font Information** command from the **View** menu.

👉 You can also toggle this mode with the mouse, if you hold down the first mouse button while you press the right mouse button on a font listing.

Character Sets

Sometimes you may want to display only symbol fonts or fonts that contain Cyrillic or Greek characters. For this, *Font Xplorer* has a feature that allows you to display only loaded fonts that include a specified character set.

▶ Open the **Character Set** submenu from the **Filter** menu. Choose a character set. The name of the currently active character set filter is visible on the status bar and *Font Xplorer* displays only fonts that contain selected character set.

▶ Alternately, you can change the character set filter by clicking on the status bar, where the active character set filter name is displayed. This displays the same **Charset** submenu.

If character set filter is active then *Font Xplorer* window caption ends with the * symbol.

 This feature lists only fonts that actually have character set info embedded for the chosen character set (i.e. that character set is supported by this font). For example some Hebrew fonts are symbol fonts and have no character set info. Those fonts will not show up in the filtered listing.

Printing

Font Xplorer allows you to print your fonts in sample sheets. There are several pre-designed sample sheets available; you only have to select the font(s) you want to print and invoke the printing command.

1. Select one or more fonts you want print. If you want to print all listed fonts, you don't need to select anything.
2. Choose the **Print** command from the **Font** menu. The Print dialog is displayed.
3. Choose the sheet type you want to print from the right pane. You'll see its description on info labels.
4. From the *Options* tab, you can set several printing options such as margins, number of copies, sample text and more.
5. Set your printer options by pressing the **Printer** button. Set page orientation to portrait and size to *A4* or *Letter*.
6. Press the **OK** to start printing.

Font Management

Font Xplorer makes font management a snap since you can see what each font looks like. The basics of font/file management are very easy:

First you should select font of interest, then:

- ▶ To delete the selected font(s) choose the **Delete** command from the **Font** menu. You can also press the **Delete** key on keyboard.
 - ▶ To copy or move selected the selected font(s) choose the **Copy to** or **Move to** command from the **Font** menu. This displays a submenu that contains your favorite "copy-to" folders (called Destinations) plus a command called **Browse for Folder** that allows you to browse to a destination folder if the folder you want to copy/move files to is not listed in the submenu. You can use the *Destinations* tab in the Options window to edit your destination folders that appear in the submenu.
 - ▶ To load/install/unload and uninstall selected font(s) choose the appropriate command from the **Font** menu. See the special Installing Fonts topic that discusses these procedures further.
-  If you right-click on the font listing, a popup menu will be displayed which contains the most often used font management commands.
-  *Font Xplorer* is smart enough to save you from tasks like uninstalling a font before deletion, etc., so that you can dedicate yourself to your project without worrying about extra stuff.

Installing & Uninstalling Fonts

Font Explorer has several functions that enable you to install/uninstall fonts. Here we discuss the purpose of each one. Before we continue, you should read the [Loading vs Installing Explained](#) topic that tells you what exactly we mean by "loading" or "installing" a font. **To make things easier to read, we will use "installing" to refer to the installing/loading/uninstalling/unloading procedure.**

▶ If you want to install a few fonts, you can select the fonts you want to install and choose the ***Install Font*** command from the ***Font*** menu or from the popup menu that appears if you right-click on the font list.

▶ If you want to install all fonts in a disk folder, you can select all fonts in the list and use the method above, but it is much easier to use the ***Install Font (by Folder)*** command from the ***Tools*** menu. This displays the standard *Browse for Folder* window that allows you to pick a folder that contains the fonts you want to install. The rest is done automatically by *Font Explorer*.

Options

You can customize *Font Explorer* in several ways through the *Options* dialog.

▶ To display the *Options* dialog use the **Options** command from the **Tools** menu.

The *Options* dialog consists of several tabs:

General - contains settings to alter look and behavior of the program

Destinations - lists folders you use most frequently as copy/move targets. If you have certain folders that you copy/move files to often, put them into this list. Then, they will appear under the *Copy to/Move to* menus for quick access. This avoids browsing for the same folders over and over if you want to copy/move fonts.

▶ You can return to the "factory settings" any time by pressing the **Defaults** button in the *Options* dialog. You can experiment with different settings to see how they affect the program and return to default settings at anytime.

Save Image

The *Save Image* tool can generate a graphics image (bitmap file, BMP) with a font sample text. The sample image generated can look like this:

Avant Garde Medium Oblique BT - D:\FONTS\AVANTG~2.TTF

AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJj

1234567890!?

The brown cat jumps over the lazy dog

▶ If you want to save images of selected font(s), use the **Save Image** command in the **Font** menu.

You can change colors, alignment, margins, text that is displayed and much more. Since this tool is used mostly by advanced users, we don't provide descriptions of all controls in this window. The best way to learn how changing the options affects the final result is to switch on live preview mode (press the **Preview** button). Now you see all changes in preview window.

You can use variables in text areas. This allows you to use real font names, file names and other info in your text.

▶ Please note that the final image(s) will be saved according to your instructions on the *Output Folder & Naming* tab.

▶ Existing image files with the same names will be overwritten without warning.

▶ You can restore the default text and background color by right-clicking on the color buttons with the mouse.

Repair Wizard

Repair Wizard (**Tools** -> **Repair Wizard**) helps you resolve many common font problems. It will scan the *Windows* registry for invalid font entries and can also restore the "magic" of the *Windows* system fonts folder.

Loading vs Installing Explained

You may wonder what the difference is between "loading a font" and "installing a font". While different programs may use different terms for these actions, in Font Xplorer they mean the following:

Loading

Loads font into the *Windows* font table but does not make it available permanently. A loaded font is available to programs only until the current *Windows* session ends or until you manually unload it (whichever comes first). By loading a font, you usually make it available for specific job. For example, if you need a special font only for one document: then usually you won't have it installed all the time. But if you need to work with this document, you can load this font, and unload it when you are done (you don't have to unload, it will not be loaded on next windows session).

Unloading

Unloading fonts means removing fonts from *Windows* font table so they cannot be used in programs any more. If the font is permanently installed (see below) and you unload it, it will be available if you load it again or after you restart *Windows*.

Installing or permanently installing

Loading + adding a font reference to the *Windows* registry so the font will be available now and after *Windows* is restarted. That is usually what you want to do. *Windows*, then at startup, automatically loads all fonts that are listed in the registry.

Uninstalling

Means completely removing a font from the font table (unloading) and from the registry so it will not be available any more. After uninstalling a font, you cannot use it until you install or load it again. The font file itself is not deleted (if you don't choose to do this specifically).

► Some *Windows* versions do not allow you to unload fonts that reside in the system fonts folder (usually C:\Windows\Fonts). You can uninstall them (they still will be displayed but are actually uninstalled) and then they will not be loaded in next *Windows* session.

Limitations

User limitations

The *Windows* operating system has some significant font limitations. When *Windows 95* first hit the market, we were told that there is no limit to the number of fonts that can be installed. But actually, there is, and the limit is quite low; you can have only around 1000 fonts loaded. Some may say that this is enough. It is if your fonts are well organized and you load them when needed, but the problem is that there is no exact limit to the number of fonts; it depends on the size of font file names. The total size of font file names with path cannot exceed 10 KB. That means the shorter your font folder names and font names are, the more fonts you can have installed. This also applies to *Windows 98*. See *Microsoft Knowledge Base article Q131943* for more info on this matter...

This limitation also limits *Font Explorer*. *Font Explorer* is designed so that you can see all fonts drawn with their own face. When you browse disk fonts, *Font Explorer* will load all the fonts before it can display them. If a folder contains many fonts, that may become impossible due to the *Windows* font limit. *Font Explorer* tries to detect this problem and will warn you with an error message.

We suggest that you do not keep more than 250 fonts in each folder. If you have more, it may be impossible to display disk fonts if you also have a large number of fonts installed in the system. Remember, if you already have 800 fonts permanently installed then you only have about 100-200 free places. So if one of your disk folders contains more than that, you are in trouble (fonts will be drawn using wrong face and any kind of other font problems).

Developer limitations

From a developer's perspective there are some problematic issues involved in writing a program like *Font Explorer* because the operating system doesn't provide enough information about fonts. *Windows* reference counts font resources, but there is not a documented way to find out how many times a font is loaded. For example to unload a font, it's reference count must be zero. If a font is loaded 3 times by different programs and *Font Explorer* tries to unload it, it is possible that the font will not be unloaded since other programs have loaded it too. There are workarounds for this, but, unfortunately, there may be times where those tweaks do not work perfectly.

Registry

All installed fonts are listed in the *Windows* registry so the operating system will know which fonts it should load on the next startup. Each registry key consists of the font name and font file name. *Windows Software Development Kit (SDK)* specifies that font entries in the registry for TrueType fonts should be in the following form:

```
Font full name (TrueType) = font file name
```

e.g

```
Arial Bold Italic (TrueType) = arialbi.ttf
```

Unfortunately, there are some applications that write the wrong data to the registry when they install fonts. Some apps write "True Type" instead of "TrueType"; some don't write "TrueType" at all, only the font name etc. This makes it very difficult to check if fonts are permanently installed or not (listed in the registry). To do this we need to construct a string containing font name and appending phrase "(TrueType)" to it. Then we check to see if that key exists. But if another program has written the key in a different, non-standard, form, it becomes very difficult, since we cannot guess all the possible ways programs can write font entries. So, that all means that sometimes *Font Explorer* may give wrong information about font installation status (especially if you have used different utilities to install fonts).

Additionally it seems that it's impossible to unload fonts that are installed from *Windows* system fonts folder (especially under *Windows 98*)

Troubleshooting

This topic contains some suggestions and useful info on how to avoid font problems in your PC.

To avoid problems install only 500 fonts maximum. Please see the [Limitations](#) topic about *Windows* font limitations. You can [load and unload](#) fonts dynamically if you need them, so there is no real need to keep fonts you don't use installed.

Don't touch the symbol font named **Marlett**. That font is used by *Windows* to draw parts of screen elements, like images on buttons that you see in upper left corner of each window, scrollbar thumb triangles and so on. If you uninstall or delete it, your screen will become unreadable. If that has already happened to you then, you just need to reinstall the font.

If you start getting weird font related problems, run the *Font Explorer Repair Wizard*. It is able to correct most simple font related problems. If a font start to draw with another font's face, then the *Rebuild Font Cache* option in *Repair Wizard* will probably help.

If you want to run the *Windows Font Viewer* application by double-clicking on a font file but nothing happens, then you probably have reached the *Windows font limit*. *Font Viewer* needs to temporarily load the font for viewing but is unable to do so. For some odd reason, it does not display any error messages; it just won't run. You need to uninstall a few hundred of fonts.

► If you have problems that you cannot resolve using *Font Explorer* and this help file, you can [e-mail tech support](#). Please paste your system info (**Help -> Copy System Info**) into your e-mail message along with your problem description. Be as detailed as possible with your problem description and reproduce any error messages you get and/or exact steps necessary to recreate the problem.

See also [Printing Problems](#) topic.

Printing Problems

Every kind of printing depends of the quality of the printer driver. If you have a good driver, you can get nice printouts, but if you have poor driver, you may have a lot of problems. Usually printer drivers have many options that you can set from the *Control Panel* or directly from *Printer Setup* in a print dialog. We suggest you play with different settings to see how they affect printing time and output quality. Here are few tips that may help you to get better printouts.

If there is option named something like "Use Printer Fonts," don't use it. Printer fonts may be slightly different than screen fonts, so if you print sample sheets using printer fonts, you may see different output than what you see on screen. Also, the printer character table may contain some symbols that are not actually available in *TrueType* fonts and vice versa.

If parts of an image are missing from the printout and you have option to send the image to the printer in either bitmap or vector form, use the bitmap option. This usually makes printing a lot faster and saves you from many problems that may appear when printing complex images. However, this may also require you to have a lot of memory installed in your printer.

Uninstalling

Removing *Font Explorer* from your system is very easy. This will remove the program files from your hard disk as well as the settings from the registry:

1. Click here  to open the *Control Panel's Add/Remove Programs* applet.
2. Find the *Font Explorer* entry in the list and select it.
3. Note step 4 and then close this help file. Otherwise the uninstaller cannot delete it from your system.
4. Press the *Add/Remove* button to start removing the application and follow the instructions on the screen.

How To Buy

Prices

Please note: Latest prices are listed in our [web site](#), prices listed here are guaranteed until December 31, 1999.

All our software products come with unconditional 30-day money back guarantee!

Products are distributed electronically - after your payment is confirmed, you can download full version of purchased software from our web site. That also means you do not receive diskette or printed manuals (you can copy the downloaded file to a diskette if you wish, also you can print out online help if you prefer printed documentation).

single user license	\$19.95
3-user license	\$49
5-user license	\$89
10-user license	\$159
site license*	\$399

(* Site license covers a single organization in one place (building complex). If you buy a site license, you may use the program in unlimited number of computers in your company within this area.

Prices are subject to change.

How to Order

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FontLoader

FontLoader's shell context-menu extension allows users to load/unload/install and uninstall fonts directly by right-clicking on a font file or folder containing fonts in the *Windows Explorer*, avoiding the painful font installation routine that *Windows* offers by default. Also, *FontLoader* makes it easy to load/unload/install or uninstall font groups. Users can build their own font groups to load on demand by just clicking on the program icon in the system tray area near the clock.

FontLoader is small (optional resident group loader is only around 70 KB file) and fast. It doesn't eat your system resources and it doesn't need additional runtime files. *FontLoader* works with *True Type* fonts only.

Yes we wrote it, so it is designed to work hand in hand with *Font Explorer*. For more info about *FontLoader* and other software by *Moon Software* point your web browser to our [homepage](#).

Other Font Utilities

Font properties extension from Microsoft (freeware)

If you right click on a font file in Windows 95, Windows 98 or Windows NT, its basic properties are displayed. This extension adds several new property tabs to this properties dialog box. These include information relating to font origination and copyright, the type sizes to which hinting and smoothing are applied, and the code pages supported by extended character sets. Useful tool and highly recommended.

Click [here](#) to display the Internet homepage where you can download this utility.

Windows 95 font smoother from Microsoft (freeware)

Font smoothing is one of several system enhancements originally included in the Plus! pack for Windows 95. Now you can make full use of the benefits of this technology, making text easier to read and more pleasant to look at, without having to purchase the Plus! Pack.

▶ Microsoft Windows 98 and Microsoft Windows NT 4 have font smoothing built-in.

▶ Windows 98 - Font smoothing can be activated via the 'Effects' tab on the 'Display Properties' control panel.

▶ Windows NT 4 - Font smoothing is activated via the 'Plus' tab on the 'Display Properties' control panel.

Click [here](#) to display the Internet homepage where you can download this utility.



Contact Information

If you have any questions, problems or ideas about our software, feel free to contact us. We really appreciate your feedback, even it is not positive. You will also find many other interesting programs and utilities on our homepage.

Please check our web site for the latest contact information since the info on this page may be outdated if you have very old version of the software.

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What You Get

Font Xplorer Lite is the little brother of our full-featured *Font Xplorer* application. *Font Xplorer* has many unique and powerful features that make it the best font viewer/manager available. At only \$19.95, there is no better font tool for the money (or for more money, too).

Font Xplorer contains all the features of *Font Xplorer Lite* plus:

- ▶ Browse and view fonts that are not installed. Simply select a disk folder from *Windows Explorer*-like tree and *Font Xplorer* shows you all fonts in that folder. You can install them on the fly, see which ones are already installed and more...
- ▶ Work with multiple fonts (copy/move/install/print etc) simultaneously
- ▶ Display your own text in the font list to easily find the perfect font for a specified task
- ▶ All functions & tools needed to install/load/uninstall and unload fonts
- ▶ Print all fonts at once or only selected fonts, print different professional sample sheets. Print one font per sheet or multiple fonts per sheet.
- ▶ Display only marked fonts, so you can filter and display only a subset of your fonts
- ▶ Zoom in on selected symbols in a character map so you can see every detail
- ▶ View font metrics information
- ▶ Keep favorite folders, so you can switch to your font folders with a single mouse click
- ▶ Find duplicate fonts from your disk(s)
- ▶ Save bitmap images of selected fonts or of a font folder
- ▶ Rename fonts to full names (from arialbi.ttf to Arial Bold Italic.ttf) with undo support
- ▶ Tweak the Windows fonts folder to display either a list of installed fonts or a simple file listing like any other folder
- ▶ And much more...

So, to say it simply, you get the best font viewing and management software available. And all our software comes with unconditional 30-day money back guarantee, so don't wait, get hands on today!

Variables

You can use variables everywhere you see the *Insert Variable* command button (titles with \$). For *Lite* version, that is only in Save Image window. *Lite* version has only support for few generic variables, mostly referencing font information. Since different functions allow different variables, only variables available to a particular function are listed in the *Insert Variable* window that pops up after you press the button. Click on a variable to see its short description.

In general, a specific variable is replaced with special information if the command containing variable is executed. If you use the \$FX_FILENAME in a command line of an external program, then, before the command line is passed to the external program, *Font Explorer* replaces the variable with actual data, e.g. the \$FX_FILENAME variable is replaced with the actual file name of the selected font. That way your external program knows which font you have selected in your font list and takes action on this font.

Experiment with different variables to see how they work.

► **All variable names are case sensitive! You must enter them in all UPPER CASE!**

Supported variables:

\$FX_FILENAME - File name (without full path) of active font like: *Arialn.ttf*

\$FX_FILEPATH - File name with full path of active font, like: *c:\windows\fonts\Arialn.ttf*. Since this is a long filename, if you are going to pass it on the command line to an external program use it between double quotes. Otherwise, if there is more than 1 command line parameter and file name contains space(s), problems may arise.

\$FX_COPYRIGHT - Returns font copyright string, e.g., *Copyright 1992 Monotype Corporation*.

\$FX_FACENAME - Returns font full name, e.g., *Arial Italic*

\$FX_SCRIPT - Returns font script (depends on Font Explorer active character set), like: *Western*

Installation Status Indicators

Font Explorer allows you to easily see which fonts are installed and which ones are not by showing installation status images for each font entry in the font listing.

▶ To show/hide the installation status images use the ***Installation Status*** command in the ***View*** menu.

Those status images are only displayed for fonts that do not have a default installation status. For default status there is no image (see below).

You may need to read the topic that discusses terms "loaded", "installed", "permanently installed" etc. if you have not done so already.

Images explained:

No image:

Loaded fonts mode: the font is permanently installed in your system.

Disk fonts mode: the font is NOT installed or loaded in your system

Green image:

Both modes: Font is loaded but not permanently installed.

Blue image:

Disk fonts mode only: Font from **this file** is installed permanently.

Lilac image:

Disk fonts mode only: The same font is installed from a **different file**/folder. This means that a font with this name is permanently installed in your system, but not directly from this file. For example you have folder D:\Fonts and your default fonts are in C:\Windows\Fonts folder. You have an *Arial* font file in both folders. You have the *Arial* font installed from the C:\Windows\Fonts folder but if you browse disk fonts and go to D:\Fonts folder, you see that the *Arial* font has lilac status image, because it is installed from another folder. If you delete this font from D:\Fonts folder (has lilac image), it is still available from another location.

