

Notes For Upgraders From FontHandler 1.0

FontHandler version 1.0 was very well received by the graphic design and desktop publishing community, and we at QualiType have been happy to hear your comments about it. Many of the new features and enhancements in this upgraded version are the direct result of your feedback.

In general, we have tried to preserve the “feel” of the 1.0 version in the 2.x release, with its intuitive design and speedy operation, while simultaneously improving some areas of weakness. The two most common complaints about the 1.0 release were (1) inadequate documentation, and (2) awkward implementation of the font grouping constructs. Hopefully, the first of these issues has been resolved by this much more comprehensive User’s Guide and the expanded online Help system!

As for the second issue, the grouping functions in this new version have been totally redesigned. In place of the 1.0 version’s “group sets” and “groups,” we now have the unified “group tree” design. The old group sets are roughly analogous to a single “branch” on the new group tree, with the added new feature of the ability to load and unload fully separate group trees themselves. (Note: the QualiType Converter program included with this version will, in fact, import all your current group sets into branches of a new group tree. If you do not want to import any particular group set, simply move or delete its old *.GRU file from the FontHandler 1.0 directory before running the converter.)

The only other important change—from a technical perspective—is the file format of compressed font files. FontHandler 1.0 compressed fonts into its own *.QTF (“QualiType Font”) file format, which was a superset of the industry standard *.LZH file format. In order to correct a problem, however, we were forced to revise this LZH superset into the new *.QTC (“QualiType Compressed”) file format. We regret the inconvenience, but please install any compressed *.QTF files with FontHandler 1.0 in order to uncompress them before attempting to use them with FontHandler 2.0. (Note: both versions of the program will co-exist on the same system without conflicts, but please remember to only run one of them at a time.)

As always, if you have any questions, comments, compliments or complaints about any QualiType product please feel free to let us know!

Notes For Upgraders From Ares™ FontMinder™

While FontHandler™ and FontMinder™ generally do many of the same things, they go about them in very different ways. These differences are largely due to interface design issues and the philosophy that each program takes towards font management.

For example, while FontHandler™ preserves a “font oriented” approach to font groups, FontMinder™ adopts a “group oriented” approach to its “font packs.” This means that in FontMinder,™ unless you take extra steps to “open” a font pack and/or font family, you have to install all of the fonts in a particular pack and font family, or do without them at all (unless you install fonts one at a time or create packs with only one or two fonts in them, largely defeating the point of being able to create font groups).

Thus in FontMinder,™ you may never be sure exactly how many fonts you are installing when you are working with a font pack, and in addition, the design of the font lists you see is actually a departure from the industry-standard way of doing things (as in Adobe Type Manager® and the Windows Control Panel).

In contrast, FontHandler™ starts out with the basic industry-standard font-managing design intact, and then builds on that foundation with its grouping concept. In FontHandler,™ you are always working with fonts, regardless of whether or not they are in a group, and you can select just one or two fonts from a group or font family just as easily as you can select and install the whole group. Moreover, the appearance of your font names in FontHandler’s™ listboxes exactly match what you see in your application programs and standard system tools like the Windows and ATM Control Panels.

There are other differences between these two programs of course, but the point is this: as you are learning about FontHandler,™ try to avoid doing things the “FontMinder™ way” just because that may be what you are used to. Work with the program on its own merit and “unlearn” any non-standard ways of doing things you may have adopted in the past in order to work with FontMinder.™

Our research has indicated that when a new font user is exposed to both ways of doing things, without any pre-conceived expectations of the way things are supposed to work, he or she will more often find the FontHandler™ design to be the more intuitive and powerful approach.

(All this said, however, we should point out that if you really want to, you can recreate the main difference between FontHandler™ and FontMinder™ quite easily in FontHandler.™ To make a “Master List” group of all the fonts on your system, simply point FontHandler™ at the root of your hard drive (C:\) with INCLUDE SUBDIRECTORIES under SETUP OPTIONS enabled, then add all the fonts found to one big font group. You can use this group in a manner very similar to how you may have used the FontMinder™ Master Database in the past, to install fonts or create new sub-groups. But we’ll wager that you won’t want to do this once you learn the (better) “FontHandler™ way” of doing things...)

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