

Font Printer

Version 2.0

Written by

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INSTALLATION OF FONT PRINTER ON YOUR COMPUTER SYSTEM IMPLIES
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Registered copies of Font Printer 2.0 can be installed on more than one computer at a time as long as no more than one of these computers is running Font Printer 2.0 at the same time. You may make backup copies of Font Printer 2.0 as necessary for archival purposes only.

If this program is used for more than thirty days, you are required to register it and send \$15.00 to the following address.

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I can also be reached through Prodigy id MHKH81A or through America On-line id MTOWSLEE.

What is Font Printer 2.0?

Font Printer 2.0 is a program for Microsoft Windows that allows you to print easily all available characters in one or more selected fonts. In addition to printing font samples, you can view samples of screen fonts in a variety of ways. This program is especially useful if you have a large number of fonts installed on your system. Font Printer 2.0 has only been tested with ATM and True Type fonts but there is no reason other font packages shouldn't work.

Font Printer 2.0 makes it very easy to print a sample of all characters in the specified font(s) including the normal characters accessed by pressing keys on the keyboard as well as the extended ASCII characters in both the ANSI and OEM character sets.

Font Printer 2.0 was designed to be flexible and easy to use without sacrificing power. The premise is simple -- allow the user to select any combination of fonts and print a nicely formatted sample of each. The selected fonts can be printed in bold, italics and underline or any combination of attributes.

New and enhanced features in Font Printer 2.0

Font Printer 2.0 adds more than twenty new features concerning ease of use, additional ways to view fonts, and improved performance when viewing and printing fonts. This version of Font Printer is considerably more flexible than the previous version and allows you to customize it to meet your needs/preferences.

- Completely redesigned user interface featuring 3D controls and a toolbar similar to those found in many other Windows applications.
- The Extended Characters program, distributed as a separate program with version 1.0, has been fully integrated within Font Printer 2.0. This allowed the addition of several new features and improved display performance dramatically.
- Font Printer now allows you to change the color used for the background on the various forms.
- You can now display or print the extended ASCII characters in either the OEM character set or the ANSI character set. This gives you 50% more characters from which to choose.
- Font Printer 2.0 will inform you of any fonts added since the last time it was run and ask you whether you would like to automatically select them for printing.

- Two new methods of viewing installed fonts have been added. You can view either the keyboard characters or the extended ASCII characters in either the OEM or ANSI characters set. While viewing, you can copy characters to the Windows clipboard. This is especially useful when viewing symbol fonts.
- You can now select a printer directly from within Font Printer 2.0. All printer fonts will be automatically updated for the selected printer. You no longer need to open up the Windows Control Panel to change printers and you always have the correct printer fonts available for selection.
- Printing progress is displayed and you can cancel printing during long print jobs.

Requirements

Font Printer 2.0 requires Microsoft Windows version 3.1 running on a 286, 386, or 486 processor with 2Mb of RAM. A 386 and 4Mb of RAM is recommended. Because Font Printer 2.0 was written in Visual Basic, you will need the file VBRUN200.DLL. This file is not included with this archive but is available on most bulletin boards and on-line services. VBRUN200.DLL should be placed in your \WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory.

Setting up Font Printer 2.0

To install Font Printer 2.0, simply run the SETUP.EXE program. The setup program will copy all of the required files to their proper locations and add Font Printer 2.0 to a program group.

NOTE: You must already have the VBRUN200.DLL file in your \WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory for the setup program to run properly. This file is not included with this archive and must be downloaded separately if you do not already have it. If you don't have this file, the setup program will abort and Font Printer 2.0 will not be installed!

Screen fonts vs. Printer fonts

An important concept to understand while using Font Printer 2.0 is that there are two types of fonts available under Windows -- screen fonts and printer fonts. You cannot display a printer font if there is not an associated screen font. Some printers have built in fonts that do not have corresponding screen fonts. These fonts can be printed, but not displayed. Conversely, there are also screen fonts. Screen fonts may or may not have a corresponding printer font. You don't have to worry about this because only the appropriate fonts are made available for selection.

OEM Character Set vs. ANSI Character Set

Another thing to keep in mind is that there are two distinct character sets defined for most fonts. The characters on the keyboard are the same for both character sets but the extended ASCII characters (characters with an ASCII value above 127) are normally quite different. Font Printer 2.0 allows you to choose characters from either or both character sets.

Using Font Printer

Upon start up, Font Printer 2.0 will show you two list boxes where you make your selections. To select a font to be printed, either double click on the font name in the Available Fonts list box or click on a font name and press the Add button. This will remove it from the list of Available Fonts and add it to the list of Selected Fonts. Keep doing this until you have selected all of the fonts that you want to print.

To remove font names from the Selected Fonts list, either double click on the font name to be removed, or click on the font name and press the Remove button. This puts it back into the Available Fonts list box.

To change the size of the printed font, select a value from the Size drop down list box. To change the attributes of the printed samples, click on the Bold, Italic, or Underline button on the toolbar. In addition to these attributes, you also have the option of printing the extended ASCII characters (characters with ASCII values above 127). The extended ASCII characters can be printed using the OEM character set and/or the ANSI character set. These characters can be inserted into any document by holding down the Alt key and typing in the number listed next to the character that you want to print. For example, the copyright symbol (©) is accessed by holding down the Alt key and typing 0169 on the numeric keypad. When you let go of the Alt key the character will show up on the screen. When you are satisfied with your selections press the Print button or select File/Print to print the samples.

When printing the extended ASCII characters, limit the size to a maximum of 16 points so that it all fits on the page. Most fonts will fit on a page at 16 points but it's safer to use the default 12 point text. Font printer 2.0 will clip the text if it is too wide for the page, so if the text doesn't fit, select a smaller size.

The Toolbar

The top of the main screen has a toolbar that allows for quick access to many of Font Printer 2.0's features. See the on-line help for a description of what each button does.

File Menu

The File menu has the standard New, Open, Save and Save As menu options, as well as Print, Printer Setup, and Preferences options.

The first group of menu items let you manage saved font lists. Font Printer allows you to save the list of selected fonts to an ASCII file so that you can easily save groups of fonts. For example, you might want to print samples of all of your True Type or ATM fonts. By selecting the appropriate fonts and saving them to a file, you can easily print the whole group the next time without the need to go through and select them all again.

The File/Print menu selection does the same thing as the Print button, it prints the selected fonts. The Printer setup option allows you to choose and configure any printer installed and configured on your system. If you change printers, Font Printer 2.0 will automatically refresh the list of available fonts. This is necessary because most printers have built-in fonts specific to the printer. By refreshing the list of available fonts, you are assured that only the correct fonts are available for selection.

The Preferences menu option opens up a dialog box that allows you to specify your choices for some of Font Printer 2.0's optional features. You can set the left margin (the default is .5") and the font that will be used to print the titles when printing samples (the default is the Arial font). Why not just print the title in the selected font? Because if you were printing a symbol font, for example, you wouldn't be able to decipher the font name because it would be printed with the symbol characters.

In the Program Options section you can specify an alternate font utility program such as the Windows 3.1 Control Panel (CONTROL.EXE). You must either type in the full drive and path name for the file or make sure that the location of the file is specified in your DOS path. The two check boxes allow you to specify whether or not Font Printer 2.0 should prompt you when it finds new fonts installed and whether samples of the selected fonts will be displayed below the main list boxes used to select fonts.

There is also a button on the bottom of the window that will allow you to set the color that will be used for the background of the main Font Print 2.0 form. When you are through, press the OK button to save your preferences for future sessions.

Text menu

By default, Font Printer 2.0 prints all of the normal characters available on the PC keyboard. The default text that will be printed is as follows:

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz
1234567890-=[\];',.\`
!@#\$\$%^&*()_+{}:" <>?|~

Choosing the Print Custom Text menu option or pressing the C button on the tool bar opens a window where you can enter your own text or load an ASCII file that will be used to print your font samples. When you press the OK button, the Custom menu option will now be checked. To reset it to the default text, just click on the Print Default Text menu option or press the D button on the toolbar.

You can also change the text that is used to display samples of fonts as you are selecting them. This is accomplished by choosing the Change Sample Text option on the Text menu or by double-clicking on one of the displayed samples below the lists of fonts available or selected. You will be prompted to enter a new text string to use. The sample text is limited to 20 characters. When you press OK, Font Printer 2.0 will save the new text in your FONTPRT.INI file and update the samples currently on screen. The last item on the Text menu resets the sample text to Aa Bb Cc Dd.

Display menu

Font Printer provides a number of ways to view fonts installed on your computer.

Choosing the Display/Text box menu option opens a window where you can view samples of the various screen fonts. Remember, these are the screen fonts and you may not be able to view all of the fonts presented in the main selection list. There are two drop down list boxes that let you change the font name and the font size. The button directly to the right of the size list box is a copy button which copies the currently selected text to the clipboard. This makes it easy to insert special characters into other programs. The two buttons in the middle allow you to switch between the OEM and ANSI character sets. Clicking on one of these buttons will toggle between the two character sets. Finally, the three buttons toward the right allow you to change the attributes so that you can make the displayed text Bold, Italic or Underline. When you are done, press the Exit button or just minimize it (make it an icon).

The Display/Keyboard menu selection displays a keyboard so that you can see all of the characters available on the keyboard. When you click on a character and hold the left mouse button down on a character, it will be enlarged so that you can see it better. To the right is the list box where you select the font to display. The font changes when you click on a font name. The Copy button copies the currently selected character to the Windows clipboard so you can paste it into other applications. You can also change the level of magnification used to display characters by clicking on the scroll bar at the bottom right corner of the form. The normal size is 2x and can be changed to any value between 2 and 10. Press the Exit button or the minimize button to return to the main Font Printer form.

The next choice on the Display menu is Extended Characters. This option opens a window where you can view the extended ASCII characters. When you click on a character and hold the left mouse button down, it will be enlarged so that you can see it better. At the bottom of the window you will see a message telling you what keystroke you need to use to get the selected characters into your word processor or other program. The list box on the right allows you to change the font by clicking on the name of the font. The buttons on the bottom right of the screen allow you to copy the selected character to the clipboard and toggle between the ANSI and OEM character sets. You can also change the level of magnification used to display characters by clicking on the scroll bar at the bottom right corner. The normal size is 2x and can be changed to any value between 2 and 10. Press the exit button or the minimize button to return to the main Font Printer 2.0 form.

The Font Utility menu choice will start up the external font utility specified in the File/Preferences dialog box.

Help Menu

The help menu has two options, Contents and About. The Contents option opens up the help file and positions you at the contents section. The online help is also available by pressing the F1 key at any time.

The About menu option displays the Author's name and address, registration info, and the version number.

Important considerations when printing font samples!

Printing font samples can be slow when you have chosen to print the extended ASCII characters. You should figure on 10 - 60 seconds per page, depending on the speed of your PC, the resolution of your printer, and the fonts being printed. When the extended ASCII characters are selected, each character set is printed on it's own page. For example, if you have chosen to print both the OEM and ASCII character sets and have selected 10 fonts, you will be printing 20 pages at 10-60 seconds each for a total of 3-20 minutes depending on the speed of your PC. For comparison, a 386/40 takes about 10 seconds to print each page to a dot matrix printer (240 x 216 dpi).

In addition to long print times, be aware that each page of output can use 50 - 300Kb or more of disk space (depending on the font being printed, the printer resolution, and the printer driver being used). The same 10 fonts (20 pages of output) mentioned above could use up to 7 Mb of disk space just to spool the print job. If you are printing to a network printer, be careful! Your Network Administrator is not going to be happy when he sees 10Mb worth of print files interfering with normal network operations.

Support

Registered users will receive support via U.S. mail and/or E-Mail. When writing, be sure to describe the problem fully and include software versions, DOS version, machine type, etc. I will reply to unregistered users only as time permits.

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