



CSS Web Fonts

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The CSS @font-face Rule

Web fonts allow Web designers to use fonts that are not installed on the user's computer.

When you have found/bought the font you wish to use, just include the font file on your web server, and it will be automatically downloaded to the user when needed.

Your "own" fonts are defined within the CSS `@font-face` rule.

Different Font Formats

TrueType Fonts (TTF)

TrueType is a font standard developed in the late 1980s, by Apple and Microsoft. TrueType is the most common font format for both the Mac OS and Microsoft Windows operating systems.

OpenType Fonts (OTF)

OpenType is a format for scalable computer fonts. It was built on TrueType, and is a registered trademark of Microsoft. OpenType fonts are used commonly today on the major computer platforms.

The Web Open Font Format (WOFF)



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additional metadata. The goal is to support font distribution from a server to a client over a network with bandwidth constraints.

The Web Open Font Format (WOFF 2.0)

TrueType/OpenType font that provides better compression than WOFF 1.0.

SVG Fonts/Shapes

SVG fonts allow SVG to be used as glyphs when displaying text. The SVG 1.1 specification define a font module that allows the creation of fonts within an SVG document. You can also apply CSS to SVG documents, and the @font-face rule can be applied to text in SVG documents.






Embedded OpenType Fonts (EOT)

EOT fonts are a compact form of OpenType fonts designed by Microsoft for use as embedded fonts on web pages.

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Browser Support for Font Formats

The numbers in the table specifies the first browser version that fully supports the font format.

Font format					
TTF/OTF	9.0*	4.0	3.5	3.1	10.0
WOFF	9.0	5.0	3.6	5.1	11.1
WOFF2	14.0	36.0	39.0	10.0	26.0
SVG	Not supported	Not supported	Not supported	3.2	Not supported
EOT	6.0	Not supported	Not supported	Not supported	Not supported



Using The Font You Want

In the `@font-face` rule; first define a name for the font (e.g. myFirstFont) and then point to the font file.

Tip: Always use lowercase letters for the font URL. Uppercase letters can give unexpected results in IE.

To use the font for an HTML element, refer to the name of the font (myFirstFont) through the `font-family` property:

Example





```
@font-face {  
  font-family: myFirstFont;  
  src: url(sansation_light.woff);  
}  
  
div {  
  font-family: myFirstFont;  
}
```

Try it Yourself »

Using Bold Text

You must add another `@font-face` rule containing descriptors for bold text:

Example

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```
font-family: myFirstFont;  
src: url(sansation_bold.woff);  
font-weight: bold;  
}
```

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The file "sansation_bold.woff" is another font file, that contains the bold characters for the Sansation font.

Browsers will use this whenever a piece of text with the font-family "myFirstFont" should render as bold.

This way you can have many `@font-face` rules for the same font.

Test Yourself with Exercises!

Exercise 1 »Exercise 2 »

CSS Font Descriptors

The following table lists all the font descriptors that can be defined inside the `@font-face` rule:

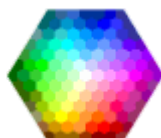
Descriptor	Values	Description
font-family	<i>name</i>	Required. Defines a name for the font
src	<i>URL</i>	Required. Defines the URL of the font file
font-stretch	normal condensed ultra-condensed extra-	Optional. Defines how the font should be stretched. Default is "normal"

	condensed expanded semi-expanded extra- expanded ultra-expanded	
font-style	normal italic oblique	Optional. Defines how the font should be styled. Default is "normal"
font-weight	normal bold 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900	Optional. Defines the boldness of the font. Default is "normal"
unicode-range	<i>unicode-range</i>	Optional. Defines the range of UNICODE characters the font supports. Default is "U+0-10FFFF"

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