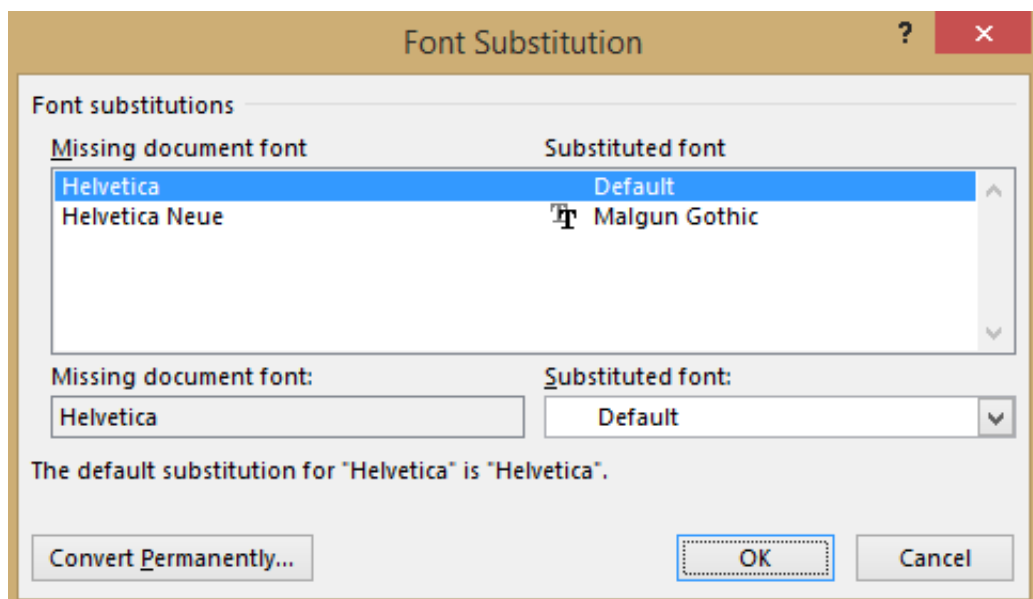


The font list shows you the font that's set in the document but there's no direct or obvious way to know that the named font isn't the one being displayed or, for the most part, printed.

That might not seem like a big deal but it's a massive difference for designers and can cause all sorts of formatting hassles.

The only way to know what's going on is to dig down to Options | Advanced | Show document content | Font Substitution. Even then, the substitution isn't clear.



We can see that 'Helvetica Neue' is substituted with 'Malgun Gothic' – no problem there.

According to Word 2013 the substitution for 'Helvetica' is 'Helvetica' or 'Default' depending on which

part of the dialog box you read! That doesn't make any sense on several levels. In fact it's quite wrong and misleading. It's a sneaky way to substitute a popular font while obscuring the truth.

Of course, the wording should be:

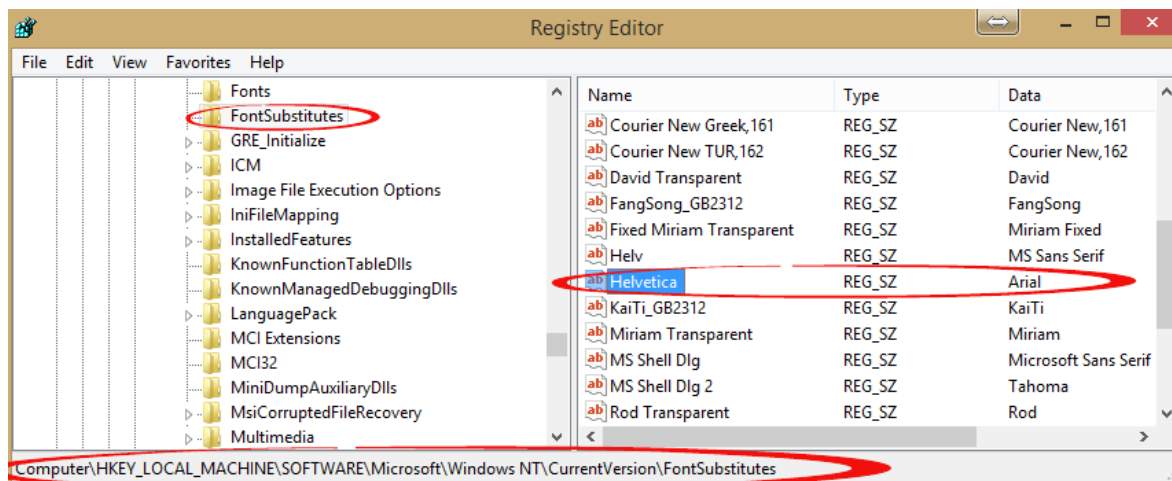
The default substitution for 'Helvetica' is 'Arial'

You can change the font substitution for an individual document on the Word dialog shown above by choosing another font.

The idea of font substitution is a good one. Alas, Microsoft's implementation lacks transparency or clarity for anyone who needs the exact font used. It's not too much to ask that users are told when and what font substitution is done.

Windows is setup to use Arial whenever it sees a reference to 'Helvetica'. This happens at the Windows level and doesn't just apply to Microsoft Office. Most web browsers get the same thing – web pages that ask for 'Helvetica' to display in web page will get the Arial font instead. It drives web designers crazy, especially since CSS has a way to choose from a [family](#) of preferred fonts.

Way down in the bowels of the Windows Registry is HCLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\FontSubstitutes which lists the substitutions.



The registry has a list of font names and the font which Windows should deliver instead. The number after a comma is a specific Code Page. Some of those Windows 8 entries are:

Ask for this font ...	And you'll get
Helv	MS Sans Serif
Helvetica	Arial
Times	Times New Roman
Tms Rmn	MS Serif
Arabic Transparent	Arabic – <i>an Arabic language font</i>
Rod Transparent	Rod – <i>a Hebrew font</i>