

DevTools answers: What font is that?




By Paul Irish

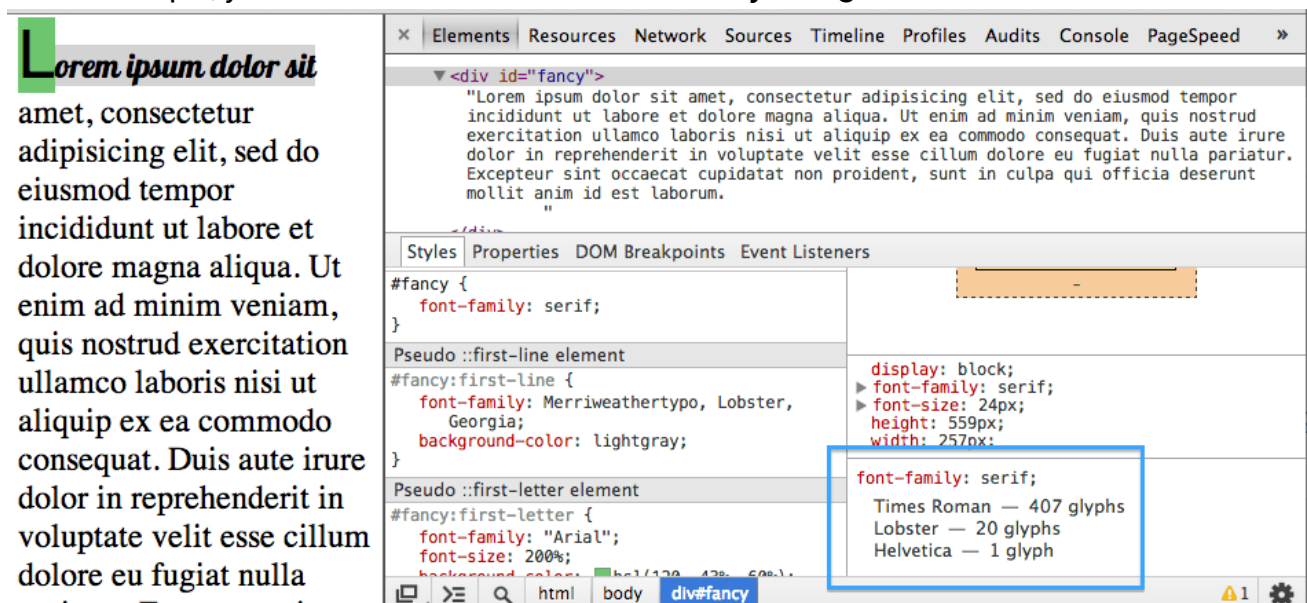
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Chrome DevTools can now tell you **exactly what typeface is being used to render text**.

Font stacks are a funny thing, more of a suggestion than a demand. Because the family you suggest may not be present, you're letting each user's browser handle the fall-through case, pulling something that will work and using that.

font-family: Baskerville, "Baskerville Old Face", "Hoefler Text", Garamond, 

As a developer, you want to know **what font is actually being used**. Here's how it works:



The screenshot shows the Chrome DevTools interface. On the left, a sample of text is displayed: "Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla". The text is styled with a serif font. On the right, the DevTools 'Elements' panel shows the HTML structure, and the 'Styles' panel shows the CSS rules. A blue box highlights the 'font-family' property in the 'Pseudo ::first-letter element' rule, which is set to 'serif'. Below this, a list of fallback fonts is shown: 'Times Roman' (407 glyphs), 'Lobster' (20 glyphs), and 'Helvetica' (1 glyph). The 'Lobster' font is highlighted, indicating it is the font being used.

Under **Computed Styles**, you'll now see a summary of the typeface(s) used for that element. There's a few things to note here:

- DevTools is reporting the **actual typeface** used by Chrome's text rendering layer. No more guessing which font serif or sans-serif is actually resolving to.
- Is my webfont working? Sometimes it's hard to tell if you're seeing the webfont or the fallback system font. Now you can **verify that the webfont is being applied**. In the above example, we're pulling down *Lobster* as a webfont for the `::first-line` style.
- **Fall-through fonts in your stack are easy to spot**. Above, we had a typo spelling *Merriweather* and so it wasn't used, falling through to *Lobster*.

- **Is that Arial or Helvetica?** Ask a designer or... ask DevTools. ;)
- Works great with Google Webfonts, Typekit, local fonts, @font-face typefaces, unicode glyphs, and all other interesting font sources.

Enjoy and please leave a comment if you have any feedback.

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