

# Customer Solutions



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## Managing Fonts in Mac OS 9

### ► PRE-PRESS PRESS POST-PRESS MAILING SPECIALTY

Managing fonts under the Macintosh operating system can be difficult. The default Mac OS installation places fonts in your system folder that will likely conflict with other fonts in your collection. Even worse, the default fonts use TrueType technology rather than Adobe PostScript, which can create some challenges.

When a font is located in the system folder, the font file is always “open”. This allows the font to be available to all applications. Unfortunately, it also leaves the font vulnerable to corruption, should any application unexpectedly quit (“crash”). Once a font becomes corrupt, it can cause your system or applications to quit unexpectedly, seemingly at random. If you are experiencing multiple crashes, it is highly likely that corrupt fonts are at fault.

For each font that is open, additional memory is required. If too many fonts are open at the same time, you may experience memory problems.

Additionally, the Mac OS limits the number of files that can be open at any one time. If too many fonts are open, it may be impossible to launch an application or open a document. This also causes unexplained system crashes.

It is therefore important that only the fonts you absolutely require for any one specific task are open at any one time. The best way to be sure that only the minimum number of fonts are open is to use a font management program such as Adobe Type Manager, Extensis Suitcase, or DiamondSoft Font Reserve.

I recommend Extensis Suitcase, since it runs under both OS 9 and OS X. The latest version is equally capable in both environments. Here's a step-by-step solution to minimize your Mac OS 9 font problems:

1. Purchase and install Extensis Suitcase.
2. Move all fonts from the-“System Folder ► Fonts” folder except the 4 fonts required by the Mac OS; “Charcoal”, “Chicago”, “Geneva”, and “Monaco”, to a new folder named “Mac OS 9 Fonts” (you must first quit all open applications before moving fonts). • If you use Adobe Acrobat or Adobe Acrobat Reader, you should also retain “Adobe Sans” and “Adobe San Serif” in this folder (be sure both the bitmap (screen) and outline (printer) fonts are together in the Fonts folder). • Some applications borrow special characters from the font “Symbol” when printing to a Postscript printer (or when printing to disk if creating a Postscript file to be distilled into a PDF file). As long as you do not have multiple versions of the Symbol font, you should also retain this font in the Fonts folder. If you do have multiple versions, you should not keep them in the Fonts folder, but rather manage them with the Font Management software as well (just be sure that one—preferably a postscript version rather than a TrueType version—is open at all times).

3. Add all of the fonts from the newly created folder “Mac OS 9 Fonts” to Extensis Suitcase so they can be managed along with the other fonts in your collection.

4. Verify your fonts for corruption. If you use Adobe Type Manager Deluxe, choose “Verify” from the “Tools” menu. If you use Suitcase, run the “Font Doctor” utility that accompanies the SuitCase application. If you do not have this utility, you may not have the most current version. Check the Extensis web site ([www.extensis.com](http://www.extensis.com)) for details on how to upgrade.

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