



Tech Info Library

Fonts: Terminology (4/93)

Revised: 4/21/93
Security: Everyone

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Article Created: 6 April 1993

TOPIC -----

When using a TrueType font, Times Roman for instance, and I chose to make it bold, does the printer select a true Times bold font? Or does it just make the plain version bolder?

DISCUSSION -----

To work with fonts in your application, you need to understand some basic font definitions. The following definitions are those used in the LaserWriter Reference and Inside Macintosh manuals.

- Intrinsic font: A font whose characteristics are entirely defined in a FONT or NFNT resource. The plain style of any family is an intrinsic font. Other styles may or may not be intrinsic. QuickDraw or the LaserWriter can use an intrinsic font without modification.
- Derived font: A font whose characteristics are partially determined by modifying an intrinsic font. A derived font might be one whose characters are slanted to achieve an italic style.
- Style: The characteristics other than size that uniquely define the fonts of a single font family. Times bold and Times italic are two styles of the Times font family.

Let us assume you are printing some italicized text. The LaserWriter driver may choose an intrinsic font (if available) or modify the intrinsic font to achieve the derived style. For example, Times Italic is an intrinsic font and Avant Garde Book Oblique is a derived font.

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