

**FONTS ON THE WEB:**

**THREAT**

*or*

**MENACE?**

*4 REASONS TO BE*  
**SCARED OUT OF  
YOUR MIND**

(or, more likely, frustrated or mildly annoyed)

**LICENSING!**

## Ubiquitous web font embedding just got a step closer

IN: [BLOG](#) | BY: [JOHN](#) | OCTOBER 19, 2008 | [LEAVE A RESPONSE](#)



**[Update 1]** A couple of months back, I surveyed the scene regarding a long cherished dream of web designers and developers — [font linking and embedding](#).

**[Update 2]** Opera 10, and Firefox 3.1 now support linking to TrueType and OpenType (but not EOT) in currently shipping alphas or betas.

A short while ago, [Mozilla announced](#) that Firefox 3.1 will, along with Safari which already does, support the @font-face mechanism for linking to online TrueType fonts. Internet Explorer already supports (and has done so for years) @font-face font linking, but here's the catch, not to TrueType fonts — only to EOT font files. EOT, now a proposed W3C specification, incorporates anti copying technology, helping to assuage the fears of font foundries that font linking in browsers would unleash a wave of unlicensed copying of their fonts. Chris Wilson, Platform Architect for Internet Explorer has made it clear that he's strongly [opposed to simple font linking](#)

*we (Microsoft) should NOT support direct TTF/O... some check that the font intended that use to be... there currently is (as it needs to refer to the licen... browsers also implement a system that actually enables commercial fonts... those that are allowed to be embedded, but cannot be legally placed directly on a server — to be used*

<http://bit.ly/USYMX>

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### STATE OF WEB DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

through our detailed reports focussing on the technologies and techniques used by web professionals and the world.

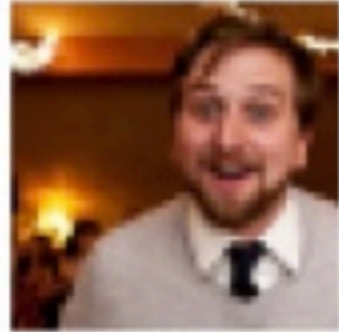
[State of Mobile Web Development \(2011\)](#)

→ [State of Web Development \(2010\)](#)

→ [State of Web Development \(2008\)](#)

“ Most fonts do not come with a license that allows you to share them. So, by uploading most fonts, regardless of their format, to a server, and linking to them, you are likely to be either breaching your license agreement with the vendor, or copyright laws, or both. **And it's not cool.**

John Allsopp October 2008



**@chase\_reeves**

Chase Reeves

Can someone tell me how typefaces work?  
There's font designers, foundries,  
publishers... do you follow designers or  
foundries?

24 Aug via [Twitter for Mac](#)

**August 24, 2011**

# LEGACY FORMATS!

# Browser makers have converged around WOFF



**v3.6**

Late 2009



**v6.0**

Late 2009



**v11.1**

2010



**v9.0\***

Feb 2011



**v5.1**

July 2011



```
/* Standards-based web fonts */  
@font-face {  
  font-family: 'Franklin Gothic';  
  font-weight: 400;  
  font-style: regular;  
  src: url('./fonts/FranklinGothic-n4.woff');  
}
```

**BUT!**

# THREE MAIN PROBLEMS



```
/* "Bulletproof" @font-face */
@font-face {
  font-family: 'Franklin Gothic';
  font-weight: 400;
  font-style: regular;
  src: url('./fonts/FranklinGothic-n4.eot?#iefix') format('eot'),
       url('./fonts/FranklinGothic-n4.woff') format('woff'),
       url('./fonts/FranklinGothic-n4.ttf') format('truetype'),
       url('./fonts/FranklinGothic-n4.svg#svgFontName') format('svg');
}
```

```
@font-face {
  font-family: 'Franklin Gothic';
  font-weight: 400;
  font-style: regular;
  src: url('./fonts/FranklinGothic-n4.eot?#iefix') format('eot'),
       url('./fonts/FranklinGothic-n4.woff') format('woff'),
       url('./fonts/FranklinGothic-n4.ttf') format('truetype'),
       url('./fonts/FranklinGothic-n4.svg#svgFontName') format('svg');
}
```

```
@font-face {
  font-family: 'Franklin Gothic';
  font-weight: 400;
  font-style: italic;
  src: url('./fonts/FranklinGothic-i4.eot?#iefix') format('eot'),
       url('./fonts/FranklinGothic-i4.woff') format('woff'),
       url('./fonts/FranklinGothic-i4.ttf') format('truetype'),
       url('./fonts/FranklinGothic-i4.svg#svgFontName') format('svg');
}
```

```
@font-face {
  font-family: 'Franklin Gothic';
  font-weight: 700;
  font-style: regular;
  src: url('./fonts/FranklinGothic-n7.eot?#iefix') format('eot'),
       url('./fonts/FranklinGothic-n7.woff') format('woff'),
       url('./fonts/FranklinGothic-n7.ttf') format('truetype'),
       url('./fonts/FranklinGothic-n7.svg#svgFontName') format('svg');
}
```

```
@font-face {
  font-family: 'Franklin Gothic';
  font-weight: 700;
  font-style: italic;
  src: url('./fonts/FranklinGothic-i7.eot?#iefix') format('eot'),
       url('./fonts/FranklinGothic-i7.woff') format('woff'),
       url('./fonts/FranklinGothic-i7.ttf') format('truetype'),
       url('./fonts/FranklinGothic-i7.svg#svgFontName') format('svg');
}
```

	<b>EOT</b>	<b>TTF</b>	<b>WOFF</b>	<b>SVG</b>
Internet Explorer 4.0	✓			
Internet Explorer 9.0	✓		✓	
Safari 3.1		✓		✓
Safari 5.1		✓	✓	✓
Opera 10.0		✓		
Opera 11.1		✓	✓	
Firefox 3.1		✓		
Firefox 3.6		✓	✓	
Chrome 1.0		✓		✓
Chrome 6.0		✓	✓	✓
Mobile Safari / iOS 3.2				✓
Mobile Safari / iOS 4.2		✓		✓
Mobile Safari / iOS 5.0		✓	✓	✓

**INTERNET  
EXPLORER!**

## IE 6-8 can only “see” four variations in a single family

```
/* Standard @font-face, for modern browsers */  
@font-face {  
  font-family: 'Franklin Gothic';  
  font-weight: 400;  
  font-style: regular;  
  src: url('./fonts/FranklinGothic-n4.woff') format('woff'),  
       url('./fonts/FranklinGothic-n4.ttf') format('truetype');  
}
```

```
/* Variation-specific @font-face CSS, for archaic ones */  
@font-face {  
  font-family: 'FranklinGothic-Regular-400';  
  font-weight: 400;  
  font-style: regular;  
  src: url('./fonts/FranklinGothic-n4.eot');  
}
```



```
.example h1 {  
  font-family: 'FranklinGothic-Regular-400',  
               'Franklin Gothic';  
  font-weight: 400;  
  font-style:  regular;  
  font-size: 48px;  
  line-height: 48px;  
}
```

# DOCUMENT MODES!

or: When is IE9 not really IE9

**FOUT!**



## typekit / webfontloader

Watch Fork Pull Request 456 20

Source Commits Network Pull Requests (0) Fork Queue Issues (11) Wiki (2) Graphs Branch: master

Switch Branches (4) Switch Tags (23) Branch List

WebFont Loader gives you added control when using linked fonts via @font-face. — [Read more](#)

Downloads

SSH HTTP Git Read-Only git@github.com:typekit/webfontloader.git Read+Write access Clone in Mac

Release 1.0.22  
seanami authored July 01, 2011 commit 7fadf42be3

### webfontloader /

name	age	message	history
bin/	January 05, 2011	bind demos to localhost because that's what some s... [rcarver]	
docs/	February 07, 2011	- the scripts are not looking like code section, a... [unknown]	
lib/	July 01, 2011	Release 1.0.22 [seanami]	
src-test/	June 27, 2011	Clarify comments in the test [seanami]	
src/	June 27, 2011	Fix indentation [seanami]	
tools/	May 06, 2010	jsTestDriver [rcarver]	

**WHO WILL  
SAVE US?**

# Fonts as a service

## CSS wrapped with JavaScript (Typekit or WebFontLoader)

```
<script type="text/javascript"
      src="http://use.typekit.com/agz0gmz.js"></script>
<script type="text/javascript">
  try{ Typekit.load(); }catch(e){}
</script>
```

## CSS-only (Fontdeck, Webtype, Google)

```
<link
  rel="stylesheet"
  href="http://fontdeck.com/s/css/wMErktaKFxpwhaGE/example.com/87.css"
  type="text/css" />
```