FS Fontsmith

FS VARIABLE FONT USER GUIDE

Version: 1.0

VARIABLE FONTS

A variable font is a new font technology that can store multiple font styles within a single font file. This highly advanced technology empowers font users to fine tune the appearance of their text in the supporting desktop applications and web browsers.

As with static fonts, the pre-defined font styles (Light, Regular, Bold etc…) are still available in app font menus, but users can now choose any step in-between them through the use of sliders or numerical values.

Variable fonts pack more typographic possibilities into a greatly reduced file size over static fonts. This can improve website performance, however this technology is ever developing and user support is limited.

FORMATS

Fontsmith variable fonts are delivered in both TTF and WOFF2 font formats. They are marked by the VF acronym in the fonts name.
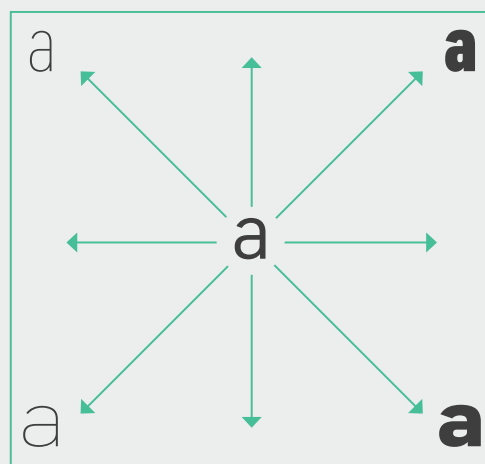
For desktop applications we recommend using the TTF files.

For web browsers we recommend using the WOFF2 files.

Static Font Files

Variable Font File

CURRENT SUPPORT

Variable font technology has limited support, which is constantly adapting to an evolving font format specification. Please check whether application, browser or device support covers your use requirements.

Operating Systems

- macOS 10.5+
- iOS 3.2+
- tvOS 9.0+
- watchOS 2.0+
- Windows 10 Creators Update (1709)+
- Android 5+

Web browsers

- Chrome 62+
- Safari 11+ (requires macOS 10.13+)
- Firefox 62+ (requires macOS 10.13+)
- Edge 17+
- Opera 49+
- iOS Safari 11+
- Android 67+
- Chrome Android 74+
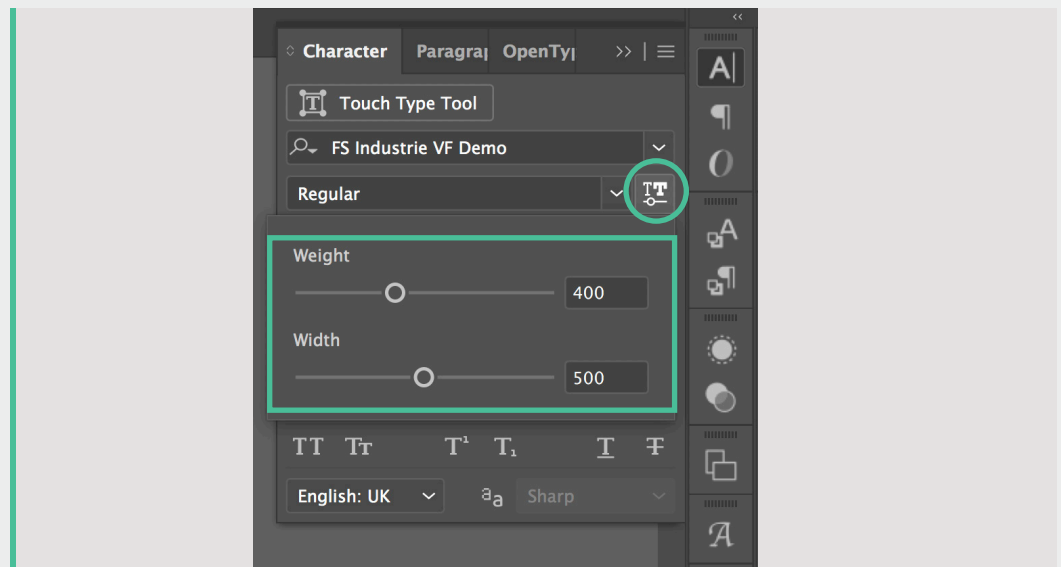- Firefox Android 66+
- Samsung Internet 8.2+

Desktop Design Applications

- Adobe Illustrator CC 2018 (22.0.0)+
- Adobe Photoshop CC 2018 (19.0.0)+
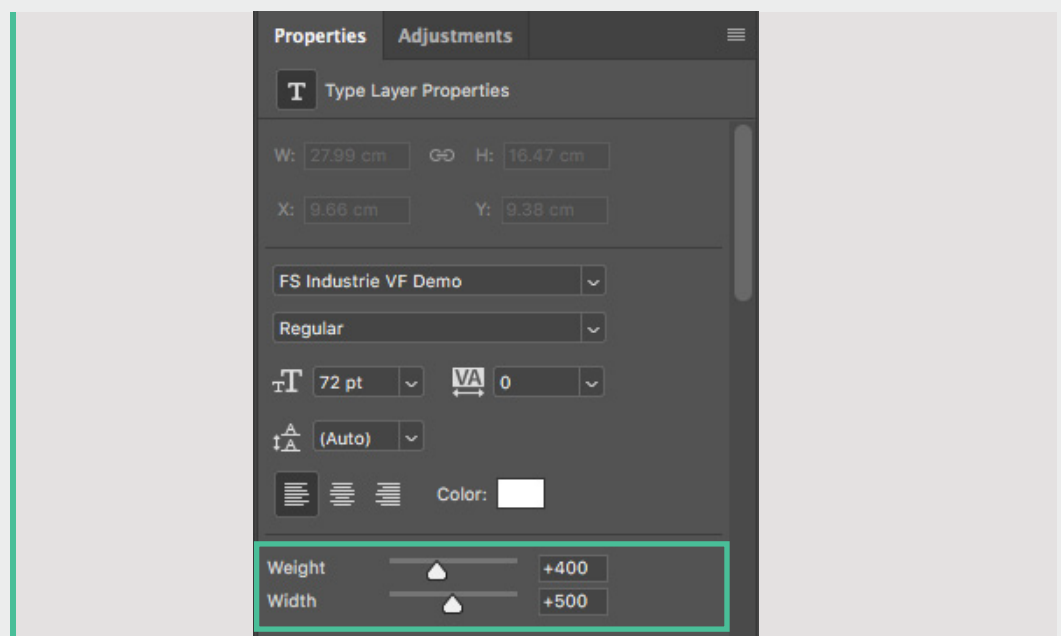
DESKTOP USE

Adobe Illustrator

1. Select a variable font from the Font Menu, go to 'Character' window. You will find a 'Variable Font' button next to the font style drop-down menu.
2. Here you can see the available variation slider(s). Use them to change the values until you get the desired outcome.

Adobe Photoshop

1. Select a variable font from the Font Menu, go to 'Properties' window.
2. At the bottom you will find the available variation slider(s). Use them to change the values until you get the desired outcome.

WEB USE

Styling Variable Fonts

1. Upload TTF or WOFF2 web fonts to your web server.
2. Copy the code snippet example below into your CSS file to address your web fonts. Replace the example file URL with the appropriate path to the font files on your server.
3. Set font size and font variation setting.

```css
@font-face {
    font-family: 'SampleName';
    src: url('PATH/SampleNameVFDemo.woff2') format('woff2'),
    font-size: 20px;
    font-variation-settings: 'wdth' 200;
```

It is important to know which are the available axes for each font, their name and their available ranges. There are five standard axes: wght (weight), wdth (width), ital (italic), opsz (optical sizing), slnt (slant), as well as custom axes that are defined by four letter sequences all in capitals. In case of a single weight axis, font-variation- settings can be replaced by font-weight followed by the value.

```css
@font-face {
    font-family: 'SampleName';
    src: url('PATH/SampleNameVFDemo.woff2') format('woff2'),
    font-size: 20px;
    font-weight: 400;
```

In case of multiple axes, the font can be styled listing axes and values.

```css
@font-face {
    font-family: 'SampleName';
    src: url('PATH/SampleNameVFDemo.woff2') format('woff2'),
    font-size: 20px;
    font-variation-settings: 'wdth' 10, 'opsz' 72, 'SHDW' 50;
```

WEB USE

THE SMALL PRINT

Where the licence granted includes a 'variable' version of the Font Software (being a font file that contains different variations of the typeface in a single file allowing 'on the fly' manipulation and changes to font parameters from a single file; the Font Software file shall be identified as 'variable' when downloaded), notwithstanding any other term, Fontsmith makes no warranty or representation in relation to the functionality of a variable Font Software file and it is provided 'as is' with no further support. Use of variable Font Software files is at your own risk and you acknowledge that the support and compatibility of variable fonts is subject to browser and other software parameters.

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