Fonts are seemingly innocuous pieces of software, but when treated improperly an cause legal risk for you and your organization.

Organizations of any size or category can fall victim to font compliance issues. Presidential candidates, toy manufacturers, broadcast companies, publishers, and creative agencies have all suffered serious consequences; including multi-million dollar lawsuits.

Here are a few common ways fonts can introduce risk to your organization:

• Casual font copying and trading
• Misuse of open source fonts
• Under-licensing of fonts
• Distribution of fonts to outside groups
• No formal internal training procedures
• Misunderstanding of copyright laws
• Inadvertent or overt font piracy

Volvo was sued $1.5 million in damages recently for copyright infringement surrounding the creation and use of the Volvo Sans 2012 OT Pro font family.

Start your font risk self-assessment.

Check each box that applies to you, your team and your organization to determine your level of risk.

☐ We don’t know how many people are using each font we license. 5 pts
☐ We allow users to convert fonts from one format to another 5 pts
☐ We’re not sure if we have web use licenses for fonts we use on the web. 5 pts
☐ We don’t have a policy that restricts users from copying and distributing our font collection. 5 pts
☐ We have been sued due to font licensing issues. 5 pts
☐ We have font purchases going back over many years. 1 pts
If you scored 1-3 points:

**SOME RISK**

Certain font uses and activities are introducing risk to your organization. Some of these actions may be precursors to higher risk activities. It is recommended that you review your font practices.

If you scored 4-6 points:

**DEFINITE RISK**

Your organization is very likely at risk with your font use. Examine your internal procedures to avoid violating font licensing terms. Consider installing a font server to help mitigate your risk.

If you scored 7 or more points:

**HIGH RISK**

Immediate action is needed. Examine your internal font purchasing, installation, usage and distribution processes. Update procedures, improve policies, and add periodic examinations of font usage in your organization. Implementing a font server is highly recommended to clean up your workflow, and place structure around compliance efforts.

Extensis can help. We have font management solutions that can help address your font risks.

**Visit extensis.com to learn more.**