

Microsoft fonts & open-source

Microsoft fonts are proprietary and tied to the use of a machine running a legal version of Windows. There are a few ways to deal with that on a non-Windows system.

1. Install legacy MS fonts (before 2007)

The standard set of fonts for Windows 2000 / Office 2004 or earlier (up to 2007) can still be installed on Ubuntu-based systems using the mscorefonts installer. That seems to be all legal since you have to agree to Microsoft's [EULA](#) before installation can continue. (For distros using *.rpm packages [look here](#).) On Ubuntu boxes open a terminal and type:

```
sudo apt-get install ttf-mscorefonts-installer
```

If you prefer open-source alternatives for these MS fonts, [Google Fonts](#) comes to your rescue. They provide near perfect matches for Arial, Courier New, Times New Roman and Symbol (marked * in the table below). Look for a package with 'croscore' in its name.

2. Install current MS fonts (after 2007)

The standard set of fonts for Windows Vista / Office 2007 or newer (from 2007 onwards) are included in the freely installable PowerPoint Viewer 2007. Download [from Microsoft's website](#), install it on a (virtual) system running Windows, then copy the fonts from the Windows fonts folder and install them on your Other System. The use of this viewer is free, and technically you do not 'redistribute' the fonts, so it looks like a useful legal loophole. So far Microsoft did not complain.

Again Google Fonts can help by providing near perfect matches for Calibri and Cambria (marked * in the table below). Look for a package with 'crosextra' in its name.

3. Use open-source alternatives

There are open-source, or at least free, alternatives to the standard MS fonts, which are – *supposed to be*... – metrically compatible and often to be found in your Linux distro's repositories. If not, try [Font Squirrel](#), [MyFonts](#) (search for free fonts), [Google Fonts](#) (to embed fonts on your website), or just '[startpage](#)' the *.ttf or *.otf you are looking for.

MS fonts (legacy)	Alternatives:	MS fonts (current)	Alternatives:
Arial	<i>Arimo*</i> <i>Liberation Sans</i> <i>FreeSans</i>	Calibri	<i>Carlito*</i>
Courier New	<i>Cousine*</i> <i>FreeMono</i>	Consolas	<i>Inconsolata</i>
Times New Roman	<i>Tinos*</i> <i>Liberation Serif</i>	Cambria	<i>Caladea*</i>
Symbol	<i>Symbol Neu*</i>	Corbel	<i>Quattrocento Sans</i>
Verdana	<i>DejaVu Sans</i> <i>Bitstream Vera Sans</i>	Constantia	<i>Quattrocento Roman</i>
Comic Sans	<i>Comic Neu (an alternative font, not intended as a mere replacement)</i>		