

Fonts

For most desktop environments, a sufficient number of fonts is installed as dependencies. However, there's several additional packages for different styles and writing systems (latin vs. non-latin scripts). [Arch Wiki](#) has an extensive list of available fonts in both the repositories and the AUR. Installing the Noto font family also provides a vast coverage over a large array of scripts.

Configuration

Most applications read the font configuration provided by the `fontconfig` library. These configurations are written in XML and read from several different locations.

Location	Description
<code>/etc/fonts/fonts.conf</code>	Master configuration file (not for editing!)
<code>/etc/fonts/conf.d</code>	System-wide additional drop-in configuration files, hand-written or as symbolic links
<code>\$XDG_CONFIG_HOME/fontconfig/fonts.conf</code>	Per-user config file
<code>\$XDG_CONFIG_HOME/fontconfig/conf.d</code>	Per-user additional drop-in configuration files, hand-written or as symbolic links

Configuration files are read in and applied in lexical order. If you need rules applied in a specific order, make sure to prepend them with 2-digit numbers in the order you need.

A minimal `fontconfig` configuration file contains these headers:

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<!DOCTYPE fontconfig SYSTEM "urn:fontconfig:fonts.dtd">
<fontconfig>

  <!-- settings go here -->

</fontconfig>
```

Some font packages come with pre-defined rule sets, which are installed to `/usr/share/fontconfig/conf.avail/`. To apply them, it's best to create symbolic links to them in their respective drop-in configuration directories.

To apply them system-wide, link them from the `/etc/fonts/conf.d` directory:

```
cd /etc/fonts/conf.d
sudo ln -s /usr/share/fontconfig/conf.avail/70-no-bitmaps-except-emoji.conf
```

To apply them only to the currently logged in user, link them in the `$XDG_CONFIG_HOME/fontconfig/conf.d` directory:

HINT: The environment variable `$XDG_CONFIG_HOME` should point to the `.config` sub-directory in your home directory. If it doesn't, use `$HOME/.config` instead for the examples or set it with `export .`

```
mkdir $XDG_CONFIG_HOME/fontconfig/conf.d
ln -s /usr/share/fontconfig/conf.avail/70-no-bitmaps-except-emoji.conf $XDG_CONFIG_HOME/fontconfig/conf.d
```

Emoji Fonts

There are a few emoji fonts available on Arch.

Name	Package	Description
<u>JoyPixels</u>	<code>ttf-joypixels</code>	formerly EmojiOne, part of Emoji as a Service, proprietary
<u>Noto Color Emoji</u>	<code>noto-fonts-emoji</code>	Google open-source emoji font, color
<u>Twemoji (Twitter Emoji)</u>	<code>ttf-twemoji</code> (AUR)	Emoji for everyone, originally created by Twitter

Install your selected emoji font:

```
pacman -S noto-fonts-emoji
```

Applications requesting emoji to be displayed should pick up on the font after restarting them.

NOTE: KDE sometimes applies emoji fonts incorrectly, either not showing them at all or showing the outline symbol version from a different font. You can fix this by installing `noto-color-emoji-fontconfig` from the AUR and creating a symbolic link to the configuration file as shown above.

Revision #3

Created 12 February 2022 02:36:54 by Sebin

Updated 4 February 2025 02:35:33 by Sebin