

# Testing Web Fonts

Typographic Web Design, Laura Franz, October 2015

According to [gs.statcounter.com](http://gs.statcounter.com) (which tracks the activity of third party visitors to their member websites — more than 15 billion hits per month, by people from all over the world onto 3 million+ member sites), the following browsers and operating systems accounted for 89% of visitors between September 2014 and September 2015.

Not every browser is used on every OS. In addition, not every Browser/OS combination is available on all cross-browser testing services. When testing web fonts, I recommend testing early—and as many options as possible—to avoid problems down the road.

The chart below shows combinations available (white spaces) on saucelabs.com in October 2015. Test as many as you have access to. Notice where the font falls apart (pixelated, spacing problems, overall structure of the font changes, blurriness).

	Win 7 (33%)	Android (22%)	iOS (11%)	Win 8.1 (8%)	Win XP (7%)	OSX (6%)	Win 8 (3%)
Chrome (43%)				*			*
FireFox (11%)				**			**
IE 11 (7%)							
Android (7%)							
iPhone (7%)							
Safari (4%)							
Opera (3%)					**		
IE 8 (2%)	***				***		
IE 9 (2%)							
IE 10 (1%)							

\* Chrome on Win 8 and 8.1 results in jaggedy text. This problem is resolved in Chrome 45.

\*\* Firefox on Win 8 and 8.1 and Opera on Win XP result in jaggedy text. This is not yet resolved.

\*\*\* Keep an eye out for fake italic and fake bold (using Google Fonts) in IE 8. Learn why this happens and how to fix them at <http://www.smashingmagazine.com/2012/07/avoiding-faux-weights-styles-google-web-fonts/>