

# Charis - Versions and Changes

## Announcement list

If you would like stay informed of updates to Charis and other SIL fonts, please subscribe to the [SIL Font News Announcement List](#). For more information see [About](#).

Our font announcements are also available through X (formerly Twitter) [@silfonts](#).

## Current versions

The latest version of the fonts is always available from the [Charis download page](#) as a .zip archive for all major platforms.

Charis is also available through the [TypeTuner Web](#) service, which allows you to choose among the smart font features and download a font with those features preset. This enables them to work in many applications that do not fully support OpenType. **Please note that the version 7 fonts available through TypeTuner Web no longer offer line spacing alternatives (Normal, Tight, Loose). If you need Tight or Loose variants the version 6.200 fonts remain available and support line spacing alternatives.**

## Other Charis SIL versions and variants

There are many font families based on the Charis SIL design, as summarized in this table. Current versions are in **bold**. Additional information is provided in later sections.

Font Family	Versions	Status and use
<b>Charis</b>	<b>7.000</b>	<b>Current</b> —recommended for all uses and users
Charis SIL	4.000–6.200	No longer recommended—please use current version
Charis SIL Compact	4.106–6.200	Fonts with reduced default line spacing—no longer recommended
Charis SIL Literacy	4.014–6.200	Literacy variants with alternate a and g forms—no longer recommended
Charis SIL Literacy Comp	4.106–6.200	Compact literacy variants—no longer recommended
Charis SIL Literacy AmArea	5.000–6.200	Literacy variants with AmArea features—no longer recommended
Charis SIL <i>special variant</i>	5.000–6.200	Modified versions for special purposes (AmArea, Mali, Tat)—no longer recommended
Charis SIL <i>region subset</i>	5.000	Subsets for particular regions (Afr, Am, APac, Cyr, CyrE, Eur, Phon, Viet)—no longer recommended

Versions prior to Charis SIL v4.000 were named SIL Charis and are no longer available.

There are also font families named ‘Charis *something*’ that were created using [TypeTuner Web](#). We have no record or archive of most of these ‘tuned’ fonts, but if you are desperate to find them contact us. We may be able to point you to the distributors of those that we know about.

## Compact versions

The Charis version 7 fonts do not have *Compact* variants. The default line spacing has been reduced to be closer, but not identical, to the previous version’s *Compact* line spacing. Most users should use the version 7 fonts and adjust line spacing explicitly within the application if necessary. If your application does not allow

control over line spacing, you can use the [version 6.200 Charis SIL Compact fonts](#), which remain available. **If you need any of the new version 7 features or characters, but also need them supported in a compact version please [contact us](#).**

## Special-purpose modified variants

[Modified versions of the Charis SIL version 6.200 fonts](#) are available that have been ‘tuned’ to turn on certain features by default. These are available for some regions and include *Literacy* versions. **These remain at version 6.200 and have not been updated to Charis version 7. If you need any of the new features or characters in this version, but also need them supported in the special-purpose modified fonts please [contact us](#).**

## Version 5 subsets

In the past, special *subset* versions of Charis SIL version 5 were created for specific uses. Those fonts still work and [remain available](#). These are limited versions of the fonts that support only the characters needed for a particular area or use. Subsets are available for Africa, Americas, Asia/Pacific, Europe/Eurasia, Vietnam, Phonetic, Cyrillic (Basic) and Cyrillic Extended. With the exception of the Phonetic font, the font subsets are intended for orthographic use only. We have not put anything in the other subsets for phonetic, transliteration, or transcription use. For those purposes, use the Phonetic subset. We do not intend to update these fonts, however they may still work. **We do not, however, recommend their use. In almost all cases the standard fonts are a better choice. Font size is less of a concern than it was years ago, particularly with improved compression technologies such as woff2.**

## Previous versions archive

Previous versions remain available from our [Previous versions archive](#).

## Change history

A detailed list of changes for each version of the fonts is on the [Version history page](#).

This guide is from the [Charis project](#) version 7 and is copyright © 1997-2025 SIL Global.