

File Type	Hex Signature (Start of File)	ASCII	Notes / Description
JPEG (JPG)	FF D8 FF E0 or FF D8 FF E1	—	Start of Image (SOI). Ends with FF D9. Used for photos, camera images.
PNG	89 50 4E 47 0D 0A 1A 0A	.PNG....	Has a strong, unique header — used for web images.
GIF	47 49 46 38 37 61 or 47 49 46 38 39 61	GIF87a / GIF89a	Animated or static GIFs; easy to spot in ASCII.
PDF	25 50 44 46	%PDF	Begins with %PDF; ends with 25 25 45 4F 46 (%%EOF).
ZIP / DOCX / XLSX / PPTX	50 4B 03 04	PK..	ZIP-based formats (Office Open XML files).
RAR	52 61 72 21 1A 07 00	Rar!...	Archive format.
7z	37 7A BC AF 27 1C	7z...'	7-Zip archive format.
EXE / DLL (Windows Executable)	4D 5A	MZ	MS-DOS signature (Mark Zbikowski). Every PE file starts with this.
ELF (Linux Executable)	7F 45 4C 46	.ELF	Executable and Linkable Format — Linux binaries.
BMP (Bitmap Image)	42 4D	BM	Microsoft bitmap image file.
WAV / AVI	52 49 46 46	RIFF	RIFF-based multimedia containers.
MP3	49 44 33	ID3	Indicates ID3 metadata header in MP3 files.
ISO (CD/DVD image)	43 44 30 30 31 (at offset 0x8001)	CD001	Appears at offset 32,769 (0x8001) — not at file start.
SQLite Database	53 51 4C 69 74 65 20 66 6F 72 6D 61 74 20 33 00	SQLite format 3	Used in mobile apps, browsers, and logs.

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<b>DOC (Old Word)</b>	D0 CF 11 E0 A1 B1 1A E1	—	Legacy Microsoft Office binary format.
<b>XML</b>	3C 3F 78 6D 6C 20	<?xml	Text-based markup files.
<b>HTML / HTM</b>	3C 21 44 4F 43 54 59 50 45	<!DOCTYPE	Common start of web pages.