

File Formats.

All file formats on the web consist of a specific multipurpose Internet mail Extensions (MIME) Type.

MIME is a standard that identifies a file data type based on its extension.

The Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) is an agency that is responsible for standardizing MIME types.

Common file formats

Markup formats

HTML

(.html / .htm)

XHTML

(.xhtml)

Graphics

JPEG

(.jpeg / .jpg)

GIF

(.gif)

PNG

(.png)

Document

Text

(.txt)

Rich text

(.rtf)

PDF

(.pdf)

Word

(.doc)

Excel

(.xls)

Powerpoint

(.ppt)

audio/visual

RealPlayer

(.ram / .ra)

MPEG

(.mpg)

WAV

(.wav)

Ogg Vorbis

(.ogg)

MPEG audio layer 3

(.mp3)

MPEG video

(.mpeg)

Others

Cascading style sheets

(.css)

Postscript

(.ps)

ZIP

(.zip)

Pretty Good Privacy

(.pgp)

A Markup formats

markup formats consist of HTML and XHTML. HTML is a common format language that is used to create web pages and control the appearance of a web page. Its file extension is either .html (or .htm) and its mime type is 'text/html'.

XHTML is a reformulation of HTML in XML, and is used to develop web pages. It is seen as a successor to HTML. Its file extension is either .xml or .xhtml and its type is 'application/xhtml+xml'.

B Graphics formats

Graphics formats include JPEG, GIF, PNG and unrecognizable image file formats. JPEG is a standard web page image format.

This file format stores compressed images and features, such as changeable image quality that enables you to reduce file size.

JPEG's file extension is .jpeg or .jpg and its MIME type is 'image/jpeg'.

GIF does not support native compression, and therefore, does not support file size reduction. GIF is available in two types, standard and animated.

Animated GIF consists of a series of images that stimulate motion. Its file extension is .gif and its mime type is 'image/gif'.

PNG is the latest standard Web page image format. This file format supports compression and can be saved in various quality levels and file sizes.

PNG file size increases with improvement in its image quality. PNGs are also available for animation.

Its file extension is .png and its mime type is image/png.

Any graphic file format that is developed and distributed, but not standardized by the IANA, is an unrecognized file format.

After IANA standardizes a file format, it can be registered with various operating systems such as windows and unix.

The Mime type for unrecognized file formats is application/octet-stream.

C Document formats

A text (txt) file supports only plain text. Its extension is .txt and its mime type is text/plain.

Rich text format (RTF) is a document type that supports simple formatting such as underlining characters, bolding and changing the font size.

Its extension is .rtf and its mime type is text/rtf.

- * Portable document format (PDF) is based on Post-script technology
This file format can retain sophisticated formatting and graphics.
Its extension is .pdf. and its mime type is application/pdf
- * Microsoft word is a word processing Application that allows you to create edit, format, and save documents
Its extension is .doc and its mime type is application/msword.
- * Microsoft Excel is a spreadsheet application that allows you to perform various numerical calculations
Its extension is .xls. and its mime type is application/vnd.ms-excel.
- * MS powerpoint facilitates the creation of presentations comprising text, graphics and sound.
Its extension is .ppt and its mime type is application/vnd.ms-powerpoint.

D Audio and Video files

Audio and video files are available in the Real player format. the Real player application allows you to play these files
Its extensions are .ram and .ra
and its mime types

audio/ram

audio/pr-realaudio-ram

audio/x-realaudio-ra

WAV is the native digital audio format for windows

CIW foundations

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- * Wave file extension is .WAV and its mime type is audio/wav and audio/x-wav
- * Moving Pictures experts Group (MPEG) file format is a streaming audio file. Its extension is .mpeg and its mime type is audio/mpeg
mpeg - video file format is a streaming video file. The extension of the file format is .mpeg and its mime type is video/mpeg
- * MPEG Audio layer 3 (MP3) is a standard audio file format. It is the most popular audio file format. MP3 format compresses audio files to reduce the file size. However, this does not affect the audio quality
Its extension is .mp3 and its file type is audio/mp3.
- * Ogg Vorbis is an audio file format. Its extension is .ogg and its mime type is application/ogg.

E other file formats

The cascading Style sheets (CSS) file format is created by defining various formatting styles in plain text files. These files are then attached to HTML files to apply the defined formatting styles.
Its extension is .css and its mime type is .css

- * Postscript is a language that is designed to describe page formatting for text and graphics. It was developed by Adobe but it has become an open standard. Its extension is .ps and its mime type is application/postscript.
- * A Zip application compresses files. It is very useful because compression files reduces file size. This further enables easy transmission of compressed files across the internet.
- * A Zipped file has an extension of .zip and its mime type is application/zip.
Pretty Good Privacy [PGP] is an encryption utility. Its extension is .pgp and its mime type is application/pgp-encrypted.

Generally, common file formats are standard formats and do not require special plug-ins to operate on any system.

However, proprietary file formats require special plug-ins.

They can improve the appearance of a web site. However, most of these formats are created using software that has to be purchased from its vendors.

To use a proprietary file format, you may require specific plug-ins or software. However, it may not be easy to procure such plug-ins and software, if they are freely available. It can be beneficial to use them to retain web pages accessibility features and audience interest.

The Major drawback of proprietary file formats is that the software to create them can be expensive if it needs to be purchased from its vendors.

However, you can counter this drawback by utilizing free or open source alternatives for file formats.

Some proprietary file formats are not suitable for disabled people. For example, a visually challenged person may use sight assistance tools to convert text to audible content. Therefore a PDF file may not be useful as it does not allow content to be copied by any third party software.
