Source element for multiple source files

The source element that we saw in the previous unit is also used to specify multiple source files for the video element. The <source> tag is self closing and so does not require a closing tag.

```html
<video src="http://techslides.com/demos/sample-videos/small.mp4" controls height="320"width="240">
  <source src="http://techslides.com/demos/sample-videos/small.mp4" type="video/mp4">
  <source src="http://techslides.com/demos/sample-videos/small.webm" type="video/wemb">
  <source src="http://techslides.com/demos/sample-videos/small.ogv" type="video/ogg">
  Your browser does not support the HTML5 video element.
</audio>
```

The advantage of providing multiple source files in different formats is that if the browser doesn't support the first format, it will try the second source file. The browser can select from the list based on its file format or codec support. There is no one format that is supported by all browsers. So you will have to use the source element to list a combination of formats.

The following table lists the source element's attributes:

Attribute	Description	Usage
src	Specifies the URL or location of the media file	<source src="multimedia/small.mp4"></source>
type	Specifies the internet media type, also known as the MIME type for the audio/video resource. A media type is an identifier for file formats and format contents transmitted	<source src="multimedia/small.mp4" type="video/mp4"></source>

over the internet like text and audio files.

It consists of a type and a sub-type. Eg: "video/mp4" -**video** is the type and **mp4** is the subtype. It can also take optional parameters that can be specified after a semicolon - "video/mp4; codecs="avc1.42E01E, mp4a.40.2"" means the video is in the mp4 format and uses the codecs - avc1.42E01E, mp4a.40.2. If the browser supports the mp4 format but none of the avc1.42E01E, mp4a.40.2 codecs, the video file will not load.

If the type attribute is not specified, the media type is retrieved from the server.

Track element for captions and subtitles

The video element is very similar to the HTML5 audio element except for one addition - the track element. The track element is used to add timed text like subtitles, captions or any text you would like to display to the user when the video is playing.

- Web Video Text Tracks (WebVTT) files are the standard to include subtitles or captions. You can learn how to create them here.

- Captions and subtitles are not the same. Subtitles are meant to translate the language (for those who do not understand the language being spoken in the video). Captions are meant for the deaf or people who have difficulty hearing. It includes sound effects and other significant audio like music and lyrics and is usually in the same language as the

audio. Read more about their difference here.

- Like the <source> tag, you can add multiple <track> tags in your video element to add multiple subtitle/caption tracks. This is commonly done when providing them in different languages.

The <track> tag is self closing and so does not require a closing tag. You specify the track element as a child element of your <video> tag like this:

```
<video width="320" height="240" controls>
  <source src="week2.mp4" type="video/mp4">
  <track src="week2-captions.vtt"kind="captions" srclang="en" label="English"default>
    Your browser does not support the HTML5 video element.
</video>
```

The following table lists the track element's attributes:

Attribute	Description	Usage
default	It is a boolean attribute. If you have multiple tracks for the same video file, you can specify which one is the default using this attribute. It can be used on one track element in a video. If you only have one track element, default should still be added to deliver the video with captions turned on in most browsers.	<video src="multimedia/small.mp4 controls> <track src="captions/small-en.vtt" label="english" default> <track src="captions/small-fr.vtt" label="french"> </video>
kind	Specifies the kind of the source file. Values: subtitles (default value), captions, descriptions (textual description of the video best suited for the blind who cannot be seen), chapters (meant for chapter titles),	<track src="captions/small-en.vtt" kind="captions">

	metadata (kind of track that is used by scripts and is not visible to the user).	

label	Label of the track. Browser uses the label value to display track options for user to select.	`<track src="captions/small-en.vtt" label="English">`
		
		`<track src="captions/small-fr.vtt" label="French">`

src	URL of track. The **file must be on a web server**. The .vtt file cannot be loaded from a file (file://) protocol.	`<track src="http://www.xyz.org/small-en.vtt">`
srclang	Language of text track. Eg: en, fr. If kind is 'subtitles', then the srclang attribute must be specified.	`<track src="captions/small-en.vtt" kind="subtitles" srclang="en">`

You can download a sample video here and its correspondingWebVTT file here. Try it in an HTML editor with the code sample above and explore captions!