

HTML Multimedia

Multimedia on the web is sound, music, videos, movies, and animations.

What is Multimedia?

Multimedia comes in many different formats. It can be almost anything you can hear or see, like images, music, sound, videos, records, films, animations, and more.

Web pages often contain multimedia elements of different types and formats.

Browser Support

The first web browsers had support for text only, limited to a single font in a single color.

Later came browsers with support for colors, fonts, images, and multimedia!

Multimedia Formats

Multimedia elements (like audio or video) are stored in media files.

The most common way to discover the type of a file, is to look at the file extension.

Multimedia files have formats and different extensions like: .wav, .mp3, .mp4, .mpg, .wmv, and .avi.

Common Video Formats



There are many video formats out there.

The MP4, WebM, and Ogg formats are supported by HTML.

The MP4 format is recommended by YouTube.

Format	File	Description
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MPEG	.mpg	MPEG. Developed by the Moving Pictures Expert Group. The first popular video format on the web. Not supported anymore in HTML.
	.mpeg	
AVI	.avi	AVI (Audio Video Interleave). Developed by Microsoft. Commonly used in video cameras and TV hardware. Plays well on Windows computers, but not in web browsers.
		WMV (Windows Media Video). Developed by Microsoft. Commonly used in video cameras and TV hardware. Plays well on Windows computers, but not in web browsers.
QuickTime	.mov	QuickTime. Developed by Apple. Commonly used in video cameras and TV hardware. Plays well on Apple computers, but not in web browsers.
RealVideo	.rm	RealVideo. Developed by Real Media to allow video streaming with low bandwidths. Does not play in web browsers.
	.ram	
Flash	.swf	Flash. Developed by Macromedia. Often requires an extra component (plug-in) to play in web browsers.
	.flv	
Ogg	.ogg	Theora Ogg. Developed by the Xiph.Org Foundation. Supported by HTML.
WebM	.webm	WebM. Developed by Mozilla, Opera, Adobe, and Google. Supported by HTML.
MPEG-4 or MP4	.mp4	MP4. Developed by the Moving Pictures Expert Group. Commonly used in video cameras and TV hardware. Supported by all browsers and recommended by YouTube.

Note: Only MP4, WebM, and Ogg video are supported by the HTML standard.

Common Audio Formats

MP3 is the best format for compressed recorded music. The term MP3 has become synonymous with digital music.

If your website is about recorded music, MP3 is the choice.

Format	File	Description
MIDI	.mid	MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface). Main format for all electronic music devices like synthesizers and PC sound cards. MIDI files do not contain sound, but digital notes that can be played by electronics. Plays well on all computers and music hardware, but not in web browsers.
	.midi	
RealAudio	.rm	RealAudio. Developed by Real Media to allow streaming of audio with low bandwidths. Does not play in web browsers.
	.ram	
WMA	.wma	WMA (Windows Media Audio). Developed by Microsoft. Plays well on Windows computers, but not in web browsers.
AAC	.aac	AAC (Advanced Audio Coding). Developed by Apple as the default format for iTunes. Plays well on Apple computers, but not in web browsers.
WAV	.wav	WAV. Developed by IBM and Microsoft. Plays well on Windows, Macintosh, and Linux operating systems. Supported by HTML.

Ogg	.ogg	Ogg. Developed by the Xiph.Org Foundation. Supported by HTML.
MP3	.mp3	MP3 files are actually the sound part of MPEG files. MP3 is the most popular format for music players. Combines good compression (small files) with high quality. Supported by all browsers.
MP4	.mp4	MP4 is a video format, but can also be used for audio. Supported by all browsers.

Note: Only MP3, WAV, and Ogg audio are supported by the HTML standard

HTML Video

The HTML `<video>` element is used to show a video on a web page.

Example

Courtesy of [Big Buck Bunny](#):

Your browser does not support HTML5 video.

The HTML `<video>` Element

To show a video in HTML, use the `<video>` element:

Example

```
<video width="320" height="240" controls>
  <source src="movie.mp4" type="video/mp4">
  <source src="movie.ogg" type="video/ogg">
Your browser does not support the video tag.
</video>
```

How it Works

The `controls` attribute adds video controls, like play, pause, and volume.

It is a good idea to always include `width` and `height` attributes. If height and width are not set, the page might flicker while the video loads.

The `<source>` element allows you to specify alternative video files which the browser may choose from. The browser will use the first recognized format.

The text between the `<video>` and `</video>` tags will only be displayed in browsers that do not support the `<video>` element.

HTML `<video>` Autoplay

To start a video automatically, use the `autoplay` attribute:

Example

```
<video width="320" height="240" autoplay>
  <source src="movie.mp4" type="video/mp4">
  <source src="movie.ogg" type="video/ogg">
Your browser does not support the video tag.
</video>
```

Note: Chromium browsers do not allow autoplay in most cases. However, muted autoplay is always allowed.

Add `muted` after `autoplay` to let your video start playing automatically (but muted):

Example

```
<video width="320" height="240" autoplay muted>
  <source src="movie.mp4" type="video/mp4">
  <source src="movie.ogg" type="video/ogg">
Your browser does not support the video tag.
</video>
```

Browser Support

The numbers in the table specify the first browser version that fully supports the `<video>` element.

Element

<code><video></code>	4.0	9.0	3.5	4.0	10.5
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HTML Video Formats

There are three supported video formats: MP4, WebM, and Ogg. The browser support for the different formats is:

Browser	MP4	WebM	Ogg
Edge	YES	YES	YES
Chrome	YES	YES	YES
Firefox	YES	YES	YES
Safari	YES	YES	NO
Opera	YES	YES	YES

HTML Video - Media Types

File Format	Media Type
MP4	video/mp4
WebM	video/webm
Ogg	video/ogg

HTML Video - Methods, Properties, and Events

The HTML DOM defines methods, properties, and events for the `<video>` element.

This allows you to load, play, and pause videos, as well as setting duration and volume.

There are also DOM events that can notify you when a video begins to play, is paused, etc.

[Example: Using JavaScript](#)

HTML Video Tags

Tag	Description
<code><video></code>	Defines a video or movie
<code><source></code>	Defines multiple media resources for media elements, such as <code><video></code> and <code><audio></code>
<code><track></code>	Defines text tracks in media players

HTML Audio

The HTML `<audio>` element is used to play an audio file on a web page.

The HTML `<audio>` Element

To play an audio file in HTML, use the `<audio>` element:

Example

```
<audio controls>
```

```
  <source src="horse.ogg" type="audio/ogg">
```

```
  <source src="horse.mp3" type="audio/mpeg">
```

Your browser does not support the audio element.

```
</audio>
```

HTML Audio - How It Works

The `controls` attribute adds audio controls, like play, pause, and volume.

The `<source>` element allows you to specify alternative audio files which the browser may choose from. The browser will use the first recognized format.

The text between the `<audio>` and `</audio>` tags will only be displayed in browsers that do not support the `<audio>` element.

HTML `<audio>` Autoplay

To start an audio file automatically, use the `autoplay` attribute:

Example

```
<audio controls autoplay>
  <source src="horse.ogg" type="audio/ogg">
  <source src="horse.mp3" type="audio/mpeg">
Your browser does not support the audio element.
</audio>
```

Note: Chromium browsers do not allow autoplay in most cases. However, muted autoplay is always allowed.

Add `muted` after `autoplay` to let your audio file start playing automatically (but muted):

Example

```
<audio controls autoplay muted>
  <source src="horse.ogg" type="audio/ogg">
  <source src="horse.mp3" type="audio/mpeg">
Your browser does not support the audio element.
</audio>
```

Browser Support

The numbers in the table specify the first browser version that fully supports the `<audio>` element.

Element

<audio>	4.0	9.0	3.5	4.0	10.5
---------	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

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HTML Audio Formats

There are three supported audio formats: MP3, WAV, and OGG. The browser support for the different formats is:

Browser	MP3	WAV	OGG
Edge/IE	YES	YES*	YES*
Chrome	YES	YES	YES

Firefox	YES	YES	YES
Safari	YES	YES	NO
Opera	YES	YES	YES

*From Edge 79

HTML Audio - Media Types

File Format Media Type

MP3	audio/mpeg
OGG	audio/ogg
WAV	audio/wav

HTML Audio - Methods, Properties, and Events

The HTML DOM defines methods, properties, and events for the `<audio>` element.

This allows you to load, play, and pause audios, as well as set duration and volume.

There are also DOM events that can notify you when an audio begins to play, is paused, etc.

For a full DOM reference, go to our [HTML Audio/Video DOM Reference](#).

HTML Audio Tags

Tag	Description
<code><audio></code>	Defines sound content
<code><source></code>	Defines multiple media resources for media elements, such as <code><video></code> and <code><audio></code>

HTML YouTube Videos

The easiest way to play videos in HTML, is to use YouTube.

Struggling with Video Formats?

Converting videos to different formats can be difficult and time-consuming.

An easier solution is to let YouTube play the videos in your web page.

YouTube Video Id

YouTube will display an id (like `tgBNymZ7vqY`), when you save (or play) a video.

You can use this id, and refer to your video in the HTML code.

Playing a YouTube Video in HTML

To play your video on a web page, do the following:

- Upload the video to YouTube
- Take a note of the video id
- Define an `<iframe>` element in your web page
- Let the `src` attribute point to the video URL
- Use the `width` and `height` attributes to specify the dimension of the player
- Add any other parameters to the URL (see below)

Example

```
<iframe width="420" height="315"  
src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/tgBNymZ7vqY">  
</iframe>
```

YouTube Autoplay + Mute

You can let your video start playing automatically when a user visits the page, by adding `autoplay=1` to the YouTube URL. However, automatically starting a video is annoying for your visitors!

Note: Chromium browsers do not allow autoplay in most cases. However, muted autoplay is always allowed.

Add `mute=1` after `autoplay=1` to let your video start playing automatically (but muted).

YouTube - Autoplay + Muted

```
<iframe width="420" height="315"
src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/tgbNymZ7vqY?autoplay=1&mute=1">
</iframe>
```

YouTube Playlist

A comma separated list of videos to play (in addition to the original URL).

YouTube Loop

Add `loop=1` to let your video loop forever.

Value 0 (default): The video will play only once.

Value 1: The video will loop (forever).

YouTube - Loop

```
<iframe width="420" height="315"
src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/tgbNymZ7vqY?playlist=tgbNymZ7vqY&loop=1">
</iframe>
```

YouTube Controls

Add `controls=0` to not display controls in the video player.

Value 0: Player controls does not display.

Value 1 (default): Player controls display.

YouTube - Controls

```
<iframe width="420" height="315"
src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/tgbNymZ7vqY?controls=0">
</iframe>
```