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php check file extension in upload form

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I check file extension for upload or not uploaded. my i.e methods worked but now i need to understand, my methods (pathinfo) is true ? another better and faster way ?! Thanks

```
$filename = $_FILES['video_file']['name'];  
$ext = pathinfo($filename, PATHINFO_EXTENSION);  
if( $ext !== 'gif' || $ext !== 'png' || $ext !== 'jpg' ) {echo 'error';}
```

[php](#) [file-upload](#)

asked May 4 '12 at 21:04

 [BBKing](#)
296 4 15 33

4 why is the file called 'video_file' yet you're only allowing images.. – [cream](#) May 6 '13 at 7:53

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5 Answers

Using `if($ext !== 'gif')` might not be efficient what if you allow like 20 different extensions

Try

```
$allowed = array('gif','png','jpg');  
$filename = $_FILES['video_file']['name'];  
$ext = pathinfo($filename, PATHINFO_EXTENSION);  
if(!in_array($ext,$allowed) ) {  
    echo 'error';  
}
```

answered May 4 '12 at 21:09

 [Baba](#)
49.4k 12 55 103

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You can check the extension, but that's not the most reliable method. For better way of checking file type you should check its mime type. [Mime Types](#)

From PHP Manual:

```
<?php  
$finfo = finfo_open(FILEINFO_MIME_TYPE); // return mime type ala mimetype extens  
foreach (glob("**") as $filename) {  
    echo finfo_file($finfo, $filename) . "\n";  
}
```

```
}
finfo_close($finfo);
?>
```

The above example will output something similar to:

```
text/html
image/gif
application/vnd.ms-excel
```

answered May 4 '12 at 21:08



[Reza Sanaie](#)
2,940 13 30

1 I almost doubt there is a way to get the REAL file extension. Everywhere there are answers "to analyze filename" which is the worst way... Thanks a lot for this answer! – [instead](#) Sep 24 '13 at 17:23

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Personally, I prefer to use `preg_match()` function:

```
if(preg_match("/\.(gif|png|jpg)$/ ", $filename))
```

or `in_array()`

```
$exts = array('gif', 'png', 'jpg');
if(in_array(end(explode('.', $filename)), $exts))
```

With `in_array()` can be useful if you have a lot of extensions to validate and performance question. Another way to validate file images: you can use `@imagecreatefrom*`(), if the function fails, this mean the image is not valid.

For example:

```
function testimage($path)
{
    if(!preg_match("/\.(png|jpg|gif)$/ ", $path, $ext)) return 0;
    $ret = null;
    switch($ext)
    {
        case 'png': $ret = @imagecreatefrompng($path); break;
        case 'jpeg': $ret = @imagecreatefromjpeg($path); break;
        // ...
        default: $ret = 0;
    }

    return $ret;
}
```

then:

```
$valid = testimage('foo.png');
```

Assuming that `foo.png` is a PHP-script file with `.png` extension, the above function fails. It can avoid attacks like shell update and [LFI](#).

[edited May 4 '12 at 21:29](#)

answered May 4 '12 at 21:08



[Jack](#)
3,705 4 41 95


[add a comment](#)

`pathinfo` is cool but your code can be improved:

```
$filename = $_FILES['video_file']['name'];
$ext = pathinfo($filename, PATHINFO_EXTENSION);
$allowed = array('jpg', 'png', 'gif');
if( ! in_array( $ext, $allowed ) ) {echo 'error';}
```

Of course simply checking the extension of the filename would not guarantee the file type as a valid image. You may consider using a function like `getimagesize` to validate uploaded image files.

answered May 4 '12 at 21:09

[add a comment](#) [Conrad Warhol](#)
732 5 13

Not sure if this would have a faster computational time, but another option...

```
$acceptedFormats = array('gif', 'png', 'jpg');  
  
if(!in_array(pathinfo($filename, PATHINFO_EXTENSION), $acceptedFormats)) {  
    echo 'error';  
}
```

answered May 4 '12 at 21:10

 [liz](#)
393 6 24[add a comment](#)

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