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INTRODUCTION TO WORD FORMATTING

FILE FORMATS

FILENAME EXTENSIONS:

Microsoft word's native file formats are denoted either by a .doc or .docx filename extension.

Although the .doc extension has been used in many different versions of Word, it actually encompasses four distinct file formats:

1. Word for DOS
2. Word for Windows 1 and 2; Word 3 and 4 for Mac OS.
3. Word 6 and 95 for Windows; Word 6 for Mac OS.
4. Word 97 and later for Windows; Word 98 and later for Mac OS.

BINARY FORMATS (WORD 97-2007):

During the late 1990s and early 2000s, the default Word document format (.DOC) became a defacto standard of document file formats for Microsoft office users. There are different versions of "Word Document Format" used by default in word 97-2007. Each binary word file is a compound file, a hierarchical file system within a file. According to Joel Spolsky, Word Binary file format is extremely complex mainly because its developers had to accommodate an overwhelming number of features and prioritize performance over anything else.

XML DOCUMENT (WORD 2003):

The .docx XML format introduced in Word 2003 was a simple, XML-based format called WordProcessingML or WordML.

The Microsoft Office XML formats are XML-based document formats (or XML schemes) introduced in versions of Microsoft office prior to office 2007. Microsoft office XP introduced a new XML format for storing Excel spreadsheets and office 2003 added an XML-based format for Word documents.

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