

# EMBEDDED MEDIA

The HTML specification defines **embedded content** as follows:

*content that imports another resource into the document, or content from another vocabulary that is inserted into the document*

In **Chapter 7, Adding Images**, you saw examples of both parts of that definition because images are one type of embedded content. The **img** and **picture** elements point to an external image resource using the **src** or **srcset** attributes, and the **svg** element embeds an image file written in the SVG vocabulary right in the page.

But images certainly aren't the only things you can stick in a web page. In this chapter, we'll look at other types of embedded content and their respective markup, including the following:

- A window for viewing an external HTML source (**iframe**)
- Multipurpose embedding elements (**object** and **embed**)
- Video and audio players (**video** and **audio**)
- A scriptable drawing area that can be used for animations or game-like interactivity (**canvas**)

## WINDOW-IN-A-WINDOW (IFRAME)

The **iframe** (short for **inline frame**) element lets you embed a separate HTML document or other web resource in a document. It has been around for many years, but it has recently become one of the most popular ways to share content between sites.

### IN THIS CHAPTER

The **iframe** element

The **object** element

Video and audio players

The **canvas** element

<iframe>...</iframe>

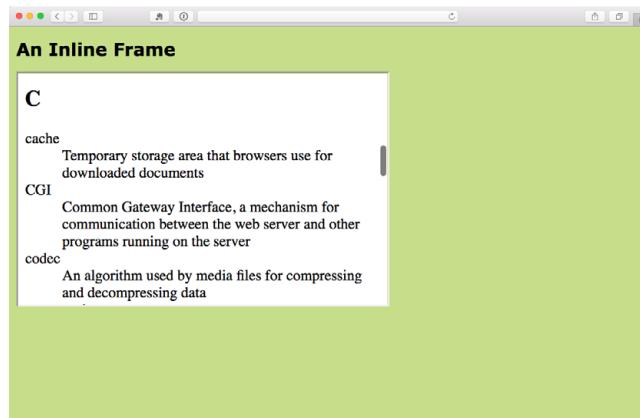
A nested browsing window

For example, when you request the code to embed a video from YouTube or a map from Google Maps, they provide iframe-based code to copy and paste into your page. Many other media sites are following suit because it allows them to control aspects of the content you are putting on your page. Inline frames have also become a standard tool for embedding ad content that might have been handled with Flash back in the day. Web tutorial sites may use inline frames to embed code samples on pages.

Adding an `iframe` to the page creates a little window-in-a-window (or a [nested browsing context](#), as it is known in the spec) that displays the external resource. You place an inline frame on a page similarly to an image, specifying the source (`src`) of its content. The `width` and `height` attributes specify the dimensions of the frame. The content in the `iframe` element itself is fallback content for browsers that don't support the element, although virtually all browsers support iframes at this point.

In this very crude example, the parent document displays the web page `glossary.html` in an inline frame ([FIGURE 10-1](#)). This iframe has its own set of scrollbars because the embedded HTML document is too long to fit. To be honest, you don't often see iframes used this way in the wild (except for code examples, perhaps), but it is a good way to understand how they work.

```
<h1>An Inline Frame</h1>
<iframe src="glossary.html" width="400" height="250" >
  Read the <a href="glossary.html">glossary</a>.
</iframe>
```



**FIGURE 10-1.** Inline frames (added with the `iframe` element) are like a browser window within the browser that displays external HTML documents and resources.

In modern uses of `iframe`, the window is not so obvious. In fact, there is usually no indication that there is an embedded frame there at all, as shown by the Google Maps example in [FIGURE 10-2](#).



**FIGURE 10-2.** The edges of an `iframe` are usually not detectable, as shown in this embedded Google Map.

There are some security concerns with using iframes because they may act like open windows through which hackers can sneak. The `sandbox` attribute puts restrictions on what the framed content can do, such as not allowing forms, pop ups, scripts, and the like.

Iframe security is beyond the scope of this chapter, but you'll need to brush up if you are going to make use of iframes on your site. I recommend the MDN Web Docs article “From object to iframe: Other Embedding Technologies” ([developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/HTML/Multimedia\\_and\\_embedding/Other\\_embedding\\_technologies](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/HTML/Multimedia_and_embedding/Other_embedding_technologies)), which provides a good overview of iframe security issues.

To get a feel for how iframes work, use one to embed your favorite video on a page in [EXERCISE 10-1](#).

## EXERCISE 10-1. Embedding a video with iframe

If you'd like to poke around with an `iframe`, it's easy to grab one from YouTube to embed your favorite video on a page.

Start by creating a new HTML document, including the basic structural elements that we covered in [Chapter 4, Creating a Simple Page](#).

Go to YouTube and once you are on the page for your chosen video, look for the Share button; then choose the Embed option. The `iframe` code is there for you to copy and paste. If you click “Show more,” there will be further configuration options. Just copy the `iframe` code and paste it into the new HTML document. Open it in a browser, and you're done!

**<object>...</object>**

Represents external resource

**<param>**

Parameters of an object

A plug-in is software that gives a browser functionality that it doesn't have natively.

## The embed Element

The **embed** element was created by Netscape for use with plug-in technologies. It has always been well supported, but it wasn't adopted into a formal specification until HTML5. With so many other options for embedding media, the **embed** element is not as useful as it once was. It is often used as a fallback when there is a good reason to support extremely old browser versions.

**embed** is an empty element that points to an external resource with the **src** attribute:

```
<embed type="video/quicktime"
src="movies/hekboy.mov"
width="320" height="256">
```

There are additional media-specific attributes that set parameters similar to the **param** element, but I'm not going to cover them all here. In fact, I think that's all there is to say about **embed**.

## MULTIPURPOSE EMBEDDER (OBJECT)

In the early days, web browsers were extremely limited in what they were able to render, so they relied on **plug-ins** to help them display media that they couldn't handle natively. Java applets, Flash movies, RealMedia (an old web video and audio format), and other media required third-party plug-ins in order to be played in the browser. Heck, even JPEG images once required a plug-in to display.

To embed those media resources on the page, we used the **object** and **embed** elements. They have slightly different uses. The **object** element is a multipurpose object placer. It can be used to place an image, create a nested browsing context (like an iframe), or embed a resource that must be handled by a plug-in. The **embed** element was for use with plug-ins only.

To put it frankly, although still in use, **object** is going out of style, and **embed** is all but extinct (I've tucked it away in a brief sidebar). Media like Java applets and Flash movies are disappearing fast, and modern browsers use APIs to display many types of media natively. In addition, mobile browsers as well as the desktop Microsoft Edge browser don't support plug-ins.

That said, let's take a look at the **object** element. At its most minimal, the **object** element uses the **data** attribute to point to the resource and the **type** attribute to provide its MIME type. Any content within the **object** element tags will be used as a fallback for browsers that don't support the embedded resource type. Here is a simple **object** element that places an SVG image on the page and provides a PNG fallback:

```
<object data="picture.svg" type="image/svg+xml">

</object>
```

Additional attributes for the **object** element are available and vary according to the type of media it is placing. The media format may also require that the **object** contain a number of **param** elements that set parameters specific to that type of media.

## Farewell Flash

Apple's announcement that it would not support Flash on its iOS devices, ever, gave HTML5 an enormous push forward and eventually led to Adobe stopping development on its mobile Flash products. Not long after, Microsoft announced that it was discontinuing its Silverlight media player in lieu of HTML5 alternatives. As of this writing, HTML5 is a long way from being able to reproduce the vast features and functionality of Flash, but it's getting there gradually. We are likely to occasionally see Flash players on the desktop, but the trajectory away from plug-ins and toward standard web technologies seems clear.

In this example, `param` elements specify whether the movie starts automatically (no) or has visible controls (yes):

```
<object type="video/quicktime" data="movies/hekboy.mov" width="320"
height="256">
  <param name="autostart" value="false">
  <param name="controller" value="true">
</object>
```

## VIDEO AND AUDIO

Until recently, browsers did not have built-in capabilities for handling video or sound, so they used plug-ins to fill in the gap. With the development of the web as an open standards platform, and with broadband connections allowing for heftier downloads than previously, it seemed to be time to make multimedia support part of browsers' out-of-the-box capabilities. Enter the new `video` and `audio` elements and their respective APIs (see the “**API**” sidebar).

### The Good News and the Bad News

The good news is that the `video` and `audio` elements are well supported in modern browsers, including IE 9+, Safari, Chrome, Opera, and Firefox for the desktop and iOS Safari 4+, Android 2.3+, and Opera Mobile (however, not Opera Mini).

But if you're envisioning a perfect world where all browsers are supporting video and audio in perfect harmony, I'm afraid it's not that simple. Although they have all lined up on the markup and JavaScript for embedding media players, unfortunately they have not agreed on which formats to support. Let's take a brief journey through the land of media file formats. If you want to add video or audio to your page, this stuff is important to understand.

### How Media Formats Work

When you prepare audio or video content for web delivery, there are two format decisions to make. The first is how the media is **encoded** (the algorithms used to convert the source to 1s and 0s and how they are compressed). The method used for encoding is called the **codec**, which is short for “code/decode” or “compress/decompress.” There are a bazillion codecs out there (that's an estimate). Some probably sound familiar, like MP3; others might sound new, such as H.264, Vorbis, Theora, VP8, and AAC.

Second, you need to choose the **container format** for the media. You can think of it as a ZIP file that holds the compressed media and its metadata together in a package. Usually a container format is compatible with more than one codec type, and the full story is complicated. Because space is limited in this chapter, I'm going to cut to the chase and introduce the most common container/codec combinations for the web. If you are going to add video or audio to your site, I encourage you to get more familiar with all of these formats.

### TERMINOLOGY

#### API

An **API** (**Application Programming Interface**) is a standardized set of commands, data names, properties, actions, and so on, that lets one software application communicate with another. HTML5 introduced a number of APIs that give browsers programmable features that previously could only be achieved with third-party plug-ins.

Some APIs have a markup component, such as embedding multimedia with the new HTML5 `video` and `audio` elements (Media Player API). Others happen entirely behind the scenes with JavaScript or server-side components, such as creating web applications that work even without an internet connection (Offline Web Application API).

The W3C is working on lots and lots of APIs for use with web applications, all in varying stages of completion and implementation. Most have their own specifications, separate from the HTML5 spec itself, but they are generally included under the wide HTML5 umbrella that covers web-based applications.

A list of all HTML5 APIs and specs in development is available at [html5-overview.net](http://html5-overview.net), maintained by Erik Wilde. You will also find introductions to better-known APIs in **Appendix D**.

### FURTHER READING

For a thorough introduction to HTML video and audio, I recommend *Beginning HTML5 Media: Make the Most of the New Video and Audio Standards for the Web* by Silvia Pfeiffer and Tom Green (Apress).

## Meet the video formats

For video, the most common options are as follows:

**MPEG-4 container + H.264 video codec + AAC audio codec.** This combination is generally referred to as “MPEG-4,” and it takes the *.mp4* or *.m4v* file suffix. H.264 is a high-quality and flexible video codec, but it is patented and must be licensed for a fee. All current browsers that support HTML5 video can play MPEG-4 files with the H.264 codec. The newer H.265 codec (also known as [HEVC, High Efficiency Video Coding](#)) is in development and reduces the bitrate by half, but is not well supported as of this writing.

**WebM container + VP8 video codec + Vorbis audio codec.** “WebM” is a container format that has the advantage of being open source and royalty-free. It uses the *.webm* file extension. It was originally designed to work with VP8 and Vorbis codecs.

**WebM container + VP9 video codec + Opus audio codec.** The VP9 video codec from the WebM project offers the same video quality as VP8 and H.264 at half the bitrate. Because it is newer, it is not as well supported, but it is a great option for browsers that can play it.

**Ogg container + Theora video codec + Vorbis audio codec.** This is typically called “Ogg Theora,” and the file should have an *.ogv* suffix. All of the codecs and the container in this option are open source and unencumbered by patents or royalty restrictions, but some say the quality is inferior to other options. In addition to new browsers, it is supported on some older versions of Chrome, Firefox, and Android that don’t support WebM or MP4, so including it ensures playback for more users.

Of course, the problem that I referred to earlier is that browser makers have not agreed on a single format to support. Some go with open source, royalty-free options like Ogg Theora or WebM. Others are sticking with H.264 despite the royalty requirements. What that means is that we web developers need to make multiple versions of videos to ensure support across all browsers. [TABLE 10-1](#) lists which browsers support the various video options (see the “**Server Setup**” sidebar).

### Server Setup

In [TABLES 10-1](#) and [10-2](#), the Type column identifies the MIME type of each media format. If your site is running on the Apache server, to make sure that video and audio files are served correctly, you may need to add their respective types to the server’s *.htaccess* file. The following example adds the MP4 type/subtype and extensions:

```
AddType video/mp4 mp4 m4v
```

## Meet the audio formats

The landscape looks similar for audio formats: several to choose from, but no format that is supported by all browsers ([TABLE 10-2](#)).

**MP3.** The MP3 (short for MPEG-1 Audio Layer 3) format is a codec and container in one, with the file extension.*.mp3*. It has become ubiquitous as a music download format.

**WAV.** The WAV format (*.wav*) is also a codec and container in one. This format is uncompressed so it is only good for very short clips, like sound effects.

**Ogg container + Vorbis audio codec.** This is usually referred to as “Ogg Vorbis” and is served with the *.ogg* or *.oga* file extension.

**MPEG 4 container + AAC audio codec.** “MPEG4 audio” (*.m4a*) is less common than MP3.

**WebM container + Vorbis audio codec.** The WebM (*.webm*) format can also contain audio only.

**WebM container + Opus audio codec.** Opus is a newer, more efficient audio codec that can be used with WebM.

### FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION

#### HLS (HTTP Streaming Video)

If you are serious about web video, you should become familiar with [HLS \(HTTP Streaming Video\)](#), a streaming format that can adapt its bitrate on the fly. The HLS Wikipedia entry is as good a place as any to get started: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTTP\\_Live\\_Streaming](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTTP_Live_Streaming).

**TABLE 10-1.** Video support in desktop and mobile browsers (as of 2017)

Format	Type	IE	MS Edge	Chrome	Firefox	Safari	Opera	Android	iOS Safari
MP4 (H.264)	video/mp4 mp4 m4v	9.0+	12+	4+	Yes*	3.2+	25+	4.4+	3.2+
WebM (VP8)	video/webm webm webmv	—	—	6+	4.0+	—	15+	2.3+	—
WebM (VP9)	video/webm webm webmv	—	14+	29+	28+	—	16+	4.4+	—
Ogg Theora	video/ogg ogv	—	—	3.0+	3.5+	—	13+	2.3+	—

\* Firefox version varies by operating system.

**TABLE 10-2.** Audio support in current browsers (as of 2017)

Format	Type	IE	MS Edge	Chrome	Firefox	Opera	Safari	iOS Safari	Android
MP3	audio/mpeg mp3	9.0+	12+	3.0+	22+	15+	4+	4.1	2.3+
WAV	audio/wav or audio/wave	—	12+	8.0+	3.5+	11.5+	4+	3.2+	2.3+
Ogg Vorbis	audio/ogg ogg oga	—	—	4.0+	3.5+	11.5+	—	—	2.3+
MPEG-4/AAC	audio/mp4 m4a	11.0+	12+	12.0+	—	15+	4+	4.1+	3.0+
WebM/Vorbis	audio/webm webm	—	—	6.0+	4.0+	11.5+	—	—	2.3.3+
WebM/Opus	audio/webm webm	—	14+	33+	15+	20+	—	—	—

## Adding a Video to a Page

`<video>...</video>`  
Adds a video player to the page

I guess it's about time we got to the markup for adding a video to a web page (this is an HTML chapter, after all). Let's start with an example that assumes you are designing for an environment where you know exactly what browser your user will be using. When this is the case, you can provide only one video format using the `src` attribute in the `video` tag (just as you do for an `img`). FIGURE 10-3 shows a movie with the default player in the Chrome browser.



FIGURE 10-3. An embedded movie using the `video` element (shown in Chrome on a Mac).

## Video and Audio Encoding Tools

There are scores of options for editing and encoding video and audio files, so I can't cover them all here, but the following tools are free and get the job done.

### Video conversion

- **Handbrake** ([handbrake.fr](http://handbrake.fr)) is a popular open source tool for converting to MPEG4 with H.264, H.265, VP8, and Theora. It is available for Windows, macOS, and Linux.
- **Firefogg** ([firefogg.org](http://firefogg.org)) is an extension to Firefox for converting video to the WebM (VP8 and VP9) and Ogg Theora formats. Simply install the Firefogg extension to Firefox (cross-platform); then visit the Firefogg site and convert video by using its online interface.
- **FFmpeg** ([ffmpeg.org](http://ffmpeg.org)) is an open source, command-line tool for converting just about any video format. If you are not comfortable with the command line, there are a number of software packages (some for pay, some free) that offer a user interface to FFmpeg to make it more user-friendly.
- **Freemake** ([freemake.com](http://freemake.com)) is a free video and audio conversion tool for Windows that supports over 500 media formats.

### Audio conversion

- **Audio Converter** ([online-audio-converter.com](http://online-audio-converter.com)) is one of the free audio and video tools from [123Apps.com](http://123Apps.com) that converts files to MP3, WAV, OGG, and more.
- **Media.io** ([media.io](http://media.io)) is a free web service that converts audio to MP3, WAV, and OGG.
- **MediaHuman Audio Converter** ([www.mediahuman.com/audio-converter/](http://www.mediahuman.com/audio-converter/)) is free for Mac and Windows and can convert to all of the audio formats listed in this chapter and more. It has an easy drag-and-drop interface, but is pretty much no-frills.
- **Max** ([sbooth.org/Max/](http://sbooth.org/Max/)) is an open source audio converter (Mac only).
- **Audacity** ([www.audacityteam.org](http://www.audacityteam.org)) is free, open source, cross-platform audio software for multitrack recording and editing. It can import and export files in many of the formats listed in this chapter.

Here is a simple video element that embeds a movie and player on a web page:

```
<video src="highlight_reel.mp4" width="640" height="480"
poster="highlight_still.jpg" controls autoplay>
  Your browser does not support HTML5 video. Get the <a
  href="highlight_reel.mp4">MP4 video</a>
</video>
```

Browsers that do not support **video** display whatever content is provided within the **video** element. In this example, it provides a link to the movie that your visitor could download and play in another player.

There are also some attributes in that example worth looking at in detail:

**width="pixel measurement"**

**height="pixel measurement"**

Specifies the size of the box the embedded media player takes up on the screen. Generally, it is best to set the dimensions to exactly match the pixel dimensions of the movie. The movie will resize to match the dimensions set here.

**poster="url of image"**

Provides the location of an image that is shown in place of the video before it plays.

**controls**

Adding the **controls** attribute prompts the browser to display its built-in media controls, generally a play/pause button, a “seeker” that lets you move to a position within the video, and volume controls. It is possible to create your own custom player interface using CSS and JavaScript if you want more consistency across browsers.

**autoplay**

Makes the video start playing automatically after it has downloaded enough of the media file to play through without stopping. In general, use of **autoplay** should be avoided in favor of letting the user decide when the video should start. **autoplay** does not work on iOS Safari and some other mobile browsers in order to protect users from unnecessary data downloads.

In addition, the **video** element can use the **loop** attribute to make the video play again after it has finished (ad infinitum), **muted** for playing the video track without the audio, and **preload** for suggesting to the browser whether the video data should be fetched as soon as the page loads (**preload="auto"**) or wait until the user clicks the play button (**preload="none"**). Setting **preload="metadata"** loads information about the media file, but not the media itself. A device can decide how to best handle the **auto** setting; for example, a browser in a smartphone may protect a user's data usage by not preloading media, even when it is set to **auto**.

## Providing video format options

Do you remember back in [Chapter 7](#) when we supplied multiple image formats with the `picture` element using a number of `source` elements? Well, `picture` got that idea from `video`!

As you've seen, it is not easy to find one video format to please all browsers (although MPEG4/H.264 gets close). In addition, new efficient video formats like VP9 and H.265 are available but not supported in older browsers. Using `source` elements, we can let the browsers use what they can.

In the markup, a series of `source` elements inside the `video` element point to each video file. Browsers look down the list until they find one they support and download only that version. The following example provides a video clip in the souped-up WebM/VP9 format for supporting browsers, as well as an MP4 and Ogg Theora for other browsers. This will cover pretty much all browsers that support HTML5 video (see the sidebar “[Flash Video Fallback](#)”).

```
<video id="video" controls poster="img/poster.jpg">
  <source src="clip.webm" type="video/webm">
  <source src="clip.mp4" type="video/mp4">
  <source src="clip.ogg" type="video/ogg">
  <a href="clip.mp4">Download the MP4 of the clip.</a>
</video>;
```

## Custom video players

One of the powerful things about the `video` element and the Media Player API is that the system allows for a lot of customization. You can change the appearance of the control buttons with CSS and manipulate the functionality with JavaScript. That is all beyond the scope of this chapter, but I recommend the article “Creating a Cross-Browser Video Player” by Eric Shepherd, Chris Mills, and Ian Devlin ([developer.mozilla.org/en-US/Apps/Fundamentals/Video\\_and\\_video\\_delivery/cross\\_browser\\_video\\_player](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/Apps/Fundamentals/Video_and_video_delivery/cross_browser_video_player)) for a good overview.

You may also be interested in trying out a prefab video player that provides good looks and advanced performance such as support for streaming video formats. You can implement many of them by adding a line or two of JavaScript to your document and then by using the `video` element, so it's not hard to get started. There's a nice roundup of plug-and-play video player options listed at VideoSWS ([videosws.praegnanz.de/](http://videosws.praegnanz.de/)).

### Flash Video Fallback

Older browsers—most notably Internet Explorer versions 8 and earlier—do not support `video`. If f IE8 is making a significant blip in your site statistics, you may choose to provide a Flash movie fallback. The “Creating a Cross-Browser Video Player” article mentioned previously has thorough explanation of the technique. Another article worth a read is Kroc Camen’s “Video for Everybody” ([camendesign.com/code/video\\_for\\_everybody](http://camendesign.com/code/video_for_everybody)). It is a bit dated, but I’m sure would be helpful, balanced with your up-to-date browser support knowledge.

## Adding Audio to a Page

If you've wrapped your head around the `video` markup example, you already know how to add audio to a page. The `audio` element uses the same attributes as the `video` element, with the exception of `width`, `height`, and `poster` (because there is nothing to display). Just like the `video` element, you can provide a stack of audio format options using the `source` element, as shown in the example here. **FIGURE 10-4** shows how the audio player might look when it's rendered in the browser.

```
<p>Play "Percussion Gun" by White Rabbits</p>
<audio id="whiterabbits" controls preload="auto">
  <source src="percussiongun.mp3" type="audio/mp3">
  <source src="percussiongun.ogg" type="audio/ogg">
  <source src="percussiongun.webm" type="audio/webm">
  <p>Download "Percussion Gun":</p>
  <ul>
    <li><a href="percussiongun.mp3">MP3</a></li>
    <li><a href="percussiongun.ogg">Ogg Vorbis</a></li>
  </ul>
</audio>
```

Play "Percussion Gun" by White Rabbits



**FIGURE 10-4.** Audio player as rendered in Firefox.

If you have only one audio file, you can simply use the `src` attribute instead. If you want to be evil, you could embed audio in a page, set it to play automatically and then loop, and not provide any controls to stop it like this:

```
<audio src="jetfighter.mp3" autoplay loop></audio>
```

But you would never, *ever* do something like that, right? *Right?!* Of course you wouldn't.

## Adding Text Tracks

The `track` element provides a way to add text that is synchronized with the timeline of a video or audio track. Some uses include the following:

- **Subtitles** in alternative languages
- **Captions** for the hearing impaired
- **Descriptions** of what is happening in a video for the sight impaired
- **Chapter titles** to allow for navigation through the media
- **Metadata** that is not displayed but can be used by scripts

`<audio>...</audio>`

Adds an audio file to the page

`<track>...</track>`

Adds synchronized text to embedded media

Clearly, adding text tracks makes the media more accessible, but it has the added bonus of improving SEO (Search Engine Optimization). It can also allow for [deep linking](#), linking to a particular spot within the media's timeline.

**FIGURE 10-5** shows how captions might be rendered in a browser that supports the **track** element.



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**FIGURE 10-5.** A video with captions.

Use the **track** element inside the **video** or **audio** element you wish to annotate. The **track** element must appear after all the **source** elements, if any, and may include these attributes:

**src**

Points to the text file.

**kind**

Specifies the type of text annotation you are providing ([subtitles](#), [captions](#), [descriptions](#), [chapters](#), or [metadata](#)). If **kind** is set to **subtitle**, you must also specify the language (**srclang** attribute) by using a standardized IANA two-letter language tag (see [Note](#)).

**label**

Provides a name for the track that can be used in the interface for selecting a particular track.

**default**

Marks a particular track as the default and it may be used on only one track within a media element.

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**NOTE**

The full list of two-letter language codes is published at [www.iana.org/assignments/language-subtag-registry/language-subtag-registry](http://www.iana.org/assignments/language-subtag-registry/language-subtag-registry).

The following code provides English and French subtitle options for a movie:

```
<video width="640" height="320" controls>
  <source src="japanese_movie.mp4" type="video/mp4">
  <source src="japanese_movie.webm" type="video/webm">
  <track src="english_subtitles.vtt"
    kind="subtitles"
    srclang="en"
    label="English subtitles"
    default>
  <track src="french.vtt"
    kind="subtitles"
    srclang="fr"
    label="Sous-titres en français">
</video>
```

## WebVTT

You'll notice in the previous example that the track points to a file with a `.vtt` suffix. That is a text file in the [WebVTT \(Web Video Text Tracks\)](#) format that contains a list of cues. It looks like this:

```
WEBVTT

00:00:01.345 --> 00:00:03.456
Welcome to Artifact [applause]

00:00:06.289 --> 00:00:09.066
There is a lot of new mobile technology to discuss.

00:00:06.289 --> 00:00:13.049
We're glad you could all join us at the Alamo Drafthouse.
```

Cues are separated by empty line spaces. Each cue has a start and end time in *hours:minutes:seconds:milliseconds* format, separated by an “arrow” (`-->`). The cue text (subtitle, caption, description, chapter, or metadata) is on a line below. Optionally, an ID can be provided for each cue on the line above the time sequence.

You can probably guess that there's a lot more to mastering text tracks for video and audio. Take a look at the following resources:

- “Adding Captions and Subtitles to HTML5 Video” at MDN Web Docs ([developer.mozilla.org/en-US/Apps/Fundamentals/Audio\\_and\\_video\\_delivery/Adding\\_captions\\_and\\_subtitles\\_to\\_HTML5\\_video](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/Apps/Fundamentals/Audio_and_video_delivery/Adding_captions_and_subtitles_to_HTML5_video))
- Subtitle tutorial on Miracle Tutorials ([www.miracletutorials.com/how-to-create-captions-subtitles-for-video-and-audio-in-webvtt-srt-dfxp-format/](http://www.miracletutorials.com/how-to-create-captions-subtitles-for-video-and-audio-in-webvtt-srt-dfxp-format/))
- The WebVTT specification at the W3C is available at [www.w3.org/TR/webvtt1/](http://www.w3.org/TR/webvtt1/)

If you'd like to play around with the `video` element, spend some time with [EXERCISE 10-2](#).

---

### NOTE

*Other timed text formats include SRT captioning (replaced by WebVTT) and TML/DFXP, which is maintained by the W3C and supported by Internet Explorer but it is not recommended in the HTML5 specification for `track`.*

## EXERCISE 10-2. Embedding a video player

---

In this exercise, you'll add a video to a page with the **video** element. In the materials for **Chapter 10**, you will find the small movie about wind tunnel testing in MPEG-4, OGG/Theora, and WebM formats.

1. Create a new document with the proper HTML5 setup, or you can use the same document you used in [EXERCISE 10-1](#).
2. Start by adding the **video** element with the **src** attribute pointed to *windtunnel.mp4* because MP4 video has the best browser support. Be sure to include the width (320 pixels) and height (262 pixels), as well as the **controls** attribute so you'll have a way to play and pause it. Include some fallback copy within the **video** element—either a message or a link to the video:

```
<video src="windtunnel.mp4" width="320"
height="262" controls>
  Sorry, your browser doesn't support HTML5 video.
</video>
```

3. Save and view the document in your browser. If you see the fallback message, your browser is old and doesn't support the **video** element. If you see the controls but no video, it doesn't support MP4, so try it again with one of the other formats.

4. The **video** element is pretty straightforward so you may feel done at this point, but I encourage you to play around with it a little to see what happens. Here are some things to try:

- Resize the video player with the **width** and **height** attributes.
- Add the **autoplay** attribute.
- Remove the **controls** attribute and see what that's like as a user.
- Rewrite the **video** element using **source** elements for each of the three provided video formats.

## CANVAS

Another cool, “Look Ma, no plug-ins!” addition in HTML5 is the **canvas** element and the associated Canvas API. The **canvas** element creates an area on a web page for drawing with a set of JavaScript functions for creating lines, shapes, fills, text, animations, and so on. You could use it to display an illustration, but what gives the **canvas** element so much potential (and has the web development world so delighted) is that it’s all generated with scripting. That means it is dynamic and can draw things on the fly and respond to user input. This makes it a nifty platform for creating animations, games, and even whole applications—all using the native browser behavior and without proprietary plug-ins like Flash.

It is worth noting that the canvas drawing area is raster-based, meaning that it is made up of a grid of pixels. This sets it apart from the other drawing standard, SVG, which uses vector shapes and paths that are defined with points and mathematics.

The good news is that every current browser supports the **canvas** element as of this writing, with the exception of Internet Explorer 8 and earlier (see **Note**). It has become so well established that Adobe’s Animate software (the replacement for Flash Pro) now exports to canvas format.

**FIGURE 10-6** shows a few examples of the **canvas** element used to create games, drawing programs, an interactive molecule structure tool, and an

---

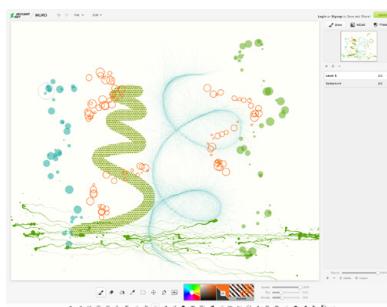
### NOTE

If you have a good reason to support IE8, the FlashCanvas JavaScript library ([flashcanvas.net](http://flashcanvas.net)) adds canvas support using the Flash drawing API.

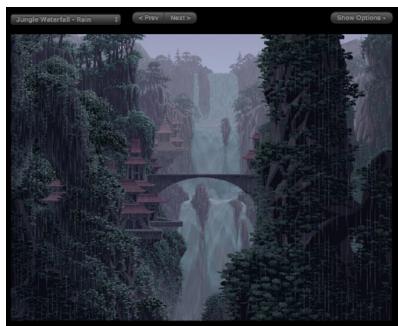
asteroid animation. You can find more examples at EnvatoTuts+ ([code.tutsplus.com/articles/21-ridiculously-impressive-html5-canvas-experiments-net-14210](http://code.tutsplus.com/articles/21-ridiculously-impressive-html5-canvas-experiments-net-14210)), on David Walsh's blog ([davidwalsh.name/canvas-demos](http://davidwalsh.name/canvas-demos)), as well as the results of your own web search.



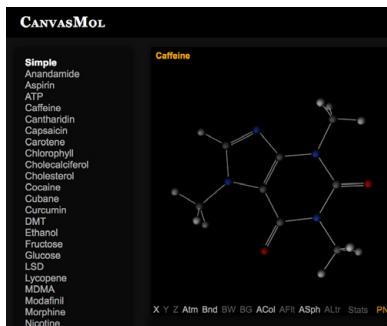
[mahjong.frvr.com/](http://mahjong.frvr.com/)



[muro.deviantart.com/](http://muro.deviantart.com/)



[www.effectgames.com/demos/canvascycle/](http://www.effectgames.com/demos/canvascycle/)



[alteredqualia.com/canvasmol/](http://alteredqualia.com/canvasmol/)

**FIGURE 10-6.** A few examples of the **canvas** element used for games, animations, and applications.

Mastering the **canvas** element is more than we can take on here, particularly without any JavaScript experience under our belts, but I will give you a taste of what it is like to draw with JavaScript. That should give you a good idea of how it works, and also a new appreciation for the complexity of some of those examples.

## The **canvas** Element

You add a canvas space to the page with the **canvas** element and specify the dimensions with the **width** and **height** attributes. And that's really all there is to the markup. For browsers that don't support the **canvas** element, you can provide some fallback content (a message, image, or whatever seems appropriate) inside the tags:

```
<canvas width="600" height="400" id="my_first_canvas">
  Your browser does not support HTML5 canvas. Try using Chrome, Firefox,
  Safari or MS Edge.
</canvas>
```

**<canvas>...</canvas>**

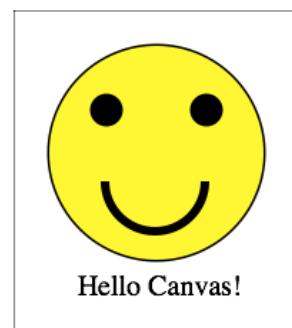
Adds a 2-D dynamic drawing area

The markup just clears a space upon which the drawing will happen. You can affect the drawing space itself with CSS (add a border or a background color, for example), but all of the contents of the canvas are generated by scripting and cannot be selected for styling with CSS.

## Drawing with JavaScript

The Canvas API includes functions for creating shapes, such as `strokeRect()` for drawing a rectangular outline and `beginPath()` for starting a line drawing. Some functions move things around, such as `rotate()` and `scale()`. It also includes attributes for applying styles (for example, `lineWidth`, `font`, `strokeStyle`, and `fillStyle`).

Sanders Kleinfeld created the following code example for his book *HTML5 for Publishers* (O'Reilly). He was kind enough to allow me to use it in this book. [FIGURE 10-7](#) shows the simple smiley face we'll be creating with the Canvas API.



**FIGURE 10-7.** The finished product of our “Hello Canvas” example. See the original at [examples.oreilly.com/0636920022473/my\\_first\\_canvas/my\\_first\\_canvas.html](http://examples.oreilly.com/0636920022473/my_first_canvas/my_first_canvas.html).

And here is the script that created it. Don't worry that you don't know any JavaScript yet. Just skim through the script and pay attention to the inline comments. I'll also describe some of the functions in use at the end. I bet you'll get the gist of it just fine.

```
<script type="text/javascript">
window.addEventListener('load', eventWindowLoaded, false);
function eventWindowLoaded() {
    canvasApp();
}

function canvasApp(){
var theCanvas = document.getElementById('my_first_canvas');
var my_canvas = theCanvas.getContext('2d');
my_canvas.strokeRect(0,0,200,225)
    // to start, draw a border around the canvas
```

```

    //draw face
my_canvas.beginPath();
my_canvas.arc(100, 100, 75, (Math.PI/180)*0, (Math.PI/180)*360, false);
    // circle dimensions
my_canvas.strokeStyle = "black"; // circle outline is black
my_canvas.lineWidth = 3; // outline is three pixels wide
my_canvas.fillStyle = "yellow"; // fill circle with yellow
my_canvas.stroke(); // draw circle
my_canvas.fill(); // fill in circle
my_canvas.closePath();

    // now, draw left eye
my_canvas.fillStyle = "black"; // switch to black for the fill
my_canvas.beginPath();
my_canvas.arc(65, 70, 10, (Math.PI/180)*0, (Math.PI/180)*360, false);
    // circle dimensions
my_canvas.stroke(); // draw circle
my_canvas.fill(); // fill in circle
my_canvas.closePath();

    // now, draw right eye
my_canvas.beginPath();
my_canvas.arc(135, 70, 10, (Math.PI/180)*0, (Math.PI/180)*360, false);
    // circle dimensions
my_canvas.stroke(); // draw circle
my_canvas.fill(); // fill in circle
my_canvas.closePath();

    // draw smile
my_canvas.lineWidth = 6; // switch to six pixels wide for outline
my_canvas.beginPath();
my_canvas.arc(99, 120, 35, (Math.PI/180)*0, (Math.PI/180)*-180, false);
    // semicircle dimensions
my_canvas.stroke();
my_canvas.closePath();

    // Smiley Speaks!
my_canvas.fillStyle = "black"; // switch to black for text fill
my_canvas.font      = '20px sans'; // use 20 pixel sans serif font
my_canvas.fillText ("Hello Canvas!", 45, 200); // write text
}
</script>

```

Finally, here is a little more information on the Canvas API functions used in the example:

### **strokeRect(x1, y1, x2, y2)**

Draws a rectangular outline from the point (x1, y1) to (x2, y2). By default, the origin of the canvas (0, 0) is the top-left corner, and x and y coordinates are measured to the right and down.

### **beginPath()**

Starts a line drawing.

### **closePath()**

Ends a line drawing that was started with **beginPath()**.

**arc(x, y, arc\_radius, angle\_radians\_beg, angle\_radians\_end)**

Draws an arc where (x,y) is the center of the circle, **arc\_radius** is the length of the radius of the circle, and **angle\_radians\_beg** and **\_end** indicate the beginning and end of the arc angle.

**stroke()**

Draws the line defined by the path. If you don't include this, the path won't appear on the canvas.

**fill()**

Fills in the path specified with **beginPath()** and **endPath()**.

**fillText(your\_text, x1, y1)**

Adds text to the canvas starting at the (x,y) coordinate specified.

In addition, the following attributes were used to specify colors and styles:

**lineWidth**

Width of the border of the path.

**strokeStyle**

Color of the border.

**fillStyle**

Color of the fill (interior) of the shape created with the path.

**font**

The font and size of the text.

Of course, the Canvas API includes many more functions and attributes than we've used here. For a complete list, see the W3C's HTML5 Canvas 2D Context specification at [www.w3.org/TR/2dcontext](http://www.w3.org/TR/2dcontext). A web search will turn up lots of Canvas tutorials should you be ready to learn more. In addition, I can recommend these resources:

- The book *HTML5 Canvas, Second Edition*, by Steve Fulton and Jeff Fulton (O'Reilly).
- If video is more your speed, try this tutorial by David Geary: *HTML5 Canvas for Developers* ([shop.oreilly.com/product/0636920030751.do](http://shop.oreilly.com/product/0636920030751.do)).

## TEST YOURSELF

We've looked at all sorts of ways to stick things in web pages in this chapter. We've seen how to use **iframe** to create a "window-in-a-window" for displaying external web resources; **object** for resources that require plug-ins, video and audio players; and the **canvas** 2-D scriptable drawing space. Now see if you were paying attention. As always, answers are in **Appendix A**.

1. What is a "nested browsing context," and how would you create one?
2. Why would you use the **sandbox** attribute with an **iframe**?
3. Name some instances when you might need to know the MIME type for your media file.
4. Identify each of the following as a container format, video codec, or audio codec:
  - a. Ogg \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. H.264 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. VP8 \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Vorbis \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. WebM \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Theora \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. Opus \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. MPEG-4 \_\_\_\_\_
5. What does the **poster** attribute do?
6. What is a **.vtt** file?
7. List at least two differences between SVG and Canvas.
8. List the two Canvas API functions you would use to draw a rectangle and fill it with red. You don't need to write the whole script.

## ELEMENT REVIEW: EMBEDDED MEDIA

The following elements are used to embed media files of many types into web pages.

Element and Attributes	Description
<b>audio</b> <i>src="URL"</i> <i>crossorigin="anonymous use-credentials"</i> <i>preload="auto none metadata"</i> <i>autoplay</i> <i>loop</i> <i>muted</i> <i>controls</i>	Embeds an audio player on the page Address of the resource How the element handles requests from other origins (servers) Indicates how much the media resource should be buffered on page load Indicates the media can play as soon as the page is loaded Indicates the media file should start playing again automatically once it reaches the end Disables the audio output Indicates the browser should display a set of playback controls for the media file
<b>canvas</b> <i>height</i> <i>width</i>	Represents a two-dimensional area that can be used for rendering dynamic bitmap graphics The height of the canvas area The width of the canvas area
<b>embed</b> <i>src="URL"</i> <i>type="media type"</i> <i>width="number"</i> <i>height="number"</i>	Embeds a multimedia object that requires a plug-in for playback on the page. Certain media types require custom attributes not listed below. Address of the media resource The media (MIME) type of the media The horizontal dimension of the video player in pixels The vertical dimension of the video player in pixels
<b>iframe</b> <i>src="URL"</i> <i>srcdoc="HTML source code"</i> <i>name="text"</i> <i>sandbox="allow-forms allow-pointer-lock allow-popups allow-same-origin allow-scripts allow-top-navigation"</i> <i>allowfullscreen</i> <i>width="number"</i> <i>height="number"</i>	Creates a nested browsing context to display HTML resources in a page Address of the HTML resource The HTML source of a document to display in the inline frame Assigns a name to the inline frame to be referenced by targeted links Security rules for nested content Indicates the objects in the inline frame are allowed to use <code>requestFullScreen()</code> The horizontal dimension of the video player in pixels The vertical dimension of the video player in pixels

Element and Attributes	Description
<b>object</b> <i>data="URI"</i> <i>type="media type"</i> <i>typemustmatch</i>  <i>name="text"</i> <i>form="form ID"</i> <i>width="number"</i> <i>height="number"</i>	A generic element for embedding an external resource Address of the resource The media (MIME) type of the resource Indicates the resource is to be used only if the value of the <b>type</b> attribute and the content type of the resource match The name of the object to be referenced by scripts Associates the <b>object</b> with a <b>form</b> element The horizontal dimension of the video player in pixels The vertical dimension of the video player in pixels
<b>param</b>  <i>name="text"</i> <i>value="text"</i>	Supplies a parameter within an <b>object</b> element Defines the name of the parameter Defines the value of the parameter
<b>source</b>  <i>src="text"</i> <i>type="media type"</i>	Allows authors to specify multiple versions of a media file (used with <b>video</b> and <b>audio</b> ) The address of the resource The media (MIME) type of the resource
<b>track</b>  <i>kind="subtitles captions descriptions chapters metadata"</i> <i>src="text"</i> <i>srclang="valid language tag"</i> <i>label="text"</i> <i>default</i>	Specifies an external resource (text or audio) that is timed with a media file that improves accessibility, navigation, or SEO Type of text track Address of external resource Language of the text track A title for the track that may be displayed by the browser Indicates the track should be used by default if it does not override user preferences
<b>video</b>  <i>src="URL"</i> <i>crossorigin="anonymous use-credentials"</i> <i>poster="URL"</i>  <i>preload="auto none metadata"</i> <i>autoplay</i> <i>loop</i>  <i>muted</i> <i>controls</i> <i>width="number"</i> <i>height="number"</i>	Embeds a video player on the page Address of the resource How the element handles requests from other origins (servers) The location of an image file that displays as a placeholder before the video begins to play Hints how much buffering the media resource will need Indicates the media can play as soon as the page is loaded Indicates the media file should start playing again automatically once it reaches the end Disables the audio output Indicates the browser should display a set of playback controls for the media file Specifies the horizontal dimension of the video player in pixels Specifies the vertical dimension of the video player in pixels