

## **What is a MIME type?**

MIME stands for "Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions. It's a way of identifying files on the Internet according to their nature and format. For example, using the "Content-type" header value defined in a HTTP response, the browser can open the file with the proper extension/plugin.

## **What is a Content-Type?**

A "Content-type" is simply a header defined in many protocols, such as HTTP, that makes use of MIME types to specify the nature of the file currently being handled.

## **What does a MIME type look like?**

A MIME type is a string identifier composed of two parts: a "type" and a "subtype". The "type" refers to a logical grouping of many MIME types that are closely related to each other; it's no more than a high level category. "subtypes" are specific to one file type within the "type".

For example, the MIME value "application/xml" is used for XML documents and specifies that the "xml" subtype belongs in the "application" type.

## **Why are some MIME subtypes prefixed with "x-"?**

The "x-" prefix of a MIME subtype simply means that it's non-standard, i.e. not registered with the "Internet Assigned Numbers Authority" (IANA).

## **Why are some MIME subtypes prefixed with "vnd"?**

The "vnd" prefix means that the MIME value is vendor specific.

## **How can I set the Content-type header of my files?**

It depends on the programming language you are using. Note that most language have a default "Content-type" of "text/html".