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Chapter 9

Lab 3

**Exploring Multimedia File Formats and Plug-ins**

1. Search on the Internet for information about plug-ins.

2. Identify why plug-ins were created and how they are used by a browser.

3. Why are plug-ins losing their popularity?

4. What plug-ins are installed on your desktop browser?

5. What is Microsoft Silverlight?

6. Submit your answers in the format specified by your instructor.

**2. Identify why plug-ins were created and how they are used by a browser.**

Plug-ins were created as a means to show multimedia content within a browser. If a website included a flash multimedia file, the browser must have the Flash player plug-in installed in order to display the file.

**3. Why are plug-ins losing their popularity?**

Mobile devices have dominated the market and desktop devices are on the decline. The explosive growth of the mobile market has had a big impact on the decline of plug-ins. Mobile devices support HTML5, which doesn’t require the use of plug-ins. In addition, iOS devices, and many Android devices, do not support plug-ins, such as Flash. As this trend continues, so will the decline of plug-ins.

**4. What plug-ins are installed on your desktop browser?**

My Internet Explorer browser currently has over 20 plug-ins installed, including Java, Flash player, Windows Media Player, and Silverlight.

**5. What is Microsoft Silverlight?**

Microsoft Silverlight is a plug-in used by many websites. You must have Silverlight installed in order to access certain content on webpages that use Silverlight, such as screencast.com.