HTML Multimedia

Multimedia on the web is sound, music, videos, movies, and animations.

## **What is Multimedia?**

Multimedia comes in many different formats. It can be almost anything you can hear or see, like images, music, sound, videos, records, films, animations, and more.

Web pages often contain multimedia elements of different types and formats.

## **Browser Support**

The first web browsers had support for text only, limited to a single font in a single color.

Later came browsers with support for colors, fonts, images, and multimedia!

## **Multimedia Formats**

Multimedia elements (like audio or video) are stored in media files.

The most common way to discover the type of a file, is to look at the file extension.

Multimedia files have formats and different extensions like: .wav, .mp3, .mp4, .mpg, .wmv, and .avi.

## **Common Video Formats**

There are many video formats out there. The MP4, WebM, and Ogg formats are supported by HTML. The MP4 format is recommended by YouTube.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Format** | **File** | **Description** |
| MPEG | .mpg .mpeg | MPEG. Developed by the Moving Pictures Expert Group. The first popular video format on the web. Not supported anymore in HTML. |
| AVI | .avi | AVI (Audio Video Interleave). Developed by Microsoft. Commonly used in video cameras and TV hardware. Plays well on Windows computers, but not in web browsers. |
| WMV | .wmv | WMV (Windows Media Video). Developed by Microsoft. Commonly used in video cameras and TV hardware. Plays well on Windows computers, but not in web browsers. |
| QuickTime | .mov | QuickTime. Developed by Apple. Commonly used in video cameras and TV hardware. Plays well on Apple computers, but not in web browsers. |
| RealVideo | .rm .ram | RealVideo. Developed by Real Media to allow video streaming with low bandwidths. Does not play in web browsers. |
| Flash | .swf .flv | Flash. Developed by Macromedia. Often requires an extra component (plug-in) to play in web browsers. |
| Ogg | .ogg | Theora Ogg. Developed by the Xiph.Org Foundation. Supported by HTML. |
| WebM | .webm | WebM. Developed by Mozilla, Opera, Adobe, and Google. Supported by HTML. |
| MPEG-4 or MP4 | .mp4 | MP4. Developed by the Moving Pictures Expert Group. Commonly used in video cameras and TV hardware. Supported by all browsers and  recommended by YouTube. |

**Note:** Only MP4, WebM, and Ogg video are supported by the HTML standard.

## **Common Audio Formats**

MP3 is the best format for compressed recorded music. The term MP3 has become synonymous with digital music.

If your website is about recorded music, MP3 is the choice.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Format** | **File** | **Description** |
| MIDI | .mid .midi | MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface). Main format for all electronic music devices like synthesizers and PC sound cards. MIDI files do not contain sound, but digital notes that can be played by electronics. Plays well on all computers and music hardware, but not in web browsers. |
| RealAudio | .rm .ram | RealAudio. Developed by Real Media to allow streaming of audio with low bandwidths. Does not play in web browsers. |
| WMA | .wma | WMA (Windows Media Audio). Developed by Microsoft. Plays well on Windows computers, but not in web browsers. |
| AAC | .aac | AAC (Advanced Audio Coding). Developed by Apple as the default format for iTunes. Plays well on Apple computers, but not in web browsers. |
| WAV | .wav | WAV. Developed by IBM and Microsoft. Plays well on Windows, Macintosh, and Linux operating systems. Supported by HTML. |
| Ogg | .ogg | Ogg. Developed by the Xiph.Org Foundation. Supported by HTML. |
| MP3 | .mp3 | MP3 files are actually the sound part of MPEG files. MP3 is the most popular format for music players. Combines good compression (small files) with high quality. Supported by all browsers. |
| MP4 | .mp4 | MP4 is a video format, but can also be used for audio. Supported by all browsers. |

**Note:** Only MP3, WAV, and Ogg audio are supported by the HTML standard.

# HTML Video

The HTML <video> element is used to show a video on a web page.

## **The HTML <video> Element**

To show a video in HTML, use the <video> element:

### **Example**

<video width="320" height="240" controls>  
  <source src="movie.mp4" type="video/mp4">  
  <source src="movie.ogg" type="video/ogg">  
Your browser does not support the video tag.  
</video>

## **How it Works**

The controls attribute adds video controls, like play, pause, and volume.

It is a good idea to always include width and height attributes. If height and width are not set, the page might flicker while the video loads.

The <source> element allows you to specify alternative video files which the browser may choose from. The browser will use the first recognized format.

The text between the <video> and </video> tags will only be displayed in browsers that do not support the <video> element.

## **HTML <video> Autoplay**

To start a video automatically, use the autoplay attribute:

### **Example**

<video width="320" height="240" autoplay>  
  <source src="movie.mp4" type="video/mp4">  
  <source src="movie.ogg" type="video/ogg">  
Your browser does not support the video tag.  
</video>

**Note:** Chromium browsers do not allow autoplay in most cases. However, muted autoplay is always allowed.

Add muted after autoplay to let your video start playing automatically (but muted):

### **Example**

<video width="320" height="240" autoplay muted>  
  <source src="movie.mp4" type="video/mp4">  
  <source src="movie.ogg" type="video/ogg">  
Your browser does not support the video tag.  
</video>

## **HTML Video Tags**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tag** | **Description** |
| [<video>](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_video.asp) | Defines a video or movie |
| [<source>](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_source.asp) | Defines multiple media resources for media elements, such as <video> and <audio> |
| [<track>](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_track.asp) | Defines text tracks in media players |

# HTML Audio

The HTML <audio> element is used to play an audio file on a web page.

## **The HTML <audio> Element**

To play an audio file in HTML, use the <audio> element:

### **Example**

<audio controls>  
  <source src="horse.ogg" type="audio/ogg">  
  <source src="horse.mp3" type="audio/mpeg">  
Your browser does not support the audio element.  
</audio>

## **HTML Audio - How It Works**

The controls attribute adds audio controls, like play, pause, and volume.

The <source> element allows you to specify alternative audio files which the browser may choose from. The browser will use the first recognized format.

The text between the <audio> and </audio> tags will only be displayed in browsers that do not support the <audio> element.

## **HTML <audio> Autoplay**

To start an audio file automatically, use the autoplay attribute:

### **Example**

<audio controls autoplay>  
  <source src="horse.ogg" type="audio/ogg">  
  <source src="horse.mp3" type="audio/mpeg">  
Your browser does not support the audio element.  
</audio>

**Note:** Chromium browsers do not allow autoplay in most cases. However, muted autoplay is always allowed.

Add muted after autoplay to let your audio file start playing automatically (but muted):

### **Example**

<audio controls autoplay muted>  
  <source src="horse.ogg" type="audio/ogg">  
  <source src="horse.mp3" type="audio/mpeg">  
Your browser does not support the audio element.  
</audio>

## **HTML Audio - Methods, Properties, and Events**

The HTML DOM defines methods, properties, and events for the <audio> element.

This allows you to load, play, and pause audios, as well as set duration and volume.

There are also DOM events that can notify you when an audio begins to play, is paused, etc.

For a full DOM reference, go to our [HTML Audio/Video DOM Reference](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/ref_av_dom.asp).

## **HTML Audio Tags**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tag** | **Description** |
| [<audio>](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_audio.asp) | Defines sound content |
| [<source>](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_source.asp) | Defines multiple media resources for media elements, such as <video> and <audio> |

## **The <object> Element**

The <object> element is supported by all browsers.

The <object> element defines an embedded object within an HTML document.

It was designed to embed plug-ins (like Java applets, PDF readers, and Flash Players) in web pages, but can also be used to include HTML in HTML:

### **Example**

<object width="100%" height="500px" data="snippet.html"></object>

Or images if you like:

### **Example**

<object data="audi.jpeg"></object>

## **The <embed> Element**

The <embed> element is supported in all major browsers.

The <embed> element also defines an embedded object within an HTML document.

Web browsers have supported the <embed> element for a long time. However, it has not been a part of the HTML specification before HTML5.

### **Example**

<embed src="audi.jpeg">

Note that the <embed> element does not have a closing tag. It can not contain alternative text.

The <embed> element can also be used to include HTML in HTML:

### **Example**

<embed width="100%" height="500px" src="snippet.html">

## **Playing a YouTube Video in HTML**

To play your video on a web page, do the following:

* Upload the video to YouTube
* Take a note of the video id
* Define an <iframe> element in your web page
* Let the src attribute point to the video URL
* Use the width and height attributes to specify the dimension of the player
* Add any other parameters to the URL (see below)

### **Example**

<iframe width="420" height="315"  
src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/tgbNymZ7vqY">  
</iframe>

## **YouTube Autoplay + Mute**

You can let your video start playing automatically when a user visits the page, by adding autoplay=1 to the YouTube URL. However, automatically starting a video is annoying for your visitors!

**Note:** Chromium browsers do not allow autoplay in most cases. However, muted autoplay is always allowed.

Add mute=1 after autoplay=1 to let your video start playing automatically (but muted).

### **YouTube - Autoplay + Muted**

<iframe width="420" height="315"  
src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/tgbNymZ7vqY?autoplay=1&mute=1">  
</iframe>

## **YouTube Playlist**

A comma separated list of videos to play (in addition to the original URL).

## **YouTube Loop**

Add loop=1 to let your video loop forever.

Value 0 (default): The video will play only once.

Value 1: The video will loop (forever).

### **YouTube - Loop**

<iframe width="420" height="315"  
src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/tgbNymZ7vqY?playlist=tgbNymZ7vqY&loop=1">  
</iframe>

## **YouTube Controls**

Add controls=0 to not display controls in the video player.

Value 0: Player controls does not display.

Value 1 (default): Player controls display.

### **YouTube - Controls**

<iframe width="420" height="315"  
src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/tgbNymZ7vqY?controls=0">  
</iframe>