Theory: Audio

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Sound may be an important addition to some websites: music and voice files, as well as a built-in player can help the visitors relax, catch the vibe and better interact with pages. Of course, audio should be used wisely: well-selected, comfortable in terms of volume and causing no interference with the contents of the site.

Until recently, developers could add sound files to web pages only via `<bgsound>` tag. It set the audio as the background sound and played it while the user is viewing the page, giving no ability to turn it off (not cool).

To solve this problem, a new tag `<audio>` was added to the fifth version of the HTML standard.

Let's look at how to add audio to a web page using the latest HTML5 features.

§1. Syntax

The `<audio>` tag is used to embed audio content into web pages. When using this tag, HTML markup looks like this:

```
1    <audio src="media/example.mp3"></audio>
```

or like that, using a nested `<source>` tag and the same audio recording in different formats:

```
1    <audio>
2      <source src="media/example.mp3" type="audio/mpeg">
3      <source src="media/example.ogg" type="audio/ogg">
4    </audio>
```

The path to the file can be set both through the `src` attribute and the nested `<source>` tag. The latter option is used to add the same media content in different formats since at the moment there is no audio format that works in all browsers.

§2. Attributes of tags

There are several attributes for the `<audio>` tag that control playback and audio settings on a web page. Consider some of the most commonly used ones:

- `src` indicates the path to the file that's played
- `controls` displays the audio player control interface (playback buttons, pause, volume)
- `autoplay` is responsible for automatic playback of the file immediately after the page is loaded
- `loop` cycles the audio file
- `muted` mutes the sound when playing an audio file

In one of the variants of adding audio to the web page you may have noticed the type attribute. With a `<source>` tag, you should always specify the `type` attribute. It allows the browser to determine the types of media files and play the desired one. Here is a table from which you can find out the media format you need:

File Format	Media Type
MP3	audio/mpeg
OGG	audio/ogg
WAV	audio/wav

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The `<audio>` tag can be seen on the web page only if the `controls` attribute is specified:

```
1    <audio controls src="media/example.mp3"></audio>
```

Each browser displays this element in its own way:
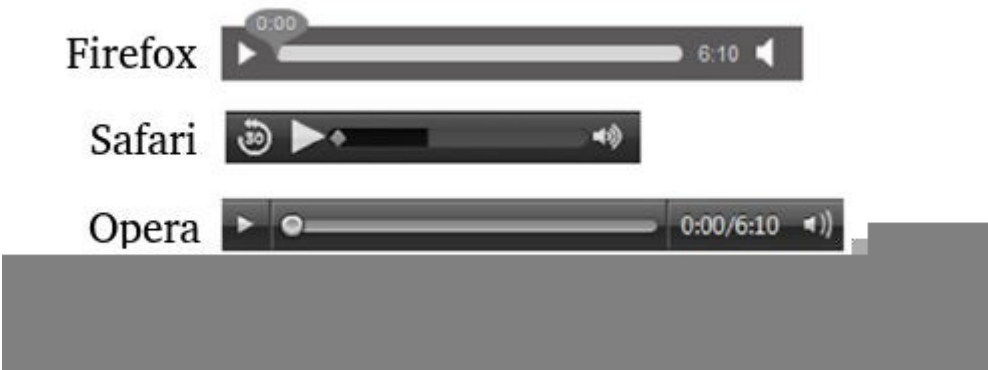
Now you know how to add audio to your web pages, which might present your website to the viewers in a whole new light – or the whole new sound. Congratulations!

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