

How It Works: Supporting Multiple Video Formats

In this lesson we will understand the workings of the previous lesson's exercise on adding support for multiple video formats in HTML.

Let's begin!

WE'LL COVER THE FOLLOWING



- HOW IT WORKS
- Complete **live** demo at your service!

HOW IT WORKS

In step one, you used the `<source>` tag, instead of the `src` attribute of `<video>`, to specify the stream to play:

```
<video controls  
  poster="Images/VideoPoster.png">  
  <source src="Video/Caribbean.webm" type="video/webm" />  
</video>
```



With Google Chrome (in step two) the video played seamlessly because Chrome supports WebM out-of-box, so it was able to play the **.webm** file. However, Internet Explorer does not support WebM (at least, not at the time of writing), so it displayed an error message in step three with the specified poster image.

When you added another source tag in step four, the situation changed:

```
<video controls >  
  <source src="Video/Caribbean.webm" type="video/webm" />  
  <source src="Video/Caribbean.mp4" type="video/mp4" />  
</video>
```



Internet Explorer could not play the video stream available at the first source since it was WebM, but the second source was MP4, which is supported by IE,

so that worked.

In step seven you turned on the compatibility view of IE. In this view `<video>` is unsupported so the browser renders the markup within `<video>` which is a simple text telling that HTML5 video is not supported.

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The complete implementation of the exercise from the previous lesson is given below for you to play around and experiment with.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
  <title>Using the &lt;video> tag</title>
  <style>
    body {
      font-family: Verdana, Arial, sans-serif;
      margin-left: 24px;
    }
    p {
      width: 640px;
    }
  </style>
</head>
<body>
  <h1>Snorkeling in the Caribbean</h1>
  <p>
    Hey dude, In 2010 I cruised around a few great
    Caribbean islands. Here is a short video about
    my snorkeling experience.
  </p>
  <video controls
    poster="/Images/VideoPoster.png">
    <source src="/Video/Caribbean.webm" type="video/webm" />
    <source src="/Video/Caribbean.mp4" type="video/mp4" />
    Sorry, HTML5 video is not supported.
  </video>
</body>
</html>
```

Achievement unlocked! 🎉

Congratulations! You've learned how to add support for multiple video formats in HTML.



Good job! Give yourself a round of applause!

In the *next lesson*, we'll learn all about video resilient web pages and the audio tag.

Stay tuned!