

Common Video Formats

Videoformats MP4 is the new and upcoming format for internet video.

MP4 is recommended by YouTube.

MP4 is supported by Flash Players.

MP4 is supported by HTML5.

MPEG .mpg

.mpeg MPEG. Developed by the Moving Pictures Expert Group. The first popular video format on the web. Used to be supported by all browsers, **but it is not supported in HTML5** (See MP4).

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. (See MP4)**

RealVideo .rm

.ram RealVideo. Developed by Real Media to allow video streaming with low bandwidths. It is still used for online video and Internet TV, **but 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 HTML5.**

WebM .webm WebM. Developed by the web giants, Mozilla, Opera, Adobe, and Google. **Supported by HTML5.**

MPEG-4

or MP4 .mp4 MP4. Developed by the Moving Pictures Expert Group. Based on QuickTime. Commonly used in newer video cameras and TV hardware. **Supported by all HTML5 browsers. Recommended by YouTube.**

Note

Only MP4, WebM, and Ogg video are supported by the newest HTML5 standard.

Sound Formats

MP3 is the newest 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.

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. Commonly used in music players. 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 HTML5.

Ogg .ogg Ogg. Developed by the Xiph.Org Foundation. Supported by HTML5.

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. MP4 video is the upcoming video format on the internet. This leads to automatic support for MP4 audio **by all browsers.**