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Handling New Media
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FILE FORMATS

File Format Name: aiff

File Extension(s): .aif, .aiff, .aifc

Date Introduced: (year) Audio Iff began development at Apple Computers, Inc. in 1987.

Dates in Use: (years): 1987 - present (however, not widely used today compared to other digital audio file formats)

Variations: AIFF-C

Developers: Apple Computers, Inc.

Open Source/Proprietary: proprietary source with no restrictions

Associated Operating System: Macintosh, Silicon Graphics, Inc. (is supported by Windows, as well)

Associated Application(s): Audacity (free audio editor), SoundHack, Audio Converter, Audio Converter Pro, River Past Audio Converter, SoundApp

Associated Media: (storage)

Compression: Uncompressed, PCM (look at wav for definition)

Primary Usage: "Aiff is the default audio format for the Macintosh. It is one of the oldest audio formats that is still in use today. Format is supported on other platforms and by most audio applications. Can be compressed, but compression sometimes creates compatibility problems with other platforms. Commonly used for storing raw, uncompressed audio."

"Aiff uses the Electronic Arts Interchange File Format method for storing data in "chunks." Allows for the storage of monaural or multichannel sampled sounds at a variety of sample rates and sample widths."

Risks: Due to the popularity of .wav file format, .aiff has lost considerable popularity. As a result, there is a potential for obsolescence of the format due to potential loss of

application support that would be based on lack of use of the format.

Condition Assessment: TBD

Conservation Actions: Suggest reformatting or migrating .aiff to more updated and commonly used audio formats to avoid potential inability of playback of .aiff files.

Resources:

Apple Computers, Inc., *A Standard for Sampled Sound Files*, Version 1.3.
http://www.harmony-central.com/Computer/Programming/aiff-file-format.doc

DRAFT: "Audio Interchange File Format AIFF-C: A revision to include compressed audio data, Apple Computers, Inc. Draft date 8/26/91."
http://www.tsp.ece.mcgill.ca/MMSP/Documents/AudioFormats/AIFF/Docs/AIFF-C.9.26.91.pdf.

Final Download website. http://www.finaldownload.com/products/aiff.html

Glatt, Jeff. "About Interchange File Format, MIDI Technical Fanatics Brainwashing Center Website, Technical Docs and Programming Page."
http://www.borg.com/~jglatt/tech/aboutiff.htm

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Goethals, Andrea. "Action Plan Background: AIFF/AIFF-C, Last Revision Date: 3/29/04. " http://www.fcla.edu/digitalArchive/pdfs/action_plan_bgrounds/aiff-c1_0.pdf