# List of File Formats

**File Name: Advanced Audio Coding**

File Extension: .aac

Creator: Collaboration between corporations approved by MPEG

Creation Date: 1997

Media Type: Sound

Format: Lossy Compression

Notes: Developed to work as a part of MPEG-4, the AAC file format employs a very efficient form of compression meant to improve on the standard MP3.

**File Name: Advanced Authoring Format**

File Extension: .aaf

Creator: Advanced Media Workflow Association

Creation Date: 2000

Media Type: Moving Image

Format: Uncompressed

Notes:  Created specifically for use in the post-production/editing environment to address interoperability issues.  The AAF file format acts as a wrapper, is capable of storing metadata, and was designed to be versatile enough to withstand the myriad changes inherent in a production setting.

**File Name: Audio Interchange File Format**

File Extension: .aiff

Creator: Electronic Arts Interchange and Apple Computer, Inc.

Creation Date: 1988

Media Type: Sound

Format: Uncompressed

Notes: Standard Macintosh file format that is compatible with Windows (.aif) and often used by digital audio devices.  Regular AIFF files are uncompressed, but compressed versions of the format (AIFF-C or AIFC) were developed to function with various codecs.


**File Name: Audio Video Interleave**

File Extension: .avi

Creator: Microsoft

Creation Date: 1992

Media Type: Moving Image

Format: Container

Notes: File most often created when DV files are imported from a camcorder to computer.


**File Name: Bitmap**

File Extension: .bmp

Creator: IBM and Microsoft

Creation Date: 1988

Media Type: Still Image

Format: Compressed *or* Uncompressed

Notes: Originally created for release with the Windows OS/2 operating system, BMPs are raster image files that are able to range from large,

high quality files to small files of lesser quality.  Also sometimes known as the DIB or Device Independent Bitmap.  The format benefits from freedom from patents.

**File Name: Broadcast Wave File**

File Extension: .bwav

Creator: IBM and Microsoft

Creation Date: 1997

Media Type: Sound

Format: Uncompressed

Notes: Differs from WAVE files in that it incorporates the capability to store metadata into each file.

**File Name: Digital Video File**

File Extension: .dv or .dif

Creator: Sony?

Creation Date: 1994

Media Type: Video

Format: Uncompressed

Description: File format used with content producing equipment (ie: devices that use digital video tape).  Usually contained in an .avi wrapper after being imported to a computer.

**File Name: Final Cut Pro**

File Extension: .fcp

Creator: Final Cut Pro/Apple Computer, Inc.

Creation Date: 1999

Media Type: Moving Image

Format: Uncompressed

Notes: Proprietary file format created for use with the Final Cut Pro non-linear editing system.  Within these files, video and audio clips, a timeline, still images, instructions for transitions, titles, etc. may be included.


**File Name: Graphics Interchange Format**

File Extension: .gif

Creator: CompuServe

Creation Date: 1987

Media Type: Still Image

Format: Lossless Compression

Notes: Created in 1987 as a replacement for CompuServes black and white only RLE format.  Although GIF has been a popular for use on the web, CompuServe patented the format, limiting its circulation.  In 1994, the PNG file format was introduced specifically to provide an alternative to the proprietary GIF.


**File Name: JPEG**

File Extension: .jpg

Creator: Joint Photographic Experts Group

Creation Date: August, 1990

Media Type: Still Image

Format: Lossy Compression

Notes: Publicly released in 1991, JPEGs are designed so that their rate of compression can be adjusted as needed to accommodate smaller file

size.  A popular web format, standard JPEGs are not patented, though iterations of JPEGs with added functionality are.

File Name: Keynote

**File Extension: .key**

Creator: Apple Computer, Inc.

Creation Date: 2003

Media Type: Presentation

Format: Container

Notes: Presentation file format used by Apple OSX application Keynote.

**File Name: Apple QuickTime**

File Extension: .mov

Creator: Apple Computer, Inc.

Creation Date: December 2, 1991

Media Type: Moving Image

Format: Container

Notes: QuickTime was created as a format capable of incorporating a wide variety of media types from different operating systems for playback, distribution, or editing.  A widely used standard, QuickTime files currently in use are very similar in structure to those originally produced.

**File Name: MPEG-1/2 Audio Layer 3**

File Extension: .mp3

Creator: Motion Picture Experts Group

Creation Date: 1991

Media Type: Sound

Format: Lossy Compression

Notes: Considered to use a very efficient form of compression, MP3 files are the most popular for distribution of audio content online.  The acceptance of this format within software applications more generally has increased its popularity.


**File Name: MPEG-4**

File Extension: .mp4

Creator: Motion Picture Experts Group

Creation Date: 1998

Media Type: Moving Image

Format: Container

Notes: Added 3D/Object-oriented support and DRM capabilities to prior MPEG video file formats.


**File Name: MPEG-1 or MPEG-2**

File Extension: .mpg

Creator: Motion Picture Experts Group

Creation Date: 1988

Media Type: Moving Image

Format: Container

Notes: The MPEG-1 and MPEG-2 formats are part of a set of standard file formats created by the Motion Picture Experts Group.  This set of formats was developed to provide a standard to distribute compressed moving image content over the internet.

**File Name: Material Exchange Format**

File Extension: .mxf

Creator: Pro-MPEG Forum

Creation Date: 2004

Media Type: Moving Image

Format: Container

Description: Developed as a collaborative project between moving image equipment companies as a container format for a wide variety of different types of proprietary content.  MXF uses a metadata wrapper for the files it contains, supports timecode information, and was built to accept files or materials from the widest variety of sources possible.


**File Name: Open Office Impress**

File Extension: .odp

Creator: Sun Microsystems

Creation Date: 2000

Media Type: Presentation

Format: Container

Notes: Created by the German company StarDivision in the mid-1980's, the StarOffice Suite was acquired by Sun Microsystems and developed as an Open Source, multi-purpose, cross-platform office application.


**File Name: Ogg Vorbis Compressed Video**

File Extension: .ogm

Creator: Ogg Vorbis

Creation Date: 2003

Media Type: Moving Image

Format: Container

Notes: Open Source media container format.

**File Name: Portable Network Graphics**

File Extension: .png

Creator: The Portable Networks Graphics Development Group of the World Wide Web Consortium

Creation Date: October 14, 1996

Media Type: Still Image

Format: Lossless Compression

Notes:  Created specifically to replace the patented GIF format, .png files (pronounced "ping") are smaller than GIFs, offer lossless compression, and benefits from being patent-free.

**File Name: Power Point Document**

File Extension: .ppt

Creator: Microsoft

Creation Date: 2003

Media Type: Presentation

Format: Container

Notes: Presentation file format used by Microsoft Office application PowerPoint.

**File Name: Photoshop Document**

File Extension: .psd

Creator: Adobe

Creation Date: 1990

Media Type: Still Image

Format: Uncompressed

Notes: Photoshop's native format, .psds are raster image files designed to incorporate image layers, masks, color information, and metadata. This format is considered to accommodate a broad scope of information when compared to other image formats and is widely used.

**File Name: RealAudio File Format**

File Extension: .ra

Creator: RealMedia

Creation Date: 1995

Media Type: Sound

Format: Compressed

Notes:

**File Name: Raw Image File**

File Extension: .dng, .cr2, .nef, .arw, and .srf

Creator: Depends on equipment manufacturer

Creation Date: Approximately 2000

Media Type: Still Image

Format: Uncompressed

Notes: The RAW file format does not adhere to a specific standard and its specifications are determined by imaging equipment manufacturers.  A movement to standardize the RAW format is currently underway.

**File Name: Scalable Vector Graphics**

File Extension: .svg

Creator: The World Wide Web Consortium

Creation Date: 1999

Media Type: Still *or* Moving Image

Format: Uncompressed

Notes: Created for use with the open standard XML format, SVG is used to describe two-dimensional graphics.


**File Name: Flash Video**

File Extension: .swf (or .flv)

Creator: Adobe/Macromedia

Creation Date: 1997

Media Type: Moving Image

Format: Moving Image/Dynamic

Description: Originating with FutureWare's software program SmartSketch which was purchased and renamed by Macromedia in 1996, Flash was acquired by Adobe in 2005.


**File Name: Tagged Image File Format**

File Extension: .tiff

Creator: Aldus

Creation Date: 1985

Media Type: Still Image

Format: Container or Uncompressed

Notes: Originally created for use as the standard file format for image distribution in scanning, faxing, and word processing, this flexible file format has been adopted for containing image files or lossless compression.


**File Name: WAVE Form Audio Format**

File Extension: .wav

Creator: IBM and Microsoft

Creation Date: 1992

Media Type: Sound

Format: Uncompressed

Notes: Based on the RIFF container file specifications, WAVE, created by Microsoft, acts as Windows native digital audio file format.  Although the format existed previously, it was officially "introduced" as a part of the Windows 95 operating system.


**File Name: Extensible Music Format**

File Extension: .xmf

Creator: The MIDI Manufacturers Association, XMF Working Group

Creation Date: 2001

Media Type: Moving Image

Format: Container

Notes: Open Source media container format created for the easy assemblage of all media assets necessary to render a MIDI composition across various forms of computer/digital equipment.