

File Formats Commonly Encountered on the Internet

File Extension	File Type Description	Software Used for Decompression (If applicable)
.txt	Text or ASCII file, (text or ascii)	N/A (can be read with any wordprocessor)
.htm or .html	Hypertext Markup Language (a variation of text or ASCII , (text or ascii)	N/A (read by web browsers or editors, word processors can be used to view the code)
.rtf	Rich Text Format (text or ASCII with special formatting characters intact (bold, underline, etc.) Useful format for exchanging information between different word processors. (text or ascii)	N/A (read by word processors)
.exe	Executable file (a program which will execute when invoked) Usually PC windows or DOS file. (binary)	N/A
.com	Executable file (a program which will execute when invoked) Usually PC windows or DOS file.(binary)	N/A
.gif	Graphics Interchange Format (Image file format often used on Web pages because of its ability to render a background color as transparent), (binary)	N/A
.jpg	JPEG - Joint Photographics Expert Group (Image file format which is compressed and used often on Web pages. (binary)	N/A
.bmp	Windows bitmap image file format. Not used in web pages. Format also available in Windows paintbrush program. (binary)	N/A
.pct	An image file format. Picture (binary)	N/A
.tif	TIFF , Tagged Image File Format (used across many platforms and software products.) (binary)	N/A
.mpg	MPEG - Moving Pictures Experts Group (compression algorithm for video and audio files often used on the web) (binary)	N/A
.pcx	PC Paintbrush file format (image format created by a program found on Windows / DOS machines), (binary)	N/A

.mov, .qt, .moov, .movie	Apple quicktime movie file format. Can be used on Mac / Win platforms. (binary)	N/A
.ps	Postscript file. A printer file format used across platforms on many printers. (binary)	N/A
.au	Audio file format. (binary)	N/A , Interpreted by Netscape
.wav	Audio file format. (binary)	N/A, Interpreted by Netscape
.ppt	Microsoft Power Point Presentation File (often found as a downloadable presentation file on Web pages). (binary)	N/A, Microsoft Powerpoint
.wp or wpd	Corel Wordperfect file (word processing file format).	N/A, Wordperfect
.doc	Microsoft Word file (word processing file format)	N/A, Microsoft Word
.zip	DOS or Windows compressed file format	PKUNZIP or WINZIP
.pdf	Adobe Acrobat File (a file which can be read and printed across multiple platforms as long as the user downloads the free Adobe Acrobat viewer) Used to put many types of documents on the Internet in a cross platform media.	No compression but Adobe Acrobat Reader is required (freeware)
.hqx	Macintosh BINHEX compressed file format. (BINary HEXadecimal) -- A method for converting non-text files (non-ASCII) into ASCII. This is needed because Internet e-mail can only handle ASCII. (ascii or text)	Stuffit or Stuffit Lite
.sea	Macintosh self extracting archive (Doesn't require another piece of software to decompress) (binary)	
.sit	Macintosh compressed file format STUFFIT. (binary)	Stuffit or Stuffit Lite
.tar	UNIX based compressed file format (compressed as a tape archive file; used in UNIX environments to gather files and directories in to one file.) (binary)	tar UNIX
.Z	UNIX based compressed file format (compressed with a UNIX Z format) (binary)	Z UNIX
.tar.Z	UNIX based compressed file format (compressed with both tar and Z format. (binary)	(see above)

.gz	UNIX based compressed file format GNU gzip. (binary)	GNU gzip UNIX
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Below is an **excellent link** to a more detailed list of general file formats and information about them as well as links to downloading the necessary programs.

<http://www.matisse.net/files/formats.html#index>

Link to a more exhaustive list of image file formats and information about them.

<http://www.octobernet.com/~brian/graphics/>

[Link to a glossary of file extensions and Internet Acronyms \(more than you ever wanted to see\)](#)
