

Common Internet File Formats

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**Please note: This document is no longer being updated.
Sorry.**

Try <http://www.file-extensions.org/> or make a new one on your own....

This file is <http://www.matisse.net/files/formats.html>

See also: Our [Glossary of Internet Terms](#).








Or make [FREE Greeting Cards using your own photos](#).

You must use a tables-friendly browser (like [Netscape](#)) to read this document.

Find the file type you are looking for quickly in the [INDEX](#)

Note: This list is mainly intended for use on [Macintosh](#) computers and PC's running [MS-Windows](#). This is only a partial list of what really is out there but for these common platforms, the majority of the file types encountered on-line can be handled with the tools herein. For an additional collection of related information focused on PC users check out [Multimedia File Formats on The Internet](#) by Allison Zhang, and the [Cross-Platform Page](#) by Eric Bennett. For compression info for all platforms check the [comp.compression FAQ](#) (126Kb).

Various File Formats

File Suffix	Format Description & Type	How to deal with it
.au	.au is the most common sound format found on the web. Binary	 Use Sound Player to play it
		 Use Waveform Hold and Modify to play it
		 Use Waveform Hold and Modify to play it
.aiff	.aiff is also a semi-common sound format. Binary	 Use Sound Player to play it
		 Use Waveform Hold and Modify to play it
		 Use Waveform Hold and Modify to play it
		 Use Stuffit Expander to turn back into a usable Macintosh file if it isn't already.
		N/A

Windows XP
Driver
Updates























Windows-XP.Driver...




















Windows XP
Drivers Latest
Download.

Microsoft Certified.
(Recommended)



.bin	Macbinary II Encoded File. Make sure to download as MacBinary or Binary.	  N/A
.doc	May be a DOS/Windows program or a DOS/Windows Self Extracting Archive Binary	 Use MS-Word  Use WordView to quickly display MS-Word documents  Use WordView to quickly display MS-Word documents
.exe	May be a DOS/Windows program or a DOS/Windows Self Extracting Archive Binary	 N/A  Download and launch it in its own temporary directory, it may spawn a number of files and directories. Self Extracting  Download and launch it in its own temporary directory, it may spawn a number of files and directories. Self Extracting
.gif	GIF (Graphical Interchange Format), though not the most economical, is the most common graphics format found on the Internet.	 Use GIFConverter or JPEG View  Use Lview Pro to view these graphics  Use PolyView to view these graphics
.gz	.gz is the Gnu version of zip. It is a compression method developed for use on UNIX systems. Binary	 Use macgzip to view and extract archives.  Use WinZIP to view and extract archives.  Use WinZIP to view and extract archives.
.html .htm	HTML (Hypertext Markup Language), the code the web is written in. Plain text file.	 Use Netscape for Macintosh to view the file  Use Netscape for Windows 3.1x to view the file  Use Netscape for Windows95 and Windows NT to view the file
.hqx	BinHex 4.0 - Encodes a Macintosh file into 7-bit text so it can be safely transfered. Most Mac files appear in .hqx	 Use Stuffit Expander  Use BinHex13 in a DOS window to unbinhex it  Use BinHex13 in a DOS window to unbinhex it
.image	Macintosh Disk Image, most commonly found on Apple's FTP sites. Binary	 Use Shrink Wrap to mount the disk image, and deal with it like you would a floppy  N/A  N/A
		 Use JPEG View

.jpg .jpeg .jfif	<p align="center">JPEG/JFIF, a 24 bit graphic format</p> <p align="center">Binary</p>	 Use Lview Pro to view these graphics  Use PolyView to view these graphics
.mpg .mpeg	<p align="center">MPEG, the standard movie platform for the 'net.</p> <p align="center">Binary</p>	 Use sparkle to play them, or to convert them to QuickTime.  Use VMPEG with win32s to play MPEGs  Use VMPEG or Ladybug to play MPEGs
.mov .qt .movie .moov	<p align="center">QuickTime Movie, Apple Macintosh native movie platform</p> <p align="center">Binary</p>	 Use Sparkle , FastPlayer , MoviePlayer , SimpleText , MicrosoftWord ...and many others. If the movie appears totally white, you may need to use the Apple Quicktime VR Player to see them.  Use QuickTime for Windows  Use QuickTime for Windows
.pdf	<p align="center">Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format, download as Binary</p>	 Use Adobe Acrobat Reader or Adobe Acrobat  Use Adobe Acrobat Reader or Adobe Acrobat  Use Adobe Acrobat Reader or Adobe Acrobat
.ps	<p align="center">Postscript file. Plain text file, but not really human-readable.</p>	 Send to a Postscript printer with Laserwriter Font Utility or view it onscreen using Ghostscript  View it onscreen using Ghostscript  View it onscreen using Ghostscript
.sit	<p align="center">Stuffit Archive - Binary</p>	 Download as MacBinary, and use Stuffit Expander  Use UnSit in a DOS window  Use UnSit in a DOS window
.sea	<p align="center">Macintosh Self Extracting Archive</p>	 Download as MacBinary, and launch it. Self Extracting  N/A  N/A
	<p>UNIX tar program takes separate files and turns them into one file. Often also compressed. Extensions such .tar.Z, .tar.gz and .tgz (latter two are equivalent) requires decompression first, then un-tar. Some UNIX ftp servers will un-tar a file if you request it</p>	 Download and use Tar  Use WinZIP to view and extract archives.


.tar	<p>without the ".tar" extention.</p> <p>Binary</p>	 Use WinZIP to view and extract archives.
.tiff .tif	<p>TIFF is a very large high quality image format.</p> <p>Binary</p>	 Use JPEGView  Use Lview Pro to view these graphics  Use PolyView to view these graphics
.txt	<p>A plain boring old Text File</p>	 Use Microsoft Word, Simple Text, BBEedit, whatever!  Use the 16 bit version of Programmer's File Editor  Use the 32 bit version of Programmer's File Editor
.uu .uue	<p>A uuencoded file. Typically this is done on a UNIX command line: <code>uuencode OriginalFileName SecondFilename > EncodedFile.uu</code> Then, after running: <code>uudecode EncodedFile.uu</code> One gets a file generated named: <code>SecondFileName</code> Using .uu as the extension is not required but is considered politely explanatory for what type of file it is. Increasing numbers of desktop mail and newsreading programs will handle this type of encoding on the fly.</p>	 Use UU Undo to uudecode it  Use WinCode to uudecode it  Use ESS-Code to uudecode it
.wav	<p>Windows Wave format sound file</p> <p>Binary</p>	 You can use SoundApp to play .wav files  Use Waveform Hold and Modify to play it  Use Waveform Hold and Modify to play it
.Z	<p>Unix Compressed File</p> <p>Binary</p>	 If you are downloading via ftp most ftp servers will uncompress for you if you drop the ".Z". Otherwise use Stuffit Expander w/EE .  Use WinZIP to view and extract archives.  Use WinZIP to view and extract archives.
.zip	<p>pkzip, a common DOS/Windows compression format</p> <p>Binary</p>	 Use ZipIt , Stuffit Expander w/ EE , or MacUnZip  Use WinZIP to view and extract archives.  Use WinZIP to view and extract archives.

Where to get the Software packages

Adobe Acrobat Reader   

Freeware program from [Adobe](#) to read Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format files.

Source site: <http://www.adobe.com/Software/Acrobat/>

BinHex13 

Use this in a DOS window to get the original file.

<ftp://oak.oakland.edu/pub/simtelnet/msdos/mcintosh/>

ESS-Code 

A Windows 32 bit program. Allows drag and drop uuencoding/decoding and MIME support. Look for tile name like ecdXXw95.zip where XX is a version number

<ftp://ftp.cica.indiana.edu/pub/pc/win95/txtutil/>

Ghostscript 

Freeware program for viewing Postscript files on screen, saving to PICT format, etc. The program requires that you install a large (~6 MB) collection of files though. It also crashes alot.

Macintosh source site: <http://www.glyphic.com/glyphic/projects/macgs.html>

To run Aladdin Ghostscript on a PC you need gs###ini.zip, gs###fn1.zip and one of gs###dos.zip, gs###os2.zip, gs###win.zip or gs###w32.zip. Be sure to read the README and Index files in this directory.

<ftp://ftp.cs.wisc.edu/ghost/aladdin/>

GIFConverter 

Shareware program (~\$30) for viewing and converting between GIF, PICT, TIFF, RLE, JPEG (JFIF), EPSF, RIFF, Macpaint, StartupScreen and "Scan Image" formats. Some primitive file editing can be done such as cropping and re-sizing (scale-by-percent) and adjusting file resolution and dither pattern. GIFConverter will save GIFs in Interlaced format if you choose, but cannot handle transparent colors.

The main site: <http://www.kamit.com/gifconverter.html>

Alternate: <http://www.macworld.com/cgi-bin/software.pl/Graphics/Software.32.html>


In Japan: <http://www.commerce.or.jp/free/d/gifconverter2.3.7.html>

JPEGView 

JPEGView is a freeware graphic program to read GIF, JPEG, TIFF, and PICT files. Runs fast and will dither nicely to any size of screen/color palette.

Source Site: <http://www.macworld.com/software/Software.832.html>

Via FTP: <ftp://wuarchive.wustl.edu/systems/mac/umich.edu/powermac/jpegview3.31.sit.hqx>

Ladybug 


The Ladybug 1.00 for Windows95/NT can only play MPEG files less than 800KB but it looks promising, watch for updates.

<ftp://ftp.cica.indiana.edu/pub/pc/win95/desktop/>

Laserwriter Font Utility 

This comes with your Macintosh. It's on the Printing Tools disk, or it may already be installed in your Utilities folder. If you need to download it from Apple, you can.

Source site: <http://www.support.apple.com/>

Lview Pro 

Lviewpro provides support for a variety of graphics formats including GIF '89 (transparent backgrounds),

conversion between different formats and image editing functions.

Pick it up at <ftp://ftp.cdrom.com/pub/simtelnet/win3/graphics>



Netscape

Netscape is by far the fastest and most powerfull World Wide Web browser.

<http://home.mcom.com/comprod/mirror/index.html>



PolyView

PolyView is a Windows NT/95 program that displays GIF, JPEG, TIFF, and photo-cd graphics files and converts between these file formats.

<ftp://ftp.cica.indiana.edu/pub/pc/win95/desktop/>



Programmer's File Editor

Programmer's File Editor is a large-capacity multi-file programming oriented editor for Windows 3.1x, Windows NT on Intel and PowerPC platforms, and Windows 95. Get the 16 bit version (pfeXXXX.zip) at

<ftp://ftp.cica.indiana.edu/pub/pc/win3/util/>

Get the 32 bit version (pfeXXXXX.zip) at <ftp://ftp.cica.indiana.edu/pub/pc/win3/util/>



QuickTime

QuickTime is Apple's video format. Players for Macintosh and Windows are available.

<http://quicktime.apple.com/>



Quicktime VR Player

This is a QuickTime moview player that will aslo play QuickTine VR movies

Source Site: <http://qtvr.quicktime.apple.com/InMac.htm>

More Information: <http://qtvr.quicktime.apple.com/>



Shrinkwrap

Shrinkwrap is a free Mac utility that allows you to mount and use disk image files as if they were a mounted floppy disk. You can also copy disk images to floppies with Shrinkwrap by simply dragging the floppy icon onto Shrinkwrap.

<http://wwwhost.ots.utexas.edu/mac/pub-mac-compression.html#shrinkwrap-142>



Sound Player

Sound Player is a multipurpose sound program that can record and play back .au and aiff format sounds.

<ftp://romulus.ucs.uoknor.edu/.disks/6f/mac/sound/soundutil/soundmachine2.1.cpt.hqx>

<ftp://gatekeeper.dec.com/.3/net/infosys/gopher/Macintosh-TurboGopher/helper-applications/SoundMachine21.cpt.hqx>

<http://wwwhost.ots.utexas.edu/mac/pub-mac-sound.html>



SoundApp

SoundApp is a small featureless program that will play most audio files you may find

<http://wwwhost.ots.utexas.edu/mac/pub-mac-sound.html>



Sparkle

Sparkle is the best MPEG player for the mac. You can play and convert between Quicktime and MPEG.

Sumex: <ftp://sumex-aim.stanford.edu/info-mac/grf/util>
Or try <ftp://ftp.utexas.edu/pub/mac/graphics/sparkle-245-fat.hqx>

Stuffit Expander with Expander Enhancer

Stuffit Expander is *the* decompression program for the mac. With Expander Enhancer (It is installed when you install DropStuff) you can expand a LOT of formats!
get both Stuff Expander and Drop Stuff w/ EE from [Aladdin](http://ftp.aladdinsys.com/Pub/) at <ftp://ftp.aladdinsys.com/Pub/>

Tar

Tar 4.0 will read and write tar files.
<gopher://gopher.archive.umich.edu:7055/40/mac/util/compression/tar4.0b.sit.hqx>

UNSIT

UNSIT is a simple utility for PC users to extract files from a StuffIt file.
<ftp://ftp.cdrom.com/pub/simtel/msdos/mac/>

UU Undo

UU Undo is a simple program to decode uu encoded files on the mac.
<http://www.med.cornell.edu/~giles/projects.html#uuundo>

VMPEG

VMPEG can play MPEG system layer streams containing both video and audio. This is a win32s program.
<ftp://ftp.cica.indiana.edu/pub/pc/win3/desktop/>

Waveform Hold and Modify (WHAM)

WHAM provides support for a variety of formats, conversion between them and file editing functions.
Pick it up from <ftp://ftp.cdrom.com/pub/cica/audio/>

WinCode

Wincode is a Windows 3.x program which converts 8-bit BINARY (EXE, COM,GIF, etc) files to 7-bit ASCII (Text) files (and vice versa) through a process known as bit-shifting. Wincode currently supports UU/XX and Base64 (MIME 1.0 conformant) coding.

To be had from <http://www.winsite.com/info/pc/win3/util/wincode.zip/>

WinZip

WinZip is an essential tool for it's excellent handling of many different archiving and compression formats.
Downloads as a self-extracting archive.

Get the 16 bit version (winzipXX.exe) at <ftp://ftp.cdrom.com/pub/cica/win3/util/>

Get the 32 bit version (wzntXX.exe) at <ftp://ftp.cica.indiana.edu/pub/pc/win3/nt/>

WordView

For MS-Windows users, displaying Microsoft Word documents without having to allocate the memory resources required to fire up MS-Word is very handy. Get yours at <ftp://ftp.microsoft.com/Softlib/MSLFILES/>

ZipIt

A fast program for the Macintosh to extract and create Zip archives.
Home Site: <http://www.awa.com/softlock/zipit/zipit.html>

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