

Definitions

Introduction to multimedia

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anti-aliasing	Smoothing the jagged edges of a bitmap graphic. When diagonal or curved lines are put in bitmap (non-vector) form for display on a monitor or a printout, these shapes must be made with square pixels; any lines that are not vertical or horizontal have a stair-stepped appearance. Anti-aliasing changes the pixels along the edges of the line into varying shades of gray or in-between color, in order to make the edge appear smoother.
ASF	<i>Advanced Streaming Format</i> . A streaming technology developed by Microsoft for transmitting audio and video over the Internet. Intended to supercede AVI.
AVI	<i>Audio Video Interleaved</i> . A file format for video developed by Microsoft. AVI file names usually end with <code>.avi</code> .
bitmap graphic	A.k.a. raster graphic. An image composed of a pattern of dots (pixels), each of which can take on a different color.
BMP	An uncompressed bitmap-graphic file format used by the Windows operating systems. Supports 24-bit color (16.7 million colors). BMP file names usually end with <code>.bmp</code> .
GIF	<i>Graphic Interchange Format</i> . A lossless-compressed bitmap-graphic file format commonly used on the Web for non-photographic images. Supports 8-bit color (256 colors). GIF file names usually end with <code>.gif</code> .
GIF89a	A variant of the GIF file format that allows one color in an image to appear transparent.
helper application	A program that a Web browser launches in order to display a file of a particular type. A helper application is similar to a plug-in, in terms of functionality; however, the former runs in a window of its own, whereas the latter runs within your browser's window.
JPEG	<i>Joint Photographic Experts Group</i> . A lossy-compressed bitmap-graphic file format commonly used on the Web for photographs. Supports 24-bit color (16.7 million colors). JPEG file names usually end with <code>.jpg</code> .
lossless compression	A.k.a. reversible compression. A type of file compression that decreases a graphic's file size without sacrificing the graphic's quality.
lossy compression	A type of file compression that decreases a graphic's file size by sacrificing some of the graphic's quality.
MPEG	<i>Moving Picture Experts Group</i> . A lossy-compressed file format for audio and video. Several variants of the MPEG standard exist: MPEG-1 is a standard for CD-ROM audio and video; MPEG-2 is a standard for full-screen, broadcast quality video; MPEG-3 (a.k.a. MP3) is a standard for digital sound files; MPEG-4 is a standard for video telephony.
multimedia	The computerized combination of several audio and/or visual media (<i>e.g.</i> , animation, images, music, slides, text, voices, video, <i>etc.</i>). Multimedia applications are often interactive programs like encyclopedias, games, sales presentations, <i>etc.</i> Multimedia software is often distributed on CD-ROMs,

	since multimedia files take up a lot of space. However, like other software, multimedia can also be distributed via the Web.
plug-in	Software that extends the capabilities of an application. For example, Photoshop's functionality can be enhanced by installing additional effects and filters into its "Plug-ins" folder. Similarly, the capabilities of Internet Explorer and Netscape can be extended with plug-ins that provide additional multimedia capabilities.
QuickTime	A file format for video developed by Apple Computer. More technically, it is a format for directly capturing digital multimedia, for editing that media, for delivering that media, and for playing back that media, and it includes a framework and a set of tools for assisting in these processes. QuickTime file names usually end with <code>.mov</code> .
Real Audio	The de facto standard for streaming audio data over the Web. RealAudio was developed by RealNetworks and supports FM-stereo-quality sound.
Real Video	A streaming technology developed by RealNetworks for transmitting video over the Internet.
Shockwave	A technology developed by Macromedia that enables Web pages to include multimedia. To create a Shockwave "object" (<i>i.e.</i> , program), you use a program called Director and then compress the object with a program called Afterburner. You then insert a reference to the "shocked" file in your Web page. To view a Shockwave object, you need the Shockwave plug-in for your browser.
TIFF	<i>Tagged Image File Format</i> . A bitmap-graphic file format commonly used for scanned images. Supports 24-bit color (16.7 million colors). TIFF file names usually end with <code>.tif</code> .
vector graphic	An image composed of lines and shapes, each of which is defined by a mathematical formula. File formats of vector graphics include EPS (Encapsulated PostScript) and PICT.
Vivo	A streaming technology developed by Vivo Software for transmitting video over the Internet. Vivo file names usually end with <code>.viv</code> .
WAV	A digitized sound file format popular on Windows computers. WAV file names usually end with <code>.wav</code> .