Computer Science E-1: Understanding Computers and the Internet Harvard Extension School Fall 2006

Lecture 7 Jargon Multimedia

AVI Audio Video Interleaved. A video file format for PCs.

bitmapped graphic

An image defined with a grid of pixels (instead of with a set of mathematical

formulae).

BMP An uncompressed, bitmapped file format commonly used as wallpapers on PCs

running Windows.

CD-DA Compact Disc-Digital Audio. The audio file format for music CDs.

DivX A video file format based on MPEG-4 that compresses file information.

EPS Encapsulated PostScript. A vector-based image file format commonly used for

high-resolution, scalable graphics.

file sharing Allows access to data on a computer over a network.

Flash A vector-based format for animations that also supports audio and video.

GIF Graphical Interchange Format. A lossless image file format originally developed

by CompuServe. Supports 8-bit color, animation, and transparent backgrounds.

Gnutella network A peer-to-peer file sharing system.

graphic An image (as opposed to text).

image A visual representation or likeness (as a photo).

interframe compression

Technique for compressing video files that eliminates redundant data between

successive frames.

intraframe compression

Technique for compressing video that eliminates redundant data within a frame.

IPEG A lossy-compressed bitmapped image file format developed by the Joint

Photographic Experts Group. Supports 24-bit color.

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KaZaA A peer-to-peer file-sharing application.

Limewire A peer-to-peer file sharing application.

lossless compression A method of compressing file information without losing any data.

lossy compression

A method of compressing file information that results in some data loss.

compression

MIDI Musical Instrument Digital Interface. An audio file format.

MP3 MPEG, Audio Layer 3. A compressed audio file format that offers a

compression ratio of about 1:12.

MPEG A compressed video file format developed by the Moving Picture Experts

Group. Several variants exist, including MPEG-1 (commonly used for downloadable movie clips), MPEG-2 (the file format used by DVDs), and

MPEG-4 (increasingly used for downloadable movies).

multimedia The combination of more than one presentation format (e.g., text, images, sound,

and video).

Napster Originally a file-sharing application, it is now a music subscription serivice.

PICT An image file format for the Mac platform.

PNG Portable Network Graphic. A losslessly compressed bitmapped image file

format meant to be a patent-free successor to GIF.

QuickTime A video file format developed by Apple.

RealAudio A streamable audio file format developed by Real Networks.

RealVideo A streamable video file format developed by Real Networks.

streaming Mechanism for playing video or audio files over a network that allows packets to

be played as they are downloaded, eliminating the need to download the entire

file before playing.

TIFF Tagged Image File Format. A lossless image file format commonly used for

faxes and high-resolution graphics.

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vector graphic An image file format based on the mathematical expression of geometric

elements (lines, arcs, polygons)

WAV An audio file format commonly used for Windows sounds.

WMA Windows Media Audio. A compressed audio file format developed by

Microsoft.

WMV Windows Media Video. A compressed video file format developed by Microsoft.