

# Common Internet File Formats

Compiled by [Eric Perlman](#) and [Ian Kallen](#)

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**Please note: This document is no longer being updated.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](#).








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**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 <a href="#">Sound Player</a> to play it
		 Use <a href="#">Waveform Hold and Modify</a> to play it
		 Use <a href="#">Waveform Hold and Modify</a> to play it
.aiff	.aiff is also a semi-common sound format.  Binary	 Use <a href="#">Sound Player</a> to play it
		 Use <a href="#">Waveform Hold and Modify</a> to play it
		 Use <a href="#">Waveform Hold and Modify</a> to play it
		 Use <a href="#">Stuffit Expander</a> to turn back into a usable Macintosh file if it isn't already.






















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

.jpg .jpeg .jif	<p align="center"><b>JPEG/JFIF, a 24 bit graphic format</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Binary</b></p>	 Use <a href="#">Lview Pro</a> to view these graphics
.mpg .mpeg	<p align="center"><b>MPEG, the standard movie platform for the 'net.</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Binary</b></p>	 Use <a href="#">sparkle</a> to play them, or to convert them to QuickTime.  Use <a href="#">VMPEG</a> with win32s to play MPEGs  Use <a href="#">VMPEG</a> or <a href="#">Ladybug</a> to play MPEGs
.mov .qt .movie .moov	<p align="center"><b>QuickTime Movie, Apple Macintosh native movie platform</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Binary</b></p>	 Use <a href="#">Sparkle</a> , FastPlayer, MoviePlayer, SimpleText, MicrosoftWord...and many others. If the movie appears totally white, you may need to use the <a href="#">Apple Quicktime VR Player</a> to see them.  Use <a href="#">QuickTime</a> for Windows  Use <a href="#">QuickTime</a> for Windows
.pdf	<p align="center"><b>Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format, download as Binary</b></p>	 Use <a href="#">Adobe Acrobat Reader</a> or Adobe Acrobat  Use <a href="#">Adobe Acrobat Reader</a> or Adobe Acrobat  Use <a href="#">Adobe Acrobat Reader</a> or Adobe Acrobat
.ps	<p align="center"><b>Postscript file. Plain text file, but not really human-readable.</b></p>	 Send to a Postscript printer with <a href="#">Laserwriter Font Utility</a> or view it onscreen using <a href="#">Ghostscript</a>  View it onscreen using <a href="#">Ghostscript</a>  View it onscreen using <a href="#">Ghostscript</a>
.sit	<p align="center"><b>Stuffit Archive - Binary</b></p>	 Download as MacBinary, and use <a href="#">Stuffit Expander</a>  Use <a href="#">UnSit</a> in a DOS window  Use <a href="#">UnSit</a> in a DOS window
.sea	<p align="center"><b>Macintosh Self Extracting Archive</b></p>	 Download as MacBinary, and launch it. Self Extracting  N/A  N/A
	<p><b>UNIX tar program takes separate files and turns them into one file. Often also compressed. Extensions such .tar.Z, .tar.gz and .tar.bz2 (latter two are equivalent) requires decompression first, then</b></p>	 Download and use <a href="#">Tar</a>  Use <a href="#">WinZIP</a> to view and extract archives

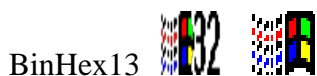
<b>.tar</b>	<p>without the ".tar" extension.</p> <p><b>Binary</b></p>	 Use <a href="#">WinZIP</a> to view and extract archives.
<b>.tiff</b> <b>.tif</b>	<p><b>TIFF is a very large high quality image format.</b></p> <p><b>Binary</b></p>	 Use <a href="#">JPEGView</a>  Use <a href="#">Lview Pro</a> to view these graphics  Use <a href="#">PolyView</a> to view these graphics
<b>.txt</b>	<p><b>A plain boring old Text File</b></p>	 Use Microsoft Word, Simple Text, BBEdit, whatever!  Use the 16 bit version of <a href="#">Programmer's File Editor</a>  Use the 32 bit version of <a href="#">Programmer's File Editor</a>
<b>.uu</b> <b>.uue</b>	<p><b>A uuencoded file. Typically this is done on a UNIX command line:</b>  <code>uuencode OriginalFileName SecondFilename &gt; EncodedFile.uu</code>  <b>Then, after running:</b>  <code>uudecode EncodedFile.uu</code>  <b>One gets a file generated named:</b>  <code>SecondFileName</code></p> <p>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 <a href="#">UU Undo</a> to uudecode it  Use <a href="#">WinCode</a> to uudecode it  Use <a href="#">ESS-Code</a> to uudecode it
<b>.wav</b>	<p><b>Windows Wave format sound file</b></p> <p><b>Binary</b></p>	 You can use <a href="#">SoundApp</a> to play .wav files  Use <a href="#">Waveform Hold and Modify</a> to play it  Use <a href="#">Waveform Hold and Modify</a> to play it
<b>.Z</b>	<p><b>Unix Compressed File</b></p> <p><b>Binary</b></p>	 If you are downloading via ftp most ftp servers will uncompress for you if you drop the ".Z". Otherwise use <a href="#">Stuffit Expander w/EE</a> .  Use <a href="#">WinZIP</a> to view and extract archives.  Use <a href="#">WinZIP</a> to view and extract archives.
<b>.zip</b>	<p><b>pkzip, a common DOS/Windows compression format</b></p> <p><b>Binary</b></p>	 Use <a href="#">ZipIt</a> , <a href="#">Stuffit Expander w/ EE</a> , or <a href="#">MacUnZip</a>  Use <a href="#">WinZIP</a> to view and extract archives.  Use <a href="#">WinZIP</a> to view and extract archives.

Where to get the Software packages



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>

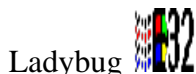


JPEGView

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/>



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