

Video Terms and Definitions

The Shockwave (Flash) Format

The Shockwave format was developed by Macromedia. The Shockwave format requires an extra component to play. This component comes preinstalled with the latest versions of Netscape and Internet Explorer. Videos stored in the Shockwave format have the extension .swf.

The Flash authoring application files have the extension .fla

The AVI Format

The AVI (Audio Video Interleave) format was developed by Microsoft. The AVI format is supported by all computers running Windows, and by all the most popular web browsers. It is a very common format on the Internet, but not always possible to play on non-Windows computers. Videos stored in the AVI format have the extension .avi.

The MPEG Format

The MPEG (Moving Pictures Expert Group) format is the most popular format on the Internet. It is cross-platform, and supported by all the most popular web browsers. Videos stored in the MPEG format have the extension .mpg or .mpeg.

The QuickTime Format

The QuickTime format is developed by Apple. QuickTime is a common format on the Internet, but QuickTime movies cannot be played on a Windows computer without an extra (free) component installed. Videos stored in the QuickTime format have the extension .mov.

The RealVideo Format

The Real Video format was developed for the Internet by Real Media. The format allows streaming of video (on-line video, Internet TV) with low bandwidths. Because of the low bandwidth priority, quality is often reduced. Videos stored in the Real Video format have the extension .rm or .ram.