

Video Formats

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Comparison Chart

See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_container_formats. Library of Congress has a site focused on the sustainability of formats at http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/formats/fdd/video_fdd.shtml. Also see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_video_codecs.

Compression Formats

Dirac

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dirac_%28codec%29
<http://diracvideo.org/>

Format used by the BBC

H.263

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H.263>

H.264

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H.264/MPEG-4_AVC

This compression format appears to have the most support behind it right now including possibly being the main HTML5 video format. This compression format is patented but currently no royalties are charged for 'free to end users' applications. If we choose this format, we could be stuck with having to license and pay royalties for distributing our H.264 content (after 2016 according to <http://www.mpegla.com/Lists/MPEG%20LA%20News%20List/Attachments/226/n-10-02-02.pdf>).

MPEG-4 Part2

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MPEG-4_Part_2

Also referred to as MP4.

RealVideo

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RealVideo>

Sorenson

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sorenson_codec
<http://www.sorensonmedia.com/>

Used in Flash and Quicktime.

Theora

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theora>
<http://theora.org/>

Was in the running for HTML5 video format.

VC-1

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VC-1>

Microsoft developed format used in Windows Media

VP6

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VP6>
<http://www.on2.com/565.html>

VP8

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/VP8>
http://www.webmproject.org/media/pdf/vp8_bitstream.pdf

Used in the new Google-backed WebM format.

Containers

3GPP

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3GP>

Built for cell phones

ASF

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advanced_Systems_Format
<http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/dd757562%28VS.85%29.aspx>

Microsoft format usually streamed using MMS

AVI

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audio_Video_Interleave
<http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms779636.aspx>

Is this format streamable?

FLV

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flash_Video
<http://www.adobe.com/devnet/f4v.html>

Adobe Flash format usually streamed using RTMP.

Matroska

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matroska>
<http://www.matroska.org/>

MPEG-TS

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MPEG_transport_stream

Used in Live HTTP Streaming.

MP4

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MPEG-4_Part_14

Ogg / OGM

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ogg>
<http://www.xiph.org/ogg/>

This format is patent-free.

Quicktime

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QuickTime_File_Format

Similar to MP4.

RealMedia Variable Bitrate (RMVB)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RMVB>

WebM

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WebM>
<http://www.webmproject.org/code/specs/container/>

Based on a Matroska profile.