

Version 1 – 10th July 2023 – Midgley designs

FILE EXTENSION HELP GUIDE

What is this document?

The file extension help guide is the perfect document to help you understand what each extension is best used for or some information about it, It will be updated over time with new file formats and can be downloaded on my website when ready.

JPEG

Web Graphics is the main use for this format

GIF

Web Graphics / Animation / Clip Art

PNG

Web Graphics / Logos and Line Art

TIFF & BMP

Print Graphics



JPEG

Joint Photographic Experts Group

JPG files, also known as JPEG files, are a common file format for digital photos and other digital graphics. When JPG files are saved they use “lossy” compression, meaning that image quality is lost as the file size decreases.

Due to a JPG file it allows for image details to be forgotten and then filled when displayed on a screen which can lead to many issues.

They are however compatible across MAC & PC as well as other mobile devices, web browsers and image editors.

- JPG is based in 24-bit colour range which means it can show up to 16 million different colours.
- It is the standard file format for most digital cameras making it compatible accross a wide range of technology.
- Its great for shrinking file sizes down.
- It is also great for images with more than 256 colours



PNG

Portable Network Graphic

- Created in 1996
- Background images without jagged edges
- Lossless compression which means there's no data loss.

Portable Network Graphics (PNG) is a raster Graphics file format that supports lossless data compression. PNG was created as an improved, non-patented replacement for graphics interchange format (GIF), and is the most used lossless image compression format on the internet.

Alpha Channels

- Transparency can be set between opaque and completely transparent allowing for a faded look
- PNG formats can go on any background and still maintain appearance
- Older browsers can have trouble with PNGs because they can't handle alpha channels.

Best Uses

- Web Images, Flat areas of colours, logos, transparent or semitransparent images.
- Great for text images
- Images in the middle of editing process
- Complex images for real-life photographs if file size is not an issue.



GIF

Graphics Interchange Format.

- Created in 1987
- Uses up to 256 Colours
- Come alive with animation
- Lossless compression which means there's no data loss.

An Image file format commonly used for images on the web and sprites in software programs. Unlike the JPEG image format, GIFs use lossless compression that does not degrade the quality of the image. GIFs store image data using indexed colour, meaning each image can include a maximum of 256 colours.

Best Uses

- Animations
- Web Graphics with not many colours
- Very small icons
- Simple images, like line drawings, colour, borders and simple illustrations