

Windows

How to Look Up a File Extension

Sometimes students will give us file extension information. **The easiest way to look up a file extension is to type the extension in a search engine and view consistent results.** Here are some common file extensions:

File Extension	What it Means	Program Needed to View File
.doc	Microsoft Word	Microsoft Word. Some versions of WordPerfect can read Word documents.
.rtf	Rich Text Format	Most word processors can open this file.
.txt	Text file	Any word processor can open this file.
.xls	Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet	Microsoft Excel
.ppt	Microsoft PowerPoint	Microsoft PowerPoint and some other presentation programs, such as StarOffice.
.pub	Microsoft Publisher	Microsoft Publisher
.wpd	Corel WordPerfect	Corel WordPerfect. Some versions of Word can read WordPerfect documents.
.wps	Microsoft Works	Microsoft Works
.mdb	Microsoft Access Database	Microsoft Access or any other program that can read Access databases.
.htm or .html	A web page	A web browser, such as Internet Explorer
.pdf	Adobe Acrobat file (Portable Document Format)	Adobe Acrobat Reader
.bmp	Bitmap file	The file format that Windows uses to save its icons. It's also the file type that Paint uses to save files. To open the files, you'll need a graphics program that opens .bmp.
.gif, .jpg, .png	Different graphics files	To edit the files, you'll need a graphics program. To view them, you can use your web browser.
.fp3, .fp4, .fp5	A File Maker Database file	Depending on the number (3,4, or 5) you'll need either that version or higher of File Maker, or else a current version of another database program that can read File Maker files.
.psd, .tif	Graphics files	.psd is an Adobe Photoshop file, which can be read by most high-end graphics programs. .tif is a more general high-end graphics format, which can be read by most graphic-design programs.
.exe	Executable file	This is a program; double clicking the file will run the program. Be careful when opening an .exe file that you've received as an email attachment; it can be a virus.