

Graphics on the Web

Have you ever opened a file only to find something that looks like gibberish on the screen?

If you know how to save a file, then you know enough about file management to understand extensions. A **file extension** is an addition to the file name, separated by a period. This addition can tell you a lot about the type of file, saving you much time and aggravation because as you know, some file formats, will only open in certain software programs.

Graphic editing software can be used to convert your graphic images into a different file format, but the results may not always be good. One trick that may help, is to use the PrintScreen function on your keyboard, which will copy whatever is on your screen onto the clipboard. This image can be pasted into an image editing software, or Paint. Then cut the section of the screen you want, copy, and paste into the final document.

BMP - Bitmap A Microsoft invention so it works on Internet Explorer. Bitmap images are memory hogs but convert nicely to JPEG for use in Netscape Composer,

GIF - (Graphics Interchange Format) most common uses are as buttons, headings, cartoons, and animations. GIFS are limited to 256 colors or less. The fewer colors, the less memory, the faster the download. Converting a typical GIF to a JPEG results in loss of quality and larger file.

JPEG - (Joint Photographic Experts Groups) most widely used digital image (scanners, digital cameras), best format for photographic images with thousands of colors. Not suitable for small images, screenshots, images with text, images with sharp lines and large blocks of color, and images that are going to be edited repeatedly.

For more information visit:
Why Not? Graphic File Formats
<http://www.why-not.com/articles/formats.htm>

Choosing the Right Graphic Format for the Web

<http://graphicssoft.about.com/cs/formatswebchoose/index.htm>

About.com-> Graphic Formats

<http://graphicssoft.about.com/cs/graphicformats/>

Digital Camera Tip

Source:

<http://graphicssoft.about.com/library/weekly/aa0104jpegmyths2.htm>

Print quality is determined by the pixel dimensions of the image. To print a 4 by 6 inch photo, the image must have at least 480 x 720 pixels for an average quality print, and 960 x 1440 pixels or more for a medium to high quality print. Because JPEG is often used for images to be transmitted and displayed via the Web, these images are typically reduced to screen resolution and do not contain enough pixel data to get a high-quality print. When saving JPEG images from your digital camera, you may wish to use your camera's higher quality compression setting to reduce the damage done by JPEG compression. I'm referring here to the *quality* setting of your camera, not resolution (which affects pixel dimensions). Not all digital cameras offer this option.