

## **Common file extensions:**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filename\\_extension](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filename_extension)

### **.ARC**

ARC file, these are files compressed using the program ARC (archive). (AOL's Windows software will decompress these files.)

### **.ART**

Art file, a Johnson-Grace compression scheme that compresses graphics extremely well while still retaining good image quality. (AOL's software will display these files.)

### **.AVI**

Audio Visual, these are Windows Video files. (AOL's Windows software will display these files if Video for Windows is installed.)

### **.BAT**

BAT is a Batch File; scripts that run in DOS, and are usually designed to automate tasks.

### **.BMP**

itmap, a type of graphics file used by PC-Paintbrush that comes with Windows and other programs. (AOL's Windows software can display these.)

### **.COM**

These are small programs for DOS and. They are usually utilities, but not always.

### **.CPT**

A file compressed with Compactor. AOL's Macintosh software will decompress these.

### **.DLL**

Dynamic Link Library, these files give functionality to other programs. They usually need to be installed into the WINDOWS/SYSTEM directory. VBRUN300.DLL is a good example.

### **.DOC**

Documents, this is the default file extension for Microsoft Word and some other programs. Most files with this extension will be Microsoft Word, but there are many that are plain text.

### **.DOCX**

Microsoft Word 2007 documents. You may save Word documents as .doc , the 2003 Word format so that those who do not have Word 2007 will be able to open them with Word 2003. Or save the text document as .rtf so any word processor can open and view it. If you receive such a file and you do not have Word 2007, download the DOCX converter from [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)

### **.DOT**

Document Template, these files are templates for Microsoft Word.

### **.EPS**

Encapsulated Postscript File, these are graphics images designed for vector graphics. Most drawing programs such as Aldus Freehand and Adobe Illustrator use this format. (AOL's software can not display these.)

#### .EXE

Executable, this is a DOS or Windows application. Most major programs end with this extension. It is also used for Windows self-extracting archives, which are programs that when run explode into several smaller programs.

#### .GIF

Graphics Interchange Format, this is a type of graphic image very common on online services and the internet. (AOL's software can display these.)

#### .JPG

Joint Photographers Experts Group, a graphics format designed to take up as little space as possible while retaining as much quality as possible. .JPG's are smaller than .GIF's, but take longer to display. (AOL's software will display these).

#### .INI

Initialization file, these files are used by programs to set parameters and preferences. Normally, these files should not be tampered with.

#### .ME

This is a commonly used extension in DOS programs that tells you to do something. For example, you'll commonly see files named READ.ME or OPEN.ME and that's exactly what you should do with them.

#### .MID

Musical Instrument Digital Interface, MIDI files are songs for most sound cards and MIDI boards. There are different types, and not every .MID file will play on every sound card/midi board. (AOL's software will play these files.)

#### .MOD

Music Modules, these are Amiga files that have been adopted by the PC community. They are music files that include the instruments as well as the score, and play through a sound card, not MIDI. You will need a special program to play these files in Windows or on the Macintosh.

#### .PCX

These are older graphics files, commonly used for clip art.

#### .PICT, .PCT

The original Macintosh Graphics format. (AOL's Macintosh software will display these files.)

#### .SEA

Self Extracting Archive, these are Macintosh files that explode into several smaller programs. They can not be used by PC owners.

#### .SCR

Screen Saver, these are Windows Screen Savers. To use them, copy the .SCR file into the Windows directory, and run the Control Panel and then the Desktop Applet.

#### .SIT

Stuffit files, these are Macintosh compressed files that can be extracted by PC users with programs such as UNSIT and UNSTUFF. Many of the files with this extension will not run on PC's even after extraction. (AOL's Macintosh software will open these files).

#### .SND

Sound, these are Macintosh System 7 sounds that can be played on PC's using converters such as SOX. (AOL's Macintosh software will run these files.)

#### .SYS

System file, these are drivers used by DOS and Windows. Be sure to read the file description and any accompanying documents carefully.

#### .TIF

Tagged Image Format, these are bitmapped graphic images popular among desktop publishers. (AOL's software will not display this file type.)

#### .TTF

True Type Font, these are scalable fonts commonly used in Windows. You will need to install these in your Control Panels.

#### .TXT

Text files, these are usually just plain text that can be read by most programs, especially Notepad and Simple Text. (AOL's software will display these if they are 16K or less.)

#### .WAV

Wave files, these are Windows sound files. Mac users can find utilities to convert them. If you don't have a sound card, the Windows program SPEAK.EXE may allow you to hear them. (AOL's Windows software will display these.)

#### .WKS (WK1, WK3)

Worksheet files, these are Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheet files. Most popular spreadsheet programs can display these files.

#### .WP5

Word Perfect 5.0 file, these files can be read by Word Perfect and many other popular word processing programs.

#### .XLS

Excel spreadsheet file, these are spreadsheet files that can be read by Microsoft Excel and some other spreadsheet programs.

#### .ZIP

This is the most common format for compressed files

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