



Dacorum U3A

Computer Support Group

Friday 28th September 2018

**MultiMedia Files
on your PC, Laptop, iPad, iPhone, Etc**

Agenda



- Identify topics to discuss in later meetings
- Overview of today's Presentation
- Multimedia Presentation
- Tea and Coffee break (about 3.15 pm?)
- Questions and Problems

Multimedia Overview



What Are Digital Media File Formats?

When you save a digital file, it is encoded so that computer programs or apps can read and work with it. For example, document formats can be read and edited in word-processing programs such as Microsoft Word. Photo formats can be read by photo-editing applications like [Photoshop](#), and by such photo-organizing programs as Windows Photo Viewer and [Photos For MAC](#). Many video formats—including camcorder and DVD files, Quicktime files, Windows videos, and numerous high-definition formats—must be converted to be played by programs other than the software for which they were originally created or saved. These file formats are also called "[codecs](#)," short for “coder-decoder.”

Multimedia Overview



Question : What is a Multimedia File?

Answer : Multimedia falls into one of the following categories

**WORD PROCESSING : .doc, Spreadsheet :.xls,
Presentation :.ppt**

MUSIC VIDEO & AUDIO : (MP3, MOV, AVI)

PHOTOS : (-.jpg, .Raw, .Tiff)

INTERNET RADIO streaming

Multimedia Overview



What Is the Difference Between File Formats?

Photos, music, and movies are naturally different formats. But within those categories, since there is no standardisation, there is further variation.

For example, photos are frequently saved in **RAW, JPEG, or TIFF formats**. Saving a photo in the TIFF format preserves the best quality of the photo but it's a huge file. This means that if you use TIFFs you will fill up your hard drive with fewer photos than if you use another format like JPEG. JPEG formats compress the file—they squeeze it down and make it smaller—so you can fit a lot more JPEG photos on your hard drive.

Video files may be encoded in standard or high-definition formats. Not only are they created in different formats, they may need to be converted in order to play on different devices, from TVs to smartphones.

Likewise, digital audio files may be encoded in either **low-res or hi-res formats**, which will affect their play-ability via streaming or require downloading first, and if the playback device is compatible with them.

Multimedia Overview



Commonly Used Digital Media File Formats

- **Photo File Formats:** JPEG, GIF, PNG, TIFF, [BMP](#)
- **Music File Formats:** [AAC](#), [MP3](#), [WAV](#), [WMA](#), [DOLBY® DIGITAL](#), [DTS](#)
- **Other music file formats you may have access to:** [AIFF](#), [ASF](#), [FLAC](#), [ADPCM](#), [DSD](#), [LPCM](#), [OGG](#)
- **For iTunes Users:** If you save your music in [iTunes](#), be sure that network media player or media streamer can play [AAC Audio](#). iTunes audio files may be listed as m4a or Apple Lossless. Files with the m4p extension are protected AAC files. You can now buy music from the [iTunes store](#) that is unprotected (DRM-free), so you can play this music freely on all of your devices.
- **Video File Formats:** [MPEG-1](#), [MPEG-2](#), [MPEG-4](#), [AVI](#), [MOV](#), [AVCHD](#), H.264, and H.265.
- **Other video formats you may have access to:** [DivX](#) and [DivX HD](#), [Xvid HD](#), [MKV](#), [RMVB](#), [WMV9](#), [TS/TP/M2T](#)



Multimedia Overview

Multimedia Players

During this presentation we will be covering:

Video Players

e.g iplayer, You Tube, VLC Player, Windows Media Player Etc.

Music Players

iTunes, Windows Media Player, VLC Media, Spotify,

Photo & Slideshow Players

e.g iPhoto, Picasa, Aperture, Lightroom ₇

Radio Players

e.g iTunes, iPlayer Radio, iTune radio etc

Multimedia Overview

There are several AV (Audio/ Visual)
Players Apps available to download on
the Windows store or direct from web
sites.

Some are better than others, but these
are a selection of the better ones:

iTunes

Windows Media Player

VLC Media Player

QuickTime.



Multimedia Overview

iTunes



iTunes is a media player, Media Library, online radio broadcaster and it is a Mobile management application which is developed by Apple company.

By using iTunes you can play, download and you can also organize digital download of all the music and video files on your personal computer or even on your mobile devices. Through the iTunes store, you can easily purchase and download the music, music videos, television shows, audiobooks, movies and movie rentals for your personal computer.

The first version of it was released on January 9th, 2001. It is one of the most common media manager used by most of the people.

Multimedia Overview

Windows Media Player



Windows Media Player (abbreviated **WMP**) is a [media player](#) and media library application developed by [Microsoft](#) that is used for playing [audio](#), video and viewing images on personal computers running the [Microsoft Windows operating system](#),. In addition to being a media player, Windows Media Player includes the ability to [rip](#) music from and copy music to compact discs, burn [recordable discs](#) in [Audio CD](#) format or as data discs with playlists such as an [MP3 CD](#), synchronize content with a digital audio player (MP3 player) or other mobile devices, and enable users to purchase or rent music from a number of [online music stores](#).

Windows Media Player 12 is the most recent version of Windows Media Player. It was released on July 22, 2009 along with [Windows 7](#) and has not available for previous versions of Windows nor has it been updated since for [Windows 8](#), [Windows 8.1](#) and [Windows 10](#).^{[1][2]}



Multimedia Overview

VLC media player

VLC is a free and open source cross-platform multimedia player and framework that plays most multimedia files as well as DVDs, Audio CDs, VCDs, and various streaming protocols.

Simple, fast and powerful media player.

Plays everything: Files, Discs, Webcams, Devices and Streams.

Plays most codecs with no codec packs needed:

MPEG-2, DivX, H.264, MKV, WebM, WMV, MP3...

Runs on all platforms: Windows, Linux, Mac OS X, Unix...

Completely Free, no spyware, no ads and no user tracking.

Can do media conversion and streaming.



Multimedia Overview

In addition to stand alone Apps, you can also use your Browser as a Multimedia Player to access web sites such as: [You Tube](#), Spotify, [BBC iplayer](#), etc to view Video content.

Don't forget that you can also access LOCAL Files on your device using your browser to play Video, Music , Photos etc.

Example: Link to [Juliette Valduriez](#) Video on local C:drive



Multimedia Overview

SPOTIFY

SPOTIFY is an on-line music Web site, which is Free, but contains advertising (Paid for option removes Adverts)

You can Also use Spotify to play your LOCAL MP3 music files.

Example: see Spotify App



Multimedia Overview

Viewing Photo Files

1. Use a Photo Editor App e.g Picasa, Aperture, Lightroom

2. Here are some other photo editor / viewer apps

[Gimp](#) (good & free)

[seashore](#) (good & free)

[imagewell](#) (basic & cheap)

[pixelmator](#) (excellent but not free)



Multimedia Overview

Radio Players

There are several options for listening to Internet radio using your PC, iPad/ iPhone etc.

These are some of the most popular:

iTunes Radio (Free)

Iplayer Radio (Free)

Spotify Radio (Premium)

Multimedia Overview



Identifying Digital Media File Formats

Your network media player (or media streamer/Smart TV with compatible apps) must be able to read a file type before it can show it or play it. Some players will not even display the file names of files that are in formats they are incapable of playing.

Clearly, it is essential that the network media player, media streamer, Smart TV you choose is capable of reading and playing the files you have stored on your computer and [home network](#). This becomes particularly obvious when you have iTunes and a Mac but your network media player can't understand those file types.

If you want to see what types of files you have in your media library, go to the folder view of Windows Explorer (PC) or Finder (Mac). Here you can navigate to see a list of all the files in your media folders. Right-click on a highlighted file and choose "properties" (PC)' or "get info" (MAC). The file type or "kind" of file will be listed here.

Multimedia Overview



Sometimes you can **identify the file format by its extension**: the letters to the right of the “.” You’ll see something like a Beatles song in the MPEG 3 audio-file format “mp3” (i.e., "*HeyJude.mp3*"). You may have heard of an MP3 portable music player. Video formats can be a WMV for PC videos or MOV for Quicktime videos. The file “StarTrek.m4v” is a high definition MPEG-4 video file.

Note: If your digital media playback device is unable to play a particular file even though it is capable of playing the format, it may be a copyright-protected file.



MultiMedia

Digital Media Playback Solutions

If all of this talk of file formats and transcoding has you feeling like a deer in headlights, here are some ways you can access some, or all, of the above file formats. When [buying a network media player](#), or other digital media playback device, look for one that can play most file formats.

For media streamers and Smart TVs, check for any available apps that allow access to audio, video, and photo files on your home network, such as [Airplay DLNA Receiver](#), [AllConnect](#), [DG UPNP Player](#), [Plex](#), [Roku Media Player](#), [Twonky](#), and [VLC](#).

The Bottom Line

With physical media on the wane, digital media is quickly becoming the dominant way we listen to music, watch video, and view still images. Unfortunately, there is no single digital file format that takes care of it all, so you will always encounter at least some instances where you want to listen, watch, or view something on other, or multiple, devices but you can't.