

Type	File Format	Variant	Degree of difficulty	Typical file extension
Documents	Plain Text (asc, txt, etc.)		straight forward	ASC, TXT
	OpenOffice Writer		straight forward	
	Postscript		straight forward	PS, PSC
	XML or SGML			XML, SGM, SGML
		conforming to a standard DTD or Schema	straight forward	
		bundled with its own DTD or Schema	straight forward	
		without DTD or Schema	can usually be managed	
	Rich Text Format (RTF)			RTF
		plain	straight forward	
		containing equations	difficult/impossible	
		containing bitmapped graphics	can usually be managed	
	Microsoft Word			DOC
		plain	can usually be managed	
		containing scripting	difficult	
		containing equations	difficult/impossible	
		containing bitmapped graphics	can usually be managed	
		containing embedded objects	difficult/impossible	
	PDF			PDF
		plain	straight forward	
		containing JavaScript	can usually be managed	
	TeX/LaTeX			TEX
		using only standard packages	straight forward	
		additional styles, etc. packaged in submission	straight forward	
		external packages	can usually be managed	
		TeX DVI	straight forward	DVI
Spreadsheets	Microsoft Excel			XLS, XLW
	cells with formulae and content only	can usually be managed		
	containing scripting	difficult/impossible		
	containing graphics	difficult		
	containing embedded objects	difficult/impossible		

Type	File Format	Variant	Degree of difficulty	Typical file extension
Presentations	OpenOffice Calc		straight forward	
	Comma Separated Values (CSV) SYLK Data Interchange Format (DIF) Lotus 1-2-3		straight forward straight forward straight forward straight forward	CSV SLK, SYLK DIF WKS
	Microsoft Powerpoint	plain with scripting and/or special effects	difficult difficult/impossible	PPT, PPS
	OpenOffice Impress		straight forward	
Web Pages	HTML/XHTML	plain containing Macromedia Flash containing JavaScript containing Active X containing Java	straight forward difficult/impossible can usually be managed difficult/impossible can usually be managed	HTM, HTML JS
	CSS		can usually be managed	CSS
	PDF	plain containing JavaScript	straight forward can usually be managed	PDF
Web Sites	Static pages	as above for web pages	straightforward	
	Dynamic pages	as for custom applications	difficult/impossible	
Datasets	Comma Separated Values (CSV) dBase		straight forward straight forward	CSV DBF, DB2, DB3, DB4

Type	File Format	Variant	Degree of difficulty	Typical file extension
Media	Text-based transports from statistical packages	Minitab MTP files SPSS POR files SAS transport files	straight forward straight forward straight forward	MTP POR
	Access databases	standard tables and queries containing scripting containing forms containing embedded objects	can usually be managed difficult/impossible difficult difficult/impossible	MDB
	Enterprise databases	Oracle, SQL Server, MySQL, PostgreSQL tables including vendor proprietary code (e.g. stored procedures) Note that whilst data tables can be stored (and is potentially retrievable), methods of access are required too and they can present a whole new level of difficulties (e.g. php scripts used to access SQL databases, etc.)	can usually be managed difficult/impossible	
	Other proprietary formats		difficult/impossible	
		Need to be aware of the codecs which have been used - all media formats support a variety of compression / decompression algorithms In addition you need to watch out for digital rights management issues		
Images	JPEG		straight forward	JPG, JPEG, JPE, JFIF
	Tagged Image File Format (TIFF)		straight forward	TIF, TIFF
	Portable Network Graphics (PNG)		straight forward	PNG
	CompuServe GIF		straight forward	GIF

Type	File Format	Variant	Degree of difficulty	Typical file extension
Audio	Microsoft BMP		can usually be managed	BMP
	Microsoft Windows Metafile Format (WMF)		can usually be managed	WMF
	Postscript		straight forward	PS, PSC
	Encapsulated PostScript (EPS)		straight forward	EPS
	Vector graphics (SVG)		straight forward	SVG
	Realmedia (rm)		can usually be managed	RP
	Photoshop files (PSD)		straight forward	PSD
	QuickTime Image		can usually be managed	QTI, QTL
	Other proprietary formats		difficult	
	Video	Microsoft WAV		can usually be managed
MIDI			straight forward	MID, MIDI
MP3			straight forward	MP3
Real Audio			can usually be managed	RA, RMI
Audio Interchange File Format (AIFF)			can usually be managed	AIF, AIFF
Windows Media Audio (WMA)			can usually be managed	WMA
Ogg Vorbis (OGG)			can usually be managed	OGG
FLAC			can usually be managed	
MPEG			straight forward	MP2, MP2V, MPA, MPE, MPEG, MPG, MPV2
Microsoft AVI			can usually be managed	AVI
Realmedia (rm)		can usually be managed	RV	
Windows Media Video (WMV)		can usually be managed	WMV	
QuickTime Movie		can usually be managed	QT, QTL	
Custom Applications	Executables	binary executable files	difficult/impossible	EXE, COM
	Architectures	J2EE / .NET	difficult/impossible	
	Server side scripting	ASP / PHP / CGI	difficult/impossible	ASP, PHP
	With source code	e.g. Java, Python, Perl,	difficult	