# Computer extensions and Codecs

When a computer program creates a file in Dos, Mac or Windows it marks this program with a marker that tells the operating system what type of program it is. This is called an extension.  In Dos and Windows 3.1, 95, and 98 the extension is the three letters after the dot after the name of the file.  Example:  a file named "letter" that was created in Word, would be: "letter.doc".  The "doc" extension denotes and tells the computer that this file was created in Word.  On Apple computers and Window XP  the extension is still there, but shows up on file explorer as an icon and if you want more details, change the view to list (or details) and a description of which program this file was created in will show. Every program has a different extension. Usually there is no problems opening a program on a Mac but if you want to take the program to work on a PC be sure to save the file with the program's extension and save it on media formatted for PC.

**Example:  Title.ext  try to keep the title on name under 9 letters and the ext being the proper extension for the program that the file was made in.  If you are burning cd's, that you plan to take and use on a mac the title also should be under 9 letters.  Because some pc burners will shorten the file names to a type of shorthand that only pc's can read.**

Some of the extensions that programs create for files are:

Word  = Name.doc
Excel = Name.xls
Autocad =Name.dxf
Windows Bitmap= Name.bmp
Adobe Photoshop = Name.psd  (If you are working on a Mac and you need to go back to a PC you have the choice to save in mac or PC format. Save in both but be sure to use Name.psd format on the PC save, do the same when using the tif or jpeg file formats)
Picture Publisher =Name.ppf
Compuserve Bitmap =Name.gif  (used on the Web)
Tagged image file format = Name.tif   (This is a good fomat is using different bitmap editors.)
JPEG  = Name.jpg  (also used on the web.  It is a lossy file compression format)
CorelDraw = Name.cdr
Adobe Illustrator =Name.Al
Painter=Name.rif
Powerpoint=Name.pnt
Sound files =Name.wav
3d model=Name.3dmf
Quarkxpress = Name.Qxd
Quarkxpress library=qxl

Files with extensions .exe, .com, .bat, and .ini, denotes files that start programs or a file that gives the computer instructions.

When you are making a graphic or any file and you want to use it in another program, you have make sure that the file can be opened in the new program.  You can check this by opening the new program, and check on the file menu see what files you can open under Open. (there is also Place, Import and Insert in some programs) Then in the original program you can save your file in a format that will open in the new program.  Example: (Check out Save As, file types the box under the name you give the file)  On CorelDraw go to File menu , Import, and see what types of files you can bring into your  layout. In Illustrator you would check File/place.

Some of these files types are compressed, when you save the file.  This makes the file smaller on your disk or hard drive.  Then where ever you take the file you will need the CODEC (compressor/decompressor) to open the file.  The program that makes the file will have the codec.  But some files types you can just have the codec and it will play on you computer. Examples:  Mpg 3. DVD's, avi, Quicktime, and Divx 4.

For a complete list of Extensions go to"
www.jozy.nl/
Http://graphicsoft.about.com/msubformats.htm?once=true&
Http://fileext.com/