File Format Overview

Bitmap Types

jpeg - Most commonly used for photographic images. Used for web images. A compressed file - looses image quality depending on level of compression.

pict - An uncompressed jpeg.

gif - Used for graphic images that have fields of color and web images. Looks for adjacent pixels with the same color and connects them. Has interesting effects over photographic images when colors are reduced. Will transform a photograph into a graphic image.

bmp - Bitmap image - a windows standard - similar to pict.

psd - photoshop native image type - carries photoshop information with it, i.e layers, history, etc... typically a large file - used only for working - not to post on web.

tif - excellent image quality as a "raw" uncompressed file - not for use on web. A much larger file than jpeg or pict. Has a built-in compression - LZW - that is selected during saving.

Vector and 3D Model Types

eps - encapsulated post-script. General vector line and text format. Importable and Exportable from many programs.

dwg - Standard autocad format - read by many programs - formZ, illustrator...

dxf - digital exchange format - Standard 3D format - Importable and Exportable from many programs.

3ds - 3D studio format - allows file transfer between formZ and 3D Studio Max.

fmz - formZ native file type

Combination Types

ai - Illustrator native file. Can hold both vector line and bitmap info.

pdf - Adobe Acrobat file type. Used for printing or general file transfer. Used for down-loadable files posted on websites. Carries vector, bitmap, and text information. Can be compressed.

zip - zipped file - compresses many other file types to facilitate transfer through web.