

## Bumps in the Night!!!!

October 2013 Issue



### Sneak Peek



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- **Famous Haunts** – Spalding Inn, Whitefield, NH
- **Tools of the Trade** – Audio File Formats

## Tools of the Trade

### Video File Formats

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There are many different kinds of video file formats out there on the web. Deciding on which one to use can be quite confusing. Some are higher quality than others, some use up less space on your computer, and some are for streaming on the internet that uses less bandwidth. Whichever one you choose, they all have two(2) things in common. A Container and a Codec (short for compress/decompress) . A Container is like a file cabinet. It holds all the data, from video and audio to subtitles and chapters. A Codec is a program that compresses and decompresses the data (with some loss of video quality). It also determines how to play it on your computer. Without the proper Codec, a video file can't be played on your computer. The more common video file formats are:

#### AVI (Audio Video Interlaced)

AVI has been around for a long time (since Windows 3.1) and was developed by Microsoft. It's popularity has gone down since Microsoft introduced Microsoft's WMV (Windows Media Video), but there are still lots of video on the web that uses .AVI. .AVI uses less compression than similar formats.

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#### ***Video File Formats***

##### **FLV (Flash Video Format)**

FLV, or Flash, is from Adobe Systems. It is the single most used Video format out there on the web. Ninety-nine percent of the users have Adobe Player installed in their browser. Almost all video sites stream in Flash. Flash comes in multiple versions, with some better than others. The only drawback is that flash will not play on iPhones and iPads.

##### **MPEG (Motion Picture Experts Group)**

.MPEG is from an international group called Motion Picture Experts Group . It was established in 1988 and has grown to approximately 350 members. It was designed to set standards regarding digital video format, however they are just one of many groups out there that are trying to set standards.

##### **MPEG-4 (.MP4)**

.MP4 became popular by Apple through the iTunes Store. It can be played on Apple QuickTime and other movie players. MPEG-4 uses separate compression for the audio and the video tracks.

##### **Mpg Format (.mpg)**

.mpg is a common video format that was standardized by the Moving Picture Experts Group (MPEG). It is used to create download-able movies, and is used on Apple QuickTime and/or Microsoft Windows Media Player.

##### **Windows Media Video(.wmv)**

.wmv is a common format on the internet that was developed by Microsoft. The drawback to this format is that it will not play on non-Windows computers, unless an extra component is installed. However, (yes, another drawback) some newer .wmv movies will not play at all on non-window computers, and no programs have come out yet to enable the newer .wmv to play on them.

##### **3GP File Extension(.3gp)**

.3gp is used by many mobile phones. It is both an audio and video file format, and is most commonly used to capture video from your cell phone and to place it on the internet. It can be played in Apple QuickTime Player, RealNetworks RealPlayer, Mplayer, MIKSOFT Mobile 3GP Converter for Windows, and VideoLAN VLC Media Payer. It can be played on both the Windows and the Mac computers.

There are many, many other video file formats out there on the internet.

The one thing that I must say, is that the highest quality video format is going to be the format that you captured the video in. Whether it be on your phone or on a video camera or any other source. While they do not degrade in quality when copied, they do however, degrade every time they are compressed and uncompressed. So, always keep the originals in the original format somewhere on your computer.

The world of technology is forever changing and so are the video file formats. They go in an out of style and are forever changing. What is popular today may be out dated by tomorrow.