

Presenting Audio and Video online

Version 1.0, 2018-07-03

Thomas Pronk, pronkthomas@gmail.com

Modern web-browsers support audio and video, but not all support the same formats. Hence, to be sure that your media work across most browsers, it's useful to offer it in multiple formats. This manual shows how to do that.

Audio

If you offer audio in both MP3 and Ogg Vorbis format, then it works on most browsers.

Conversion of audio files

- Sony Sound Forge and Audacity support bulk conversion to a lot of different formats, including MP3 and Ogg, but these may be quite expensive to buy.
- LameXP is a free application for bulk conversion to Ogg:
<https://sourceforge.net/projects/lamexp/>
- I don't have any free or cheap software at hand for conversion to MP3.

Embedding multiple audio formats in HTML

To embed multiple audio formats in a web-page, I often write HTML that looks like the code below. The top part creates an audio element named "sample_1", including two supported audio formats (MP3 and Ogg). The bottom parts shows a text that, if clicked, plays the sample.

```
<audio id="sample_1">
  <source type="audio/mpeg" src="sample_1.mp3">
  <source type="audio/ogg" src="sample_1.ogg">
</audio>
<a href="javascript:;"
onclick="document.getElementById('sample_1').play()">Play sample</p>
```

Video

If you offer audio in both MP4 and WebM format, then it works on most browsers.

Bulk conversion of audio files

I'm not familiar with offline software for converting video, nor with software for bulk conversion. However, via this website it can be done online: <https://video.online-convert.com/>

Embedding multiple video formats in HTML

To embed multiple audio formats in a web-page, I often write HTML that looks like the code below. It creates a video element, including playback controls.

```
<video width="320" height="240" controls>
  <source type="video/mp4" src="movie.mp4">
  <source type="video/webm" src="movie.webm" >
</video>
```

References

- An (incomplete) overview of supported audio and video format per browser:
https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Supported_media_formats