Generic 2D File Formats

(Standard Two-Dimensional Graphics Filetypes)

(Pixel-based images only)

Bit-Mapped (Raster) Graphics

TIFF (Tagged Image File Format)

Also TIF.

USES: High quaility print. Digital photography, scanning, painting, image manipulation. When high image quality is critical.

PNG (Portable Network Graphics)

USES: When file size must be moderate, but image quality must be good.

JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group)

Also JPG.

USES: When file size must be minimized, but color gamut must be satisfactory.

(May contain both objects & bitmaps)



PICT (Picture Format)

Older Macintosh graphics format.

USES: Combined raster and vector images (non-PostScript).

PDF (Portable Document Format)

USES: Combined raster and vector images (including Post-Script).

EPS (Encapsulated PostScript)

Same as PDF, but PostScript elements are editable.

USES: Editing images containing PostScript elements using applications like Adobe Illustrator.

Rick Barry • Bitmapped/Raster Graphics • cgSource • ACM SIGGRAPH Education Committee 2008 • http://education.siggraph.org/resources/cgsource