



Using Different Graphic Formats

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With Various Applications

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There are two kinds of graphics: vector and bit mapped. Original computer graphics were “bit mapped” — made up of individual pixels on the screen. Early graphics were very chunky and had jaggy edges because of the limited number of pixels on a screen. Vector graphics are made with mathematical calculations and each time the graphic is resized, a new calculation is made helping to retain the sharpness of the object. Today’s computer monitors have much finer resolution with more individual pixels making up the screen so graphics have smoother edges. Usually individual pixels can only be discerned when enlarging an object.



Reference!

Check out **Graphic Converter** (shareware) to change graphic formats easily. Download from www.znet.com/



Reference!

Graphic Converter can identify many graphic formats. Most of these formats have special uses, but several are common and one needs to understand what they are and how they best can be used.

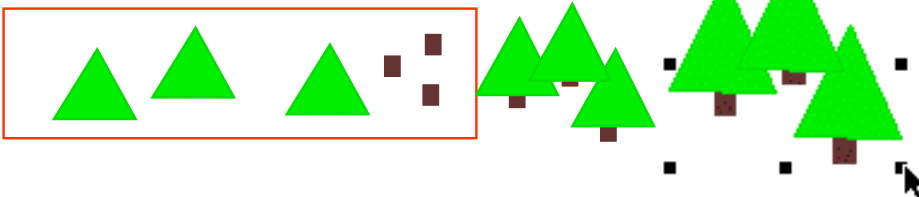


Reference!

Make or modify animated gifs with **GifBuilder**. FREE download from www.zdnet.com/

Popular Graphic Formats

Pict - main picture format for Macintosh computers and vector-based. Graphics are “objects” such as a line, circle or rectangle and can be combined together to form a new object. The six objects below in the box are combined and then grouped to make one object. Graphic objects, when clicked, show “grabber” handles that can be used to resize the graphic. When you save in this format, it will have an extension .pict for the Macintosh file (extension does not appear in the file) or .pct for Windows computers (files to be used on Windows computers need extensions).



Paint - original graphic format used on the Macintosh and bitmapped-based. Graphic is made up of individual pixels and can be painted or erased one pixel at a time. For very exacting work, the paint format is still used, but most users prefer the flexibility of pict files. Paint files, such as Kid Pix and SuperPaint, can be saved as pict, bitmap, or gif formats.

Bitmap Files - main picture format for Windows computers. They work the same as Pict and Paint and are included as background and wallpaper. These files need .bmp as an extension to be recognized by a Windows computer. Bitmap files can be converted to gif files.

Gif - (Graphics Interchange Format) currently the most widely used graphic format since it can be read by web pages, most drawing applications, and is cross platform. Retain the .gif extension if used on Windows computers.

Animated Gif - These graphics are a series of pictures with small changes in each so when they are shown in sequence, they look like a moving picture. (Just like a sophisticated flip book!) Special software can help make animated gifs.

