COMP6080

🍓 Other - Webp, Webm

Author(s): Hayden Smith

(Download as PDF)

👋 Webp And Webm

`.webp` and `.webm` are file types for images (pictures) and videos (movies) respectively used commonly on the web.

You probably see them all the time without realising!

😘 Benefits

They provide features of PNGs like transparency

They provide features of GIFs like animations

They provide features of JPGs like lossy or lossless compression (reduced file size)

🌶️ Why Aren't They Everywhere?

The same reason that any new technology that is used on client-based devices isn't used everywhere...

Compatability

When new standards like `.webp` and `.webm` are introduced, whilst many web browsers wlil implement the tech quickly, there is a long tail of other browsers that take a long time to get to it.

WebP and WebM is widley supported by more than 95% of users browsers sessions, if you need compatibility with older browsers WebP is not a good solution

🌶️ Why Aren't They Everywhere?

There will be a general trend that desktop/laptop browsers will adopt these new technologies more quickly than mobile browsers due to the relatively higher power of desktops/laptops.

For example (with video) H264 is still used in some places even though HEVC/H265 has significant benefits. The same is true for the new video codec AV1.

🌶️ Why Aren't They Everywhere?

The final consideration is that any highly compressed media type, whilst much smaller in size for the same quality, will take a much longer time to generate.

After all, packaging the same information in less space just takes a lot of computation and time. There are some cases where you may not feel that you have the initial one-off overhead time.

👂 Feedback

Or go to the form here.