



COMPLIANCE COMPONENT

Revised 4-24-2006

DEFINITION	
<i>Name</i>	Multimedia
<i>Description</i>	Multimedia is a Web technology which supports the use of animation, video and audio. Multimedia also supplements traditional media of text and images. These new media provide more design options but also require design discipline.
<i>Rationale</i>	Multimedia often requires an additional component (known as a browser plug-in) to be installed on the user's computer and associated with their Web browser software before documents such as Flash, PDF (portable document format), or similar media are usable or accessible to the user. When the user must take an additional step before content can be viewed, such as installing additional software, the page's usability declines.
<i>Benefits</i>	Multimedia can be a highly effective, content-rich, and desirable way to communicate. For examples in the field, PDF can be used to accurately reproduce printed brochures or forms, and Flash presentations can effectively illustrate complicated processes or information. Because both have inherent usability and accessibility flaws, however, Web designers should be judicious in their use.
ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTURE LEVELS	
<i>Specify the Domain Name</i>	Interface
<i>Specify the Discipline Name</i>	Branding
<i>Specify the Technology Area Name</i>	Usability
<i>Specify the Product Component Name</i>	
COMPLIANCE COMPONENT TYPE	
<i>Document the Compliance Component Type</i>	Guideline
<i>Component Sub-type</i>	
COMPLIANCE DETAIL	
<i>State the Guideline, Standard or Legislation</i>	<p>Whenever a downloaded multimedia file is used, users should be notified of the file size. Use of multimedia files should be restricted to those Web pages where other presentations cannot achieve the page designer's purpose. Text and/or graphic alternatives for the multimedia object must be available for accessibility reasons.</p> <p>Animation involves moving images which can have an overpowering effect on the human peripheral vision. Anything that moves tends to dominate your awareness and can be a distraction to the message of the Web page.</p> <p>Video use should be minimized due to the constraints of bandwidth and only serve as a supplement to the main content of the Web site.</p>

Audio provides a channel that is separate from the textual display. Speech can be used to offer commentary or help without obscuring information on the screen. Audio can also be used to provide a sense of place or mood, but is not recommended.

PDF –Portable Document Format (PDF), a file format developed by Adobe, displays documents identically on any computer system. Its advantage over HTML is that it allows publishers to design complicated layouts using any typefaces and graphics, confident that the end user will view, and can print the same layout that the publisher created. A PDF originating from a text-created page – such as word processing, spreadsheet and/or page layout software or from optical character recognition (OCR) interpreted scanned pages – is a best practice. A PDF created from scanned pages and displayed as images are not 508 compliant because screen readers can not discern the content and, therefore, should be avoided. **PDF should not be used as the primary method for presenting content.**

Inappropriate uses for PDF

- Shorter, simple text documents.
- Pages that convey basic or common information from your agency.

Appropriate uses for PDF :

- Documents that include precise formatting, such as forms, brochures, building plans or maps.
- Documents designed to be printed, submitted and/or require an original signature.
- Lengthy documents with a table of contents, i.e., an administrative manual.

Flash – Flash, a product of Adobe (formerly from Macromedia), is essentially “do-it-yourself” animation software. It is browser-independent, creating quick-loading multimedia presentations that can play as they download, adapt to different displays and resolutions, and can be small enough to stream across all modem connections.

Use of Flash (.swf – Shockwave format) files is appropriate for specific applications, but should not be used as the sole means of presenting content. Flash is not always accessible, so ensure meaningful content is available in HTML format. Some Web development tools make it easy to create Flash buttons for your site, however, HTML and CSS should be used to create any presentation or rollover effects.

To make Flash accessible with XHTML 1.0 Strict or Transitional, use the following sample code:

```
<object type="application/x-shockwave-flash"
data="images/pool.swf" width="718" height="400" title="Flash
movie showing eight ball hitting other eight balls on a pool
table." tabindex="1">
  <param name="movie" value="images/pool.swf" />
  
</object>
```

In the example above, the pool.gif is supposed to replace pool.swf if the Flash plug-in is not installed while the HTML and CSS remain valid.

PDF, Flash and Other Plug-ins

Almost any code that isn't HTML, XHTML, TXT, GIF or JPG requires additional software for the browser to display. The additional software is called a “browser plug-in.” When a design uses these file types, it forces the user's computer to

	<p>launch the plug-in and download the file. Typically, these files are larger than an equivalent HTML file, so the user has to wait for the plug-in to open and for the file to download before it can be viewed.</p> <p>Standard: If the site uses files that require a plug-in, a link must be provided that allows users to download and install the plug-in.</p> <p>Standard: The type of plug-in needed to view the document must be identified, before the user clicks on a link to view the document.</p> <p>Guideline: Indicate the file size of any document that requires a plug-in.</p> <p>Guideline: Avoid gratuitous use of plug-in technology.</p>		
<i>Document Source Reference #</i>	http://www.oa.mo.gov/dmd/guidelines/ http://www.useit.com/alertbox/20001029.html http://www.planetpdf.com/mainpage.asp?webpageid=1489 http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/F/Flash.html http://www.marketingterms.com/dictionary/flash/		
Compliance Sources			
<i>Name</i>		<i>Website</i>	
<i>Contact Information</i>			
<i>Name</i>		<i>Website</i>	
<i>Contact Information</i>			
KEYWORDS			
<i>List Keywords</i>	Flash, PDF, SWF, animation, form, document, multimedia, QuickTime, video, audio, Microsoft Media Player, RealPlayer, Acrobat Reader, video-streaming		
COMPONENT CLASSIFICATION			
<i>Provide the Classification</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Emerging</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Current</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Twilight</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Sunset</i>
<i>Sunset Date</i>			
COMPONENT SUB-CLASSIFICATION			
Sub-Classification	Date	Additional Sub-Classification Information	
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Technology Watch</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Variance</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Conditional Use</i>			
Rationale for Component Classification			
<i>Document the Rationale for Component Classification</i>			
Migration Strategy			
<i>Document the Migration Strategy</i>			
Impact Position Statement			
<i>Document the Position Statement on Impact</i>			
CURRENT STATUS			
<i>Provide the Current Status</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>In Development</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Under Review</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Approved</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Rejected</i>

AUDIT TRAIL

<i>Creation Date</i>	2/28/05	<i>Date Approved / Rejected</i>	May 9, 2006
<i>Reason for Rejection</i>			
<i>Last Date Reviewed</i>		<i>Last Date Updated</i>	
<i>Reason for Update</i>			