# Viewing and Interpreting Binary Data

### Hexadecimal

```
Decimal: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 ...

Hex: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 A B C D E F 10 11 12 13 ...
```

#### Hexadecimal

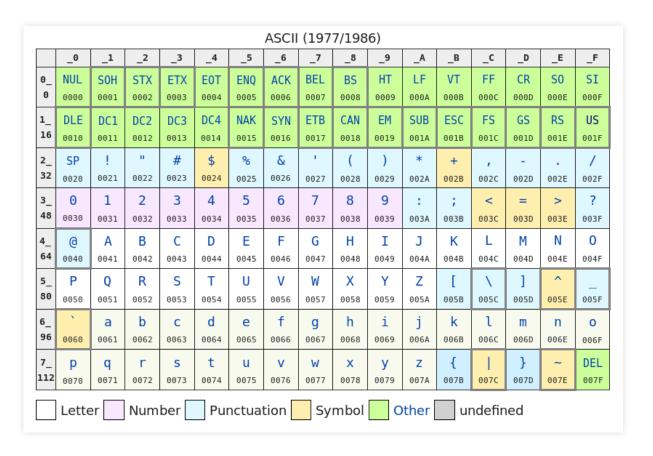
Why is it useful to use the base 16?

#### Hexadecimal

Why is it useful to use the base 16?

- 0-15 = 16 possibilities.
- 8 Bit = 1 Byte
- 4 Bit = 1/2 Byte
- 4 Bit = 2^4 = 16 possibilities

# **Character encoding**



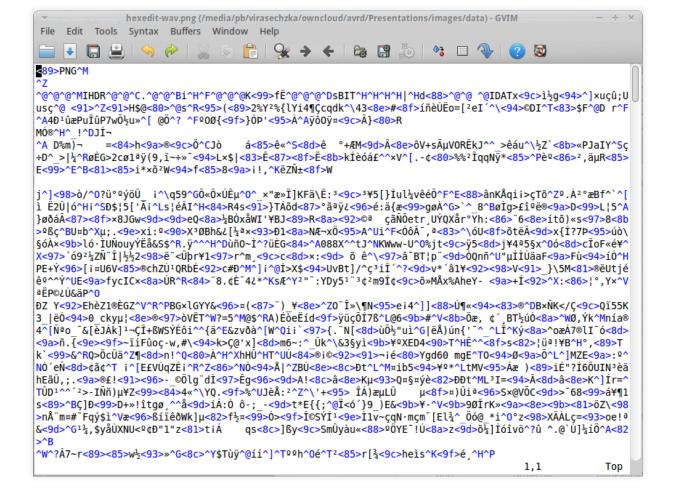
Speaker notes

A nicer ASCII table, but this time only with hex values.

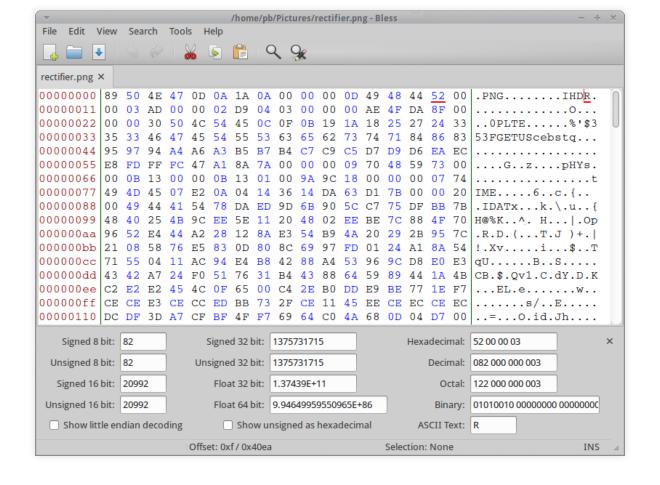
### **Text as Data?**

X = ÷ Untitled 1*- Bless	0	$\nabla$
File Edit View Search Tools Help		
Untitled 1* X		
00000000 48 45 4C 4C 4F 20 48 00 45 00 4C 00 4C 00 4F HELLO H.E.L.L.	0	
0000000f 00 .		
Signed 8 bit: 72 Signed 32 bit: 1280066888 Hexadecimal: 48 45 4C 4C		×
Unsigned 8 bit: 72 Unsigned 32 bit: 1280066888 Decimal: 072 069 076 076		
Signed 16 bit: 17736 Float 32 bit: 5.354832E+07 Octal: 110 105 114 114		
Unsigned 16 bit: 17736 Float 64 bit: 2.68412995790796E-307 Binary: 01001000 01000101 010	001	
✓ Show little endian decoding Show unsigned as hexadecimal ASCII Text: HELL		
Offset: 0x0 / 0xf Selection: None I	NS	⊿

## Data as Text?



# **Hex editing!**



# "Magic bytes"

- .PNG
- RIFF
- PK...
- JFIF
- AIFF
- .Eߣ
- %PDF-
- 8BPS

• ...

See: List of File Signatures (Wikipedia)

File formats are often defined so, that the first few characters contain a distinguishable sequence. This is called a "file signature", "magic numbers" or "magic bytes".

They can be used to quickly identify the filetype, regardless of the filename(-ending). Very useful for recovering deleted files or identifying wrongly renamed files.

#### **Exercise**

Identify the file types in the given set, using a Hexeditor and the "Magic Byte" list on Wikipedia.

See: List of File Signatures (Wikipedia)

#### **Unix "file" command**

```
Terminal - pb@pb-S21E: ~/magic_byte_set
 File
                   Terminal
                            Tabs
pb@pb-S21E:~/magic byte set$ file *

    PC bitmap, Windows 98/2000 and newer format, 70 x 46 x 24

11: ISO Media, MP4 Base Media v1 [ISO 14496-12:2003]
12: ISO Media, Apple QuickTime movie, Apple QuickTime (.MOV/QT)
2: JPEG image data, JFIF standard 1.01, aspect ratio, density 1x1, segment length 16,
baseline, precision 8, 70x46, frames 3
3: GIF image data, version 89a, 70 x 46
4: PNG image data, 70 x 46, 8-bit/color RGB, non-interlaced
5: TIFF image data, little-endian, direntries=15, height=46, bps=9854, compression=non
e, PhotometricIntepretation=RGB, orientation=upper-left, width=70
6: Adobe Photoshop Image, 70 x 46, RGB, 3x 8-bit channels
7: Zip archive data, at least v2.0 to extract
8: bzip2 compressed data, block size = 900k
9: RIFF (little-endian) data<u>,</u> AVI, 320 x 240, 25.00 fps, video: H.264 X.264 or H.264
pb@pb-S21E:~/magic_byte_set$
```

See Wikipedia: File (command)

# MIME Type

#### "Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions

(MIME) is an Internet standard that extends the format of email messages to support text in character sets other than ASCII, as well attachments of audio, video, images, and application programs."

Wikipedia: Media Type

# **MIME Type Examples**

- application/zip
- application/pdf
- text/html
- text/xml
- text/csv
- text/plain
- image/png
- image/jpeg
- image/gif
- audio/aac
- audio/mpeg
- video/DV
- video/H264
- video/mp4

Complete List (IANA), 2019-10-16

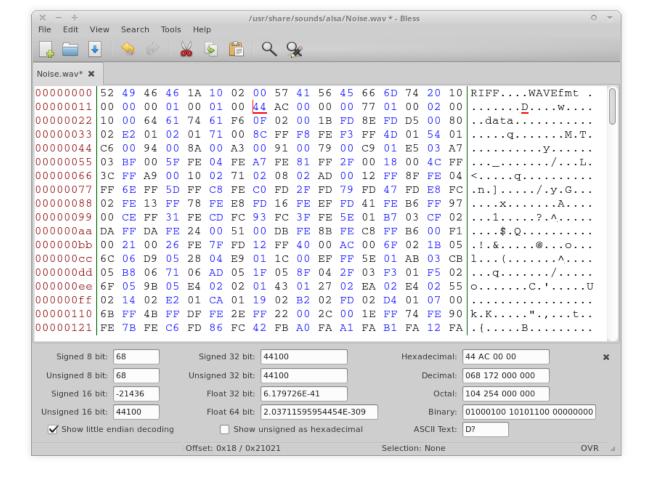
#### Remember our "no suffix" file set?

```
File Edit View Terminal Tabs Help

pb@pb-S21E:~/magic_byte_set$ file --mime-type *

1: image/x-ms-bmp
10: video/x-matroska
11: video/mp4
12: video/quicktime
2: image/jpeg
3: image/gif
4: image/png
5: image/tiff
6: image/vnd.adobe.photoshop
7: application/zip
8: application/x-bzip2
9: video/x-msvideo
pb@pb-S21E:~/magic_byte_set$
```

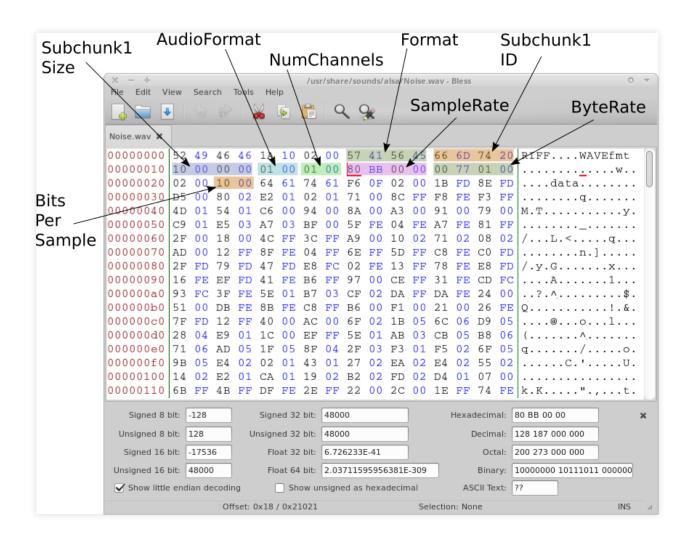
# **Binary Data?**



#### Speaker notes

For more information about binary data in media files, here's an introduction to hex & hex editing: "Hex Editing for Archivists"

#### **Data Structure**



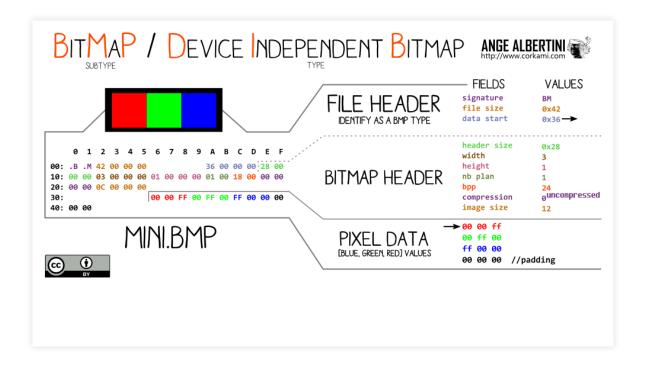
This structural information is called "header", because it's usually found on top of a binary file, since it's the very first thing that needs to be read in order to make sense of the bytes that are coming.

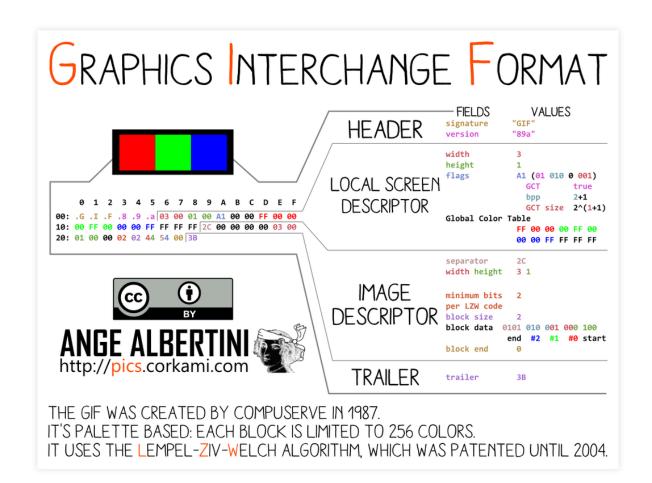
# **Header? Payload?**

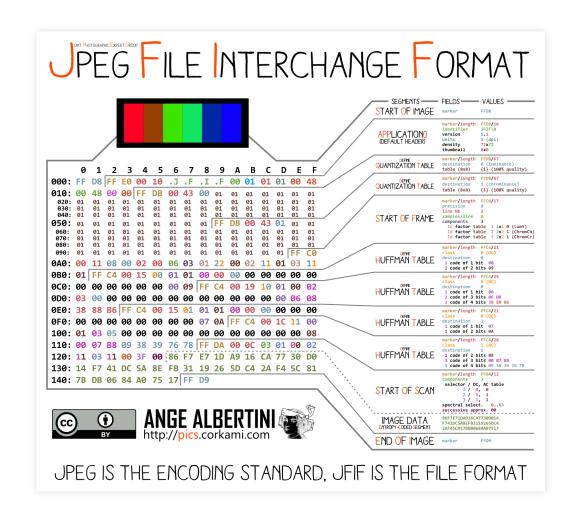
"header refers to supplemental data placed at the beginning of a block of data being stored or transmitted. In data transmission, the data following the header is sometimes called the payload or body."

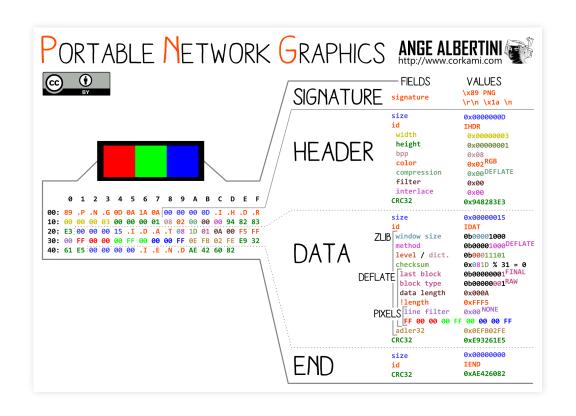
- Wikipedia: Header (computing)

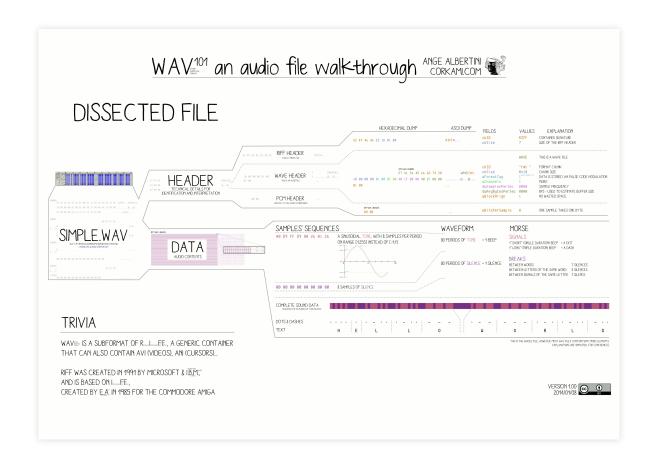
# **Examples**

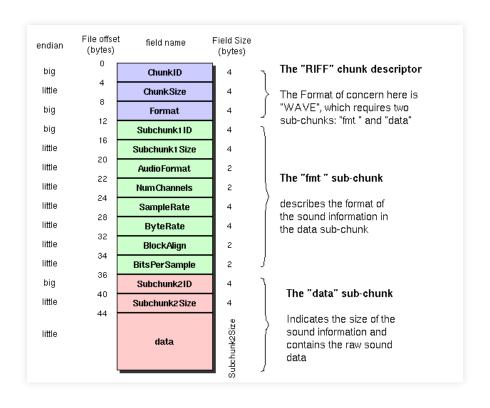












# **Comments?**Questions?