

Viewing and Interpreting Binary Data

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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?

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

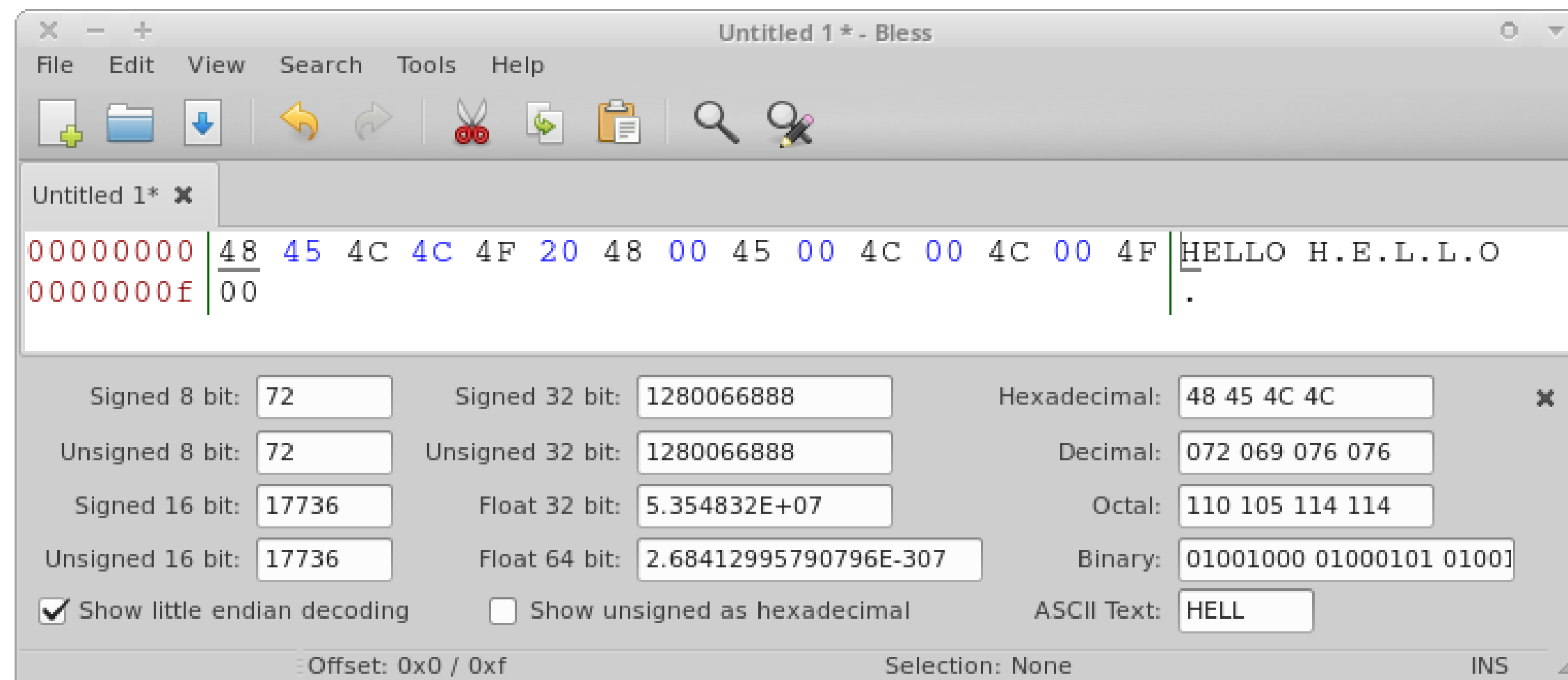
Character encoding

ASCII (1977/1986)

	_0	_1	_2	_3	_4	_5	_6	_7	_8	_9	_A	_B	_C	_D	_E	_F
0_0	NUL 0000	SOH 0001	STX 0002	ETX 0003	EOT 0004	ENQ 0005	ACK 0006	BEL 0007	BS 0008	HT 0009	LF 000A	VT 000B	FF 000C	CR 000D	SO 000E	SI 000F
1_16	DLE 0010	DC1 0011	DC2 0012	DC3 0013	DC4 0014	NAK 0015	SYN 0016	ETB 0017	CAN 0018	EM 0019	SUB 001A	ESC 001B	FS 001C	GS 001D	RS 001E	US 001F
2_32	SP 0020	! 0021	" 0022	# 0023	\$ 0024	% 0025	& 0026	' 0027	(0028	) 0029	* 002A	+ 002B	, 002C	- 002D	. 002E	/ 002F
3_48	0 0030	1 0031	2 0032	3 0033	4 0034	5 0035	6 0036	7 0037	8 0038	9 0039	: 003A	; 003B	< 003C	= 003D	> 003E	? 003F
4_64	@ 0040	A 0041	B 0042	C 0043	D 0044	E 0045	F 0046	G 0047	H 0048	I 0049	J 004A	K 004B	L 004C	M 004D	N 004E	O 004F
5_80	P 0050	Q 0051	R 0052	S 0053	T 0054	U 0055	V 0056	W 0057	X 0058	Y 0059	Z 005A	[005B	\ 005C	] 005D	^ 005E	_ 005F
6_96	` 0060	a 0061	b 0062	c 0063	d 0064	e 0065	f 0066	g 0067	h 0068	i 0069	j 006A	k 006B	l 006C	m 006D	n 006E	o 006F
7_112	p 0070	q 0071	r 0072	s 0073	t 0074	u 0075	v 0076	w 0077	x 0078	y 0079	z 007A	{ 007B	| 007C	} 007D	~ 007E	DEL 007F

Letter Number Punctuation Symbol Other undefined

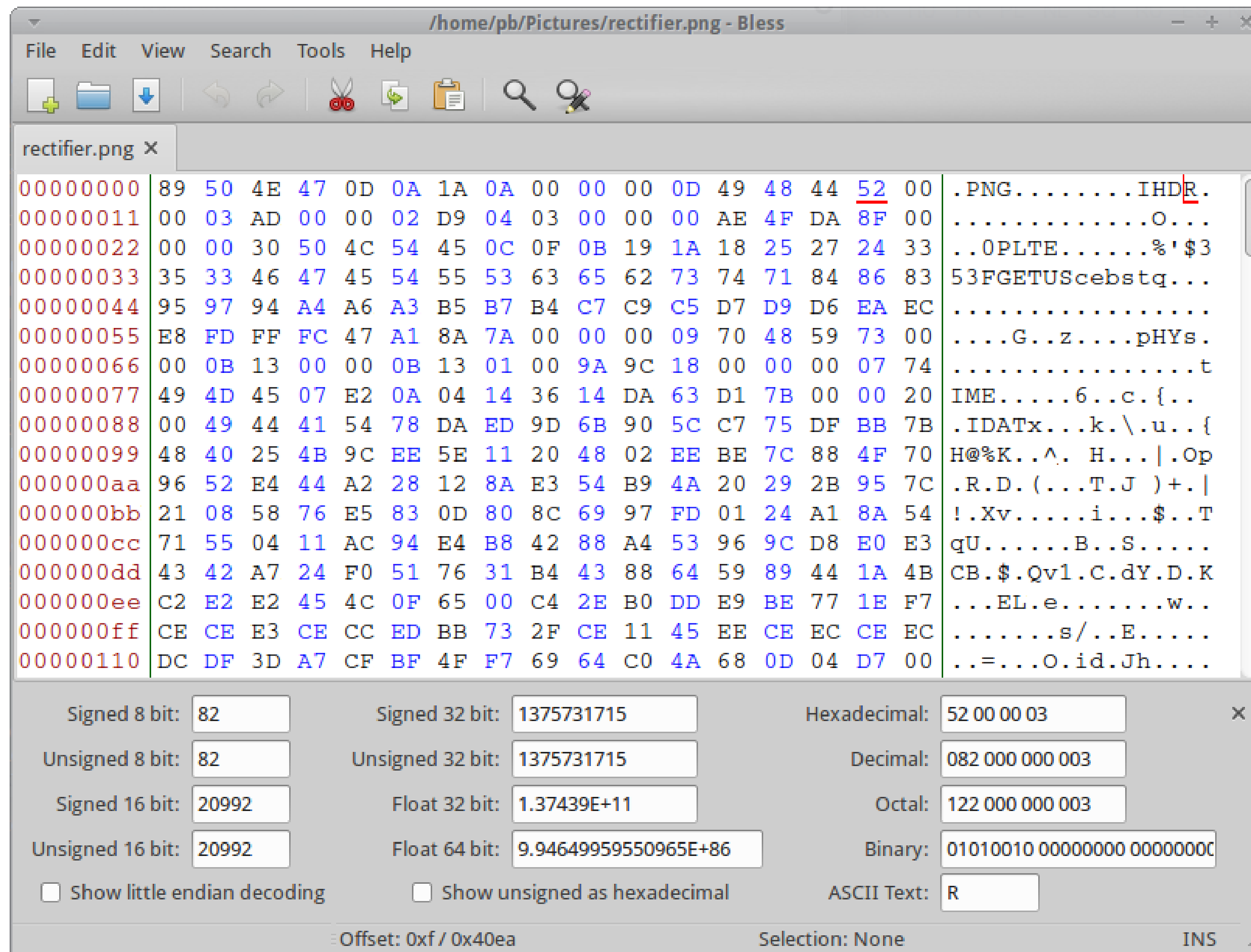
Text as Data?



Data as Text?



Hex editing!



Speaker notes

No notes on this slide.

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.

“Magic bytes”

- .PNG
- RIFF
- PK..
- JFIF
- AIFF
- .EØ£
- %PDF-
- 8BPS
- ...

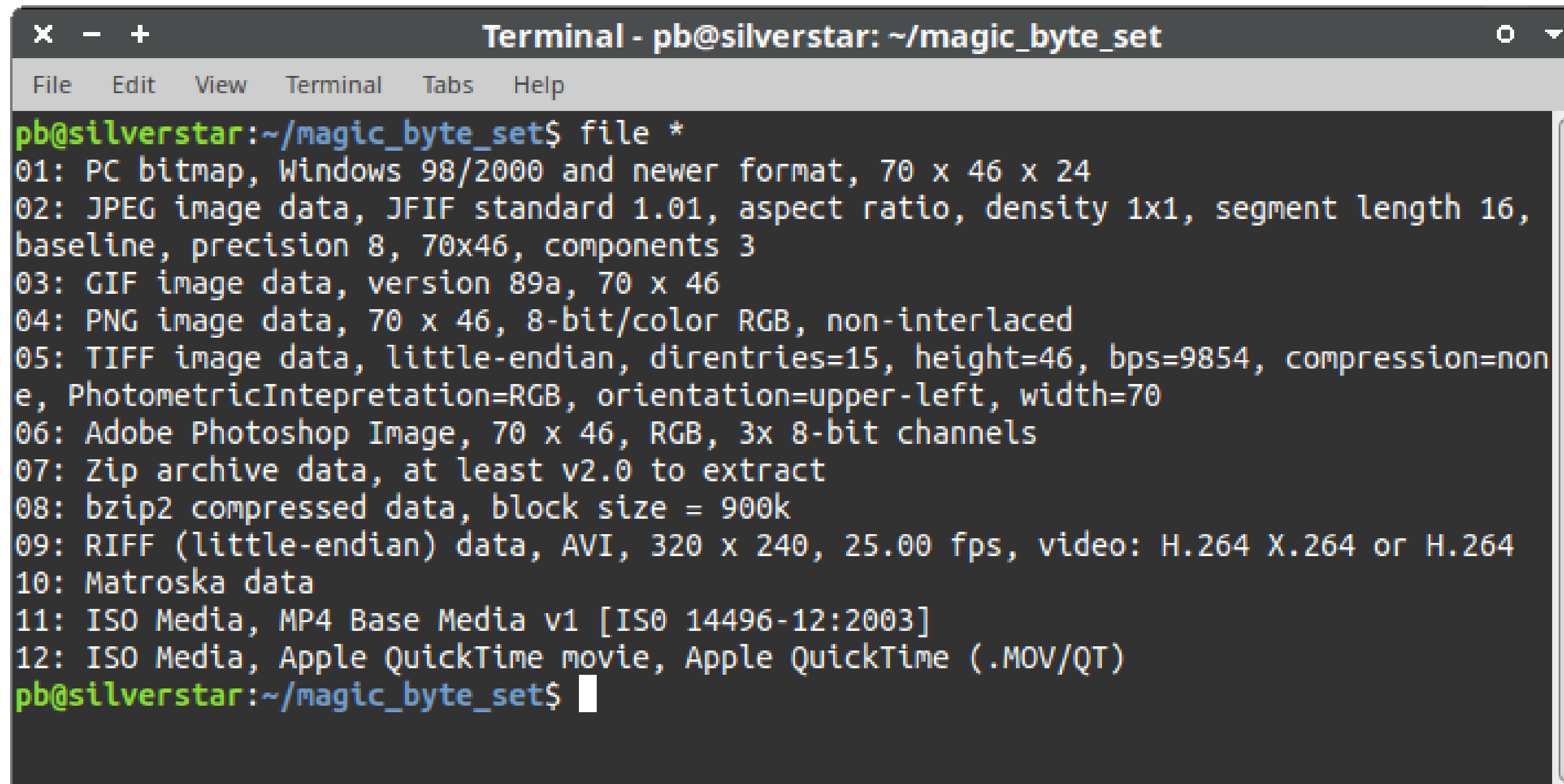
See: [List of File Signatures \(Wikipedia\)](#)

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

A terminal window titled "Terminal - pb@silverstar: ~/magic_byte_set" with a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Terminal, Tabs, Help). The terminal shows the command "pb@silverstar:~/magic_byte_set\$ file *" and its output, which lists 12 file types: 01: PC bitmap, Windows 98/2000 and newer format, 70 x 46 x 24; 02: JPEG image data, JFIF standard 1.01, aspect ratio, density 1x1, segment length 16, baseline, precision 8, 70x46, components 3; 03: GIF image data, version 89a, 70 x 46; 04: PNG image data, 70 x 46, 8-bit/color RGB, non-interlaced; 05: TIFF image data, little-endian, direntries=15, height=46, bps=9854, compression=none, PhotometricInterpretation=RGB, orientation=upper-left, width=70; 06: Adobe Photoshop Image, 70 x 46, RGB, 3x 8-bit channels; 07: Zip archive data, at least v2.0 to extract; 08: bzip2 compressed data, block size = 900k; 09: RIFF (little-endian) data, AVI, 320 x 240, 25.00 fps, video: H.264 X.264 or H.264; 10: Matroska data; 11: ISO Media, MP4 Base Media v1 [ISO 14496-12:2003]; 12: ISO Media, Apple QuickTime movie, Apple QuickTime (.MOV/QT). The prompt "pb@silverstar:~/magic_byte_set\$" is shown at the bottom with a cursor.

```
pb@silverstar:~/magic_byte_set$ file *
01: PC bitmap, Windows 98/2000 and newer format, 70 x 46 x 24
02: JPEG image data, JFIF standard 1.01, aspect ratio, density 1x1, segment length 16,
baseline, precision 8, 70x46, components 3
03: GIF image data, version 89a, 70 x 46
04: PNG image data, 70 x 46, 8-bit/color RGB, non-interlaced
05: TIFF image data, little-endian, direntries=15, height=46, bps=9854, compression=non
e, PhotometricInterpretation=RGB, orientation=upper-left, width=70
06: Adobe Photoshop Image, 70 x 46, RGB, 3x 8-bit channels
07: Zip archive data, at least v2.0 to extract
08: bzip2 compressed data, block size = 900k
09: RIFF (little-endian) data, AVI, 320 x 240, 25.00 fps, video: H.264 X.264 or H.264
10: Matroska data
11: ISO Media, MP4 Base Media v1 [ISO 14496-12:2003]
12: ISO Media, Apple QuickTime movie, Apple QuickTime (.MOV/QT)
pb@silverstar:~/magic_byte_set$
```

See [Wikipedia: File \(command\)](#)

Exercise / Puzzle

The file “whatami”:

- Try to identify what it is.
- Try to find out what is wrong with it.



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.”

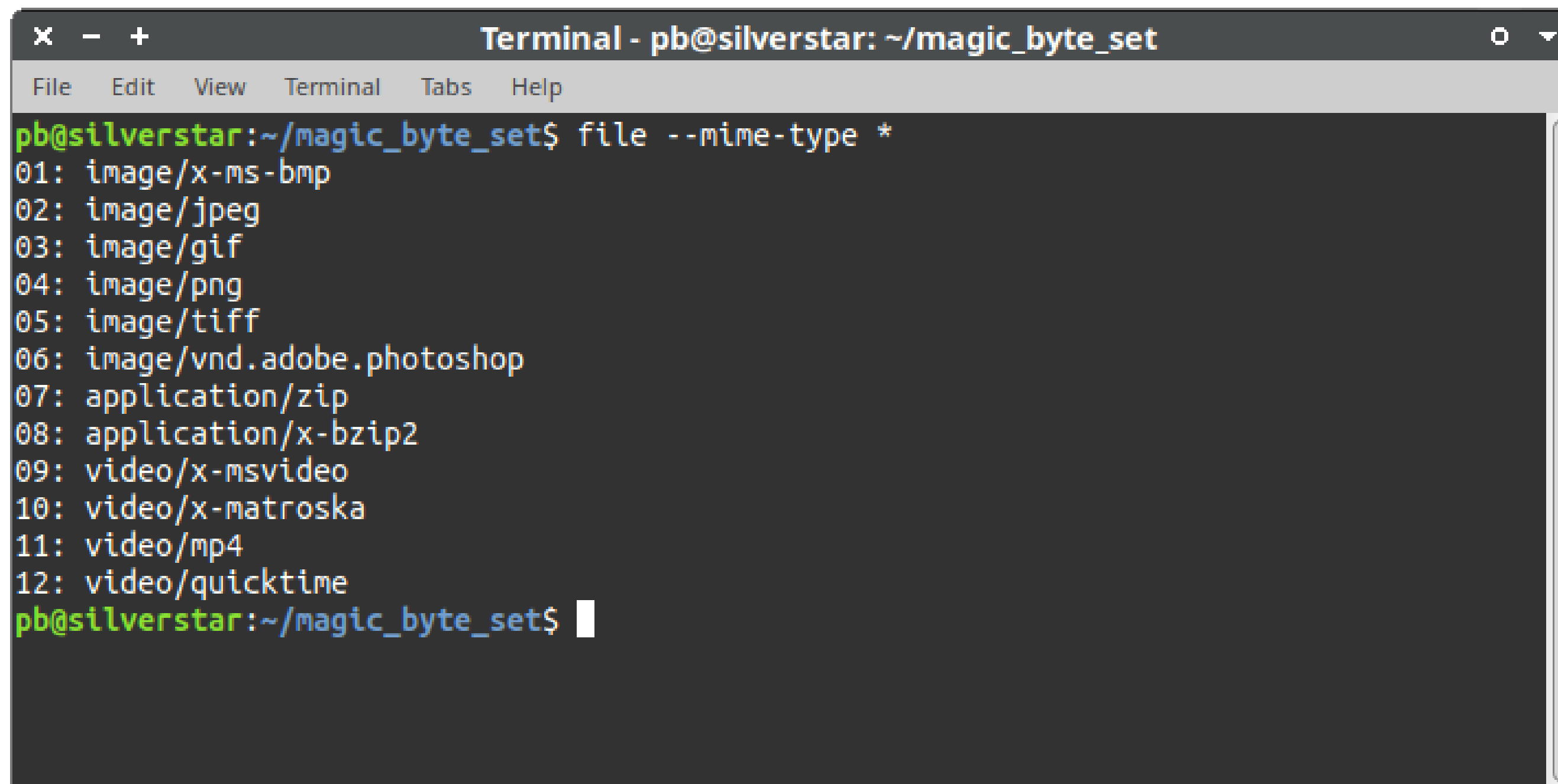
— [Wikipedia: Media Type](#)

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?

A terminal window titled "Terminal - pb@silverstar: ~/magic_byte_set" with a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Terminal, Tabs, Help). The terminal shows the command "pb@silverstar:~/magic_byte_set\$ file --mime-type *" and its output, which lists 12 file types with their corresponding MIME types. The prompt "pb@silverstar:~/magic_byte_set\$" is visible at the bottom.

```
Terminal - pb@silverstar: ~/magic_byte_set
File Edit View Terminal Tabs Help
pb@silverstar:~/magic_byte_set$ file --mime-type *
01: image/x-ms-bmp
02: image/jpeg
03: image/gif
04: image/png
05: image/tiff
06: image/vnd.adobe.photoshop
07: application/zip
08: application/x-bzip2
09: video/x-msvideo
10: video/x-matroska
11: video/mp4
12: video/quicktime
pb@silverstar:~/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](#)"

The screenshot shows a hex editor window titled "/usr/share/sounds/alsa/Noise.wav * - Bless". The window displays a grid of hex values and their corresponding ASCII characters. The hex value 44 is highlighted in red. The ASCII column shows the start of a RIFF/WAVE file header.

Offset	Hex	ASCII
00000000	52 49 46 46 1A 10 02 00 57 41 56 45 66 6D 74 20 10	RIFF....WAVEfmt .
00000011	00 00 00 01 00 01 00 44 AC 00 00 00 77 01 00 02 00	.....D....w....
00000022	10 00 64 61 74 61 F6 0F 02 00 1B FD 8E FD D5 00 80	..data.....
00000033	02 E2 01 02 01 71 00 8C FF F8 FE F3 FF 4D 01 54 01	.....q.....M.T.
00000044	C6 00 94 00 8A 00 A3 00 91 00 79 00 C9 01 E5 03 A7	.....y.....
00000055	03 BF 00 5F FE 04 FE A7 FE 81 FF 2F 00 18 00 4C FF	..._...../...L.
00000066	3C FF A9 00 10 02 71 02 08 02 AD 00 12 FF 8F FE 04	<.....q.....
00000077	FF 6E FF 5D FF C8 FE C0 FD 2F FD 79 FD 47 FD E8 FC	.n.]...../.y.G...
00000088	02 FE 13 FF 78 FE E8 FD 16 FE EF FD 41 FE B6 FF 97	....x.....A....
00000099	00 CE FF 31 FE CD FC 93 FC 3F FE 5E 01 B7 03 CF 02	...1.....?.^.....
000000aa	DA FF DA FE 24 00 51 00 DB FE 8B FE C8 FF B6 00 F1	....\$.Q.....
000000bb	00 21 00 26 FE 7F FD 12 FF 40 00 AC 00 6F 02 1B 05	.!.&.....@...o...
000000cc	6C 06 D9 05 28 04 E9 01 1C 00 EF FF 5E 01 AB 03 CB	l... (.....^.....
000000dd	05 B8 06 71 06 AD 05 1F 05 8F 04 2F 03 F3 01 F5 02	...q...../.....
000000ee	6F 05 9B 05 E4 02 02 01 43 01 27 02 EA 02 E4 02 55	o.....C.'.....U
000000ff	02 14 02 E2 01 CA 01 19 02 B2 02 FD 02 D4 01 07 00	.....
00000110	6B FF 4B FF DF FE 2E FF 22 00 2C 00 1E FF 74 FE 90	k.K.....".,....t..
00000121	FE 7B FE C6 FD 86 FC 42 FB A0 FA A1 FA B1 FA 12 FA	.{.....B.....

Conversion settings:

- Signed 8 bit: 68
- Unsigned 8 bit: 68
- Signed 16 bit: -21436
- Unsigned 16 bit: 44100
- Signed 32 bit: 44100
- Unsigned 32 bit: 44100
- Float 32 bit: 6.179726E-41
- Float 64 bit: 2.03711595954454E-309
- Hexadecimal: 44 AC 00 00
- Decimal: 068 172 000 000
- Octal: 104 254 000 000
- Binary: 01000100 10101100 00000000
- ASCII Text: D?

Offset: 0x18 / 0x21021 Selection: None OVR

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.

Data Structure

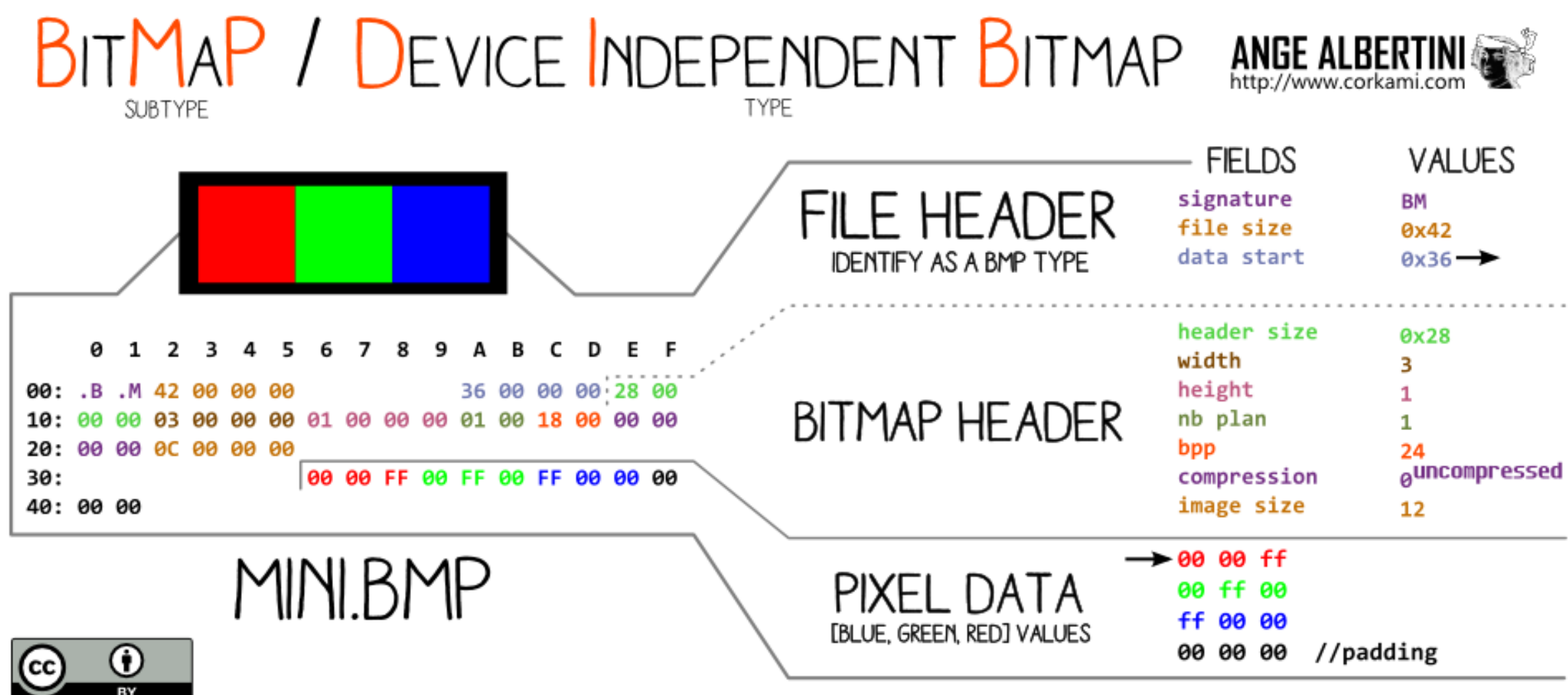


Header? Payload?

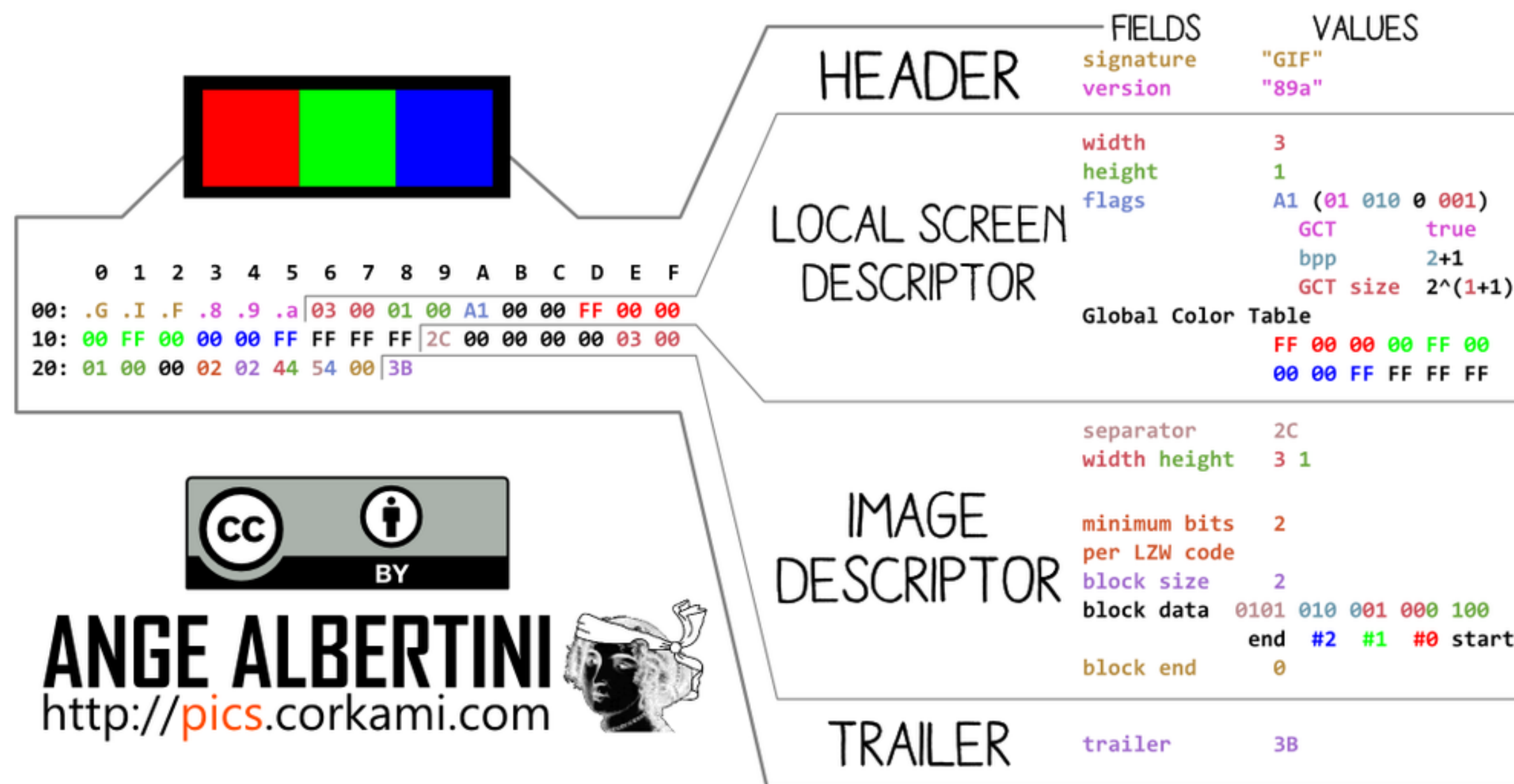
“header refers to supplemental data placed at the beginning of a block of data being stored or transmitted. In data transmission, the data following the header is sometimes called the payload or body.”

— [Wikipedia: Header \(computing\)](#)

Examples



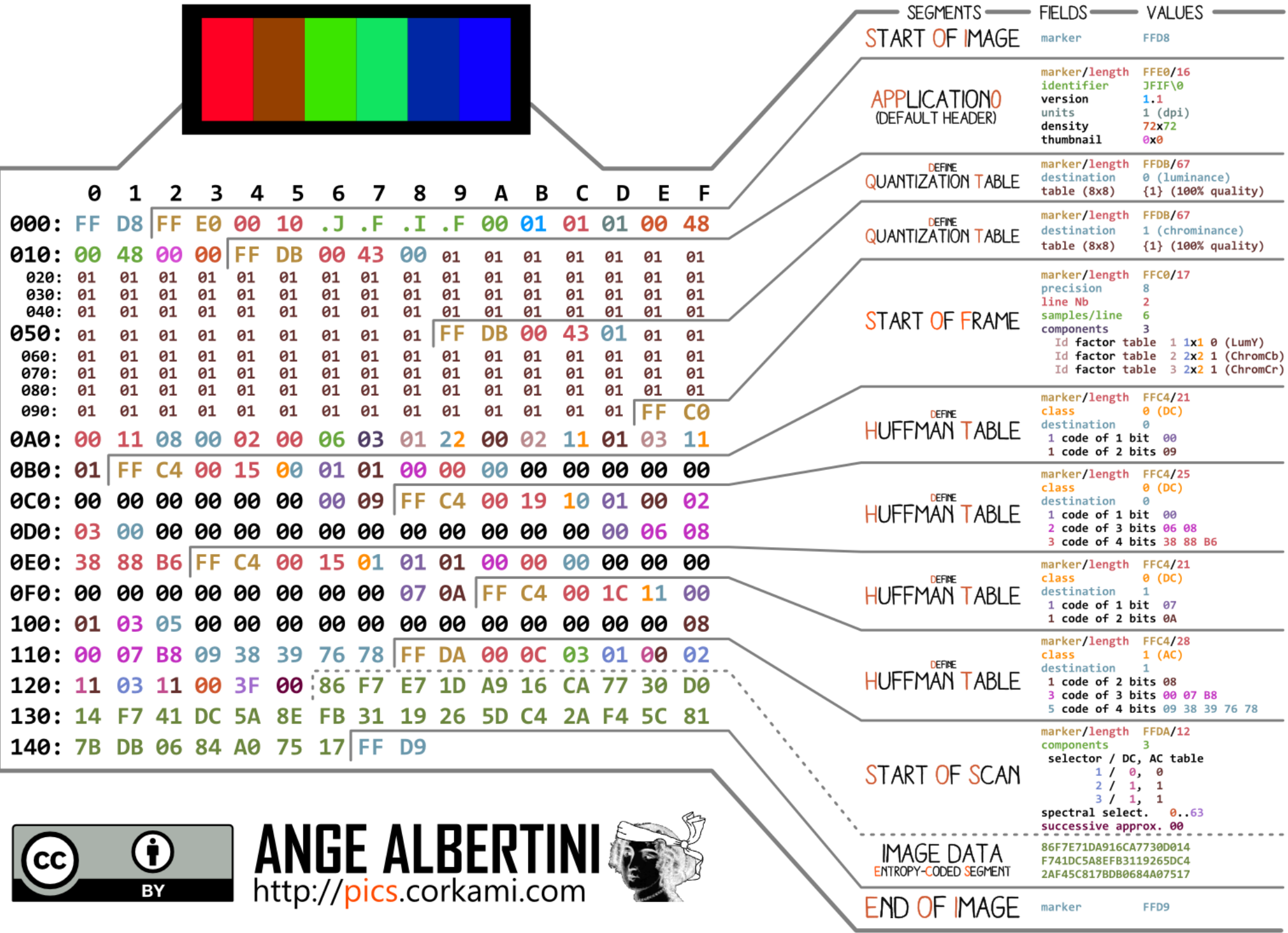
GRAPHICS INTERCHANGE FORMAT



THE GIF WAS CREATED BY COMPUSEVE IN 1987.
IT'S PALETTE BASED: EACH BLOCK IS LIMITED TO 256 COLORS.
IT USES THE LEMPEL-ZIV-WELCH ALGORITHM, WHICH WAS PATENTED UNTIL 2004.

JOINT PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPERT GROUP

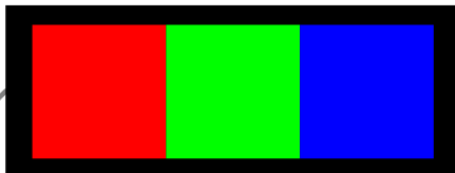
JPEG FILE INTERCHANGE FORMAT



JPEG IS THE ENCODING STANDARD, JFIF IS THE FILE FORMAT

PORTABLE NETWORK GRAPHICS

ANGE ALBERTINI
<http://www.corkami.com>



	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
00:	89	.	P	.	N	.	G	0D	0A	1A	0A	00	00	00	0D	.I .H .D .R
10:	00	00	00	03	00	00	00	01	08	02	00	00	00	94	82	83
20:	E3	00	00	00	15	.	I	.	D	.	A	.	T	08	1D	01 0A 00 F5 FF
30:	00	FF	00	00	00	FF	00	00	FF	0E	FB	02	FE	E9	32	
40:	61	E5	00	00	00	00	.	I	.	E	.	N	.	D	AE	42 60 82

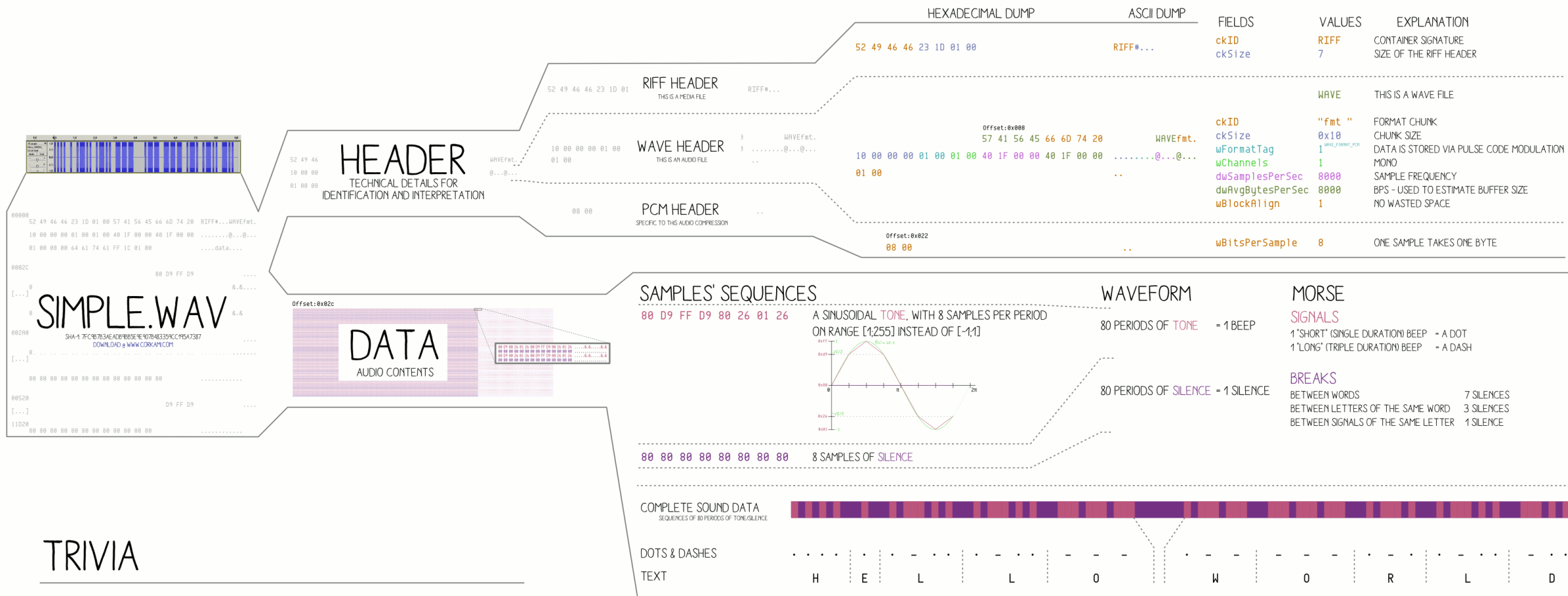
	FIELDS	VALUES
SIGNATURE	signature	\x89 PNG \r\n \x1a \n
HEADER	size id width height bpp color compression filter interlace CRC32	0x0000000D IHDR 0x00000003 0x00000001 0x08 0x02 RGB 0x00 DEFLATE 0x00 0x00 0x948283E3
DATA	ZLIB DEFLATE PIXELS size id window size method level / dict. checksum last block block type data length !length line filter adler32 CRC32	0x00000015 IDAT 0b00001000 0b00001000 DEFLATE 0b00011101 0x081D % 31 = 0 0b00000001 FINAL 0b00000001 RAW 0x000A 0xFFFF5 0x00 NONE FF 00 00 00 FF 00 00 00 FF 0x0EFB02FE 0xE93261E5
END	size id CRC32	0x00000000 IEND 0xAE426082

WAV¹⁰¹ an audio file walk-through

ANGE ALBERTINI
CORKAMI.COM



DISSECTED FILE



TRIVIA

WAV¹⁰¹ IS A SUBFORMAT OF RIFF¹⁰¹, A GENERIC CONTAINER THAT CAN ALSO CONTAIN AVI (VIDEOS), ANI (CURSORS)...

RIFF WAS CREATED IN 1991 BY MICROSOFT & IBM¹⁰¹, AND IS BASED ON L¹⁰¹EF¹⁰¹, CREATED BY E¹⁰¹A¹⁰¹ IN 1985 FOR THE COMMODORE AMIGA

VERSION 1.00
2014/01/08



endian	File offset (bytes)	field name	Field Size (bytes)	
big	0	ChunkID	4	The "RIFF" chunk descriptor
little	4	ChunkSize	4	
big	8	Format	4	
big	12	Subchunk1 ID	4	The "fmt " sub-chunk
little	16	Subchunk1 Size	4	
little	20	AudioFormat	2	
little	22	NumChannels	2	
little	24	SampleRate	4	
little	28	ByteRate	4	
little	32	BlockAlign	2	
little	34	BitsPerSample	2	The "data" sub-chunk
big	36	Subchunk2ID	4	
little	40	Subchunk2 Size	4	
little	44	data	Subchunk2Size	Indicates the size of the sound information and contains the raw sound data

Comments?
Questions?