

File Type

Curated by Chaz Evans & Lorelei Stewart

June 17 - July 30, 2011

Opening reception: June 17, 5-8pm

The specificity of work in electronic media warrants investigations that refine categories past “the digital” or “the internet.” File Type is an exhibition which analyzes the cultural character of digital file formats such as the .pdf, .tiff, .jpeg etc. These and many other file types contain narratives that give specific bodies to the often invisible entities that construct electronic culture. Formats and file types represent ways that artwork in digital or internet media create particular standards of representation. What is often regarded as the minutiae of computer science have now become the parameters given to cultural agents. Or to put it in different terms, computer science is now a direct player in the construction of cultural identity, intentionally or not.

File Type explores the kinetic relationships that construct a network of electronic exchange. How have file types worked their way into, or in many cases have become, our cultural metaphors? What are the politics of implied aesthetics hidden within file formats that are regarded as transparent? What are the effects of expediency in using different formats in communication and exchange? Or perhaps most importantly what is the relationship between electronic formats and artistic practices, electronic or otherwise? Are these adjuncts and extensions of artistic practice necessarily a breakage from non-electronic media, or are they possibly fluid and interchangeable?

Mike Andrews

Important Projects: Postscript, 2011

Prints, pencil, gallery shots, screen grabs, e-mails between gallery director and artist
.pdf from .jpg files

Postscript repackages Andrews' exhibition of tests, research, and related material at Important Projects (Oakland, CA) earlier this year.

Jon Cates

HUMAN/COMPUTER sez

STEAL_ART.GIF b/c, 2010

.gif

Adam Trowbridge & Jessica Westbrook (Channel Two)

Play, 2010/11

Drop box and custom file-mixing software made in max-msp
Variety of file types

Anthony Discenza

Dream Homes
2005
digital video, of 5
.mov

Discenza constructed the video from still .jpg and .tiff files he manipulated in Final Cut Pro using digital tape artifacts and some manual playback tricks.

Constant Dullart

Translated Phaedrus (pdf), 2011

Laser prints, Socrates quotation taken from Plato's Phaedrus, unlimited ed.
.pdf

This work represents a sequence of translations from Ancient Greek, to professional English translation, to personal handwriting, to optical character recognition software interpretation, to personal speech, to speech to text software interpretation, to free online Chinese translation, to free online English translation, to free online Binary Code conversion, and ultimately to free online Decimal Code conversion.

<http://wavingocean.com>, 2010

courtesy collection Pieter Sanders and Gabriella Sancisi
.gif

This animation is an applied a Photoshop wave effect to a found .jpg of a straight sea horizon.

File Suffix Pun, 2009

two .tit files, one .ass file, and an .mp3 file, all found online, ed. 1/10

Eric Fleischauer

Stashbook, 2010

Laser print and set of three books

Patrick Lichty

Criswell was Right (About your Incredible Future), 2009

sound, 13:10
.mp3

This audio track was taken from the Amazing Criswell's prophetic recording "Criswell Predicts Your Incredible Future." It has been re-edited and the non-prescient declarations of the future have been omitted.

Miao Jiaxin & Ei Jane Janet Lin

Collaboration # 1, 2, 3, and 6, 2010

Digital video

.mov

Jiaxin and Lin produced interventions and performances that originally took place as interactive chat streaming broadcasts. In this work the broadcasts are reformatted as high definition .mov files.

Kristin Lucas

Refresh, 2007

6 laser prints: 1 newspaper announcement, 2 pencil drawings by Joe McKay, 2 court transcripts, and 1 decree-changing name

.pdf

On October 5, 2007 Lucas became the most current version of herself when she succeeded in legally changing her name from Kristin Sue Lucas to Kristin Sue Lucas in a Superior Court of California courtroom.

Refresh, 2011

book, saddle-stitched, black and white, 16 pages, published by Soberscove Press

::For sale for \$7.00 each::

Background Story, 2010

Digital video, 2:12 min loop, no sound

.mov

Lucas arranged a sequence of fair use background images (.jpg and .ppt), which she overlaid with a short story assignment generated through Amazon's Mechanical Turk in response to the sequence.

Wes Kline and Todd Mattei

baltimore.jpg, 2011

archival inkjet print

.jpg converted to .psd and back to .jpg

magenta window.jpg, 2011

archival inkjet print

RAW converted to .jpg

Italyhead.jpg, 2011

Archival inkjet print

.jpg converted to .psd and back to .jpg

halfshadow.jpg, 2011

archival inkjet print

RAW converted to .jpg

Curtainscopy.jpg, 2011

Archival inkjet print

.jpg converted to .psd and back to .jpg

semiunrest.jpg, 2011

archival inkjet print

RAW converted to .jpg

Via emailing .jpg files Kline and Mattei responded to one another's images.

Jesse McLean

Rosetta, 2011

Digital print on masonite

.jpg

Rosetta is a low-res image of the Rosetta Stone printed to the scale of the original object.

Chris Meerdo

Cipher, 2011

Ink on seamless paper

.aes256

In mid-2010 the organization WikiLeaks released an encrypted 1.5 GB file (insurance.aes256) on its website to a limited number of people. WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange declared the file a "thermo-nuclear device," which would be detonated by releasing the file's password should anything happen to Assange or the Wikileaks organization. Presently, the contents of this "insurance" document are unknown and its larger file structure is only speculative. In *Cipher*, the file has been visualized through a script that turns the raw binary data of the encrypted file into a field of black and white pixels.

Casey Reas

Pre-process Hex, 2005

unique artist's book

.exe

This book contains the entire code of an executable program printed out in hexadecimal and bound.

Casey Reas

In collaboration with Ben Fry

Pre-process Execution, 2005

Inkjet print on Hahnemuhle Photo Rag

3/5, 1 AP

.exe

This printed visualization displays how static lines of code become dynamic when the code is converted to an .exe and run.

Steve Ruiz

Collection, 2011

personal computer, downloaded images

.jpg, .png, .gif

Siebren Versteeg

Inexhaustible Nuclear Joy Kernel (Black), 2009

64 prints generated from executable program on CD-ROM

.exe

Inexhaustible Nuclear Joy Kernel (White), 2009

64 prints generated from executable program on CD-ROM

.exe

Versteeg wrote a program that generates a unique drawing and then prints it out in tiled format to sixty-four sheets of paper. The sheets were tiled back together to represent the full drawing. Each generated drawing is unique and not archived in any way other than the printout.