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**Handling New Media**  
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## **Assignment #2**

### **FILE/ENCODING FORMAT—WMA**

**File Format Name:** Windows Media Audio

**File Extension(s):** .wma & .asf

**Date Introduced:** April 1999

**Dates in Use:** 1999 to present

**Variations:** Windows Media Audio 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 Professional, 9 Lossless, 9 Voice, 10, 10 Professional

**Developers:** Microsoft Corporation

**Open Source/Proprietary:** Proprietary

**Associated Operating System:** Windows

**Associated Application(s):** Windows Media Video (WMV); WMA is a subtype of Advanced Systems Format (.asf), a wrapper for WMA and Windows Media Video

**Associated Media:** Hard-drives/hardware that have Video for Windows or Windows Driver Model (WDM) drivers

**Compression:** Lossy or Lossless

**Primary Usage:** storing audio data streams; create, store, “Rip” and “Burn” audio files

**Risk Assessment:** While it is a proprietary format, it continues to be widely adopted. The Advanced Systems Format is fully documented and available for research.

**Conservation Actions:** Within the Windows Media family, the lossless encoding formats are preferred (for example, WMA9 LL). However,

according to the Library of Congress, the preferred encoding format for archival recorded sound is WAVE Audio File Format with LPCM (Linear Pulse Code Modulation) audio.

### **Sources**

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[Sustainability of Digital Formats: Planning for Library of Congress Collections](#)

Microsoft Windows Media webpage accessed at <<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/default.mspx>>.