File Types

Also Known As "MIME Types" or "Suffix Mappings"

For the most part, Rumpus handles file transfers without regard for the contents, or type of data, the file holds.   There are a couple of instances, however, where it is beneficial for Rumpus to be able to recognize the type of file it is handling.   It does this primarily based on the filename suffix, which is the portion of the filename following the period (or "dot").   Common suffixes include ".html", ".gif", ".doc", etc. Rumpus allows you to maintain a list of "File Types" which associate filename suffixes with file types for 2 important purposes.

First, when files are uploaded via FTP, the Mac OS "file type" and "creator" codes are lost (unless the file is uploaded using MacBinary encoding). File type and creator codes are what the Mac OS uses to display file icons in the Finder, determine what application to open the file in when it is double-clicked, etc. Under more recent versions of the Mac OS and OS X, filename extensions are also used for this purpose, but file type and creator codes are still supported and used as well. Using suffix mappings, Rumpus can correctly assign these codes to uploaded files, making working with them more convenient.

Rumpus suffix mappings are also used by the Web File Manager when files are downloaded to a Web browser. The HTTP protocol allows a server to specify the data type for any file sent to the browser, and this information is used by the browser to correctly display or store the file. Rumpus sends the content type for each file served via the WFM based on the file's suffix.

Managing File Types

By default, a number of suffix mappings are pre-populated in Rumpus. These can be removed, modified, or added to by opening the File Types window.

The list at the top of the window shows all defined suffixes and their associated type and creator codes and content-type. The "Update" section is used to add, edit or remove suffix mapping entries, one item at a time. Clicking on any suffix mapping in the list will cause the individual fields for that entry to be populated in the "Update" area for easy editing.

To change any suffix mapping entry, select it in the list so that the "Update" fields show the correct information for that suffix. Then simply make the change needed and click the "Add/Update" button to save the change. If you change the suffix itself, a new entry will automatically be created and the existing one will remain unchanged. So, the easiest way to create new suffix mappings is to select a similar mapping entry that already exists, change the suffix and any other fields that need to be different, and click "Add/Update".

Deleting an entry is done by selecting it in the list and clicking "Remove".

Assigning Correct Values For New Types

Setting the type, creator and content-type correctly for each suffix Rumpus will process varies depending on your needs and the type of file. The type and creator codes, which are each always exactly 4 characters long, are assigned to files uploaded via FTP or the Rumpus WFM. The content-type is used only by the WFM when serving files, and so is only important if you are using Rumpus' built in Web services.

There are a number of shareware and freeware utilities that will display a file's type and creator codes. The easiest way to determine these codes when creating a new suffix is often to first identify a similar file, then set the type and creator to the codes for that file. Content-types can often be determined by looking in the "helper application" or similar configuration settings for popular Web browsers. Since the content-type is used by the browser to determine how to handle a file, checking your browser's configuration settings is an excellent way to find what content-type it expects for various types of files.

WFM Download Page

The Rumpus Web File Manager can be customized to deliver a unique "Download Begun" page for each type of file you may want to serve.   This feature is available so that you can create one download page that displays media files as embedded content, for example, or so that certain file types are processed in specialized ways by the Web browser.   For details, see the "Download Begun Pages" section of the "Web File Manager" article in the "Helpful Info" folder of the Rumpus package.

To enable a unique download begun page for any file type, place the page in the WFM Templates folder, then enter the name of the page in the "WFM Download" field.