Types of File Formats that can be Exported from ESRI® Software

Read the following if you are wondering what file format you should choose to export your GIS map for use in other software programs:

Extension	File Format	ArcGIS8.x	ArcView3.x	Description	Additional Information
.ai	Adobe Illustrator	Y	Y	AI files are an excellent format for post-processing in Adobe Illustrator as well as an interchange format for publishing. ArcMap's AI format is compatible with Illustrator 6.0 and above and it fully supports the export of raster data. The AI format is exported at 720dpi and all colors are exported as CMYK. It also preserves most layers from the ArcMap TOC: annotation, labels, and data frame graphic text are exported to a layer called "<Default>Graphics", map surround elements and graphic text elements are exported to a layer called "Extras" and raster data is exported to another layer called "Extras." All other data layers are the same name as in ArcMap.	ArcView created Adobe Illustrator files do not export image data. If you have an image in a layout or view, that data will not appear in the exported file. When the .ai file is opened in Adobe Illustrator, image data will not appear. For more information, consult the Adobe Illustrator manual.
.bmp	BitMap	Y	Y	BMP files are simple, native Windows raster images. They do not scale as well as EMF files.	Software packages that can open, interpret or import our bitmaps include Microsoft word processing and graphics applications, Corel Draw and HiJaak Graphics Suite.
.cgm	Computer Graphics Metafile	Y	Y	CGM files are a standard graphics format used in the oil and gas industry. ArcMap provides CGM versions 1 and 3 with both the ATA and PIP/II profile. You can choose to export the fonts used in your map as polygons or map them to standard Adobe fonts. The ATA profile includes Adobe's standard 13 font set, while the PIP/II profile includes Adobe's standard 35 font set.	They are used in CAD.
.emf	Enhanced MetaFile	Y	N	EMF files are native Windows vector, or vector and raster, graphics. They are useful for embedding in Windows documents because they can be resized without distortion.	They can "lose" their fonts when viewed on a computer that doesn't contain ESRI fonts; I.e. symbols may become letters.
.eps	Encapsulated PostScript	Y	Y	EPS files are an industry standard for high-end cartography and printing.	Adobe Illustrator and Aldus Freehand support encapsulated postscript, but these packages do not give you the ability to open and edit ArcView .eps files. Adobe Illustrator will display ArcView .eps files using "Place Art". The bounding box of the file displays with an X in the middle. The data prints correctly. For more information, consult the Adobe Illustrator and Aldus Freehand manuals. Software packages that can open, interpret or import our PostScript include Corel Draw.

Types of File Formats that can be Exported from ESRI® Software

Extension	File Format	ArcGIS8.x	ArcView3.x	Description	Additional Information
.jpg	Joint Photographic Experts Group	Y	Y	JPEG files are compressed image files. They are the best choice for use on the Web because they provide more control over output resolution and quality and are more compact than many other file types.	They sometimes tend to look a little fuzzy around the edges.
.pdf	Portable Document Format	Y	N	PDF files are designed to be consistently viewable and printable across different platforms. They are commonly used for distributing documents on the Web and are becoming a standard interchange format for high-end printing.	ArcView CGM formats are optimized to export vector data but will export images. ArcView CGM binary can be opened in many graphics software applications, but some applications don't interpret ArcView cgm clear text and character as well. Software packages that can open, interpret or import our CGM include Corel Draw and HiJaak Graphics Suite.
.tif	Tagged Image File Format	Y	N	TIFF files are the most versatile bitmap format.	They are the best choice for importing into graphics applications across operating system environments.
.wmf	Windows Metafile	N	Y	Older form of EMF files.	Software packages that can open, interpret or import our metafiles include Microsoft word processing and graphics applications, Adobe Illustrator Corel Draw and HiJaak Graphics Suite.

NOTES:
- See the **ArcGIS Desktop Help file on "Exporting a map"** OR the **ArcView Help file on "Using Exported Files in Other Software Packages."**
- See **http://www.grime.net/gistools/a-z.htm** for lists of software that can read/write these particular file formats.
- For a high resolution editable mixed raster and vector format, export to AI for post-processing in Adobe Illustrator versions 6.0 and above. The default output resolution is 720 dpi and all colors are converted to CMYK on export. There are no editable user options.
- For higher resolution images that are suitable for image editing, export to TIFF and change the output resolution to 300 dpi or higher. If you want to export to CGM, the best choice is 300 dpi. To change the output resolution, click the spinners up or down or type in a new dpi value.
- If you want to export to BMP, you can lower the image size by changing the color depth. To change the color depth, click on the color depth dropdown arrow. Choose 24-bit if your map contains gradient fills or transparency. If your map does not have gradient fills or transparency, you can create a smaller file by choosing the 8-bit color depth. Choose 1-bit or monochrome if your map is only black and white.
- For TIFF and BMP, you can also choose to change the background color. To change the background color, click the Color menu and select a new color.For CGM, you can use either CGM versions 1 or 3 with either the ATA or PIP/II profile. To change CGM versions and profile, click on the appropriate radio button. To change font mapping, click the Fonts menu and choose the appropriate option. Choose the Map all fonts option if you are using fonts that are included in the Adobe standard 13 font set (ATA profile) or the standard 35 font set (PIP/II profile) and do not have any marker symbols in your map. If you do have marker symbols in your map, then use the Convert marker symbols to polygons font option. This will download the marker symbols as polygons but continue to map your fonts according to the CGM profile you've selected. If you are using fonts that are not included in either of the standard Adobe font sets, then select the Convert all fonts to polygons option.