

.txt

A .txt file extension indicates a document contains plain, unformatted text, and may potentially be suitable as a data source for web applications or database/spreadsheet programs. This distinguishes .txt from other text formats such as .rtf, .odf, and .doc, which cannot reliably be used as data sources, due to the meta-information and other code that they may contain.

One will most commonly encounter the .txt extension when saving Excel or other spreadsheet documents as a “tab-delimited text” file format. To indicate to an importing program (such as Excel, Google Spreadsheets or phpMyAdmin) that a .txt file is in fact tab-delimited the sequence “\t” (without quotation marks) should be entered in the required field.